



January 2023

PREMA

PREMA Board Approves 2023 Budget

The PREMA Board of Directors, at its November 22 meeting, approved a 2023 Budget which included estimated total revenue of \$15,600,000, net margins of just over \$1,600,000 and a capital credit payment of \$548,000 (3.5% of revenue) to the membership. Any margins at the end of the year will be allocated to the membership.

The Budget reflects purchased power costs from Tri-State at over \$8,100,000, 61 percent of PREMA’s total operating costs.

General inflation and the desire to decrease borrowing in the future prompted the Board to implement the rate increase of five percent for 2023. This increase will be reflected in the retail rates in accordance with a recent Cost of Service Study. Certain components of the rates may get a slightly higher or slightly lower increase based on the Study.

Included in this Budget is \$93,000 for replacement of equipment including one new pickup truck. It also includes continued funding of preventative maintenance program such as pole testing, tree trimming and substation testing.

Each year, certain financial ratios must be maintained to follow PREMA’s mortgage agreements with lenders. The Budget produced ratios that comply with these agreements.

PREMA continues to invest in new plant (such as poles, wires and transformers). These investments make PREMA’s electric system more reliable especially during severe weather.

PREMA employees are dedicated to the mission of providing high quality electric service at a reasonable rate. We at PREMA look forward to serving your electrical needs in the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 308-762-1311.

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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5 hacks to get better performance from kitchen appliances

Did you know the shape of your container affects how evenly food cooks in a microwave? Or the order you add ingredients to a blender can make the appliance stall? Here are five fun facts that could make meal prep easier on both you and your countertop appliances.

1. Use round dishes in the microwave. Rectangle-shaped containers draw more energy to the corners, so the edges of your food can overcook. A microwave will heat food in a round container more evenly. Another microwave hack: Don't salt your food before cooking. Salt attracts the microwave's energy, which can leave the salted top layers of your leftovers dry.
2. Add liquid ingredients to the blender first. Then, layer on the smallest ingredients first and work your way up to larger and tougher pieces, like ice. If you put the ice in first, your blender is likely to stall every few seconds.
3. Stop storing pots and pans in the oven's warming drawer. That drawer, as its name suggests, is for keeping food warm while you're cooking the rest of your meal. Non-food items stored in the warming drawer heat up every time you use the oven, which can ruin the finish and even harm your oven.
4. Use your microwave or wi-fi, but not both at the same time. Microwave ovens can slow down your internet signals. Save the Zoom calls and movie streaming for a time when you're not heating up food in the microwave.
5. Remove labels from dishes before washing them. It might seem that washing new glasses and plates in the dishwasher is a quick and easy way to remove price tags and labels, but the glue on those tags can clog the machine's filter and pump. Better to pull the stickers off by hand than to run up a dishwasher repair bill.



Pictured above is Stevi Buskirk (PREMA HR) and Karen Benzel with United Way.

