

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



The Victory Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

John Leis
President

Pat Morse
Vice President

Daryl Tieben
Secretary/Treasurer

Cedric Drewes
Trustee

Jim Imel
Trustee

Gary Gillespie
Trustee

Terri Larson
Trustee

Richard Lightner
Trustee

James Ochs
Trustee

Randy Quint
Trustee

Ken Schulte
Trustee

Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee

Staff

Shane Laws
CEO

Amy Grasser
Manager of Corporate Services

Angela Unruh
CFO

Denzil McGill
Manager of IT

Greg Underwood
Manager of Engineering

Jerri Imgarten
Manager of Marketing and
Communications

Michael Clark
Manager of Purchasing

Mikey Goddard
Manager of Safety

Ryan Miller
Supervisor of Operations

Tom Lowery
Manager of Operations

FROM THE CEO

Manage Your Energy Use with Apps

Tracking your steps, tracking your children, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car—these days, it seems like there is an app for everything. If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your energy use, there may be an app that works for you. While there are several energy use apps to choose from, some can be difficult to use, particularly those aimed at general efficiency. There are no clear standouts, so try a few, and choose the app that works best for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use. If you are looking for specific details about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill. The following is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned in this article are available for Apple and Android systems.

MyMeter

Victory Electric recently launched a new tool designed to help you manage your energy consumption. MyMeter is available to help you save on your monthly electric bill.

Designed for convenience, MyMeter is a free service that can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smart phone to help you monitor how much electricity you use each

day. It allows you to monitor your power use at your convenience, updates your data every 24 hours so you can adjust your energy consumption according to your lifestyle and budget, and it can project the amount of your monthly bill.



Shane Laws

Nest

Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smart phone, iPad or iTouch—whether in your car or on your couch. App users can view and edit a thermostat schedule and keep an eye on how much energy is being used. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among others.

Together We Save

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages.

Continued on page 16-F ▶

Del Real and Shaughnessy Attend 40th Annual

LUCERO DEL REAL, Dodge City, and **BERNADETTE SHAUGHNESSY**, Cimarron, were selected to attend the 40th annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colo. From July 16-22, Del Real and Shaughnessy joined approximately 100 youth from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming for the week-long camp that combines education about the cooperative business model with traditional camp pastimes.

Del Real and Shaughnessy were selected through a selection process that included a résumé, application, letters of recommendation and an interview with a panel of judges.

“Victory Electric is proud to be a participating sponsor of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our local youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills,” said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. “Through this trip, we hope local students will learn how our electric cooperatives work and how co-ops and their employees support the communities they serve.”

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, the campers participated in daily membership meetings where they established

committees and elected a general manager and board of directors. Campers enjoyed area activities including visits to Fish Creek Falls and Steamboat Springs, and river rafting. They participated in camp activities such as volleyball, swimming and a talent show.

“The leadership and motivation speech given by Richard Fagerlin inspired me to become an individual that not only tries to better myself every day, but the community as well,” Del Real said.

The youth learned about the workings of electric cooperatives through a variety of activities: Yampa Valley Electric’s linemen led a high voltage safety demonstration, campers competed in building a model transmission line out of craft supplies, and they toured the Trapper

Mine and Craig Power Plant.

“I will always remember the friends I made throughout this trip and the birds of prey we learned about first hand with Hawkquest,” Shaughnessy said.

Overall, the campers said they left CYLC with a new sense of leadership and a basic understanding of how their local electric cooperatives operate and how they contribute to the betterment of the communities they serve.

For more information about the Youth Tour and 2017 trips, contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-370-7730.



Lucero Del Real (left) and Bernadette Shaughnessy pose at the river near camp in Colorado.



The 2016 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp delegation.

Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Lucero Del Real

I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and the experience was absolutely life changing.

The butterflies hit me pretty hard right before the trip as I would know no one from my town, but the camp ambassadors eased my butterflies.

The majority of the campers came from small towns strongly based on agriculture, but I come from a town of 30,000 and not knowing much about agriculture.

