



CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



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Recovery Center receives \$50,000 grant

RiverView Recovery Center has been awarded a \$50,000 grant through Polk County's Opioid Settlement Fund to expand access to substance use prevention, harm reduction, and recovery services across the county. The funding will support RRC's initiative, "Bridging the Gap: Rethinking Rural Recovery."

The project addresses persistent barriers to care for individuals experiencing substance use and mental health challenges – particularly those who are homeless, involved in the justice system, or living in rural areas with limited transportation options.

New digital prevention, early screening tools

The first objective focuses on expanding countywide access to digital prevention and early screening tools through the implementation of CHES Health's ePrevention and eRecovery platforms. The initiative aims to reach at least 500 Polk

County residents with free digital screening and 24/7 peer-supported recovery resources.

CHES Health is a leading provider of evidence-based digital health solutions designed to address the substance use disorder crisis by enhancing prevention, facilitating care coordination, and improving care plan adherence.

"These digital resources allow individuals – including youth and those not currently engaged in formal treatment – to access personalized education anonymously and without fear of judgment," said RRC Director Leane LaFrance, MSML, LADC. "There's also a companion app for families in need of support or to support one another."

LaFrance explained that the platform also includes contingency management tools that reward clients who are progressing in treatment and enable RiverView Recovery Center

team members to provide connection and assignments outside of traditional treatment hours.

Added medication, syringe take-back

The project's second objective strengthens Polk County's harm-reduction network, specifically expanding medication and syringe take-back options. Despite representing less than 1% of Minnesota's population, Polk County experiences disproportionately high rates of drug-related charges, according to LaFrance.

Currently, the only syringe take-back location in the county is at the East Grand Forks Police Department. Through this initiative, a neutral disposal site will be established at RiverView Clinic-Crookston.

"The goal is that, as a healthcare provider who also offers substance use treatment, having these



Leane LaFrance, director of RiverView Recovery Center, and Carolina Diaz, executive director of the Care and Share of Crookston, work closely to help those in need of recovery services. (Submitted)

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School held their annual staff hotdish competition on Wednesday, March 18. This

year's winning hotdish was made by Lisa Bohler. (Submitted)

RiverView Foundation announces scholarship opportunities

The application period is now open for many scholarships through the RiverView Foundation. Applications for the following scholarships are due to the Foundation office by noon on Friday, April 17.

• Bishop Afonya Healthcare Scholarship: In 2007, in honor and memory of his father, Bishop Afonya, Dr. Idatonye Afonya established the Bishop Afonya Healthcare Scholarship through the RiverView Foundation. Dr. Idatonye Afonya, who passed away July 12, 2025, was a board-certified general surgeon and a valued member of the medical staff at RiverView from 1994 until his retirement in 2017. This \$1,000 scholarship is given to a resident of RiverView's service area within a 30-mile radius of Crookston who is either enrolled or with an intention to enroll in a post-secondary program in a healthcare field.

• Lenertz Family Healthcare Scholarship: In recognition of the time and efforts Thomas C. Lenertz provided to the establishment and advancement of the RiverView Foundation, its Board of Directors established the Lenertz Family Healthcare Scholarship. As one of the founders in 1990, Lenertz

was instrumental in all development stages of the Foundation. As RiverView Health chief executive officer, he continued to serve the foundation as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors until his December 2000 retirement. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to up to three recipients from RiverView's service area who are pursuing post-secondary education in a healthcare field.

• June E. Shaver Healthcare Scholarship: In memory of long-time Crookston community and healthcare champion June Shaver, this scholarship is for area students who have completed one semester of college, are enrolled in a second semester and are pursuing a healthcare degree. The scholarship is open to students from the communities of Crookston, Climax, Fertile, Mentor, Erskine, Red Lake Falls, Warren, Argyle, Stephen, Fisher and East Grand Forks. A stipend of up to \$1,500 will be awarded to each year's scholarship recipient. Shaver served as the administrator of the Northwestern Clinic in Crookston from 1953 until her retirement in 1983.

• Richard Maves Healthcare Scholarship: In memory of Crookston community

member Richard Maves, the Richard Maves Healthcare Scholarship is for area high school graduates who are pursuing a degree in a healthcare field. A stipend of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to each year's scholarship recipient. Applicants must be RiverView employees or live within the 30-mile radius of RiverView Health in Crookston. Maves' legacy was his career as a pharmacist and successful business owner. He managed Eagle Drug in downtown Crookston for more than 30 years.

• Lynette "Pud" Joseph Healthcare Scholarship: This scholarship is in memory of Joseph's dedication to the nursing profession and the countless number of patients she so compassionately cared for over the years at RiverView. Joseph spent 49 years providing patient care and training nurses and students to be their very best. She passed away in 2020. The scholarship is open to residents within a 30-mile radius of RiverView. Applicants must be accepted into a LPN or initial (pre-licensure) RN nursing program (associate degree or baccalaureate degree). A stipend of \$750 will be awarded to each year's scholarship recipient.

• Rongen Family Health-

care Scholarship: Established in memory of Charles and Laverne Rongen, this \$500 scholarship is open to high school graduates from Crookston, Beltrami, Fertile and Fisher. Applicants must have completed one semester of college, enrolled in a second semester, and be working toward a degree in healthcare. Chuck and Laverne Rongen were both born and raised in Fertile. In 1964, they moved to Crookston where they were an active part of the community, serving in most of the service clubs. Laverne was passionate about the RiverView Auxiliary and active in RiverView's Limited Addition Gift Shop.

• Roger and Lois Samuelson Family Scholarship: The family of Lois Samuelson established this scholarship in her memory. The scholarship is open to high school graduates from Crookston, Climax or Fisher pursuing a post-secondary education in a healthcare field. Up to \$1,500 will be awarded to the recipient.

• Glenmore Foundation/RiverView Recovery Center Scholarship: The Glenmore Foundation established this scholarship to provide

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Crookston completes Active Transportation Action Plan

The City of Crookston has completed its Active Transportation Action Plan, a seven-month planning effort conducted from June 2025 through January 2026 to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity for people walking and biking throughout the community. This plan was made possible through funding by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Planning Assistance Program. The plan is intended to serve as a living guide for future investments and identifies priority routes and practical actions that can help make Crookston safer and more welcoming for residents of all ages and abilities.

The plan was shaped through a collaborative process led by the Crookston Active Transportation Committee and a diverse Local Planning Team. That process included listening sessions, walking and bicycle audits, an action-plan-

ning workshop, and public input gathered through an online survey and interactive map. The resulting recommendations build on community input, observed conditions, existing plans, and best practices from peer communities.

At the center of the plan is a vision for Crookston to create a safe, inclusive, and connected network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that improves access for all community members, regardless of age, ability, or economic status. The plan also recognizes that meaningful change will require more than physical improvements alone. In addition to sidewalks, trails, crossings, and bike routes, the plan calls for ongoing work in programs, policies, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation.

