

## PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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THE RECIPIENT OF THE  
GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

# TRAVIS LURZ

DECEMBER 4, 2020



**"Travis's dedication to serving his community is rivaled only by his dedication to serving his firefighters. He is always available to answer questions, more than happy to set aside his own time for training and has a genuine concern for the safety and well-being of his department members. Captain Lurz has dedicated a great deal of time to train and is always providing positive input to help our members grow and develop their careers with our department."**

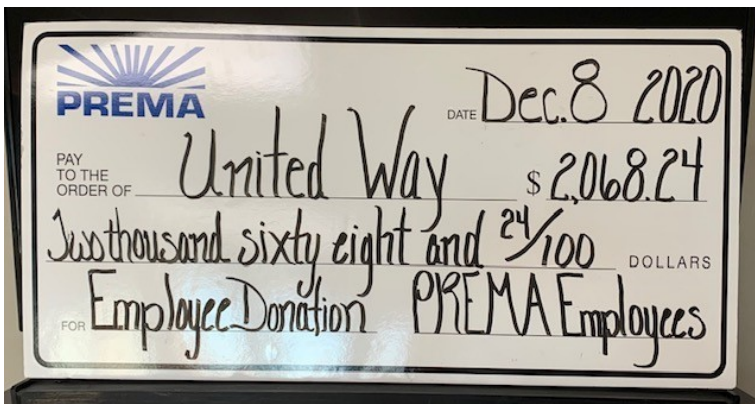
The Good Neighbor Award program is designed to recognize employees of NREA member-systems for outstanding contributions to their electric system, community, or state. Many rural electric employees often go out of their way to do a good deed for someone in their community or otherwise provide some exceptional service to the members of his or her community. The Good Neighbor Award program recognizes these people who strive to make a contribution to their community and others.

