

Power Restored To Customers



COURTESY

Custer Public Power crews worked in blizzard conditions to restore power to the Thedford, Seneca and Mullen residents during the recent storms.

Custer Public Power crews worked in extreme weather conditions to restore power to Thedford, Seneca and Mullen residents after one of the Thedford substation's three transformers failed at approximately 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening, December 21. The area remained without power for most of the night.

Rick Nelson said deteriorating outdoor conditions helped cause the power failure and made the work of determining which specific transformer gave out difficult. Plummeting temperatures caused test equipment dials to freeze up and digital readouts would not work.

A new transformer was delivered to Thedford at

around 10:00 p.m. and it had to be tested to ensure it would operate in the winter weather.

The Thedford Fire Hall was open for those needing to warm up. They advertised power, heat, showers, snacks and coffee on their Facebook page for area residents.

Some tips to help you this winter in case of inclement weather:

Prepare For Winter Power Outage

- Weatherize your home
- Stock your pantry
- Inspect flashlights and stock up on batteries
- Protect your pipes
- Block drafts
- Fill up your gas tank
- Buy a generator
- Buy a power bank or car charger

- Keep a classic radio
- Lower the temperature of your refrigerator
- Fill your bathtubs with water

How to Stay Warm & Protected During Power Outages

- Dress in layers
- Keep kids and pets safe
- Unplug your electronic appliances

- Use wood burning fireplace
- Keep doors and windows close

What to Do After Power is Restored

- Replenish your winter necessities
- Check food items for spoilage
- Check for damaged water pipes
- Check your hot water heater

Thomas Honored As “Treasurer Of The Year” At Annual NACO Convention

The Nebraska Association of County Treasurers has honored Thomas County Treasurer Andrea Thomas by naming her “Treasurer of the Year.” The announcement came at the annual Nebraska Association of County Officials convention held in December in Kearney.

Thomas was elected as county treasurer in 2015 and during her first two terms she pioneered a mentorship program to help give new county treasurers the tools and network they’ll need to be successful. She helped the association implement an online learning management system to get county treasurers across the state identical access to identical information.

Thomas said there were five nominees across the state and she had no idea that she would receive the honor.

“There were some longtime county treasurers up for the award and this totally took me by surprise,” she said. “It is an honor to receive this award as it came from my peers. It really means a lot.”

Thomas also received the “Next Generation Award” in 2019 from the Nebraska Association of County Officials. This is given to treasurers who have been in office for less than two terms and have displayed exceptional leadership skills.



COURTESY

The Nebraska Association of County Treasurers named Andrea Thomas, right, “Treasurer of the Year.” Thomas is pictured with Heather Hauschild, Scotts Bluff County treasurer and incoming president of the organization.

Thomas credits Thomas County Clerk Lorissa Hartman for helping her when she assumed the treasurer’s position.

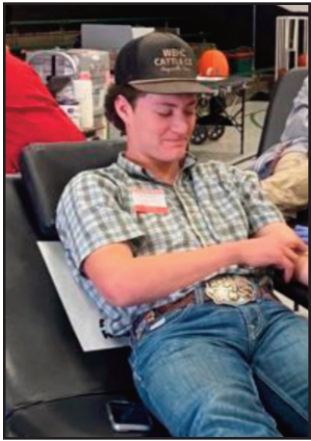
“We communicate well and we just have a really good team here. We’d be lost without all of us and I’m very thankful for that.”

Goals for her coming term include continuing

to provide a high level of service to Thomas County constituents, build up the treasurers association and giving new treasurers the confidence they’ll need to succeed as they step into their roles.

Thomas served as president of the Nebraska Association of County Treasurers in 2021 and is now past president.

Blood Drive Hits Quota



Thedford High School senior, Kaden Haake, was a first time donor and also helped organize and run the drive.



Community members taking time out of their busy schedules to give the gift of life were, l-r: Bobbi Scott and Russell Licking.



THEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL PHOTOS

The Thedford High School seniors hosted their final blood drive of the 2022 year on Tuesday, December 6. They hit their quota with 40 units donated for the day. This will save a total of 120 lives.

They wish to thank everyone who took time out of their busy holiday schedule to give the gift of life this Christmas season.

