

Seven Eddy County 4-H members compete in Communication Arts

Seven 4-H club members from Eddy County competed on Sunday, April 12, 2026, in the county's 4-H Communication Arts Contest held at the Eddy County Extension office. Sydney Carr and Carrie Nichols, Eddy County Extension agent, evaluated the presentations.

The Communication Arts Contest is the 4-H speech and demonstration competition that is held at the county, district and state contest levels. Participants are encouraged to use their own creativity and originality in preparing their public presentation.

The Communication Arts program is open to any youth involved in extension youth programs. It includes three age divisions: the Cloverbuds (youth 5-7 years old), the Junior division (youth 8-12 years old) and the Senior division (youth ages 13-18).

Rosettes were provided to event winners as well as participation ribbons for non-competitive Cloverbuds.

Below is the list of awards winners in their category along with the titles of the



Eddy County 4-H members who competed in Communication Arts Contest on Sunday, April 12 – back row, from left to right: Liza Steele, Leah Steele and Cade Helseth; front row: Kenny Helseth, Libby Steele, Lucy Steele and Broc Helseth. Courtesy photo.

presentations.

The contest participants are eligible to compete in the District 4-H Communication Arts Contest to be held in McClusky on May 27, 2026.

Junior Division Grand Champion winners

- Kenny Helseth – Interpretive Reading, “The True

Story of the 3 Little Pigs!”

- Cade Helseth and Liza Steele – Interpretive Reading, “Who’s on First?”

Junior Division Honorable Mentions

- Leah Steele – Interpretive Reading, “Winter’s Gift”
- Lucy Steele – Interpretive Reading, “The Note Who

Faced the Music”

Junior Division Blue Ribbons

- Broc Helseth – Interpretive Reading, “God Made a Farmer”

Clover Recitation Participants

- Libby Steele – “Little Red Hen”

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FLICKERTAIL—

18-year-old teenagers and voted against incumbents who had raised safety concerns,” said Fite. “That is not democracy.”

Fite also brought up alleged conflicts of interest and argued that the recent amendments should have included a 1-mile setback, as well as required studies for noise, infrasound and shadow flicker.

“You took an oath to represent the people, not your personal financial gains or corporate investments,” he said. “My property rights are not a negotiating chip. I did not consent to this project. I am not being compensated. And I will not be silenced.”

Rue and Schnaidt, meanwhile, echoed concerns about setbacks, conflicts of interest and the scope of the amendments.

Schnaidt went even further, demanding that county officials at the meeting “resign in disgrace.”

Janet Sinkler spoke only to ask who was going to take care of roads in the county as the project gets built.

Eddy County ordinance 10.1.4.8 states, “The permittee shall ensure that, following completion of construction of a wind energy facility, County roads will be repaired or restored to a condition at least equal to the condition prior to construction of such facility.”

The county and townships are also working on proposed road use agreements which – once finalized – are expected to require Flickertail Wind to maintain designated haul roads throughout construction.

After testimony was completed, the commission voted to signify their intention to affirm their recent ordinance changes, which they’ll officially affirm or rescind at their next regular meeting.

Commissioner Glenda Collier once again recused herself from the vote, consistent with her decision to do so at the March 6 special meeting where the ordinance changes were discussed and recommended for approval.

Meanwhile, several more petitions have been submitted by residents opposing the ordinance amendments, triggering another set of hearings at a later date. The deadline to submit a formal petition opposing the amendments is May 6.

Letters of support

Also submitted to the county recently were letters of support for the Flickertail Wind project, which were signed by 101 residents and

landowners of Eddy County.

“I am writing to express my strong support for the Flickertail Wind Project and to urge you to continue moving this project forward for the benefit of Eddy County,” states the letter.

It goes on to claim the county is in need of new growth, and points specifically to economic challenges and a 3% cap on property tax increases imposed by the state.

The letter also claims that Flickertail Wind would strengthen the local tax base, support essential services, fund local schools and provide stability for family farms.

“It is about respecting landowner rights and allowing individuals to make decisions about their property” reads the letter. “Progress is often met with resistance, but that should not prevent us from doing what is best for the county as a whole.”

Unlike the petitions signed by some who oppose the Flickertail Wind project, the letters signed by 101 residents and landowners do not trigger any kind of public hearing or other public process – they are simply letters expressing support for the project.

Moving forward

Looking ahead, the county will be scheduling another hearing in the near future to hear from additional petitioners.

Grandfield Township, meanwhile, is holding a special meeting at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 23 at Grandfield Lutheran Church in rural Sheyenne. They are expected to consider zoning changes that could clarify the path forward for Flickertail Wind in the township.

New Rockford Township is also expected to consider zoning ordinance changes, though a special meeting has not yet been noticed.

Both townships currently control their own zoning ordinances separate from Eddy County.

COMMISSION—

June 9. The opportunity also exists for residents to run as write-in candidates.

