

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

Want to Save Energy & Money? We Have Apps for That!

Remember the days when people kept in touch with far-flung family and friends by writing letters? I'm talking about tangible, handwritten notes on stationery, sent via the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.

Today, thanks to laptops, smartphones and tablet devices, e-mail, texting and social media have changed the way we talk to each other. While these advances can make us feel like we're "wired to the world" at all times, they can help us save energy, too.

As a member of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's electric cooperatives, we are proud to offer a mobile app: TogetherWeSave.com—Save Energy, Save Money.

The TogetherWeSave.com—Save Energy, Save Money app, the newest addition to our TogetherWeSave energy efficiency campaign portfolio, lets you see how much money you could pocket each month by switching from traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps or light-emitting diodes.

In addition, you can use the app to evaluate energy guzzlers in your

home—for example, what does it cost to run a dishwasher for an hour?

Kilowatt-hour rates specific to Victory Electric needed for the calculations are available in the app by entering your ZIP code and selecting our name.

The app delivers handy pop-up "Tip of the Day" reminders on ways to make your home more energy efficient and displays important Victory Electric alerts and updates.

The free app is available for Apple iPhones and iPads at the iTunes store and for Android smartphones at Play.Google.com. Just search for TogetherWeSave.

At Victory Electric, we take pride in our promise of providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but our promise goes beyond that. We are also dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve.

These two money-saving apps are one more way we're looking out for you! Find more ways to save at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

'Til Next Time, TJ



Terry Janson

“These two money-saving apps are one more way we're looking out for you!”



Victory Electric Health Fair a Success

Hundreds attend health fair for free services



Health care providers and volunteers were essential to the success of the Victory Electric Community Health Fair on October 6.

Health Fair screenings found several cases of cancer among the many free exams performed on October 6.

Victory Electric and our partners hosted the 5th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair. More than 65 doctors, health care professionals and vendors from the area graciously donated their time and expertise to offer free services to the hundreds of attendees of the health fair.

Services offered at this year's



Rocking M Radio hosted a live remote from the health fair.

fair included free eye auto-refraction screenings, blood pressure checks, skin cancer screenings, pap smears, prostate exams, oral cancer screenings, spinal screenings, car seat safety inspections, massages, hearing tests, \$15 flu shots, \$10 complete blood screens and \$35 whooping cough vaccinations.

To put everything in perspective, 217 complete blood screens were completed; 100 skin cancer screenings, 117 pap smears, 87 breast exams, 53 hearing tests, 283 flu shots, 130 oral cancer screenings, 103 fluoride treatments, 12 prostate exams, 75 bone density scans, and 80 vision screenings. Of all of those screenings, several cases of cancer were found.

We would like to thank all those who assisted in the planning and organization of the event; you were an invaluable resource. Also, thank you to the 115 volunteers from the community who came out to help us keep everything running smoothly. We could not have hosted the health fair without you.



Dodge City Dental Care performs oral cancer screenings.

Thank you to all of our partners and sponsors, Dodge City Medical Center, Western Plains Medical Complex, Dodge City Public Schools, Phillips Chiropractic, Mexican American Ministries, Ambucs, Peterson Labs, Dodge City Daily Globe, Rocking M



Representatives from Ford County Sheriff's Dept, Kansas Highway Patrol and Dodge City Police Dept. inspected car seats and directed the fatal vision driving course.



Victory Electric volunteers helped facilitate the Health Fair activities.

Radio, Premier Motors, Tianguis Carniseria, Univision, La Mexicana, Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Landmark Bank, Western Beverage, McDonald's, The Inn Pancake House, Tacos Jalisco's, La Tapatia, Kriz-Davis, and many more. We would also like to give a special thanks to Melissa McCoy, Gene Dole, Kelly Stecklein, Deb Goodwin and Debbie Bush for all their hard work and dedication.

Victory Electric is already looking forward to the 6th Annual Community Health Fair, and we hope to see everyone there.



Shaunnon Flickinger gives advice to Robert Vinton.



Student Nurses from Dodge City Community College helped with the blood draws.



Pick Chiropractic hands out information on their services



Victory employee Tom Lowery receives a flu shot from Dodge City Medical Center.

“Authentically” Junk

Local craftsman spends his time creating something from nothing

An old, olive-green oven or broken lawnmower sitting at the curb may not cause a traffic jam in your neighborhood, but for local craftsman, NOBLE SNYDER, these items may be just the things he needs to create his next project.

