

# Our Outdoors: Get Ready Already

NICK SIMONSON  
*Dakota Edge Outdoors*

Perhaps the two sweetest words this time of year in the upper Midwest are “January thaw.”

With temperatures ticking into the upper 40s and walks around the block to rooster pheasants crowing and small covey of partridge taking flight on the north end, I noted how suddenly it felt like everything was in fast forward. It seemed especially so coming out of the deep freeze the weekend prior where wind chills were on a similar end of the spectrum, just with a minus in front of them. With water running down the curbs like it was mid-March, and the streetside berms of the winter’s limited snow disappearing before my eyes, it was tough to deny the feeling of spring in the air.

While I know it won’t be all easy going, sunshine, and melt, the near term forecast for the region is classic El Nino, and temperatures are way above normal. That means spring fishing opportunities may come on a whole lot faster than normal, and certainly trips to my favorite cabin-fever-breaking power plant lake to the north will be in order much sooner than the late-February and March trips that make up the normal part of my first vernal angling efforts. It also means that I’ve got a

lot of work to do before those outings and the ones that follow them.

Looking over my gear in the late afternoon light as the western sun warmed the door frame of my garage, I pulled a couple rods off the rack and began respooling the reel of one that I had left after the late trout outings last fall. It’s always best to start the season fresh with new line to avoid the kinks and curls that come with monofilament that’s been stored tightly on a reel for several months. Looking over my jigging rod, the white wraps of superline also suggested that it needed replacement, as the wear and tear of launching lures into snaggy situations and the water absorption from countless trips last summer for walleyes, bass and more suggested a respooling was in order as well, and I added a roll of Fireline to my shopping list for the week to come.

A half-filled flybox sticking out of my vest on the hanger also suggested that more time at the vise is required, not just for those classic crappie streamers made of bucktail and marabou, but also a slew of woolly buggers in various shades for the stocked trout that will follow my panfish pursuits after ice out. It’s hard to say when the pike run will begin, and how much runoff there will be when it does, but it’ll likely be required to crank out

those beefy offerings of bucktail, strung hackle and flashabou to catch their attention whenever they decide to stage and then squeeze their way into the shallows of the rushing creeks of spring.

While tempted to peel the tarp back on my puddle jumper, I figured I’d let the warmth do a little more work this week and melt the block of ice that had pulled it tight in the middle of the boat. However, I didn’t hesitate to move the battery into charging position in hopes that by mid-week things will be ready and the launch up north would be all clear for an outing. With a quick clean in the temperate forecasted evenings for the approaching week, there wouldn’t be much else required besides the half hour drive to the warm water destination.

Even if this winter warm up is an illusion and is only a reprieve in a long season, the preparation that comes from it will certainly make things easier when real spring conditions descend on the region. With rods and reels relined, tackle and fly boxes restocked, and boats prepared for the water, whenever we get the final go-ahead for spring’s start, be it late or early, I’ll be ready for it...in our outdoors.



TISS JOHNSON

Wednesday, Lynn Frey attended the County FSA lunch in Bison. In the afternoon, he drove to Lemmon.

Friday evening, Lynn Frey took in the Corson – Perkins County Annual Farmers Union meeting and supper in Lemmon.

Saturday afternoon, Lynn Frey visited with LaVonne Foss.

Saturday evening, Lynn Frey attended the Master’s of the Air viewing at the American Legion in Lemmon.

Lynn Frey called on Dean Frey Sunday afternoon. He then drove to Hettinger and visited with Monte Frey.

Paul Wollman helped Morell Hirning and Tiss Johnson, Monday.

Cassidy and Loraine Diede were Tuesday afternoon visitors of Morell Hirning and Tiss Johnson.

Morell Hirning and Tiss Johnson drove to Lemmon Wednesday morning for an

# Rosebud

appointment and had lunch before returning home.

Morell Hirning and Tiss Johnson drove to Dickinson Thursday morning for an eye appointment, had lunch and returned home.

Jr. Roth was a brief caller at Morell Hirning and Tiss Johnson ranch Friday late afternoon.

Ben Wiechmann was an afternoon and supper guest of Morell and Tiss.

Matt Miller attended a Corson – Perkins County Farmers Union meeting Friday evening in Lemmon.

Jim and Patsy Miller made a trip to Bison Tuesday.

