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Electronews



FROM THE CEO

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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Protect Your Digital Life This Cybersecurity Month



Denzil McGill

You wouldn't drive your minivan without changing the oil or let your home's upkeep slide, right? Regular maintenance keeps your car

running and your yard thriving.

But what about your digital life? From banking online to shopping at your favorite stores, your digital world needs regular care to stay secure.

October is Cybersecurity Month, the perfect time to invest in protecting yourself online. Neglecting

cybersecurity is like ignoring a flashing dashboard warning light. A single data breach could lead to identity theft, costing you hours on the phone with banks or thousands in fraud.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports victims spend an average of 200 hours recovering from such crimes. In Kansas, scammers often target rural communities with phishing emails, posing as trusted vendors or even local businesses.

The best defense starts with strong passwords. But complex passwords are tough to remember, and experts warn against reusing them. A password manager, like LastPass, Dashlane or

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4 Ways to Secure Your Data



USE STRONG PASSWORDS

Create unique, complex passwords and use a password manager.



UPDATE REGULARLY

Keep your software and devices updated with the latest security patches.



BACK UP YOUR DATA

Regularly back up your data using external drives or cloud storage.



ENABLE MFA/2FA

Add an extra layer of security with multi-factor or two-factor authentication.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Celebrate With Victory Electric

2025 offers much to celebrate for Victory Electric! We have been celebrating the 80th anniversary of our cooperative's founding throughout the year. The United Nations General Assembly also named 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

Under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World," this global initiative recognizes the unique contributions being made all over the world by rural electric cooperatives like Victory Electric as well as cooperatives in industries as diverse as banking, retail, insurance, food and grocery, agriculture and housing.

According to the International Cooperative Alliance, there are more than 3 million co-ops worldwide and they support over 1 billion members. In addition, about 10% of the world's employed population works for a co-op. Recognizing designations like the International Year of Cooperatives encourages collaboration and strengthens our cooperative network.

Victory Electric is excited to continue showcasing what makes co-ops great this October during National Co-op Month! All month, Victory will celebrate the cooperative spirit and demonstrate how appreciative we are of you, our co-op member-owners.

WATCH FOR THESE CO-OP MONTH OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▶ Enter our drawing for the chance to win bill credits, gift baskets and other prizes throughout October! Entry forms will be available beginning Oct. 1 on our website and at the Victory Electric office.
- ▶ Watch for pop-up member appreciation events to be held throughout the month at area businesses near you.
- ▶ Enjoy food, music, souvenir mugs, local vendors and more at the Boot Hill Distillery Oktoberfest Oct. 18.
- ▶ Join us at Victory Electric from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 25 for our annual Pumpkin Painting Festival. (See page 12C for more details.)

As your local electric co-op, Victory Electric's work extends beyond the poles and wires that supply electricity to your home or business. From supporting local businesses and charities to sponsoring youth programs and scholarships, we're committed to building a better world right here at home — and we couldn't do it without your contributions as members.



Electric cooperatives provide power with purpose.

NATIONAL
CO-OP
MONTH

Victory Drives Forward with Fleet Changes



You likely recognize Victory Electric's fleet of iconic red pickups, bucket trucks and other service vehicles as our crews travel through your neighborhood to resolve outages and make repairs in the community. Because of rising costs and supply-chain challenges associated with sourcing red vehicles, we have begun making the transition to white vehicles.

As a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, Victory Electric is committed to controlling costs and maintaining operational efficiency, and this vehicle change reflects that commitment. The color of our fleet may be changing over time as vehicles need to be replaced, but our dedication to providing reliable, high-quality service will continue.

PUMPKIN FEST: A COLORFUL ANNUAL TRADITION

Join Victory Electric for our annual celebration of fall and family fun — the 2025 Pumpkin Painting Festival, set for Oct. 25. The gathering brings families together at the Victory Electric warehouse for a morning filled with color, creativity and community spirit.

Kids can show off their Halloween costumes, play games and transform pumpkins into colorful works of art. Every child 12 and under will receive a free locally grown pumpkin, and all painting supplies are provided — just bring your creativity. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

New in 2025: Step right up and test your aim with our new inflatable axe-throwing game! We'll also have other action-packed activities, temporary tattoos, popcorn and other goodies.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
OCT. 25 AND JOIN US FROM 9 TO
11 A.M. AT 3230 N. 14TH AVENUE IN
DODGE CITY.**

Pumpkin Festival

Festival de la Calabaza



**VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP
9-11 A.M. | 3230 N. 14 AVE.**



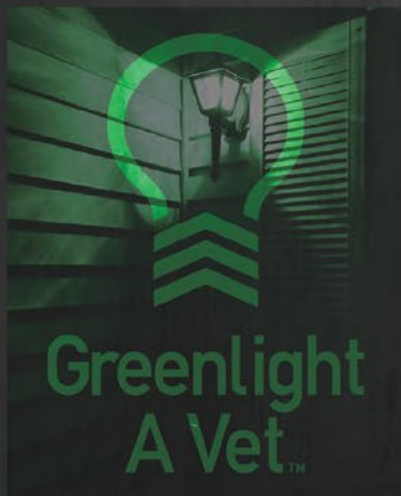
**PUMPKIN PAINTING | GAMES
COSTUMES | & MUCH MORE!
PINTAR CALABAZAS | JUEGOS
TRAJES | Y MUCHO MAS!**



