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HEART OF DAKOTA VETERINARY CLINIC:
Nurturing animals and relationships

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

As veterinary clinics across North Dakota become more scarce, one veterinary clinic is building its legacy directly off I-94. The Heart of Dakota Veterinary Clinic is a new clinic offering large and small animal care in Tappen.

The clinic, which opened its doors in September 2023, is owned by a husband-and-wife duo, Dr. Christina Burgard and practice manager Jarrid Arndt. Together, they have decades of experience in the animal health industry and couldn't pass up an opportunity to open their own clinic to serve central North Dakota.

In the heart of North Dakota

Ever since Burgard was a young child, becoming a veterinarian and opening her own clinic was a goal.

"At 2 years old, I knew what I wanted to be. I would tell

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Husband-and-wife duo **Dr. Christina Burgard** and **Jarrid Arndt** are the owners of the Heart of Dakota Veterinary Clinic.



The Heart of Dakota Veterinary Clinic is located in Tappen.

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everyone I was going to be a veterinarian and, of course, my parents would laugh and tell me I didn't even know what that was. To that, I would confidently say, 'An animal doctor,'" Burgard says. "My passion for animals stemmed from a young age. Visiting my grandparents' farm always brought me joy, being around the animals."

Burgard began working in a veterinary clinic in high school and continued to work in clinics while completing undergraduate and graduate school. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University, then was able to return to North Dakota, where she continued to work in clinics until the opportunity arose to open Heart of Dakota.

Arndt's passion for animal health stemmed from more than 20 years of experience in the field. Like Burgard, he worked at other clinics until the pair saw the opportunity to open their own clinic.

"I worked as an assistant in veterinary clinics and have worked my way to where I am now a practice manager," Arndt says.

While Burgard devotes her time to caring for the animals, Arndt makes sure their practice is operating smoothly. He wears many hats, working as technology support, inventory manager, employee manager, office manager and client services.

"Opening our own clinic was always the goal," Burgard says. "While in graduate school, I thought a lot about owning a clinic and serving rural North Dakota. North Dakota has given me so many wonderful values and it is where my heart and soul has always been."

It's those values that led to the clinic's name, Heart of Dakota. The team works to make their clients, both two-legged and four-legged, feel like more than just a client.

"We pride ourselves in offering a high standard of

care to all of our clients and want them to feel like part of our family," Arndt says. Getting to know their clients and building relationships has been a rewarding part of opening their business.

They live in Dawson, just a few miles from the clinic, with their three children, who also enjoy being at the clinic. Through the years of living in the rural community, the couple has been able to form and build relationships that followed them to their clinic. Arndt says the community has been a wonderful support system for them and has helped spread the word about the Heart of Dakota Veterinary Clinic.

Growing and serving in the heart of North Dakota

With the goal of opening a clinic, the determined duo was able to make that goal a reality within a year. Heart of Dakota has clients not just in the local area, but clients come from across the state to see what the new clinic has to offer.

"It's been really rewarding to have people bring their animals from near and far to see what we have to offer our clients," Arndt says.

Heart of Dakota offers a variety of services for their clients, including a unique drive-thru facility. This offers ease to large animal clients, as they can pull in and unload in an enclosed facility.

The team offers a full range of large animal services, including semen testing, foot trims, breeding programs, ultrasounding/pregnancy testing, Brucellosis vaccines and obstetrics. The clinic also offers a wide variety of services for small animal clients. The Heart of Dakota team offers preventative care, routine and advanced surgeries, laser therapy and extensive in-house labs. Another service the team is excited to offer their clients is advanced orthopedic surgeries in-house by an orthopedic surgeon. ⚡

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Reliable power for today and tomorrow



Travis Kupper

Ringling in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the co-general manager/CEO of KEM Electric

Cooperative, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we are going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at KEM Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering – and empowering – our service area at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So, how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power, while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across KEM Electric's territory. You may not realize it, but KEM Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase electricity from our energy providers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration. From there, we distribute power to homes and businesses throughout our communities.

We're increasingly using

more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power is available to our members whenever they need it.

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) enables two-way communication between the co-op and members. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps KEM Electric save money with real-time data and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire area.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is by monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric cooperatives in North Dakota and across the country. Learning from other cooperatives is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model, because it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we begin 2024, KEM Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve – for today and tomorrow. ⚡



POWERING ON: KEM ELECTRIC'S CALENDAR

JANUARY

STUDENT OF THE MONTH
NAPOLEON PUBLIC SCHOOL
Applications due Jan. 25



JAN. 13

KEM ELECTRIC BOARD OF
DIRECTOR SEAT PETITIONS OPEN



JAN. 17

KEM ELECTRIC REGIONAL
MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY
Pifer's Auction, Steele, 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY

STUDENT OF THE MONTH
STRASBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL
Applications due Feb. 25



FEB. 1

MEMBER SATISFACTION
SURVEY BEGINS
Watch for your February bill, KEM Electric social media and future *North Dakota Living* issues.



MARCH

STUDENT OF THE MONTH
WISHEK PUBLIC SCHOOL
Applications due March 25



MARCH 4

MEMBER SATISFACTION
SURVEY BEGINS VIA PHONE
Members who have completed the survey via print or digitally will not be contacted.



MARCH 13

LAST DATE TO CIRCULATE
PETITIONS FOR DIRECTOR
Petitions must be received by the end of the day.



MARCH 29

GOOD FRIDAY
The office will be closed in observance of Good Friday. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Snow removal

As winter weather continues, we want to remind KEM Electric Cooperative members to stay safe around electrical equipment. You've seen the "big green boxes" in your area, but have you wondered what they are? These boxes are known as pad-mounted transformers and are crucial for converting electricity to a voltage safe for use in homes and local businesses.

"Pad-mounted transformers are crucial for power, but they can pose a dangerous risk if appropriate precautions are not taken," says Dillon Steinolfson, a journeyman lineworker at KEM Electric Cooperative.

"Think of it like this: Just as there are power lines above the ground, there are also power lines below the ground. These underground lines connect to transformers, which are like power hubs. The transformers get power from high-voltage lines and then send it in different directions to homes and businesses through secondary lines. When clearing snow, be careful around underground cabinets and transformers, because messing with them could damage the hidden power lines," he says.

It is important to carefully remove snow around the pad-mounted transformers.

"Snow can sometimes make these pieces of equipment hard to detect, making snow removal more dangerous," Steinolfson says. "Be sure to know the location, if near one, to make snow removal safe and easy."

Safety Starts with Me (and YOU)!

Use these tips to keep you and your family safe around pad-mounted transformers:

- **Mark the location of pad-mounted transformers.** If you have a pad-mounted transformer in your area, mark its location with a flag or reflector to alleviate accidents when removing snow.
- **Carefully remove snow around pad-mounted transformer.** Snow piled on electrical equipment can impact your safety and electric service to your home. In the event of an outage, having the pad-mounted transformers cleared of any snow will make it easier for lineworkers to restore power.
- **Never touch, climb or play near or on a pad-mounted transformer.** It is important to inform



children to never play on "the big green box."

- **Keep the area around a pad-mounted transformer clear of any obstructions.** A 10-foot radius is recommended. This includes trees, shrubs or other obstructions. This distance allows for lineworkers to maneuver around the transformer with their equipment if needed.
- **Do not dig around a pad-mounted transformer.** Always call 811 before you dig. Below the transformers are pad-mounted lines that can cause damage to you and the electrical system if hit.
- **Report any damaged or unlocked transformer to your local cooperative.** If you notice anything odd about the equipment, call KEM Electric at 800-472-2673.

"At KEM Electric, we want to provide you with electricity as well as protect your livelihood," Steinolfson says. We hope you and your loved ones will take these tips into consideration when removing snow to stay safe this winter. ⚡



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Your voice, your impact! Participate in our member satisfaction survey and play a vital role in shaping the future of our services.



KEM Electric wants to hear from you!

KEM Electric Cooperative will be conducting a member engagement survey from February through March. This member engagement survey aims to gather feedback and insights from members of KEM Electric regarding their experiences, satisfaction levels and suggestions for improvement.

There are multiple ways to participate:

- Watch for the printed survey enclosed with your February bill.
- Access the survey online via our social media channels or website.

- Opt for a phone survey, scheduled for March.

Rest assured, your privacy is our priority. Your responses will remain confidential, anonymized and aggregated for analysis purposes only. Your valuable input will help us improve without compromising your privacy. No information will be shared externally.

