

May 2021

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

Cover Story	1
Controlled Burns	2
Scholarship Winners	3
Load Management	4

# PREMA

## 76th Annual Meeting

**Where: PREMA Office Conference Room, Alliance**

**When: 2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

The annual meeting will continue to be a basic format. We believe staying with the basis format is a wise use of the member's money while providing an informative annual meeting.

- The meeting will last about 25 minutes and will consist of: introduction of directors, announcement of election results, and presentation of brief reports.
- In-person seating at the PREMA office will be limited.
- The meeting will be live on the Zoom remote meeting platform. Please check PREMA's Facebook page or website [prema.coop](http://prema.coop) for a Zoom link and login information.
- All names of in-person or Zoom attendees will be put into a drawing for an EGO 56V Lithium-Ion 21" cordless power mower.



## Control Your Controlled Burn

### Don't let your controlled burn get away from you

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

If you are considering implementing a controlled burn (also known as a prescribed fire) to address vegetation or weed management, be sure to follow several precautions to stay safe:



1. Don't start one without advance planning.
2. Certain groups should be notified: check with your town or village office; notify your local fire department; let your neighbors know your plans.
3. Obtain all necessary permits.
4. Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (as a general rule, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher).
5. If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole.
6. Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

Even with the best laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn; however, planning in advance can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

Take the time to plan ahead, or your controlled burn could get expensive. The person who causes damage to a utility pole is responsible for the fees associated with replacing it.

There are many other safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before implementing one.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact **PREMA** at **(308)762-1311**.

For more information about electrical safety, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# PREMA's 2021-2022 Scholarship Winners

Seven area students will receive scholarship funds from PREMA and its power suppliers. Ryan Reiber, General Manager of PREMA, announced that Cade and Jack Payne of Hemingford, Sophia Collett and Jacobi Stumpff of Alliance, Jada Jensen of Bingham, Kaylee Davis of Hyannis, and Kaylea Doggett of Lakeside will receive scholarships from PREMA, Basin Electric Power Cooperative of North Dakota and Tri-State Generation and Transmission of Denver, Colorado.

**Cade Payne**, son of Josh and Ann Payne of Hemingford, will be a Junior at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is getting his degree in Agribusiness with a minor in Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars. Cade will receive \$1,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

\*Photograph by Jaci Haas Photography



Cade Payne

PREMA awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Sophia Collett and \$500 each to Jack Payne and Kaylee Davis.

**Sophia Collett**, daughter of Lee and Kim Walker of Alliance, will be a Senior at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Sophia is getting her degree in Animal Science Systems and Production Management.



Sophia Collett

**Jack Payne**, son of Josh and Ann Payne of Hemingford, will be a Freshman in College. He plans on studying Agribusiness and Beef Production. \*Photograph taken by Lacy Photography



Jack Payne

**Kaylee Davis**, daughter of Amanda and Tim Davis of Hyannis, will be a Freshman in College. She plans on studying Ag Business and Communications.



Kaylee Davis

The Tri-State Scholarships, \$500 each, were awarded to Kaylea Doggett and Jada Jensen.

**Kaylea Doggett**, daughter of Patricia and Robert Doggett of Lakeside, will be a Freshman at Central Community College. While there she plans on studying Computer Science.



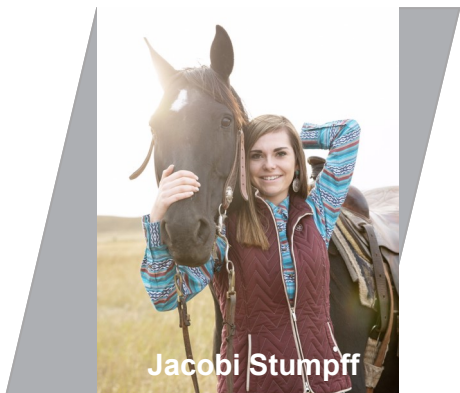
Kaylea Doggett

**Jada Jensen**, daughter of Jana and JC Jensen of Bingham, will be a Senior at University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy. She will be getting her Pharmacy degree. \*Photograph by Audrey Powles Photography and Design



Jada Jensen

**Jacobi Stumpff** was the winner of the \$500 Chadron State College Foundation Scholarship. Jacobi will be a Junior at Chadron State College, where she is studying Nursing. She is the daughter of Kris and Robert Stumpff from Alliance. \*Photograph by Audrey Powles Photography and Design



Jacobi Stumpff

The PREMA, Tri-State and Basin Scholarship winners were chosen at random from twenty applicants who met all of the qualifications. All entrants are dependents of PREMA members or PREMA employees. The scholarships are offered annually to students in







## Notes From Load Management

The 2021 Load Management irrigation control season begins May 1 and ends September 30. PREMA will initiate control when the kW peak occurs during these months. PREMA's system-wide kW peak is controlled anytime between the hours of 12:00 noon and 10:00 PM Monday through Saturday. PREMA uses past kW history and daily weather patterns to help determine when load curtailment is implemented. By reducing the kW peak significant saving on PREMA's power bill can be obtained. This savings is then passed back to participating irrigation accounts.

If you have any questions regarding Load Management, please call the office at 308-762-1311, after hours calls will be forwarded to PREMA's call center.



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

### **PREMA**

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P.O. BOX 677**

**ALLIANCE, NE 69301-0677**

### **OPERATIONS AND STAFF**

**Ryan Reiber—General Manager  
Paul Grosz—Operations Manager  
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dale Berndt — Lakeside  
Michael Collins — Alliance  
Wayne Crawford — Alliance  
Marty Larsen — Whitman  
Bryan Monahan — Hyannis  
RD Sutphen — Lakeside  
Phil Zochol — Alliance  
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