The trip already had started off with a bang on the bus ride, but it was not until we ate at Dave and Busters later in the day did you see all the new connections occur between the Kansas and Oklahoma campers.

Camp was the most inspiring, educational, and life-changing experience I have ever witnessed. I learned so much about electric cooperatives and had such deep understanding within activities such as the high voltage safety display, crafting an electric system, visiting a coal mine, and visiting a power plant. I also learned how to become a better leader with the motivational speakers and the help of counselors. I am truly grateful for the experience my cooperative gave me and for all the coordinators who made this event happen.



Lucero De Real enjoys the trip to the coal mine and power plant.

Bernadette Shaughnessy

When I prepared to travel to a distant camp that included young people from across four different states, I expected to meet different kind of people. I expected different ways of life, different values, all-together different from me and my other small-town friends.

I was happily surprised.

On the bus ride to camp, I kept ending up next to kids that lived in towns similar to my own.

They were involved in the same sports and school activities as I am. We shared similar values and senses of humor.

Of the hundred-some kids attending camp, the vast majority could easily relate to an agricultural background and living in a town with less than 2,000 people. In my week at camp, I learned that the values and pastimes I love and enjoy in Cimarron are shared and loved by other kids all across middle America. My friends, family, and I are not alone in our values and beliefs, though the evening news can make it seem that way.

Drifting peacefully down the Colorado River, learning about the power of electricity during a high-voltage safety display, making new friends, and experiencing everything in between, I encountered nature, knowledge, and people that I could not have seen, learned, or met in south-western Kansas. I cannot be more grateful to Victory Electric members for making this trip possible.



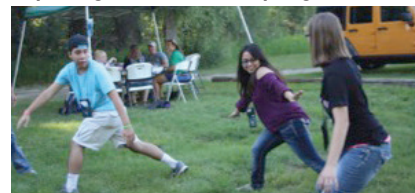
Bernadette Shaughnessy learns to not be afraid of what people thought of her.



The delegation tours Trapper Coal Mine and poses with a large coal hauler.



Del Real and Shaughnessy prior to departing for Steamboat Springs.



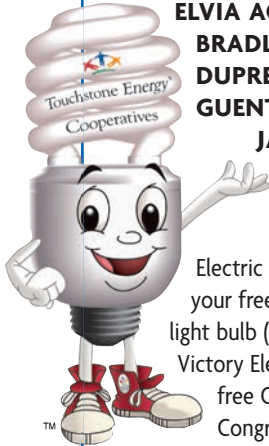
Lucero made friendships to last a lifetime.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

**ELVIA AGUILAR, JOSEPH
BRADLEY, DARRELL
DUPREE, PEDRO
GUENTER, ABIGAIL
JANAS, JAMES B.
PARISH and JAMES
PERISH.**

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month, Victory Electric gives members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter

Victory Electric is on Facebook and Twitter. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric. Check our page for updates, community engagements, outage information and savings tips.

Energy efficiency tips and more can also be found by following us on Twitter by searching @TheVictoryElec. Facebook and Twitter are great ways to stay in touch with Victory Electric.

Victory Electric Promotes Electrical Safety at Local Camp

Victory Electric attended the Wild West STEM camp of Dodge City to teach about electrical safety and cooperatives.

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and was a week long camp for students.



Victory Electric's Josh Schmidt shows students a piece of glass created from lightning hitting sand.

Working on the LINE

Victory Electric's linemen conducted their annual pole top rescue training in August. They do this training to practice rescuing a fellow lineman in case of an emergency. The dummy is attached to the pole and the linemen must climb the pole and safely lower the dummy to the ground.



Lineman Jason Rohr practices rescuing the dummy for his yearly training.



Lineman Jacob Ledford secures the rope to hoist the dummy to safety.

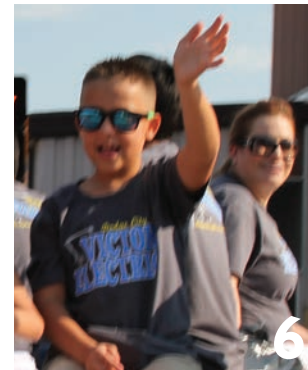


Lineman Clayton Stein wraps the rope around the dummy.