“My stuff is authentically junk,” Snyder said. “Everything I create is 100 percent junk. I have a rule to never pay for anything. I find things or people just give me scrap wood and metal. I will take anything I think I can use.”

Craftsman

Snyder specializes in making wooden handles for tools like hammers, rakes, axes, old mining picks, and various other tools and antiques. He uses all scrap wood for his handles and



One of Snyder's more interesting projects is this grill made of an old oven, lawnmower, disk and various scrap pieces.

cuts, planes, and shapes his handles without power tools.

One of Snyder's more interesting projects is a grill made of an old oven, lawnmower, disk and various scrap pieces.

Snyder explained how he used the lawnmower for the base, and fastened the oven to the lawnmower. A propane tank provides the heat to the disk, which is on the top of the oven. Most people overlook an old oven and lawnmower, but he “saw the junk for not what it was, but for what it could be.”



Snyder displays his belt buckle collection.

Collector

Not only is Snyder a craftsman, he also has another unique hobby. In the 1940s, he started collecting belt buckles. Over the years, his collection has grown to more than 200 buckles.

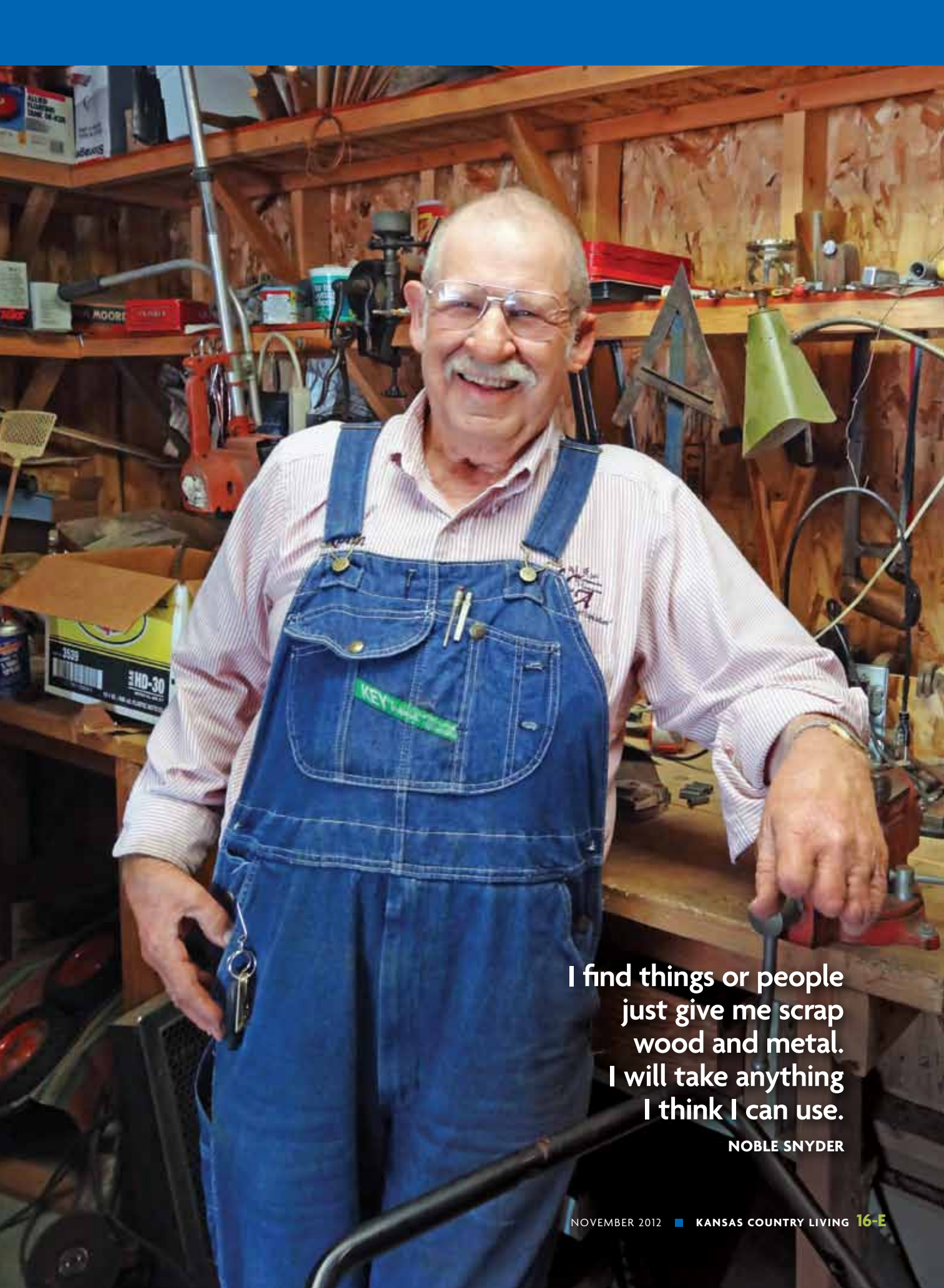
“I buy the belt buckles everywhere I go, from auctions, to garage sales, to estate sales,” Snyder said.