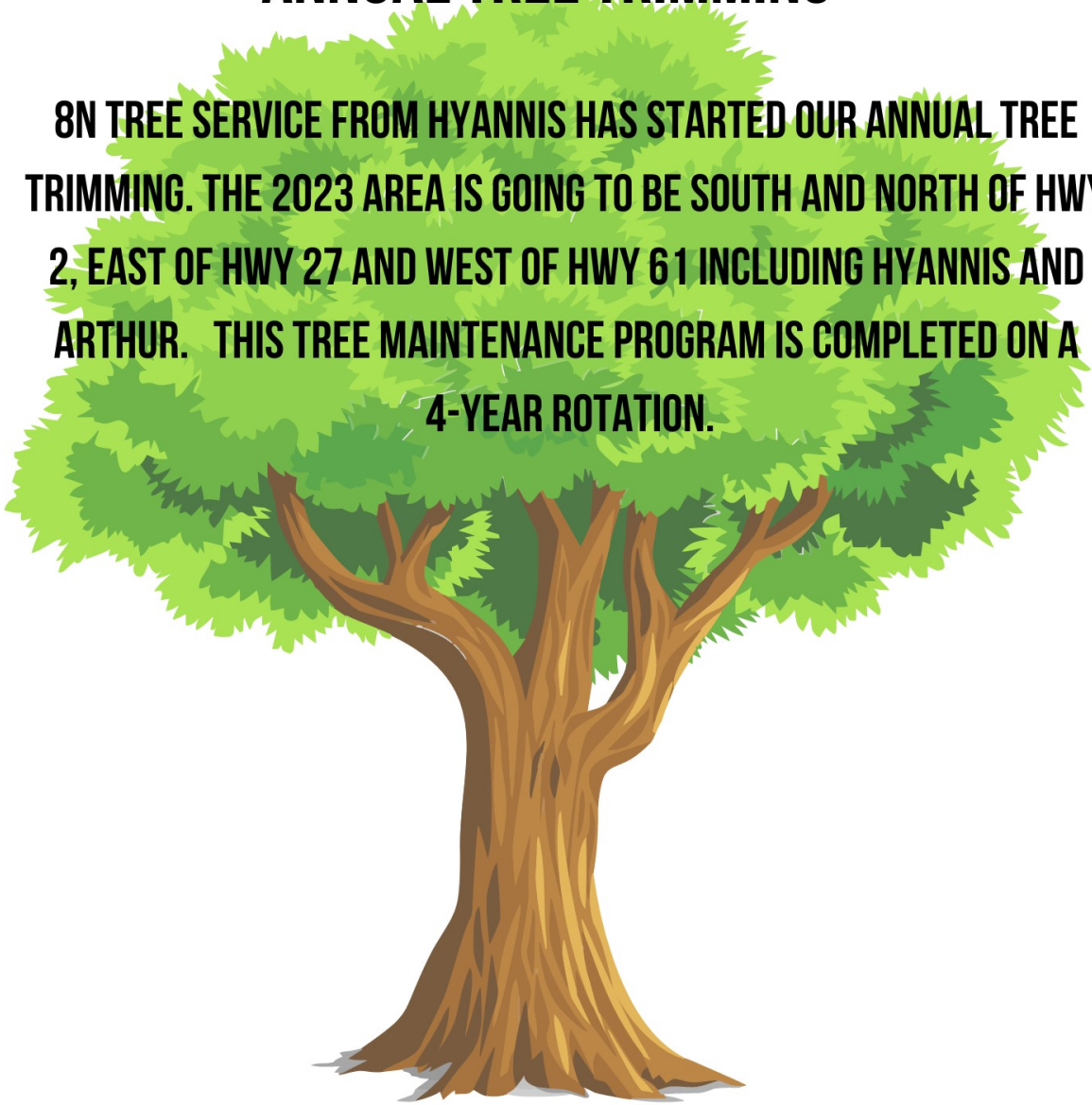
Giving Back



PREMA's employees donated \$1,814 in 2022 to United Way of Western Nebraska. These donations are given on a volunteer basis and each employee chooses the amount they donate.

ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING

8N TREE SERVICE FROM HYANNIS HAS STARTED OUR ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING. THE 2023 AREA IS GOING TO BE SOUTH AND NORTH OF HWY 2, EAST OF HWY 27 AND WEST OF HWY 61 INCLUDING HYANNIS AND ARTHUR. THIS TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IS COMPLETED ON A 4-YEAR ROTATION.



These are the vehicles and equipment used by 8N Tree Service.



Notes from Load Management

The Load Management program is in place for the 2023 irrigation season. By participating in Load Management, irrigators receive a discount on the monthly kW charge.

PREMA consumers with irrigation accounts will be receiving a letter explaining guidelines and rates for Load Management. Those not receiving the letter can call the office for information at 308-762-1311 or can email Tim Sherlock at tims@prema.coop.



Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

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