Victory Electric and Dodge City Days Parade 2016

Thank you to our members who came out for Dodge City Days week. The theme for Dodge City Days this year was "This Ain't Our First Rodeo" to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Roundup Rodeo. In the parade, Victory Electric had a trailer for the employees and their families to ride on pulled by a line truck. Hundreds of pounds of candy were given out along the parade route.

Victory Electric extends appreciation to all our employees and their families for volunteering their time to make this year's float a success. In addition to the parade, Victory also grilled burgers for Salute the Troops, sponsored the rodeo, and displayed some trucks for the Touch-A-Truck Event. Congratulations to all winners of the Dodge City Days Parade.



1. Aubree Ruiz rides in the bucket truck during the parade. 2. The young adults hand out candy during the parade. 3. Joslynn Erives rides on Victory Electric's float throughout the parade. 4. Myrah and Myrka Morales sport their Victory t-shirts. 5. AJ Rameriz and Edward Ruiz enjoy snacks before the parade. 6. Gustavo Erives waves at parade spectators. 7. Employees and families of Victory Electric participate in the parade.

Mark Your Calendars

September 2016						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The 9th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair has been scheduled for September 17 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

As an additional bonus, the Alzheimer's Association will be using the other half of the building for their annual Dodge City Walk to End Alzheimer's event. Registration begins at 9 a.m. This allows participants to conveniently attend both events.

Vittles for Vets Winners Announced

Two more winners have been announced for the Vittles for Vets. **PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ** and **DAVE LINSENMEYER** won the \$100 bill credit from their donations.

Last year, more than 1,700 items were donated for the food pantry in Nimitz Hall. Our generous members have collected more than 950 items for the food pantry at Fort Dodge this year.



Fort Dodge representative, Eldana Travis accepts member donations from Kennedy St. George of Victory Electric.

Manage Your Energy Use *Continued from page 16-A*

This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities. The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips. The Together We Save app calculates energy costs based on your actual utility rates for even greater accuracy. In addition, the app links to Victory Electric's website for timely updates and information.

Lennox iComfort

Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products—in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat. It has similar features to the Nest, in that users can remotely control their home thermostat and other settings. In addition, the app allows users to program the system to an energy savings "away mode" when no one is home. For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then

cancel the "away mode" as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.

Your trusted energy resource

While these apps employ the latest technology to maximize your ability to manage your use, the next generation of energy apps will likely integrate across multiple platforms—managing your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices from the convenience of your smart phone. In the meantime, while app technology continues to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money is your local electric co-op.

Victory Electric can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, local energy use and weather patterns for your region and other factors unique to your location.

Thanks, Shane

Goddard Accepts Management Position

Victory Electric is pleased to announce the selection of **MIKEY GODDARD** as the new Manager of Safety, effective July 27, 2016.

"I'm excited to start building a new safety culture for Victory Electric," Goddard said. "I've worked as a lineman for 17 years, it's a big change, but a good one."

Goddard started at Victory Electric in 2004 as an apprentice lineman after doing contract work for J&J Powerline for five and a half years out of high school.

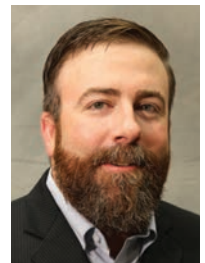
"Safety is the top priority for everyone as Victory Electric," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "Having someone as experienced in the field as Mikey is a great addition to the management team."

As Manager of Safety, Goddard will promote safety internally as well

as externally, follow up with line crews in the field, coordinate with Kansas Electric Cooperatives about safety trainings and meetings, ensure the line crews have proper clothing and safety gear, as well as maintaining office safety.

"Everyone here does a great job being safe, since I worked beside those guys for so long, I know they're aware but you can never be too safe. Changing perception of safety personnel is a challenge. I want to be helpful, not feared," Goddard said.