Jim and Patsy Miller played cards at the Senior Citizen’s in Hettinger Friday.

Friday evening, Jim and Patsy Miller attended the Shriner’s meeting and supper in Bison.

Albert Keller returned home from Kenya early Tuesday morning.

Duane and Dawn Harris were supper guests Tuesday and helped Korbin celebrate his 11th birthday. Tate

Baysinger was an overnight guest.

Wednesday Albert and Bridget Keller attended the funeral of Lori Geist (wife of Dusty Geist) In Jamestown ND.

Saturday Bridget Keller attended the funeral for Avery Beckman in Lemmon.

MEADOW  
Gary and Janet Jorgensen attended the informational meeting at American Lutheran about the search for a pastor.

Jerry Petik attended a South Dakota Public Lands Council meeting in Rapid City Wednesday and Carolyn was an afternoon visitor of Darlys Hofer in Piedmont.

Jerry and Carolyn Petik were among those who attended the Corson-Perkins County Farmers Union meeting in Lemmon, Friday evening.

Jerry and Carolyn Petik attended the Masters of the Air Viewing at the American Legion in Lemmon Saturday evening.

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## NOTICE OF ADAMS COUNTY ZONING HEARING

The Adams County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on **February 6, 2024** beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Community Room of the **Courthouse** in Hettinger, ND to consider the following items:

1. Conditional Use permit to allow for excavation of gravel 17-130-93: South half.
2. Election of chair.
3. Any other business, which needs to be addressed.

All relevant documents may be viewed by the public at the office of Adams County Auditor/Treasurer 602 Adams Avenue Hettinger, ND between the hours of 8:00 am - 12:00 and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday and 8 am - 12:30 pm Friday.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to make their views known. If you have special needs in order to take part in the hearing, please contact the Adams County Auditor/Treasurer several days prior to the hearing.

## \*\*CONSIGNMENTS WANTED\*\*

Taking consignments for the **22nd Annual Scheffield Spring Consignment Auction on April 6th in Scheffield, ND.**

*Accepting all types of farm, ranch and construction equipment.*

Call **Mike Schoch with Action Auction at 701-290-0756** to get your items consigned or for information on consigning items.

**\*\*Call before March 1st to get your items advertised\*\***

## CALL FOR BIDS FOR GRAVEL CRUSHING

### ADAMS COUNTY, ND

The Adams County Commissioners will be accepting bids for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel for 2024 until 10:00 AM local time, Monday, February 26th, 2024. Bids should be in an envelope marked “Gravel Crushing Bid” and be accompanied by a Bid Bond or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid. The bid should include the crushing and stockpiling of aggregate material that meets NDDOT Class 13 specifications, totaling 60,000 cubic yards (CY) in one pile and possibly 6000 to 10,000 (CY) per pile for townships (depending on the bid) in one pit located in Adams County. The bid should include your projected start date. The project has an October 31, 2024 completion date. Liquidated damages will be assessed at the rate of \$1,000 per calendar day thereafter. Payment will be based on the measurement of the consulting firm hired by Adams County. Bids may be hand delivered to the office of the Adams County Auditor in Hettinger, ND or may be mailed to the Adams County Auditor, 602 Adams Avenue, Hettinger, ND 58639.

For information about the pit location and any other questions, contact the Adams County Road Dept. at 701-567-2235. The bidder will be responsible for all stripping and reclaiming of the pit to the satisfaction of the landowner and Adams County. Adams County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to make the award that is in the best interest of Adams County.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### ADAMS COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT & CITY OF HETTINGER PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

An aggressive, imaginative individual is needed to direct and coordinate all activities in an integrated County-City arrangement.

City duties will include the year-to-year maintenance and repair of all streets and overseeing water and wastewater maintenance activities for a city of 1050 population.

Applicant must be able to supervise the overall maintenance of 314 miles of County roads and 178 miles of unorganized township roads Applicant will supervise all road department employees and maintain the road department budgets.

Applicant must have a working knowledge of heavy equipment maintenance and repair as well as related activities. This individual must be able to complete administrative duties, public relations work, and supervision of employees. Computer experience is preferred. Position will be paid on experience.

Applications are available on the County website: [www.adamscountynynd.com](http://www.adamscountynynd.com), the Auditor’s Office, or the County Shop. For additional information, contact the Auditor’s Office at 701-567-4363.

Adams County provides equal opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment, and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws.