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Sam Reuther and Aaron Leier, who farm near Linton, have launched a new business.

Sam Reuther enjoys visiting with customers inside the shop or through the drive-thru.

BRINGING BELOVED AND CREATIVE RECIPES TO NAPOLEON: Hwy 3 Bakery & Coffee Shop

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

Off Highway 3 near the grain elevator in Napoleon, you will find a building that has seen many cups of flour and long days of baking. This building continues to be a hub for homemade treats and delicious coffee under new ownership and a new name.

Sam Reuther purchased the shop in September 2024, renaming it the Hwy 3 Bakery & Coffee Shop. Reuther, who is from Hettinger, always knew she wanted to be her own boss, but did not expect to find the local bakery for sale one morning as she scrolled

through Facebook.

Reuther worked as a teacher in a few communities over the years, but had a goal of opening a bakery and coffeeshop. While she was waiting for the perfect opportunity, Reuther helped her boyfriend, Aaron Leier, around the farm with odds and ends, creating items with her Cricut, and baking and selling sourdough and other goods.

"I told Aaron, 'One day I will have a shop, mark my words,'" Reuther says.

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In August 2024, Reuther was scrolling through Facebook and saw an ad that the Napoleon bakery was for sale.

"It was early in the morning, Aaron wasn't up yet, and I contacted the listing and made an appointment to go look at it later that day," Reuther says.

When it was time to decide what the business would be, it didn't take Reuther long to decide.

"I knew I wanted to do coffee and baked goods," she says.

Reuther has always had a heart for creating homemade goodies. Before opening the bakery and coffeeshop, she had a farm stand in Linton, where she sold baked goods as a cottage baker. She also enjoys preparing homecooked meals for Aaron and the hired men on the farm, especially during the busy planting and harvest seasons.

While in college, Reuther worked at a coffee kiosk, so she knew she would like to incorporate coffee into the shop, but her grandma was her inspiration for the baking side of the business. If you've been to the bakery, you've probably seen and smelled the delicious caramel rolls.

"We have become known for our caramel rolls, Grandma Bev's Caramel Rolls," Reuther says.

Grandma Bev handed down her recipes to Reuther when she passed away in 2020, along with her bread machine. Reuther says she uses her bread machine every day to make the dough for the rolls.

Aaron's mom, Ross Leier, joined Reuther in the shop around the beginning of the year and has been helping with baking and cooking. Ross is known for her cooking across the tri-county area, catering various weddings and events. Reuther has been able to add some local favorites to the menu, like Ross's German potato salad.

Reuther has been thinking of different items to bring to the shop to complement the beloved recipes, such as Waffle Wednesday. Waffle Wednesday features different flavors of waffles hot and ready to go for customers to pick up. She also offers a variety of sourdough bread, cake jars and specials for holidays. For the Easter holiday, she will be offering treat trays similar to the trays offered around Christmas. The trays will feature a variety of cookies, bars and treats. Reuther also takes special orders of sweet treats for business meetings, school events and any occasion.

"We are close to the elevator, so I get farmers stopping by and students on lunch break," Reuther says.

Like many farmers, ranchers and others in a rural community, Reuther has an unconventional schedule to ensure all baking and special orders are fulfilled.

"On a typical day, I am leaving the farm at 4:15 a.m.," Reuther says.

Once she is at the shop, she starts to prepare the donuts and then moves on to other baked goods. By 6 a.m., she is frosting donuts and finishing other breakfast items to open at 7 a.m. She says the flow is constant in the morning, from the drive-thru to walk-in customers. Around 9:30 a.m., she starts making lunch items, which include sandwiches and other famous sides.

Opening a bakery and coffeeshop was the perfect match for Reuther.

"I love the people," she says. "I am an outgoing person and enjoy the everyday interactions with everyone."

Reuther says the community has been supportive and happy to have a shop like this in town. She offers a variety of baked goods, coffee and even breakfast and lunch items. She says customers have given helpful feedback about what they prefer.

Hwy 3 Bakery & Coffee Shop is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. To see what's available, visit Hwy 3 Bakery & Coffee on Facebook. ⚡



Reuther has made countless batches of caramel rolls with her grandma and now gets to carry on the recipe in her shop, Hwy 3 Bakery and Coffee Shop.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Restoring power safely and efficiently



Travis Kupper
Co-General Manager/CEO

We do our best to avoid power outages, but there's no way around it. Outages occasionally happen.

For most KEM Electric Cooperative members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

When the power goes out, how do KEM Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your

outage has been reported? We

have answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When a power outage occurs and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a greater number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines between the transformer and the home are repaired.

