

- Apply for Youth Tour!
- Manager's message:
Matter of principles
- Safety starts with ME:
Marcy Sanders



Korey, Kurt and Marvin Bodvig, left to right, are three generations working at Tappen Farm Supply.

Tappen Farm Supply celebrates 50 years

Tappen Farm Supply celebrates 50 years

BY ANNE HANSEN

For a business to withstand a half-century of operations, it typically takes the ability to adapt and serve the needs of its customers through the highs and lows of the last 50 years.

Tappen Farm Supply has done just that, as it recently celebrated 50 years in business.

“Tappen Farm Supply is a cornerstone of the community and is very willing to help and support its communities,” said Martin Messer, KEM Electric Cooperative’s Steele outpost foreman. “They provide the community goods and services that you would otherwise have to go to Bismarck or Jamestown to get, if they were not here.”

This sentiment has carried the business throughout the years. For the Bodvig family, it all started Feb. 2, 1972, as Marvin Bodvig purchased the business from Norman and Audrey Strang.

“At that time, it was a 20- by 28-foot shack. Since that point, we have continued to grow,” Marvin said.

The business went through many transformations, including expansion of the original business, which was located on Main

Street in Tappen, to changing from Hardware Hank to United Hardware, then moving in 2001 to its location just north of I-94.

Regardless of the changes throughout the years, Tappen Farm Supply continued to strive to serve the community by having a variety of materials and supplies.

“We sell a little bit of everything, including parts, hardware, painting and fencing supplies, cattle feed, lumber and much, much more,” noted Marvin’s grandson, Korey Bodvig, who also works alongside his father, Kurt, and mother, Sherry.

The three generations who support and serve Tappen Farm Supply are looking out for the best interest of their customers.

“We try to help the best we can, and have products on hand and for those products to be priced fairly,” Marvin said.

The customers give the job meaning and joy, Marvin explained.

“My favorite part of this business is being able to meet new customers and visiting with the customers we have had for years,” he said. ⚡

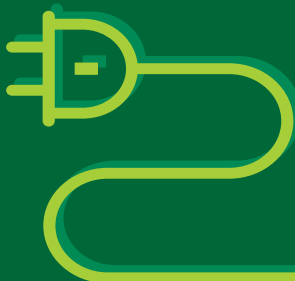
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home.

If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



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

JUNE 18-23, 2023

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by KEM Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Marcy Sanders, KEM Electric, at 701-254-4666 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 20, 2023. You can email entries to Marcy Sanders at msanders@kemelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 107 S. Broadway, Box 790, Linton, ND 58552-0790.



TOP 3 REASONS

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of KEM Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
<https://ndyouthtour.com>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

It's a matter of (co-op!) principles



Travis Kupper

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things for which I'm grateful are our wonderful communities. I know I speak for all KEM Electric Cooperative employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which

makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall last month, when my column touched on the first three cooperative principles. This month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and independence

The fourth principle, autonomy and independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local communities. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and training

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual, professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you

receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle into action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts. And we extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

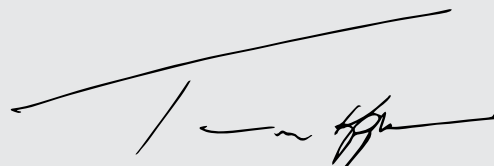
In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for community

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community, because it's our home, too.

I think you'll find most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at KEM Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. ⚡



Safety Starts with ME: Marcy Sanders

The beautiful season of lights is officially upon us, as the holidays approach and the year draws to a close.

“Here at KEM Electric, we want to remind you that before decking the halls, remember that safety should always come first,” said Marcy Sanders, KEM Electric Cooperative’s manager of member relations.

When decorating with lights this holiday season, Sanders recommends these few tips to take into consideration:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) steady your ladder and pass the decorations to you. This is an invaluable part of safety, keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don’t overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. Don’t overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.



In addition, Sanders suggests investing in LED lights this season.

“Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulbs, LEDs will last for many, many years. LEDs have no filaments to burnout. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust,” she said.