As a gesture of appreciation for your valuable input, participants who choose to provide their contact information will also be entered into a giveaway for a chance to win Medora Musical tickets and a KEM Electric gift basket. ⚡

2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: FEB. 9, 2024

**DOWNLOAD
APPLICATION**



**ALL SCHOLARSHIPS REQUIRE AN APPLICATION FORM TO BE FILLED
OUT AND SUBMITTED TO KEM ELECTRIC.**

APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE, VISITING OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.KEMELECTRIC.COM OR CALLING THE OFFICE AT 701-254-4666.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO MSANDERS@KEMELECTRIC.COM, OR
PRINTED AND MAILED TO: KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, ATTN: MARCY SANDERS, 107 S.
BROADWAY, P.O. BOX 790, LINTON, ND 58552.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Annual Meeting
June 11, 2024 in Linton



INTERESTED IN SERVING?

Join the KEM Electric board and power the future

Are you a dedicated leader with a deep connection to our rural community? We invite you to be a driving force behind positive change by joining the KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors.

KEM Electric currently has an at-large vacant seat, along with District 1 and District 2 positions up for election.

Why join our board?

Running for a board of director position for an electric cooperative can be a meaningful and impactful decision. Here are just a few reasons to join:

- **Make a difference:** Contribute to decisions that impact our energy future.
- **Community engagement:** Collaborate with like-minded individuals dedicated to community growth.
- **Professional growth:** Enhance your leadership skills and network.

Who we're looking for

We're seeking individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives who share our commitment to serving the members of KEM Electric. Ideal candidates should have:

- Leadership and strategic thinking skills
- A commitment to our communities/service area
- Strong communication and collaboration abilities

If you're ready to make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to visit www.kemelectric.com to learn more. Nomination petitions open on Jan. 13 and must be turned in by the end of day on March 13.

For inquiries or more information, please contact Marcy Sanders at 701-254-4666 or email msanders@kemelectric.com. ⚡

404. Member Petition-Form Information

(a) Each petition shall contain the following:

1. The name of the member nominee.
2. The director position for which the member nominee shall run.
3. The printed names, addresses and telephone numbers, date of signature and original signatures of each member signing the petition.
4. At least 10 signatures of the members of the respective district, or members at large, as the case may be.

(b) In the case of joint members, the signature of one or more than one joint member shall constitute one joint member.

(c) Firms, associations, corporations or body politics shall have the right to place one signature on a petition, the same as other members, by the signature of a duly appointed representative.

(d) Petitions may not be circulated or signed more than 60 days before the date when petitions must be filed pursuant to this bylaw. Any signatures to a nominating

petition obtained more than 60 days before that date may not be counted.

(e) All petitions must be filed at the principal offices of the cooperative not less than 90 days prior to the date of the meeting of the members, as fixed by the board of directors.

(f) After verifying that a petition complies with this bylaw, the secretary of the board of directors shall post a list of nominations for directors at the principal office of the cooperative at least 60 days before the meeting of the members.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM Electric Cooperative office or download a petition from the cooperative website at www.kemelectric.com. Petitions become available on Jan. 13. Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than March 13. As a reminder, nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

Alea Kramlich, Kidder County Public School

Alea Kramlich was named the November Touchstone Energy® Student of the Month from Kidder County Public School. A sophomore, Kramlich was recognized for being a dependable and respected leader around the school and community.

Kramlich's nominator says she is active in the community, where she works at a veterinary clinic and is a volunteer first responder for the ambulance.

"Alea is someone who is always willing to help and who you can depend on," Kramlich's nominator says.

"I believe that Alea's work ethic and willingness to try new things is going to make her extremely successful in any path she chooses after high school," notes Michael Wachter, Kidder County High School principal.