We congratulate Mikey on his promotion and know he will do great.



Mikey Goddard

Stay Focused on Safety During Fall Harvest



During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Despite these advances, safety risks remain.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low-light conditions, which enhances productivity.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” said Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system,

reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance of wires.
- ▶ Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact Victory Electric.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your water heater tank could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. Pre-cut jackets or blankets are available for around \$20.

Manténgase Enfocado en la Seguridad Durante la Cosecha de Otoño

Durante la temporada de cosecha, muchos agricultores cosechan los beneficios de tecnología avanzada Agrícola. Con ayuda de dispositivos GPS Autosteer, los agricultores son capaces de disminuir los errores del conductor y maximizar la productividad. A pesar de estos avances, los riesgos de seguridad se mantienen.

GPS con auto-orientación proporciona a los agricultores en tiempo real los datos de localización sobre un campo, que puede utilizarse para la planificación de los cultivos. La elaboración de mapas, ayuda a la navegación y orientación maquinaria. Durante la cosecha, esta tecnología permite a los conductores tener sus manos del volante de dirección como el maniobras combinar en sí a través del campo. Gracias a esta tecnología, los agricultores pueden mantener más fácilmente y eficientemente precisión incluso en condiciones de poca luz. lo que mejora la productividad.

“Una parte fundamental de la seguridad alrededor de electricidad es conciencia,” dijo Kyla Kruse, director de comunicaciones del programa de seguridad eléctrica. “Es importante recordar que la maquinaria agrícola es vulnerable a golpear las líneas eléctricas debido a su gran tamaño, altura y extensiones. Consciente de la ubicación de líneas de alimentación aéreas y planificación de una ruta segura.”

En equipos con sistemas de auto-orientación, menos atención se necesita dirección, que puede conducir a algunos conductores a pensar que no necesitan ser tan consciente de los problemas de navegación. Sin embargo, incluso mientras que usa un GPS con manejo de auto, los trabajadores agrícolas necesitan mantener la seguridad en mente y centrarse en su entorno de equipo pueden ayudar a reducir los accidentes.

Poner la seguridad primero requiere lucidez mental, enfoque y conocimiento de los riesgos potenciales y medidas de seguridad. Diferentes niveles de precisión paso

a paso y posibles problemas, tales como postes de energía, no se trazan correctamente en el sistema, refuercen la necesidad de controladores para centrarse en la ubicación de la maquinaria agrícola en el campo y estar listos para actuar si es necesario.

Sin importar la tecnología utilizada en la granja, tenga las siguientes pautas de seguridad eléctrica en mente:

- ▶ Utilizar un observador cuando opere maquinaria grande cerca de líneas eléctricas.
- ▶ Mantener equipo de por lo menos 10 pies de una línea eléctrica en todo momento, en todas las direcciones.
- ▶ Mire para arriba y tenga cuidado al mover cualquier equipo como extender barrenas o elevando la cama de camiones de grano alrededor de líneas de energía.
- ▶ Revise la altura de equipos agrícolas para determinar la separación de los cables.
- ▶ Siempre puesto extensiones en la posición más baja al mover cargas para evitar el contacto con líneas eléctricas aéreas. Barrenas de cereales siempre deben estar colocados horizontalmente antes de moverlo.
- ▶ Nunca intente mover una línea de energía fuera del camino o elevarlo para su despacho.
- ▶ Si un cable eléctrico está cediendo o baja, en contacto con Victory Electric.

Si su equipo llega a hacer contacto con una línea eléctrica, no salir de la cabina. Inmediatamente llame al 911, advertir a otros que se mantenga alejado y esperar a que el equipo de trabajo para cortar la alimentación.

La única razón para salir equipo que haya estado en contacto con las líneas aéreas es si el equipo está en llamas, lo cual es raro. Sin embargo, si este es el caso, saltar de los equipos con los pies juntos y sin tocar el suelo y la maquinaria al mismo tiempo. A continuación, sigue manteniendo los pies juntos, saltar a la seguridad al salir de la zona.



Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.