THOMAS COUNTY
Herald
Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166 (USPS 596-550) THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 NO. 42

Thedford Public Schools To Hold Budget Hearing

Supt. Blake Dahlberg

You will notice in today's paper that Thedford Schools will be holding a Budget Amendment Hearing right before our next meeting. I wanted to make sure that we got information out to everyone to explain the process and reasons why we are doing the amendment at this time.

While I have the responsibility for building and planning the budget, the process is overseen by many other people. The Board oversees the process through updates from me, providing input on staffing and other areas that we might be able to make adjustments, and ultimately approving the budget. The community is informed of the budget hearing and has the ability to contact me at any time if they have questions about the budget or the process. We have auditors that come in every fall to go over the books from the year before and give us recommendations for improvement and adjustments. Finally, all documents are submitted to the State Auditor by September 20th.

We do our best to make sure that we account for every possible scenario, but now and then adjustments need to be made. A finding is made through our auditors if we ever go over our budgeted expenditures. Therefore, if we feel we might end up going over our budget, we need to do an amendment instead of just overspending.

This year, we need to make an adjustment to our expenditures only and these adjustments will NOT result in additional tax requests.

The main reason for the amendment is due to IRS delays with our QCPUF account. With the energy project (HVAC) that we did in 2014 or 2015, the school decided to go through the QCPUF account. Part of the reason for doing this is that some of the interest is paid by the government. Unfortunately, due to delays with the IRS, we were on the hook to pay for that portion of interest this year. We have received our repayment from the IRS, but the fact that we had to expend the money out of this account would put us over our budgeted amount after our payment in the spring. Again, since any additional tax costs out of this account will be reimbursed, we will NOT need to ask for additional tax revenue. We just have to make sure that we reflect in our budget what we will need to spend during the year.

The other adjustment comes from the activities account. In the past, I have put a "necessary cash reserve" into our activities account budget. According to the auditors, since this is an expense account that is a flow-through for our activities, we really don't need to have a cash reserve and that we should just add the cash reserve amount into the budgeted expenditures. Since this is not a tax account, the auditors feel that we should overestimate our budget by more than we would on the General Fund due to the uncertainty of activity expenses (ie: state trips for sports or other activities; additional playoff games; unforeseen circumstances, etc.). You will notice that the $60,000 that I am adding to the expenditures is reflected in a $60,000 decrease in the Necessary Cash Reserve line item for this purpose.

Again, neither of these adjustments will result in an increase in our tax request from the community. If anyone has any further questions or comments, please feel free to stop in and talk with me, or you are more than welcome to stop up at the hearing on April 19th starting at 6:55 p.m.

Service Club To Host Easter Egg Hunt

The Thedford Service Club will host their annual Easter egg hunt, Saturday, April 16, at 2:00 p.m. CST on the Thomas County Courthouse lawn. Participants need to be there and ready to go by 1:45 p.m. and everyone should meet on the street side of the Thomas County Library. Age groups will be divided up there and sent to their area to gather eggs. Arrangements have been made as in previous years to move the hunt indoors in case of inclement weather.

All donations to the Easter egg hunt are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations may be dropped off with Michelle McIntosh at the Country Salon or placed on the Service Club account at Ewoldt's Grocery. Candy donations may be dropped off at Country Salon.

New Column Featured In Herald

Savvy Senior, a new column geared towards our mature readers will become a regular feature inside the *Thomas County Herald*. *Savvy Senior* is a locally oriented information column that covers a wide variety of practical topics relevant to our boomers and seniors. This column has been published in nearly 300 U.S. newspapers.

Jim Miller is the creator of Savvy Senior, he is also a contributor to NBC's "Today" show and KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City and is the author of *The Savvy Senior, The Ultimate Guide to Health, Family and Finances for Senior Citizens.*

Ranch Generational Transition Workshops Set

Family-owned operations make up 98% of U. S. agriculture. Transitioning the ranch from one generation to the next, or even from one operator to another can be complicated.

Nebraska Extension and Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition will host Generational Transition Workshops Thursday, April 21 near Whitman and Friday, April 22 in Ainsworth. Attorney Pam Olsen, Scottsbluff, will present on topics related to succession and transition including inheritance laws, legal structure of operations, and flow of benefits to on-operation and off-operation beneficiaries. Area producers who have experienced transitions will discuss what worked and what did not work for their operations and families. The program will also feature time for questions with both Olsen and the producer panel. Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition will also provide access to accountability resources and additional support through the planning and development process after the program. This workshop is designed for producers in any stage of the transition planning process.

The April 21 program will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. MT at the University of Nebraska Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory. The April 22 program will begin at 10:00 a.m. CT and conclude by 2:30 p.m. CT at the Ainsworth Community Building on Highway 20. Cost is $20 and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Monday, April 18 by calling either the Central Sandhills Area Extension Office at 308-645-2267 or the BKR Extension Office at 402-387-2213. Reservations can also be made online at nebraska grazinglands.org

Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska– Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Savvy SENIOR

How To Get Help as an Elder Orphan

Dear Savvy Senior,
I need to find someone honest and reliable to look after my estate, health and long-term care when I'm no longer able to do it myself. I'm a 67-year-old recent widow with no children and one sibling I rarely talk to. Any suggestions?
- Solo Ager

This is a big concern for millions of older Americans who don't have a spouse, children or other family they can depend on to watch out for their well-being. While there's no one solution to this issue, here are some tips and resources that can help you plan ahead.

Essential Documents

If you haven't already done so, your first step, before choosing a reliable decision maker, is to prepare a basic estate plan of at least four essential legal documents. This will protect yourself and make sure you're wishes are carried out if you become seriously ill or when you die.

These essential documents include: a "durable power of attorney" that allows you to designate someone to handle your financial matters if you become incapacitated an "advanced health care directive" that includes a "living will" that tells your doctor what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated, and a "health care power of attorney," which names a person you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf if you're unable to and a "will" that spells out how you'd like your property and assets distributed after you die. It also requires you to designate an "executor" to ensure your wishes are carried out.

To prepare these documents your best option is to hire an attorney, which can cost anywhere between $500 and $2,000. Or, if you are interested in a do-it-yourself plan, Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2022 ($199, *Nolo.com*) and *LegalZoom.com* ($179) are some top options.

Choosing Decision Makers & Helpers

Most people think first of naming a family member as their power of attorney for finances and health care, or executor of their will. If, however, you don't have someone to fill those roles, you may want to ask a trusted friend or associate but be sure to choose someone that's organized and younger than you who will likely be around after you're gone.

Also be aware that if your choice of power of attorney or executor lives in another state, you'll need to check your state's law to see if it imposes any special requirements.

If, however, you don't have a friend or relative you feel comfortable with, you'll need to hire someone who has experience with such matters.

To find a qualified power of attorney or executor for your will, contact your bank, a local trust company or an estate planning attorney. If you need help locating a pro, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (*NAELA.org*) is a great resource that provides online directory to help you find someone in your area.

Another resource that can help you manage and oversee your health and long-term care needs as they arise, and even act as your health care power of attorney, is an aging life care manager. These are trained professionals in the area of geriatric care who often have backgrounds in nursing or social work. To search for an expert near you, visit *AgingLifeCare.org*.

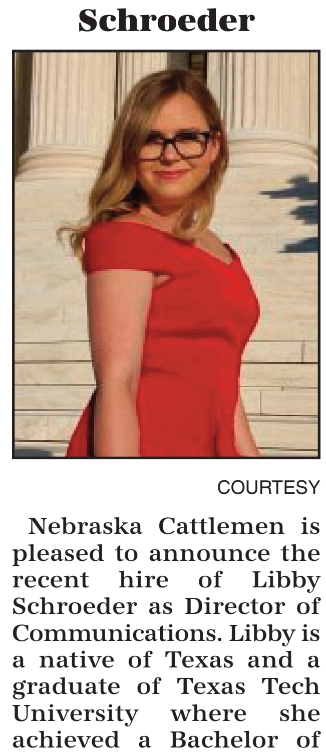
Or, if you need help with bill paying and other financial/insurance/tax chores there are professional daily money managers (see *AADMM.com*) that can help.

Aging life care managers typically charge between $75 and $200 per hour, while hourly rates for daily money managers range between $75 and $150.

It's also important to note that if you don't complete the aforementioned legal documents and you become incapacitated, a court judge may appoint a guardian to make decisions on your behalf. That means the care you receive may be totally different from what you would have chosen for yourself.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit *SavvySenior.org*. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC *Today* show and author of *"The Savvy Senior"* book.

Nebraska Cattlemen Hires Schroeder



COURTESY

Nebraska Cattlemen is pleased to announce the recent hire of Libby Schroeder as Director of Communications. Libby is a native of Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech University where she achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Communication Studies. Libby spent the last several years working on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and she comes to Nebraska Cattlemen with an accomplished communications background.

"I am excited for the op-

See Schroeder Page 10

TACF Special Auction Being Conducted

COURTESY

The Thedford Area Community Foundation is auctioning a branding stove made and donated to them by Jesse Duran of Thedford. Bids can be made through Thedford Area Community Foundation Face Book Messenger; or, by mail to TACFF, P.O. Box 14, Thedford. Bids must be in by May 1, 2022. Thank you for your support of the community.