

- Digging into history
- Manager's message: Matter of principles
- Safety starts with ME: Denise Ketterling



A work of art & love

Tiffany Bodvig sells her creations at vendor shows.

A work of art & love

BY ANNE HANSEN



Tiffany Bodvig attends her first Pride of Dakota event.

Barn quilts that decorate the Midwest are a friendly reminder of family, community and love, all of which encapsulate creator and artist, Tiffany Bodvig.

Bodvig, a KEM Electric Cooperative member and Tappen resident, is known to many for bringing her love of art to the local communities in a family-friendly setting through her business and various events, such as her barn quilt class.

Upcycled Life, a North Dakota business which started as a hobby of upcycling furniture, was transitioned to lasered signs and home décor. For Bodvig, her business is a childhood dream come true.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I have been drawn to art,” Bodvig said. “I love that it allows you to be whoever you are and forget about the worries of this world, while creating.”

The business means much more to Bodvig than being able to create barn quilts, earrings,

signs and various other décor items, but rather the ability to own a business with her family and do what she loves.

The only thing better, according to Bodvig, is being able to do what you love with the ones you love.

“My favorite thing about owning this business is being able to work alongside my dad and my other family members,” she said.

“It truly is a team effort,” said Bodvig, as she explains her dad is the in-house expert on their wood laser machine, as he cuts materials for the projects and maintains the machine. In addition, her other family members help as well.

“My husband and children help with the business,” Bodvig said. “We can spend time as a family when working on the projects or items together.”

This same focus on family transfers to the community projects Bodvig provides. Besides selling products online and in person at Pride of Dakota events, Upcycled Life offers monthly classes from September to November for children and adults in various communities around the area.

“We understand that this has to be a family affair, because in small towns, sometimes you can’t always find a babysitter, so we make sure our events are family-friendly,” Bodvig said.

She makes these events family-friendly, because of her passion for teaching others how to create and affording the opportunity to those who otherwise might not have that opportunity.

“Growing up in a small town, there isn’t much for children and even adults to do if sports aren’t your thing, so we wanted to give an opportunity to those people,” Bodvig said. “I also love when people come in and think they are unable to do a project, but then be so proud and excited when they have completed their project.”

These classes take place once a month in Tappen, Napoleon, Bismarck, Casselton and whenever requested for children’s birthday parties and more.

“We typically see around 15 people per event, but at our highest, we have had over 50 people attending a workshop,” Bodvig said. ⚡



Lisa Rossow set out on July 15 to participate in the Bismarck/Mandan area fossil dig.

Digging into North Dakota history

BY ANNE HANSEN

The land across the state of North Dakota has a deep history, spanning back millions of years ago. For Lisa Rossow, data and communication analyst at KEM Electric Cooperative, the chance to dig into some of this history has always been an interest.

“My extended family, including myself, has always been interested in history, as well as geography,” Rossow said.

So, she made the decision to take part in an opportunity to search a site that has fossils up to 67 million years old. Rossow first learned about the opportunity while visiting the North Dakota Historical Museum in Bismarck.

“We learned about the Paleo Pals program, and through that, learned about the fossil dig opportunities,” she said.

Through the Paleo Pals program, Rossow signed up for one of the local fossil digs. She set out on July 15 to participate in a half-day dig, which took place south of the Bismarck/Mandan area. According to the N.D. Department of Mineral Resources, the Bismarck site preserves Hell Creek creatures, which are around 67 million years old.

“We had learned before our fossil dig that they have found Tyrannosaurus teeth, and bones

from Triceratops and crocodiles and other creatures,” Rossow said. “In addition, we were searching for amber, which is studied and able to teach the paleontologists about the climate at the time it was produced.”

After reviewing several videos provided by the fossil dig, Rossow was ready to go on her adventure.

“The paleontologists told us a lot about the history of the area, and we were able to dig for a few hours with a small brush, so we could ensure that the natural resources are being preserved,” Rossow said.

Rossow also was able to see the lab which the North Dakota paleontologists use once they discover something of value.

Rossow herself didn’t discover any fossils during her dig, but learned skills to help her in the future.

“The dig taught me so much and I want to go back out and look for more fossils, now that I understand what I’m looking for,” Rossow said. ⚡



Lisa Rossow participates in the fossil dig.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

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



Travis Kupper

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and KEM Electric Cooperative all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members, and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of

seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good.