Snyder's oldest belt buckle is from the Civil War. He doesn't just collect one style or theme of buckles, but is always on the lookout to buy a buckle he doesn't have.

One can look at Snyder's belt buckle collection and see his love of junk. All of the buckle display cases are handmade from something such as old storm doors, windows and scrap wood.

“I'm always on the lookout for junk,” Snyder said. “Several local businesses have donated scrap for my projects. I have some posthole diggers I made from scrap auger tubing from Speedking and scrap conduit from Victory Electric.”

Today, Snyder is still on the hunt for belt buckles, antique tools and scrap wood and metal. He can be reached at 620-225-3955 if you have any “authentically junk” items to donate.



I find things or people
just give me scrap
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I think I can use.

NOBLE SNYDER

Victory Bill Payment Options

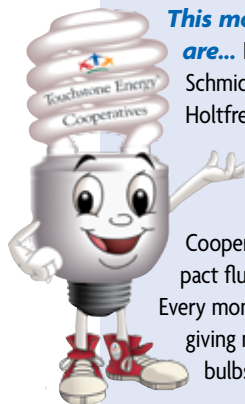


Pay your bill online at www.victoryelectric.net, at our office or by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at www.victoryelectric.net, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City, and a pay station at Mr. Payroll, 400 E Wyatt Earp.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are... David Sprenkle, Willie Schmidt, Brent Nash, Norma Holtfreich, Terry Ensz, Fransisco Gamboa, Marisol Aguilar, and Justin Blackwood. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Victory Electric wishes our members a Happy Thanksgiving. Our offices will be closed November

22-23 in observance of the holiday.

Deck the Halls with Cost-Saving, Energy-Efficient Lighting

When one goes out, they all go out, right?

Wrong, if you use light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to do your holiday decorating. These hardy, energy-saving lights are guaranteed to give you one less thing to worry about so you can better focus on the joys of the season.

Why are LED holiday lights better than traditional bulbs? Victory Electric tells you why.

- ▶ **LEDs are now on par with traditional bulbs.** Gone are the days when LED holiday lights were known for a harsh white light or stark colors that created a less-than-magical atmosphere. These days, LEDs come in warm, inviting colors in variety of light beam patterns and dimming speeds, giving you lots of creative options for decorating.
- ▶ **LEDs last longer than traditional lights.** In fact, they have an operational life span of about 20,000 hours, enough to last for 40 holiday seasons. Also, the lights don't have glass or filaments, which makes them durable and resistant to breaking. And because LEDs bulbs are so strong, one individual outage generally doesn't darken the whole strand. For those enthusiastic



Pre-lit Christmas trees featuring Energy Smart® LED light sets use up to 80 percent less energy and last longer.

decorators who like to blanket their entire house and yard in holiday lights, LEDs could save hours of painstaking work each year.

- ▶ **LEDs use less energy, which means less strain on your first winter electric bill.** Running LEDs on one 6-ft. Christmas tree for 12 hours per day for 40 days can save 90 percent or more energy when compared to traditional incandescent lights.
 - ▶ **Because they use less energy, LEDs make it safer to connect multiple strands end-to-end without overloading the wall socket.** Also, they're cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.
- Look for brands and manufacturers of ENERGY STAR-qualified LED decorative light strings at www.energystar.gov.