**Troy D. Shoemaker**  
Alliance Fire Chief

# PREMA Annual Substation & Line Equipment Maintenance



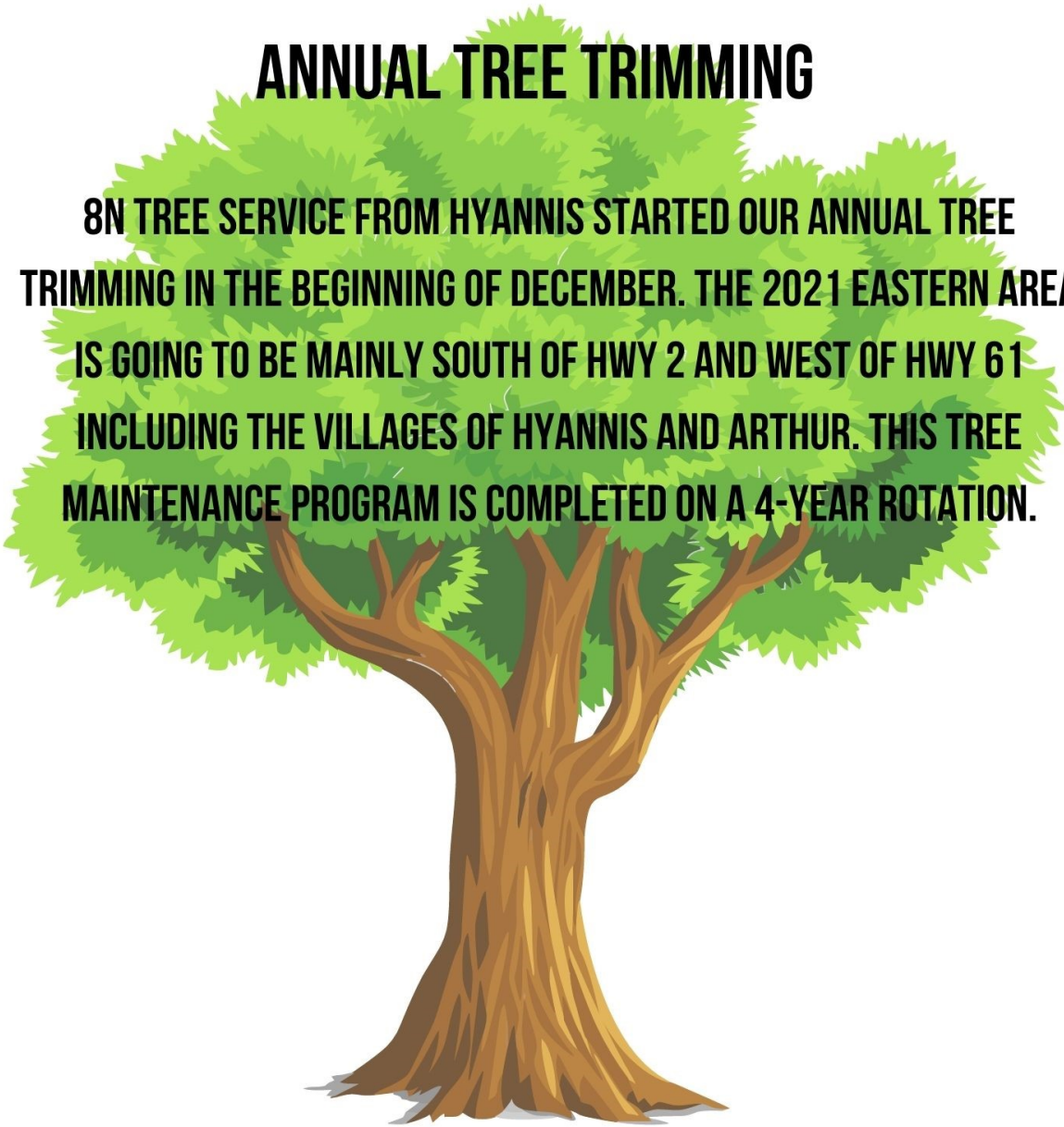
Every year PREMA contracts with Electro Test & Maintenance from Rapid City, SD to perform testing and maintenance on our substation transformers, voltage regulators and line oil circuit reclosers. Each piece of equipment is maintained on a 3-year rotation. This testing and maintenance routine assures us that this electrical equipment is in proper operating condition as well as prolonging the life of the equipment.



PREMA's employees donated \$2,068.24 in 2020 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 STARTED OUR ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING IN THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER. THE 2021 EASTERN AREA IS GOING TO BE MAINLY SOUTH OF HWY 2 AND WEST OF HWY 61 INCLUDING THE VILLAGES OF 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.

## PREMA Board Approves 2021 Budget With No Rate Increase

The PREMA Board of Directors, at its October 27, 2020 meeting, approved the 2021 Budget which included estimated total revenue of \$13,600,000, net margins of just over \$647,000, and no rate increase. Any margins at the end of the year will be allocated to the membership.

In 2021 the membership should receive a capital credit payment of around \$410,000 which is equal to 3.02 percent of the budgeted revenue.

The budget reflects purchased power costs from Tri-State at nearly \$7,800,000 which is 62 percent of PREMA's total operating costs. Equipment replacement is estimated to be \$603,000 for such things as a track-mounted digger/derrick and a one-man bucket truck. Also including is continued funding for the preventative maintenance programs such as: substation testing, pole testing, and tree trimming.

Each year, certain financial ratios must be maintained to be in compliance with PREMA's mortgage agreements with lenders. The 2021 Budget produced ratios that comply with these agreements.

PREMA continues to invest in new plant (such as poles, wire, 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.

## Notes from Load Management

The Load Management program is in place for the 2021 irrigation season. PREMA consumers with Irrigation accounts will be receiving a letter explaining guidelines for Load Management. By participating in Load Management, irrigators receive a discount on the kW charge. Irrigators not receiving the letter can call the office for information at 308-762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at [tims@prema.coop](mailto:tims@prema.coop).



**Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker,  
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### PREMA

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Paul Grosz—Operations Manager  
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer

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