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Electronews

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FROM THE CEO

Avoid the Summertime Blues

Summertime is here, along with backyard barbecues, swimming, golfing, boating and gardening. After spending time outside in the sunshine, you likely want to cool off with your favorite cold beverage as you relax in your air-conditioned home.

Weather drives summer energy demand and electricity costs. The warmer it gets, the greater the electricity demand for cooling.

Don't let the warm weather cause the "summertime blues" when your monthly electric bill arrives. Follow these tips from Victory Electric to reduce your electricity use and manage your energy costs this summer.

INCREASE THE TEMPERATURE

Consider bumping up the temperature a few degrees. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommends setting your air conditioner at the highest temperature possible for your comfort. The hotter it gets outside, the harder your air conditioner has to work to keep you cool. When it's 104 degrees outside, for example, your conditioner

has to run longer to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature than it does when the outdoor temperature is only 84 degrees. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.



Shane Laws

INVEST IN A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

A smart thermostat is a great investment and a money-saving tool that can be set to automatically adjust the temperature based on your family's routines. Smart thermostats can be controlled remotely, too.

USE CEILING FANS

Fans circulate air in your home and make you feel cooler, which means you can raise the thermostat a few degrees and still feel comfortable. Remember

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VICTORY ELECTRIC

Celebrates

Phil Huffman's Career



Phil Huffman (far right) traveled to Louisiana in September 2008 with a crew from Victory to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.



Phil Huffman helps serve the meal at the 2009 annual meeting.



Victory Electric hosted a retirement party for Phil Huffman (left), who retired in June after 29 years.

After 29 years of hard work and dedication at Victory Electric, Journeyman Lineman

PHIL HUFFMAN

retired from the cooperative in June.



Phil Huffman (pictured earlier in his career at left) retired from Victory on June. 4



He attended lineman school at Pratt Community College in 1988 and began his line career in 1990 with Centel, which later became Aquila. Huffman joined Victory Electric in 1995 and became a crew chief in 1997. He then made a transition to the service crew in 2017.

"It's been a good job, and the benefits are great," Huffman said.

Huffman has enjoyed working with the public throughout his career at Victory Electric. As a serviceman, he was responsible for troubleshooting and restoring outages, performing maintenance and repair work, and responding to service calls from member-owners. He assisted other Victory crews with projects as needed, too.

Huffman reflected on the many changes he saw in his 35 years in the industry, especially in the areas of safety, equipment and vehicles.

"We take safety to a whole new level now, which is good," he said.

Victory Electric had only 10 linemen when he started and has grown considerably since then, as has the cooperative's fleet of vehicles.

"When I first started, we had one bucket truck for the whole company," Huffman said. "The service trucks were just pickups and didn't have buckets, so we had to climb everything every day."

Improvements in technology, such as breakers, also helped considerably in restoring power after outages according to Huffman.

The outdoor working conditions linemen face are not always ideal, and equipment doesn't always work as intended according to Victory Electric Vice President of Operations Ryan Miller.

"I was young and really new, and one day we were changing out a transformer," Miller said. The transformer locked up after being raised



Phil Huffman (center) poses with other members of the line crew in this file photo.

with a winch and wouldn't budge. As Miller struggled with the transformer, Huffman waited below in the pigweed — aggravating his allergies and souring his mood.

In spite of challenges like these, Huffman said he has enjoyed working on the line crew and that the camaraderie with the other linemen has been the best part of working at Victory Electric.

HURRICANE RECOVERY

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, and co-ops rely on one another for assistance when disaster strikes. Huffman demonstrated that principle while traveling with the Victory Electric crew to Louisiana along with other Kansas electric cooperatives in September 2008. The crews helped with recovery efforts after Hurricane Gustav and Ike damaged or destroyed thousands of electric poles.

"It was an eye-opener for Kansas boys going down there — the elements, the environment we were working in, and alligators and snakes. Alligators would be right in the ditch while we were trying to work," he said.

Crews coordinated with the

National Guard and other groups while assisting Dixie Electric Membership Corp., headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in restoring its power systems.

RETIREMENT PLANS

A longtime hunter, Huffman has raised and sold game birds in his spare time for the past 14 years — spending weekends from August to March delivering to customers in nine states. In retirement, Huffman plans to focus more time on his game bird operation, traveling and pursuing his outdoor hobbies.