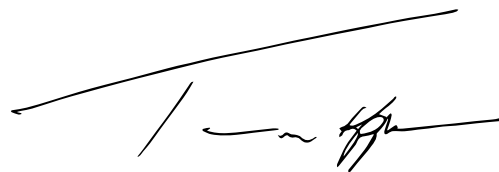
We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. KEM Electric keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously, working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you see KEM Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights of way. We love trees, too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our office at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use and never connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of KEM Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. ⚡



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- MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS AND MORE!

**SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB TODAY AT
WWW.KEMELECTRIC.COM**



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS:

E-newsletter coming soon



Marcy Sanders
Manager of
Member Relations

KEM Electric Cooperative is excited to announce the launch of our new e-newsletter coming soon, which is a direct response to the feedback provided in our 2024 member engagement survey. Your insights are valuable in shaping our approach to communication, and we're committed to keeping you informed and connected.

For members who have provided us with an email, our e-newsletters will arrive in your inbox on a monthly basis, with additional updates as necessary. If you have not provided us with an email or if you have a new email address, please call our office or visit our website and update your information on SmartHub.

We welcome your ongoing feedback and suggestions on topics you would like covered, as this e-newsletter is for you! Thank you for being a valued part of your cooperative. ⚡



Thank you for joining us at our member appreciation open house in Napoleon!

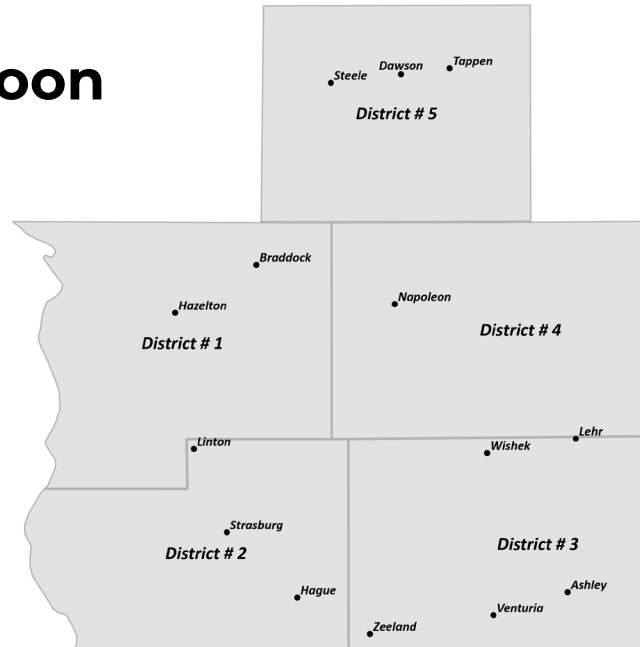


INTERESTED IN SERVING?

Nomination petition deadline approaching soon

Are you passionate about your community and making a difference? We invite you to join the KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors. KEM Electric currently has a district-at-large vacant seat that needs to be filled, along with the District 3 position up for election.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM Electric office or download a petition from the cooperative website at www.kemelectric.com. Petitions became available on Jan. 11. Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than March 12. As a reminder, director nominations from the floor at the annual meeting will not be accepted. ⚡



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. ⚡



FROM COAL MINES TO POWER PLANTS AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DIVE INTO THE HEART OF NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR.

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting:

www.kemelectric.com.

Application deadline is April 25.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

Planning to build or upgrade?



Dale Nagel

Chief of Staff/
Line Superintendent

As you begin to compile your spring to-do list in anticipation of tackling it at the first sight of sun and warmth, we want to remind you of a few things to check into before finalizing plans. If building or upgrading is on your list whether it's a new pasture well, a new home, a grain dryer, or a shop, give us a call so we can ensure your projects are completed smoothly.

By contacting KEM Electric in the early stages of the planning process we can help provide guidance and analyze what your projected electric requirements may be as well as service availability and potential costs. Contacting us in the beginning stages also helps us plan for load forecast, which may include your plans for heating, cooling, irrigation, grain bins, and other equipment. It is important to also have an idea of possible expansion so we can size our equipment accordingly.

Once we receive all the information on the project, we will ask to meet at the project site to determine the exact location you would like the service. We will then determine what the best choice of infrastructure including overhead power lines or underground cable, if vegetation needs to be removed and where the best route of installation should be. An easement may need to be granted to the cooperative so we can access the land to install and maintain infrastructure.

Other items to consider when planning a building or an upgrade project may be the installation of surge protection to protect appliances and equipment from power surges. A back-up power source should be on your radar as well since your electrician and the cooperative may need to install specific equipment to utilize it.

