



CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



Publication of the Thief River Falls Times



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Finalist declines Crookston superintendent position

by Anna Phalen
Correspondent

The Crookston School Board voted unanimously to offer the district's superintendent position to Bemidji High School Principal Dr. Jason Stanoch following final interviews held Friday, Feb. 13 at Crookston High School. However, Stanoch later declined the offer. The school board will now begin to review its options as it moves forward.

Stanoch and fellow finalist Brad Johnson, Renville County West superintendent, participated in final interviews before the board reviewed reference checks and anonymous written feedback from a panel of seven district educators and staff members.

Prior to serving as the BHS principal, Stanoch worked in multiple rural districts in Missouri as well as

the Red Lake School District. He began his career as an elementary teacher.

During his interview, Stanoch emphasized building trust, maintaining strong communication with staff and community members, and celebrating district progress while continuing to push forward. He spoke about clearly communicating school finances, intentionally scheduling time to connect with staff and stakeholders, and developing staff through shared responsibility. He also shared past cost-saving measures, including restructuring the number of periods in a school day.

References described Stanoch as approachable, data-driven, and ready for the position, noting his strong leadership and ability to follow through on decisions, while adding he may need to continue developing broader, system-wide think-

ing. Johnson currently serves as superintendent in Renville County, overseeing approximately 540 Pre-K through grade 12 students. A Crookston native with family ties to the community, Johnson brings 35 years in education, including 22 years in administration.

Johnson told the board he values visibility and accessibility, saying he prefers to be present in schools and the community rather than working primarily from an office. He stressed integrity, follow-through, and clearly explaining difficult decisions. He also highlighted cost-saving work in his current district, including exploring alternative options for a bus garage project.

Johnson emphasized relationship-building through community involvement and staff recognition, noting the importance of celebrating

small successes, maintaining open-door communication, and being transparent during difficult financial situations.

References cited Johnson's passion for education, community involvement, and approachability. Some feedback also raised concerns about follow-through, mentoring, staff support, and handling confrontation. School board member Mike Theis noted during discussion that some reference feedback was difficult to hear.

Board discussion began with review of anonymous written feedback from the educator and staff panel. After reviewing all materials, the board voted unanimously to offer the superintendent position to Stanoch.

UMN Crookston celebrates largest gift in its history

The University of Minnesota Crookston celebrates its largest gift in history after receiving a \$6.2 million donation from alumnus Les Nielsen. An upcoming naming and dedication of the campus wellness center, which will be called the Nielsen Family Wellness Center, is in recognition of the multimillion dollar gift.

Les and his wife, June, who passed away in September 2025, have been dedicated donors to UMN Crookston for decades. They've provided impactful scholarships for hundreds of students since the 1990s, most recently a full tuition scholarship for students living in the Minnesota communities of Red Lake Falls, Grygla, Clearbrook, Gonvick, Goodridge,

and Euclid. They also donated \$1 million to the wellness center project ahead of its grand opening 10 years ago in memory of their son, Mitch Lien Nielsen, who passed away in 1989 after a motorcycle accident.

"We feel blessed to be able to support the school and its students as my education at the Northwest School was motivation to continue to be successful in our career and business," said Les. "I have always had respect for the school and it has helped quite a few members of our family."

"We also have strong ties to the rural Minnesota communities we provided (tuition scholarships) for as my mother was from the Grygla area, June's from

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Ice fishing with Get Kids Outdoors



Get Kids Outdoors held its annual ice fishing day Saturday, Jan. 31. Each participant received their own ice fishing pole, tackle box and tackle to keep. (Submitted)

Council approves task order for replacement of lead service lines

by Anna Phalen
Correspondent

The Crookston City Council received an update on the city's lead service line replacement project at its meeting Tuesday, Feb. 17.

The council approved Task Order No. 23 through AE2S for lead service line replacement work. The City has been awarded \$350,000 through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority to support the project.

City officials reported it has been determined there are approximately 15 lead service lines. Affected areas are primarily located south of downtown and in the Woods Addition, while no lead lines have been identified on the north end of the city. Officials noted service lines installed after 1989 are

considered safe.

The project will be funded through federal dollars administered by the state and includes requirements such as environmental review, contractor solicitation, reporting and grant administration. City officials emphasized Crookston's commitment to improving drinking water safety and maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations. Officials also noted resident participation in voluntary testing has been low.

During council reports, council member Dylane Klatt asked about the status of potential swimming pool ballot language. Officials said the process is ongoing but requires specific legal wording before moving forward.

Under the regular

agenda, council approved a resolution granting a one-year compliance extension for Northstar Lime through the Minnesota Investment Fund. The action follows a public hearing held Feb. 2 regarding the company's compliance timeline.

The council approved another temporary extension of the liquor license for the Crookston Inn. The council previously approved a temporary extension Dec. 29, 2025, while the property sale was finalized. The closing date has been delayed and is now expected on or before Feb. 27, 2026. The additional extension allows the business to continue operating during the transition. The extension is for an additional 45 days.



Kids experienced the various aspects of ice fishing while participating Saturday, Jan. 31 in Get Kids Outdoors' annual ice fishing day. (Submitted)

Ways and Means Committee meets

by Anna Phalen
Correspondent

The Crookston Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday, Feb. 17 and approved a recommendation to appoint Theresa Tahrhan as the City of Crookston representative to the Polk County Affordable Housing Advisory Board in Polk County.

Following the open agenda item, the committee moved into closed session to discuss a potential land sale involving Parcel No. 82.00163.01. The meeting was closed pursuant to Minnesota Government Data Practices law provisions allowing closed meetings for certain real estate discussions.

No additional action was reported following the closed session discussion.

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Four Crookston High School Leo club members and some Crookston Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members honored all the veterans at Benedictine Living Community with a special valentine's card, a bag of sugar cookies and a personal visit to thank them for their service to our country. Pictured are (from left) Jennika Reese, Kinsley Wangen, veteran James Gilbertson, Ava Oliver, Caitlyn Maruska and DAVA member Virginia Stainbrook. (Submitted)



Les Nielsen, pictured with his late wife June, recently donated \$6.2 million to the University of Minnesota Crookston. It is the largest donation in the university's history. (Submitted)

Largest gift/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) the Red Lake Falls area and the Gonvick area, and the Euclid community is where I grew up, too."

Les attended high school on the Crookston campus when it was the Northwest School of Agriculture and graduated in 1958. A number of his siblings also attended high school at the NWSA and, later, Les and two of his brothers continued their education at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. After graduating high school and marrying June that same year, Les connected with his NWSA English teacher, Clint Bergman, who co-owned a small silo construction company near Minneapolis, and was offered a job. Les worked summers and attended classes in the fall. Following college graduation, Les and his Euclid neighbor, Gene Ellingson, started the company Herc-U-Lift, a sales and rental business in material handling equipment such as forklifts. Herc-U-Lift grew

from four people to over 200 employees in its 55+ years and now has branch locations in North Dakota, Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Les said the opportunity to grow up on a farm, receive a fine education from the NWSA that prepared him for college, working and studying hard, and developing a successful career made him and his family want to give back to the university, and support students as a culmination of gratitude for their lives well lived.

"The university is profoundly grateful for the Nielsen family's generosity and support of our students," said UMN Crookston Chancellor Dr. Mary Holz-Clause. "This type of inspirational giving strengthens our campus community and will continue to make a difference in the lives of many."

A dedication event for the Nielsen Family Wellness Center is planned for Monday, April 20 with more details to follow.

Funding available for small businesses through Economic Response Fund

Funding is for businesses affected by federal enforcement surge

The Crookston Economic Development Authority has been informed of a time-sensitive funding opportunity for small businesses in the region that have experienced recent operational disruptions. While this opportunity prioritizes immigrant-owned businesses, it is not exclusive to them and may support other businesses significantly affected by the recent federal enforcement surge. The Minneapolis Founda-

tion has opened a one-time Economic Response Fund offering grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible Minnesota small businesses experiencing sudden economic disruption.