"I want to spend some time in our cabin in Nebraska, get my boat out and go fishing," he said.

He also looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren. "They like coming down to grandpa's because I've got a pond at the house," Huffman said.

Victory Electric celebrated Huffman's career at a retirement reception on June 4.

"Thank you for everything you did for us, and we appreciate your time. Enjoy your retirement!" Miller said. A sentiment echoed by all Victory employees.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, PHIL!

Victory Electric had only 10 linemen when he started and has grown considerably since then, as has the cooperative's fleet of vehicles.

Upcoming Events

JULY 2024

JULY
12

Spearville City of Windmills
(COW) Festival
5-7 P.M. | GREENSTREET PARK

JULY
12-18

Cooperative Youth
Leadership Camp
NEAR STEAMBOAT SPRINGS,
COLORADO

JULY
26

Dodge City Days
Western Parade
9:30 A.M. | SIXTH AVENUE AND
SOULE STREET

CHANGE YOUR HABITS To Save Money on Your Energy Bill

Whether looking for free or low-cost ways to save energy or planning a major purchase that will help pay for itself due to energy savings, check out these energy bill money savers.

NO COST

- ▶ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Program your thermostat.
- ▶ Use sunlight for heat in the winter.
- ▶ Fully load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- ▶ Use window coverings to keep out cold.
- ▶ Turn off electronics when not in use.

LOW COST

- ▶ Use smart strips that turn off power to unused items.
- ▶ Service your HVAC system regularly and change filters as often as recommended.
- ▶ Purchase an insulating blanket made for water heaters.
- ▶ Caulk between window/door frames and walls.
- ▶ Find and fill air leaks in your home.
- ▶ Install a smart thermostat.
- ▶ Replace old windows with energy-efficient versions.

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Intern Spotlights

Three summer interns recently joined Victory Electric's staff to learn from our employees and participate in staff projects. These internships help them gain important insights into their chosen profession.

From left: Ryan Renner, Sage Riekenberg and Landon Elling join the Victory Electric staff as summer interns.



Landon Elling Lineman Intern

HOMETOWN

- ▶ Dodge City



FIELD OF INTEREST

- ▶ Electrical Power Technology Program at Pratt Community College in Pratt

HOBBIES

- ▶ Hunting
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Working

FAVORITE MOVIE OR TV SHOW

- ▶ Yellowstone

FAVORITE MUSIC

- ▶ Country

FAVORITE FOOD

- ▶ A good steak

HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?

- ▶ Quiet

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP?

- ▶ Everything possible!

Sage Riekenberg Lineman Intern

HOMETOWN

- ▶ Dodge City



FIELD OF INTEREST

- ▶ Electrical Power and Distribution Program at Manhattan Technical School in Manhattan

HOBBIES

- ▶ Hunting
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Golfing

FAVORITE MOVIE OR TV SHOW

- ▶ Step Brothers

FAVORITE MUSIC

- ▶ Country

FAVORITE FOOD

- ▶ Chicken Alfredo

HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?

- ▶ Fun and talkative

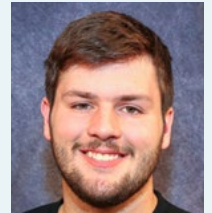
WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP?

- ▶ Being around the guys and letting them take me under their wing.

Ryan Renner Engineering Intern

HOMETOWN

- ▶ Dodge City



FIELD OF INTEREST

- ▶ Electrical Engineering at Kansas State University in Manhattan

HOBBIES

- ▶ Hunting
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Golfing

FAVORITE MOVIE OR TV SHOW

- ▶ Star Wars

FAVORITE MUSIC

- ▶ Country or pop

FAVORITE FOOD

- ▶ Steak

HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?

- ▶ Monotone

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP?

- ▶ Getting some real-world experience.

Victory Electric Earns an ACSI® 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award

Victory Electric is honored to have earned a 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award® from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations, and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Victory Electric's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly



measured utilities reported in the 2023 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience. The 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Victory Electric's hard work has been noticed by its members. Victory is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.

*AWARD CRITERIA ARE DETERMINED BY THE ACSI® AND ARE BASED ON CUSTOMERS RATING THEIR SATISFACTION IN A SURVEY INDEPENDENT OF THE SYNDICATED ACSI ENERGY UTILITY STUDY. FOR MORE ABOUT THE ACSI, VISIT WWW.THEACSI.ORG/BADGES. ACSI AND ITS LOGO ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF THE AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX LLC.