The plan identifies 11 short-term projects for the

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Cancer care offered at RiverView Health



Dr. Anil Potti

In an effort to provide patient-focused cancer care closer to home, RiverView Health partners with Anil Potti, MD, hematologist and medical oncologist with the Cancer Center of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Potti has been delivering services at RiverView since November 2014, offering consultations, follow-up visits, infusion therapy, and diagnostic radiology. He treats all blood disorders and cancer states. While many aspects of cancer care can be provided locally in Crookston, chemotherapy and radiation therapy are offered at CCND, the region's only independently owned and operated cancer center, where many of Potti's RiverView patients continue their treatment.

"Being able to provide care to patients when they are fighting the fight of their life is a huge blessing to me and my colleagues at the Cancer Center of North

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State Capitol weapons screening running smoothly

On a typical morning at the Minnesota State Capitol, visitors arrive for many reasons — to watch a hearing, meet with lawmakers, take a school tour or just explore the historic building.

Now, before stepping inside, they pass through a new security checkpoint. One month after weapons screening began for the 2026 legislative session, Minnesota State Patrol officials say the process is working well and improving safety while keeping the building open and welcoming.

Screening began on Feb. 17, following an executive order from Gov. Tim Walz and a directive from Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Bob Jacobson. The Minnesota

State Patrol handles security operations at the Capitol complex and manages the screening process.

Capt. Adam Flynn, who oversees Capitol security operations for the State Patrol, said the first month has been a success.

"It's been great," Flynn said. "Our staff has been absolutely critical to making this work."

Quick planning, fast rollout

Implementing the screening required extensive planning in a short time.

After the executive order, the State Patrol was tasked with implementing the DPS commissioner's policies, identifying screening locations and securing screening equipment for the Capitol,

which has multiple entrances.

"You had to take a 30,000-foot view of the building," Flynn said. "Where screening will happen, what equipment is needed and how people will move through the space all had to be considered quickly."

Flynn credited troopers, Capitol security officers and staff for helping launch the program successfully.

Positive public response

Flynn said the feedback from Capitol visitors has been largely positive.

"Anytime you add security, there's going to be some inconvenience," Flynn said. "For people who visit regularly, it may change how much time they plan when entering the building."

However, he said many visitors are familiar with similar screening procedures at sporting events, concerts and other venues.

"People are accustomed to it," Flynn said. "In fact, some visitors were surprised there wasn't already screening here."

In the first month of operations, screening at the Capitol has included:

- 67,101 visitors screened at Capitol entrances.
- 28 prohibited items turned away at screening checkpoints.
- 283 permit-to-carry holders verified by State Patrol staff.

City completes Action Plan/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) next one to five years, including improvements along University Avenue, Front Street, Fisher Avenue and Broadway, Barrette Street, Central Avenue, West 6th Street, Ray Ecklund Park, Central Park, Castle Park, and Old Highway 75. It also outlines 12 longer-term projects, along with recommended policies, programs, and practices to support implementation over time.

The plan also highlights why active transportation matters for Crookston. It

supports affordability, public health, social connection, local business activity, and environmental goals. It is designed to help residents more safely access jobs, schools, parks, services, and recreation without always needing a vehicle.

The City of Crookston plans to kick off these efforts through a demonstration project that will take place this spring. Keep an eye out for future notices on projects that take place as a result of this planning project.

RiverView Recovery Center receives \$50,000 grant/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) boxes in a neutral and easily accessible location will encourage more people to safely utilize them," she said. "Many individuals who are struggling with substance use do not feel comfortable disposing of medications or sharps at a local law enforcement agency, so this provides a safer, lower-barrier option."

LaFrance expressed gratitude for the grant and the opportunity to expand both digital and take-back options.

"These investments allow us to meet people where they are — whether that's online, in the community, or at our clinic," LaFrance said. "They help reduce stigma, improve safety, and create pathways into care that simply haven't existed for many rural residents."

Care and Share collaboration

She is particularly enthusiastic about RRC's continued partnership with the

Care and Share of Crookston. The collaboration began in 2025 when the Care and Share received settlement funding that enabled RRC to open an office within its facility.

"With the rollout of our new digital platform, and through our partnership with Care and Share, we'll be able to make an even greater impact," LaFrance said. "Even if someone only stays there for a night or two, we're able to offer them access to the digital app, which includes live peer support and resources."

Each week, RRC team members meet with individuals at Care and Share — many of whom have recently been released from jail with limited support systems or are managing untreated substance use and mental health conditions. Building trust is essential, though often challenging. LaFrance noted that maintaining an in-person presence has made a meaningful differ-

ence.

"One client told us, 'To be honest, I didn't really trust you when we first met, but I do now,'" LaFrance said. "That trust takes time — and for many people in Polk County, barriers like distance, transportation, and fear of judgment prevent that connection from ever forming."

Ultimately, Bridging the Gap: Rethinking Rural Recovery seeks to increase public awareness, reduce barriers to treatment, and strengthen Polk County's capacity to provide safe, accessible, and stigma-free recovery support, LaFrance said.

For more information about services offered through RiverView Recovery Center in Crookston, East Grand Forks, Roseau, Thief River Falls, and via telehealth, call 218-281-9511 or log onto riverviewhealth.org/services/chemical-dependency.

Cancer care offered at RiverView/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) Dakota," said Potti. "RiverView Health was one of the first health systems to welcome me and our cancer services program to the region, and the gratitude I have for the providers and the patients in the region runs very deep."

CCND is staffed by four providers, including two with roots in Minnesota — one from McIntosh and one from Warroad. The center emphasizes high-quality, personalized care and maintains a strong commitment to the region.

"We have deep roots in this region and our promise is that we will be available 24/7 for our patients, providing services within the first 24 hours of a referral," Potti said.

Potti earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree from Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India, and completed an internal medicine residency at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, where he also served as chief resident. After more than seven years in the Red River Valley, he pursued hematology and on-

colony training at Duke University, where he later served as a faculty member for four years.

A board-certified clinician, Potti has practiced oncology for more than 20 years and has received numerous honors, including the Alpha Omega Alpha Award, Resident of the Year Award, and multiple Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards.

Potti's services are offered at RiverView once a month, with an average of 40 patients seen during each visit — patients who would other-

wise need to travel to Grand Forks or beyond for care.

"It is an honor when patients trust us with their care — an honor that I am deeply thankful for," said Potti. "Every day I realize that patients going through their individual cancer journeys help me more than I could ever help them."

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Potti, speak with your primary care provider about a referral or contact the Cancer Center of North Dakota at 701-787-5800 for more information.

Scholarship/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) training for professional development for those serving the therapeutic needs of individuals and families suffering from the disease of addiction. Applicants must be seeking a degree and/or licensure in the field of addiction studies, addiction counseling, co-occurring disorder treatment or mental/chemical health fields. Preference will be given to candidates intending to work in the northwest

Minnesota region. Up to \$2,500 will be awarded to each recipient.