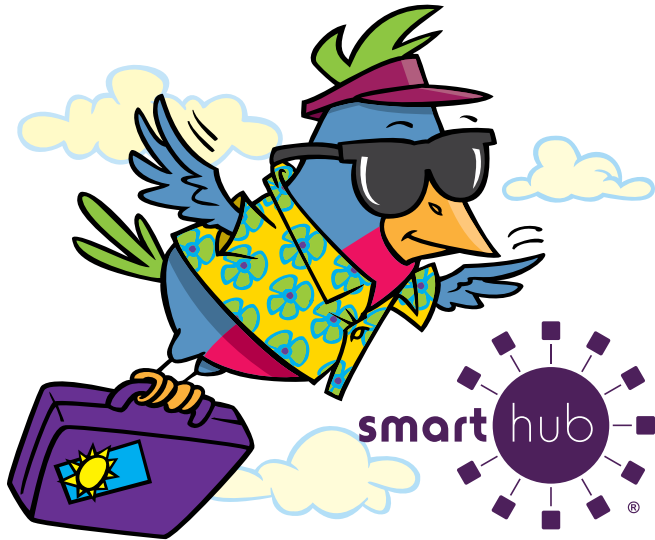
To our valued members, on behalf of everyone at KEM Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. ⚡

Operation Round up deadline

Do you know an individual or organization worthy of consideration to apply for grant money from KEM Electric Cooperative’s charitable fund, Operation Round Up?

The deadline is approaching to apply! Learn more, and download the application form by visiting www.kemelectric.com/operation-round-grant-application.

Snowbirds & SmartHub



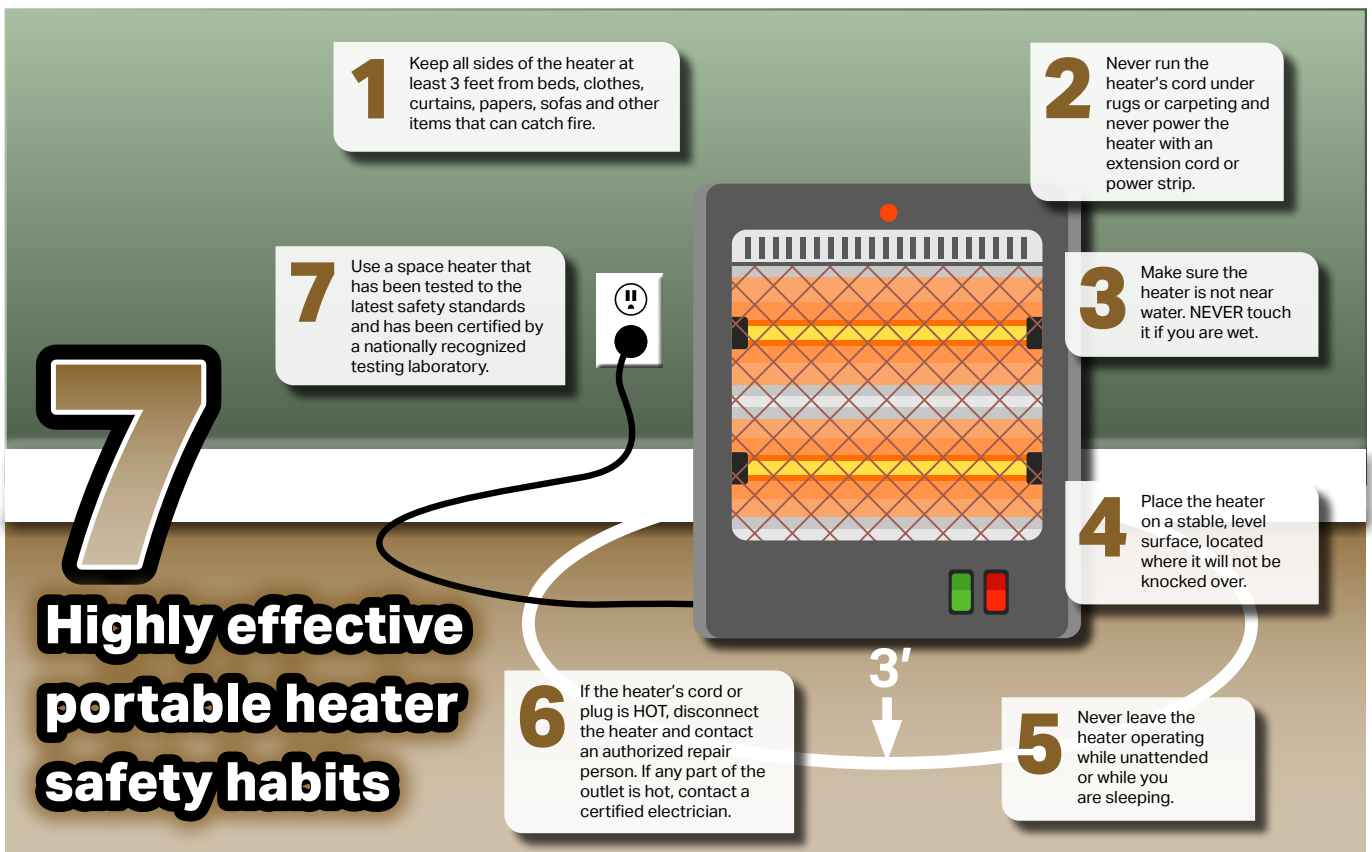
Members, are you heading somewhere warm for all or part of winter? Make sure you are signed up for SmartHub and complete the notification section to receive important cooperative updates, like planned power outages, while you are away!