Our team at KEM Electric wants to help you get your project done in a safe and effective manner. This is why we ask members to inquire in the beginning stages of planning to ensure we can provide a safe and reliable service. Give us a call at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666 to start discussing your project or with any potential questions. ⚡

Congratulations **BENTLEY WALD, NAPOLEON PUBLIC SCHOOL!**

JANUARY TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Throughout the school year, KEM Electric is choosing one student at random who has been nominated from the schools in KEM Electric's service area to receive a \$125 sponsorship in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative. The funds can be utilized to the student's choosing for school activities.

In **March**, KEM Electric will be accepting nominations of students from **Wishek Public School**.

The deadline for nominations is March 15.
This sponsorship is open to any K-12 student.

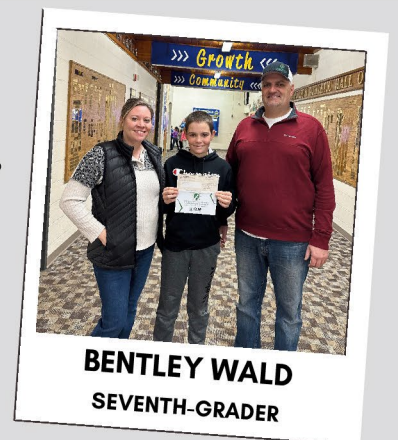


Scan the QR code to nominate a student or for more information, or visit www.kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month.

"Bentley is always willing to help anybody out"

"He has the best ideas how to make something work or to improve something."

"He is a very kind, caring and respectful boy and is a hard worker."



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Cybersecurity awareness and tips

We live in an evolving and fast-paced world with new technologies around every corner. KEM Electric Cooperative values our face-to-face and phone conversations with members, but we understand sometimes members prefer to communicate, pay bills, update contact information and much more online.

“We prioritize cybersecurity at KEM Electric to ensure information remains safe,” says Marcy Sanders, manager of member relations. “But when it comes to security online, we all can contribute to remain secure.”

Here are a few cybersecurity tips to keep in mind when using online sites that house delicate information.

- **Use strong and unique passwords.** Create complex passwords with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters. A password manager can help generate and store unique passwords for each online user account you may have.
- **Enable multi-factor authentication.** For added security, enable multi-factor authentication when possible. This adds an extra layer of defense.
- **Keep software up to date.** Regularly update operating systems, applications (apps) and antivirus software.
- **Be cautious of phishing attacks.** Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown users. If you ever receive a suspicious text or email with a link from KEM Electric, call us as soon as possible to verify legitimacy.
- **Use secure networks and devices.** Connect to secure Wi-Fi networks or use your phone's hot



spot. Avoid connecting to public Wi-Fi networks, especially when logging into websites that contain sensitive information.

By following these tips, we hope you feel more secure when choosing to use online applications. If you ever have any questions on the legitimacy of an email, text or call coming from KEM Electric, call us at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666 and we will help verify the information. ⚡



Meidinger awarded community service award

Congratulations to our board director Neil Meidinger for being awarded the Community Service Award from our statewide organization, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Coopertaives. The award recognizes Meidinger's decades-long commitment to promoting quality-of-life initiatives in McIntosh County.

KEM ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: **DEC. 17, 2024**

The meeting of the board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative was held on Dec. 17, 2024, in Linton. The meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m. by Chairman Victor Wald. A quorum was present. Also present were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Legal Counsel Tom Bair, Chief of Staff/Line Superintendent Dale Nagel, Member Relations Manager Marcy Sanders and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper provided the co-general managers' report, which included updates on grant applications, Basin Electric Power Cooperative district managers meeting and more. Several Basin Electric, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were also provided.

Department reports: Craigmile provided the

financial report. Nagel provided a department report, with updates on tree trimming, pole testing and infrastructure. Sanders provided a department report, which included annual meeting information and cooperative programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Bair provided a legal counsel report.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed upcoming meetings as well as other items.

Executive session: The board entered 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 is 9:30 a.m. March 25 in Linton. If you wish to be placed on the agenda, please call the office. ⚡



Operation Round Up deadline approaching

Our Operation Round Up deadline of March 31 is quickly approaching. Visit our website for more information and to apply, www.kemelectric.com/operation-round

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, Chairman Napoleon
 Carmen Essig, Vice Chairman Lehr
 Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
 Dean Dewald, Director Dawson
 John R. Beck, Director Linton
 Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland
 Vacancy, Director-at-large

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Website: kemelectric.com
 Email address: info@kemelectric.com

FIND US ON:

