



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



Publication of the Thief River Falls Times



SAT | MARCH 14 | 2026

324 Main Ave. N., Thief River Falls, MN 56701 • Vol. 2, No. 24

## Crookston resident publishes memoir



Shane Mendez

by Anna Phalen  
Correspondent

"Just part of the program," said Shane Mendez of Crookston. "Life is not supposed to be smooth or painless. The setbacks, the suffering, even our failures, are not proof that we are broken. They are just part of

the program of life." "Tale of a Tadpole" is a memoir authored by Mendez. The book takes readers through the many chapters of his life, detailing the struggles, challenges, and hard-earned lessons that ultimately shaped the man he is today. From a turbulent childhood and the influence of addiction at an early age, to chasing purpose through intense pursuits like Navy SEAL training and a career in law enforcement, Mendez's story is one of searching for meaning and learning to confront life honestly.

Now working in the Aviation Department at the University of North Dakota, Mendez said the memoir began as something deeply personal. What started as an effort to make sense of his own experiences eventually grew into a story he felt was worth sharing with others.

For years, Mendez said he felt an urge to get his life down on paper. At first, the writing was not intended for an audience. "It wasn't

about publishing anything," he said. "It was something I needed to do for myself."

As he continued writing, he began to notice a thread connecting the different chapters of his life. What once felt like separate pursuits — music, partying, military ambitions and policing — slowly revealed a pattern.

"I wrote this book for my younger self," Mendez said. "There was so much I didn't understand about myself or about life, and I didn't really have strong guidance or role models to help me sort it out. I kept trying to solve internal confusion with external intensity."

That search for intensity, he said, showed up repeatedly throughout his life.

Mendez said his childhood forced him to develop awareness at an early age. Growing up in an environment shaped by addiction and instability meant learning to read situations quickly and becoming self-reliant.

"I learned to read a room

in seconds and anticipate shifts in tone and energy," he said. "That kind of awareness becomes survival at a young age."

Those early experiences shaped how he approached the world as an adult. They helped him thrive in high-pressure environments but also carried a personal cost.

"There was anger," he said. "Some of it was directed at what happened in my childhood and some of it toward systems around me as I got older. For a long time, that anger fueled me. It pushed me toward high standards and hard environments."

One of those environments was the demanding world of Navy SEAL training. Mendez said he was drawn to the program in part because of the challenge and the clear standards it represented.

"The Navy SEAL program represents one of the highest physical and mental standards in the military, and I wanted to test myself against that," he said. "But

if I'm honest, it went deeper than that. I believed that becoming a Navy SEAL would erase my past."

Although he did not complete the program, Mendez said the experience permanently raised his expectations of himself. "The culture and expectations recalibrated what I considered acceptable of myself," he said. "After that, average effort never felt like enough."

That mindset eventually carried into his career in law enforcement. Mendez spent several years as a police officer, an experience he describes as both meaningful and difficult. "The most rewarding part was being there for people on their worst days," he said. "When someone calls the police, it's rarely because life is going well. Stepping into chaos and restoring some measure of order mattered to me."

At the same time, the job came with a cumulative toll. Working nights and weekends and repeatedly encountering violence, addiction and broken families began to

shape how he saw the world. "I learned to function in it and pretended it didn't bother me," he said. "I told myself it was just the job until I had to admit it was changing how I saw people and the world."

Addiction also played a role in his life and became another theme explored in the memoir. Mendez said he eventually came to understand addiction not just as a problem with substances but as part of a larger pattern. "At its core, addiction reflects something much more human," he said. "We cling to what makes us feel good and we run from what makes us feel bad. Substances are just one way that shows up."

Recovery, he said, has meant learning to face reality instead of trying to escape discomfort through achievement, distraction or substances. "The turning point wasn't becoming stronger," Mendez said. "It

### Bible Bowl



Seven students from Our Savior's Lutheran School in Crookston competed in the Minnesota North Lutheran Schools Bible Bowl competition Saturday, March 7 at Immanuel

Lutheran School in Walker. Both the sixth grade and fourth grade teams earned second place in their divisions. (Submitted)

## DECA students qualify for international competition

Students from the University of Minnesota Crookston DECA chapter delivered an outstanding performance at the 2026 Minnesota Collegiate DECA Career Development Conference, held Feb. 19-20 in Willmar. Nine students qualified for international competition.

The annual state conference provides students the opportunity to sharpen real-world problem-solving and professional presentation skills while competing in events aligned with DECA's mission to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, hospitality, finance, and management.

Top performers at the state level advance to the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC), which will be held in April in Louisville, KY. Nine UMN Crookston students earned top placements and will represent the university on the international stage.

Award recipients from UMN Crookston include:

- Business Ethics: Sophia Haag (3rd), Blessing Alpha (3rd)
- Business-to-Business Marketing: Christian Olvera (1st), Casey Kendrick (1st)
- Corporate Finance: Diane Cilengi (2nd); Ahmed Yusuf (6th)
- Entrepreneurship (Growing Your Business): Blessing Alpha (1st)
- Entrepreneurship Operations: Ayush Singh (3rd); Ernesto Rafin (7th)
- Fashion Merchandising and Marketing: Sophia Haag (6th)
- Financial Accounting: Ahmed Yusuf (6th)
- Human Resource Management: Najeeem Sekoni (4th)
- International Marketing: Ernesto Rafin and Saimon Shan (5th)
- Professional Sales: Diane Cilengi (1st)
- Restaurant and Food Service Management: Adreanna Kaas (1st); Casey

Kendrick (2nd)

- Sales Management and Leadership: Wyatt Herrick (4th); Fanny Angamarca (5th)
- Sports Marketing: Wyatt Herrick and Nadia Delorme (3rd)
- Travel and Tourism: Saiman Shan (1st); Adreanna Kaas (5th)

In addition to competitive success, UMN Crookston students continue to demonstrate leadership across the state organization. Ayush Singh served as the 2025-2026 Minnesota State DECA president, and Nadia Delorme served as the 2025-2026 Minnesota State DECA vice president. For 2026-2027, Diane Cilengi has been elected Minnesota State DECA president, and Christian Olvera will serve as Minnesota State DECA vice president. State officer positions are elected by the Voting Delegate Assembly at the annual conference.

## RiverView Health announces Employee of the Year



Mela Hatchett

RiverView Health has announced that Mela Hatchett, financial counselor in the Patient Financial Services Department, has been named the organization's 2025 Employee of the Year.

Since joining RiverView

in November 2020, Hatchett has served as a trusted guide for patients navigating medical bills and financial assistance programs. Through her compassion, expertise, and dedication, she has helped countless patients better understand their financial responsibilities and options — ensuring they feel supported, informed, and respected every step of the way.

During a surprise presentation, Chief Financial Officer Betty Arvidson, who has since retired, praised Hatchett for the care and enthusiasm she brings to her position.

"She's in the perfect role, that's for sure," Arvidson said. "Her teammates consistently recognize her as a calming force and someone who always puts others before herself. She is deeply loyal to RiverView and wants nothing more than to

see our organization succeed. Time and again, she steps up and goes above and beyond. She is a role model in patience, customer service, and accountability."

The oldest of five children, Hatchett is from Grand Forks, where her father was stationed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in 1966. He moved to Crookston after the 1997 flood. Hatchett and her daughter, Robyn, moved to Crookston in 2022. Her siblings live in the Twin Cities and Duluth areas.

When asked about the recognition, Hatchett was quick to recognize her coworkers and leadership. "It's nice to be noticed and honored," she said. "I work with excellent teammates in PFS and HIM (Health Information Management). They are quick to respond to my questions and collaborate with me to resolve patients'

billing issues. They generously share their knowledge and experience so I can continue to grow in my understanding of billing and revenue processes. Without this strong leadership and teamwork, I wouldn't be able to excel in this position."

Hatchett added that receiving the award from Arvidson, who was about to retire, made the moment especially meaningful, and the two have worked closely together since Hatchett's first day at RiverView.

Hatchett was selected from an outstanding group of Employee of the Month recipients from December 2024 through November 2025. As Employee of the Year, she received an award and a \$1,000 check in recognition of her exceptional contributions.



The Crookston Area Chamber Ambassadors stopped by Metal Masters last week. Cameron Seaworth has owned and operated the business since 2024, taking over from Dale Larson. He can re-machine nearly every piece of an engine. Seaworth can also make custom hard-to-find parts from the smallest Briggs & Stratton to the largest Cummins. Shop hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Submitted)

### Stand Out in the Crowd!



Have an event coming up that you want to promote?  
Want to be the only ad on the page?  
Want to make sure people see your ad?  
We Can Make it Happen!

Place your ad on the front page of the newspaper!

Call us to ask how!

CROOKSTON WATCH • 218-681-4450

# Rydell program to feature photographer

On Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m., the Friends of Rydell and Glacial Ridge Refuges Association will host a one-hour wildlife photography presentation at the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in rural Erskine.

Local photographer Bruce Flaig will lead this presentation. He is a Minnesota native, who has degrees in chemistry, physics and meteorology. He's lived in seven states and two foreign countries and has taken photos in several more. For over 20 years, he's professionally pursued his passion for photographing nature in all its forms. His current collection

has nearly 200,000 images. He has been published in such magazines as Birder's World, Bird Watcher's Digest, Wild Bird, Ranger Rick and Outdoor Photographer.

Flaig's happiest days are when he's out trying to capture some small part of nature. Multiple cases of poison ivy, wasp stings and stepping into unseen badger holes haven't dampened his enthusiasm for the pursuit of the next great image. He's photographed burrowing owls from a blind in 90+ degree temps, as well as snowy owls in open prairies when it's -25 degrees, as well as a bit of everything in between. He has also been charged by

a moose and has laid down in front of a rattlesnake – all while striving for that perfect shot.

This event will consist of an approximately 20-minute slide show of pictures from around this area. Flaig will then discuss some of the equipment he uses and wildlife photography in general, including how he gets some of his best shots.

No pre-registration is required for this free event. For more information on this event, contact Gregg Knutsen, refuge manager, at 218-686-4329 or gregg\_knutsen@fws.gov.



Halle Nicholas (second from left) and Hayley Leckie have been named Crookston High School Students of the Month for November and December, respectively. They are pictured with Crookston Rotary President Brandon Lee and Past President Krista Proulx. (Submitted)

## Crookston Council to meet Monday

The Crookston City Council will meet Monday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet immediately following the council

meeting at the same location.

The Planning Commission will meet Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

To watch the meetings live, visit [www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel](http://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel).

All notices may also be found online at [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us).

## Publishes memoir /Continued

(Continued from Page 1) was becoming more honest."

As the memoir took shape, Mendez said the writing process itself became a powerful experience. Draft after draft helped him organize memories and began to see patterns that had not been obvious before.

By the fourth draft, however, he realized something was missing. "I had a collection of stories, but they didn't fully connect," he said. "The book wasn't jiving."

The answer came unexpectedly during a walk in the summer of 2025, when he finally recognized the central thread tying the different parts of his life to-

gether. Once that realization clicked, the final version of the book came together much more quickly.

Writing the memoir required revisiting difficult memories, but Mendez said the process was ultimately worthwhile. "I laughed hard, I cried, I felt anger, grief and everything in between," he said. "For the first time, I stayed with those emotions instead of escaping them."

Today, Mendez said he feels more aligned with his values and goals than he once did. While he continues to pursue ambitions and new challenges, he no longer sees achievement as something that must define him.

"I don't believe there is a final destination," he said. "Where I am today feels much more aligned with the kind of person I want to be." More than anything, he hopes readers take away a willingness to face reality honestly.

"So much of my suffering came from resisting what was right in front of me," he said. "Once I stopped arguing with reality, things began to change."

