



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



Publication of the Thief River Falls Times



SAT | MAY 16 | 2026

324 Main Ave. N., Thief River Falls, MN 56701 • Vol. 2, No. 33

## County candidate filing period begins

The filing period for county elective office begins Tuesday, May 19 and continues until Tuesday, June 2. The following Polk County offices will be on the ballot in November:

- District 1 county commissioner
- District 3 county commissioner
- District 5 county commissioner
- District 3 East Polk soil and water supervisor

- District 4 East Polk soil and water supervisor
- District 5 East Polk soil and water supervisor
- District 2 West Polk soil and water supervisor
- District 4 West Polk soil and water supervisor
- District 5 West Polk soil and water supervisor

### Filing periods for other seats

The same filing period is

in effect for the seats of U.S. senator, District 7 U.S. representative, District 1 state senator, District 1A state representative, District 1B state representative, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor and attorney general. Various judicial offices also have the same filing period.

The filing periods for both city council and school board elections is July 14-28.

## Service line information needed from downtown business owners

In preparation for the 2027 Downtown Street Project with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the City of Crookston Water Department requests assistance from downtown business owners located along Main Street, Broadway, and surrounding side streets.

As part of this project, the city is working to identify water service line material types for all downtown businesses. Any lead and/or galvanized service lines

identified will likely need replacement. Completing this work while streets and sidewalks are already removed during construction will help reduce future costs to both the city and property owners, while also helping ensure compliant and safe drinking water.

Business owners are asked to email:

- A photo of their water service line
- Business name and address in the subject line

Send information to [viceline@crookston.mn.us](mailto:viceline@crookston.mn.us). If you are unsure what to look for, contact the city. Staff can walk you through the process or schedule a site visit with a Water Department operator to assist in identifying the material.

To help speed up this process, city operators will also visit downtown businesses to request access for photographing and documenting service lines. Employees will wear high-visibility safety vests and carry city ID badges.

## First graders learn about nature



Thanks to Get Kids Outdoors, Highland Elementary School first graders had an incredible day of nature-based learning. They planted pumpkin and gourd seeds, ate "edible soil" dirt cup snacks, conducted a thorough soil investigation, and

explored "what's down in the dirt" with a Science Spin. Erica Uttermark and her class are pictured with Fred Parnow from Get Kids Outdoors. (Submitted)

## Open house to be held Monday at RiverView Health

The public is invited to meet Dr. Gary Matthys, who recently joined RiverView Health, and other RiverView Health providers Monday, May 18 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at RiverView Health, located at 323 S. Minnesota St., Crookston. This casual come-and-go event welcomes the public to learn more about services, take a clinic and hospital tour and enjoy light refreshments.



Dr. Gary Matthys

Matthys recently joined the orthopaedic team. He brings decades of experience and specialized training in joint replacement and reconstruction. Known and trusted by many in the region, he has built a reputation for compassionate, patient-centered care.

"Dr. Matthys comes with decades of experience and talent," said Lance Norman,

vice president of clinics and ancillary services and chief clinical/ancillary officer. "He is locally known and loved by his patients, and we are thrilled to have him join us as we continue to grow the RiverView Health orthopaedic service line."

With over 20 years of experience, Matthys is a trusted specialist in knee, hip, and shoulder joint replacements. Known for his skill in the anterior approach to hip replacement, he combines advanced techniques with compassionate care to help patients keep moving. In addition to serving as RiverView Health's general orthopaedic anchor, Matthys will provide care for acute injuries, fractures, sports injuries, and chronic conditions, including carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger fingers.

RiverView Health is also

## FFA students compete at State Convention

### Convention was held April 19-21

Twenty-nine Crookston FFA students competed April 19-21 at the 97th Minnesota FFA State Convention. The convention took place at the University of Minnesota St Paul campus, Minnesota State Fairgrounds and Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis.

The Agriculture Mechanics Team was awarded the title of state runner-up (out of 39 teams) and ranked gold. Ben Capistran led the way, winning the first place Ag Mechanics Individual title (out of 126 competitors). Axl Page and Austin Thode ranked gold, and Garrett Wilkens ranked bronze.

The Best Informed Greenhand team placed fifth in the state competition (out of 69 teams) and ranked gold. Ella Capistran captured the title of first place individual Best Informed Greenhand (out of 352 competitors). Bella Cisneros, Nathan Pahlen and Axl Page ranked gold. Emma-gail Frantz, Molly Workman, Haddie Halland, Anna Heldstab and Eva Gosse ranked silver.

The Forestry Team placed 10th (out of 42 teams) and ranked gold. Leah Jo-

hanneck led the team by placing seventh individually (out of 157 competitors) and ranked gold. Allison Abeld, Addie Schiller and Izzy Pahlen were the other team members ranking silver.

The Floriculture Team placed 14th (out of 46 teams) and ranked gold. The team consisted of Lilli Bridgeford ranking gold, Elle Pierson, Emilee Smith, and Hamsini Chanda ranked silver.

The Soils Team placed 17th (out of 45 teams) and was ranked silver. The team was made up of Ella Capistran (12th individually out of 157 competitors) ranking gold. Eva Gosse, Anna Heldstab, and Haddie Halland ranked silver.

The Companion Animals Team placed 23rd (out of 55 teams) and was ranked silver. The team was made up of Bailee Klinnert (gold), Emmy Johnson (gold), Mckinna Amiot (silver), and Alex Zammert (bronze).

The Poultry Evaluation Team placed 40th (out of 44 teams) and was ranked bronze. The team was made up of Bella Cisneros, Molly Workman, Nathan Pahlen, and Brady Samuelson, all ranking bronze.

The Dairy Evaluation Team placed 53rd (out of 60 teams) and was ranked bronze. The team was made up of Mykayla Garcia, Em-



Twenty-nine Crookston FFA students competed April 19-21 at the 97th Minnesota FFA State Convention. (Submitted)

magail Frantz, Calianna Donarski, and Peyton Krenz, all ranking bronze.

In the Agricultural Education Contest, Addie Schiller and Emilee Smith represented Crookston and placed sixth (out of eight teams), ranking bronze. They created and presented a lesson plan called Livestock Lingo 101.

Crookston FFA had one student qualify and compete in the Milk Quality Contest. Hayden Ricard was individually ranked bronze for his

contest.

Brady Samuelson placed fourth (out of 15) FFA members in the Talent Contest, ranking gold. He was given the chance to sing on stage in front of over 3,000 Minnesota FFA members and guests.

Ella Capistran was named the state Agriscience Fair winner of Division 1 Food Products and Processing Systems and will be moving on to nationals later this year.

Addie Schiller was the

state proficiency winner in Agricultural Education. She will be sending it to nationals later this year.

Ben Capistran was named the state proficiency winner in Grain Production Placement and will advance to nationals later this year. Ben was also named the state runner up in both Fiber/Oil Crops Production Entrepreneurship and Specialty Crop Production Placement.

As a chapter, Crookston FFA was recognized in the

National Chapter category as a superior ranked chapter. Crookston FFA also was recognized for participating in the Ag Literacy challenge.

Ben Capistran participated in the state band, playing his clarinet and Brady Samuelson sang in the state choir, singing bass.

Leah Johanneck and Addie Schiller were awarded the highest degree that Minnesota can bestow upon a member. They both received their State Degree.

# Because Health Needs Don't Wait.

Weekdays 7 AM - 7 PM and Weekends 9 AM - 1 PM



RIVERVIEW CLINIC

323 S MINNESOTA STREET | CROOKSTON

Extended clinic hours for your schedule.

Call 218.281.9595 to make an appointment.

# Open house to be held Monday at RiverView /Continued

(Continued from Page 1) expanding its orthopaedic team with the addition of Rachel Lattner, nurse practitioner. Lattner, who currently serves patients at RiverView Health, will provide clinical support, follow-

up care, and assist Matthys in the operating room, enhancing access to care and strengthening daily on-site resources. As part of this transition, RiverView Health also shares that orthopaedic spe-

cialist Dr. Colin Fennell will retire from full-time practice later this summer. After a brief break, he plans to return on a part-time basis to continue treating hand and wrist conditions.

## Polk County Highway Department announces projects

According to the Polk County Highway Department, the following county roads will be under construction during the 2026 construction season:

- County State Aid Highway 2
- CSAH 8
- CSAH22
- CSAH40
- CSAH 74
- Bituminous overlay located from Trunk Highway 92 at Gully to the north

county line

- Bituminous overlay located from CSAH 30 at McIntosh to the north county line
- Bituminous overlay located from Trunk Highway 220, 9 miles north of East Grand Forks to the north county line
- Grading, culverts and aggregate Surfacing located from the south county line to CSAH 1, one mile west of Winger

Bituminous overlay located from CSAH 2, half a mile north of Gully to the east county line

The public is asked to avoid these construction projects by utilizing alternate routes of travel if possible.

Anyone requesting further information should contact the Polk County Highway Department in Crookston at 218-281-3952.

## Jodi Lene named Employee of the Month



Jodi Lene

Jodi Lene, LPN, may prefer to stay out of the spotlight, but her exceptional

work in Family Medicine at RiverView Clinic – Crookston has not gone unnoticed. Always the first to step in and lend a hand, Jodi's dedication and willingness to help others make her a deserving recipient of the February Employee of the Month award.

In addition to her clinic role, she has also worked on the Inpatient Unit during her 14 years with RiverView Health, further adding to her experience and knowledge.

"I love my job," she said. "Not everyone can say they get to go to work and do something they truly enjoy,

but I can. I'm fortunate to work with great people. The group of nurses I've had the opportunity to work with at RiverView is amazing."

Jodi lives in rural Fertile with her husband and is the proud mother of two children. Outside of work, she enjoys taking on new creative challenges and is well known among her coworkers for her many crafty hobbies. Whether she's flipping furniture, crocheting, gardening, or exploring something new, Jodi enjoys a good project and works to master each one.



M5 – The Mexican Brass will perform Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Crookston High School auditorium. The performance is the final concert in the 2025-26 Entertainment Series. (Submitted)

## M5 – The Mexican Brass to perform Saturday

The Crookston Civic Music League is bringing M5 – The Mexican Brass to the Crookston High School auditorium on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. as the final concert in the 2025-26 Entertainment Series.

Celebrating 20 years as a brass quintet in 2025, M5 is a world class ensemble

seamlessly blending virtuosic musicianship, non-stop audience interaction and showmanship to produce a great musical-theatrical experience every night.

M5 has toured the world – literally – having played across Europe, Asia, North Africa, North America, South America, and its

home base of Mexico. M5's program will mix classical with opera, jazz, and pop.

Admission is by season ticket only. Season tickets can be purchased at the door before the concert Saturday. For ticket information call Elaine Metzger at 218-281-2681 or Emily Luckow at 218-281-5907.

# Crookston Area Ministries

<p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 23928 265th St SW - Crookston (East of Highland School) Church: 281-5629 Preston Hoiseth, Pastor Web: www.biblebaptistcrookston.org Email: biblebaptist@midco.net</p> <p>Sundays: 7:45 a.m. &amp; 10:05 a.m., Heavenly Sonlight radio program on KROX, 10 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages including adults, 11 a.m. Morning Worship, 6 p.m. Evening Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study &amp; Prayer Service</p>	<p><b>CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523 Pastor Matt Williams 218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN www.fisherbygland.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch 218-891-4632</p> <p>Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p><b>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES</b> 1727 Widman Lane - Crookston For information call: 218-281-6252</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Public Talk, Watchtower Study Thursdays: 7 p.m. Christian Life, Ministry Meeting</p>	<p><b>RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC</b> 415 West 6th St. - Beltrami Pastor Joel Kangas Church email: resurrect@gvtel.com Church website: www.resurrectionfree.org</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b> 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton</p> <p>Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p><b>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN www.fisherbygland.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-893-4243</p> <p>Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p><b>CONCORDIA LUTHERAN</b> 100 Jefferson Ave SW - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>FREEDOM CHURCH</b> Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston hellofreedomchurch.com</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN</b> 10802 423rd St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton</p> <p>Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>RODNES LUTHERAN</b> 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on City 210 Office: 218-687-4345 Pastor Joel Smeby www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran</p> <p>Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)</p>	<p><b>MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN</b> 13960 380th St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p><b>CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON &amp; ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY</b> 702 Summit Avenue - Crookston 218-281-1735, Parish, 218-281-1835, School &amp; RE Offices The Most Reverend Bishop Cozzens The Very Reverend Msgr. David Baumgartner</p> <p>Saturdays: 5 p.m. Mass at Cathedral Sundays: 9 a.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><b>ENCOUNTER CHURCH</b> 209 North Main - Crookston Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12) Find us on Facebook</p>	<p><b>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT</b> Gary Johnson, Pastor http://www.gosen-church.com Facebook: Gosen Church</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosen-church.com)</p>	<p><b>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Nielsville, MN Monty &amp; Amanda Brown For information call: 218-946-2675</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</b> 707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston Phone: 218-945-6649 Pastor David Jahn</p> <p>Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 205 S Broadway - Crookston Rev. Vern Christopherson 218-281-4276</p> <p>9 a.m. Broadcast Worship live over Crookston Cable TV Channel #3, KROX Radio 1260AM, KROX 105.7FM and streaming live on Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN. For additional information and calendar updates, please check out our website at www.trinitycrookston.org. Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson</p> <p>Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN</b> 4391 340th Ave - Fertile Pr. Dan Morto</p> <p>Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastor Noah Thompson Pastor John Merseith 1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston Phone: 218-281-4342</p> <p>Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE</b> 10480 438th St SW - Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. John Kleinwachter</p> <p>Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)</b> Church Office: 218-891-4581 218-281-3393 Pastor Doug Thompson Website: tlcstpaul.org Email: trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 33276 339th Ave. SW - Eldred, MN c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN - 218-281-1239 Pastor: Steven Bohler</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Service</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC)</b> Church Office: 218-687-4035 332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535 Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube</p>	<p><b>NEXUS CHURCH</b> 605 3rd Ave NE - Crookston Lead Pastor, Danny Holwerda, Jr. Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - MENTOR</b> 16180 336th St SE - Mentor 218-637-8178 Fr. John Kleinwachter</p> <p>Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MENTOR</b> Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 510 North Broadway - Crookston 218-281-4853 crookstonfirstpres.org</p> <p>Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship (live-streaming at crookstonfirstpres.org or on our Facebook page) Communion 1st Sunday</p>	<p><b>HARVEST CHURCH</b> 520 Fisher Avenue - Crookston 218-281-2264 Pastor Dave Finsaas www.harvestchurchcrookston.com</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X</b> 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020</p> <p>Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID</b> Sundays: For the months of April, May, and June: weekend Mass on Saturdays at 5 p.m. Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)</b> Church Office: 218-891-4581 218-281-3393 Pastor Doug Thompson Website: tlcstpaul.org Email: trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>HOPE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 11330 435th St SW - Fertile - 218-945-3677 www.hope4fertile.org email: hope4fertile.worship@gmail.com</p> <p>Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> Crookston Pastor Steven Bohler</p> <p>Sundays: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> Crookston Pastor Steven Bohler</p> <p>Sundays: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>PRAIRIE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 27897 170th Ave. SW - Crookston 218-281-3506 or 218-280-2084 Pastor Pat Baranski</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Church Service, 11 a.m. Sunday School - Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN (ELCA)</b> 1214 University Avenue - Crookston Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com Phone: 218-281-3638 Pastor Curt Peterson</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship You may worship via Facebook Live: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn</p>	<p><b>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston 218-281-3393 website: crookstonmethodist.com - view services here email: wesleyumcrox@gmail.com Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor</p> <p>Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.-May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)</p>

This Church Directory Is Sponsored By The Following Businesses

<p><b>Benedictine</b> LIVING COMMUNITY   CROOKSTON 516 Walsh Street   Crookston, MN 56716   www.benedictinecrookston.org CALL 218-281-3424 TO LEARN MORE</p> <p>Offering Specialized Services in: Assisted Living • Skilled Nursing Care • Memory Care and Short-Term Care and Rehabilitation</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-Houshe</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 • stenhous@midconetwork.com</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>TRANE Goodman IBC Starline QUALITY PRODUCTS &amp; QUALITY SERVICE 524 Marin Avenue • Crookston, MN   Phone: 218-281-1370   Fax: 218-281-1376</p>	<p><b>GROW YOUR BUSINESS</b></p>	<p><b>SECURE AN AD SPOT!</b> Contact us about advertising on this page &amp; reach thousands of readers every month. CALL US TODAY (218) 681-4450</p>	<p><b>GROW YOUR BUSINESS</b></p>

**THE CROOKSTON WATCH**  
 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 Joppru**  
 Publisher  
 tjoppru@trftimes.com



**April Scheinoha**  
 Editor  
 april@trftimes.com



**Scott DCamp**  
 Sports Editor  
 scott@trftimes.com



**Anna Phalen**  
 Correspondent  
 Ad Sales



**Eric Charlson**  
 Sales and Marketing  
 echarlson@trftimes.com



**Cindy Baldwin**  
 Sales and Marketing  
 sales@trftimes.com



Circulation  
 218-681-4450  
 subscribe@trftimes.com

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


**DEATH NOTICES**

**Cynthia "Cindy" Kesler, 76**

Fargo, ND - Cynthia Kesler, 76, of Fargo, ND, died on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in the care of the wonderful staff of Elim Health Care Center.  
 She is survived by her two daughters, Jennifer Wahlund (Aurora, IL) and Lisa Drewlow (West Fargo, ND).  
 Cindy will be laid to rest

next to her late husband, David Kesler, at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Valley City, ND.  
 In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Fargo Elim Health Care Center.  
 Arrangements are by Boulger Funeral Home and Celebration of Life Center.  
 A00003B2026MY16

**Jerold Fenno, 88**

 Crookston - Jerold Peter Fenno, age 88, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in Crookston. He was born on April 30, 1938, in Wabasso, Minnesota to parents Melvin and Irene (Reader) Fenno.  
 In Jerry's early years, his family called many places home. He lived in many towns, including Wabasso, Banub, Olivia, Kalisbel, Berlin, and Wheaton, before settling in Crookston, when he was 15 years old. He spent his education at several schools, attending Berlin Public School from 1944 to 1949, Lemoure School in 1950, Wheaton Junior High School from 1951 to 1953, and completing his high school years at Crookston Cathedral High School, where he graduated in 1956.

His service to his country was honorable and consistent. Jerold served in the Minnesota National Guard from 1954 until 1962, exemplifying his commitment to duty and community.  
 Professionally, Jerold demonstrated a strong work ethic across his career, spanning several decades. He was employed by J. Schrader Co. for 20 years, and operated his own business, Big A Auto, from 1973 until 2008. Customers were always welcomed warmly, Jerry made sure that he addressed everyone personally by their first name. After his retirement, he remained dedicated to the success of his business and remained on the advisory board.

Jerold's personal life was enriched by his marriage to Heidi Lore Stolz. They were united in matrimony on June 29, 1968, at St. Anne's Catholic Church. He was also a member of the Crookston Cathedral and actively participated in his church community, not only as a

consistent attendee but also as a beloved singer in the church choir. His musical talent was enjoyed by many, as he was also a member of the Men's Community Chorus, and a sing-along group that would visit and sing at the Benedictine Living Community in Crookston.  
 Well known for his warm personality, Jerry was regarded as a hardworking and reliable man. His good humor was a cherished aspect of his character, many friends' days were brightened by his talent for telling jokes. In his personal time, Jerold found joy in fishing, golfing, birdwatching, and gardening, hobbies that allowed him to connect with nature and find peace.

Jerry's life was a testament to faith, family, and service, and his legacy will be remembered with respect and affection by all who knew him.  
 He is survived by his wife, Heidi Fenno; children, Nick (John) and Bev Fenno, Tracy Swanson, Kelly and Mindy Fenno, daughter-in-law, Julie Fenno; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; siblings, Steven and Maureen Fenno, Mary and Chris Hagilee, Margaret Eastby; and brother-in-law, Cy Wieser.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Irene Fenno; son, Royce Fenno; siblings, Jon and Betty Anderson, Gene and Connie Thelen, Jeanne Fenno, James (Jim) and Ruth Fenno, Thomas and Carol Fenno, Michael (Mike) Fenno, Lorraine Wieser; and brother-in-law, Rod Eastby.  
 A funeral service honoring Jerold's life will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 2 p.m. Visitation will be one hour prior.  
 An evening prayer service was held on Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m. with visitation two hours prior.  
 Both services being held at the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception in Crookston.  
 www.stenshoelhouke.com  
 A00003B2026MY16

**Mona Korsmoe, 67**

Mona Catherine Korsmoe, 67, of Grand Forks, ND passed away on May 5, 2026.  
 A Funeral Mass was held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Grand Forks, ND.

**Sherry Jensrud, 71**

Sherry Lynne Jensrud, 71, of Fertile, passed away on May 4, 2026.  
 Celebration of Life Service was held May 8, 2026 at Hope Evangelical Free Church, Fertile.  
 Interment was at Concordia South Cemetery, Fertile.

**Henry Wieland, 94**

Henry Wieland, 94 of Red Lake Falls, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 9, 2026.  
 Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 am on Monday, May 18, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Wylie Township, Red Lake County.  
 Visitation will be from 5-7 pm with a 6:30 pm Prayer Service on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls.

**Roger Danielson, 78**

Roger Dean Danielson, 78, of Mentor, passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2026.  
 A celebration of Roger's life will be held at 11 am on May 19, 2026, at Faith Lutheran Church in Mentor. Interment with military honors provided by the Army National Guard Honors Team will follow at Faith Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are entrusted to Carlin Family Funeral Service of Erskine, and messages of condolence may be shared at carlinfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred and will be donated to a local charity.

**Faye A. Olson, 82**

Faye A. Olson, 82, Moorhead, formerly of Fertile, passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.  
 Celebration of Life Service was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Concordia Lutheran Church, Fertile.  
 Interment was at Concordia South Cemetery, Fertile.

Find us on Facebook  
 facebook.com/CrookstonWatch

**We Know Medicare**

If you have questions call us  
**218-281-1970**

**Longtin AGENCY INC.**

Ken Longtin Agent/Owner 202 South Main St. | Crookston, MN 56716 Ann Oliver Agent

Medicare Disclaimer: "We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 12 organizations which offer 39 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all of your options."

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Help Wanted**

**THE CROOKSTON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CHEDA)** Is Seeking A Qualified Architect/Engineer To Provide Professional Services For The Following Improvements At Our Public Housing Facility Located At 110 Sargent Street, Crookston, MN 56716: 1. Replace Cabinets; In 29 Resident Apartments; 2. Replacement Of 7 ADA Compliant Door Closures; For Handicap-Accessible Doors To Resident Apartments. The Full RFQ Can Be Viewed At [www.crookstonheda.com/housing](http://www.crookstonheda.com/housing). Submit One (1) Original And Three (3) Copies Of The Proposal Dated And Signed By An Official Of The Company, Due To The CHEDA Housing Office By **Wednesday, June 10, 2026 By 12:00 pm At Oak Court, 110 Sargent Street, Crookston, MN 56716.** For Questions Or Additional Information, Contact Bill Tate, Maintenance At **218-280-8070** Or Theresa Tahrn, Housing Director At **218-470-2000.** CRXF1139c

**Solheim graduates from MSU Mankato**

Kylie Solheim of Crookston recently graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a Bachelor of Science degree in RN baccalaureate completion.

**Ostgaard named to SNHU president's list**

Gabriela Ostgaard of Crookston has been named to the spring 2026 president's list at Southern New Hampshire University.  
 Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the president's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Scan this QR Code if you want to continue to receive the Crookston Watch



**STOP IN TODAY!**

**\$750 OFF PROTRUNS**

 **GRAVELLY**

All mowers use Kawasaki engines.  
**Atlas JSV 3400 SD & 6400 SD**

 **ARIENS SNOWBLOWERS**

**HAMMS REPAIR**  
**218-745-4298**  
 Warren, MN • hammsrepair.net

**POLK COUNTY Minnesota**

**Employment Opportunities:**

**Adult Services Social Worker – Social Services:**  
 \$32.90 – \$41.67/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**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



**PAWS HOOFS CLAWS**  
**Karen A. Busch**  
 Owner & Operator  
 Insured & Bonded

**Small and large animal care at your home/farm**  
 Please call (218) 464-2154 for a FREE Meeting

\*\*\* CROOKSTON SPORTS CENTER \*\*\*

**OPEN House**

JOIN US FOR THE ULTIMATE SHOWCASE OF FUN AT THE CSC

**MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> | 5PM-8PM**  
**801 FISHER AVE, CROOKSTON, MN 56716**



INFLATABLES & VOLLEYBALL  
 BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER  
 ICE SKATING TREADMILL  
 BATTING CAGE DISPLAY  
 CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE  
 PARKS & REC ACTIVITY SIGN-UP

★ (218) 281-1242 ★ [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> appointment and get 1 free BIOCHARGER session! \$30 Value

**HONOR FLIGHT**

**BREAKFAST BENEFIT 2026**

Crookston VFW Local 1902 & Masonic Lodge 141 express our appreciation to Crookston and surrounding communities for their support and generosity for our veterans.

**Thank You**

**Fertile Garden CENTER**  
**NOW OPEN**  
 Growing beautiful annual flowers, perennials, potted trees, and shrubs for 25+ years!  
 Visit [fertilegardencenter.com](http://fertilegardencenter.com) or our Facebook page for updates and price lists.  
 8 AM - 8 PM ~ Open 7 Days/Week for May  
 Located 1 mile North of Fertile, MN on Hwy 32



**Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!**



**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](http://www.americanfederalbank.com)

**AUCTIONS**  
 TIMED ONLINE BIDDING OR LIVE ON-SITE WITH SIMULCAST ONLINE BIDDING



FULL SERVICE SUPPORT | LAND AUCTIONS | FARM MACHINERY  
 CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT | BUSINESS LIQUIDATION

**MONTHLY AUCTIONS** **SELL WITH US**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL REP:  
 Kyle Simmons  
 218-280-2038

**RESOURCE AUCTION**  
 Dennis Blinke & Associates



**Your hometown health-care team – providers you know, care you can trust.**

To schedule an appointment at Altru Clinic in Crookston, call 218.281.9100 or visit [altru.org/MyChart](http://altru.org/MyChart).



Rural Reflections ...

# Our resident scientist/columnist christens the werewolf gopher

by Grant Nelson



Dear Dave, I recently identified a new species of gopher which I feel is endemic to Bray Township. There's nothing official yet, nor will there ever be anything official; however, I am calling this member of the rodent family the werewolf gopher (Geomys Werewolfi). More on that later, Dave.

The farmers started out putting crops into some very cold ground around here, Dave. However, conditions have changed quickly. I checked the Viking NDAWN station this morning and the soil temperature was 60 degrees, meanwhile the soil at the Mavie site was 54 degrees; soil temps were in the high 30s and lows 40s just last week. It's such a tight period of time between soil temperatures warm enough to plant and the cut-off for

federal crop insurance so the seed has to go in the ground. Around here, the final dates to plant are May 25 for corn and June 10 for soybeans which is not far off.

I planted either a fairly large or a small pollinator garden last year, Dave. If viewed from the perspective of a homeowner, the plot was large. If viewed by a farmer, it was tiny. Anyway, the native plants are already coming back nicely and I have seen only limited Canada thistle. I spent last summer digging the thistle out by the roots which seems to have paid off. Of course, Canada thistle seems to sometimes appear overnight and I haven't checked since last night so who knows what awaits me.

Back to my extremely unscientific discovery, the werewolf gopher. Only a few years ago, our underground water pasture pipeline was rendered useless by gophers that apparently could chew through two-inch water pipes even when under pressure. I postulated the local gophers had developed gills at the time, Dave. This ever-changing species is now im-

pervious to electricity and metal. This winter, the south half of our yard was without electricity courtesy of a village of werewolf gophers. We have made repairs to the wire and at this point I am not worried about any more damage, I just hope these toothy rodents stay underground, another good reason to lock the doors around here.

I found a really good tool for cutting down weeds before they even hit stride, Dave. In the past I have cut weeds with a garden knife which requires the user to come to grips with the weed by kneeling or bending over. I recently purchased a shovel called the "Root Slayer." It's basically a narrow shovel with teeth. I can always tell when I dread a task by the amount of tools I purchase to accomplish it. Weeding is not fun which is evidenced by the steadily increasing arsenal I am accumulating in the battle against them, Dave.

Finally, I spotted two old friends recently in town, Danni and Mike. They were in search of parts and we had a quick chat at the hard-

ware store. When I left, I noticed Mike's pickup had a headache rack. His family started building headache racks for their truck years ago and I always thought they looked so nice. The only thing missing was the two citizens band "whip" antennas that were the style back in the 1970s and 1980s, Dave. It made me so nostalgic that I think I want one or two on my truck. It will look retro, especially displayed with the antenna ends captured, so they look like fishing rods under tension. I don't think I will get the radio, just the antennas. I don't believe many people use CB radios anymore so that would be a waste. The antennas though, they make sense, right?

Tell everyone hello, your little bro

### CORRECTION

In last week's edition, it was incorrectly noted in the Rural Reflections column that a data center was planned in Horace, N.D. However, it is being planned in Harwood, N.D.

# Compeau announces candidacy for MN House District 1B



Jennifer Compeau

Jennifer Compeau, a family resource coordinator and health and human services advocate, has announced her candidacy for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 1B.

Compeau works at the East Grand Forks Family

Resource Center, where she supports families navigating mental health challenges, addiction, housing instability, and complex state and county systems. Her work focuses on strengthening family stability, improving access to services in rural communities, and helping residents understand and navigate the programs intended to support them.

In addition to her frontline work, Compeau serves on a statewide advisory council, the local corrections advisory board, and the board of the Minnesota Social Services Association. She is a former ACLU Smart Justice Fellow and was named 2025 Woman of the Year by the Greater Grand Forks Women's Leadership Cooperative for her contributions to community well-being and lived-experi-

ence leadership.

Compeau said her decision to run is rooted in both her professional background and her personal experience navigating Minnesota's health, human services, and justice systems. "I've worked with families across our region who are trying to access support, and I've also been someone who had to navigate these systems myself," she said. "That dual perspective has shown me where programs succeed, where they fall short, and how gaps in services impact rural families. I believe that lived experience, combined with on-the-ground work in health and human services, is essential for ensuring mutual accountability in how government programs are administered."

As a certified peer recovery specialist and longtime

advocate in the health and human services field, Compeau brings experience in systems navigation, cross-agency collaboration, and community-based support. Her background includes working with families impacted by addiction, mental illness, and justice-system involvement, as well as participating in statewide policy discussions focused on improving outcomes for rural communities.

District 1B includes East Grand Forks, Crookston, Fosston and surrounding areas in northwest Minnesota. The seat will be on the ballot in the upcoming election. Voters should confirm all election information with trusted official sources. Compeau is endorsed by the Minnesota DFL House District 1B.

# Tri-Valley to hold open house to celebrate new bus garage

Tri-Valley Transportation Programs will host an open house celebrating its new bus garage on Wednesday, May 27, from 2 to 4 p.m., at 1430 Guthrie St. in Crookston.

Community members are encouraged to tour the newly built facility, see where Tri-Valley buses call home, and learn how the modern space supports safe,

reliable, and efficient public transportation.

As demand for transit services continues to grow, it's not uncommon to see up to eight Tri-Valley buses operating simultaneously on city streets during the week. The new garage will house five propane-fueled buses, reinforcing Tri-Valley Transportation Program's commitment to sustainabil-

ity and positioning the program as one of the first public transportation systems in Minnesota to transition to low-emission vehicles.

The 9,105-square-foot building features seven drive-through bays and provides indoor storage for up to 14 Class 400 transit buses. A dedicated wash bay has also been incorporated to support long-term fleet

maintenance and care.

As an added bonus, guests can get up close with a propane-powered bus and even take a short ride to the transit office building to see the propane filling station in action.

For more information on Tri-Valley Transportation Programs or to schedule a ride, call 800-201-3432.

**If you are interested in having your NEWS included in the Crookston Watch contact April at the Northern Watch in Thief River Falls.**

**april@trftimes.com • 218-681-4450**

**For your ADVERTISING needs we have a salesman in Crookston. If you would like her to stop by your business for a visit, please contact Anna Phalin • [annaphalenn@gmail.com](mailto:annaphalenn@gmail.com)**

**218-289-0560 • 218-681-4450 (TRF office)**



**Thief River Falls Times and NORTHERN WATCH** 324 Main Avenue North, Thief River Falls

# Minnesota Crookston baseball season ends with 6-3 loss to Winona State at NSIC Tournament

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team saw their season come to close at the NSIC Tournament with a 6-3 loss to Winona State University Thursday, May 7 at The Birdcage in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The Golden Eagles end their season with a 27-25 mark. Winona State improved to 27-25 with the win. The game was the first for Minnesota Crookston against the Warriors in the NSIC Tournament. The teams split the season series 2-2. Winona State advanced to face the University of Mary on Friday, May 8. Minnesota Crookston made their eighth tournament since 2016, joining Minnesota State University, Augustana University, and St. Cloud State University was one of only four teams to reach eight or more since 2016. The Golden Eagles reached 25 or more wins for the fifth time.

Nate Benning (Jr., LHP, Browerville) started and put the Golden Eagles in a strong position to contend. He tossed five innings, allowing two earned runs on five hits. Benning struck out six, and walked one. Benning fell to 3-4 with the loss. Nate Heymann (Jr., RHP, Waimea, Hawaii) came on in relief and went two innings, allowing two runs on two hits. Lake Hagen (Jr., RHP, Alexandria) threw one scoreless inning, with one hit allowed.

Hunter Guenther got the nod for Winona State. He threw 129 pitches in eight innings. Guenther allowed two earned runs on six hits. He struck out eight, and walked four. Boyd Skelley pitched the final inning, retiring the Golden Eagles in order.

Minnesota Crookston was



Senior right-handed pitcher Isaac Roers pitched the first complete game of his career in a 4-2 win over Wayne State College on Thursday, May 7 to survive and advance in the NSIC Tournament. Roers allowed two runs on seven hits and he struck out seven batters over nine innings of work. (Photo by Minnesota Crookston Athletics)

led by Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw), who went 2-of-5, with an RBI. Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) was 2-of-5 with a run scored. Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) finished 1-of-4,

with a run scored. Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley) was 1-of-4, with a run scored.

The Golden Eagles took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Aaron Wensloff (Jr.,

IF, Roseau) reached on an error by the second baseman, driving in Hebl.

Connor Weed responded in the bottom of the first with a solo home run to even the tilt 1-1. The Warriors took a 2-1 advantage when Adam Wall scored after Boone Kirst reached on a throwing error at second base. Benning struck out Max Pederson to shut down the rally for Winona State.

Miller reached for the Golden Eagles with one out in the top of the second. Bushbaum laced a base hit to give Minnesota Crookston

two runners with two outs. However, Guenther struck out Leach to keep the game 2-1.

Singles by Dylan Harer and Josh Hatano gave the Warriors a pair of baserunners in the bottom of the second. A Benning strikeout of Adam Wall kept the tally 2-1.

Minnesota Crookston put runners on the corners with a Hebl single and a walk to Aaron Wensloff. A double play was ruled on a sacrifice fly from Sculati with Hebl leaving early from third. The game stayed 2-1 in favor of

the Warriors.

Winona State took a 4-1 lead with a Max Pederson home run, scoring Ethan Patterson in the bottom of the third. Benning struck out Garrett Hietpas to conclude the frame.

Guenther hit Hebl and Fliflet in back-to-back at-bats with one out. Guenther struck out Aaron Wensloff for the second out of the stanza. He got Sculati to ground out to keep the Winona State lead 4-1.

Leach led off the top of the seventh with a base knock. With two outs, and Leach on third he came in on a wild pitch as the ball rolled to the back stop. The run trimmed the deficit to 4-2.

A Dylan Harer single scored Weed to give Winona State a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the seventh. A Jack Funke pinch-hit blooper plated Harer to extend their edge to 6-2. Heymann struck out Patterson to get out of the stanza.

Americo Sculati led off the top of the eighth with a double down the left field line. Sculati moved to third on a fly out from Kappes to right field. Jonah Norman walked with two outs to give the Golden Eagles runners on the corners. A Bushbaum infield single drove in Sculati to cut the lead to 6-3. Leach grounded into a fielder's choice as Guenther got out of the frame.

Hagen got two quick outs from the Warrior lineup in the bottom of the eighth including a diving grab in center field from Bushbaum. With two outs he hit Hatano. Weed knocked a single to left to give Winona State two on with two outs. Hagen got Harer to fly out to left center to retire the Warriors.

The game marks the end of the careers for nine seniors with Bushbaum, Isaac Roers, Isaac Wensloff, Sculati, Isaac Telle, Joey Connelly, Kyle Odenbach, Aaron Bennett, and Jaxson Bennett all concluding their careers as the winningest four-year class in program history.

## Roers fires complete game in 4-2 NSIC Tournament victory over Wayne State

The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team relied on the arm of Isaac Roers (R-Sr., RHP, Stacy) threw 109 pitches in his first complete game of his career in a 4-2 win over Wayne State College on Thursday, May 7 to survive and advance in the NSIC Tournament. The Golden Eagles advance to the third game of the day against the loser of the Minnesota State University/Winona State University tilt.

The Golden Eagles improved to 27-24 with Thursday's win at The Birdcage in Sioux Falls, S.D., for their seventh NSIC Tournament win as a program. Wayne State dropped to 29-23 with the loss, and they were eliminated from the tournament. The Golden Eagles picked up their second win over the Wildcats in the NSIC Tournament.

Roers improved to 5-1 with the victory. He tossed a complete nine innings, allowing just two runs on seven hits. He tossed over 100 pitches for the second time in just over a week-and-a-half, with the gutty performance on the hill.

Braden Sweet picked up the loss, allowing one earned run on six hits in six frames. He struck out five, and walked one. Jace Coleman

pitched a scoreless inning, while Brooks Kneifl allowed one run on two hits in two frames.

Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) propelled Minnesota Crookston, going 2-of-4, with three RBI and a run scored including his 19th home run of the season. Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., OF, Saginaw) went 3-of-5 with a run scored. Americo Sculati (R-Sr., OF, Golden Valley) was 1-of-4 with an RBI, and a run scored, including a home run.

The Golden Eagles put a pair of runners on early in the top of the third as Thomas Schumacher (Fr., IF, Thompson, N.D.) reached on an error after a bunt to the pitcher, followed by a single from Bushbaum. A two-out walk to Hebl loaded the bases. A single from Fliflet with two outs plated Schumacher, and Bushbaum to give Minnesota Crookston a 2-0 lead.

Wayne State put two on with one out after a single by Easton Mains, and Cam Madsen reached on a hit by pitch. Roers got two crucial outs to preserve the 2-0 advantage.

The Wildcats got a run back in the bottom of the fourth with a Braden Cannon sacrifice fly to score Max Heard and trim the deficit to

2-1. Roers got the Golden Eagles out of any further danger with the final out of the stanza.

The Golden Eagles had an opportunity after a Cole Hebl (R-So., 1B, Hillsboro, N.D.) base-knock. Bushbaum attempted to score, but the center fielder Mains hit the cutoff who threw a rope for the 8-6-2 putout to keep the tally 2-1 heading to the bottom of the fifth.

Minnesota Crookston led off the top of the sixth with a no-doubt home run over the left field fence for his league-high 19th home run from Fliflet to push the lead to 3-1.

The Golden Eagles loaded the bases in the top of the seventh following a Bushbaum double, and back-to-back walks to Elias Leach (Fr., OF, Plymouth) and Hebl. Fliflet hit a ball to the warning track in left field, but Coleman got out of the jam to keep the game 3-1.

Wayne State cut the deficit to 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh with a solo shot from Braden Cannon.

The Golden Eagles extended their lead to 4-2 on Sculati's 11th home run of the season, powering over the left field fence.

Roers was able to shut the door to preserve the 4-2 victory over Wayne State.

## Minnesota Crookston Trap concludes 2026 season with third place finish

The University of Minnesota Crookston trap team finished the 2026 spring season in third place in the USA College Clay Target League 1A-Conference 6. The Golden Eagles finished with 3,031.5 total points. They were edged by Alfred State College and Illinois College. Minnesota Crookston placed ahead of Bethany Lutheran College, Valley City State University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Maine Maritime Academy.

The Golden Eagles improved after the fall season, where they placed fourth out of six teams in their conference. In the spring, they were third of seven teams. Dessa Terning (Fr., Dassel) led the Golden Eagles as she placed sixth among female shooters in the conference with a 22.6 average. Rebecca Morstad (So., Cavalier, N.D.) finished eighth among female shooters, while Kelsey Harms (Sr., Norwood Young

America) placed ninth. Hunter Pierson (Sr., St. Hilaire) shot a 25-straight during his practice round in week five.

Minnesota Crookston was led in their final week by Terning, who went 47-of-50. Jayden Bergerson connected on 46-of-50 targets. Eli Devore (So., Park Rapids) and Harms knocked down 45-of-50 clay targets. Chase Nelson (Jr., Red Lake Falls), Pierson, and Braxton Qual (Jr., Mahanomen) were 44-of-50. Lucas Wavra (So., East Grand Forks) hit 43-of-50 targets. Ruth Freiberg (Sr., Hopkins), Mallory Kowalke (Jr., Nevis), and Mackenzie Ondrush (Sr., Climax) connected on 42-of-50 attempts. Morstad was 41-of-50 for the Golden Eagles.

Minnesota Crookston is done with the 2025-26 season, and will commence the 2026-27 slate with the fall season.



Senior outfielder Connor Bushbaum puts the ball in play for the Golden Eagles. Bushbaum went 2-for-5 with an RBI in the Golden Eagles' 6-3 loss to Winona State at last week's NSIC Tournament. (Photo by Minnesota Crookston Athletics)

## Neighborhood BUSINESSES

**PROULX**  
REFRIGERATION & HEATING INC.  
Complete Sales & Service • Commercial & Domestic  
Furnaces | AC | Heat Pumps | Electric, Gas or Oil Boilers  
QUALITY PRODUCTS & QUALITY SERVICE  
TRANE Goodman IBC Slant Fin  
524 Marin Avenue • Crookston, MN  
Phone: 218-281-1370 | Fax: 218-281-1376

**Benedictine**  
LIVING COMMUNITY | CROOKSTON  
Offering Specialized Services in:  
Assisted Living • Skilled Nursing Care • Memory Care  
and Short-Term Care and Rehabilitation  
CALL 218-281-3424 TO LEARN MORE  
516 Walsh Street | Crookston, MN 56716 | www.benedictinecrookston.org

RYAN  
(218) 289-1596  
**RYAN TRUDEAU**  
CONSTRUCTION, LLC  
118 South Minnesota Street • Crookston, MN 56716  
ryantrudeauconst@yahoo.com

**Stenshoel-Houske**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE  
615 South Minnesota Street  
Crookston, MN 56716  
PH: 218-281-3372

# Pirates take six of seven matches against Prowlers

Crookston won six of seven matches against Thief River Falls in a boys tennis dual between the Pirates and Prowlers Tuesday afternoon at the Franklin Middle School courts in Thief River Falls.

The Pirates and Prowlers have seen each other quite a bit so far in 2026. Tuesday's meeting was the third dual meet battle, with the teams also seeing each other at the Northwest Quad on April 30.

The Pirates won the first meeting by a 5-2 score on April 23 in Crookston. The teams met again on Saturday, May 9 in Thief River Falls as part of a triangular that also included Osakis, with the Pirates winning 6-1.

The teams met again on Tuesday, with the Pirates again winning by a 6-1 margin.

The Pirates swept doubles play, with wins by Reggie Winjum and Hudson Rick over Carter Svendsgaard and Nathan Dearth in the number one spot, Colton Osborn and Sawyer Anderson over Kameron Price and Cooper Sabo in the two spot and Alex Zammert and Jacob Halvorson over Dawson Sheridan and Jaxen Larson

in the number three spot. The Pirates got singles wins in the number one, three and four spots. At number one singles, Grant Funk pulled off a big upset, defeating Jett Cornelius 6-4, 6-4. Funk lost to Cornelius 6-1, 6-1, three days prior.

Gunnar Groven defeated Andy Dagg in a hard-fought battle in the number three spot; and Ean Deleon defeated Anthony Larson in the number four spot.

Thief River Falls' lone win came in the number two singles spot, with Kaleb Funk defeating Sam Widseth 6-4, 6-0.

**Crookston 6, Thief River Falls 1**  
Singles: No. 1 - Grant Funk, Crookston, def. Jett Cornelius, Thief River Falls, 6-4, 6-4; No. 2 - Kaleb Funk, Thief River Falls, def. Sam Widseth, Crookston, 6-4, 6-0; No. 3 - Gunnar Groven, Crookston, def. Andy Dagg, Thief River Falls, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2; No. 4 - Ean Deleon, Crookston, def. Anthony Larson, Thief River Falls, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 1 - Reggie Winjum/Hudson Rick, Crookston, def. Carter Svendsgaard/Nathan Dearth, Thief River Falls, 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 - Colton Osborn/Sawyer Anderson, Crookston, def. Kameron Price/Cooper Sabo, Thief River Falls, 6-3, 6-1; No. 3 - Alex Zammert/Jacob Halvorson, Crookston, def. Dawson Sheridan/Jaxen Larson, Thief River Falls, 6-2, 6-1.



Top: Crookston junior Grant Funk battled his way to a 6-4, 6-4 upset win over Thief River Falls senior Jett Cornelius in the number one singles match Tuesday night. The Pirates defeated the Prowlers 6-1 to complete the regular season sweep.

Bottom: Crookston senior Gunnar Groven serves against fellow senior Andy Dagg of Thief River Falls. Groven survived a first-set tiebreak to defeat Dagg 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

## Pirates sweep triangular

The Crookston boys tennis team won a pair of duals by identical scores of 6-1 Saturday in a team triangular meet at the Franklin Middle School courts in Thief River Falls.

Against the Silverstreaks, the Pirates got wins in all four singles matches and two of three doubles matches.

Winning singles matches against the Silverstreaks were Reggie Winjum, Grant Funk, Gunnar Groven and Ean Deleon. On the doubles side, the Pirates got wins from Sam Widseth and Hudson Rick in the number one spot, and Alex Zammert and Jacob Halvorson in the number three spot.

Against the Prowlers, the Pirates got wins from Widseth, Groven and Deleon in singles spots two through four, and Winjum/Rick, Colton Osborn/Sawyer Anderson, Zammert/Halvorson in doubles spots one through three.

**Crookston 6, Osakis 1**  
Singles: No. 1 - Reggie Winjum,

Crookston, def. Dylan Hetland, Osakis, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 - Grant Funk, Crookston, def. Brandon Anderson, Osakis, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3 - Gunnar Groven, Crookston, def. Tucker Kreemer, Osakis, 6-0, 6-0; No. 4 - Ean Deleon, Crookston, def. William Meyer, Osakis, 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: No. 1 - Sam Widseth/Hudson Rick, Crookston, def. Tyler Stier/Kellan George, 6-2, 6-4; No. 2 - Preston Steinert/Drew VanNyhuis, Osakis, def. Colton Osborn/Sawyer Anderson, Crookston, 4-6, 6-3, 2-10; No. 3 - Alex Zammert/Jacob Halvorson, Crookston, def. Skylar Larson/Jake Nelson, Osakis, 6-1, 6-0.

**Crookston 6, Thief River Falls 1**  
Singles - No. 1 - Jett Cornelius, Thief River Falls, def. Grant Funk, Crookston, 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 - Sam Widseth, Crookston, def. Kaleb Funk, Thief River Falls, 6-3, 6-4; No. 3 - Gunnar Groven, Crookston, def. Andy Dagg, Thief River Falls, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1; No. 4 - Ean Deleon, Crookston, def. Cooper Sabo, Thief River Falls, 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 1 - Reggie Winjum/Hudson Rick, Crookston, def. Carter Svendsgaard/Nathan Dearth, Thief River Falls, 6-3, 6-1; No. 2 - Colton Osborn/Sawyer Anderson, Crookston, def. Dawson Sheridan/Kameron Price, Thief River Falls, 6-1, 6-4; No. 3 - Alex Zammert/Jacob Halvorson, Crookston, def. Anthony Larson/Jaxen Larson, Thief River Falls, 6-2, 6-4.

## PIRATE SPORTS

- Saturday, May 16**
  - Golf - Crookston Girls at Roseau 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, May 18**
  - Golf - Crookston Girls at East Grand Forks 9:30 a.m.
  - Softball - Section 8AA play-in round at high seed 5 p.m.
  - Tennis - Crookston Boys at Section 8A Team Tournament 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 19**
  - Golf - Crookston Girls at Thief River Falls 9:30 a.m.
  - Tennis - Crookston Boys at Section 8A Team and Individual

- Tournament 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 20**
  - Golf - Crookston Girls host meet 2 p.m.
  - Tennis - Crookston Boys at Section 8A Individual Tournament 9 a.m.
- Thursday, May 21**
  - Golf - Crookston boys and Girls at pre-subsection
  - Baseball - Crookston vs. Warroad DH 4 p.m.
  - Track and Field - Crookston boys and Girls at Subsection meet at Hawley TBD



# Pirates split road doubleheader with Prowlers

The Crookston Pirates baseball team defeated Thief River Falls by a score of 13-1 Thursday, May 7 before bouncing back with a 15-8 win in game two.

The Pirates started fast in game one, scoring four runs on four hits.

The Prowlers answered with a run on one hit in the bottom of the third, with senior Bridger Wilcox scoring on an RBI base hit by Knute Hams.

The Pirates added to their lead with two runs on three hits in the top of the fourth and they added three more runs on four hits in the fifth to take a 9-1 lead.

The Pirates added to their lead one more time in top of the seventh with four runs on three hits.

Greyson Ecker had an impressive day at the plate for the Pirates, going 3-for-4 with a walk, double, home run, three runs scored and a pair of RBIs. Dexter Janek went 3-for-5 with a run scored and three RBI, and Cody Demarais went 3-for-5 with a run scored and two RBI.

The Prowlers were held to just three hits by Crookston starter Gavyn Hlucny. Hlucny walked two, struck out five and allowed one unearned run in his complete game efforts.

Hams, Cole Johnson and Casey Nelson picked up hits for the Prowlers.

Kaleb Mehrkens got started for the Prowlers and he was charged with eight runs, five earned, on 10 hits over four and two thirds in-

nings. Thomas Eidsmoe came out of the bullpen and allowed five runs on six hits over two and a third innings.

The Prowlers trailed by as many as five runs in game two but rallied for a 13-7 win to split the doubleheader.

The Pirates scored five runs in the top half of the first, but the Prowlers answered with three runs in the bottom half of the inning to make the score 5-3. Both teams scored again in the second inning, with the Pirates taking a 6-3 lead with a run on two hits in the second, before the Prowlers again answered with two runs on two hits to make the score 6-5.

The Prowlers big inning came in the third. They sent 12 batters to the plate and collected six hits and had nine total baserunners in the eight-run inning.

Both teams would score twice more, with the Pirates scoring runs in the fourth and seventh innings and the Prowlers adding insurance runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Nelson led the Prowlers with a three-hit day, going 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles, an RBI and three runs scored. Hudson Eidelbes, Beckem Johnson, Wilcox, Johnson and Mehrkens picked up two hits each, with doubles by Mehrkens, Wilcox and Eidelbes.

Lane Waldal picked up the pitching win for the Prowlers, going three and two thirds innings and allowing seven runs, all unearned, on eight hits with six strikeouts and four walks.

Dylan Osowski pitched two and a third scoreless innings and Eidsmoe pitched the seventh and allowed one unearned run.

Demarais led the Pirates in game two, going 3-for-5 with a pair of runs scored. Isaiah Donarski and Tarek Siegle each finished with two hits in the game two loss.

**Game 1**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Crox	4	0	2	3	0	4	-	13	16	2
TRF	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	1	3	2

**Batting**

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Crookston						
Dexter Janek	5	3	3	1	0	1
Greyson Ecker	4	3	3	2	1	0
Gavyn Hlucny	4	2	2	0	1	1
Isaiah Donarski	5	0	2	4	0	0
Lucas Perala	3	2	0	1	0	0
Cody Demarais	5	1	3	2	0	0
N. Cassavant	4	0	1	1	1	1
Tarek Siegle	5	0	1	2	0	3
Davin Janek	3	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	38	13	16	12	4	6

Highlights - 2B: Greyson Ecker; HR: Greyson Ecker; HBP: Davin Janek, Lucas Perala; SB: Greyson Ecker 2, Dexter Janek, Gavyn Hlucny, Isaiah Donarski; E: Isaiah Donarski 2.

**Thief River Falls**

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Gabe Haugen	0	0	0	2	0	0
Chandler Pream	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Flaagan	3	0	0	0	0	0
Bridger Wilcox	3	1	0	0	1	1
Knute Hams	3	0	1	0	1	0
Dylan Osowski	2	0	0	0	1	0
Cole Johnson	3	0	1	0	0	0
Cooper Roff	3	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Nelson	3	0	1	0	0	0
Kaleb Mehrkens	1	0	0	0	1	0
Thomas Eidsmoe	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	23	1	3	1	3	4

Highlights - 2B: Casey Nelson; E: Cole Johnson, Ryan Flaagan.

**Pitching**

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Crookston						
Gavyn Hlucny (W)	7	3	1	0	3	4
Thief River Falls						
Kaleb Mehrkens (L)	4.21	9	6	2	3	
Thomas Eidsmoe	2.15	4	4	2	3	
Game 2						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	R	H	E			

Crox	5	1	0	0	1	-	8	10	2
TRF	3	2	8	0	1	X	-	15	15

**Batting**

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Crookston						
Dexter Janek	5	3	3	1	0	1
Greyson Ecker	4	3	3	2	1	0
Gavyn Hlucny	4	2	2	0	1	1
Isaiah Donarski	5	0	2	4	0	0
Lucas Perala	3	2	0	1	0	0
Cody Demarais	5	1	3	2	0	0
Nolan Cassavant	4	0	1	1	1	1
Tarek Siegle	5	0	1	2	0	3
Davin Janek	3	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	38	13	16	12	4	6

Highlights - 2B: Tarek Siegle 2; SB: Aiden Delage, Dexter Janek, Nolan Cassavant; CS: Tarek Siegle;

E: Aiden Delage, Greyson Ecker.

**Thief River Falls**

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Gabe Haugen	0	0	0	2	0	0
Chandler Pream	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Flaagan	3	0	0	0	0	0
Bridger Wilcox	3	1	0	0	1	1
Knute Hams	3	0	1	0	1	0
Dylan Osowski	2	0	0	1	0	0
Cole Johnson	3	0	1	0	0	0
Cooper Roff	3	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Nelson	3	0	1	0	0	0
Kaleb Mehrkens	1	0	0	0	1	0
Thomas Eidsmoe	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	23	1	3	1	3	4

Highlights - 2B: Casey Nelson 2, Bridger Wilcox, Hudson Eidelbes, Kaleb Mehrkens; HBP: Easton Gon-

sorowski, Kaleb Mehrkens; SF: Bridger Wilcox; SB: Cole Johnson 3, Bridger Wilcox 2, Hudson Eidelbes 2, Casey Nelson, Easton Gonsorowski, Kaleb Mehrkens, Ryan Flaagan; E: Cole Johnson 4, Casey Nelson 2, Lane Waldal.

**Pitching**

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Crookston						
Isaiah Donarski (L)	2.18	10	1	2		
Greyson Ecker	3.27	5	5	3	5	
Thief River Falls						
Lane Waldal (W)	3.28	7	0	4	6	
Dylan Osowski	2.12	0	0	1	3	
Austin Lawrence	1	0	1	0	3	1

**Thief River Falls**  
**Times**

**NORTHERN**  
**WATCH**

**CROOKSTON**  
**WATCH**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**DEADLINES: The Times - Monday, 10:00 A.M.; Northern Watch - Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
If you wish to have your name, address and telephone number in the ad, please write it on the numbered lines provided.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 - \$6.00
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 - \$7.25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35 - \$8.50

**Make Check Payable to The Times, P.O. Box 100, Thief River Falls, MN 56701**

Check or Money Order Enclosed  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENTION:**  
Please Indicate  
Where You'd Like  
Your Ad To Run

The Times  
 Northern Watch  
 Both (Times & N Watch)  
 Crookston Watch

**First 15 Words.....\$6.00**  
Per Insertion  
**Ea. Add'l 10 Words.....\$1.25**  
Per Insertion

**★ BEST VALUE! ★**  
**PACKAGE DEAL**  
Advertise 3 Times Get  
The 4th Time **FREE**