RUIZ AND GIER EARN PROMOTIONS



Jesus Ruiz

Congratulations to **JESUS RUIZ**, who was recently promoted to line crew chief. Ruiz completed an internship at Victory Electric in summer 2010 and joined the cooperative full time in March 2011. Crew chiefs supervise a crew of three to four linemen and oversee the crew's project assignments. We appreciate the knowledge and skill Ruiz demonstrated as a journeyman lineman and look forward to the leadership he will provide to his line crew.

CONGRATULATIONS, JESUS!



Jake Gier

JAKE GIER, a journeyman lineman since 2019, recently made the transition to the service team at Victory Electric. He started with Victory in August 2017 as a second-class lineman. In his new role as a serviceman, he will troubleshoot and restore outages, respond to member service calls and complete light repairs.

CONGRATULATIONS, JAKE!

HELP KEEP LINEMEN SAFE

With summer activities underway, you may be planning to hold a yard or garage sale soon. When advertising your event, **DO NOT** put flyers or posters on electric poles. Not only does attaching items to a utility pole violate the National Electric Safety Code, it could endanger linemen and compromise the integrity of the gear they wear to keep them safe.

Foreign objects such as staples, tacks or nails embedded in a pole might tear or puncture linemen's gloves and other clothing designed to protect them from electric shock. These objects could also interfere with a Victory Electric lineman's ability to safely climb a pole while fixing or maintaining electrical lines.

Do not attach anything else to a power pole either, whether it's a tree stand for hunting, fencing wire, balloons or streamers, no hunting/ no trespassing signs, political banners or business advertisements. Remember that utility poles are not billboards, and help us keep our linemen safe.



Make Smart Energy Choices With SmartHub

Victory Electric's SmartHub app gives you the power to track and take control of your energy usage — and save money. The secure usage management tools allow you to view your monthly, daily or hourly energy usage and look for trends, which helps you make smart choices about using electricity.

Log in to your SmartHub account to get started. If you don't have an account, simply click "Don't have an account? Register now." at www.victoryelectric.smarthub.coop and follow the prompts. You will need your account number, which can be found on your monthly bill. Learn more about the available digital tools below.

AVERAGE USAGE

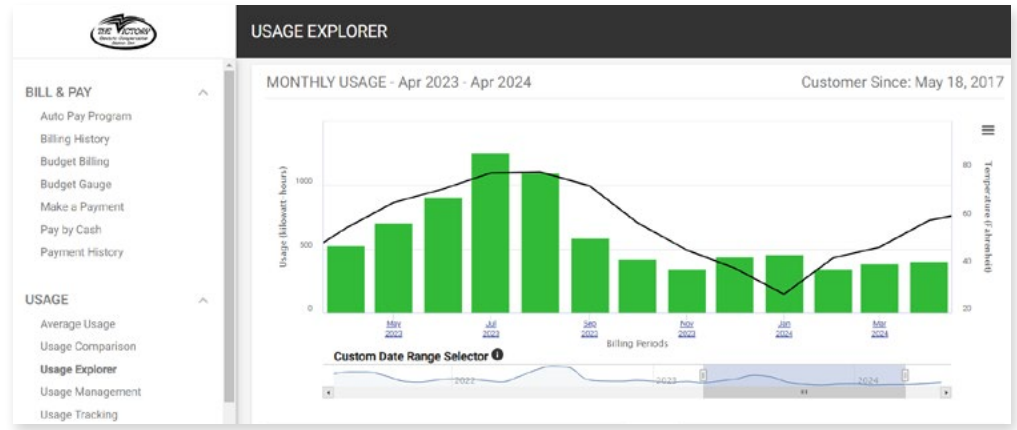
The Average Usage tool shows you what your typical or average usage is for the time period you select. For example, see your average usage for each month or each day of the week over an entire year. Or view your typical usage in each hour of the day over the course of two weeks. Discover when you use the most energy and how changing your habits will impact your bill.

USAGE COMPARISON

The Usage Comparison tool lets you select any two months and compare the usage history side by side. View the differences between this month and the same month last year, or select other combinations to see how your bill varies each month and in different seasons.