And if readers remember just one line from the book, Mendez hopes it will be the phrase that now frames his perspective on life, "Just part of the program."

## Nicholas and Leckie named CHS Students of the Month

Halle Nicholas has been named the Crookston High School Student of the Month for November. Hayley Leckie has received that designation for the month of December.

**Halle Nicholas**  
Halle Nicholas is the daughter of Jamie Nicholas and Travis Nicholas. Her sibling is Hunter.

Nicholas serves as the student representative to both the Crookston School Board and Polk County Public Health Youth Advisory Board. She is the president of Student Council and a member of the Leo Club.

Nicholas attended Girls State, participated in the Crookston Veterans Day service, served as a page in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. She also plays basketball and golf. Nicholas works part-time at Minakwa Golf Course.

She plans to attend the University of North Dakota and major in business with a possible minor in accounting.

**Hayley Leckie**  
Hayley Leckie is the daughter of Scott and Erika Leckie. Her siblings are

Tyler, Collin and Hannah. Leckie is involved in the CHS Dance Team, Just For Kix dance teams, one-act play, three-act play, band and orchestra.

She volunteers with the Leo Club, including delivering home-delivered meals, helping at Highland School and providing treats for the Summit.

Leckie enjoys coaching dance, playing instruments, photography, and practicing sign language.

She plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in criminology.

## CHS Leo Club and advisor receive award

The Crookston High School Leo Club and Linda Morgan, Leo Club advisor with the Crookston School District, were recently awarded the Leo Club Award of Excellence for the 2024-25 school year. What makes the Crookston Leo Club special is that this is the 35th time the club has received this award in a row.

No club in the world has even come close to being selected 35 times in a row for the Award of Excellence by Lions International.

The Leo Club was organized 35 years ago, on Jan. 24, 1991. The Crookston Public School District has supported the position of Leo Club advisor, which has been one of the keys to the

club's unique history of success. Morgan is now in her 15 year as the advisor. The continued dedication of the youth of this community to serve their community while building leadership for today and tomorrow have made a lasting impact on Crookston, the local school district and Leo members.

# Crookston Area Ministries

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
23928 265th St SW - Crookston  
(East of Highland School)  
Church: 281-5629  
Preston Hoiseth, Pastor  
Web: [www.biblebaptistcrookston.org](http://www.biblebaptistcrookston.org)  
Email: [biblebaptist@midco.net](mailto:biblebaptist@midco.net)  
Sundays: 7:45 a.m. & 10:05 a.m., Heavenly Sunlight 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

**BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN  
[www.fisherbyglan.org](http://www.fisherbyglan.org)  
Pastor Gretchen Enoch  
Phone: 218-893-4243  
Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.

**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](http://www.crookstoncathedral.com) for more information.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
321 5th Avenue South - Crookston  
218-281-5402  
Pastor David Johnson  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship

**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

**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

**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](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**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

**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](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MENTOR**  
105 Harrison Ave N - Mentor  
Pastor Rev. Michael Sletto  
218-637-8263  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - 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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
510 North Broadway - Crookston  
218-281-4853  
[crookstonfirstpres.org](http://crookstonfirstpres.org)  
Rev Michael Ozaki, pastor  
Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship (live-streaming at [crookstonfirstpres.org](http://crookstonfirstpres.org) or on our Facebook page) Communion 1st Sunday  
Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book study

**FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN  
[www.fisherbyglan.org](http://www.fisherbyglan.org)  
Pastor Gretchen Enoch  
218-891-4632  
Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.

**FREEDOM CHURCH**  
Pastor Joel Schwartz  
218-275-2350  
101 W 2nd St Crookston  
[hellofreedomchurch.com](http://hellofreedomchurch.com)  
Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship

**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](http://gosen-church.com))

**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

**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

**HARVEST CHURCH**  
520 Fisher Avenue - Crookston  
218-281-2264  
[www.harvestchurchcrookston.com](http://www.harvestchurchcrookston.com)  
Sundays: Worship Service online or in-person at 10:30 a.m. Livestream can be found on our Facebook and YouTube channel. Facebook: Harvest Church Crookston YouTube: Harvest Church Crookston, MN Instagram: @harvestchurchcrookston

**HOPE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
11330 435th St SW - Fertile - 218-945-3677  
[www.hope4fertile.org](http://www.hope4fertile.org)  
email: [hope4fertile.worship@gmail.com](mailto:hope4fertile.worship@gmail.com)  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship

**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

**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](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**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

**MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor David Jore  
Parsonage: 218-574-2222  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**NEXUS CHURCH**  
605 3rd Ave NE - Crookston  
Lead Pastor, Danny Holwerda, Jr.  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship

**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

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD**  
Crookston  
Pastor Steven Bohler  
Sundays: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

**PRAIRIE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
27897 170th Ave. SW - Crookston  
218-281-3506 or 218-280-2084  
Pastor Pat Baranski  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Church Service, 11 a.m. Sunday School - Adult Sunday School

**RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC**  
415 West 6th St - Beltrami  
Pastor Joel Kangas  
Church email: [resurrect@gvtel.com](mailto:resurrect@gvtel.com)  
Church website: [www.resurrectionfree.org](http://www.resurrectionfree.org)  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship

**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](http://www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran)  
Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)

**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

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE**  
10490 438th St SW  
Fertile  
218-945-6649  
Fr. Larry Delaney  
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass

**ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR**  
Fr. Larry Delaney  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID**  
Sundays: For the months of January, February, and March, weekend Mass on Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
1214 University Avenue - Crookston  
Email: [stpauls@midconetwork.com](mailto:stpauls@midconetwork.com)  
Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)  
Phone: 218-281-3638  
Pastor Curt Peterson  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship  
You may worship via Facebook Live: [facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

**THRIVING LIFE CHURCH**  
22722 350th St. Erskine, MN 56535  
Pastor Jim Binder  
218-556-1545  
<https://thrivinglifemn.org>  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

**TRINITY LUTHERAN**  
402 6th St E - Beltrami  
Pr. Dan Morton  
Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship  
Check out website for further information [www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**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](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**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](http://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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)**  
Church Office: 218-891-4581  
Pastor Doug Thompson  
Website: [tclstpaul.org](http://tclstpaul.org)  
Email: [trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com](mailto:trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com)  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Bible Study, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship Service - Communion celebrated on the second and last Sunday of the month.

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston  
218-281-3393  
[website:crookstonmethodist.com - view services here](http://website:crookstonmethodist.com-view-services-here)  
email: [wesleyumcrox@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyumcrox@gmail.com)  
Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor  
Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)

*This Church Directory Is Sponsored By The Following Businesses*

 <p>Offering Specialized Services in: Assisted Living • Skilled Nursing Care • Memory Care and Short-Term Care and Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Benedictine</b> LIVING COMMUNITY   CROOKSTON CALL 218-281-3424 TO LEARN MORE 516 Walsh Street   Crookston, MN 56716   <a href="http://www.benedictinecrookston.org">www.benedictinecrookston.org</a></p>	<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 • <a href="mailto:stenshou@midconetwork.com">stenshou@midconetwork.com</a></p>
<p><b>PROULX REFRIGERATION &amp; HEATING INC.</b> Complete Sales &amp; Service • Commercial &amp; Domestic Furnaces   AC   Heat Pumps   Electric, Gas or Oil Boilers</p> <p>    <b>QUALITY PRODUCTS &amp; QUALITY SERVICE</b> 524 Marin Avenue • Crookston, MN   Phone: 218-281-1370   Fax: 218-281-1376</p>	<p><b>SECURE AN AD SPOT!</b> Contact us about advertising on this page &amp; reach thousands of readers every month. <b>CALL US TODAY (218) 681-4450</b></p>		<p><b>GROW YOUR BUSINESS</b></p>



324 Main Avenue North  
P.O. Box 100  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Telephone: (218) 681-4450  
Fax: (218) 681-4455  
e-mail: trftimes@trftimes.com  
http://www.trftimes.com

**Traci Joppur**  
Publisher  
trftimes@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

**Joyce Rock, 94**

**Crookston** - Joyce Elaine (Boucher) Rock was born on November 15, 1931, in Crookston. She was the daughter of David and Noella (St. Yves) Boucher.



Joyce went to the Eldred grade school, attended St. Joseph's Academy for one year and then graduated from Climax High School in 1949. She graduated from Moorhead Teachers College in 1951 with an Associate's in Education degree and Moorhead State University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

Joyce married Dona Rock on June 11, 1952, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Crookston. To this union, eight children were born.

She devoted her life to a full-time teaching career in the communities of Climax, Mentor, Plummer, Gentilly, and the Crookston Catholic School. She then became a substitute teacher for 12 years across the counties. During the last 10 years of her teaching career, Joyce taught in Los Fresnos, TX.

Throughout her life, Joyce was a 4-H Club leader, taught religious education classes in Terrebonne and Mentor, and served on the Terrebonne St. Anthony's church council. She was a member of the Terrebelle Homemakers Club and bowling team. Joyce was also a member of the Red Lake Falls American Legion and Hillcrest Auxiliaries.

In 2008, Dona passed away. At this time, she moved off their Century Family Farm and moved to The Summit in Crookston where she lived until she passed away.

Joyce's absolute pride and joy later in life was the Red Hat Society. She loved everything purple and red, fancy and beautiful, just as she always was up until the very end of her life. She started the Red Lake County Red Hat Chapter and the Indian Lake Red Bonnets in Texas. Joyce joined the G and G Red Hats chapter in Crookston

when she moved there.

She is survived by six children: David (Karen) Rock of Erskine, Douglas (Karen) Rock of Baxter, Peggy (Robert) Orrock of St. Cloud, Pam Paradis of Brooks, Valerie Walker of Crookston, and Vanessa Ballantine of Stillwater; grandchildren: Christopher (Kari) Rock, Adam (Jessica) Rock, Kimberly (Terrance) Nefzger, Garrett (Megan) Rock, Heidi Rock, Tyler (Crystal) Rock, Tony (Corey) Martell, Frances (Greg) Kipka, Cody (Amanda) Martell, David (Tiffany) Weller, Grant (Kendra) Orrock, Ryan (Kelsey) Paradis, Chelsey (Dane) Kjono, Ethan (Kali) Paradis, Kallie (Jerry) Olson, Kolton (Brooke) Walker, and Ian Ballantine; 40 great-grandchildren; and several step-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters, Deloris Dickut, Jeanette Kelly; brother, Joseph (Laura) Boucher; sisters-in-law, Keta and Judy Boucher; special friends of the family, Dick, Linda, Michael, Shawna and Tara Velzke; and many nieces and nephews.

Joyce is preceded in death by her husband, Dona Rock; two sons, Michael and Mitchell Rock; her parents, David and Noella Boucher; and stepfather, Clifford Larum; two brothers, Richard and Roland Boucher; sister, Gloria Trimm; brothers-in-law, Richard Dickut, Don Trimm, and Richard Kelly; sons-in-law, Louis Martell and Wayne Ballantine.

Joyce Rock died on Monday, March 9, 2026, at the age of 94 years, 3 months, 22 days. May her memory be blessed.

Mass of Christian Burial for Joyce will be held at 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Brooks, with Father Bob Schreiner officiating.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday April 11.

Burial will be held at St. Anthony Cemetery, Terrebonne.

Condolences may be sent at [www.johnsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.johnsonfuneralservice.com). A00003B2026MR14

**Joyce Gilbertson, 71**

**Crookston** - Joyce Marie (Hettervig) Gilbertson, 71, of Crookston, passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

**David Carlson, 79**

David Woodrow Carlson, 79, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

A Celebration of Life was held for David on Friday, March 13, 2026, from 11-3 p.m. at Stenshoel-House Funeral & Cremation Service.

**Gordon R. Tiedeman, 79**

Gordon R. Tiedeman, 79, of Walker passed away on February 27th, 2026.