Full guidelines and applications for these scholarships are available online at www.riverviewhealth.org/foundation/scholarships/ or by stopping at the foundation office located at 721 S. Minnesota St., Crookston. For more information, contact Foundation Director Randy Schoenborn at 218-281-9249 or rschoenborn@riverviewhealth.org.

Crookston Area Ministries

<p>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH 23928 265th St SW - Crookston (East of Highland School) Church: 281-5629 Preston Hoiseth, Pastor Web: www.biblebaptistcrookston.org Email: biblebaptist@midco.net Sundays: 7:45 a.m. & 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</p>	<p>CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523 Pastor Matt Williams 218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN www.fisherbyglad.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch 218-891-4632 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES 1727 Widman Lane - Crookston For information call: 218-281-6252 Sundays: 10 a.m. Public Talk, Watchtower Study Thursdays: 7 p.m. Christian Life, Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 415 West 6th St - Beltrami Pastor Joel Kangas Church email: resurrect@gvtel.com Church website: www.resurrectionfree.org Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>TRINITY LUTHERAN 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN www.fisherbyglad.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-893-4243 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p>CONCORDIA LUTHERAN 100 Jefferson Ave SW - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>FREEDOM CHURCH Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston helloffreedomchurch.com Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN 10802 423rd St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>RODNES LUTHERAN 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on Cty 210 Office: 218-687-4345 Pastor Joel Smeby www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)</p>	<p>MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN 13960 380th St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p>CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON & ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY 702 Summit Avenue - Crookston 218-281-1735, Parish, 218-281-1835, School & RE Offices The Most Reverend Bishop Cozzens The Very Reverend Msgr. David Baumgartner Saturdays: 5 p.m. Mass at Cathedral, 10:30 a.m. Mass at Gentilly Daily Mass: 7:45 a.m. Tuesday-Friday (Monday Communion Service 7:45 a.m.) Please visit our website: www.crookstoncathedral.com for more information.</p>	<p>ENCOUNTER CHURCH 209 North Main - Crookston Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12) Find us on Facebook</p>	<p>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT Gary Johnson, Pastor http://www.gosen-church.com Facebook: Gosen Church Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosen-church.com)</p>	<p>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Nielsville, MN Monty & Amanda Brown For information call: 218-946-2675 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston Phone: 218-456-2568 Pastor David Jahn Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>
<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN 4391 340th Ave - Fertile Pr. Dan Morto Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastor Noah Thompson Pastor John Merseth 1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston Phone: 218-281-4342 Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE 10490 438th St SW Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p>ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>
<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MENTOR 105 Harrison Ave N - Mentor Pastor Rev. Michael Sletto 218-637-8263 Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC) Church Office: 218-687-4035 332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535 Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020 Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC 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</p>
<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 510 North Broadway - Crookston 218-281-4853 crookstonfirstpres.org Rev Michael Ozaki, pastor Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship (live-streaming at crookstonfirstpres.org or on our Facebook page) Communion 1st Sunday Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book study</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>HARVEST CHURCH 520 Fisher Avenue - Crookston 218-281-2264 Pastor Dave Finsaas www.harvestchurchcrookston.com Sundays: Worship Service online or in-person at 10:30 a.m. <i>Livestream can be found on our Facebook and YouTube channel.</i> Facebook: Harvest Church Crookston YouTube: Harvest Church Crookston, MN Instagram: @harvestchurchcrookston</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN (ELCA) 1214 University Avenue - Crookston Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com Phone: 218-281-3638 Pastor Curt Peterson Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship You may worship via Facebook Live: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn</p>	<p>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston 218-281-3393 website: crookstonmethodist.com - view services here email: wesleyumcrox@gmail.com Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor Sunday, April 5: Easter worship at 9 a.m., Breakfast to follow</p>

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THIEF RIVER FALLS Times

OFFICE HOURS

The Times office hours are:
Monday - Thursday
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Friday
 8 am - 3 pm

DEATHS

Anne Schulz, 59

Anne Marie Schulz passed away peacefully on Sunday March 15, 2026. Per Anne's request there will be no formal services.

Dale Knotek, 90

Dale Howard Knotek, 90, died Sunday, March 22, 2026.

A celebration of Dale's life will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in June of 2026. Service details will be available at a later date.

Marlene Tureson, 87

Marlene Tureson, 87, of Warren, died on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

Traditional Latin Funeral Mass will be held on March 30, 2026, at 10 am, in Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Crookston.

Visitation will be held on Sunday evening, from 4-6 p.m. with rosary at 6 p.m. in DuBore Funeral Home Chapel, Warren, and one hour prior to Mass.

Interment will be at Calvary Catholic Cemetery of Warren.

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NOTICES

March 28, 2026
Septic System Fix-up Grant Program
 Polk County Environmental Services is pleased to announce the availability of a cost-share grant program that is available to property owners in Polk County that have an existing noncompliant septic system. Funds are intended to fix septic systems that are currently failing codes or functionality. These dollars are made possible through a grant received from the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Act.

There is a limited amount of funding available and preference for funding will be determined based on household income status, condition of existing system, and proximity to priority surface waters. Income restrictions do apply. A major goal within the fix-up program aims to fix "imminent public health threats". Polk County uses HUD low-income guidelines to group funding grant contributions.

Households must not exceed these income guidelines, must be the landowners homestead not a second dwelling or rental, and applicants will be required to pay any match requirement upfront if approved. No holding tank septic systems can be installed and SSTS for new construction of a dwelling does not qualify for the program. The County will provide a cost share grant contributing 60% and up to 80% of installation cost up to a maximum of \$12,000 grant dollars.

To learn more about this program, please call Polk County Planning and Zoning at (218) 281-5700. Program applications can also be found on our website at www.polkcountymn.gov under the Environmental Services and Planning and Zoning Department page. The deadline to apply for the Septic System Fix-Up Grant Program is May 8th, 2026. After this date, remaining funding will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Jacob Snyder, Polk County Assistant Environmental Services Administrator



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Ceremony to be held for VA outpatient clinic in Grand Forks

The Fargo VA Health Care System will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the new Grand Forks Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. The ceremony will be held Thursday, April 30 at 1 p.m. at its new location, 1407 24th Ave. S., Suite 100,

Grand Forks. This new facility, which is two times larger than the current location, will provide enhanced health care services for local veterans, including general radiology services (X-ray and Ultrasound) and expanded specialty care.