Key details:
 • Focus is on businesses experiencing sudden economic disruption (temporary closures, major revenue loss, workforce impacts, safety/security concerns).
 • Funding is unrestricted emergency support (not intended for seasonal downturns).
 • Businesses with a maximum of 40 employees are eligible to apply.
 • Funding is available for businesses that are currently operating as well as

those that are temporarily or permanently closed due to disruptions.

• Applications are first-come, first-served and are already open.
 • This funding opportunity is not open to nonprofit organizations, local governments, or individual employees applying on their own behalf.

All businesses must apply directly through the Minneapolis Foundation Website. In addition, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation can assist with the application.

For any additional questions, reach out to Taylor Wyum, community development director, at 218-280-6368 or twyum@crookston.

mn.us; or Kristin Anderson, program officer, at 218-558-5331 or kristina@nwmf.org.

Crookston Planning Commission to meet

The Crookston Planning Commission will meet Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

All notices may be found online at www.crookston.mn.us.

A quorum of council members may be present at this meeting.

Crookston Area Ministries

<p>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH 2328 265th St SW - Crookston (East of Highland School) Church: 281-5629 Preston Hoiseth, Pastor Web: www.biblebaptistcrookston.org Email: biblebaptist@midco.net Sundays: 7:45 a.m. & 10:05 a.m., Heavenly Sonlight radio program on KROX, 10 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages including adults, 11 a.m. Morning Worship, 6 p.m. Evening Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Service</p>	<p>CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523 Pastor Matt Williams 218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN www.fisherbygland.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch 218-891-4632 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES 1727 Widman Lane - Crookston For information call: 218-281-6252 Sundays: 10 a.m. Public Talk, Watchtower Study Thursdays: 7 p.m. Christian Life, Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 415 West 6th St - Beltrami Pastor Joel Kangas Church email: resurrect@gvtel.com Church website: www.resurrectionfree.org Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>TRINITY LUTHERAN 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN www.fisherbygland.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-893-4243 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p>CONCORDIA LUTHERAN 100 Jefferson Ave SW - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>FREEDOM CHURCH Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston helllofreedomchurch.com Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN 10802 423rd St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>RODNES LUTHERAN 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on Cty 210 Office: 218-687-4345 Pastor Joel Smeby www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)</p>	<p>MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN 13960 380th St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p>CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON & ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY 702 Summit Avenue - Crookston 218-281-1735, Parish, 218-281-1835, School & RE Offices The Most Reverend Bishop Cozzens The Very Reverend Msgr. David Baumgartner Saturdays: 5 p.m. Mass at Cathedral, 10:30 a.m. Mass at Gentilly Daily Mass: 7:45 a.m. Tuesday-Friday (Monday Communion Service 7:45 a.m.) Please visit our website: www.crookstoncathedral.com for more information.</p>	<p>ENCOUNTER CHURCH 209 North Main - Crookston Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12) Find us on Facebook</p>	<p>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT Gary Johnson, Pastor http://www.gosen-church.com Facebook: Gosen Church Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosen-church.com)</p>	<p>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Nielsville, MN Monty & Amanda Brown For information call: 218-946-2675 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston Phone: 218-456-2568 Pastor David Jahn Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>
<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN 4391 340th Ave - Fertile Pr. Dan Morto Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastor Noah Thompson Pastor John Merseith 1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston Phone: 218-281-4342 Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE 10480 438th St SW Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 205 S Broadway - Crookston Rev. Gregory Isaacson, Senior Pastor Rev. Michael Ozaki, Associate Pastor 218-281-4276 9 a.m. Broadcast Worship live over Crookston Cable TV Channel #3, KROX Radio 1260AM, KROX 105.7FM and streaming live on Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN. For additional information and calendar updates, please check out our website at www.trinitycrookston.org Sundays: 9 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, 10:45 a.m. - Worship at First Presbyterian Church Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book Study at First Presbyterian Church</p>
<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD 33276 339th Ave. SW - Eldred, MN c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN - 218-281-1239 Pastor: Steven Bohler Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Service</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC) Church Office: 218-687-4035 332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535 Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020 Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	<p>ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston 218-281-3393 website: crookstonmethodist.com - view services here email: wesleyumcrox@gmail.com Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)</p>

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Telephone: (218) 681-4450
Fax: (218) 681-4455
e-mail: trftimes@trftimes.com
http://www.trftimes.com

Traci Joppru
Publisher
tjoppru@trftimes.com



April Scheinoha
Editor
april@trftimes.com



Scott DCamp
Sports Editor
scott@trftimes.com



Anna Phalen
Correspondent
Ad Sales



Eric Charlson
Sales and
Marketing
echarlson@trftimes.com



Cindy Baldwin
Sales and
Marketing
sales@trftimes.com



Circulation
218-681-4450
subscribe@trftimes.com

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THIEF RIVER FALLS Times

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Friday
8 am - 3 pm

DEATH NOTICES

JoAnn Hennum, 86

Fargo, ND - JoAnn Marie Hennum of Fargo, ND (formerly of Donaldson, MN), passed into the loving arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ, on February 9, 2026. Those who knew JoAnn will forever remember her quick wit, her jokes, and the one-liners that could brighten any room.

JoAnn was born on June 17, 1939, to Melvin and Thelma (Larson) Nelson in Crookston. She graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1957 and began her career working at the courthouse in Crookston.

One evening after work, a young man selling cookware knocked on her door and asked her out. That gentleman, Merle Hennum, would soon become the love of her life. They were united in marriage on February 17, 1962, and shared the next 38 years building a life, a family, and countless memories together.

JoAnn and Merle made their home on the Hennum farmstead in Donaldson. Early on, JoAnn's first attempt at baking bread turned into what she fondly described as "soup," but she quickly perfected her recipes and became an exceptional baker of breads and bars. Life on the farm was busy, and she spent many seasons preparing meals, delivering them to the fields, and shuttling equipment from one place to another. Despite calling herself a "klutz," she managed only two emergency room visits over decades of working around large machinery.

She handled the billing and administrative work for Northwest Steel and logged countless miles—often with kids in tow—tracking down the right motor or sprocket

for the job. JoAnn also generously served her community through the American Cancer Society, the Kittson County Historical Society, and the St. Olaf Lutheran Church Auxiliary.

In the winter of 1991, JoAnn and Merle tried their hand at becoming snowbirds, spending a few weeks in south Texas. After exploring several destinations, they settled on Lake Havasu City, AZ in 1996, where JoAnn continued to winter until her health prevented her from returning in 2025.

In 2000, JoAnn moved from the farm to Fargo, ND, where she enjoyed being closer to family. She treasured sleepovers with her grandchildren, attending their school and sporting events, and the occasional day trip to the casino to "support the local economy of the small town."

JoAnn is survived by her children, Jeff (Margaret) Hennum and Todd (Stacy) Hennum; brothers, Gerald (Carolyn) Nelson, Jerome (Kathy) Nelson, and Richard Nelson; and grandchildren, Claire Hennum, Amelia Hennum, Anna Hennum, Sadie Wark, Sienna Wark, and Brevin Wark. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Merle; her brother, Allen Nelson; and her grandson, Cody Hennum.

A funeral service took place at 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, N.D. Visitation was one hour prior to services. Burial will take place at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Boulger Funeral Home and Celebration of Life Center, Fargo, N.D.

To view the livestream and sign the online guestbook, please visit: www.Boulgerfuneralhome.com. A00003B2026FB21

Debra Miller, 66

Crookston - Debra "Debbie" Kay (Larson) Miller, age 66, of Crookston, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in Fargo, ND.

She died peacefully after a long illness, surrounded by family members at her bedside.

Debbie was born in Minneapolis on March 11, 1959, to Norman and Norma Larson. Debbie spent her childhood and adolescence in Richfield. Upon graduation in 1977, she pursued technical training and building a long, meaningful, and distinguished career as a computer programmer and systems analyst, serving 17 years at Bachman's Floral.

During this time, she married Craig Miller on September 25, 1982. On July 20, 1986, they welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Elizabeth "Betsy" to their family.

Debbie later joined Normandale College in Bloomington, where she contributed another 17 years as a valued member of the Information and Technology Department.

In June 2016, she retired and relocated to Crookston, where she embraced her most cherished role - Grammie, taking care of her two grandsons, Evan and Dylan.

Debbie's greatest joy was her family. She leaves be-

hind her husband and best friend, Craig; her daughter and son-in-law, Betsy and Ryan Ferwerda; her beloved grandsons, Evan and Dylan; all of whom brought light to every day of her life. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Lee Larson; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Patti and Jim Russ; and her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Steve and Mary Ann Miller; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Norma; her brother, Greg Larson; her nephew, Drew Russ; her parents-in-law, Lyle and Ruth Miller; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 12 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston, with the visitation beginning at 11 a.m. A luncheon will be served at the church following the service. The service will be livestreamed, a link to which will be available at www.stenshoelhouke.com/obituaries/debra-miller.

Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church, 205 S Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716.

A private interment will take place this spring at Dawn Valley Cemetery in Bloomington.

A00003B2026FB21

James "Jim" Wenger, 73

James "Jim" Wenger, 73, of Crookston, passed away Friday February 6, 2026.

James' family will celebrate his life with a memorial service on Saturday February 21, 2026 at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home beginning at 1:30 p.m. Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m.

There will be a celebration of life for family and friends at the Crookston Inn and Convention Center Ballroom immediately following the service.

Roger Ode, 66

Roger Dean Ode, 66, of Crookston, passed away on Thursday, February 5, 2026.

A celebration of life honoring Roger will be held on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 12 p.m. at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home in Crookston. Visitation with the family will be a half hour prior.

Denise Kaye Hogenson, 65

Denise Kaye Hogenson, of Crookston, passed away on February 11, 2026.

Denise's family will celebrate her life with a memorial service on Monday February 23, 2026 beginning at 11 a.m. at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m.

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KERTSONVILLE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

Kertsonville Township Election and Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The election will be held during the hours of 5pm to 8pm at the home of the clerk: Laurie Bruley, 17909 US Hwy 2 SW, Crookston. The Annual meeting will start at 8:05pm. If cancelled due to weather conditions, the election and annual meeting will be moved to the following Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the same times listed above. Early voting will be open on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at the clerks home from 10am to Noon.

Kertsonville Township has the following board positions open for election; Clerk (2 yr term) and Supervisor (3 yr term). If interested in joining the board as a write-in ballot, please contact via mail or stop at the clerk's residence (17909 US Hwy 2 SW, Crookston) by March 9, 2026.

Kertsonville Township is accepting quotes till March 9, 2026 for gravel, ditch mowing, brush removal, and road grading. Quotes can be mailed or hand delivered to: Laurie Bruley, 17909 US Hwy 2 SW, Crookston, MN 56716.

North Valley HEALTH CENTER

Now Hiring:
Imaging Manager

We are seeking a skilled and motivated Imaging Department Manager to oversee the daily operations of our imaging department. This role provides professional imaging services in Radiology while ensuring efficient department coordination, high-quality patient care, and effective staff leadership.

Key Responsibilities

- Perform X-ray and CT exams
- Lead, coordinate, and delegate staff duties
- Ensure quality, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Communicate effectively with patients and team members

Qualifications

- Associate's degree from an accredited Radiology program
- ARRT certification required
- Management experience preferred, not required
- Experience in additional imaging modalities a plus
- Strong communication and teamwork skills

Schedule

- Four-day, 32-38 hour work week, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Weekday, weekend, and holiday call rotation

Compensation & Benefits

- \$35-\$53 per hour
- Competitive benefits package

For more information on this or any other open positions, visit our website at www.northvalleyhealth.org

TO APPLY:
Email cover letter, application and resumé to Jill.Lysford@northvalleyhealth.org or mail to: North Valley Health Center, Attn: Human Resources, 300 W. Good Samaritan Drive, Warren, MN 56762

THE CITY OF CROOKSTON Project Coordinator

\$62,649.60-\$84,094.40 - DOE

The City of Crookston is currently hiring for the position of **Project Coordinator**. The Project Coordinator for the Crookston Economic Development Authority (CEDA) supports efforts to grow and strengthen the local business community. The role focuses on coordinating economic development projects, identifying and managing funding opportunities, assisting with grants and loans, and serving as a liaison between residents, businesses, developers, and government or foundation partners.

Submit cover letter and completed job application to:
hr@crookston.mn.us

Full Job Posting - <https://www.crookston.mn.us/Jobs.aspx>

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Public Safety Telecommunicator – Sheriff's Office:

\$28.15 – \$35.66/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Assistant County Attorney I - II – Attorney's Office:

\$47.55 – \$68.06/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Community Service Officer – Sheriff's Office:

\$26.56 – \$33.64/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II – Sheriff's Office:

\$32.90 – \$44.17/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Engineering Technician – Highway:

\$28.15 – \$39.69/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Mechanical Maintenance Technician – Incinerator:

\$28.15 – \$35.66/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Sort Line Operator I - II – Fosston:

\$20.04 – \$26.65/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

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DEATH NOTICES

February 21, 28, March 7, 2026
STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF POLK NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 Court File No. 60-FA-25-1611
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND SECOND ORDER REGARDING SERVICE UPON TANYA JEAN RIVERA
[Second Order Regarding Alternate Service]

In re the Custody of Taquira Marie Rivera-Wade, Jaylah Lee Rivera-Wade and Reggie Santos Rivera-Wade, Minor Children; Amanda Lee Stave and Manuel Daniel Castro, Petitioners, and Tanya Jean Rivera and Christopher Darnell Wade, Respondents.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
 The following items were filed with the Court Administrator on October 17, 2025: (1) Petition to Establish Third Party Custody [Index No. 1]; and, (2) Summons for Third Party Custody [Index No. 2].
 The Petitioners have been able to effect personal service upon Second Respondent Christopher Darnell Wade. See: Affidavit of Personal Service filed on December 5, 2025 [Index No. 15].
 The Petitioners have not yet been able to effect service upon First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera. See: Application for an Order for Service by Alternate Means [Index No. 17].
 The Court, acting through Jeffrey S. Remick, Judge of District Court, had previously reviewed and considered the matter. See: Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Regarding Service Upon Tanya Jean Rivera filed on October 10, 2025 [Index No. 20]. In that Order, Judge Remick had directed the Polk County Sheriff's Office to assist with making personal service upon First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera. Id.

On December 19, 2025, the Polk County Sheriff's Office filed an Affidavit of Service – Not Found with the Court Administrator [Index No. 23]. The Affidavit confirms: (A) at least six (6) different Deputies had attempted to make service of process between December 11-19, 2025; (B) the ten (10) attempts at service

were all unsuccessful; and, (C) the Polk County Sheriff's Office commented "Was advised by maintenance staff that they no longer reside at residence. Unsure where they moved to. Possibly Oklahoma or Kansas."

The Court Administrator/Court Administrator has again requested Judge Jeffrey S. Remick to review the matter.

Judge Remick first finds and concludes that personal service upon First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera cannot be effected by local law enforcement and/or any private process server. The Court very much appreciates the efforts of the Polk County Sheriff's Office. However, it is pointless to continue to attempt personal service locally in Crookston, Polk County, Minnesota. It is clear that First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera: (A) has left this area; (B) can no longer be found in this area; or (C) is avoiding service of process.

Judge Remick next finds and concludes that the first avenue to further attempt service on First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera should be as follows: (A) sending a certified copy of the Summons and Petition to the last known residential address of First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera; and (B) sending a certified copy of the Summons and Petition to the last known work address of First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera. The Court finds and concludes that there is a reasonable possibility that said mail or information will be forwarded or communicated to the First Respondent.

Judge Remick further finds and concludes that the second avenue to attempt service on Tanya Jean Rivera should be as follows: (A) publishing a Summons for Third Party Custody in the Crookston Watch one (1) time each week for three (3) weeks in accordance with the relevant Minnesota laws. The Court finds and concludes that service by an alternate means – through publication in a legal newspaper – now provides the most likely prospect of serving the First Respondent or providing actual notice to the First Respondent. The Court finds and concludes that the First Respondent is reasonably likely to receive notice of this pending child custody proceeding if publication of the proper Summons is made in the Crookston Watch newspaper; service by publication of a Summons in this newspaper might reasonably succeed in notifying the First Respondent of this pending child custody proceeding. The Court notes that published service through this newspaper is most appropriate, given: (A) the First Respondent's last known residential address and mailing address in the Crookston community; (B) the First Respondent's last known employment/employer in the Crookston community; (C) the Respondent's other numerous connections with family, friends and other associates in the Crookston community; (D) the Respondent's other numerous connections with the courts, law enforcement and governmental authorities in the Crookston community and in Polk County; and, (E) the Crookston Watch newspaper's circulation and readership in Crookston and the other communities in Polk County.

1. The relevant Polk County Sheriff's Office Deputies who attempted service were: Titan Engen [4x]; Alyssa Lang [2x]; Thomas Hibma [1x]; Britney Neil [1x]; Matthew Erlanson [1x]; and Justin Schreier [1x].
 The Court, acting through Judge Remick, finds and concludes that service upon First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera is most likely to be effected by pursuing the course of action set forth in the following Order, which directs both service by mail and service by publication. The Court, acting through Judge Remick, finds and concludes that First Respondent Tanya Jean Rivera is most likely to receive notice through these methods. Service by both mail and publication might reasonably succeed in notifying the First

Respondent of this child custody proceeding. There is a reasonable possibility that mail or information will be forwarded or communicated to the Respondent. There is a reasonable possibility that publication will succeed in notifying the First Respondent of this proceeding; if the First Respondent is not notified directly, it is hoped that a relative or friend with knowledge of her whereabouts might learn of the proceeding and then advise her of the pending child custody proceeding.
 The Court finds and concludes that the course of action set forth in the following Order is consistent with the provisions of Minnesota law for alternate service, including, but not limited to: Minnesota Statutes, Section 257C.03, Subd. 1(b); Minnesota Statutes, Section 518.11(c); the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure; and, the Minnesota General Rules of Practice for the District Courts.

SECOND ORDER REGARDING SERVICE UPON TANYA JEAN RIVERA

IT IS ORDERED:
 1. The Court Administrator shall forward one (1) certified copy of the following items to Tanya Jean Rivera via United States Postal Service, First Class Mail – Return Service Requested/Forwarding Address Requested:

- (1) Petition to Establish Third Party Custody [Index No. 1]; and,
- (2) Summons for Third Party Custody [Index No. 2].

The mailing address for Tanya Jean Rivera that should be used by the Court Administrator is:

Tanya Jean Rivera
 1500 North Broadway
 Apartment No. W-109
 Crookston, MN 56716

2. The Court Administrator shall forward one (1) certified copy of the following items to Tanya Jean Rivera via United States Postal Service, First Class Mail – Return Service Requested/Forwarding Address Requested:

- (1) Petition to Establish Third Party Custody [Index No. 1]; and,
- (2) Summons for Third Party Custody [Index No. 2].

The mailing address for Tanya Jean Rivera that should be used by the Court Administrator is:

Tanya Jean Rivera, Employee
 McDonald's – Crookston Branch
 1811 University Avenue
 Crookston, MN 56716

3. The Court Administrator shall coordinate service and publication of the Summons in the Crookston Watch newspaper.

The Court, acting through Judge Jeffrey S. Remick, has provided the Court Administrator with a separate written Summons form to utilize for publication in the newspaper.

Service shall be by publication of said Summons one (1) time each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the Crookston Watch as provided under the relevant Minnesota laws.

The contact information for the Crookston Watch is as follows:
 Crookston Watch
 Legal Notices: Attention Shelly Lene
 slene@trfimes.com
 324 Main Avenue North
 P.O. Box 100
 Thief River Falls, MN 56701
 Telephone: (218) 681-4450
 Fax: (218) 681-4455
 www.trfimes.com

Given the Orders Granting Fee Waiver Request issued on October 18, 2025, by the Honorable Anne M. Rasmussen, Judge of District Court [Index Nos. 11 and 12], the cost of publication in the Crookston Watch shall be borne and paid by the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

4. The Court Administrator shall file this Order.

5. The Court Administrator shall distribute a copy of this Order to:

Amanda Lee Stave, First Petitioner; and, Manuel Daniel Castro, Second Petitioner.

LET THE ACTION SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 & 3 OF THE ORDER

BE EFFECTED.
 LET THE ORDER BE FILED AND DISTRIBUTED AS DIRECTED.
 Dated: February 13, 2026
 /s/ Jeffrey S. Remick,
 Judge of District Court

February 21, 2026

GENTILLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

THE ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 IN THE BASEMENT OF ST PETER'S CHURCH. IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER IT WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH. HOURS OF VOTING ARE FROM 5-8 PM, WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING BEGINNING AT 8:05 PM. WE WILL BE ELECTING A SUPERVISOR (3 YEAR TERM), A CLERK (2 YEAR TERM) AND A BALLOT QUESTION – "WHETHER TO MOVE THE TOWN ELECTION TO NOVEMBER". ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE AT CLERK'S RESIDENCE THROUGH MONDAY, MARCH 9TH. THE CLERK WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 NOON ON SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH AT THE CLERK'S RESIDENCE (25762 185TH AVE SW, CROOKSTON MN) A MEETING OF THE CANVASS BOARD WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS.
 Eugene A. Dufault, CLERK.

LOWELL TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

will be Tuesday March 10, 2026, at the Crookston Fire Department North Station.

The Annual Meeting is at 4:00 pm with the election to follow. The polls will be open from 5:00 - 8:00 pm to elect 1 Township Clerk and 1 Township Supervisor.

Absentee voting is available on Saturday March 7 from 10:00am until noon at the clerk's residence.

Sealed written quotes are being accepted up to the time of the Annual Meeting for Gravel, Road Grading, and Snow Plowing. Please submit quotes to the Clerk's residence before March 10, 2026. Michael Boucher
 Lowell Township Clerk
 27526 230th St SW
 Crookston, MN 56716

February 21, 28, March 7, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF POLK NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 Court File No. 60-FA-25-1611
Summons for Third Party Custody Statutes, Chapter 257C

Amanda Lee Stave & Manuel Daniel Castro, Petitioners, vs. Tanya Jean Rivera & Minnesota Christopher Darnell Wade, Respondents.

IMPORTANT NOTICES TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENTS:

The Petitioners have filed a lawsuit against you, asking the Court to give Petitioners custody of the following Minor Children: Taquira Marie Rivera-Wade; Jaylah Lee Rivera-Wade; and Reggie Santos Rivera-Wade.

A copy of the Petition is on file with the Court Administrator. You may obtain a copy of the Petition and other relevant documents from the Polk County Court Administrator's Office at the following address: Polk County Justice Center, 816 Marin Avenue – Second Floor, Crookston, Minnesota 56716, Telephone: (218) 281-2332.

You must serve upon Petitioners and file with the Court Administrator a written Answer to the Petition. You must pay the required filing fee unless it is waived by the Court. Answer forms are available from the Court Administrator or on the Minnesota Judicial Branch website at www.mncourts.gov/forms.

You must serve your Answer upon the Petitioners within twenty-one (21) days of the date you were served with this Summons, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file an Answer, the Court may decide custody and give the Petitioners everything they are asking for in the Petition.

This Summons for Third Party Custody is an official document that affects your rights. Read this Summons carefully. If you do not understand something in the Summons, Petition or other documents, contact an attorney for legal advice.

Dated: February 13, 2026 By the Polk County District Court
 /s/ Jeffrey S. Remick
 Jeffrey S. Remick, District Court Judge
 /s/ Kathy S. Narlock
 Kathy S. Narlock, Court Administrator

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Nathan Weiss
 D.C., C.ACU

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Rural Reflections ...

Is history worth repeating?

by Grant Nelson



formerly airborne earth behind. It slows the flow of water through ditches, so it must be removed. It is also a loss to the person who uses that field to grow crops, it's like having money sitting in the ditch instead of the field.

Recently, researchers at North Dakota State University have estimated the cost of six inches of topsoil lost to natural erosion and tillage practices at \$6,600 in nutrients and organic matter. You can replace the nutrients with a generous application of money; however, the organic matter takes decades to build. The organic matter helps hold the soil together and stabilizes the water and nutrient supply for the crop that is planted each year.

Lisa and I watched Ken Burns' documentary "The Dust Bowl" a few years ago. It told of how intensive tillage practices from the preceding year culminated in the 1930s to reduce the resiliency of the soil which was then subject to many years of drought. It all combined to create soil that was easily picked up by winds

unhindered by tree growth, crop residue or stabilized by grass.

I don't think we are at the point of a dust bowl. However, there must have been a time when the farmers who suffered through the "dirty 30s" didn't think they were in any danger of such rampant soil erosion and destruction of their livelihood.

A few years ago, an area of ground where I once pastured cattle was dug up for a gravel pit. I had always known it would one day be mined for gravel and that is fine. It felt like a personal loss even though the land was being used for practical purposes. I can't imagine what it would feel like to see fertile, productive land disappear like a favorite pet in a storm and never see it again.

We have seen recent drought conditions and the winds seem to blow more consistently than I can remember. Trees disappear and bare soil blows. Maybe it's time to remember history and decide whether or not it is worth repeating.

History is our past; however, it often mirrors our future. Those who know their own history can repeat it if beneficial or refuse repetition if the past action was a mistake. It seems our collective knowledge of history is quite shallow today and doesn't go past a season or two.

It seems like every winter we see pictures of soil which has blown from a field and become mixed with snow. There's usually a story on some form of news where the combination is called snirt (snow and dirt). We then all think of how snirt is such an unusual name and then we go about life.

Often times, I see a backhoe pulling topsoil out of the ditch in the spring. This is that same snirt after the snow has melted and left the



RiverView Health recently donated \$500 to Fin and Fit for the Crookston Community Pool. (Submitted)

Fin and Fit steps in to highlight and raise funds for the pool

by Anna Phalen Correspondent

As communities continue to face rising operational costs, maintaining community amenities such as the local swimming pool can place added strain on a budget. In response, a local nonprofit has stepped in to help offset those expenses.

Fin and Fit was formed with the specific goal of supporting the pool by raising funds to help reduce city costs while also promoting greater use of the facility. Through a combination of fundraising events and outreach efforts, the group works to highlight the pool's value not only for recreation, but for athletics, physical therapy, and low-impact exercise opportunities for residents across the area.

The Crookston Community Pool opened in 1979, and with all things, time takes its toll. After years of operation (44 years to be exact), the pool showed signs of wear and tear that threatened its safe operation and longevity. With that in mind, Fin and Fit saw a need to establish short and long-term sustainability plans, finances, and goals. Through the established organization, Fin and Fit works cooperatively with the Crookston Parks and Recreation Department by actively fundraising with a focus on the pool's future in mind.

The main goals of Fin and Fit are to promote public re-

lations and awareness by ensuring the pool's importance in the Crookston community by promoting, advocating, publicizing and sponsoring events at the pool to encourage usage and renewed interest, as well as to attain a financially sustainable pool fund under a 501c3 nonprofit. Monies raised through this initiative will be used to procure the equipment needed for the pool's operation by supplementing potential expenses that are beyond the pool's budget. Through Fin and Fit, monies have been raised through various fundraising opportunities. Funds are then used for needed repairs and the purchasing of equipment such as a volleyball set up in hopes of future league use in the community.

Aside from many fundraising efforts, the task of promotion has been at the forefront of Fin and Fit's goals. The committee has reached out to coaches in the area to consider the Crookston Community Pool as a resourceful and versatile training venue for teams — an underutilized asset that offers a wealth of opportunities for athletic development stating water resistance training is an effective way to build muscular endurance, cardiovascular strength and flexibility all while minimizing the risk of impact related injuries, creating an ideal environment for recovery sessions, injury prevention, and rehabilita-

tion. The gentle, yet constant resistance of water encourages proper biometrics and muscle engagement as well as an effective way to diversify workouts and break up the monotony of day-to-day training routines.

The pool is equipped with lap lanes, shallow and deep ends for various skill levels, a dive tank, and all of the necessary safety equipment. The pool offers flexible scheduling, group rates for schools and teams, and opportunities for joint sessions with other sports programs.

If you or your group are interested in adding a low impact option to your workout, feel free to reach out to the Crookston Community Pool at 218-281-1180 or reach out to a member of Fin and Fit at finfitcrookston@gmail.com. To follow upcoming fundraising efforts, follow along on Facebook at Fin and Fit.

Solheim named to high honor list

Kylie Solheim of Crookston has been named to the high honor list at Minnesota State University Mankato for fall semester 2025.

The high honor list recognizes students who have earned a 4.0 grade point average while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the semester.



Bill Maki (center) recently presented Craig Moore (left) and Cameron Johnson with their Improve DEE Excellence Awards. They each received a \$50 gift card and a plaque. (Submitted)

Moore and Johnson named IDEA winners

Craig Moore and Cameron Johnson were recently selected as the Improve Dee Excellence Award co-winners for the fourth quarter, 2025. They work in the machine shop at Dee Manufacturing and won the award for their suggestion to modify the positioning pins on pressure test equipment to reduce part scratching.

They each received a \$50 gift card along with a plaque for their IDEA.

Moore has been an employee for eight months and Johnson has been an employee for 11 months at Dee Manufacturing.

The IDEA program is a quarterly award program that recognizes employees for their suggestions to im-

prove Dee Manufacturing. The program provides a formal method for employees to recommend improvements and for management to evaluate and implement them. The program was established in 2004 as a part of the company's IATF 16949 quality management system.



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Two injured after accident

Two people were injured after a two-vehicle accident Sunday morning in Crookston.

Nickolaus Harvey Bachmeier, 18, Crookston, and Adeline Beatrice Woinarowicz, 82, Euclid, both suffered non-life threatening injuries, according to the Minnesota State Patrol report. Bachmeier went to RiverView Hospital in Crookston. Woinarowicz did-

n't go to a healthcare facility.

At the time of the accident, Leonard Woinarowicz was driving a 1996 Chevy Caprice northbound on Highway 2. Bachmeier was driving a 2006 Ford Focus westbound on South Road. The vehicles collided in the intersection. Roads were wet at the time. No further information was provided as to the cause of the accident.

Leonard Woinarowicz reported no injuries. All vehicle occupants were wearing seat belts.

The State Patrol was dispatched to the scene at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The Polk County Sheriff's Office, Crookston Fire Department and Crookston EMS also responded.

Students honored at UND

The University of North Dakota has announced its honors lists for fall semester 2025.

Named to the president's roll of honor were Emily Boucher, Isabelle LaBine, Hazel Mendez, Ny Nguyen and Brekken Tull. To qualify, a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades.

Named to the dean's list were LaBine, Ava Lopez, Mendez, Nguyen, Grace Smith and Tull. The dean's list includes those whose GPAs are in the top 15% of the enrollment in each of the university's degree granting colleges and schools. A student must have completed no fewer than 12 semester hours of academic work for the semester, of which eight or more hours must be graded work rather than "satisfactory/unsatisfactory."



Scott Page (right), casting/cores/permanent mold operations manager at Dee Manufacturing, recently presented Rene Garza with an Employee of the Month certificate and \$100 Walmart gift card. (Submitted)

Garza named Employee of the Month at Dee

Rene Garza has been named Dee Manufacturing's January Employee of the Month.

Garza spends most of his time at the shaker in casting, where he plays a critical role in keeping the area clean, organized and running smoothly. Thanks to Garza, the workspace stays in top shape, and all bins are properly tagged and ready for the next process. His attention to detail and pride in his work make a big difference every single shift.

And when he's not at the shaker, you'll find Garza in Cores — where he recently set a production record by making 270 DD162 cores in one shift ... crushing the standard of 200 pieces. That level of performance takes focus, skill and serious dedication.

Garza consistently brings hard work, reliability and a positive attitude to everything he does. Dee Manufacturing is proud to have him on its team and grateful for the impact he makes each

day. On top of his strong work ethic, Garza brings something else to the team every day — his great sense of humor and dry wit. He keeps things light, keeps people smiling, and makes the shift a little more enjoyable for everyone around him.

In recognition of his contributions and effort, Garza chose a \$100 Walmart gift card as his Employee of the Month reward.

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North Valley Health Center
Attn: Human Resources
300 W. Good Samaritan Drive
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"Good Vibrations" exhibit on display

Exhibit features Crookston artist

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council has announced its latest exhibit — "Good Vibrations: All About NW Minnesota Music" at its gallery at Northland Community and Technical College, 1101 Hwy. 1 E. in Thief River Falls. This exhibit highlights the accomplishments of Robert "Little Bobby" Houle and Maury Finney, as well as six other musicians. The exhibit will run until Thursday, April 16.

Little Bobby's impact on the music industry is known worldwide. Born in Red Lake and raised in Thief River Falls, blues musician and multi-instrumentalist Robert "Little Bobby" Houle III was a third-generation Native American musician who followed in his father's and grandfather's musical footsteps. From his father, Robert "Big Bobby" Houle II to his grandfather, Robert Houle, a Rockabilly Music Hall of Famer, it's no surprise that Little Bobby was

as gifted as he was.

Little Bobby began as a drummer and then in his early 20s ventured into singing the blues. Since he was already being mostly self-taught, an improvising blues style was a natural fit. In 2005, Little Bobby released his first CD, Before The Storm. After that, he released numerous blues albums and an autobiographic DVD. Many of the albums or singles made the charts including holding the #1 album. For a time, he joined Nora Jean Bruso to perform in concerts and blues festivals and toured the United States and abroad including Poland. After they played at the Chicago Blues Festival, the Chicago Sun Times rated them the number one band to see. In 2011, the two put together the CD Good Blues in which Little Bobby not only played on but co-wrote and produced, and the album landed on the blues charts.

Little Bobby is the only Minnesota artist to be featured on "The Beale St. Caravan Radio Hour," the largest syndicated blues show in the world. He's also been featured on the Black and Blues radio show in The Netherlands, The Monster Blues Show and the Bear Blues Show in the UK, and The Sunday Morning Hangover Cure in Canada, as well as several others. Since the release of God Made Me Blue, his music has played on 1,700 blues stations all over the world.

One of the things that makes Little Bobby's music so unique is that, except for saxophone, harmonica or steel guitar, he played all the instruments himself and

produced his own albums in his state-of-the-art studio in McIntosh under his label, Untouchable Productions. His long-running blues show, Little Bobby's Juke Joint, played Wednesday nights on 90.1 FM (www.radiorthland.org). Tragically, Little Bobby died suddenly in 2024, but his legacy lives on.

NWMAC's other featured music artist is Maury Finney, who is also well-known. Originally from rural Kittson County, he grew up with music dominating his family's focus. Dorothy, his mom, was a talented piano player and had been raised in a family of musicians herself. His dad, George, was a saxophone player and Maury followed in his footsteps. Maury started playing the sax at a young age with guidance from his dad. In his teens, he was hired by a local band leader to fill in for the regular sax player who was forced to take time off to have his teeth fixed. When the sax player returned, Maury remained in the band, gaining invaluable experience by playing alongside seasoned musicians. Those early gigs proved life changing as he developed his talent in ways that otherwise wouldn't have been possible.

With his brother Allen, Maury formed a rock and roll band called The Charms. The band recorded a record and developed a large following, playing venues throughout the local area.

In 1976, Maury recorded the song "Maidens Prayer" for Soundwaves Record Co. of Nashville, which began

his country music career with nationwide success. Between 1976 and 1977, he charted the most instrumental songs of any country music artist. In 1977 and 1978, Maury was named "Top New Instrumentalist" by the three leading music reporting magazines — Billboard Music Week, Record World, and Cashbox magazine. He charted 12 times on the Billboard country singles charts. Later, he organized a seven-piece band called Reedsong Music Company, which included family members. Maury was inducted into Minnesota's Rock Country Hall of Fame in 2007.

Maury continues to perform in northwest Minnesota and sometimes in Florida, with blues bands, on his own, and when other opportunities arise.

Other artists and groups featured in the exhibit include The Dank, Project Constellation, Northern Valley Youth Orchestra, Anthony Diaz of Crookston, The O'Neil Family Band of East Grand Forks and Daniel Knight of Grand Forks.

An artist reception will be held at the gallery on April 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The NWMAC Gallery is open during Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at other times when events are held at the college. Call to make sure the college is open before making a special trip. Hours can change. Enter through Door B, which is right next to the gallery.

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Pirates get dominant win over Titans

by Isaac Telle
Crookston Watch Intern

The Crookston Girls Basketball team picked up a strong win over the Norman County East/Ulen Hitterdahl Titans 55-22 at home on Friday, Feb. 13.

The Pirates dominated most of the game and limited the Titans to only seven baskets the entire game. Senior Chloe Boll led the team in scoring with 20 points and added three rebounds and three assists.

Juniors Madi Bruggeman and Brooklyn Waldal each added 11 points and had seven and eight rebounds, respectively.

The Titans were led by Madelyn Walstrom and Olivia Theis, who scored seven points each. The Pirates improved to 7-16 following the win, while the Titans dropped to 3-18.

Pirates fall to Rebels

The Pirates girls basketball team was in action on Monday, Feb. 17, and lost to a skilled Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton team 73-35.

The Pirates held an 8-5 lead in the early minutes of the game but would be overpowered by the Rebels for the remainder of the game.

Crookston's Chloe Boll scored 22 points in the game, while Madi Bruggeman and Grace Boll had six points each.

The DGF Rebels saw eight

different players record points in the game. Leading the way was Danielle Boyd and Aria Garrett, who recorded 17 and 11 points respectively.

Crookston's record fell to 7-17 following the loss, while DGF improved to 21-4 on the season.

Scoring	1	2	T
NCE/UH.....	10	12	22
Crookston.....	34	21	55

NCE/UH - Madelyn Walstrom 7, Olivia Theis 7, Tess Anderson 4, Avah Bailey 3, Izabella Jacobson 1.
Crookston - Chloe Boll 20, Madi Bruggeman 11, Brooklyn Waldal 11, Nora Groven 5, Halle Nicholas 4, Morgan Boll 4.

Scoring	1	2	T
DGF.....	45	28	73
Crookston.....	17	18	35

DGF - Danielle Boyd 17, Aria Garrett 11, Annaliese Aas 9, Alyvia Couchman 9, Ava Schreiber 7, Mady Myklebust 6, Alexis Froemke 5, Greta Devries 2.
Crookston - Chloe Boll 22, Madi Bruggeman 6, Grace Boll 6, Halle Nichols 1.

Section 8AA			
	Overall	W	QRF
Perham.....	20	3	133
DGF.....	21	4	127.6
Frazee.....	20	4	122.4
Menahga.....	24	0	114.4
Pelican Rapids.....	14	9	105.4
East Grand Forks.....	16	9	102.9
Hawley.....	14	10	95.8
Wadena-Deer Creek.....	18	7	88.1
Roseau.....	18	6	75.1
Barnesville.....	8	14	73.6
Park Rapids Area.....	7	17	58.1
Thief River Falls.....	5	18	53.5
Crookston.....	7	17	52.9
Warroad.....	2	22	31.3

■ QRF Seeding set for Feb. 21



Above: Crookston's Madi Bruggeman and Chloe Boll apply pressure on defense during Tuesday's game against Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

Below right: Morgan Boll puts up a shot during the first half of the Pirates 55-22 win over Norman County East/Ulen Hitterdahl on Feb. 13, 2026. Boll scored 4 points and recorded 11 rebounds in the game for the Pirates. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

Boys Basketball

Crookston notches overtime win

The Crookston boys basketball team defeated Win-E-Mac 71-66 in overtime Tuesday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Reggie Winjum and Nolan Johnson finished the game in double figures for the Pirates, scoring 28 and 16 points, respectively.

Pirates even season series

Thief River Falls avenged an earlier loss to the Crookston with a 71-58 home triumph on Friday, Feb. 13. Thief River Falls senior Bridger Wilcox put on a show

with 24 points, 17 rebounds and a pair of assists, with fellow senior Wyatt Nelson adding 21 points and three rebounds.

The Pirates got big contributions from seniors Winjum and Carter Fee. Winjum never left the court, scoring 36 points with a pair of rebounds and three assists in 36 minutes of action. Fee scored 13 points and collected seven rebounds.

Pirates fall to Nuggets on road

The Hawley Nuggets held off a late rally to defeat the

Crookston Pirates 71-61 Thursday, Feb. 12 at Hawley High School.

The Nuggets had big contributions from Jaxon Schenck and Tucker Anderson, who accounted for 48 of the team's 71 points. Schenck scored a game-high 26 points, while Anderson added 22.

Scoring leaders for the Pirates were Winjum with 21 points, Johnson with 12 and Nolan Cassavant with 10.

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston.....	28	33	61
Hawley.....	37	34	71

Crookston - Reggie Winjum 21, Nolan Johnson 12, Nolan Cassavant 10, Beau Smith 10, Carter Fee 6, Gunnar Groven 2.
Hawley - Jaxon Schenck 26, Tucker Anderson 22, Hudson Midhun 5, Elliot Lee 5, Coleman Hoff 4, Gavin Gratton 4, Brady Hadley 3.

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston.....	28	30	58
Thief River Falls.....	33	38	71

Crookston - Reggie Winjum 36, Gunnar Groven 2, Beau Smith 4, Carter Fee 13, Joshua Hesby 2,

Nolan Johnson 1, TRF - Tucker Grindeland 11, Bridger Wilcox 24, Wyatt Nelson 21, Jett Cornelius 3, Dylan Osowski 8, Curtis Griffin 4.

Scoring	1	2	ot	T
Crookston.....	34	25	12	71
Win-E-Mac.....	29	30	7	66

Crookston - Reggie Winjum 28, Nolan Johnson 16, Gunnar Groven 4, Nolan Cassavant 6, Beau Smith 9, Carter Fee 6, Joshua Hesby 2.
Win-E-Mac - Joe Courmeya 21, Kolten Schow 17, Nickolas Schow 3, Jayden Haugen 6, Owen Strom 2, Austin Langseth 6, Hayden Johnson 7, Rian Bergh 4.

Section 8AA			
	Overall	W	QRF
East Grand Forks.....	18	5	105.1
Staples-Motley.....	14	7	92.5
DGF.....	14	10	85.4
Osakis.....	13	10	82.6
Perham.....	11	12	78.9
Barnesville.....	11	11	78.8
Thief River Falls.....	12	9	78.4
Warroad.....	12	11	68.1
Park Rapids Area.....	8	5	54.4
Hawley.....	5	17	50.7
Roseau.....	6	17	45.9
Wadena-Deer Creek.....	4	17	41.2
Crookston.....	4	17	39.8
Menahga.....	5	18	34.7

■ QRF Seeding set for Feb. 28



CROOKSTON SPORTS

Tuesday, Feb. 24

- Basketball - Crookston Boys at Warroad 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 26

- Basketball - Section 8AA preliminaries at high seed TBD.

Thursday, Feb. 26

- Basketball - Crookston Boys vs. Kittson County Central 7:30 p.m.
- Wrestling - MSHSL Individual State Tournament 9 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 26

- Wrestling - MSHSL Individual State Tournament 9 a.m.

2025-26 Crookston Pirates

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Nolan Cassavant

Current Sport: Basketball
Position: Forward
Favorite Subject: Gov.
Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Timberwolves
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite Movie/TV show: Conjuring
Career Highlight/favorite memory: Bus rides and food stops.
Other Sports/Activities: Soccer, baseball
Hobbies outside of athletics: Fishing
Plans After High School: Go to college.



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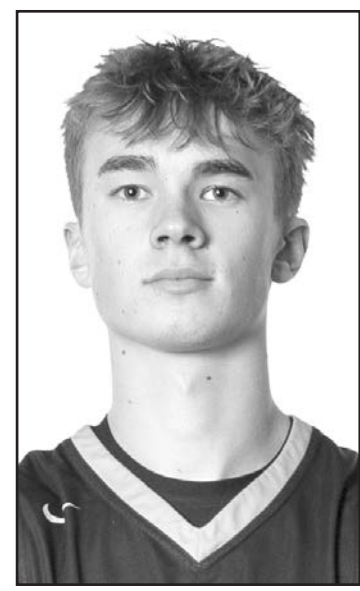
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Reggie Winjum

Current Sport: Basketball
Position: Point Guard/Guard
Favorite Subject: Woods
Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Timberwolves
Favorite Food: Qdoba/Chipotle
Favorite Movie/TV show: Stranger Things
Career Highlight/favorite memory: All the laughs we've had as a team.
Other Sports/Activities: Soccer, Tennis, Band, LEO Club
Hobbies outside of athletics: Drawing, watching shows/movies, taking naps.
Plans After High School: Attend UMC and play basketball there and get a degree.

TIFFANY

Biermaier

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Crookston senior Jay Reese works to skate past Thief River Falls defenseman Beckem Johnson during the third period of Tuesday night's Section 8A boys hockey quarterfinal game between the Pirates and Prowlers. Reese scored a pair of goals in the Pirates' 6-4 loss to the Prowlers. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

Pirates drop heart-breaker to Prowlers

The Crookston boys hockey team was outscored 3-0 in the third period and fell by a score of 6-4 to Thief River Falls in a Section 8A semifinal battle between the Pirates and Prowlers Tuesday night at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Thief River Falls defeated Crookston by scores of 3-1 at the Crookston Sports Center and 7-4 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena during the regular season. The Pirates trailed 6-1 through two periods of action in the latter meeting, before outscoring the Prowlers 3-1 in the final period.

The Pirates seemingly picked up where they left off on that Jan. 6 meeting during Tuesday's game, outshooting the Prowlers 10-7 and outscoring the Prowlers 3-1 in the opening period.

Liam Larson put the puck in the net at the 5:06 mark in the opening period, with Masen Reitmeier and Dylan Larson assisting.

Garrett Fischer was called for tripping with 10:55 remaining in the period. The Pirates were on the power play at the time and Fischer's penalty made it four-on-four for a minute and 10 seconds, before giving the Prowlers their first advantage of the night for 50 seconds.

During the Prowlers' power play, Crookston senior Jay Reese stole the puck and scored unassisted on a breakaway to give the Pirates a 2-0 lead with 9:18 remaining in the period.

