



2026 ADAMS/SLOPE 4-H Livestock Judging competitors with Coaches Alix Manthei (left) and Dave Pearson (right). | Submitted photo

## Adams/Slope 4-H livestock judging team ends season on high note

submitted by  
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The 2026 4-H Livestock Judging for the Adams/Slope Counties flew by, and the teams went out on a high note! The 2026 season brought a lot of new judges, hard work, and a multitude of successes. For those unfamiliar with the program, livestock judging is a competitive analysis of various live-

stock classes (four per class- hogs, beef, goats, sheep). The competitors get twelve minutes per class to judge and take notes. They then take some time to study their notes and prepare their reasons. They then give oral reasons to a judge about why they placed which animal where. They build public speaking skills, observational skills, and get hands-on learning about livestock.

The livestock season officially kicked off at

the end of December with practice, practicing through January, leading up to contests starting in February. The first contest is always the Roughrider Contest in Dickinson. The junior team took home 3<sup>rd</sup> with three judges landing in the top ten (Citti C., Rylin E., & Maggie W.). The senior team did not have a full team in attendance, yet Grady B. took home 6<sup>th</sup>.

The following weekend, the team ventured to the eastern side of the

state to participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Little I celebration at NDSU. The junior and senior teams had a great day in Fargo, both taking home 3<sup>rd</sup> place! In the junior division, Rylin E. took 10<sup>th</sup> in reasons and 15<sup>th</sup> overall. Khloe Campbell was 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and received 8<sup>th</sup> in reasons. On the senior side, Mika S. was 3<sup>rd</sup> in reasons and 5<sup>th</sup> overall, while Grady B. took 5<sup>th</sup> in reasons and 7<sup>th</sup> overall.

SEE ADAMS/SLOPE 4-H | PAGE 4

## Trees, Armory, roller skating on Hettinger City Council agenda

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Hettinger's City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in the conference room at the Armory. Present were Krista Faller, city auditor; Mayor James Lindquist and members Randy Burwick, David Parrill and Carl Ebert with Michele Gaylord via phone.

After approving the February 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, February 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting for a Pastime beer garden permit and the February 24<sup>th</sup> special meeting on the Allo Towers conditional use permit, the board approved financial statement. The amended agenda was approved after adding two items – the election contract with the county and American Legion Letter of Support.

First on the agenda was Darin Seamands with the Tree Board. Mr. Seamands said he was there on behalf of the rest of the tree board members who are Anna Block, Kane Melling, Liz Lindquist and Rodney Howe. Mr. Seamands said some of the group attended a presentation by Adams County Extension Agent Aspen Lenning and forester Joel Allen. After the presentation Aspen and Joel toured Hettinger and suggested trees in need of attention.

Mr. Seamands informed the Council there are several grants available through the National Forestry Service for the removal/planting of trees. The tree board is looking at a ND Forest Service Rural Canopy Improvement grant which does not require matching funds but does require that for every tree removed, a tree must be planted. The grant's purpose is to stimulate the development of innovative and effective community forestry projects in rural communities. Eligible applicants are public entities who represent a community with a population of 2,500 or less. The applicants must also contact NDFS personnel for project planning. The public entity is eligible to receive a maximum grant up to \$10,000 with bids or price quotes required

SEE CITY COUNCIL | PAGE 4

## County commissioners meet in regular session

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County commissioners Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> found Dusty Laufer, Kevin Pagel, Steven West and county auditor Krista Faller at the Adams County Commissioner's regular meeting.

The meeting opened with the approval of the February 17 minutes and March 10 agenda with the report of office fees collected for the road and bridge fund of \$40,778.29 and the Recorder's office \$1,708.70.

The financial statement was reviewed Lynn Heath was re-appointed to the Adams County Airport Authority and Tyler Campbell to the Adams County Planning and Zoning Board.

Two applications were received for the Veterans Service Officer position – Chris Upton from south of Bucyrus and Laci Coates from the VSO office for Bowman and Slope Counties. After some discussion the Commissioners offered the position to Mr. Upton.

Katie Roseland, tax director/zoning administrator, reported all sections of flood plain management have been removed from the county zoning policy to eliminate the county of any obligation for managing flood plains. The option is still available to join the NFIP later if circumstances change. West informed

SEE COMMISSIONERS | PAGE 5

## Hettinger Fire District says Thank You to members

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Neither snow nor fire will stop the determined members of the Hettinger Fire District as they came together Saturday, March 14 to honor members for their years of service and those who have retired.

The event, which was held at the Hettinger Fire Department, began with a supper organized by the board members and spouses.

Acknowledged for their years of service were Brad Messer receiving his 5

year pin along with David Timm and Rich Jahner their 10 year pins.

Also honored were two members who retired — Darrin Semands after 17 years of service and Darwin Manor with 4 years of service. Darwin and wife, Dee, moved to Kansas this past summer to be with Darwin's family.

Kalen Manthei, chief since 2022, said "The department is grateful for the willingness of all who serve the community and to all who overwhelmingly support the department financially."



HETTINGER FIRE CHIEF Kalen Manthei reflects upon this last year. | Submitted photo Kellie Timm