The next blood drive will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Thedford High School Old Gym in Thedford.

Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings In January

A private pesticide applicator is anyone who uses restricted use pesticide (RUP) for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities on their own property, or on property they rent. Private applicators are generally farmers and ranchers who do their own spraying.

The Central Sandhills Area Extension office is offering four private pesticide applicator trainings for recertifying applicators and for people getting licensed for the first time. Upcoming private pesticide trainings in the area include

- January 12 (Thursday), Grant County Courthouse, Hyannis
- January 13 (Friday),

Blaine County Courthouse, Brewster

- January 18 (Wednesday), Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford
- Training costs \$50. Materials are limited and the weather may cause cancellations, so an RSVP is required. Call the Central Sandhills Area Extension Office, 308-645-2267, to register.

Private pesticide applicators whose license expires in 2023, should have received a bar-coded letter from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA). Please bring this bar-coded letter to the training. Once training is completed, participants will receive an invoice for the private license \$25 from the NDA. Once pay-

ment is received, the license is mailed. To find a license number and expiration date, visit UNL’s Pesticide Safety Education Program website (pested.unl.edu). Licenses are good for three years.

In addition to the trainings listed above, participants can get licensed through on-line self-study at UNL’s Pesticide Safety Education Program or pass a private applicator exam administered by NDA.

Please contact the Central Sandhills Extension Office at the number above or T.L. Meyer, beef systems extension educator, at tl.meyer@unl.edu if you have any questions about pesticide training.

Multi-State Land Management & Leasing Workshop Planned For Midwestern Women In Ag

An upcoming four-part extension workshop for women in agriculture will focus on the basics of land management, leasing and conservation for landlords and tenants.

“The Power of Negotiation and Communication: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women” program will be a 4-part series, held at Upper Loup NRD Meeting Room, 39252 Highway 2, Thedford. The series will focus on writing agricultural lease agreements, landlord-tenant relationships, negotiations, and conservation practices. Workshops will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Central time on Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and Feb. 8.

The program is a collaboration between extension women in Agriculture programs at Purdue University, Kansas State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

According to Department of Agriculture census data from 2017, there are over 90,000 women producers and over 51,000 female landlords in the three states.

“Women represent an important and growing demographic in agricultural land management and this workshop series will teach essential management information while providing women the chance to ask questions, connect with each other and share their experiences,” said Jessica Groskopf, director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program.

Each state will host several workshop sites with local extension personnel.

Keynote speakers will be simulcast to each location and each site will provide additional speakers and hands-on activities. Dinner will be included.

Groskopf said the program’s structure is intended to strengthen networks of women in rural areas, which can provide opportunities for building trust and sharing information. “Connections are so important to women farmers,” she said. “We have seen the benefits that come from knowing your peers, having a place to share difficulties and mitigate the isolation that so many of us in agriculture often feel.”

The workshops seek to help participants increase their awareness of local land values and cash rental rates and the factors that influence them. They will also cover the importance of having a written lease and the items that should be included in it to ensure an equitable agreement for

all parties. Participants will learn negotiation strategies as well as best practices to improve relationships between landlords and tenants.

Conservation programs will also be covered, so that women will have a greater understanding of compliance requirements and increase their awareness of voluntary conservation programs that are available to them.

The workshop costs \$50 per person and participants should plan to attend each session. A virtual option is available for those unable to attend a workshop site, although in-person attendance is highly encouraged to better network with other attendees and interact with speakers. Registration is required by Jan. 13 and may be completed at go.unl.edu/negotiation. For more information, please call T.L. Meyer, extension educator, at the Central Sandhills Area Extension Office at 308-645-2267.

Minimum wage increase goes into effect Jan. 1

Nebraska’s minimum wage increased from \$9.00 to \$10.50 on January 1, 2023 as the first step under Initiative 433 passed by voters in November goes into effect.

Fifty-nine percent of Nebraska voters approved Initiative 433 that will gradually raise the state minimum wage to \$15.00 by 2026.

Initiative Measure 433 comes with the following increases to the minimum wage going for-

- ward:
 - \$10.50 per hour effective January 1, 2023.
 - \$12.00 per hour effective January 1, 2024.
 - \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025.
 - \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2026.
- The consumer price index will determine future raises.

While some small business owners and workers