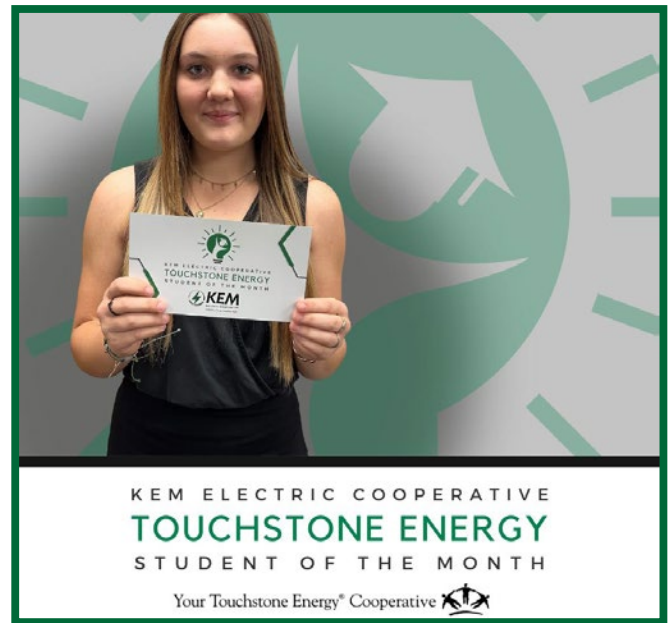
She plans to put the funds toward the school's student council program. Student council funds can be used for events at the school as well as for sending students to conventions to broaden their skillset.

We would also like to recognize the other outstanding students who were nominated:

- **Jake Dewitz** – Nominated for taking part in the community and helping teens who feel lost or alone through a program called Sources of Strength.
- **Audrey Kennedy** – Nominated for being an instrumental part of Kidder County Public School, where she is active in the leadership program, Alpha Wolves.
- **Sophia Puklich** – Nominated for being active in the school and being part of a group of students who created a podcast to help encourage and support high school students.
- **John Krouse** – Nominated for being friendly and welcoming, not just in school, but in the community.
- **Londyn Sackman** – Nominated for volunteering in her church and for being a positive addition to the community.
- **Brody Schoenhard** – Nominated for being an accomplished athlete and helping others through clubs in the community and for being an instrumental part of his family's ranching operation.

Throughout the school year, KEM Electric Cooperative is choosing one student at random who has been nominated from the schools in KEM

Electric's service area to receive a \$100 sponsorship in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. The donation can be utilized to the student's choosing for school activities. ⚡



Throughout the school year, KEM Electric Cooperative is choosing one student at random who has been nominated from the schools in KEM Electric's service area to receive a \$100 sponsorship in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative. The donation can be utilized to the student's choosing for school activities.

In January, KEM Electric will be accepting nominations of students from Napoleon Public School. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 25. This sponsorship is open to any K-12 student.

Scan the QR code to nominate a student or for more information, or visit www.kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month.



KEM Electric board meeting highlights

Oct. 24, 2023

The October meeting of the board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 24, 2023, at the the KEM Electric office in Linton. President Victor Wald called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar, Legal Counsel Tom Bair, Line Superintendent/Chief of Staff Dale Nagel, Member Relations Manager Marcy Sanders, Executive Assistant and Board Liaison Connie Hill and Administrative Assistant Samantha Fischer.

Consent agenda: There was an addition made to the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. The Sept. 26, 2023, meeting minutes were also approved.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented their report, which included updates from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program.

Action items: The board reviewed and approved the 2023 capital credit general retirement.

Department reports: Craigmile reviewed the September financials with the board. Nagel provided a department report, which included outage reports and safety statistics for September. Sanders presented a report, which included updates on the annual meeting and the November local pages. Sanders sits on the *North Dakota Living Study* Committee and provided an update. Dunbar provided a report, which included software and cyber updates. Bair reviewed a legal report with the board.

General information: Board member reports, a preliminary 2024 annual budget and upcoming meetings and events were shared.

Executive session: The board then entered into an executive session.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Carter Vander Wal certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting date is set for Nov. 14, 2023, at KEM Electric's office in Linton. ⚡

APPLY FOR A

TRIP OF A LIFETIME



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Application deadline is Jan. 19

LEARN MORE AT
NDYOUTHTOUR.COM



KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
 John Beck, Vice ChairmanLinton
 Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
 Dean Dewald, Director..... Dawson
 Carmen Essig, DirectorLehr
 Neil Meidinger, Director Zealand
 Director- At-LargeVacant

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MANAGEMENT:

Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
 Jason Bentz Co-GM/CEO

Report outages to the following toll-free number:

800-472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

FIND US ON:

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: kemelectric.com / Email address: info@kemelectric.com