USAGE EXPLORER

The Usage Explorer provides a detailed look at your past and current usage in one place. View



With SmartHub, Victory Electric Cooperative member-owners can track their energy usage, view their bills and make payments. With both web- and app-based options, you can access information anywhere, anytime. Sign up online or reach out to our member services representatives for assistance.

your monthly, daily and hourly usage and see how weather trends affect it. Select a date range and see graphs for your current bill, previous bill, the year to date or your past 13 bills.

USAGE MANAGEMENT

SmartHub's Usage Management section lets you easily download your customer data and access our Energy Advisor tool. It securely connects to your Victory account and provides specific ways you can save energy and money based on the settings you select, your previous energy use, and local weather forecasts.

USAGE PLANNING

Track differences in your energy use with the Usage Planning tool. For example, set a point-in-time marker if you install a new energy-efficient air conditioner, water heater or large appliance. Use a range marker to call attention to energy usage during a particular date range you set, such as when you go on vacation, guests come to stay for the holidays or your college student returns home for the summer.

Monitoring your energy data regularly on SmartHub helps you make informed decisions and prevent surprises on your monthly electric bill. Call 620-227-2139 if you have questions or need help setting up your online account.

VICTORY ELECTRIC VISITS MEMBERS IN

Bucklin and Ingalls

To connect with the communities we serve and express our gratitude to our member-owners, Victory Electric hosts community appreciation events throughout our service area.

We kicked off the 2024 community celebrations with end-of-school hamburger and hot dog feeds at Bucklin City Park on May 14 and Ingalls Elementary School on May 17. The festivities also featured giveaways, prize drawings and safety demonstrations by Victory Electric linemen.

Meal vouchers and other goodies were also given away at a Dodge City A's game June 7.

Join us July 12, for a hamburger and hot dog feed at Greenstreet Park in Spearville during the City of Windmills (C.O.W.) Festival.

Watch for announcements about additional events later this year.



Avoid the Summertime Blues *Continued from page 12A ▶*

to turn fans off when you leave the room, as fans cool people — not rooms.

CLOSE THE SHADES

To help keep your home cooler in the summer, close shades or drapes on windows that receive direct sunlight.

WATCH OUT FOR “VAMPIRES”

Many appliances continue to draw power from electrical outlets even when they are not powered on or are idle, such as gaming consoles, always-on TVs, older set-top cable boxes, PCs and other devices. You don't need garlic to ward off these energy vampires. Simply unplug them when they aren't in use. Consider using a smart power strip as well.

LOWER YOUR WATER HEATER'S TEMPERATURE

Water heaters consume more energy than you might expect — accounting for 14% to 18% of an average electric bill, according to the U.S. DOE. If you lower your water heater setting from the standard 140 degrees to 120 degrees and use less

hot water, you could save hundreds each year.

GET PERSONALIZED TIPS FROM THE ENERGY ADVISOR

Victory Electric's Energy Advisor tool, available at www.victoryelectric.net/energy-resources, securely connects to your account and makes personalized recommendations to help you save money. The more details you provide about your home, heating and cooling system, lighting, water heater and appliances, the more personalized the tool's analysis and recommendations. Burnie Watts (pictured above) is the face of our Energy Advisor. Watch for him on our social media pages for more tips to help you save energy.

Whether you prefer spending time outdoors or relaxing in air-conditioned comfort, we hope you enjoy your summer!



Burnie Watts is the face of Victory's Energy Advisor tool. Visit www.victoryelectric.net/energy-resources for personalized recommendations to help you save money.

THANKS, SHANE

VICTORY'S ENERGY PARTNERS ADVOCATE FOR YOU

Victory Electric and our energy partners aim to provide reliable energy at the lowest possible cost. Sunflower Electric Power Corp. is Victory Electric's generation and transmission (G&T) provider and part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a regional transmission organization. As a G&T, Sunflower Electric has advocated for reasonable transmission charges for its member-utilities, including Victory Electric.

On May 31, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved changes SPP proposed to remedy electric transmission infrastructure costs that were unfair to Sunflower's

member-utilities. Electricity consumers in Sunflower's territory have been paying 67% of construction costs for high voltage transmission infrastructure to transmit nearly three-fourths of the energy unaffiliated with Sunflower's load to other parts of the country.

FERC's recent order assigned the wider region 100% of the cost for Sunflower's four projects that primarily benefit consumers outside its territory. This change will benefit Sunflower Electric, Victory Electric and you as a member-owner. Sunflower will continue to advocate for fair allocation of costs and for you.