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time, but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and open membership

Just like all co-ops, KEM Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity – to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op, so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to the farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem they all had, but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain – the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic member control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs

of our members, because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is operated, and each voice and vote are equal. KEM Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally along co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on members' priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

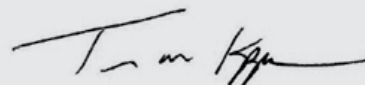
Members' economic participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of KEM Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars – it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

KEM is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on in next month's column. ⚡





KEM participates in United Way Day of Caring

Each year, individuals across the Bismarck-Mandan and surrounding areas roll up their sleeves in the spirit of helping others.

Through the United Way Day of Caring, KEM Electric Cooperative member service representatives joined with fellow electric cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, to support local communities.

"The United Way Day of Caring gave us an opportunity to help care for our neighbors within our communities to ensure they continue to thrive," said Marcy Sanders, manager of member services.

The team helped stain playground equipment at community parks. ⚡

**Heating season is here!
Is your electric meter
breaker on?**



Members, if your home has a sub-meter for the separately metered electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. If you have a heat meter, please make sure the breaker to the meter is turned on all year, to ensure we receive meter readings. If the breaker is off, your electric heat kilowatt-hour usage will not be billed correctly. The separately metered heat rates run Oct. 1 through April 30.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

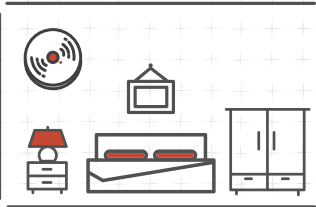
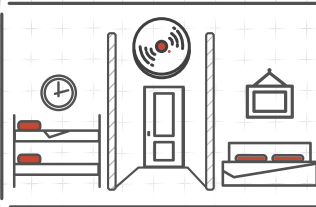




According to the **National Fire Protection Association**, an average of **1,450 fire deaths** occur every year in homes with missing or non-functioning smoke alarms.



2/3 fire deaths occur in homes with missing or non-functioning smoke alarms.



INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS IN:

<p>Every bedroom</p> 	<p>Outside each sleeping area</p> 	<p>On every level of your home, including basement</p> 
<p>On levels without bedrooms, install in living room, den or family room</p> 	<p>Install near stairways leading to upper levels</p> 	<p>Install smoke alarms 10 feet from cooking appliances to minimize false alarms</p> 



Use **interconnected smoke alarms** for additional safety and early warning



Low pitch sound and vibration smoke alarms are available for those who are **hard of hearing**



DO NOT INSTALL near windows, doors or ducts



NEVER paint smoke alarms

REMEMBER TO:

TEST smoke alarms monthly

CHANGE battery yearly

REPLACE alarm every 10 years



Safety Starts with ME: Denise Ketterling

Fraudsters are always on the prowl to see who they can scam out of money and valuable information. A common group of victims they target are consumers of essential day-to-day utilities, such as electricity, water and gas.

“As technology evolves, so do fraudsters’ tactics,” said Denise Ketterling, KEM Electric Cooperative’s member services representative. “It is important to recognize these tactics to prevent yourself from being the next victim of a scam.”

Common types of scams

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. A scammer may claim you are overdue on a bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you do not provide payment information immediately. This type of scam can be via phone call, text, email or even in person.

Another common scam, known as the “refund tactic,” is when an imposter claims you were overcharged on your previous bill and needs your information to “refund you.” They make it sound easy. With just a click of a button, you will be prompted to input financial and personal information. Rather than being refunded, however, the scammer will drain your bank account and use any valuable personal information for identity theft.

“If this happens to you via phone call, simply hang up,” Ketterling said. “If a fraudster attempts to reach you via text or email, delete the message immediately before taking any action. And if you feel you are being scammed by a KEM imposter, give us a call at 701-254-4666.”

If you have any concerns or questions with your bill, you can also check out your account on the SmartHub app. You can download SmartHub on your smartphone or access it through our website.

Defend yourself from scams.

- Be wary of texts and calls from unknown numbers.
- Be wary of unfamiliar or suspicious-looking emails.
- Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a KEM Electric employee who is asking



- for personal or financial information.
 - Never let anyone into your home, unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. When in doubt, call 701-254-4666 if you have concerns.
- “At KEM Electric, we want to provide you with electricity as well as protect your livelihood,” Ketterling said. “Please take this information into consideration to avoid being the next victim of a utility scam.” ⚡



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
- Discussed upcoming CFC District 6 meeting
- Appointed trustee to NDREC Healthcare Trust
- Discussed strategic planning
- Heard financial report
- Heard operations report
- Reviewed manager of member relations report



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

- Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
- John Beck, Vice ChairmanLinton
- Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
- Dean Dewald, Director..... Dawson
- Carmen Essig, Director.....Lehr
- Dean Hummel, Director..... Hague
- Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland

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