You will receive a text message or email notifying you of important information related to your electric service.

Now is a good time to also make sure KEM Electric Cooperative has your current contact information! To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update, call 701-254-4666 or login to your SmartHub account to update your information.


If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.kemelectric.com and select the SmartHub link in the top right corner. From there, you will be able to sign up as a new user.

KEM Electric also has a Facebook page! Please like and follow to learn timely cooperative and community news. Members, thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed. ⚡



7 Highly effective portable heater safety habits

- 1 Keep all sides of the heater at least 3 feet from beds, clothes, curtains, papers, sofas and other items that can catch fire.
- 2 Never run the heater's cord under rugs or carpeting and never power the heater with an extension cord or power strip.
- 3 Make sure the heater is not near water. NEVER touch it if you are wet.
- 4 Place the heater on a stable, level surface, located where it will not be knocked over.
- 5 Never leave the heater operating while unattended or while you are sleeping.
- 6 If the heater's cord or plug is HOT, disconnect the heater and contact an authorized repair person. If any part of the outlet is hot, contact a certified electrician.
- 7 Use a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and has been certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.



Need help with your energy bills?

LIHEAP is here!

While the fall weather settles in, KEM Electric Cooperative members will be faced with cooling temperatures, and even colder temperatures in the coming months. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety, as they wonder how to make ends meet.

Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can assist KEM Electric's low-income and eligible individuals with heating and insulation costs this winter. Through the N.D. Department of Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to heating assistance.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of your heating and cooling bills, it can also help households with weatherization to make homes more energy efficient.

"For example, if someone lives in a 100-year-old home, with outdated windows, we might be able to help them with the costs of installing new windows, therefore making the home more energy efficient, and reducing their electricity bill," said Shannon Rolandson, outreach specialist at Community Options.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and energy cost-reduction devices.

It is important to remember this program is not only for homeowners, Rolandson said.

"This program not only helps low-income homeowners with energy costs, but renters as well," she said.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP-eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 through May 31.

"Some individuals can be referred to the program, but anyone is welcomed," Rolandson said. Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will visit your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent into the state for review, and the results will be provided within a week or two.

"I wish more people knew the program was available," Rolandson said. "We often hear, 'This won't apply to me' or 'I will just get denied,' but if you need help, please contact us and we will work with you. It doesn't hurt to apply."

Last year, Community Options processed a total of 548 applications, with 433 approved for LIHEAP. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply, visit your local human service office for more information.

Applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 through May 31 and can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options office. ⚡

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved Aug. 23 board minutes
- Heard co-general manager/CEO report
- Heard Basin Electric Power Cooperative updates
- Discussed Energy Transfer Partners update
- Approved exposure control plan
- Approved 2023 capital budget
- Heard financial report
- Heard operations report
- Reviewed manager of member relations report

Holiday closings

KEM Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MANAGEMENT:

Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
 Travis Kupper 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