**Wear a costume and join us
for fall family fun! One free
pumpkin per child, ages 12
and under. All children must
be accompanied by an adult.**

**Ponte tu disfraz para celebrar
con nosotros en la diversión de
otoño para toda la familia. Se
proporcionará una calabaza
gratis por niño de 12 años o
menos. Todos los niños deben
ir acompañados de un adulto.**

Change one
light to green
on your porch,
home or office
as a symbol of
appreciation
for our
veterans.



America's veterans are some of our nation's bravest, hardest-working men and women. However, it is hard to show them the appreciation they deserve when, back home and out of uniform, they are more camouflaged than ever.

Greenlight A Vet invites all Americans to change one light in their homes to green — the color of hope, renewal and well-being — as a visible reminder to veterans that they are not alone.



Pick up your light in our office beginning Oct. 25 and place throughout the month of November to honor our veterans.

Recognizing the Critical Role of First Responders

National First Responders Day is observed annually on Oct. 28 to recognize the critical role first responders have in keeping our communities safe. Firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, 911 dispatchers and other public safety personnel make sacrifices to keep community members safe.

When accidents happen or natural disasters occur, these important individuals are first on the scene to ensure safety and restore essential services. In 2003, President George W. Bush officially recognized public works professionals as first responders as well, highlighting the crucial role utility workers, including linemen, play in emergency response and recovery efforts.

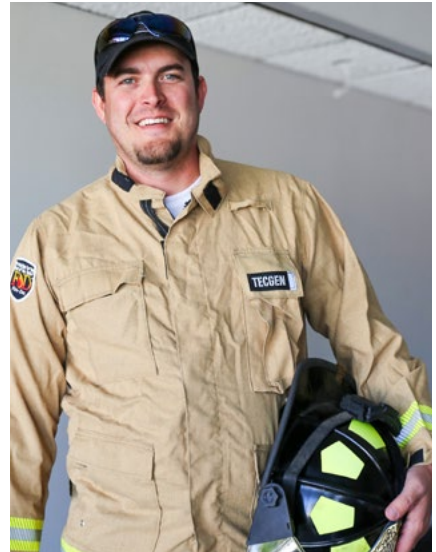
Utility companies and traditional first responders often work hand in hand during emergencies. Utility workers are frequently among the first on the scene in an emergency, working alongside firefighters, police and medical personnel to ensure public safety.

When traffic accidents, high winds, ice storms and other events involve downed power lines or power outages, they can cause both visible and hidden hazards that can put everyone at risk. It's important for utility workers and other first responders to work together to minimize risk.

National First Responders Day serves as a reminder of the



LEFT: Victory Cybersecurity Analyst Brad Ackerman is the Spearville fire chief.



RIGHT: Victory Electrical Engineer Jeff Hubbell volunteers for the local fire department in Spearville.

importance of collaboration, preparedness and mutual support in times of crisis. Earlier this year, Victory Electric hosted first responders from several Dodge City, Ford County and Gray County police, fire and emergency departments. Victory workers shared information about our outage operations and provided an electrical safety demonstration focused on emergency situations first responders may encounter.

Teamwork and cooperation strengthen emergency response efforts. Thank you to all who selflessly serve as first responders to keep us safe — on National First Responders Day and every day of the year!

HEY JUNIORS!

Ready to explore, connect, and experience something unforgettable? Here's your shot at a **FREE** trip of a lifetime!

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



✕ Get your résumé ready and sharpen those video skills—applications **open in November** for the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado!

🌐✈️ Learn more at **victoryelectric.net**.

✕ Don't miss your chance to explore new places, build lifelong friendships, and grow as a leader. 💡👥

Youth Tour—June 13-19, 2026
Leadership Camp—July 10-16, 2026

Mutual Aid in the Electric Utility Industry

And why it matters to you

From trimming trees to maintaining equipment to updating the grid, utilities work hard to reduce the likelihood of a power outage. But when severe weather strikes, power outages can disrupt daily life in an instant. That's when a powerful network of cooperation known as mutual aid springs into action — helping communities recover faster.

It's not unusual to see utility trucks from a dozen different states lined up in a parking lot in the aftermath of a major storm. These lineworkers leave their families and travel long distances to help strangers, working in tough conditions to restore power, safety and a sense of normalcy.

In October 2024, 12 Victory Electric linemen made a nearly 1,300-mile trip to South Carolina with equipment and supplies to assist with Aiken Electric Co-op's power restoration following Hurricane Helene's destruction in late September. They joined dozens of other crew members from 15 electric cooperatives across Kansas. The hurricane left Aiken's service territory devastated and 100,000-plus of its members initially without power. The co-op reported 92% of its system was down at the height of the storm, and mutual aid crews were needed to help rebuild the system, not just restore power.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is a longstanding system of collaboration in which electric utilities help one another during major, multi-day outages to restore power quickly and safely.

Think of it like neighbors helping neighbors but on a national scale. If a storm knocks out power in your area and your local crews can't reach everyone fast enough, utility companies from nearby states or even across the country may send lineworkers and other utility personnel, trucks and supplies to lend a hand. This support continues until everyone's power is restored.

HOW IT WORKS

Even with year-round preparation, major weather events can still cause widespread outages. That's when mutual aid is activated.

Mutual aid agreements are not spontaneous offers of help. They're part of a well-organized system that allows utilities to quickly request and receive help when disaster strikes, and most often used after:

- ▶ Hurricanes or tropical storms
- ▶ Ice storms or blizzards
- ▶ Tornado outbreaks



After Hurricane Helene, 12 Victory Electric linemen traveled 1,300 miles to South Carolina, joining crews from across Kansas to help Aiken Electric Co-op restore power and rebuild a devastated system.

- ▶ Wildfires
- ▶ Earthquakes or other large-scale emergencies

When a utility anticipates a major weather event, it can prearrange support. Crews can be staged nearby and ready to respond as soon as conditions are safe. Once deployed, they help assess damage and replace poles and lines to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

WHY MUTUAL AID MATTERS

Mutual aid dramatically shortens the time it takes to restore power after a disaster. But mutual aid isn't just about speed — it's a powerful example of compassion, resilience and unity. It ensures that no matter a utility's size or location, customers can count on timely service during critical times, and entire communities can recover more quickly.

THANK YOU, LINeworkERS

Mutual aid works because of the dedication, courage and selflessness of lineworkers nationwide.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the crews who answer the call in their own communities and wherever they are needed.

So the next time the lights go out, remember: You're not alone. There's a powerful team ready to help. In the utility world, mutual aid means everyone is part of the same family.

Protect Your Digital Life This Cybersecurity Month

Continued from page 12A

Bitwarden, can help. For just a few dollars a month, it securely stores and auto-fills your passwords, so you only need to remember one strong master password.

Think of it as a mechanic for your digital engine. For extra protection, try these steps:

► **ENABLE TWO-FACTOR**

AUTHENTICATION (2FA): Add a second login step, like a text code, for accounts like email or banking.

► **UPDATE SOFTWARE REGULARLY:**

Patches fix security holes in your phone, computer, and apps.

► **BE CAUTIOUS WITH EMAILS:** Avoid clicking links in unsolicited messages, a common scam tactic.

This Cybersecurity Month, don't get stranded on the digital highway. Check with your local library, community center or extension office for cybersecurity resources. To get started, check just one password to ensure its strength is sufficient or explore using a password manager with your effort. A little effort now can save you from a costly cyber breakdown later.

THANKS, DENZIL

How to Put Out Electrical Fires

Stay safe. Act fast. Know what to do.



Power down immediately.

If wires or appliances seem unsafe or smell odd, unplug if safe to do so, and switch off the circuit at the breaker box.

If there's a fire, cut power, but only if you can do so safely.



Do NOT use water.

Water conducts electricity — throwing it on an electrical fire could cause a shock or electrocution.



Use a Class C fire extinguisher.

These are specifically designed for electrical fires and are the safest way to put out the fire.



No extinguisher? Use baking soda.

Baking soda can smother small electrical fires by cutting off oxygen.



Call for help, even if you think the fire is out. Evacuate the area immediately if the fire is too large to extinguish safely.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Victory Electric works year-round to provide excellent service to member-owners like you. Your satisfaction guides everything we do at the cooperative. We rely on your feedback to help us determine where to make improvements, measure progress and enhance satisfaction.

To evaluate how we're doing and better serve you, Victory Electric will be sending an email survey to cooperative member-owners on Nov. 3. Victory Electric would appreciate your participation. We will use the survey results to help us improve services to members and guide our future plans.

As a Victory Electric member-owner, you have a voice in the direction of your cooperative. Completing this survey is a simple way to share your perspective and offer feedback about your electric service.

This email survey from Victory Electric is a legitimate request for opinions, and you will not be asked to provide private data or payment information. When contacting members by phone or email, Victory Electric employees and our representatives never ask you to share bank account and credit card details or other personal information.

Contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 if you have any questions about the email survey.

Completing this survey is a simple way to share your perspective and offer feedback about your electric service.

Looking Back on

80 *years*

Eighty years ago, Victory Electric was built by members of the communities it served — and we remain focused on community today. This year we're celebrating our history by sharing some photos of our past.