THE CITY OF CROOKSTON Project Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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 UMN Careers Job ID number 372702
 \$26.50 to \$28.00 per hour

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 UMN Careers Job ID number 372377
 \$28.00 - \$30.00 per hour
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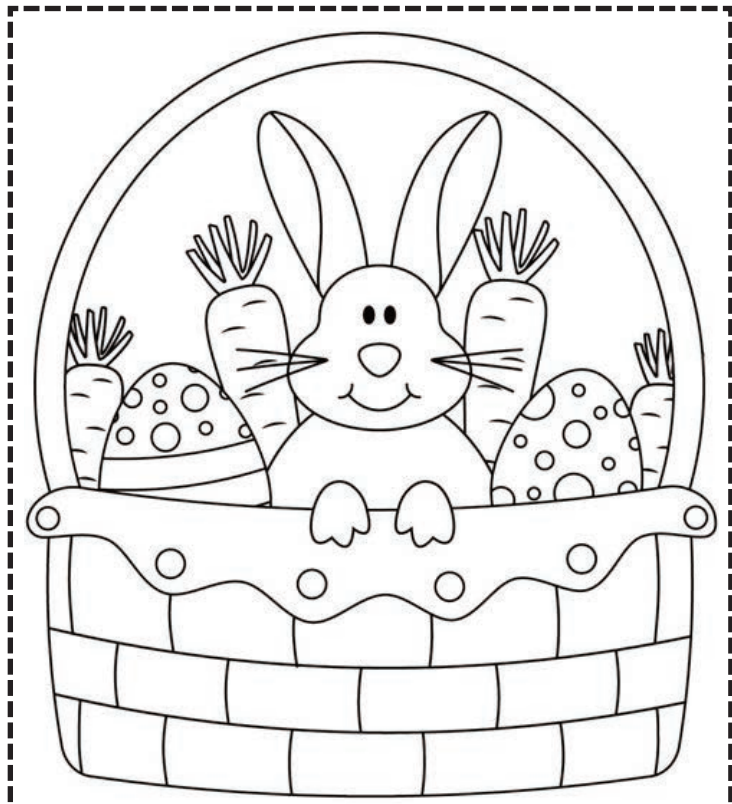
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 Mike Leiseth
 Office # 218-281-8602
 Email: nwroc-director@umn.edu

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Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all children in Northern Minnesota. **There are two age groups: Ages 3-7 years and Ages 8-12 years.**
2. Prizes will be awarded by each participating business for each age group.
3. Children must bring their colored pictures to the participating business whose name appears under the picture. No mail entries will be accepted.
4. **Judging date for the completed pictures is Monday, March 30, 2026.** All pictures must be in prior to that date.
5. Every participating business will notify winners from their business.



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POLK COUNTY Minnesota Employment Opportunities:

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

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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.

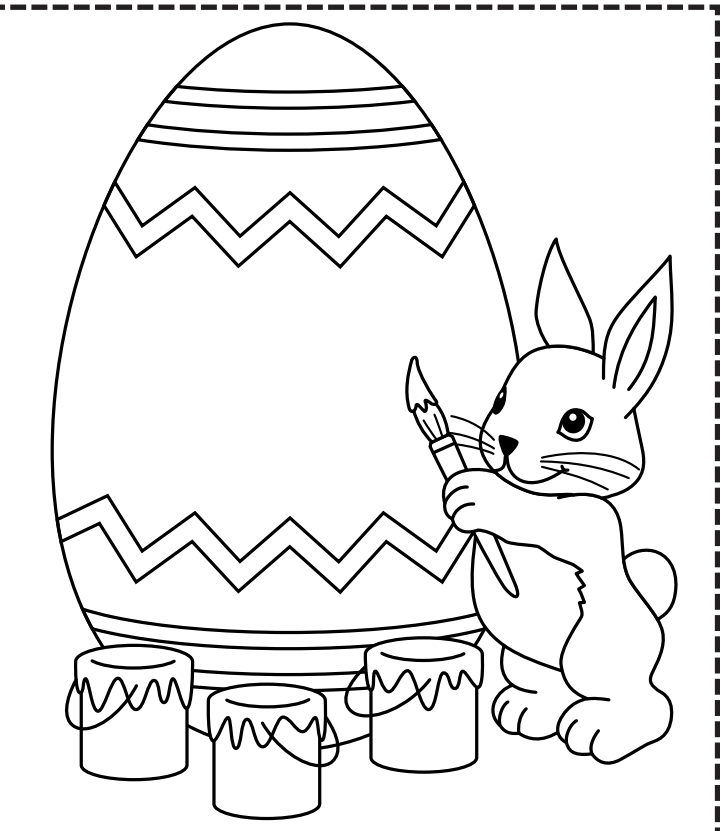
Mechanical Maintenance Technician - Incinerator:

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

Sort Line Operator I - II - Fosston:

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For a full job description, application, and general job openings information, go to www.co.polk.mn.us and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408 Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE



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Rural Reflections ...

Delving into the world of leatherwork



by Grant Nelson

Last November, I was mired by doubt as I struggled to settle on a new winter project. It all started two winters ago with plans to make my own greeting cards. This turned out to be a non-starter and the project died on the vine. Last winter, I had planned to try leatherwork until I found myself at the end of March 2025 with no leather and no work. This winter, I made the step into the world of leather tooling, a craft where my big ideas manifest themselves in tiny, consistent actions.

I don't consider myself an artist. I cannot draw or even

color within the lines very well. I am creative, but the space between creativity and art is a chasm that can be bridged only by learning skills, one by one. I have discovered that artwork is two words. Art is the creative impulse while the work is learning the technique to produce what you see in your mind. Maybe some are born with artistic talents, I have to earn mine – or at least watch them on YouTube.

I have found education must precede ordering supplies in any new undertaking. In the case of leatherwork, I found a couple of known leather businesses that also produced instructional videos. If you saw me at the fitness center this winter and wondered what I was watching on my phone while I used the elliptical machine, it was leather tooling videos from 23 Plus Leather and the Weaver

Leather Company. Each video created questions as it also answered others. I ordered my first supplies and began practicing before Christmas. I only recently finished my first belt.

I think the driving force behind all creativity is expression, although it's also just nice to enjoy a project that doesn't include a deadline. After I had a little knowledge, I ordered the basic tools to finish a belt, including a pre-cut leather strap. I skived the belt and then stamped a border and a few symbols that I felt represented my life. When the tooling was completed, I dyed and finished off the project and attached a belt buckle.

A sub-hobby of leatherwork is collecting belt buckles. I enjoy the look of specialty belt buckles, particularly trucker buckles and buckles that relate to agriculture. I picked up a

few seed company belt buckles along with a really nice "Peterbilt" truck buckle. I chose the trucker buckle for my first creation; the world feels like naugahyde, smells like diesel fuel and sounds like Red Sovine and Dave Dudley music each time I wear it.

I don't linger on past accomplishments; it's too bad because I think I could enjoy my work longer if I wasn't always on to whatever is next. It is back to my videos as I learn the skills to try sewing leather and make more complicated designs. I like to learn and each task supports my need to create. It will all soon end with summer's start – a time to enjoy short-sleeved shirts and endlessly mow the grass. The fall of 2026 will be here soon and I will go back to the space where I create small things that feel big to me.

New "State of Rural 2026" report shows post-pandemic trends taking shape across rural MN

The Center for Rural Policy and Development has released its annual "State of Rural" report, offering a comprehensive look at the economic, demographic, and societal trends shaping rural Minnesota. The 2026 report highlights how post-pandemic trends are reshaping rural Minnesota – where new migration patterns are stabilizing populations even as long-term demographic and workforce challenges intensify.

CRPD's "State of Rural" report provides policymakers with a clear, data-driven picture of how Minnesota's rural regions are changing, and what those trends mean for the state's future.

As rural Minnesota continues to evolve, the report identifies several key findings:

- Migration stabilizes rural populations: Rural counties have seen a notable turnaround this decade, with far fewer counties losing population compared to the 2010s. Increased in-migration since the late 2010s has helped stabilize or grow populations in many areas.
- Demographic headwinds persist: Despite recent gains, rural Minnesota faces ongoing challenges as aging populations and declining birth rates lead to more deaths than births, trends expected to continue.
- Who's moving matters: Rural areas continue to attract working-age adults, particularly those in their 30s and 40s, even as younger adults in their 20s leave. At the same time, growing BIPOC populations are playing an increasingly important role in shaping future growth.
- Workforce shortages pressure local economies: Job vacancy rates remain higher in Greater Minnesota than in the Twin Cities, making it harder for employers to fill positions and contributing to rising wages.
- Incomes rising, but affordability varies: While

wages and incomes in rural areas remain lower than in the metro, rural regions have seen some of the strongest income growth in recent decades. Lower cost of living helps offset that gap in many areas, though some regions still face affordability challenges.

"Rural Minnesota is at an inflection point," said Julie Tesch, CRPD president and chief executive officer. "We're seeing encouraging signs – population stabilization, income growth – but those gains are fragile. The opportunity now is to build on this momentum and ensure rural communities have the tools they need to grow and thrive in the years ahead."

The report takes a deeper look at how these trends are playing out across rural Minnesota, from the long-term shifts in migration patterns to the persistent workforce challenges facing employers. It examines how job vacancies and rising wages are reshaping local economies, while also highlighting the important role cost of living plays in determining economic opportunity across regions. The

report also explores how differences in industry mix – including the outsized role of health care, government, and self-employment – continue to shape the character and resilience of rural economies.

"These trends tell a nuanced story," said Kelly Asche, CRPD senior researcher. "We're seeing positive signs in rural Minnesota right now – migration is stabilizing populations and incomes are growing – but those gains are happening alongside long-term demographic challenges we can't ignore. The reality is that rural communities are competing for people and workers in a much tighter labor market, and the decisions we make today will determine whether recent progress turns into long-term sustainability."

In addition to the report, CRPD offers the "Atlas of Rural Minnesota" online, an interactive tool with maps and data that allow users to explore trends at the state, regional, and county levels. The full "State of Rural 2026" report is available at www.rurallmn.org/the-state-of-rural-2026.

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Incomes rising, but affordability varies: While

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Incomes rising, but affordability varies: While

Projections detail extreme precipitation trends

Updated climate projections from the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership offer significant improvements in future temperature and precipitation information for Minnesota communities, including details on lake ice and lake temperatures for the coming decades.

These projections, published in February in the journal Water Resources Research, use a sophisticated regional climate model to analyze urban heat islands, inland lake temperatures, snow depth, soil moisture and other variables with major implications for human and ecological

health. The projections — the only future climate information available to Minnesota communities at a 2.5 square miles scale — are available free-of-charge through the Climate Adaptation Partnership's online climate mapping tool, MN CLIMAT.

LETTER

We need to embrace peace and love

Recently, I spoke with my sister in Virginia. She, like myself and so many others, find these times we live in very upsetting. The Trump presidency is a horror story ongoing. Trump each day inflicts pain and suffering. He is so selfish, takes no responsibility for his actions, is devoid of integrity, lacks heart and soul. It's frightful he is president.

Trump who can never leave well enough alone, now has made the ultimate mistake, a huge deadly error – the war on Iran.

This war never needed to happen. That truth cannot be stressed enough. Since 1996, Netanyahu/Israel has appealed to U.S. presidents – Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama and Biden – to join in to attack Iran. They did not agree. For three decades, the Pentagon rigorously

fought back the pressure to go to war. Trump took the bait. He has no clear goal for the war other than unconditional surrender and bombastic threats. He has clearly made a terrible miscalculation about what the U.S. could achieve.

As of this date, March 14, hundreds have been killed, millions more displaced, 13 U.S. service members killed and billions of dollars spent – about \$1 billion daily. This one billion daily spent on Trump's illegal war could be enough to cover the daily costs of Federal nutrition assistance for 40 million Americans as well as daily Medicare costs for the roughly 16 million Americans expected to lose health coverage due to the cruel "Big Beautiful Bill" signed by Trump last year. Health not wealth for the military

complex. This ghastly war has and will create chaos, pain and suffering to millions perhaps the world. There is no end in sight.

Many, including myself, are firmly opposed to this shameful war. I find it disgusting that my hard-earned tax dollars are spent on death and destruction. This latest military madness is an ideal distraction for Trump from the issue affecting all of life – climate change which he firmly denies – that truth isn't profitable. We the people need to care, pay attention, disregard the theme of Trump of selfishness and embrace peace and love. War – what is it good for? Absolutely nothing.

Chuck Goyette
Red Lake Falls

POLICIES

Letters To The Editor: The staff of the Northern Watch encourages written responses to editorial comment or letters with original thoughts or ideas of general interest. Letters should be intended for publication in Northern Watch exclusively; letters sent to multiple publications will generally not be accepted. Right is reserved to edit letters for length and clarity and to reject letters deemed to be promotional in nature or in poor taste.

Letters Must Be Signed: All letters must be signed and contain an address or phone number of the writer so authenticity can be verified. Signatures must appear on letters published. The staff believes that there is greater credibility in

letters signed in print and will not withhold names of writers from publication.

Responses Invited: Letters critical of individuals or other entities may be shown to those individuals or representatives of those entities in advance of publication with an invitation by newspaper staff for response in the same issue as the original letter.

Corrections: If an error is made in news or advertising publication, the staff encourages readers to call it to our immediate attention by calling 681-4450. We will attempt to correct the error or clarify the misunderstanding in the next issue.

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MEET THE TEAM



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Minnesota Crookston Baseball powers past Jimmies in Saturday sweep

The University of Minnesota Crookston combined for 27 runs in a dominant sweep of the University of Jamestown Saturday, March 21 at Aspen Park in Brandon, S.D.

The Golden Eagles improved to 14-10 (7-5 NSIC) with the sweep, while Jamestown dropped to 5-19 (1-11 NSIC). Minnesota Crookston swept the first-ever NSIC series against the Jimmies. The Golden Eagles also picked up their first three wins in series history against the Jimmies improving to 3-4 all-time against Jamestown.

Game One

Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) hit a grand slam for his team-high ninth home run of the season, and Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) launched a three-run blast to ignite an 11-6 victory for the Golden Eagles.

Isaac Roers (R-Sr., RHP, Stacy) earned his first victory of the season, tossing four frames. Roers allowed four runs on nine hits. He struck out eight, and walked two.

Jake Jarozewski (So., LHP, Fargo, N.D.) continued his strong sophomore season allowing no runs on no hits in 1.1 innings. Lake Hagen (Jr., RHP, Alexandria) gave up two runs on two hits in 1.2 stanzas.

The loss went to Jamestown's Nolan McCaffery, allowing two earned runs on six overall runs on eight hits.

Fliflet paced the Golden Eagles, hitting 2-of-3, with four RBI and two runs scored. Hebl went 2-of-3, with three RBI and two runs scored. Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) hit 2-of-4, with an RBI. Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley) was 2-of-4, with two runs scored. Tori Uhlich (Jr., OF, Wahpeton, N.D.) went 1-of-3, with an RBI and two runs scored.

Jamestown jumped out to an early 1-0 advantage with a Ben Swennumson infield single to plate Jett Nelson. They extended the lead to 2-0 when Benney Benitez singled in Swennumson.

The Golden Eagles responded in the top of the third. Uhlich doubled to

plate Caden Kappes (Jr., IF, Wahpeton, N.D.) to trim the deficit to 2-1. The Golden Eagles knotted the tilt 2-2 with a Leach single to drive in Uhlich. They took a 5-2 advantage with a three-run shot from Hebl, driving in Sculati, and Aaron Wensloff (Jr., IF, Roseau).

In the fourth, the Golden Eagles pushed their lead to 6-2 with an RBI groundout from Thomas Schumacher (Fr., IF, Thompson, N.D.) driving in Fliflet.

Jamestown made a comeback in the fifth with a two-run single from Adrian Warcken, plating Benitez and Mathieu Morin to trim the deficit to 6-4.

Minnesota Crookston pushed the lead to 7-4 when Uhlich crossed when Wensloff grounded into a double play.

The Golden Eagles extended their lead to 11-4 with a grand slam from Fliflet, driving in Hebl, Sculati, and Nate Heymann (Jr., OF, Waimea, Hawai'i).

Jamestown cut the lead to 11-6 with a Reese Logdon home run, plating Trayson

Kostial. However, it would not be enough as Minnesota Crookston won 11-6.

Game Two

The Golden Eagles picked up a dominant 16-4 win in the second tilt over the Jamestown Jimmies. Minnesota Crookston hit three home runs in the win. Fliflet added to his team-high total with his 10th home run of the season. Fliflet leads the NSIC in home runs. Leach and Aaron Wensloff also added round trippers in the victory.

Nate Benning (Jr., LHP, Browerville) improved to 2-0 with the victory. Benning threw 4.2 innings, allowing four runs on six hits. Benning struck out seven, and walked three. Braden Nelson (R-Fr., RHP, Minot, N.D.) made another quality relief appearance, throwing 1.1 innings and allowing no runs on three hits. Kyle Odenbach (Sr., LHP, Thompson, N.D.) pitched a scoreless frame of relief.

Luke Zimmer suffered the loss for Jamestown, giving up five runs on four hits in two stanzas.

Minnesota Crookston notched 17 hits in the win. Sculati paced the Golden Eagles going 4-of-5, with two RBI and two runs scored. Fliflet finished 2-of-3 with three RBI and two runs scored. Uhlich finished 3-of-4 with two runs scored. Schumacher went 3-of-4, with one RBI and three runs scored.

The Golden Eagles jumped out to the 1-0 lead when Aaron Wensloff hit a solo shot, his fourth blast of the season.

The Jimmies evened the scales with a Kostial single to plate Morin.

Minnesota Crookston chipped in four runs in the second. Fliflet crossed on a Kappes groundout to go ahead 2-1. A Schumacher single to center field plated Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw, Minn.) to extend the lead to 3-1. A two-run round-tripper from Leach brought in Schumacher to widen the gap to 5-1.

Morin trimmed the deficit to 5-2 with a solo shot for Jamestown in the third.

Minnesota Crookston put

together an onslaught in the fourth with six runs. A two RBI double from Aaron Wensloff plated Uhlich and Schumacher to extend the lead to 7-2. Sculati followed suit with a double to drive in Aaron Wensloff and Leach to push the advantage to 9-2. Fliflet singled in Sculati to make it 10-2, while Bushbaum singled in Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) to extend the lead to 11-2.

In the fifth, Uhlich and Schumacher crossed on a throwing error to push the edge to 13-2.

Jamestown sliced the deficit to 13-4 with a Frankie Malagon two-run shot to drive in Julian Romero.

Minnesota Crookston run-ruled the Jimmies in the seventh with a Hebl single to score Sculati, while Fliflet hit a home run to score Hebl to make the final tally 16-4.

The Golden Eagles return home to face Northern State University in a three-game set in Crookston Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29.

Four MN Crookston men's basketball players named Academic All-District

The University of Minnesota Crookston men's basketball team had four student-athletes named to the Academic All-District Team as presented by the College Sports Communicators (CSC).

The accolade is bestowed to student-athletes with a 3.5 GPA or higher, and student-athletes who are at least a sophomore academically and athletically. In men's basketball, the student-athlete must compete in 90 percent of the institution's games

played OR must start in at least 66 percent of the institution's games.

Brayden Carlson, a native of Woodbury, is a sophomore with a 3.90 GPA in management. Carlson played in 28 games, and started 11 as a sophomore, averaging 3.7 points and 2.9 boards per game.

J.D. Roberts, a native of Parkville, Mo., is a junior with a 3.86 GPA in software engineering. Roberts played in 28 games, and started 13 in his first year with the pro-

gram. He averaged 4.9 points and 3.8 rebounds per tilt.

Caiden Swenby, a native of Fertile, is a sophomore with a 4.00 GPA in management. Swenby played in 27 games as a sophomore, notching 1.7 points and 1.1 boards per game.

Alijah Washington, a native of San Jose, Calif., is a junior with a 3.73 GPA in communication. Washington played in 27 games, starting 23 as a junior. He notched 1.1 points and 4.0 rebounds per game.

Four women's basketball players garner Academic All-District accolades

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team had four student-athletes named to the Academic All-District Team as presented by the College Sports Communicators (CSC). The accolade is bestowed to student-athletes with a 3.5 GPA or higher, and student-athletes who are at least a sophomore academically and athletically. In women's basketball, the student-athlete must compete in 90 percent of the institution's

games played OR must start in at least 66 percent of the institution's games.

Tayden Hanks, a junior from Los Lunas, N.M., has a 3.83 GPA in communication. Hanks played in 28 games, starting one for the Golden Eagles. She notched 1.6 points and 1.1 boards per game.

Rayna Klejeski, a junior from Barnum, has a 3.95 GPA in accounting. Klejeski started all 29 games as a junior, averaging 12.5 points

and 6.1 boards per tilt.

Brynlea Mahlen, a sophomore from Fosston, has a 4.00 GPA in exercise science and wellness. Mahlen appeared in all 29 games, averaging 0.9 points and 1.6 rebounds per game.

Halle Winjum, a sophomore from Crookston, has a 3.89 GPA in sport and recreation management. Winjum played in all 29 games, starting 19. She averaged 3.8 points and 3.3 boards per game.

Moose population remains relatively stable

The most recent Minnesota moose population estimate is approximately 4,470 animals, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' 2026 population survey.

Results suggest that after a steep decline from a population estimate of 8,000 in 2009, Minnesota's moose

population appears to have somewhat leveled, fluctuating around 3,700 animals in recent years.

Despite recent estimates suggesting relative stability in the population and reproductive success, Minnesota DNR researchers point out that Minnesota moose remain at risk. Climate

change, parasites, habitat loss and predator impacts on calf survival all play a part in the long-term survival of the moose population.

The survey is available on the Minnesota DNR's moose management webpage (mndnr.gov/moose).



Zach Herfindahl, a Team Arctic racer, earned three podium finishes last weekend at the Gogebic Community College Ironwood XC Championship in Michigan. (Photo by Emily Pearl Photography)

Nothing stops Team Arctic's XC team

Team Arctic cross-country racers in multiple classes proved once again that they won't back down from any body or anything as they tackled wildly different weather conditions, a rugged course and intense competition at the Gogebic Community College Ironwood XC Championship on March 21-22 in Michigan.

On Saturday, temperatures soared above 60 degrees, creating slushy and at times downright muddy conditions that taxed riders and machines. Then, an overnight freeze and fresh snow dramatically changed the race surface for Sunday.

Through it all, Team Arctic racers persevered and shined.

In the Pro classes, Zach Herfindahl earned three hard-fought podium finishes over the weekend - including a Pro Open victory Saturday, second in Pro Factory Sunday and third in Pro Open Sunday on his Arctic Cats. Herfindahl heads into

the season finale in first place in Pro Open points, and third in Pro Factory. His Pro class teammate Jesse Hallstrom also earned multiple top five finishes over the weekend in his first race back from injury.

The Arctic Cat hero of the undercard was Trig Anderson. On Saturday morning, the 17-year-old Warren resident led a 1-2-3 Team Arctic podium sweep in the packed Sport Stock class, with Kyle Quesenberry second and Rielly Clark third. Later that same day, Anderson won Sport Improved Stock with Clark in second. Then on Sunday, Anderson led yet another Arctic Cat podium sweep, this time in Sport Improved Stock, with Clark second and Quesenberry third.

There were multiple Team Arctic success stories throughout the weekend at the Cor Powersports event. Victories came from all over - from first-time Pro Women's competitor Kynsie

Diesen on Sunday to Nick Fischer capturing the Masters 40+ final each day on an Arctic Cat. William Haugen swept both days of Junior 10-13, while Bryden Diesen did the same in both the Expert 600 and Junior 14-17 classes. Gabrielle Hallstrom finished second in Pro Women Saturday, and Elliot Clark grabbed second in Semi-Pro Improved Sunday.

"All totaled, Arctic Cat racers at Ironwood collected 19 first-place trophies over the weekend plus many other podium finishes," said Team Arctic Race Manager Mike Kloety. "That's a testament to Team Arctic's depth plus the determination of the competitors and their crews that always make us so proud."

Winter may be winding down, but Team Arctic is still in the mix as its racers chase more wins plus the season championship this weekend and next weekend.

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NW Minnesota Arts Council announces award winners

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council annually presents three awards to recognize artists and arts advocates within its seven-county region who stand out in terms of artistry or volunteerism in the arts. Of the Year Award winners were nominated by area residents. They include Samantha Harrill, Warroad, Northwest Artist of the Year for Visual Art; Jane Anderson, Thief River Falls, Northwest Arts Advocate of

the Year; and Rebecca Rosenkrans, Roseau, Northwest Star Award.
Samantha Harrill
 Samantha Harrill is the Northwest Artist of the Year for Visual Art. Originally from Red Lake Falls, Harrill is a gifted ceramic artist. She creates functional and decorative pottery pieces that are thoughtfully designed, well-crafted, and finished with great attention to detail. She is also the executive director of Warroad

RiverPlace. In that position, she works tirelessly to affirm and bring the arts to northern Minnesota, while advocating for all art mediums, theater, art workshops for children and adults, music, and cultural and celebration events. The Artist of the Year award can be given to any discipline artist including visual, performing, or creative writing who are emerging or at a midway point in their artistic endeavors. It is a cash award of \$500.
Jane Anderson
 Jane Anderson will receive the Northwest Arts Advocate of the Year Award for Performing Arts. She is a theater artist – actor, singer, director, costumer – and former executive director and founding member of the

Thief River Falls Area Community Theater. Her decades of service, leadership and advocacy have had a profound impact on area actors and audiences. Anderson believes in nurturing

be felt throughout our region. The Arts Advocate of the Year award is \$500 and includes arts from all disciplines.
Rebecca Rosenkrans
 Rebecca Rosenkrans will receive the Northwest Star Award. Rosenkrans has been creating one-of-a-kind jewelry for over 30 years. She is the owner of Bead Gypsy, a shop in Roseau where

handmade goods and original art from over 20 artists are sold. The store is a haven for artists and arts lovers who live and visit the region. She handcrafts new pieces of jewelry or recreates old into new with Greek and Italian leather, beads, crafted chain maille, glass, stone, silver, crystal, and vintage goods. She readily shares her knowledge, creativity, and talents and is a tireless advocate for fellow artists. The Northwest Star Award comes with \$5,000.

Awards reception
 These awards will be presented Saturday, April 25 at Warroad RiverPlace, 103 State Ave. The Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit will open that day at 2:30 p.m. with mingling, light refreshments and live music. The awards program will be at 3:30 p.m. The exhibit and reception are open to the public and free to attend.



Samantha Harrill



Jane Anderson



Rebecca Rosenkrans

City seeks feedback on locations of flooding, drainage issues

In the summer of 2025, the City of Crookston was awarded a Climate Resilience Planning Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to evaluate the existing flood risk in and near the community. As a result of winning this grant, the City of Crookston is conducting a stormwater resilience study to better understand how water moves through the city and where flooding is most likely to occur.

Using advanced computer models of the Red Lake River and the city's stormwater collection system, the analysis will help identify areas that may flood and evaluate what can be done to reduce those risks. The study will also look at how the city operates its levee system, including emergency pumps and gate closures, to see if there are ways to improve flood response. In addition, the plan will help Crookston prepare for upcoming stormwater quality regulations and guide future investments that strengthen flood protection and improve water quality.

Community knowledge is a critical part of this effort. Residents know their neighborhoods best, and their experiences help ensure the model reflects what actually happens during storms and

high-water events. The city is asking community members to share where they have seen flooding, drainage problems, or areas where water tends to collect. This input will help guide the analysis and inform the selection of practical, high-impact projects that may improve drainage, reduce flood risks, and enhance stormwater quality, helping Crookston remain a strong, resilient community for years to come.