Funeral services for Gordy will be held on Saturday April 18 at 11 a.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston, with visitation 1 hour prior to the service. A visitation will be held on Friday April 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. with a prayer service following.

Interment with Veteran's honors following the funeral at Calvary Cemetery, preceded by lunch and fellowship back at Cathedral.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to "The Reel Hope Project" Give - The Reel Hope Project - or the Walker Area Pregnancy Center, 102 8th St., Walker, MN 56484.

**Amber "Bambie" Petrimoulx, 28**

Amber "Bambie" Petrimoulx, 28, of Crookston, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Maranatha Free Church in Ulen. Interment will be held at the Beauty Valley Cemetery in Tioga, ND at a later date.

Find us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/crookstonwatch](https://facebook.com/crookstonwatch)

**NOTICES**

**Notices**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ASSESSMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY: This May Affect Your 2027 Property Tax Payments.** The Board Of Appeal And Equalization For Township Of Kertsonville Will Meet On **Wednesday, April 22 At 1:00 p.m. At The Clerk's House.** The Purpose Of This Meeting Is To Determine Whether Property In The Jurisdiction Has Been Properly Valued By The Assessor. If You Believe The Value Or Classification Of Your Property Is Incorrect, Please Contact Your Assessor's office To Discuss Your Concerns. If You Disagree With The Valuation Or Classification After Discussing It With Your Assessor, You May Appear Before The Local Board Of Appeal And Equalization. The Board Will Review Your Assessments And May Make Corrections As Needed. Generally, You Must Appeal To The Local Board Before Appealing To The County Board Of Appeal And Equalization. Given Under My Hand This 24th Day Of February, 2026.  
~ Laurie Bruley, Kertsonville Township Clerk CRX1121c

**BUY IT SELL IT FIND IT**  
**IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

searching for an apartment in **CROOKSTON?**



**Contact Crookston Summerfield Townhomes**  
--- Featuring ---  
• Heat/Water/Trash Included  
• Competitive Rental Rates  
• Great North End Location  
**1 & 2 Bedroom Units Available**  
**218-280-9851**  
[www.gmmco.org](http://www.gmmco.org)



**For Rent**

- **Erskine Community Housing - Erskine** (market rate; accepts housing vouchers) 1 Bedroom
- **Country Place - Erskine** (market rate; accepts housing vouchers) 1 & 2 Bedroom
- **Hallock Homes - Hallock** (subsidized) 1 Bedroom
- **Summerfield Place Apartments - TRF/Newfolden/Roseau/Crookston** (market rate; accepts housing vouchers) 1 & 2 Bedroom
- **Oklee Rentals - Oklee** (market rate; accepts housing vouchers) 1 Bedroom
- **Sunburst Acre - Roseau** (subsidized 30% Annual Adjusted Income) 1 Bedroom
- **Omland Court Mobile Home Park - Fosston** (market rate) Trailer Lots
- **Parkview Apartments - Winger** (subsidized 30% Annual Adjusted Income) 1 Bedroom

Call us at 800-504-6093 | [gmmco.org](http://gmmco.org)

**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](mailto:hr@crookston.mn.us)  
Full Job Posting - <https://www.crookston.mn.us/Jobs.aspx>  
Equal Opportunity Employer: The City of Crookston provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**March 14, 2026**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND POLK COUNTY LAND USE ZONING ORDINANCE**

Pursuant to MN Statute §375.51 and §394.26, notice of intention to adopt amendments to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance is hereby given. Polk County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for input on the following date: **March 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Polk County Environmental Services Building conference room at 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716.

Language to be amended is listed below:  
• 22.1500 - typo should read 22.5000 not 22.6000 which isn't an ordinance standard.

• Section 3 definitions to **change hardship to practical difficulty**, as sec 5 states.

• Section 3 definition add "Change of Use": A change of use occurs when the purpose in a structure changes in a way that requires compliance with other zoning ordinance regulations. It generally involves modifying a space so that its new function requires higher performance criteria than its original purpose. An example would be an existing accessory structure which is converted into a dwelling. Minor structural improvements that do not increase the structures square footage or change the use of the structure are not a change of use but could be a structural alteration depending on the scope of work.  
• Section 13.4000 ACCESSORY USES: Within the agricultural district no permit shall be required for the placement of a single-story accessory structure that is less than 400 200 square feet in size as long as the following conditions are met:  
a. The structure constitutes a minimal investment.  
b. The structure meets all applicable setbacks within the Agricultural District.  
c. The structure needs to conform to the standards in 13.4200.  
d. The structure must not be constructed on a permanent foundation. Structures must be 1-story and slab-on-grade construction is not considered a foundation.

• 13.7020 An accessory structure not used in conjunction with a home occupation that does not comply with 43.4249 13.4210, or where the use of the accessory structure is in conjunction with a home occupation but does not meet one or more criteria listed in 12.3048, 13.4300 - 13.4310, may be allowed provided that:  
a. The applicant complies with those criteria listed in 13.4300 - 13.4310, or has satisfactorily addressed any of those requirements for which they are unable to comply; and  
b. There is a demonstrated need to use the accessory structure as a part of the home occupation.

c. If the use of the accessory structure is for storage of equipment or materials to be used off site, the use of the accessory structure shall not require a Conditional Use Permit, provided the use is in conformance with 13.4300.  
NEW SECTIONS: 12.4116-12.4119: & 12.5060-Referenced Below  
• 12.4116 Topographic Alterations/Grading and Filling on DNR protected wetlands shown on the Protected Waters Inventory Map for Polk County and shall be subject to the following criteria:

- 12.4117 Topographic alterations are not allowed on bluffs.
- 12.4118 Grading and filling and excavations necessary for the construction of structures, sewage treatment systems, and driveways under validly issued construction permits for these facilities do not require the issuance of a separate grading and filling permit. However, the grading and filling standards in this section must be incorporated into the issuance of permits for construction of structures, sewage treatment systems, and driveways.
- 12.4119 Notwithstanding items 12.4118 above, a grading and filling, land alteration permit will be required for:  
a. The movement of more than ten (10) cubic yards of material on steep slopes or within shore or bluff impact zones; and the shore impact zone of a DNR protected wetland shall be from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) extending upland 50 feet.  
b. The following considerations and conditions must be adhered to during the issuance of construction permits, grading and filling permits, conditional use permits, variances and subdivision approvals:  
c. Grading or filling in any type 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 wetland must be evaluated to determine how extensively the proposed activity would affect the following functional qualities of the wetland:  
1. Sediment and pollutant trapping and retention;  
2. Storage of surface runoff to prevent or reduce flood damage;  
3. Fish and wildlife habitat;  
4. Recreational use;  
5. Shoreline or bank stabilization; and  
6. Noteworthiness, including special qualities such as historic significance, critical habitat for endangered plants and animals, or others.  
d. Alterations must be designed and conducted in a manner that ensures only the smallest amount of bare ground is exposed for the shortest time possible;  
e. Mulches or similar materials must be used, where necessary, for temporary bare soil coverage, and a permanent vegetation cover must be established as soon as possible;  
f. Methods to minimize soil erosion and to trap sediments before they reach any surface water feature must be used;  
g. Altered areas must be stabilized to acceptable erosion control standards consistent with the field office technical guides of the local soil and water conservation districts and the United States Soil Conservation Service;  
h. Fill or excavated material must not be placed in a manner that creates an unstable slope;  
i. Fill or excavated material must not be placed in bluff impact zones, or on steep slopes;  
j. Any alterations below the ordinary high water level of public water wetlands must first be authorized by the Commissioner of Natural Resources under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103G.245;  
k. Alterations of topography must only be allowed if they are accessory to permitted or conditional uses and do not adversely affect adjacent or nearby properties; and  
l. Placement of natural rock riprap, including associated grading of the shoreline and placement of a filter blanket, is

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

Copies of the referenced draft ordinance amendments may be viewed during regular business hours M-F 8am-5pm at Polk County Environmental Services Building, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716, or on the Polk County Website: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/>  
To submit written comments, ask questions, or to request more information please contact Jacob Snyder at Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-5700 or (800) 482-6804.

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

Copies of the referenced draft ordinance amendments may be viewed during regular business hours M-F 8am-5pm at Polk County Environmental Services Building, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716, or on the Polk County Website: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/>  
To submit written comments, ask questions, or to request more information please contact Jacob Snyder at Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-5700 or (800) 482-6804.

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

Copies of the referenced draft ordinance amendments may be viewed during regular business hours M-F 8am-5pm at Polk County Environmental Services Building, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716, or on the Polk County Website: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/>  
To submit written comments, ask questions, or to request more information please contact Jacob Snyder at Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-5700 or (800) 482-6804.

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

Copies of the referenced draft ordinance amendments may be viewed during regular business hours M-F 8am-5pm at Polk County Environmental Services Building, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716, or on the Polk County Website: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/>  
To submit written comments, ask questions, or to request more information please contact Jacob Snyder at Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-5700 or (800) 482-6804.

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

Copies of the referenced draft ordinance amendments may be viewed during regular business hours M-F 8am-5pm at Polk County Environmental Services Building, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716, or on the Polk County Website: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/>  
To submit written comments, ask questions, or to request more information please contact Jacob Snyder at Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-5700 or (800) 482-6804.

permitted if the finished slope does not exceed three feet horizontal to one foot vertical, the landward extent of the riprap is within ten feet of the ordinary high water level, and the height of the riprap above the ordinary high water level does not exceed three feet.

• 12.5000 FENCES 12.5060 Fences erected in the 100 year floodplain must meet the standards listed below:  
a. Be adequately anchored. This is to avoid fences from becoming dislodged.  
b. Be constructed with flood-resistant materials (i.e., treated wood, steel, aluminum, concrete, brick, etc.).  
c. Not be detrimental to adjoining uses. They cannot direct flows in a way that neighboring structures and parcels are impacted.  
d. Not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage ways.  
e. Floodplain Fences in FEMA mapped floodways must demonstrate "No Rise" - they must have an analysis showing they don't cause any increase in the flood elevation.  
f. Fences in A Zones or Zone AE without a mapped floodway (No determined Base Flood Elevation) must demonstrate they meet "Allowable Rise" - they must have an analysis showing the construction of the fence will not cause more than 0.5 feet increase in the flood elevation AND there is no increase impacting any existing insurable structure. Fences in FEMA mapped flood fringe are not required to do the No Rise or Allowable Rise analysis.

The *Crookston Watch* is published weekly every Saturday and distributed to over 4,600 households in Northwest Minnesota and surrounding area. The *Crookston Watch* is published in conjunction with the Thief River Falls Times, which is published weekly every Wednesday.