Only the four candidates with the most votes will advance to the general election – meaning all four candidates in Eddy County are likely to advance unless there’s a successful write-in campaign.

The Transcript will invite each candidate to participate in a Questions & Answers article to be published in a future edition of the newspaper prior to the general

election.

Meanwhile, all the other elections for Eddy County are uncontested.

Paul Lies is running unchallenged to retain the county’s sheriff position, while Ashley Lies and Tiffany Harr are also unchallenged for their positions of State’s Attorney and Recorder/Clerk of Court, respectively.

Becki Schumacher, on the other hand, has decided to leave her position as the County Auditor and instead run for election as the County Treasurer, for which she is unchallenged.

There are also two commission seats up for grabs in the City of New Rockford, but only one individual has filed for election.

Commissioner Jim Belquist has filed for reelection, but Commissioner Justin Ystaas has not. If no write-in candidate can win, the city commission will be able to appoint a new commissioner to fill Ystaas’ seat after the election.

A full list of all the statewide and local candidates to appear on Eddy County ballots this year is available on the North Dakota Secretary of State’s website at sos.nd.gov. A sample ballot will be printed in a future edition of the Transcript.

PRESNELL—

has attended several important conferences and training opportunities which have allowed him to better serve New Rockford.

He’s received training on everything from open records law and election procedures, to budgeting and legislative changes.

“These trainings are very helpful because they provide real-world examples, updates on laws and requirements and new ideas from other communities,” said Presnell.

“I do my best to bring that knowledge back to New Rockford to help improve

how we do things and to make sure we are operating efficiently and correctly.”

Among Presnell’s many responsibilities as the auditor for New Rockford are constructing an annual budget, seeking grant funds, advising the city commission, providing monthly reports, sending out important notices and much more.

Presnell acknowledged that the job of city auditor comes with its challenges, as does any job in the public service, but he also said it’s been a pleasure to serve his community.

“One of the more challenging parts of the job is knowing that decisions made by the city can sometimes be misunderstood,” said Presnell. “It can be difficult when people feel frustrated or disagree with a decision, especially when the intent is to do what’s best for the community while following the laws and requirements we’re held to.

“At the same time, it’s very rewarding to see the positive impact that comes from this work and to be able to serve and stay involved in the community I grew up in,” he concluded.

Presnell added that receiving the LTP plaque motivates him to apply more lessons in service of New Rockford.

“Professionally it motivates me to continue learning and improving to ensure I am doing the best job I can for the city,” he said. “Personally, it means a lot to be able to serve the community I grew up in and to know that the work I’m doing makes a positive difference.”

KNIGHT—

Founded by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is the premier lay Catholic men’s organization. They are guided by the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Community Calendar

TUBBY BYMOEN MEMORIAL SCHNITZEL FEED is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 from 5 p.m. until gone at the New Rockford Eagles Club. All proceeds will go toward providing scholarships to graduating seniors of NR-S High School.

NR-S MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT on Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. in the NR-S gymnasium.

NEW ROCKFORD SPRING CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES are set for Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. Sign up by texting 701-302-0513 or fill out a form online at <https://forms.gle/JyNiq2Tg6B27goVZA>. Deadline to sign up is Monday, April 27.

APRIL ITEM OF THE MONTH at the Eddy County Hunger Free Food Pantry is pasta sauce. Donations can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church, 436 1st Ave. N., New Rockford.

BINGO at Ostby Hall in Sheyenne on Saturdays at 7 p.m.

EDDY CO. VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER Same day appointments available. Please call 701-302-8087.

RELAX & RETREAT MASSAGE offers massage therapy through VA Community Care Program. For more information, call 701-302-0325.

TOPS 370 is a weight loss support group. Meetings are on Mondays at 5 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in New Rockford. For more information call 701-947-2138.

COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Hall, New Rockford.

SHEYENNE VFW meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Sheyenne VFW Post 2696.

LAKE REGION SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE support group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of North Star Community Credit Union, Devils Lake. For info call Theresa at 701-662-4790.

FOOT CARE CLINIC every third Wednesday of the month at Eddy County Public Health. Call 701-947-5311 for appointments. Cost is \$25.

EDDY-NEW ROCKFORD LIBRARY BOARD meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.

NEW ROCKFORD POST OFFICE has a new phone number, 701-505-8842. The office is open 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SHEYENNE POST OFFICE also has a new phone number, 701-404-1149. Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Please contact the Transcript at nrtranscript@gmail.com or (701) 947-2417 to have your event notices listed.

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New Rockford Dollars for Scholars

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Chances to win prizes!

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Wednesday
April 22, 2026
5 p.m. until gone

New Rockford Eagles

\$15 Adults
\$8 Children
(12 and under)

Includes Schnitzel, Fries, Coleslaw and Dessert

To Go Orders Available

All proceeds raised will go toward providing scholarships to graduating seniors of New Rockford-Sheyenne High School.

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