An interference penalty on Thief River Falls junior Johnathan Rogalla gave the Pirates their third power play chance of the opening period. However, Thief River

Falls junior Hudson Brouse stole the puck and passed to Spencer Anderson who scored the shorthanded goal with 7:42 left in the first.

The Pirates would bury the puck one more time in the first period with Reese scoring his second of the night with assists by Greyson Ecker and Fischer.

Thief River Falls started its rally in the second period. Brody Radniecki and Anderson scored goals at 5:31 and 6:48 with assists by Ryan Flaagan, Jed Kelly, Ian Winter and Hudson Brouse to tie the game at 3-3.

The Pirates were outshot 13-6 in the second period, but they managed to halt the Prowlers' momentum with a goal by Fischer with 2:37 left before the second intermission. Ecker was credited with an assist on the play and the Pirates took a 4-3 lead into the locker room.

Thief River Falls dominated the third period. Thief River Falls freshman Beckem Johnson tied the game with an unassisted goal 3:39 into the third period.

After eight scoreless minutes, Anderson scored the go-ahead goal for the Prowlers with 5:20 remaining.

A little over two minutes later, the Prowlers added an insurance goal off the stick of Jed Kelly, with assists by Brouse and Anderson.

The Prowlers improved to 12-12-1 with the win and they will advance to Saturday's Section 8A semifinals against top-seeded Warroad Warriors.

The Pirates fell to 15-10-0 and their season came to an end.

Tuesday night's game was the final career game for seniors Dexter Janek, Reese,

Evan Shockman, Gavin Aakhus, Ecker, Tate Hamre, Fischer, Cody Demarais, Isaiah Donarski, Reitmeier, Wyatt Marsyla, Teegyn Johnson, Tony Elbinger and Brady Chandler.

Scoring				
	1	2	3	T
Crookston.....	3	1	0	4
Thief River Falls.....	1	2	3	6

First period - Crookston, Liam Larson (Masen Reitmeier, Dylan Larson) 5:06; Crookston, Jay Reese (short handed) 7:42; TRF, Spencer Anderson (short handed) (Hudson Brouse) 9:18; Crookston, Jay Reese (Greyson Ecker, Garrett Fischer) 14:45.

Second period - TRF, Brody Radniecki (Ryan Flaagan, Jed Kelly) 5:31; TRF, Spencer Anderson (Ian Winter, Hudson Brouse) 6:48; Crookston, Garrett Fischer (Greyson Ecker) 14:23.

Third period - TRF, Beckem Johnson (unassisted) 3:39; TRF, Spencer Anderson (short handed) (unassisted) 11:40; TRF, 14 Jed Kelly (Hudson Brouse, Spencer Anderson) 13:42.

Shots - Crookston 10-6-2 - 18; TRF 7-13-14 - 34.

Power plays - Crookston 0-for-6; TRF 0-for-4.

Penalties - Crookston 5 (21 minutes); TRF 6 (12 minutes).

Goalie saves - Crookston, Brady Chandler 28; TRF, Cooper Rolf 14.

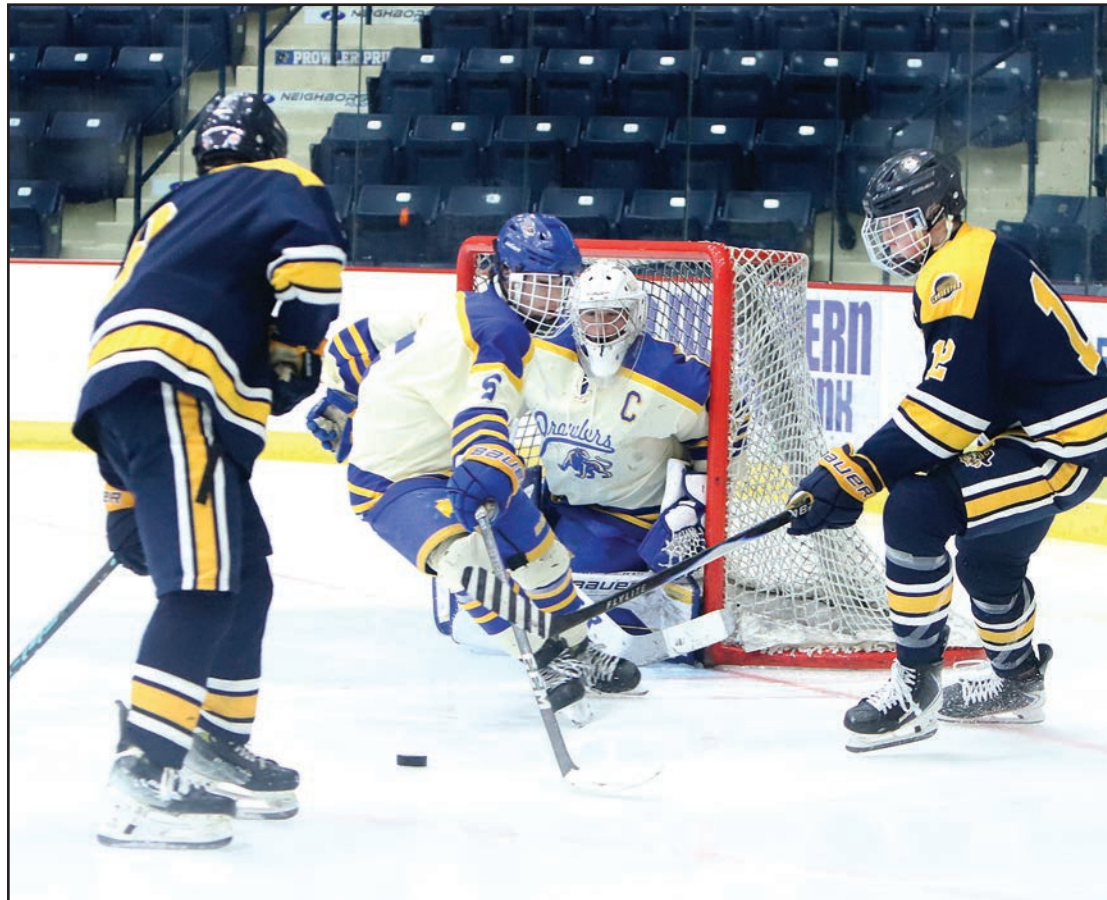
Section 8A Boys Hockey
 ■ Seeds - 1. Warroad 18-5-1; 2. East Grand Forks 9-13-2; 3. Detroit Lakes 15-9-1; 4. Thief River Falls 11-12-1; 5. Crookston 15-9-1; 6. Bagley/Fosston 18-6-0; 7. Red Lake Falls 14-11-8; 8. Park Rapids 11-14-0; 9. Kittson County Central 5-17-0; 10. Lake of the Woods 3-18-0.

■ Play-in round - Saturday, Feb. 14 - Red Lake Falls 10, Lake of the Woods 1; Park Rapids Area 6, Kittson County Central 5.

■ Quarterfinals, Tuesday, Feb. 17 - Warroad 16, Park Rapids Area 0; East Grand Forks 8, Red Lake Falls 2; Detroit Lakes 5, Bagley 1; Thief River Falls 6, Crookston 4.

■ Semifinals, Saturday, Feb. 21 at Thief River Falls - Thief River Falls vs. Warroad 1 p.m.; East Grand Forks vs. Detroit Lakes 3:30 p.m.

■ Championship, Thursday, Feb. 26 at Thief River Falls 7 p.m.



Crookston seniors Jay Reese, left, and Garrett Fischer surround a loose puck in front of the Thief River Falls net during Tuesday's Section 8A quarterfinal game between the Pirates and Prowlers. The Pirates led 3-1 at the end of one and 4-3 at the end of two periods, but couldn't put the Prowlers away in the third period. Reese and Fischer combined for three of Crookston's four goals in the loss. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

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