The *Crookston Watch* shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The *Crookston Watch's* liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

A Publication of:

Thief River Falls Times  
324 Main Avenue North  
P.O. Box 100  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Telephone: (218) 681-4450  
Fax: (218) 681-4455

**THIEF RIVER FALLS Times**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Friday**  
**8 am - 3 pm**

**Now Hiring - MACHINE OPERATOR**

Northern Woodwork, a cabinet and woodwork manufacturer, is seeking a Full-Time Machine Operator to join our team.  
**Competitive Pay & Excellent Benefits**

- BENEFITS INCLUDE:**
- Paid Vacation
  - Paid Holidays
  - Health Insurance
  - 401(k) Program
  - Profit Sharing

**Day-Shift Schedule:**  
Mon-Thur 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
Fri 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM

**NO EXPERIENCE? NO PROBLEM. TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**Apply in person at: Northern Woodwork**  
1581 Hwy 59 SE | Thief River Falls, MN  
or email: [jay@northernwoodworkinc.com](mailto:jay@northernwoodworkinc.com)

**DAKOTA home**

- \$174,900**  
215 Washington Ave  
Crookston, MN
- \$305,000**  
555 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
Crookston, MN
- SOLD**  
**\$199,900**  
310 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Crookston, MN
- \$250,000**  
12239 Lake St SE  
Mentor, MN

**KS**  
KYLIE SIMMONS  
218.280.2038 | REALTOR®

EXPLORE NEW PLACES Together  
CONSUMER LOAN RATES AS LOW AS  
**3.99% APR**  
Plus, no payment for 90 days!  
FC First Community Credit Union  
2315 North Acres Dr. Crookston | 218.281.5741 | [myfcu.com](http://myfcu.com)

**MILLER'S CUSTOM CABINETS**  
 49847 109th Avenue  
 Gonvick, MN 56644  
 218-487-6042  
 Call for Free Estimate!




Chase Nelson of Red Lake Falls has been named the University of Minnesota Crookston Student of the Semester, representing the math, science and technology area at the university. He is pictured with Chancellor Dr. Mary Holz-Clause and Crookston Rotary Club President Brandon Lee. (Submitted)

**Nelson named UMN Crookston Student of the Semester**

Chase Nelson of Red Lake Falls has been named the University of Minnesota Crookston Student of the Semester, representing the math, science and technology area at the university. Nelson is pursuing a career in medicine/dentistry. He serves on the Executive Board at the college. Nelson is a member of the volleyball team and Trap Club. He also serves as a tutor and ambassador. Nelson is a third-year student orientation leader as well. He has taken piano lessons for eight years and is employed at Scobey's.

**m DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Purchasing & Inventory Technician Crookston**  
 Permanent, Full Time, Benefits  
 Salary Range: \$22.91 - \$32.27/hr

MnDOT Crookston is seeking a Transportation Materials Technician who will purchase and manage inventory for a variety of equipment, materials and commodities, as well as perform a broad range of additional work activities. This position requires experience with automated materials management systems and parts look-up for heavy equipment, truck and construction equipment, also to include a variety of road maintenance materials and building supplies.

MnDOT is a family friendly workplace promoting work/life balance. Includes great health care and retirement benefits. Search the job posting for duties, min quals, and to apply at [www.mn.gov/careers](http://www.mn.gov/careers). Select job ID number 92731. Deadline to apply: March 31.

MnDOT is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer with a strong commitment to workforce diversity.



Rural Reflections ...

**Balance is key when it comes to high school sports**



by Grant Nelson

With the exception of a decades-old experience of three-on-three hockey Sunday nights at the Viking ice rink, I know little of the sport. I do know about winning, and losing, usually with grace. Lisa and I found the recent Minnesota State Hockey Championships extremely exciting. Both A and AA matches went into overtime and featured some outstanding effort; they also featured a few embarrassing moments.

In reaction to a loss in the championship round, some of the Hibbing-Chisholm hockey players removed their second place medals immediately after receiving them. It made Lisa and I cringe for them and made some of the players look entitled and immature. If you read no further than this, please remember that many of these players are not even adults yet and you saw a few

of them at their worst moment. This is a time to reprimand, reflect and then offer grace.

This is also a time to decide how we got to this moment; this is a symptom of a problem created by adults. The players who did this disrespectful act need correction, but they are really a reflection of a system that has lost its perspective.

High school sports are not a training ground for a professional occupation. High school sports exist to build character, develop a habit of physical health and learn teamwork. You can learn many of the same things from a part-time job; however, sports are more fun. They are a means to an end, not the end itself. Their importance is the change they make in your head, not the medal you wear around your neck.

High school sports are played, for the most part, by children. I remember a time when high school players were never interviewed, only the coach or athletic director. This sort of individual coverage is a result of the glorification of the individual instead of the importance of the team.

I hear about students who are mentally cracking as they are constantly held to the same extracurricular grindstone. Their bodies are doing the same because of repetition. I think my overall strength as a young athlete was due to working on a farm.

Toting moderate weights over uneven ground, carrying square bales and moving from a squat to standing with a cow milker improved the strength of my muscles and tendons. The same can be accomplished by encouraging students to play multiple sports instead of the constant grind of the same sport, played year-round.

I think my mental strength was maintained due to my parents stressing the importance of faith, music, academics and sports in a balanced way. I played piano and trombone, and participated in one-act plays and musicals. If I did poorly in one activity, I always had hope that things would go better in something else.

Balance is good for young minds and bodies. Doing only one thing over and over creates a false sense of the importance of that activity. It leads to young people who

break down at anything less than being number one.

I think the actions of children are a good indication of the world their parents have created. The actions of the Hibbing-Chisholm hockey players should not be excused; however, they were just kids negotiating a world which is not of their creation.

This was a day when they may have felt like failures at their most important skill, a day when they may have felt rather hopeless and a day when they felt all was lost. None of these things were true, but someone created a system that made it easy to believe these false ideas.

Kids should be in several sports and other extracurriculars - if possible. This cross-training should give them healthy minds and bodies instead of focusing on a career in sports, which will most likely never happen. Character development must be more important than athletic development. High school sports should not be the pinnacle of anyone's life; they should however be a nice piece of the bedrock for everything that comes after all the medals are put away.

**MAKE YOUR CHOICE**  
**Choice Therapy**

Still living in pain? You don't have to.  
 We provide 1-on-1 customized care. Treating pain, injuries, pre and post surgical recovery.

**Comprehensive Team.**  
 We are locally owned with a team of elite Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapist, and Doctor of Chiropractor

**Tired of waiting?**  
 We have same day appointments available and visits are never rushed.

**Ready to visit us?**  
 Call: 218.470.0132  
 1728 N Front St  
 Crookston, MN  
[www.choicecrookston.com](http://www.choicecrookston.com)  
 Mention this ad when you schedule your 1st appointment and get 1 free BIOCHARGER session! \$30 Value




**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.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Tech – Environmental Services:**  
 \$20.04–\$25.38/hr. Position Closes on Friday, March 20, 2026.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Wellness Coordinator or RN – Public Health:**  
 \$32.90–\$46.82/hr. Position Closes Wednesday, March 18, 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](http://www.co.polk.mn.us) and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408 Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

**Lake Agassiz Regional Library announces Spring Event Series**

Lake Agassiz Regional Library will offer a series of enriching and entertaining programs as part of its Spring Legacy Event Series, which kicks off in early April. From painting workshops and historical presentations to musical programs and author visits featuring Minnesota authors Patty Wetterling & Joy Baker and Kent Nerburn, the library has something for everyone this spring. Admission is free and presenters will visit multiple locations around Lake Agassiz Regional Library's seven-county region. More information about each of the programs offered in the series is available at [larl.org/legacyseries](http://larl.org/legacyseries).

**Barn Quilt Painting Workshops,**

**April 7-June 13**  
 Unleash your inner artist and celebrate a beautiful tradition that defines Minnesota's rural landscape! Join the library for a hands-on workshop and paint your own Barn Quilt under the expert guidance of Mary Jo Schmid from Crooked Lane Farm Folk School. Registration is required for these programs, which will be offered in 12 communities in northwest Minnesota. Register by calling a participating location or by visiting [larl.org/barnquilt](http://larl.org/barnquilt).

**Ridin' The Skally Line: A Musical Journey Through Minnesota History, April 13-16**  
 All aboard for a high-energy trip through the heart of American roots music!

Join The Skally Line, featuring the talented trio of Fred Keller, Bill Cagley and Dave Tousley, as they navigate the soulful curves and bends of early American melodies. From the haunting echoes of Appalachian ballads to the driving rhythms of bluegrass and string band blues, this performance brings the past to life. The music is perfectly paired with forgotten, rip-roaring stories plucked straight from the wilder pages of Minnesota's history. While this family-friendly program is geared toward adults, listeners of all ages will find something to tap their toes to. Concerts will be held in eight communities in northwest Minnesota.

**Never Forgotten: Colonel William Colvill, Minnesota's Civil War Hero with Historian Steve Hoffbeck, April 9-May 28**  
 Why did Minnesotans so deeply admire Colonel William Colvill, the 6'5" Civil War hero? Join the Crookston Public Library for a presentation by Minnesota author and historian Steve Hoffbeck bringing the legendary deeds of the First Minnesota Regiment to life. In his latest book, Colvill Smiled, Hoffbeck weaves together the powerful recollections, speeches and writings of William Colvill and Martin Maginnis, two officers from Red Wing who led their men through the smoke and fire of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Hoffbeck will visit 10 libraries in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system as part of this tour.

author Kent Nerburn as he discusses his latest book, "Lone Dog Road." Renowned for his deeply empathetic portrayals of Native American life and the American landscape, Nerburn returns with a haunting and beautiful story of a wanderer, a young boy, and a journey across the vast, wind-swept prairies of the Dakotas. Nerburn will appear at libraries in Detroit Lakes, Moorhead, Ada and Crookston.

**"Dear Jacob:" Author Visits featuring Patty Wetterling and Joy Baker, May 11-13**  
 Join the Crookston Public Library for a deeply moving program as it welcomes Patty Wetterling and co-author Joy Baker to discuss their memoir, "Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope." For 30 years, the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling was a story that haunted Minnesota and transformed the nation. In this special author visit, Patty Wetterling shares the intimate, behind-the-scenes account of those decades - not just as a search for a missing son, but as a testament to a mother's unwavering love and a community's resilience. Together with Joy Baker, the blogger whose independent research helped lead to the breakthrough in the case, they will discuss the bond they formed and the power of never giving up. The co-authors will visit six Lake Agassiz Regional Library locations, including stops in Breckenridge, Moorhead, Mahanomen, Crookston, Bagley and Detroit Lakes.

All events are sponsored by the Lake Agassiz Regional Library and offer free admission, thanks in part to funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

**ESTATE AUCTION**  
 Thief River Falls, MN  
 Online Bidding Starts Thurs. March 12th  
 Bidding Starts to Close Thurs. March 19th ~ 6 pm  
 For More Information Go To: [mcmullensales.hibid.com](http://mcmullensales.hibid.com)

Items to Include: 5-Pin Ball Machines, 5-Jukeboxes, Vintage Arcade Machines, Slot Machines, Many Record Players, Poker Tables, Furniture, 1000+ Records, 100+ Die Cast Tractors, Lots of Tonka Toys, Die Cast Cars & Trucks, Beer Light up Signs, Beer Pictures, 100+ Framed Prints, 8-Tracks, Antiques & Collectibles, Plus Many More Items, Over 500+ Lots



**McMULLEN Auctioneers** 218-681-3960 or [mcmullensales@mncable.net](mailto:mcmullensales@mncable.net)

**"Lone Dog Road" featuring Author Kent Nerburn, April 28-29**  
 Join the library for a hopeful evening of storytelling featuring acclaimed



Crookston Rotary President Brandon Lee and Past President Krista Proulx recently gathered with Camp RYLA attendees Nashelle Tellez Vasquez (second from left) and McKayla Garcia. Tellez Vasquez has also been named the Crookston High School Student of the Month for March. (Submitted)

## Tellez Vasquez named March Student of the Month

Nashelle Tellez Vasquez has been named as the March Student of the Month at Crookston High School.

Tellez Vasquez is the daughter of Bonifacio Tellez and Awildu Tellez Vasquez. She has a sister, Nashalie Tellez.

Tellez Vasquez is involved in the one-act and three-act plays, orchestra, pep/marching/concert band,

Valley Fiddlers, Pop Strings, soccer, speech, National Honor Society, Leo Club and community theater. She competed at solo ensemble for both band and orchestra. Tellez Vasquez also served as the co-chairperson of Classic Noel and was selected for Camp RYLA.

Other activities included helping with Toys for Tots and home-delivered meals.

She also competed in the Miss Crookston Pageant, receiving the honor of Miss Congeniality.