To share where you have seen flooding, drainage problems, or areas where water tends to collect, go to the city's website at www.crookston.mn.us and look for a link under City Announcements.

Jane Anderson
 Jane Anderson will receive the Northwest Arts Advocate of the Year Award for Performing Arts. She is a theater artist – actor, singer, director, costumer – and former executive director and founding member of the

young artists for their development and to sustain a vibrant arts community. When she saw a need, she created and stewarded youth programs to provide theater opportunities for young performers. Her unwavering commitment to the arts and arts education and her extraordinary ability to strengthen and expand the local theater community can

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Minnesota Crookston announces addition of men's and women's track and field

The University of Minnesota Crookston announced the addition of men's and women's track and field as NCAA Division II sports competing in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. The Golden Eagles will officially commence the program during the 2026-27 season with Steve Krouse as the head coach. They are currently in the process of hiring

an assistant coach to work with track and field and cross country.

"We are very excited to add men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field to our sport offerings at the University of Minnesota Crookston," said Director of Athletics Stephanie Helgeson. "We have seen tremendous growth and success in our cross country program in

the last seven years, and we believe we can see the same type of trajectory in men's and women's track and field. It also allows us to offer the most competitive environment we can for our cross country and track and field student-athletes."

Men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field will give the Golden Eagles four additional sports to their

intercollegiate athletics catalog. In addition, the Golden Eagles have hockey which competes in ACHA Division II, and trap in the USA College Clay Target League, comprising an offering of 18 intercollegiate sports at Minnesota Crookston. Minnesota Crookston has added men's and women's cross country, trap, hockey, and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field since 2019.

The programs build off the men's and women's cross country teams, which were started in the fall 2019 at the University of Minnesota Crookston and have grown in success each season since the program commenced. The Golden Eagle men's and women's teams are each coming off their best season in program history in 2025, as the Minnesota Crookston men's squad placed top five at the NSIC meet for the first time ever. The women's team also had their best-ever finish at the NSIC Champi-

onship, placing seventh of 16 teams.

The Golden Eagle men's and women's cross country runners have been competing at indoor and outdoor track and field meets as unattached runners in recent years. This will allow those runners to officially represent their school at meets, and run as a part of NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

Minnesota Crookston will become the 13th school in the NSIC in men's track and field, and the 16th in women's track and field.

The University of Minnesota Crookston has never offered men's and women's track and field during the four-year era either at the NAIA or NCAA Division II level. They did, however, have men's track and field during the junior college era with the first team in 1968-69 and the last record of a team during the 1984-85 season. A women's track and

field team competed for the Trojans during the junior college era for the 1981-82 season.

Minnesota Crookston has a proven history of athletic success in the classroom within their intercollegiate athletics, as they have received the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence in three-consecutive years. In 2025, the award went to 43 Division II schools that have achieved an Academic Success Rate of 90% or higher. Minnesota Crookston joined Augustana, and Concordia-St. Paul as three schools from the NSIC to earn the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence.

The NSIC indoor championship for track and field is slated for Feb. 26-27, 2027 at Myers Field House in Mankato. The NSIC outdoor championship for track and field is scheduled for May 13-15, 2027 in Mankato.



The University of Crookston announced Monday that it was adding men's and women's track and field as an NCAA Division II sport with competition beginning in the 2026-27 season. The Golden Eagle men's and women's cross country runners have been competing at indoor and outdoor track and field meets as unattached runners in recent years. This will allow those runners to officially represent their school at meets, and run as a part of NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships. (Submitted photos)

Golden Eagle Tennis to wrap up home schedule this weekend

Crookston, Minn. - The Golden Eagles look to wrap up their home matches for the season this weekend as they take on the University of Jamestown and the University of Mary.

The Golden Eagles are coming in hot as they ride a three-game winning streak, also coming in at 3-3 in the conference for fifth place in the conference. These final four games will be extremely important as the Golden Eagles are battling for a spot in the NSIC Tournament.

Singles
In singles this season, Daniela de Lucas Rivera (Jr., Madrid, Spain) is 6-7, Asli Oktay (So., Istanbul, Turkey) is 4-9, Nadia Cases Mundet (Jr., Barcelona, Spain) is 10-4, Terez Drasilova (Fr., Naples, Fla.) is 4-1, Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain) is 3-9, Kavya Singh (Sr., Agra, India) is 6-5, and Ariadna Solis Guals (Jr., Santpedor, Spain) is 4-5.

Doubles
In doubles, Daniela de Lucas Rivera and Terez Drasilova are 3-3, Asli Oktay and Ariadna Solis Guals are 2-6, and Kavya Singh and Nadia Cases Mundet are 7-2.

The Jimmies
The Jimmies enter the weekend at 3-3 in the NSIC as well and 3-4 on the season. The Golden Eagles and Jimmies have played once this season, listed as a non-conference match, where the Golden Eagles came out with a 4-3 win.

Singles - The Jimmies are 19-23 in singles this season, with Bodil van Zeijl and Julie van Zeijl are each 6-1, with Mariia Sharandachenko at 4-3.

Doubles - In doubles, the Jimmies are 10-11. The van Zeijl sisters are 7-0 and leading the way for the Jimmies this season.

The Marauders
The Marauders come into the weekend with a 4-8 total record and a 2-4 conference

record. These two teams also met earlier this season in Grand Forks, with the Golden Eagles coming out on top in a 6-1 victory.

Singles - In singles this season, the Marauders are 26-45. Elizabeth Lekse leads the team with a 6-6 record, Anna Suefloh is 5-5, and Brooke Mulholland is 5-6.

Doubles - The Marauders have gone 17-19 this season in doubles. Josie and Anna Suefloh lead the team with a 4-2 record and Natalia Jorge Magarzo and Maja Panganiban are 4-3.

The Golden Eagles and Jimmies were set for their match on Friday at 5:30 p.m. in Grand Forks at the Choice Health and Fitness tennis courts. The Golden Eagles will then take on the Marauders Sunday at 3 p.m. for Senior Day. The team will honor senior Kavya Singh as she prepares for her final home match in the Maroon and Gold.



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Pictured are players and coaches from the 2025-26 Crookston Boys Hockey Team: Front Row (L-R) Colin Trudeau, Anton Elbinger, Evan Shockman Greyson Ecker, Jay Reese, Brady Chandler, Garrett Fischer, Tate Hamre, Cody Demarais, Teegyn Johnson, Hayden Mercil; Second Row (L-R) Dylan Larson, Rowan Benoit, Lukas Helgeson, Noah Chandler, Grant Funk, Isaiah Donarski,

Masen Reitmeier, Gavin Aakhus, Hudson Rick, Wyatt Marsyla, Rylan Hanson, Dexter Janek, Jackson Fritsch, Liam Larson, Aidan Weiland; Back Row (L-R) Coach Ethan Magsam, Coach Connor Morgan, Coach Ben Trostad, Coach Josh Hardy. Not pictured: Braxton Miller. (Photo by Tiffany Biermaier Photography)

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