Visit our Website & Join Victory Electric on Facebook

Visit www.victoryelectric.net and you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch and stay apprised of co-op events and



Victory Trustee Terri Larson Completes CCD Training Program

TERRI LARSON, trustee from Victory Electric received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Larson was recognized at NRECA's Region 7 & 9 meeting for her commitment to education and attainment of the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate before an audience of more than 550 electric cooperative officials from 13 states, including Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

Electric co-ops in Kansas are committed to working through the statewide organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, and NRECA



Terri Larson

to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in

five core courses:

- ▶ Director Duties and Liabilities
- ▶ Understanding the Electric Business
- ▶ Board Roles and Relationships
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Financial Decision Making

Larson will now work toward her NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

Victory Electric is proud of our trustees' commitment to education and training, so that they may better serve our members.

Gift Ideas that Save Energy & Help the Environment

Holiday gift-giving is heart-warming, full of surprises and fun. It also creates an extra one million ton of waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve every year!

Why not consider giving presents that use less energy and create less trash? Some suggestions:

- ▶ **Give energy-efficient small appliances** like kitchen aids and grooming devices.
- ▶ **Stuff stockings** with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- ▶ **Look for clothes and products** made from recycled materials.
- ▶ **Bestow blankets, sweaters or scarves** that help to hold down

heating costs.

- ▶ **Create a hand-made gift**, like a basket of baked goods or fruit, a collection of your family's favorite recipes, a videotape of family members sharing their favorite stories, or a wreath strung with holly and pine cones.
- ▶ **Buy something you know the recipient will use:** tickets to a ball game or concert; a gift certificate to the video store or grocery store; or a membership in a health club.

As you celebrate the season of joy and giving, give and use wisely. Who knows how far the benefits will spread!

Why Buy Local?

Why buy local? There are numerous benefits to buying local. First, when those coveted big businesses look to building or locating in a city or town, they look at the statistics of how many people buy local. Ford County has total retail sales of \$484.7 million, and compared to other towns and counties approximately the same size, we don't do as well.

In Finney County (Garden City), they have total retail sales of \$680.7 million, almost \$200 million more in sales than in Dodge City. Great Bend and Liberal do approximately the same in total retail sales, but they have approximately 2,000 less households than Dodge City.

Therefore, towns like Garden City, which is approximately the same size as Dodge City, will attract more businesses because they draw in more local buyers.

Another important fact that many forget when they travel is the cost to travel to those places. Using Wichita and Garden City as examples, using the calculation (IRS mileage rate x the miles) + (average Ford County hourly wage x time to drive), the average person is spending almost \$17 going to Garden City and \$57 going to Wichita, before even opening your wallet at a store.

In an article in the Chamber Executive Convention 2009, Dennis Lauver, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, listed five key benefits to buying local, those include:

- ▶ Save money and time when you shop near home.
- ▶ Keep money in our own economy.
- ▶ Build our schools and cities (*assuming a local option sales tax*).
- ▶ Provide property tax relief (*assuming a local option sales tax*).
- ▶ Keep family and friends employed in your community.

We encourage you to buy local in your community, whether it be Dodge City, Jetmore, Montezuma, Bucklin, Spearville or any of the other small towns in the area. This allows your community to be more competitive to receive new businesses in town.

Join us November 26 at the Dodge City Christmas Parade of Lights & Chili Contest

The 11th annual Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest will be held on November 26 in Dodge City.

The chili judging will begin at 4:30 p.m. and parade at 6 p.m. To enter into either contest, please complete the form below and return **by November 19**.

The annual event is sponsored by The Dodge City Globe, Victory Electric and Western Beverage, and attracts hundreds of visitors to Dodge City.

We hope to see you there!



Above: Santa makes an appearance in the parade each year in a Victory bucket truck.

Left: The Chili Contest is fun for competitors and for spectators with sampling beginning November 26 at 5:30 p.m.

11th Annual Parade of Lights & Chili Cookoff

Monday, Nov. 26th, 2012

Judging at 4:30 pm
Sampling at 5:30 pm
Parade begins at 6:00 pm

Parade runs through Wright Park & then Downtown on Front Street

To Enter the Parade or Chili Cook-Off, please complete & return this form or email to: rebecca.gerber@dodgeglobe.com

Entry Form

Business / Individual Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Person: _____

Type of Entry
 Fluid - Hot - Cold - Other - Chili

Brief Description: _____

*No Commercial Vehicles, Please Return Entry by November, 19th, 2012
 Dodge City Daily Globe, Attn: Rebecca Gerber
 705 Second Ave., P.O. Box 820 Dodge City, Kansas 67801*

DODGE CITY DAILY GLOBE