Tellez Vasquez enjoys playing the clarinet, violin and piano; sketching; and hanging out with friends.

She plans to attend college for a major in political science with the ultimate goal to pursue a law degree.

## Reintegration license program offers help for those rebuilding

Trying to pick up your life after being incarcerated can seem fraught with discouraging roadblocks that can make successful reentry into the community feel impossible.

The Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services division's Reintegration Driver's License Program aims to make that transition smoother by removing one major obstacle: not having a valid driver's license.

Reliable transportation is crucial to getting and holding a job, which is one key to successful reentry, said Hillary Richard, legal fellow with the Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project, which offers services to formerly incarcerated Minnesotans returning to the community.

"It also helps Minnesotans live productive and meaningful lives, allowing them to more easily reconnect with their families and communities," Richard said.

Yet many who come home after incarceration face expensive driver's license reinstatement fees that might deter them from pursuing a valid license and insurance, she said.

"A large fee might not be

a barrier for all Minnesotans, but for many, especially those starting over after prison, it's simply unaffordable," Richard said.

The RDL program allows those released from an adult correctional facility to get a driver's license or permit without immediately having to pay the fines or fees they owe. They then have up to 24 months to pay the fines and fees that might otherwise prohibit them from getting a valid license.

Richard said she has many clients who have benefited from the program.

The RDL Program allows Minnesotans to drive sooner, with a valid license and insurance, which improves safety for all Minnesotans on the road, she said.

The license comes with certain eligibility requirements and restrictions, and RDL license holders must apply for their regular Class D license within 24 months of getting an RDL. If a license gets suspended, revoked or canceled during that time, DVS will cancel the RDL. RDLs cannot be renewed.

The RDL Program received a community service

award from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators last fall for innovation and social responsibility in addressing critical barriers faced by people reentering society after incarceration.

Not only does the program help ensure drivers are licensed and can get insured, it can also help prevent the cycle of repeated incarceration, said DVS Driver Services Program Director Jody-Kay Peterson. Driving without a valid license can result in more fines and falling further behind, which could result in being incarcerated again.

By helping remove a barrier to gain employment, pay off debts and fulfill their obligations, this program is an important step in breaking the cycle of poverty, unemployment and relapse into incarceration, she said.

"It gives people the chance to reintegrate successfully, and the benefits ripple outward, strengthening communities and reducing long-term costs associated with incarceration," Peterson said. "It offers people a real chance for a fresh start."

## Osberg makes 140 campaign stops



Erik Osberg

When Wadena's Erik Osberg announced on March 11, 2025, that he was run-

ning for U.S. Congress to represent western Minnesota, he said, "I want to hear the real issues you face daily, and those conversations are best had face to face."

That's exactly what he's been doing. Osberg's first year on the campaign trail has included 140 campaign stops across all 38 counties in the Seventh Congressional District.

"We've been having great conversations with voters about working-class issues that affect our wallets, our kids and our senior citizens," said Osberg. "When you set aside politics and rhetoric, we're all Minnesotans who want the same thing: to

make our lives better than they are today."

A Democrat running against incumbent U.S. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, Osberg said his key areas of focus are on agriculture, education, healthcare, defending the Constitution and getting corporate money out of politics.

Osberg, 53, graduated from Upsala Area Schools and Hamline University. An avid angler and hunter, he has lived in Wadena for 20 years with his wife and their three children.

For the past nine years, Osberg has worked in the public sector as the Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator for Otter Tail County.

## Planning and planting a healing garden

by Robin Trott  
Extension educator, Douglas County

Many gardeners are eager to jumpstart the growing season. Planning a healing garden is an easy, uplifting way to welcome spring, especially if you're craving calm, comfort, and sensory richness.

**Start with soothing scents**

Fragrance sets the tone for a relaxing outdoor space. Aromatic plants can reduce stress, promote calm, and make a garden instantly welcoming.

These scented plants fit the sensory-centered principles of healing garden design:

- Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*): Calming and best grown in containers or with winter protection in Minnesota.

- Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*): Fragrant, hardy, and versatile.

- German Chamomile

(*Matricaria chamomilla*): A gentle herb for soothing teas.

**Add plants that invite touch**

Texture encourages you to slow down and engage with your surroundings. Mixing soft, smooth, and feathery foliage creates a comforting, immersive experience. A range of textures strengthens the garden's grounding, restorative feel.

- Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*): Velvety leaves offer soothing tactile feedback.

- Ferns: Airy fronds add light movement and coolness.

**Choose plants that bring movement and sound**

The sound of rustling leaves or swaying grasses can be deeply calming. Plants that move naturally in the breeze help create a peaceful, meditative atmosphere and add depth to the garden's sensory experience:

- Pines (*Pinus* spp.): Needles produce a soft, whisper-

ing sound.

- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*): Tall stems rustle gently.

- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*): A native grass offering motion and sound.

**Incorporate calming color and harmony**

A soothing color palette helps tie the space together. Soft blues, purples, and pastels work especially well. Repeating colors builds visual calm and cohesion:

- Catmint (*Nepeta* spp.): Lavender-blue blooms in soft drifts.

- Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*): Purple and pink tones attract pollinators.

- Pastel Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*): Peach, pink, and yellow clusters.

As you sort through seed catalogs, choose varieties that bring scent, sound, texture, and color into your space. It may be the grounding project your mind and spirit need as spring approaches.



Dan Kawlewski, Dee Manufacturing Machine Shop operations manager, presenting Linda Fuentez with an Employee of the Month certificate and a \$100 Visa gift card. She is Dee Manufacturing's February Employee of the Month. (Submitted)

## Fuentez named Employee of the Month at Dee

Linda Fuentez has been named the February Employee of the Month at Dee Manufacturing in Crookston. As part of this achievement, she received a \$100 Visa gift card in recognition of her hard work and dedication.

Fuentez has made an incredible turnaround over the past several months. Her attendance has improved significantly, and she has truly done a complete 180. Not only has she shown a strong commitment to being there every day, but she also

brings a great attitude with her to work.

Fuentez genuinely enjoys coming to work and spending time with her coworkers, and it shows in the positive energy she brings to the team. She has even started friendly competitions with her coworkers to see who can make the most parts and achieve the highest efficiency, helping create a fun and motivating atmosphere on the floor.

Her hard work is clearly paying off. During the month of February, Fuentez

achieved an efficiency of 100.67%, well above the Machine Shop departmental goal of 91%. Her dedication, positive mindset and drive to improve have not gone unnoticed.

When Fuentez found out she had been nominated and selected, she was extremely proud and grateful to receive this recognition — and Dee Manufacturing is proud of the progress she has made as well. She is a valuable part of the team and Dee Manufacturing is thrilled to have her on the team.

# Neighborhood BUSINESSES

**AGASSIZ**  
SEPTIC & ROLL-OFF SERVICES  
218-280-5547  
Mike Bjerke - Owner/Operator  
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING | PORTA-POTTIES | ROLL-OFF DUMPSTERS

**FERTILE REPAIR**  
PARTS • OIL • AG & TRUCK PARTS • D.O.T.  
TRUCK & TRACTOR REPAIR  
218-945-3132

**SECURE ONE OF THESE AD SPOTS!**  
Contact us about advertising on this page  
GROW YOUR BUSINESS (218) 681-4450

**Best of MN**  
635 Marin Avenue  
Crookston, MN  
56716  
218-281-6300  
Fax: 218-281-6301  
bestrucksofmn.net

**USED TRUCKS & TRAILERS**  
We are a NAPA truck service center offering full service DOT inspections for over the road & farm trucks

**Compassionate Pet Care**  
Dr. Leah Faudskar  
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
Monday thru Friday 8-5 pm  
**CROOKSTON PET CLINIC**  
281-4231 • Fax 281-4233 • 214 S. Main, Crookston  
www.crookstonpetclinic.com

Employee Owned  
**Thrifty White PHARMACY**  
206 North Main  
Crookston, MN  
218-281-2540  
1-800-795-8528  
Store Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 6 pm • Saturday: 9 am - 1 pm • Sunday: Closed

**BROST** CHEVROLET  
CROOKSTON, MN

Steve Brouse Sales Mgr. Mike Brouse Sales/Finance David Brost General Mgr. Eric Brost Business Mgr.

**218-281-1930**

1600 UNIVERSITY AVE | CROOKSTON  
www.BrostChevrolet.com

**AGASSIZ**  
SEPTIC & ROLL-OFF SERVICES  
218-280-5547

Mike Bjerke - Owner/Operator

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING PORTA-POTTIES ROLL-OFF DUMPSTERS

**Take Your Ag Operation to the Next Level**

Brian Frisk Bill Anderson Kyle Page

**American Federal**  
Banking Insurance Investments

304 N Broadway, Crookston  
218-281-3305  
Toll Free: 877-884-3656  
www.americanfederalbank.com

FISCHER RUST LAW FIRM, PLLC  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**218-281-2400**  
Crookston, MN

# The state's "miracle bean" - Advancing the science of soybeans

You've passed them countless times — acres of green stretching to the horizon along Minnesota highways. But did you know those soybean fields help fuel cars, feed the world, build everyday products, and drive billions of dollars in economic value for Minnesota? Often called the "miracle bean," soybeans are at the heart of one of the state's most important industries — and the University of Minnesota has helped lead that story from the very beginning.

Originally cultivated in China at least 5,000 years ago, soybeans were brought to Minnesota in 1902. While the acres planted started small, the amount increased quickly each year. According to a report from the United Soybean Board and the National Oilseed Processors Association, Minnesota is now the third-largest soybean producing state in the U.S., growing over 7.35 million acres. Soybeans are the state's number one agricultural export with more than \$2 billion in sales. Add in the value of soy products produced in Minnesota, and soy is a clear economic powerhouse generating over \$10 billion annually.

Soybean usage continues to expand, with a wide market due to their versatility. Originally used as forage for animals and as a "plow-down" crop to add nitrogen to the soil, soy is now used for almost anything you can think of - from a complete protein adding vital nutrition in many food products, to animal feed, to biodiesel, to crayons, candles, plastic composites, paint, carpet, roofing, resins, and even a new, ecological fire-fighting foam. The Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council estimates the biodiesel industry alone has a \$1.7 billion economic impact in Minnesota.

Soybeans and soy products are helping us move agriculture into the future, to feed the world, provide new, sustainable alternatives to multiple industries, and improve environmental, human, plant and animal health.

Because soybeans fix nitrogen into the soil and offer high oil content, they serve as a sustainable alternative to petroleum-based oils and plastics. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency classifies soy-based biodiesel as an advanced biofuel for its ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50%.

**A history of innovation**  
The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences has been key in the development of soybeans right from the beginning. In 1946, University of Minnesota agronomist Jean Lambert, originally hired as a barley breeder, began experimenting with breeding soybeans. By 1954 he had switched entirely to soybeans and released 'Renville' - the first variety bred specifically for Minnesota. Jim Orf took over the program in 1981 until 2015. The soybean breeding and genetics program continues to this day under the guidance of Aaron Lorenz. In the past 80 years, hundreds of varieties have been developed by the University of Minnesota, from special, high oil content soybeans for oil markets and biodiesel, to ones with desirable compositional profiles for products like soy milk, natto, and tofu. "Soybeans today yield well over three times as much as they did back in the 1940s. About 60-75% of this increase in yield can be attributed to improved varieties," said Lorenz. But they do more than just work to increase yields in soybean varieties. They are also trying to get ahead of pests and diseases.

"The soybean cyst nematode [roundworm] is the number one problem that keeps coming up," said Lorenz. "The main thing about soybean cyst nematode, that's a concern to farmers, is that the current resistance that most Minnesota farmers use comes from one single source first deployed over 30 years ago. Since it's been used so long and so often, there's been resistance breakdown." In order to stay ahead of the evolving problem, he and his team are using new genetic research tools to identify new sources of resistance

and breed them into varieties adapted to Minnesota. Lorenz's research team is also thinking about how soybeans can play a role in biofuels. Biodiesel demand is growing, so is the need for soybeans with higher oil content.

"We understand there's a lot of potential future demand for renewable diesel, which is going to require a lot more oil," said Lorenz. "Over the long term, we'd like to increase the oil content in soybeans, from around 22% to maybe closer to 30%, to make it a higher-oil crop and more valuable from that standpoint."

**Partnerships across the state**  
The soybean breeding program isn't the only way researchers and students engage with the soy industry. From precision agriculture to soil science, from disease identification to innovating new soy-based products, CFANS is constantly partnering with farmers and the business sector right here in Minnesota.

"Our partners at the University of Minnesota are critical in helping Minnesota's nearly 26,000 soybean farmers in our quest to improve yields, develop new varieties and effectively manage weeds and diseases across our state," said Corey Hanson, a farmer in Norman County and director of the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council. "I've seen firsthand how the checkoff dollars we've invested through the University of Minnesota for over 50 years have improved on-farm profitability and continue to grow a brighter future for our state's agriculture industry."

The partnership extends far beyond the St. Paul campus to all corners of the state. There are 10 Research and Outreach Centers across the state (including one in Crookston), seven of which do significant agronomy research. Embedded in the state and the community, researchers and growers learn from each other, working together to increase ecosystem benefits and ensuring a safe, and sustainable food supply. Working in the various local soils and

climates of Minnesota, growers and researchers can identify specific, local challenges. From addressing nutrient deficiencies in sandy soils, to changing rainfall patterns - they work together to implement cutting edge solutions.

**A sustainable solution**  
Soybeans and soy products are helping us move agriculture into the future, to feed the world, provide new, sustainable alternatives across multiple industries, and improve environmental, human, plant, and animal health. As biodiesel, the EPA has classified it as an advanced biofuel for its ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 percent. Researchers at CFANS are leading the way in replacing fossil-fuel-based industrial adhesives with soy based ones instead. At the Precision Agriculture Center, students and faculty are utilizing AI to maximize yield and balancing sustainability and environmental concerns. They are even finding new ways to reduce fertilizer inputs and increase soybean germination.

The work isn't done - new challenges continue to arise. Students like Alina Smol'skaya are paving the way for the future. She's passionate about creating a more sustainable, food secure world. She's working to make that a reality by mapping the genes in soybeans that control how many seeds develop in each soybean pod. The hope is to develop new, high yielding varieties of soybeans, allowing farmers to grow more on less land.

Whether it's genetic research for breeding soybeans, learning to be an agronomist, a plant pathologist, or soil scientist, CFANS students are getting hands-on learning in the field and in the lab, paving the future for Minnesota soybeans. From fighting pests and disease, breeding better plants, utilizing AI, or even finding new ways to use the "miracle bean," CFANS students, researchers, and faculty are there, continuing Minnesota's soybean leadership tradition.

## New study finds E15 saved MN drivers \$24.7 million in 2024

Minnesota drivers saved \$24.7 million in 2024 alone by choosing E15, according to a new study released Wednesday, Feb. 25 by the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association. E15 is a lower-cost fuel option often marketed as Unleaded 88 that has consistently been priced below traditional gasoline blends.

The study, Cumulative Effects of E15 Sales to Minnesota Consumers, analyzes more than a decade of fuel price and consumption data and finds that E15 has delivered \$79.5 million in total savings to Minnesota consumers since 2013, while also generating significant economic benefits statewide. "E15 is fueling affordability for Minnesotans, and this study makes that clear," said Brian Werner, executive director of the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association. "At a time when families are feeling the impact of rising costs, the fuel pump is one place where Minnesotans can consistently find relief. E15 has re-

liably been a lower-priced option for drivers, saving Minnesota consumers \$24.7 million in 2024 alone and more than \$79.5 million over the last decade. Those savings help household budgets while also supporting jobs, economic activity, and local communities across the state."

- Key findings from the study:
- \$24.7 million in consumer savings in 2024 from E15 compared to E10
  - \$79.5 million in cumulative savings for Minnesota drivers from 2013-2024
  - E15 was up to 18 cents per gallon cheaper than E10 in 2024, the largest price gap on record
  - By 2030, E15 is projected to deliver more than \$272 million in cumulative savings for Minnesota drivers.
  - E15 sales generate \$166.3 million in annual economic output
  - E15 supports 1,081 jobs across Minnesota
  - The E15 market contributes \$30.8 million in an-

nual tax revenue at the local, state, and federal levels

The analysis shows that consumer adoption of E15 has steadily increased over time, growing from virtually zero in 2013 to nearly six percent of all gasoline sales in Minnesota in 2024. As E15's market share has expanded, it has primarily displaced higher-cost E10 fuel, delivering ongoing savings without reducing fuel economy. Beyond savings at the pump, the study finds that E15's economic impact extends across Minnesota's economy, driven by ethanol production, retail fuel sales, supply-chain activity, and increased household spending supported by consumer fuel savings.

The study also notes that access to E15 remains limited during the summer months due to federal restrictions, despite strong consumer demand and demonstrated savings. As Congress continues to consider allowing the nationwide, year-round sale of E15, researchers conclude that expanded access could allow consumers to continue benefiting from lower fuel prices during peak driving season.

### Did you know?

Small farms are the lifeblood of rural communities. According to the Farm Bureau, 97% of American farms are owned by families. Small family farms make up the majority of farms nationwide and operate a higher share of acres altogether than any other farm size. It's important to note that the distinction "family farm" does not necessarily always mean a small-scale operation. Ten percent of farms owned by families generate more than \$350,000 in annual revenue.

**RED LAKE COUNTY CO-OP**

Your Local Agronomy Cooperative

Fertilizer - Chemical - Seed - Application - Delivery  
Premium Fuels - Bulk Oil Delivery

Thank you for contributing to our growing success!

[www.rlccoop.com](http://www.rlccoop.com)

702 12th St SE | Red Lake Falls | 218-253-2149

**PURDYS SHOE STORE** We Carry a Complete Line of **WORK BOOTS**

**20% off Regular-Priced Work Boots**  
Sale Ends March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

REMOVING SHOES KEEN UTILITY Twisted X Timberland CAT Danner SINCE 1932 WOLVERINE BOOTS AND SHOES

HOURS: Monday - Friday 9-6 • Thursday 9-7 • Saturday 9-3  
218-681-2608 | 1-800-511-5759 | 209 LaBree Ave. N. | Thief River Falls  
[www.purdysshoes.com](http://www.purdysshoes.com)

**UNITY INSURANCE**

\*auto \*home \*farm \*crop hail \*business  
\*motorcycle \*watercraft \*recreational vehicles

**Karl Kleven - Agent**  
**Spencer Sundberg - Agent**

Red Lake Falls (218) 253-4381  
Mentor (218) 637-2971  
Plummer (218) 465-4298  
[www.unityins-inv.com](http://www.unityins-inv.com)

# Pirates season ends with loss to Yellowjackets

Fourth-seeded Perham defeated 13th-seeded Crookston 96-68 in the opening round of the Section 8AA boys basketball tournament Thursday night at Perham High School.

Yellowjackets drained 14 three-pointers as a team in Thursday's game, with Cypress Thiel accounting for eight of them in a 29-point effort that led all scorers. Also finishing in double figures for the Yellowjackets were Isaiah Farrell with 25 points and Tate Zacharias with 10.

The Pirates were led by senior Carter Fee with 23 points, with fellow senior Reggie Winjum and freshman Nolan Johnson also hitting double figures with Winjum scoring 21 points and Johnson scoring 14.

Thursday's game was the final high school game for Winjum, Fee, Gunnar Groven, Nolan Cassavant Joshua Hesby.

Perham went on to defeat Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 72-75 to secure a spot in the Section 8AA final four. The Yellowjackets were scheduled to play top-seeded East Grand Forks in the first of two semifinal games at Concordia College in Moorhead. Game two pits two-seeded Staples-Motley against third-seeded Osakis.

The two semifinal winners were scheduled to compete for the section championship Friday at 7 p.m. at Concordia College in Moorhead.

## Section 8A West flexes its muscle in quarterfinals

Based on the QRF formula used to seed the Section 8A tournament, the top six teams in the west half of Section 8A would be seeded ahead of east number one seed Mahnomen/Waubun.

This year, the QRF formula was accurate. The brackets crossed for Saturday's quarterfinal round with

the west winning all four quarterfinal games.

West number one Fertile-Beltrami defeated East number five Northome/Kelliher 86-43; West number three Stephen-Argyle Central defeated Clearbrook-Gonvick 75-56; West number five Northern Freeze defeated East number one Mahnomen/Waubun 72-59; and West number two Red Lake County defeated East Number three Win-E-Mac 87-39.

The all-west semifinal pairings have second-seeded Red Lake County facing the fifth-seeded Freeze at 6 p.m. Wednesday night, followed by top-seeded Fertile-Beltrami against third-seeded Stephen-Argyle at 7:30 p.m.

	1	2	T
Crookston	28	40	68
Perham	45	51	96

Crookston - Carter Fee 23, Reggie Winjum 21, Nolan Johnson 14, Gunnar Groven 5, Nolan Cassavant 3, Beau Smith 2.  
Perham - Cypress Thiel 29, Isa-

iah Farrell 25, Tate Zacharias 10, Kade Raser 8, Sam Dale 6, Nathan Rustad 5, Micah Leonhard 5, Jayden Bormann 3, Bradyn Anderson 2, Dominik Reyes 2.

## Section 8AA Boys Basketball Playoffs

■ Byes - East Grand Forks, Staples-Motley.  
■ First round, Thursday, March 5 - Park Rapids Area 81, Warroad 63; Perham 96, Crookston 68; Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 73, Wadena-Deer Creek 38; Thief River Falls 69, Roseau 57; Osakis 75, Menahga 42; Hawley 73, Barnesville 62.  
■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, March 7 at high seed - East Grand Forks 82, Park Rapids Area 73; Perham 72, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 45; Staples-Motley 73, Thief River Falls 50;

Osakis 63, Hawley 52.  
■ Semifinals, Wednesday, March 11 at Concordia Moorhead - East Grand Forks vs. Perham 6 p.m.; Staples-Motley vs. Osakis 7:45 p.m.  
■ Championship, Friday, March 13 at Concordia Moorhead 8 p.m.

## Section 8A Boys Basketball Playoffs

■ Play-in Round, Monday, March 2 - Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 72, Badger/Greenbush-Middle River 68; Goodridge/Grygla 70, Climax/Fisher 33; Blackduck 63, Lake of the Woods 55.  
■ First round, Thursday, March 5 - Fertile-Beltrami 66, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 55; Northern Freeze 54, Sacred Heart 53; Stephen-Argyle Central 63, Kittson County Central 46; Red Lake County 83, Goodridge/Grygla 48;

Mahnomen/Waubun 86, Blackduck 57; Northome/Kelliher 87, Bagley 79; Win-E-Mac 73, Fosston 54; Clearbrook-Gonvick 87, Red Lake 83.  
■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, March 7 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls - Fertile-Beltrami 86, Northome/Kelliher 43; Stephen-Argyle Central 75, Clearbrook-Gonvick 56; Northern Freeze 72, Mahnomen/Waubun 59; Red Lake County 87, Win-E-Mac 39.  
■ Semifinals, Wednesday, March 11 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls - Red Lake County vs. Northern Freeze 6 p.m.; Fertile-Beltrami vs. Stephen-Argyle Central 7:30 p.m.  
■ Championship, Friday, March 13 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls 7 p.m.

# Girls Basketball Kelliher/Northome, Perham win championships in Section 8

Kelliher/Northome defeated Sacred Heart 66-45 to win the Section 8A girls basketball championship for the first time in program history. The Mustangs are 29-1 overall and 4-0 so far in the post-season with section tournament wins over Win-E-Mac, 102-35; Climax/Fisher, 90-52; Warren-Alvarado-Oslo, 66-55; and defending section champion Sacred Heart, 66-45.

In Section 8AA, the second-seeded Perham Yellowjackets defeated top-seeded

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Rebels 71-63 to claim the section title. The section championship is Perham's fourth in program history and third in the last four years (1991, 2023, 2024).

## Section 8AA

■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, Feb. 28 at high seeds - Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 74, Hawley 67; Menahga 44, Pelican 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 56, Menahga 44; Perham 76, Frazee 73.

■ Championship, Friday, March 6 at Concordia College Moorhead - Perham 71, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 63.

## Section 8A

■ Quarterfinals - Sacred Heart 63, Mahnomen/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 at 7 p.m. at Ralph Engelstad Arena - Kelliher/Northome 66, Sacred Heart 45.

# Countdown is on for pro hockey return to northwest Minnesota

Pro hockey will return to Thief River Falls in fall 2026 with the inaugural season of the Minnesota Northern Lights, but hockey fans can get an early preview Federal Prospects Hockey League action two weeks from now during a two-game series at the Ralph Engelstad Arena later this month.

The FPHL will host a regular season neutral-site matchup between the Indiana Sentinels and the Topeka Scarecrows at the Ralph Engelstad Arena on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. Puck drop is at 7 p.m. both nights.

These contests will be regular season games that will

bring all the action and excitement of FPHL hockey.

Tickets for these games can be purchased online at <https://www.theralphtrf.com/page/show/8880536-box-office> or in-person at the Ralph Engelstad Arena box office. Tickets are \$14 (\$12 for ages 12 and under) when purchased at the arena.

# Big innings haunt Golden Eagles in loss to wrap-up Florida trip

Minnesota Crookston softball rounded out their trip to the Sunshine State on Tuesday morning with one game against Thomas More.

Thomas More would use two separate four-run innings to defeat Minnesota Crookston, 8-3.

The Golden Eagles end their Florida trip with a 4-7 record.

Thomas More would load the bases with two outs in the inning and strike for four runs off of Charlotte Dombrowski (Sr., Valparaiso, Ind.), who made her first start of the season.

The Golden Eagles would make solid contact in the early portions of the game, but were unable to scratch a

run across.

In the bottom of the third, Dombrowski would pull a rabbit out of her hat for the second straight inning, leaving the bases full of Saints and keeping the game at 4-0.

In the top of the fifth, the Golden Eagles would use some two out magic to cut the Saints lead in half, as Emily Kalina (Fr., OF/P, Rice Lake, Wis.) would drive a single to right field, scoring Madeline Murray (So., C/3B, Abilene, Kan.) and Irelyn Spencer (R-Jr., IF, Rapid City, S.D.).

Thomas More would answer right back, finding green grass and finishing the fifth inning with their second four run inning, giving them

an 8-2 lead heading into the top of the sixth.

The Golden Eagles would put a threat together in the seventh and score a run on a Spencer fielder's choice, but could only get one, as they would fall 8-3.

Kalina had another fantastic day, finishing with two more hits, her third straight multi-hit game. Murray also had two hits in the game.

Dombrowski was good in the start, giving up five earned runs in 4.2 innings of work.

Minnesota Crookston will open conference play next weekend, March 21, at home for a doubleheader with Sioux Falls.

# Crookston women's golf places 7th at SMSU Spring Invite

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's golf team finished in seventh of 13 teams at the SMSU Spring Invite at Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Ariz. The Golden Eagles shot rounds of 320 and 323 to open the 2026 spring season.

Minnesota Crookston finished nine strokes behind Colorado Mesa. The only NSIC foe they lost to was Concordia-St. Paul, who placed second. They upended host institution Southwest Minnesota State University by 25 strokes. They also beat

Bemidji State University, and Minot State University.

The Golden Eagles were led Tuesday by Anaka Lysne (Sr., Wahpeton, N.D.), who finished in fifth after finishing seven-over-par for the tournament. She shot a 75 Tuesday. Emma Pierson (Fr., Cherry Valley, Ill.) finished 13th after carding an 81 Tuesday. Lauren Bowyer (Sr., Ivanhoe) and Libby Dulmage (Jr., Leeds, N.D.) tied for 43rd. Bowyer shot an 83, while Dulmage carded an 84. Ainsley McLain (Jr., Grafton, N.D.) posted an 88 Tuesday.

Lilly Mahlberg (Jr., Worthington) competed as an individual and shot an 88 Tuesday.

Izabella Pezicka of MSU Denver, and Falyn Lackey of Western New Mexico tied for the individual champion posting four-over-par tallies in the tournament. Western New Mexico was the team champion shooting 37-over-par as a squad.

The Golden Eagles remain in Arizona for the SMSU Challenge March 12 and 13 in Litchfield Park, Ariz.



2025-26 Crookston Pirates

# SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Pictured from left to right are members of the Crookston varsity and junior varsity girls hockey team: front row - Mercedes Bower, Shyuh Burnette, Jensen Stinar, Kira Daniels, Aubrey Bartrum, Ava Martin, Ashlyn Bailey, Emma LaPlante, Logan Brekken, Adley Vigness, Rilynn Aubol, Peyton Desmarais, Madilyn Abrams; second row - Hailey Fritz, Sydney Loken, Brea Lessard, Keely Garrett, Lauren Tull, Christina Hershey, Catelyn Maruska, Kinsley Wangen, Lily Corneillie, Lyla Oman, Jenikka Reese, Nova Garrett, Katie Seaver; back row - coaches Cooper Freijji, Jake Abrams, Blaiz Halverson and Reed Olson. (Photo by Tiffany Biermaier Photography)

**WIDSETH**  
ARCHITECTS ■ ENGINEERS  
SCIENTISTS ■ SURVEYORS

216 S Main St | PO Box 458 | Crookston  
218.281.6522 | www.widseth.com

**Tiffany Biermaier**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
218.280.4037

**Joyful Heart**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

424 N Broadway Suite A | Crookston  
218-289-1320  
www.joyfulheartphotography.com

**BROST** CHEVROLET  
CROOKSTON, MN

**Good Luck Area Teams!**

CHEVROLET Together let's drive SALES | SERVICE & PARTS

Before You Buy, Give Brost a Try! **218-281-1930**  
1600 UNIVERSITY AVE | CROOKSTON | www.BrostChevrolet.com

**CROOKSTON FUEL CO.** CENEX

LOCALLY OWNED

We're Proud to Support Area Teams

For fast, friendly service call Bill today.  
**218-289-1969**  
Hwy. 75 South | Crookston, MN

**QUALITY PLUMBING INC.**  
Residential & Commercial Plumbing  
for Remodels, New Construction & Service Calls  
**OPEN 8 AM-5 PM - MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**218-281-1351**  
Quality Service | Affordable Prices

Visit our showroom to see faucets, sinks, toilets, and showers.

535 3rd Ave SW • Crookston, MN 56716  
MN Lic PW019245 - ND Lic 9613

## Minnesota Crookston Baseball run rules Point Park in Florida finale

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team picked up their second-consecutive run-rule victory with a 13-3 defeat of Point Park University to culminate their Florida excursion Sunday, March 8 at Chain of Lakes Park in Winter Haven, Fla.

The Golden Eagles improved to 11-7 with the victory. They culminated their trip to the Sunshine State with a 5-2 mark. Minnesota Crookston also went 5-2 in non-conference tilts in Florida in 2024. Point Park dropped to 5-4 with the loss. The Pioneers are in their second season in NCAA Division II. They had 41 wins in 2025, and won the Mountain East Conference, but were unable to make it to the NCAA Tournament in their first season as members. Minnesota Crookston is 2-1 all-time against Point Park. They split games with Point Park in 2020 going 1-1 in Winter Haven, Fla.

Braden Nelson (R-Fr., RHP, Minot, N.D.) picked up his first career win, as he continued to be dominant in relief. Nelson tossed four innings, allowing just one run on two hits. Nelson struck out five, and notched no walks. Nelson has a 1.42 ERA in 6.1 innings, all pitched during the Florida trip, striking out six and walking one.

Nate Benning (Jr., LHP, Browerville) started and tossed two innings, allowing an earned run on one hit and two walks. Lake Hagen (Jr., RHP, Alexandria) threw a scoreless inning, with no hits and one walk with one strikeout. Joey Connelly (Sr., LHP, Eden Prairie) shut the door in the eighth, with one inning, no runs and a strikeout and a walk.

Joey Tedesco, Logan Exler, and Trevor Hancock all had scoreless outings on the bump. The loss went to Brandon Clifford, who allowed seven runs on seven hits in 3.1 innings. Clifford struck out three, and walked one.

Minnesota Crookston was lifted by Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.), who went 2-of-4, with three runs scored and three RBI. Cole

Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) finished 2-of-5, with three RBI. Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley) hit 2-of-3, with an RBI and a run scored. Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw) finished 2-of-3, with three runs scored. Caden Kappes (Jr., 2B/SS, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 3-of-4, with an RBI and two runs scored.

Point Park took an early 1-0 lead in the first when Carlos de La Vega scored on an error. Trevor Jones stole home to extend the advantage to 2-0.

Minnesota Crookston responded in the top of the third. An Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) single drove in Kappes to cut the deficit to 2-1. Minnesota Crookston tied the game with a base-knock from Hebl, driving in Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.). The Golden Eagles took a 3-2 lead with a Sculati single to plate Leach.

The Golden Eagles put together a big inning in the fourth. Kappes singled, and Busbaum scored on an error to push the lead to 4-2. A Schumacher single brought home Fliflet to extend the advantage to 5-2. Kappes crossed on an error to widen the gap to 6-2. A two RBI single from Hebl culminated the inning 8-2, plating Leach, and Schumacher.

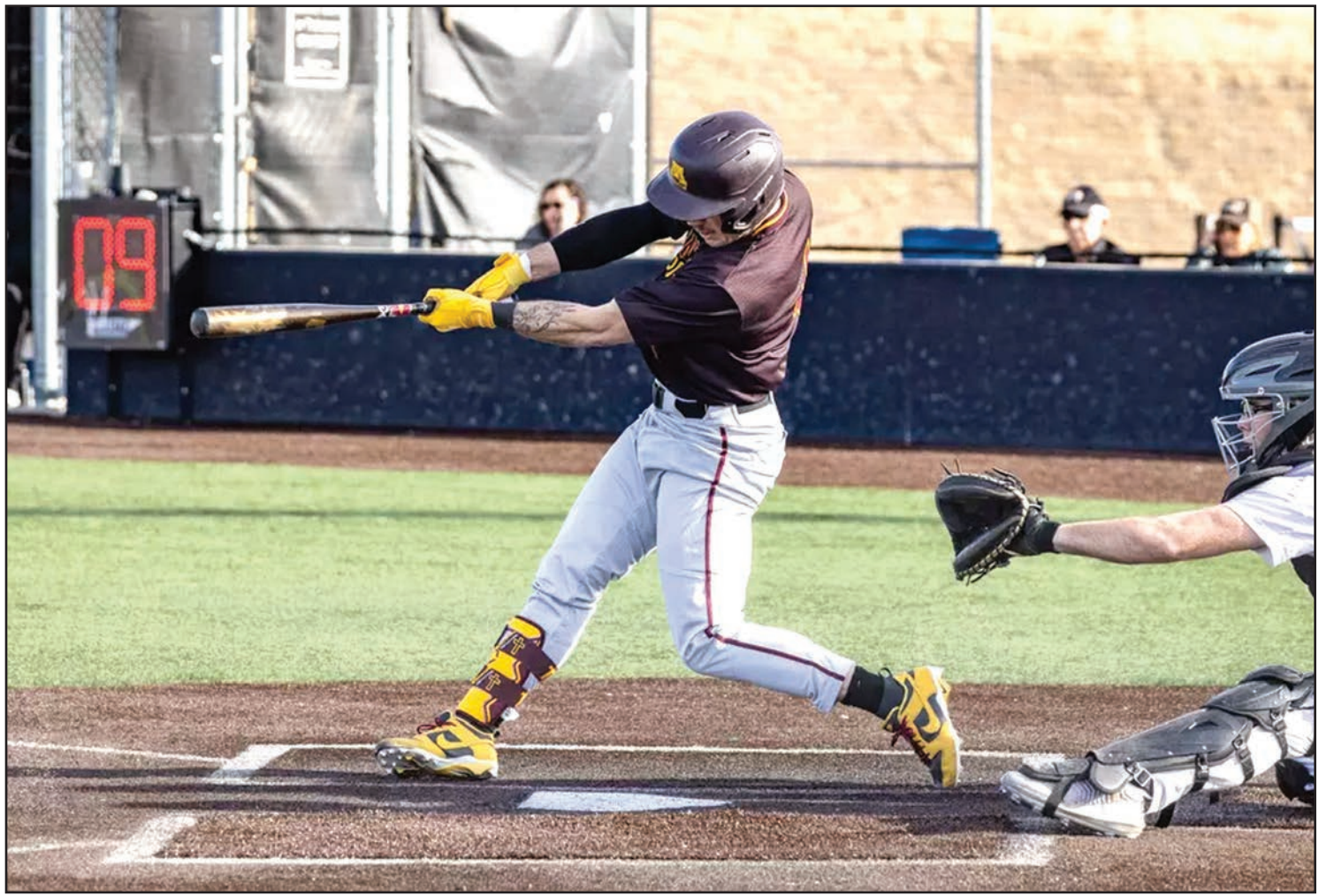
Minnesota Crookston added to their lead in the fifth. A Kappes RBI single sent in Bushbaum to make it 9-2. Uhlich then had an RBI fielder's choice, knocking in Fliflet to push the advantage to 10-2.

Point Park got a run back in the sixth with a Jones RBI single, driving in De La Vega.

The Golden Eagles responded as Fliflet sent his team lead-tying seventh home run of the season, plating Bushbaum, and Sculati to make it 13-3.

Connelly was able to close the door in the eighth to preserve the 13-3 win.

Minnesota Crookston is set to get back into NSIC play with a 4-2 mark. They are slated to host Wayne State College Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15 with a three-game set with Wayne State.



University of Minnesota Crookston junior outfielder Tori Uhlich turns on a pitch during the Golden Eagles' game against UC-Colorado Springs on Feb. 6. The Golden Eagles wrapped up their spring trip to Florida on Sunday with a 13-3 win over Point Park. The Golden Eagles went 5-2 over the course of the eight-day trip and are 11-7 through 18 games in the 2026 season. (Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota Crookston Athletics)

## Golden Eagles score 13 runs in the sixth to take down Cardinals 15-5

The University of Minnesota Crookston used a 13-run onslaught in the bottom of the sixth to run-rule Saginaw Valley State University 15-5 Saturday, March 7 at the Lake Myrtle Park main field in Auburndale, Fla.

The Golden Eagles improved to 10-7 with Saturday's victory over a 30-win Cardinal team from the 2025 season. Saginaw Valley State dropped to 10-7 with the loss. Minnesota Crookston earned their first-ever win over the Cardinals, after losing games in 2022 and 2023 in Florida to Saginaw Valley State. The

Golden Eagles improved to 4-2 with the victory.

Jake Jaroszewski (So., LHP, Fargo, N.D.) picked up his first career victory in relief. Jaroszewski tossed three innings, allowing no runs on one hit. Kyle Odenbach (Sr., LHP, Thompson, N.D.) started Saturday and allowed one earned run on four hits. He struck out three, and walked two. Isaac Roers (R-Sr., RHP, Stacy) gave up three earned runs on three hits. He struck out two, and walked two.

Ryan Walters suffered the loss, allowing six runs on five hits in one inning, with one walk. Chase Raymond started and tossed four innings, allowing no runs on one hit. Raymond struck out four, and walked three.

Minnesota Crookston notched 10 hits Saturday. Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) went 2-of-4, with four RBI and two runs scored. Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw) hit 2-of-4, with two RBI and two runs scored. Thomas Schumacher (Fr., IF, Thompson, N.D.) was 1-of-1, with three runs scored and three walks. Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.) finished 2-of-5, with an RBI and

a run scored. Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 1-of-3, with two RBI and two runs scored.

Saginaw Valley State broke through with scoring in the top of the fourth after three scoreless innings. Jacob Pitt hit an infield single, driving in Austin Cicerone.

The Cardinals padded their lead in the top of the fifth. A Ryan Jarvis base-knock to right field plated Aaron Bess to extend their lead to 2-0. Buck Snabes then reached on an infield single, driving in Lucas Mead, while Ryan Jarvis scored on an errant throw to push the advantage to 4-0. Snabes scored when Connor Cornwell reached on an error, extending the lead to 5-0.

The Golden Eagles trimmed the deficit to 5-1 when Schumacher crossed on a Leach groundout.

Minnesota Crookston took the lead in the sixth as they exploded for 13 runs in the frame. Fliflet opened the onslaught with a two RBI single, driving in Aaron Wensloff (Jr., IF, Roseau) and Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley). With the

bases juiced, Caden Kappes (Jr., IF, Wahpeton, N.D.) was hit by a pitch plating Bushbaum to cut the lead to 5-4.

Fliflet came in to score on a wild pitch to knot the game 5-5. Schumacher scored when Uhlich reached on a fielder's choice to make it 6-5 Golden Eagles. Kappes came across the plate on a wild pitch to widen the gap to 7-5. A Leach single to center field, scoring Uhlich to extend the lead to 8-5. Bushbaum came through with a two RBI single, scoring Aaron Wensloff and Leach to push the lead to 10-5. Bushbaum scored on a wild pitch to make it 11-5. An infield single for Uhlich brought in Fliflet to push their edge to 12-5. Leach culminated the big inning with a two RBI single, plating Kappes and Schumacher to widen the lead to 14-5.

The Golden Eagles concluded the game with a run-rule victory in the bottom of the seventh when Uhlich walked with the bases loaded, scoring Dylan Alexander (R-Fr., C, Glenwood) to walk off with a 15-5 victory.



University of Minnesota Crookston junior third baseman Aaron Wensloff stretches out for a throw at third during the Golden Eagles' game against UC-Colorado Springs on Feb. 6. The Golden Eagles completed the non-conference portion of their schedule last week by going 5-2 during an eight-day trip to Florida. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Crookston Athletics)

## Pitching dominance fuels 8-1 win for Minnesota Crookston over West Virginia Wesleyan

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team earned a dominant 8-1 win over West Virginia Wesleyan College Friday, March 6 at Chain of Lakes Park in Winter Haven, Fla. The Golden Eagles were led by commanding pitching from Ashton Detloff (Fr., LHP, Perham) and Kaylor Chamberlain (So., RHP, Mankato) in the victory.

Minnesota Crookston improved to 9-7 with the Friday morning victory. West Virginia Wesleyan dropped to 3-10 with the loss. The Golden Eagles improved to 6-0 all-time against the Bobcats. They last played the squad in 2023 with a 9-3 win. Their first meeting came with two games in 2018 in Auburndale, Fla. The Golden Eagles improved to 3-2 in Florida, with two games remaining.

Detloff has been outstanding early in his freshman season. He improved to 3-0, the most wins for a Golden

Eagle pitcher this season, throwing five innings and allowing just one run on two hits. He struck out four, and walked four.

Detloff has a 1.38 ERA in 13 innings pitched this season, with 12 strikeouts. Chamberlain had his best performance on the mound for Minnesota Crookston. The sophomore picked up the save after pitching three or more effective innings in relief for the Golden Eagles. Chamberlain tossed four frames, allowing no runs on one hit. He struck out three, and walked one.

Liam Sharer was handed the loss for the Bobcats, allowing six runs on six hits in four frames. He struck out four, and walked five. Bryson Pepper was effective in three innings, allowing no runs on two hits. He struck out four, and walked one. Nolan Slaughter gave up two runs on two walks, while Adiel Rivera pitched a scoreless

stanza.

Minnesota Crookston scored eight runs on eight hits. They also walked eight times. Aaron Wensloff (Jr., IF, Roseau) was 0-of-2, but stole four bases on a walk and two hit by pitches, scoring one run. Minnesota Crookston stole nine bases Friday.

Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 2-of-2, with three RBI. Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) finished 1-of-3, with two runs scored. Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) continued his great start to his freshman campaign, hitting 2-of-3, with an RBI, and a run scored. Kyler Miller (So., SS, Grand Rapids) finished 2-of-3.

West Virginia Wesleyan took the early 1-0 advantage in the top of the second when Carter Collins doubled in Matthew Neach.

The Golden Eagles countered in their half of the sec-

ond with a Uhlich double to left field, driving in Jonah Norman (R-Jr., C, Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Leach to secure a 2-1 advantage, one they wouldn't cede.

In the third, Wensloff started the scoring as he stole third and crossed on a throwing error by the catcher to make it 3-1. A Nate Heymann (Jr., OF, Waimea, Hawaii) single drove in Leach to extend the advantage to 4-1. Uhlich walked with the bases loaded to plate Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) and extended their edge to 5-1.

In the fourth frame, a Leach sacrifice fly brought in Hebl to push the lead to 6-1.

In the eighth, Hebl crossed the plate on a wild pitch to extend the advantage to 7-1. Minnesota Crookston capped off the scoring when Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley) scored when Fliflet grounded into a double play.

### Women's Tennis

## Golden Eagles dominant in win over Bryn Mawr

Golden Eagle Tennis wrapped up their trip to Florida Monday, March 9 with a 6-1 win over the Bryn Mawr College Owls. This is a huge win for the Golden Eagles, as they will now look to take this momentum into their final six games, which

will all be conference games.

The Golden Eagles went 2-1 in doubles, with Daniela de Lucas Rivera (Jr., Madrid, Spain) and Terez Drasilova (Fr., Naples, Fla.) winning 6-3, Kavya Singh (Sr., Agra, India) and Nadia Cases Mundet (Jr., Barcelona, Spain) winning 6-1, and Ariadna Solis Guals (Jr., Santpedor, Spain) and Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain) losing 6-2.

In singles, the Golden Eagles went 5-1. Daniela de Lucas Rivera won 6-2 and 6-

4, Cases Mundet won 6-0 and 6-3, Solis Guals lost 7-6 before winning 6-3 and 11-9, Singh won 6-4 and 6-1, Manas Hernandez won both sets 6-1, and Katie VanPelt (So., Austin) lost both sets 6-3.

The Golden Eagles will be off for 11 days before they head to Bemidji to take on Bemidji State University and the University of Minnesota Duluth on March 20-21.

### ONLINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Apr. 15 Deadline to Consign ~ Sale Closing Date Apr. 30

#### CONSIGN YOUR ITEMS NOW!

Recreational Items, Sporting Goods, ATVs, Trailers, Vehicles, Equipment, Tractors, Guns, Ammo, Tools, Collectibles & Other Items of Interest

Take Advantage of the Good Market

We Can Sell One Item Or A Whole Line At Your Place Or Ours

Over 2 Million Registered Bidders World Wide

We Have Registered Bidders from 50 States

AuctionTime

www.mcmullensales.com • 218-681-3960

**McMULLEN**  
Auctioneers & Realtors