



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



Publication of the Thief River Falls Times



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324 Main Ave. N., Thief River Falls, MN 56701 • Vol. 2, No. 23

## Fischbach visits Crookston



Rep. Michelle Fischbach (far left) recently visited RiverView Health, seeing its 25-bed Critical Access Hospital, which serves as a lifeline for the region. Fischbach noted that RiverView is currently operating with fewer than 30 days of cash on hand and has had to rely on borrowing just to meet payroll. To address these unsustainable pressures, she

is closely monitoring the implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program and advocating for the approval of the state's Directed Payment Program. These initiatives are essential to ensuring hospitals receive fair federal matching funds and can keep their doors open to provide the care our families deserve. (Submitted)

## City Council hears riverbank concerns

by Anna Phalen  
Correspondent

At the Crookston City Council meeting Monday, March 2, much of the discussion centered on riverbank erosion concerns near the library bridge and several upcoming infrastructure projects

During the forum portion of the meeting, Ken and Gayle Meyers – with Gayle participating by speaker phone – addressed the council regarding ongoing bank erosion near the library bridge on Houston Avenue. The Meyers came to Crookston to teach at the University of Minnesota Crookston and said they are concerned about the stability of the area.

Gayle Meyer told the council she has been in contact with state legislators about potential legislation that would help ease the fi-

nancial burden on cities dealing with residential land erosion issues. She indicated the language for the proposed bill must be prepared within the next three weeks. Meyer said she has been told a landslide in the affected area is possible. She noted that demolition costs for a home under 3,000 square feet are approximately \$18,000. According to Meyer, preliminary figures suggest the city's contribution toward a larger mitigation effort could total around \$1.35 million.

Mayor Dale Stainbrook said the city would continue moving forward on the issue and remain in contact with Interim City Administrator Darin Selzler and Public Works Director Chuck Getsman.

**Engineering reports**  
Under the regular agenda, the council approved Task Order No. 25

from AE2S for preparation of preliminary engineering reports for the city's 2026 priority infrastructure projects.

The \$41,000 task order covers reports for:

- Lift Station 5 rehabilitation
  - Strander Street and South Minnesota Avenue improvements
  - Front Street stormwater outfall improvements
- As part of its consent agenda, the council approved:**
- Appointment of Theresa Tahran as the City of Crookston's representative to the Polk County Affordable Housing Advisory Board
  - A resolution calling for a public hearing on Monday, March 16 for public comment and input on the Small Cities Block application

## RiverView Health celebrates community support on Giving Hearts Day

The community once again demonstrated its remarkable generosity during Giving Hearts Day in support of RiverView Health.

Thanks to 203 donors who gave through the RiverView Foundation, the Feb. 12 event raised more than \$300,000 to enhance patient care and services at RiverView.

"I am grateful and humbled by the hundreds of donations given not only on Giving Hearts Day, but throughout the year, that benefit patients, the services we offer, and the importance of keeping quality healthcare close to home," said Foundation Director Randy

Schoenborn. "Thank you for your level of confidence, support, and trust. It is important for you to know that these dollars will enhance patient care and can heal and save lives."

Undesignated funds will support critical initiatives, including replacement of the Immunoassay Chemistry analyzer and Blood Culture Incubator, as well as expanded rural healthcare services throughout the region. IA testing plays a vital role in diagnosing serious conditions and is often used to confirm or rule out a heart attack in as little as one hour.

Since joining Giving

Hearts Day at its inception in 2008, the foundation has raised more than \$3.2 million through the annual online fundraiser. This year, more than 650 charities participated, generating a preliminary total of approximately \$30.4 million from nearly 71,000 individual donations. To date, Giving Hearts Day has raised more than \$256 million for nonprofits across North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

To learn more about the RiverView Foundation and the programs it supports, contact Randy Schoenborn at 218-281-9249 or rschoenborn@riverviewhealth.org.



The She Gees will perform Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at Crookston High School. Admission is by season ticket only. Season

tickets can be purchased at the door before the concert Tuesday. (Submitted)

## Tax resources available

The Crookston Public Library is here to help you navigate tax season. Those looking to file their taxes may:

- Print forms and instructions: Print directly from the library's public computers for a small fee
- File online: Access public computers to complete and submit tax returns.
- Pick up forms: The library will have a limited supply of printed IRS forms available while supplies last.

While library staff will not provide tax advice, they may help you locate needed forms and resources. They can also connect you with local agencies for specific tax-related questions.

## The She Gees to perform

Concert set for Tuesday

Get ready to groove to the timeless tunes of one of the most legendary bands of all time with The She Gees on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at Crookston High School.

Admission is by season ticket only. Season tickets can be purchased at the door before the concert Tuesday.

This electrifying all-female tribute to the Bee Gees will have you dancing and singing along to all of your favorite hits. With impeccable

harmonies and soulful vocals, The She Gees pay homage to the Bee Gees in a way that is both authentic and fresh. From "Stayin' Alive" to "How Deep Is Your Love" to "Night Fever" to "Jive Talkin'," they capture the essence of the Bee Gees' sound and energy, making you feel like you're experiencing the real thing.

This concert is a part of the Crookston Civic Music League's Entertainment Series 2025-26 season. For ticket information call Elaine Metzger at 218-281-2681 or Emily Luckow at 218-281-5907.

## Learning about FFA



Isabel Pahlen, Crookston FFA member, visited Our Savior's Lutheran School on Thursday, Feb. 26. She shared information about

FFA and presented lessons and activities on plants, farm animals, Minnesota wildlife, and farm machinery. (Submitted)

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# Man charged with threatening to set woman on fire



Jimmy Allen Gray Jr.

A Crookston man has been charged in Polk County District Court after he allegedly assaulted a woman and threatened to set her on fire.

Jimmy Allen Gray Jr., 20, has been charged with

felony counts of threats of violence and domestic assault. He was arrested.

Gray's girlfriend suffered back pain after the alleged assault. It was unclear from the complaint whether she sought medical care.

According to the complaint filed Tuesday, the woman allegedly said the couple argued about the people with whom she was communicating over the phone. Gray then said he was going to pour oil on her. He went outside and returned, saying he was going to instead pour gasoline on the woman. At the time, Gray was holding a cup and a cigarette. When he returned, he grabbed a bottle of oil. The woman said she wanted to have a conversation. Gray then grabbed her by the hair and struck her in the lip. He pinned her down on a couch, causing her to suffer back pain afterward.

Gray's father allegedly said he exited his bedroom, finding Gray with his arms around the woman's throat. He said Gray told the woman that he planned to set fire to her. Gray then dragged the woman off of the couch. Gray then went outside and returned soon afterward. He then grabbed a bottle of oil, saying he was going to pour it on the woman. However, Gray placed the bottle on a table, continued pulling the

woman and forced her outside. The woman was able to reenter the home, where Gray had apparently remained. He said Gray told the woman that she could have her phone back in three days. Gray then picked her up and threw her onto a loveseat. At some point, Gray left the home.

Another police officer located Gray walking along Third Avenue Northeast. He allegedly denied that a physical altercation occurred. He said the couple had argued. At the time that Gray was detained, he possessed the woman's phone.

Police were later provided a recording from the woman's phone. The video was black since the woman had made the recording while her phone was in her pocket. Police could allegedly hear Gray saying, "I'm going to pour this on you."

The complaint indicated that Gray had been adjudicated delinquent of threats of violence in November 2020 in Norman County. He was convicted of felony threats of violence in February 2025 in Polk County. Another woman was the victim in that case.

## CHEDA to meet March 19

The Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority will hold a special board meeting Thursday, March 19, at 7 a.m. at Valley Technology Park, 510 County Rd. 71 in Crookston.

The main agenda will include consideration of an amendment to the CHEDA bylaws.

A full agenda will be provided at least three business days prior to the meeting date.

# Man dies after snowmobile accident

A Thief River Falls man died after a snowmobile accident Saturday, Feb. 28 northeast of Gently.

Deputies arrived on scene, along with Crookston Area Ambulance shortly thereafter, and initiated life-saving measures on Cody Teie, 33, Thief River Falls.

Teie succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Teie was snowmobiling in Gently Township at the time. No further information was provided regarding how the crash occurred at about

2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Teie was wearing a helmet. Alcohol isn't believed to be a factor in the crash.

The Minnesota State Patrol and University of North Dakota Forensic Pathology Department also responded.

# Library to host gardening events

The Crookston Public Library will hold two upcoming gardening events.

The library will open its seed library and host a seed exchange on Saturday, March 21 at 11 a.m. The seed library is offered in partnership with Polk County Extension's Master Gardener volunteers and the Tri-Valley Family Resource Center. Participants are in-

cluded to bring viable seeds to exchange with others and/or donate to the Crookston Seed Library as well as pick up free garden seeds to plant (while supplies are available). Seeds should be in secure packaging with some envelopes supplied. The seed library is made possible thanks to seed donations from the Family Resource Center and the support of

the Polk County Master Gardener volunteers.

The fun isn't just for adults. The library's monthly Library Learning Lab will feature the topic of gardening, inviting youth to explore learning with activities and crafts. The programs are scheduled Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m. and Tuesday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.



The Crookston Ambassador Team met Wednesday, March 4 with Stella Duden, owner of Pretty N' Polished. She opened the business in June in the same building as Hair Connexion at 310 South Broadway. Her more popular services are a basic gel manicure, acrylic, builder gel and Gel-X. Hours are Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pictured are (from left) Kristy Morris Leas (Old National Bank), Bishop Jensen

(The Jeweler), Duden, Michelle Christopher (University of Minnesota Crookston) and Tracy Kuchan (LeBlanc Realty). Carrie Bergquist (American Federal Bank) isn't pictured. To join the Crookston Ambassador Team or to have the team visit, call or text Carrie Bergquist at 218-289-1823. Activities and responsibilities include gathering to recognize, honor and congratulate innovative businesses in Crookston. Ambassadors also offer support, encouragement and resources to local entrepreneurs. (Submitted)

**NOTICE:**

Fairfax Township will be receiving Quotes for Class 5 Road Gravel Delivered for 2026 and Quotes for Road Maintainer and Snow Removal. Send or Deliver all Quotes to: Kevin Weber, 33520 210th Ave SW, Crookston, MN by March 10, 2025. Kevin Weber, Clerk

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# Crookston Area Ministries

<p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 23928 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. &amp; 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 &amp; Prayer Service</p>	<p><b>CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523 Pastor Matt Williams 218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN www.fisherbyglad.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch 218-891-4632 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p><b>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES</b> 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><b>RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC</b> 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><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b> 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	
<p><b>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN www.fisherbyglad.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-893-4243 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p><b>CONCORDIA LUTHERAN</b> 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><b>FREEDOM CHURCH</b> Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston hellofreedomchurch.com Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN</b> 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><b>RODNES LUTHERAN</b> 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on Cty 210 Office: 218-456-4345 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><b>MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN</b> 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><b>CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON &amp; ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY</b> 702 Summit Avenue - Crookston 218-281-1735, Parish, 218-281-1835, School &amp; 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 Gently 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><b>ENCOUNTER CHURCH</b> 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><b>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT</b> 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><b>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Nielsville, MN Monty &amp; 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><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> 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><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 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><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN</b> 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><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 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><b>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE</b> 10490 438th St SW Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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>	
<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 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><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC)</b> 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><b>NEXUS CHURCH</b> 605 3rd Ave NE - Crookston Lead Pastor, Danny Holwerda, Jr. Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR</b> Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X</b> 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020 Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	
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<p><b>Farmer's Elevator Co.</b> Eldred, MN 281-1364</p>	<p><b>CROOKSTON FUEL CO.</b> For fast friendly service call Bill today 218-289-1969 Hwy. 75 South, Crookston</p>	<p><b>Stenshoel-Houske</b> FUNERAL &amp; CREMATION SERVICE Monument &amp; Marker SALES 615 S. Minnesota St • PO Box 584 • Crookston, MN 56716 (218) 281-3312 • Fax: (218) 281-3059 • stenshou@midconetwork.com</p>	<p><b>SECURE AN AD SPOT!</b> Contact us about advertising on this page &amp; reach thousands of readers every month. CALL US TODAY (218) 681-4450</p>			<p><b>GROW YOUR BUSINESS</b></p>

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**THIEF RIVER FALLS Times**  
**OFFICE HOURS**

The Times office hours are:  
**Monday - Thursday**  
 8 am - 5 pm

**Friday**  
 8 am - 3 pm

**DEATHS**

**Gerald Nelson, 88**

Gerald Neil Nelson, 88, of Erskine, passed away on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Jerry's funeral service was held on Monday March 2, 2026, at Harvest Church in Crookston. A committal service was held at Vernes Cemetery, rural McIntosh.

**Gerald "Jerry" Reitmeier, 76**

Gerald "Jerry" Reitmeier, 76, of Crookston, passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home in Crookston.

**Charles Merten, 89**

Charles Dan Merten, 89, passed away on February 26, 2026.

A celebration of Dan's life was held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home.

**Keith Parkin, 71**

Keith Parkin, 71, of Crookston, passed away on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

A celebration of life ceremony will be at a later date.

**NOTICES**

**PARNELL TOWNSHIP** Election And Annual Meeting Will Be Held On **Tuesday, March 10, 2026** At The Clerk's Home, 21740 County Highway 252 SW, Crookston. For One (1) Supervisor And Clerk. Hours For Election Are **5:00 p.m. Until 8:00 p.m.** Annual Meeting At **8:05 p.m.** Absentee Voting Is On **Saturday, March 7, 2026** From **10:00 a.m. Until Noon.** If Inclement Weather, It Will Be Moved To **Tuesday, March 17, 2026.**  
 ~ Deanne Doda, Clerk CF2119c

**BELGIUM TOWNSHIP** Will Hold Its Annual Township Meeting On **Tuesday, March 10** From **5:00-6:00 p.m.** At The Joe Stroot Farm. Located At **237791 140th St. SW, Euclid.** In Case Of Inclement Weather, The Meeting Will Be Postponed Until **Tuesday, March 17,** At The Same Time And Location.  
 ~ ileanna Noyes, Clerk CF2119c

**HAMMOND TOWNSHIP** Annual Meeting And Election Will Be Held On **Tuesday, March 10, 2026** At The Home Of The Chairperson, Robin Brekken, **35837 250th Ave. SW, Crookston.** Election Will Be Between **5:00-8:00 p.m.** Annual Meeting Will Be At **8:00 p.m.** In Case Of Bad Weather, The Election Will Be Held On **Tuesday, March 17** At The Same Place And Same Hours.  
 ~ Connor Morgan, Clerk CF1119c

**BELGIUM TOWNSHIP** Is Now Accepting Road Maintenance And Gravel Bids Through **Tuesday, March 10.** Bids May Be Mailed Or Dropped Off At **Belgium Township, 23100 150th St. SW, Euclid.** Bids May Also Be Given To Township Supervisors. Belgium Township Reserves The Right To Refuse Any Bid.  
 ~ ileanna Noyes, Clerk CF2119c

Notice Is Hereby Given To The Qualified Voters Of **CHESTER TOWNSHIP,** County Of Polk, State Of Minnesota, That The Annual Meeting Will Be Held On **Tuesday, March 10, 2026.** In Case Of Inclement Weather, The Meeting May Be Postponed Until **Tuesday, March 17, 2026.** The Annual Meeting Will Commence At **10:00 a.m.** To Conduct All Necessary Business Prescribed By Law. The Annual Meeting Will Be Held At The Following Location: **CHESTER TOWN HALL.**  
 ~ Nerissa LaCoursiere, Chester Township Clerk CF2119c

**HAMMOND TOWNSHIP** Will Be Receiving Quotes For Class A Road Gravel Delivered For 2026 And Quotes For Road Maintainer And Snow Removal. Send Or Deliver All Quotes To Robin Brekken, **35837 250th Ave. SW, Crookston, MN** By **March 10, 2026.**  
 ~ Connor Morgan, Clerk CF1119c

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**55 YEARS**  
 of service and dedication to RiverView Health of Crookston, MN  
 July 1971 - February 2026  
 Welcome to your next chapter. We love you!  
 Jim, Steve, Brian, Julie + families

LET'S CELEBRATE!  
 There is an open house celebration for Carol  
**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 2-4pm at the Crookston Inn.

**KNEE PAIN?**  
**HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD YOUR KNEE IS "BONE ON BONE"?**

**Breakthrough Treatment for Knee Osteoarthritis**  
**NON-SURGICAL Drug Free Treatment**

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Nathan Weiss  
 D.C., C.ACU

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- **Summerfield Place Apartments - TRF/Newfolden/Roseau/Crookston** (market rate; accepts housing vouchers) 1 & 2 Bedroom
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**NOTICE:**  
 Fairfax Township Annual meeting and election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the office of Crookston Valley COOP in Crookston, between the hours of 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. In case of bad weather, the election will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the same place and same hours. Absentee Voting will be held Saturday, March 7, 2026 at the George W Meyer Inc. Shop located in Fairfax Township, 316450 220th Ave SW, between the hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The election of 1 - Supervisor and 1 - Clerk will be held. Fairfax Township will have public meetings for the residents of Fairfax on the first Tuesday of each month at the Office of Crookston Valley COOP at 7:30 a.m.  
 Kevin Weber, Clerk

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**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:  
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LEGAL 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
Summons for Third Party Custody
Statutes, Chapter 257C
Amanda Lee Stave &
Manuel Daniel Castro,
Petitioners,

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

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 Pe-
tioners custody of the following Minor
Children: Taqira 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 ad-
dress: 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 Sum-
mons, 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

March 7, 2026
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION
FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
In accordance with the required Min-
nesota State Statutes, Notice is hereby
given that the Planning Commission of the
City of Crookston will meet in the
Council Chambers of City Hall at 7:00
pm, Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 to con-
sider the issuance of a Conditional Use
Permit which, if issued, will allow:

Alexia Ingle to be allowed to run a li-
censed family daycare as a neighborhood
business at a residential home used
solely for childcare services; The property
in question is currently in an R-2 1&2
Family Residential Zone. The legal de-
scription of property is as follows:

STEARNS ADDITION
Block 3 Lot 9
Parcel Number: 82.00801.00
Address: 910 Stearns Street
Crookston MN 56716
Publish Date: March 7, 2026

Interested persons may present written
or oral comments regarding the requested
Variance Request at the aforesaid time
and place.

CROOKSTON PLANNING
COMMISSION
CITY OF CROOKSTON
Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Hefta
Zoning Administrator

Rural Reflections ...

Stepping away from my own
perspective while listening to music

by
Grant
Nelson



I was verbally scrolling
through music on the bath-
room Google Nest device (it's
like Alexa) in our shower
one morning. I like to just
call out random music selec-
tions from YouTube music
while I get ready for work.
It's like I am trying to top
the last selection with some-
thing better each time. I
started with some Johnny
Cash, segued into Steve
Earle but was stuck for the
next step until the obvious
came to mind - Hoyt Axton.
For me, playing Hoyt
Axton is a combination of

engaging the turbocharger,
locking down the super-
charger and hitting the
hyper-space button. There's
nothing more you can do
after you drop the digital
needle on a good Axton tune
but just enjoy and prepare
for the inevitable vacuum of
silence when it ends.

I like to write about
music every once in a while.
I fully realize that some mu-
sicians are flawed and not
always perfect; let he who
has no sin cast first stone.
Axton music makes me feel
good and creates stories in
my mind that are wild and
entertaining. I play it for a
"treat" when I feel like I ei-
ther earned it or need it.

Axton is probably more
successful for not being fa-
mous, what I mean is he
probably made his living
more as a writer than a
singer. This is partly inher-

ited as his mother wrote
"Heartbreak Hotel" for Elvis
Presley. Axton wrote songs
for several well-known
artists; however, I think
"Joy to the World" sung by
Three Dog Night is probably
his most iconic. He also
played the part of the inven-
tor in the movie Gremlins,
along with others.

On to Axton as singer,
that's where I meet him in
the creativity nebula. "Della
and the Dealer" is a song
that talks about a man, a
woman, a dog named Jake
and a cat named Kalamazoo
who take off out west to
make their dreams come
true. There's little I like bet-
ter than dogs and cats with
clever names and the prom-
ise of realized dreams.

I feel like Axton's music
doesn't really talk about the
world but rather the world
as he dreamed it. I find the

world is a wonderful place
when I step away from my
own perspective and just
allow it to dazzle me.
Axton's words pull the old
wool blanket of human per-
spective off the world and let
it float up to a fanciful level
where he could describe it in
song. Not bad for a three-
minute tune.

"Wild Bull Rider" is an-
other favorite Axton tune.
"Billy" is the bull rider in
this song and not only rides
the "killer bull" but then
picks up his girl, Dixie, and
they ride the bull across the
Rockies and the country
then off to Jupiter and back.
With all the traveling, Billy
still would rather "be from
Oklahoma than the nebu-
lous stars." Writing the
words now, I can feel my
heart pump a little harder
as I break a smile.

Moen heads into retirement
after long RiverView career



Michelle Moen

After 18 years as a
RiverView Health occupa-
tional therapist, Michelle
Moen has retired. Before
heading for a month of sun-
shine on Florida's Gulf
Coast, she reflected on the
chance she took on a second
career as an OT - and the
loss of a coin toss that

landed her right where she
was supposed to be.

Although Jan. 10, 2008,
was the official start of her
RiverView career, Michelle's
story with the organization
began years earlier when
she spent a few days shadow-
ing OT staff in 1997 or
1998. Later, with the flip of a
coin, she landed a 12-week
fieldwork placement at
RiverView for the summer of
2002.

RiverView wasn't her de-
sired summer location back
then. Her first choice was St.
Luke's in Fargo (now San-
ford), but when a classmate
from the University of Mary
(Bismarck) selected the
same site - and only one stu-
dent could go - Michelle sug-
gested a coin toss. The
winner would head to Fargo,
the loser to Crookston. She
lost.

"As it turns out," she said,
"Garth Brooks was right -
some of God's greatest gifts
really are unanswered
prayers."

At the time, the head of
Rehab Services was Curt
Onstad, a longtime OT.
When Michelle's 12 weeks
wrapped up and it was time
to move on, she remembers
Onstad smiling and saying,
"You'll be back."

Sure enough, he was

right. After graduating and
"stalking" RiverView's
website and newspaper classi-
fied ads, she found what she
was looking for, a "work
home" where she could grow
and eventually retire.

Other than patient care,
Michelle worked as the OT
coordinator at RiverView for
a time. Ultimately, she de-
cided to step down to commit
all of her time to what she
loved most, direct patient
care.

Change has been a con-
stant throughout her
RiverView career - both po-
sitive and challenging. On
the positive side, technology
has transformed the way
care is delivered. Early doc-
umentation involved hand-
written notes in physical
charts, dictated reports, and
typed documentation by the
OTs. Then came OneChart
(EPIC) - a true game
changer, she reported. The
opening of the new hospital
in the middle of the COVID-
19 pandemic stands out as
another highlight.

However, not all changes
were easy. Financial chal-
lenges brought - and still
bring - difficult transitions.
Michelle cited the sale of
Hillcrest Nursing Home in
Red Lake Falls, the closing
of the Care Center's general

care, the shift of
RiverView Recovery Center
from inpatient to outpatient
care, and the closing of
Memory Care as sad losses,
having worked in all of those
settings.

Still, pride outweighs the
challenges. After years in
administrative assistant
roles, she's especially proud
that she returned to college
at age 38 to pursue occupa-
tional therapy - something
she calls the best decision
she ever made. She's also
proud of the fact that she set
a goal to reach 15 years with
RiverView before retiring
and last month she reached
18 years with the organiza-
tion - transitioning from
full-time to part-time to
PRN along the way.

In retirement, Michelle
plans to continue her DIY
projects at her and her hus-
band's townhome and lake
cabin, while enjoying plenty
of time at the lake. With no
shortage of hobbies, she'll
keep curling, crocheting,
reading, baking, and explor-
ing whatever else sparks her
interest. A tandem skydive -
with a possible assist from
former inpatient unit RN
Linda Bahls, now a skydiving
expert - and attending the
Rose Parade remain on
her bucket list.

Talking colonoscopies with the
University of Minnesota

by Alex Smith
Media Relations
Manager

For Colorectal Cancer
Awareness Month, James
Hougas III, MD, with the
University of Minnesota
Medical School and M
Health Fairview, talks about
the importance of colonos-
copies, misconceptions and
how the procedure provides
critical health information.

Q: In short, what is a
colonoscopy?

Dr. Hougas: Colonoscopy
is a medical procedure
where a doctor uses a cam-

era to look at a patient's
large intestine to find and
remove precancerous and
cancerous growths called
polyps. It is one of the tools
doctors have to prevent and
detect colon cancer. It can
also be used to diagnose cer-
tain types of diseases of the
colon. The colonoscopy itself
is only as thick as most peo-
ple's pointer finger and is
very flexible.

Q: Why is it important to
get a colonoscopy?

Dr. Hougas: About one
in 25 U.S. adults will end up
getting diagnosed with colon
cancer in their lifetime.
There are several available
options for screening for
colon cancer, and all of them
help people live longer and
live better by either prevent-
ing or finding colon cancer
earlier. For reasons we don't
yet totally understand, colon
cancer has been affecting
people earlier in their lives
than in previous genera-
tions.

Q: When should I get a
colonoscopy?

Dr. Hougas: The United
States Preventive Services
Task Force recommends
colon cancer screening for all
adults between the ages of
45 and 75. For adults aged
75 to 85, they should have
an individualized discussion
with their primary care
physician about the benefits
of continuing screening.
Additionally, if there is a family
history in someone's first
degree relatives (parents, sib-
lings or children), it is
recommended for them to
begin screening either 10
years before their family
member's diagnosis of colon
cancer or at age 40 -
whichever is earlier. An im-
portant difference in this

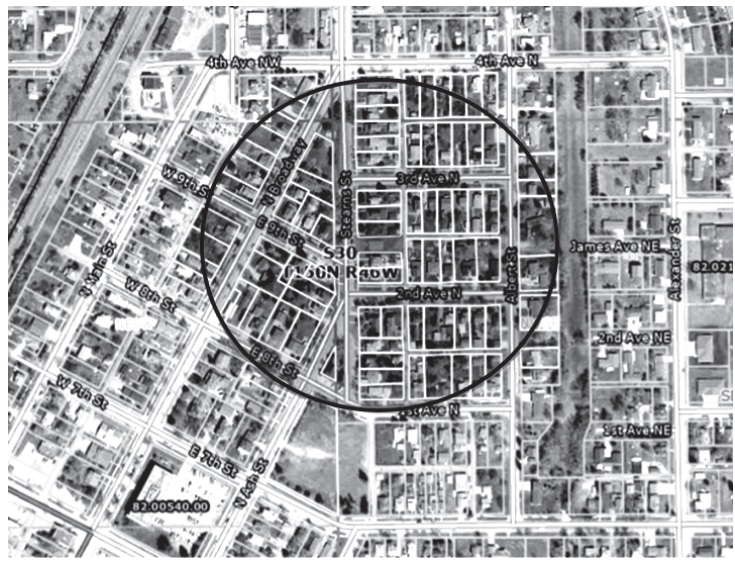
group of people with family
history is that the only rec-
ommended screening test is
colonoscopy. We also equate
large or advanced polyps in
first degree relatives as the
same as a family history of
colon cancer.

Q: What are common mis-
conceptions about colonos-
copies?

Dr. Hougas: I think
there are several misconcep-
tions about colonoscopies.
For one, I think people are
worried it can be painful.
However, the colon doesn't
actually feel pain the same
way that our skin does. Pa-
tients could watch a polyp
get removed and not feel it.
What the colon can feel is
stretch. Therefore, some-
times putting in air to be
able to see what we're doing
or going around corners can
cause some cramping and
discomfort. This is why in
the United States we use sed-
ation for the majority of our
colonoscopies.

I think that people are
also worried about things
being 'dirty.' As I like to say,
everyone has a colon! There
is no part of any of our bod-
ies that is intrinsically
wrong or dirty. It is simply a
part of our body that needs
healthcare, and your doctors
are excited to give you that
healthcare.

Dr. James Hougas III is
an associate professor and
family medicine physician
with M Health Fairview. He
joined the University of Min-
nesota St. John's Hospital
Family Medicine Residency
in 2017. He is interested in
infectious diseases, antimicro-
bial stewardship, trauma
care and systems, office
based procedures, physician
leadership and colonoscopy.



Polk County Minnesota Employment Opportunities:
Highway Maintenance - Highway Department:
(East Grand Forks, MN)
\$26.56-\$33.64/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.
Emergency Preparedness and Response
Wellness Coordinator or RN - Public Health:
\$32.90-\$46.82/hr. Position Closes Wednesday, March 18, 2026.
Assistant Finance Director - Finance Department:
\$41.53-\$52.61/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.
Clerk Typist Cashier IV - Finance Department:
\$22.30-\$28.25/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, March 11, 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.
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.
For a full job description, application, and general
job openings information, go to www.co.polk.mn.us
and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408
Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

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Photos Courtesy of Tiffany Biermaier Photography



RiverView Health



# National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026



Crookston FFA's soil team placed 1st in Region 1 and will be moving on to the state contest. This team is made up of Eva Gosse, Ella Capistran, Anna Heldstab, and Haddie Halland. In the Soils Contest, students judge four land areas, either pits or soil borings. Students evaluate the soil based on color, texture, thickness, slope, and land capability. There are also sections on fertilizer and erosion that they evaluate.



Crookston FFA's poultry team placed 5th and earned a trip to state! The team is made up of Isabella Cisneros, Molly Workman, Autumn Torkelson, and Anastasia Noyes. In the Poultry Contest, teams evaluate and select live meat chickens and live egg hens. They also evaluate and grade ready-to-cook carcasses and parts of chickens and turkeys, eggs, and further processed poultry products. They identify poultry parts and complete a written exam on poultry production and management.



Crookston FFA's floriculture team placed 2nd at the regional competition and will be moving onto state. This team is made up of Lillianna Bridgeford, Emilee Smith, NevayahLee Bruce, and Eric Pierson. In the Floriculture Contest, students participate in a variety of plant and tool identification, a general floriculture exam, a problem solving exercise, and demonstrate their skills in flower arrangement. The event gives students the insights into floral shop management and floral design.



Crookston FFA's team for forestry placed 1st in the regional contests and earned them a trip to state! The team is made up of Leah Johanneck, Addisyn Schiller, Allison Abeld, and Isabel Pahlen. In the Forestry Career Development Event, students demonstrate their skills in diagnosing forest disorders, managing forests and forest inventory and applying approved silviculture practices. Participation in the event offers students experience relevant to a career choice in forestry and natural resources. Members demonstrate knowledge through a written exam of basic forestry principles, tree and equipment identification, and demonstration of practical forestry skills, such as forest disorders, forest management, inventory and approved silviculture practices.



Crookston FFA had 2 individuals competing at the region event and Hayden Ricard placed 6th individually and qualified for state. In the Milk Quality and Products contest, members complete a written exam on milk production and marketing, evaluate milk samples for flavor and quality, identify cheeses, demonstrate problem-solving skills in distinguishing real and artificial dairy foods, merchandising dairy foods, and current issues in marketing dairy foods.



Crookston FFA's Companion Animal Science team placed 1st at their regional contest and qualified for state. The team is made up of Bailee Klinnert, Emmy Johnson, McKinna Amiot, and Alex Zammert. In the Companion Animal Science contest, students complete a written exam, critical thinking scenario questions, animal breed identification, and animal anatomy identification. This contest is designed to assess student knowledge, application, analytical, and evaluation abilities in the area of small animal care, veterinary skills, and pet store management.

Crookston FFA has five teams yet to compete in contests in April: Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Agriculture Mechanics, Meats Evaluation, Farm Business Management, and Agriculture Sales. All state qualified teams will compete at the MN FFA Convention, April 19-21 at the UMN St. Paul Campus, MN State Fair Grounds and General sessions will be held in 3M Arena at Mariucci on the UMN Minneapolis Campus.

## Proud Supporters of FFA

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Good Luck to Bailee and All of the Minnesota State FFA Convention Competitors!

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Crookston FFA member Addisyn Schiller is competing in the brand new agriculture education CDE. Addisyn placed 2nd at the region competition and will submit her lesson plans to the state to see if she is able to compete at the state level. In the agricultural education CDE it encourages FFA members to explore agricultural education as a potential career field and to provide members with an introduction to the basic skills necessary for facilitating learning experiences.



Each year, Minnesota FFA hosts a state event for the finalists of the Leadership Development Events from the regional contests. Crookston FFA had two teams advance from Region 1's regional competitions, one in Parliamentary Procedure and the other in Conduct of Chapters.

In the Conduct of Chapter Meeting contest, students in grades 7-9 are introduced to parliamentary procedure as they learn how to conduct efficient meetings and build their communication skills. Students partake in a chapter meeting demonstration, oral questions, and an exam.

In the Parliamentary Procedure contest, members complete a written examination and then demonstrate their proficiency at using the correct parliamentary procedure in conducting meetings. Contestants discuss chapter events during their mock meeting.

The Parliamentary Procedures team consisted of Leah Johannek (Chair), Ben Capistran (Vice President), Emilee Smith (Secretary), Sylvia Christensen (Treasurer), Mykayla Garcia (Reporter), and Addisyn Schiller (Sentinel).



A few of the students from the Crookston FFA chapter went to Our Savior's Church School and Highland Elementary School to visit many different students to teach them about FFA and different agricultural experiences.



The Conduct of Chapters team consisted of Brady Samuelson (Chair), Emmagail Frantz (Vice President), Garrett Wilkens (Secretary), Molly Workman (Treasurer), Ella Capistran (Reporter), Isabella Cisneros (Sentinel), and Axl Page (Student Advisor). Both teams competed and made the finals at the 2025-2026 State Contests in December. The Conduct of Chapters team finished 6th in Minnesota State FFA and the Parliamentary Procedures team finished 2nd in Minnesota State FFA!



**Minnesota State FFA Convention 2026**

Crookston FFA has had an amazing start to their year with their Career Development Events! These events are designed to help students prepare for careers in agriculture by letting their knowledge and skills be tested in competitions.

**Dress Up Days!**

Students at Crookston Middle School and the High School participated in dress up days throughout National FFA Week!

Monday, students wore their pajamas to school

Tuesday, students dressed as animals or in animal print

Wednesday, students wore camouflage

Thursday, students wore red, white, and blue for U.S.A. Day

Friday, students wore blue and gold to both support FFA and the Crookston Pirates



**Celebrating National FFA Week at the University of Minnesota Crookston**

Home to the only collegiate FFA chapter in Minnesota, we're proud to support the legacy of the National FFA Organization right here on campus.

**HOW IS FFA UNIQUE?**

- **LIFE-CHANGING** - FFA facilitates formative experiences, altering the course of students' lives for the better.
- **SCHOOL-BASED** - FFA is intracurricular: members must be enrolled in an agricultural education class.
- **CAREER-READINESS** - FFA members develop the necessary skills to continue their education in college or to enter the workforce immediately.
- **GLOBAL PURPOSE** - FFA prepares members to be globally conscious citizens of their community, their state, their country, and the world.
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# Minnesota Crookston baseball triumphs over Rockhurst 8-5 in Florida

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team scored four runs in the eighth and ninth innings to edge Rockhurst University Monday, March 2 at Lake Myrtle Park in Auburndale, Fla. The game was plagued by errors, as the Golden Eagles had three, and the Hawks six.

The Golden Eagles improved to 8-6 with the win. Minnesota Crookston improved to 2-1 with Monday's victory. Rockhurst dropped to 9-2 with just their second loss of the season. The victory is their first over the Hawks since a 12-8 win in Clearwater March 14, 2016. Nate Benning (Jr., LHP,

Browerville) put together his second consecutive quality start. Benning tossed five innings, allowing an unearned run on four hits. He struck out five, and walked one. Aaron Bennett (R-Jr., RHP, Saginaw) allowed one earned run on two hits. Ashton Detloff (Fr., LHP, Perham) had a quality outing out of the bullpen to improve to 2-0 with the win. He threw three innings, allowing no runs on one hit. Detloff struck out four, and walked one. Joey Connelly (Sr., LHP, Eden Prairie) walked two and allowed one run in the ninth, while Isaac Roers (R-Sr., RHP, Stacy) shut the door for his first save of the season. He tossed one inning, allowing no runs on no hits.

Meade Rutherford started and tossed six innings, allowing three runs on three hits. He struck out five, and walked two. Brendan Rodis

fell to 2-2 with the loss, allowing one earned run on three hits in 2.1 innings. He struck out two, and walked one. Zach Boland got a crucial strikeout in 0.1 innings of action.

Minnesota Crookston scattered eight hits Monday. Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 1-of-5, with two runs scored. Aaron Wensloff (Jr., IF, Roseau) finished 1-of-5, with an RBI, and a run scored. Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) hit 1-of-3, with a run scored. Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 1-of-6, with an RBI and a run scored.

The Hawks were guided by Dakota Hannah, who went 1-of-4 with two RBIs. Michael Laudando was 2-of-5, with a run scored, while Kaden Jeffries went 2-of-3.

Minnesota Crookston took a 1-0 lead in the second when Caden Kappes (Jr., IF, Wah-

peton, N.D.) reached on a fielder's choice, driving in fellow Wahpeton-native Fliflet. Later in the second, Uhlich reached on a fielder's choice, plating Leach to extend the lead to 2-0. Tyler Miller (So., SS, Grand Rapids) crossed on a wild pitch to extend the advantage to 3-0.

Rockhurst took a run back in the bottom of the fifth. Braeden Barbee hit a single to drive in Luke Schultz to cut the deficit to 3-1.

In the sixth, a Dakota Hanna single to center field plated Laudando, and Afton Koch to knot the tilt 3-3. Rockhurst took the 4-3 lead when Colton Wemhoff scored on a Schultz groundout.

Minnesota Crookston tied the game in the seventh when Uhlich scored after stealing third, and scoring on a throwing error.

The Golden Eagles took the lead in the eighth with a

single from pinch-hitter Jonah Norman (R-Jr., C, Winniepeg, Manitoba). Fliflet scored, while Miller scored on an error to lengthen the lead to 6-4.

Minnesota Crookston pushed their lead to 7-4 in the ninth with an Aaron Wensloff double to score Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.). Later in the ninth, Wensloff scored after stealing third, and coming around on an error to extend the advantage to 8-4.

Rockhurst made a comeback attempt in the bottom of the ninth. Connelly came on and hit Luke Feucht with a pitch, followed by walks offered to Barbee, and Josh Syfert to load the bases with no outs. Koch reached on a fielder's choice, scoring Feucht to trim the lead to 8-5. Roers was able to get crucial outs from Laudando and Wemhoff to get the save.

## Golden Eagles fall to Creighton University

Golden Eagle Tennis played their first of two weekend matches against division one opponents, falling 6-1 to Creighton University Saturday, Feb. 28.

It was a tough matchup, but the Golden Eagles played some tight sets in the loss, taking one of the singles matches. With the loss, the Golden Eagles fall to 3-6 on the season.

In doubles, Daniela de Lucas Rivera (Jr., Madrid, Spain) and Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain) fell 6-2, Asli Oktay (So., Istanbul, Turkey) and Ariadna Solis Guals (Jr., Santpedor, Spain) lost 6-2, Kavya Singh (Sr., Agra, India) and Nadia Cases Mundet (Jr., Barcelona, Spain) lost 6-0, and Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain) and Katie VanPelt (So., Austin, Minn.) lost 6-0.

In singles, Asli Oktay fell 6-2 and 6-0, Nadia Cases Mundet lost 6-0 and 6-3, Ariadna Solis Guals lost 6-1 and 6-0, Abril Manas Hernandez lost 6-1 in both sets, Kavya Singh lost 6-0 and 6-2, and Abby VanPelt (So., Austin, Minn.) lost 6-0 in both sets.

The Golden Eagles will head south to Orlando, Florida for two games. On Sunday, March 8th, the Golden Eagles will play California University of Pennsylvania. On Monday, March 9th, they will play Bryn Mawr College for the first time in program history.

**Golden Eagles fall to Fighting Hawks**  
Golden Eagle Tennis

wrapped up their weekend of Division One matchups with a match against the University of North Dakota this morning, ultimately losing 7-0. The final score does not do the Golden Eagles justice, however, as they made the Fighting Hawks work for every point.

In doubles, Asli Oktay (So., Istanbul, Turkey) and Ariadna Solis Guals (Jr., Santpedor, Spain) lost 6-2, Kavya Singh (Sr., Agra, India) and Nadia Cases Mundet (Jr., Barcelona, Spain) lost 6-0, and Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain) and Katie VanPelt (So., Austin, Minn.) lost 6-0.

In singles, Asli Oktay fell 6-2 and 6-0, Nadia Cases Mundet lost 6-0 and 6-3, Ariadna Solis Guals lost 6-1 and 6-0, Abril Manas Hernandez lost 6-1 in both sets, Kavya Singh lost 6-0 and 6-2, and Abby VanPelt (So., Austin, Minn.) lost 6-0 in both sets.

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## Golden Eagles get dominant 19-1 win over Senators

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team put together a stand-out performance at the plate and on the mound in a commanding 19-1 victory over Davis and Elkins College Sunday, March 1 at Chain of Lakes Park in Winter Haven, Fla.

Minnesota Crookston improved to 7-6 on the season, and 1-1 in Florida with Sunday's win. Davis and Elkins fell to 1-7 with the loss. The Golden Eagles have a 5-0 all-time record against the Senators.

Kyle Odenbach (Sr., LHP, Thompson, N.D.) earned the win, throwing five innings and allowing just one run on two hits. Odenbach improved to 1-0 with the victory, as he struck out three and walked three. Lake Hagen (Jr., RHP, Alexandria) tossed one inning, allowing no runs on no hits. He struck out two. Braden Nelson (R-Fr., RHP, Minot, N.D.) made his collegiate debut, allowing no runs on no hits.

Cooper Blackburn suffered the loss for the Senators, allowing seven earned runs on seven hits. He struck out three, and walked two. Dallas Rasmussen gave up five runs on five hits in 0.1 innings.

Minnesota Crookston scored 19 runs on 18 hits. Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) paced the Golden Eagles, going 3-of-3, with two home runs, six RBI, and two runs scored. Aaron Wensloff (Jr., IF, Roseau) hit 3-of-4, with three RBIs and three runs scored. Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.)

hit 2-of-3, with two RBIs, and two runs scored. Thomas Schumacher (Fr., IF, Thompson, N.D.) went 2-of-5, with an RBI, and two runs scored.

Minnesota Crookston took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Fliflet doubled to left field, driving in Aaron Wensloff. The Senators knotted the game 1-1 in the bottom of the second when Grant Mealey hit a solo home run.

In the top of third, Hebl slammed his third home run of the season, driving in Schumacher as Minnesota Crookston took a 3-1 lead.

The Golden Eagle bats caught fire in the fourth. A three-run blast for Fliflet, his fifth of the slate, brought in Aaron Wensloff, and Elias

Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth, Minn.) to widen the gap to 6-1. Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley, Minn.) laced a two RBI single, scoring Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.), and Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw, Minn.) to extend the lead to 8-1.

Aaron Wensloff followed it up with a triple, plating Sculati, and Hebl to push the advantage to 10-1. A Leach single drove in Aaron Wensloff to give Minnesota Crookston an 11-1 lead. In the next at-bat, Fliflet hit his second home run of the frame, and his sixth of the season, driving in Leach to extend the advantage to 13-1.

In the fifth, a Sculati sacrifice fly plated Uhlich to ex-

tend the lead to 14-1. An Aaron Wensloff sacrifice fly drove in Bushbaum to widen the gap to 15-1.

In the sixth, a Schumacher single, brought in Jonah Norman (R-Jr., C, Winniepeg, Manitoba) to push the lead to 16-1. A Uhlich groundout scored Tyler Miller (So., SS, Grand Rapids, Minn.) to lengthen the advantage to 17-1. Bushbaum singled to score Schumacher and extend the lead to 18-1.

The cap was put on his win as Cameron Dean (Fr., OF, Maple Grove, Minn.) made the most of his first collegiate at-bat, putting it over the fence for his first collegiate home run, making the final tally 19-1.

## Pirate boys seeded 13th in Section 8AA tournament

Crookston received the number 13 seed in the Section 8AA boys basketball tournament. The Pirates were scheduled to travel to Perham to face the fourth-seeded Yellowjackets in the opening round of the Section 8AA tournament. Results from that game will appear in the March 14 edition of the Crookston Watch.

6. Barnesville	12	13	87.9
7. Thief River Falls	14	12	84.0
8. Warroad	14	12	77.5
9. Park Rapids Area	10	16	62.5
10. Roseau	7	19	50.7
11. Hawley	6	20	56.5
12. Wadena-DC	4	22	43.1
13. Crookston	5	18	47.2
14. Menahga	6	20	41.0

■ Byes - East Grand Forks, Staples-Motley.

■ First round, Thursday, March 5 - Park Rapids Area at Warroad; Crookston at Perham; Wadena-Deer Creek at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton; Roseau at Thief River Falls; Menahga at Osakis; Hawley at Barnesville.

■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, March 7 at high seed 7 p.m.

■ Semifinals, Wednesday, March 11 at Concordia Moorhead (games at 6 p.m., 7:45 p.m.).

■ Championship, Friday, March 13 at Concordia Moorhead 8 p.m.

Section 8AA			
Overall	QRF		
W	L		
1. East Grand Forks	21	5	117.7
2. Staples-Motley	17	8	103.1
3. Osakis	16	10	94.9
4. Perham	14	12	92.8
5. DGF	14	12	90.5

## Crookston girls end season with loss to Pelican Rapids

Pelican Rapids took control early and never looked back in a 59-32 win over Crookston in the opening round of the Section 8AA girls basketball tournament Thursday (Feb. 26) at Pelican Rapids High School.

The Pirates were led by senior Chloe Boll, who scored 11 points and finished one rebound short of a double double in her final game as a Pirate. Fellow senior Halle Nicholas scored six points and she added a pair of rebounds.

Scoring			
	1	2	T
Crookston	11	21	32
Pelican Rapids	35	24	59

Crookston - Chloe Boll 11,

Grace Boll 7, Halle Nicholas 6, Brooklyn Waldal 4, Madi Bruggeman 4.

Pelican Rapids - Arianna Hovland 20, Kamryn Kirkwood 10, Corlie Hovland 8, Mogan Korf 7, Megan Guler 6, Ally Birger 4, Ellie Carlson 2, Malia Tweston 2.

■ Seeds - 1. DGF; 2. Perham; 3. Frazee; 4. Menahga; 5. Pelican Rapids; 6. East Grand Forks; 7. Wadena-DC; 8. Hawley; 9. Roseau; 10. Barnesville; 11. Park Rapids Area; 12. Crookston; 13. Thief River Falls; 14. Warroad.

■ First Round, Thursday, Feb. 26 - Hawley 71, Roseau 51; Menahga 78, Thief River Falls 54; Pelican Rapids 59, Crookston 32; Wadena-Deer Creek 53, Wadena-Deer Creek 47; Frazee 87 Warroad 53; East Grand Forks 81, Park Rapids Area 38.

■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, Feb. 28 at high seeds - Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 74, Hawley 67; Menahga 44, Pel-

ican Rapids 30; Perham 89, Wadena-Deer Creek 44; Frazee 77, East Grand Forks 68.

■ Semifinals, Tuesday, March 3 at Concordia College Moorhead - Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton vs. Menahga 6 p.m.; Perham vs. Frazee 7:45 p.m.

■ Championship, Friday, March 6 at Concordia College Moorhead 8 p.m.

■ Section 8A  
■ Quarterfinals - Sacred Heart 63, Mahnomon/Waubun 23; Kittson County Central 65, Lake of the Woods 24; Kelliher/Northome 90, Climax/Fisher 52; Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 72, Bagley 23.

■ Semifinals, Tuesday, March 3 at Ralph Engelstad Arena - Kelliher/Northome 66, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 55; Sacred Heart 67, Kittson County Central 63.

■ Championship, Friday, March 6 - Kelliher/Northome vs. Sacred Heart at 7 p.m. at Ralph Engelstad Arena.



## 2025-26 Crookston Pirates

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### Cody Demarais

Current Sport: Hockey

Position: Defenseman

Favorite Subject: Daktronics

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Wild

Favorite Food: Subway Philly

Favorite Movie/TV show: Shoresy

Career Highlight/favorite memory: Assisting my best friend Wyatt Marsyla's first varsity goal.

Other Sports/Activities: Baseball

Hobbies outside of athletics: Reffing youth hockey

Plans After High School: Go to college for a finance degree.



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# The Kelly brothers: Built by brotherhood fueled by hockey

by Robert Ingle  
Intern at the University of Minnesota Crookston

For most college athletes, hockey is about finding your spot – on a roster, in a locker room, within a structure. For Brandon and Dalston Kelly, it's also about finding each other.

For the Kelly brothers, hockey was more than just a sport. It's been persistent – across countries, across states, and now, across a college locker room they finally part.

Born in Ukraine, the brothers moved to Charleston, S.C., at a young age – Brandon at 4 years old and Dalston at just 2-1/2. In due time, their family made its way north, settling first in Grand Forks before planting their feet in Minto, N.D. However, their hockey story didn't start in the traditional Midwest way. It began on roller skates in the south.

Their establishment to the game came through family. Both brothers watched their sister figure skate, constantly moving up levels, and then their father, with no background of playing hockey himself – who grew up in Philadelphia as a devoted Flyers fan – implanted a love for hockey. "I remember just kind of playing and then begging our dad to let us try," Brandon said. "No one in our family played, but we just wanted to."

Dalston sees it much the same way. "Our dad was a hockey fan, and our sister skated. I think he said some-

thing about it, and we just wanted to try it."

From those early days, Brandon and Dalston built different styles in the sport. Brandon grew up playing on the defensive end and still anchors the blue line, though he has the ability to step in at forward when needed. Dalston plays forward but has filled in defensively during his college career when called upon. Competing against each other has never been an issue. If anything, it's made them better. "We know we won't take it easy on each other," Brandon said. "In games, we just hope the other does their best." "Sometimes he's stronger," Dalston added with a laugh, "but it's nice because you can let loose. After practice, it's done. We move on."

What makes their current situation special is it's never heard of. Outside of high school and a handful of junior hockey games, they've never truly been teammates – until now. "It's been a lot of fun," Brandon said. "We didn't really play together much growing up. It's pretty special being able to look across the locker room and see your brother. You always have someone to lean on."

Dalston said, "When he left for junior hockey, our bond actually grew because we were farther apart. Now that he's back, it's easier knowing there's that one person you fully trust."

That trust shows up in the specifics – battle drills in

practice where coaches let their reps run longer because neither is willing to quit, or in games when they catch each other's eye after a big shift. "You win a game and look over and see your brother on the defensive side," Dalston said. "That's pretty special."

Brandon said, "It's always nice hearing others say 'good job' to my brother."

Brandon transferred in after spending time at the University of Mary. The decision wasn't simple, but it felt right. "It was tough leaving because I had close friends and job connections there," he said. "But I knew a lot of the guys here, and having my brother made the transition easier. I was sick of moving around and thought it would be cool to be home for once. This felt like the landing spot."

For Dalston, the decision was surrounded by opportunity and familiarity. "Talking with the coach, being close to home, having my major here – it made sense. And I wanted to be on a winning team."

Off the ice, their goals are clear. Brandon, an exercise science major, hopes to get into coaching and build connections for his future. Dalston, majoring in sports and recreation with a minor in sports communications, wants to explore media opportunities and potentially pursue a master's degree.

Both understand that succeeding at this level takes more than talent. It takes mental discipline.

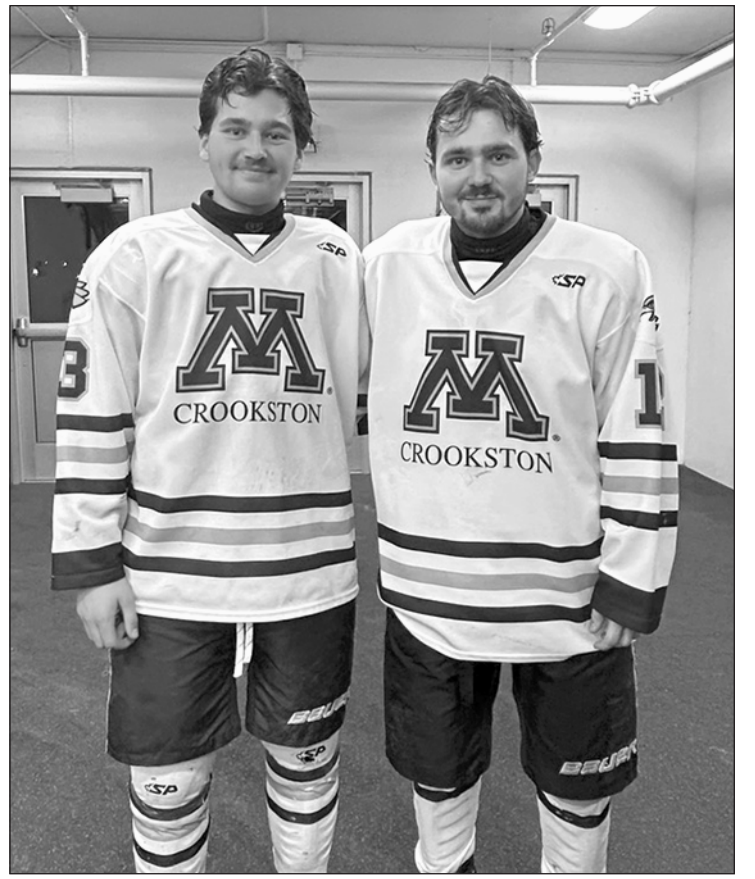
"As the year goes on, you realize what it actually takes to win," Brandon said. "There are shifts where you don't want to go get the puck – but you have to. I journal before games, write what I want to focus on, tape my stick, use self-talk to stay anchored. You have to be mentally dialed in."

Dalston's routine mirrors that steadiness – arriving at the rink two hours early, warming up, taping his stick, stretching on his own, and settling in with country music before puck drop. "Our coaches play everyone, so you have to be ready," Dalston said. "You go in expecting to play 20 shifts."

Along the way, there have been mental challenges. Brandon shared how last season tested him when he was presented limited playing time despite sustainable offseason preparation. "I had to step back and realize life isn't all about hockey," he said. "Coming here helped. Even when I sprained my ankle and was out for a bit, it helped me recharge mentally."

Dalston believes stepping away is sometimes necessary and important for mental health. "Everyone has mental struggles in sports. The days off are important. You take time away when you need it."

When they're not at the rink, they're typical college students. Brandon enjoys fishing, watching TV, cleaning his room, and spending time with friends. Dalston stays active in curling and



Brothers Dalston (left) and Brandon Kelly are members of the University of Minnesota Crookston men's hockey team. (Submitted)

volleyball leagues and has been playing Fortnite since freshman year – "not very good," he jokes, "just the vibes with the boys."

Their meals are simple. Brandon leans toward pesto tortellini or three-cheese kale pasta. Dalston sticks to whatever is in the freezer, making sure he eats enough and grabbing a protein bar when necessary.

Through it all, one message remains consistent: no regrets. "Stay in the moment," Brandon said. "Push yourself so you don't look back and wonder if you gave your all."

Dalston learned that lesson after his final high school game. "I realized I didn't give everything I had. College is flying by. Get off your phone and enjoy the moments with your teammates."

For the Kelly brothers, hockey has been a journey across continents and through different stages of life. Now, it's something they share at the highest level they've both reached.

And this time, they're making sure they soak it all in – together.

# UMN Crookston Golden Eagle Hockey ends season

Golden Eagle Hockey's 2025-26 season has come to an end, and what a season it was. The Golden Eagles went 20-4 in the regular season, finished third at the WCHA Tournament with wins over North Dakota State University and the University of Wisconsin, and were 1-1 at Regionals with a win over Sault College. At home this season, the Golden Eagles held a 13-1-0 record, winning their final eight home games. They also had a 13-3-0 conference record.

The Golden Eagles had eight players that averaged a point per game or higher. Anthony Foster (Jr., F, Warroad) led the team with a career high in goals with 24 and points with 57. Mason Romfo (So., F, Langdon, N.D.) had 23 goals and 26 assists for 49 points, Braden Van de Kraats (So., F, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada) had 23 goals and 17 assists for 40 points in his first season as a Golden Eagle and Fox Dodds (5th, F, Watford City, N.D.) had 20 goals and 20 assists for 40 points. In net, Tyler Swanson (So., G, Moorhead) had an 11-3-0 record, a 2.23 goals against average and a .924 save percentage. Adam Goody (Jr.,

G, Airdrie, Alberta) had an 11-4-0 record, a 2.57 goals against average and a .909 save percentage.

The goaltending was terrific for the Golden Eagles this season. Tyler Swanson had the highest save percentage in a single season for the Golden Eagles in the ACHA era. Swanson's best performance this season came against South Dakota State University in October. In that game, Swanson earned the win with 37 saves on 38 shots against. Adam Goody had his second best career season, only behind his freshman season. Goody's best performance this season was in Regionals against Sault College. In that game, Goody made 37 saves on 38 shots in a tight win to put the Golden Eagles into day two of the tournament.

This season also saw the first 200 point player in program history. With 26 points this season, and one point at Regionals, Logan Syrup (5th, F, Park River, N.D.) finished his collegiate career with 207 points in 147 games. Syrup spent the 2025-26 season as the captain for the first time, having previously served as an alternate captain. His career

high in points came in his sophomore year, 2022-23, when he scored 26 goals and 31 assists for 57 points.

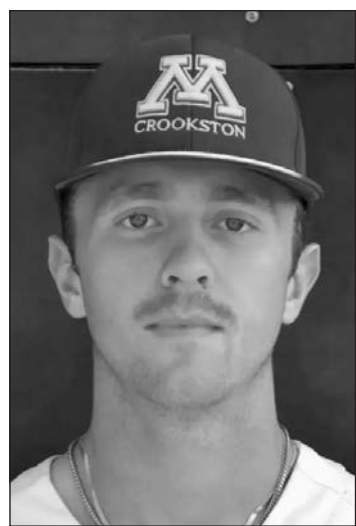
Syrup is one of seven players graduating this season. Joining him are Dylan Neubauer (5th, D, Grand Forks, N.D.) who was an alternate captain this season and finishes his career with 56 points in 147 games. Fox Dodds, who played in 93 games as a Golden Eagle, amassing 139 points with the team and was an alternate captain this season. Alexander Bailey (5th, D, Crosby, N.D.) who played 60 games with the Golden Eagles, registering 69 points, who also served as an alternate captain this season. Jackson Dodds (5th, F, Watford City, N.D.) who played 55 games with the program and scored 63 points in the maroon and gold. Aiden Morelli (Sr., F, Minot, N.D.) who played 38 games with the Golden Eagles and scored 26 points and was an alternate captain this season. Our final senior was Aidan McPhee (Sr., D, Brea, Calif.) who played 80 games with the Golden Eagles, scoring 28 points. These seniors each had major impacts for the team and university both on and off the ice, and

we thank them for all of their contributions.

The Golden Eagles will see the return of both goaltenders and four of their top five scorers. That will be a huge part of the team's success moving forward, and they will be looking to bring in a strong recruiting class. With seven players graduating, there will be a new look to this Golden Eagles roster next season. Speaking of new looks, the Golden Eagles will also see all five members of the leadership group, captain Logan Syrup and alternate captains Dylan Neubauer, Aiden Morelli, Fox Dodds, and Alexander Bailey all graduating. This means that the Golden Eagles will have a new captain for the second straight year. This also means that they will not see a single member of the leadership group return for the first time.

All in all, this season should be looked upon as an unbelievable success. The Golden Eagles achieved 20 or more wins for their fourth straight season, and will now head into the 2026-27 season in pursuit of their first ever Nationals appearance.

# Fliflet named NSIC Player of the Week



Jackson Fliflet

University of Minnesota Crookston baseball player Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) was selected as the NSIC Player of the Week after a stand-out performance for the Golden Eagles against Concordia-St. Paul on Feb. 19 and 20.

Fliflet is a first-time NSIC Player of the Week honoree, and the first Golden Eagle of the 2026 season to receive the accolade. Josh Dykhoff earned the honor twice last season, while Sawyer Satrom received the accolade once.

Fliflet hit .667 in four games against the Golden Bears, with a 1.444 slugging percentage, and a .750 on-

base percentage as the Golden Eagles went 3-1 in Fort Scott, Kan., against Concordia-St. Paul. Fliflet scored six runs, with two home runs, and four RBI. He went 4-of-4 with two home runs in game one of the series. Fliflet has had an outstanding start to the 2026 campaign, his first season in a starting role for Minnesota Crookston. He is batting .538, with 12 runs scored, three doubles, four home runs, and 10 RBI. Fliflet has a 1.733 OPS, a 1.115 slugging percentage, and a .618 on-base percentage. Defensively, Fliflet has a .973 fielding percentage, with two runners caught stealing, seven assists, and 65 putouts.

Cody Wichmann of Southwest Minnesota State was named the NSIC Pitcher of the Week.

# Park Board to meet Monday

The Crookston Park Board will meet Monday, March 9 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall in the conference room.

All notices may be found at [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us). There may be a quorum of City Council members present at the above-mentioned meeting.

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# Hlucny and Arriaga reach medal stand at state

The Crookston boys wrestling team qualified two wrestlers for the 2026 Minnesota State High School League Wrestling Championships and both brought home state tournament hardware following the three-day individual tournament.

Senior Gavyn Hlucny went 3-2 over the course of the tournament to bring home fifth place at 152 pounds, while freshman Mauricio Arriaga went 3-3 and finished sixth at 107 pounds.

Arriaga got off to good start in his opening round bout against Caledonia-Houston eighth grader Kiptyn Meiners. Following a scoreless first period, Arriaga got an escape 16 seconds into the second period and he scored the first offensive points of the match nine seconds later on a go-behind.

Arriaga rode Meiners for most of the period, but the match turned on a dime. Meiners got to his feet with roughly 45 seconds left in the second period and Arriaga dropped into a double leg in an attempt to return Meiners to the mat. Instead Meiners hipped in and put Arriaga on his back for the fall.

Arriaga bounced back from the first round setback with a quick win by fall over Brody Kopp of Luverne in the first round of wrestle-backs Friday morning. Arriaga kept the momentum going with a 12-6 win over Adam Grabow of Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie Friday night to reach Saturday morning's blood round. In the blood round, Arriaga made it three straight wins with a 10-4 win over Heydan Danielson of Minneota.

Arriaga faced Meiners for the second time in the tournament in Saturday's consolation semifinal round. The rematch went similar to the

first, with a scoreless first period and Arriaga leading for the duration, including a 9-3 lead, until giving up a feet-to-back move to lose by fall with 37 seconds remaining.

Arriaga was the first to put points on the board again in the fifth place match, building a 3-1 lead through one period against Benjamin Schmid of Mille Lacs. Arriaga escaped from the bottom position 23 seconds into the second period, but Schmid tied the match with a takedown at the one-minute mark. Both wrestlers would score again in the second, with Arriaga picking up an escape and Schmid getting a takedown with 21 seconds remaining to take a 7-5 lead into the third.

Schmid chose to start the third period on his feet and added two more takedowns to defeat Arriaga 13-6.

Hlucny was a man on a mission early in the state tournament. He dominated all aspects of his opening round match, using a pair of takedowns, an escape and two sets of four-point nearfalls to defeat Cayden Maly of Westfield 15-0 in just over two minutes.

Hlucny stayed hot in the quarterfinals, recording four takedowns, an escape and a four-point set of back points to defeat Tayden Soma of Ottertail Central 17-1.

Hlucny suffered his first defeat of the tournament to Dallas Gossen of Jackson County Central by an 11-10 score in Friday night's semifinal round. Hlucny and Gossen combined for four takedowns, a reversal and six escapes in a match that featured five lead changes.

Hlucny dropped his second straight match in a 7-5 set back against Hayden Holm of Goodhue in the consolation semifinals. Holm led 3-0 after one, 4-0 after two and 7-1 with just over a minute to go in the bout.



Crookston senior Gavyn Hlucny uses an underhook to set up a single leg attack against Tayden Soma of Ottertail Central during their quarterfinal bout Friday, Feb. 27 at the MSHSL State Wrestling Tournament in St. Paul. Hlucny won the match 17-1 to advance to the semifinals at 152 pounds in Class A. He went on to finish fifth. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

Hlucny kept battling and recorded an escape with seven seconds remaining and a takedown at the whistle to cut the final deficit to two points.

Hlucny wrapped up the state tournament with a rematch from the Section 8A

championship against Conrad Koll of United North Central. Hlucny gave up the first takedown but quickly picked up a reversal to cut the deficit to 3-2 through one period of wrestling.

Hlucny took the lead with a takedown 10 seconds into the second period and added to his lead with two nearfall points with just over a minute remaining in the second.

Hlucny dominated the third period with a takedown, reversal and four nearfall points to push the final margin to 11 points.

**2026 MSHSL State Wrestling Tournament**  
 Mauricio Arriaga (3-3) 107 - 6th (8 pts); Bout 758 (Mat 2) - Champ. Rd of 16: Class A - 107 - Kiptyn Meiners (31-15) 8th, CAHO over Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO (F 3:29); Bout 912 (Mat 3) - Cons. Sub-Quarters: Class A - 107 - Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO over Brody Kopp (22-8) Jr., LUVE (F 0:46); Bout 964 (Mat 1) - Cons. Quarters: Class A - 107 - Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO over Adam Grabow (41-7) Sr., BHVP (Dec 12-6); Bout 1041 (Mat 1) - Cons. Sub-Semis: Class A - 107 - Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO over Heydan Danielson (40-10) Jr., MINN (Dec 10-4); Bout 1067 (Mat 2) - Cons. Semis: Class A - 107 - Kiptyn Meiners (31-15) 8th, CAHO over Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO (F 4:23); Bout 1093 (Mat 1) - 5th Place Match: Class A - 107 - Benjamin Schmid

(42-5) 8th, MLR over Mauricio Arriaga (32-6) So., CROO (Dec 13-6).  
 Gavyn Hlucny (3-2) 152 - 5th (13 pts); Bout 815 (Mat 6) - Champ. Rd of 16: Class A - 152 - Gavyn Hlucny (29-3) Sr., CROO over Cayden Maly (22-23) So., WERA (TF 15-0 (2:12)); Bout 889 (Mat 6) - Quarters: Class A - 152 - Gavyn Hlucny (29-3) Sr., CROO over Tayden Soma (27-14) Sr., OCB (TF 17-1 (4:33)); Bout 1030 (Mat 1) - Semis: Class A - 152 - Dallas Gossen (41-9) Jr., JCC over Gavyn Hlucny (29-3) Sr., CROO (Dec 11-10); Bout 1082 (Mat 2) - Cons. Semis: Class A - 152 - Hayden Holm (39-12) Sr., GOOD over Gavyn Hlucny (29-3) Sr., CROO (Dec 7-5); Bout 1107 (Mat 2) - 5th Place Match: Class A - 152 - Gavyn Hlucny (29-3) Sr., CROO over Conrad Koll (34-8) Jr., UNCW (MD 16-5).



Above: Crookston freshman Mauricio Arriaga runs a half nelson ride against Kiptyn Meiners of Caledonia-Houston during the opening round of the state tournament on Thursday, Feb. 26. Arriaga lost the match but bounced back with three straight wins to secure a spot on the medal stand and eventual sixth place finish at 107 pounds.

Bottom: Crookston Head Coach Blake Bergeron and Assistant Coach Colton Weiland instruct freshman Mauricio Arriaga during his first-round match. The Pirates had two state qualifiers this year and both wrestlers reached the medal stand, with senior Gavyn Hlucny finishing fifth at 152 pounds and Arriaga finishing sixth at 107 pounds. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

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