



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



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## City to hold open house on Stormwater Master Plan

In coordination with the city's engineering firm (AE2S), the City of Crookston invites residents to an open house Monday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers for a public presentation of the completed Stormwater Master Plan. The presentation will include a review of existing and future flooding scenarios, proposed operational changes for the levee system, and overall system performance.

This open house will also allow residents and stakeholders to provide feedback on identified issues and priorities. In addition, they will be discussing and prioritizing potential Capital Improvement Program projects identified through the study, including projects that may be required to address system deficiencies, along with their associated costs and implementation timelines.

## Paddle the river during Wednesdays on the Water

by Anna Phalen Correspondent

Community members of all ages are invited to experience the beauty of the Red Lake River through Wednesdays on the Water, a family-friendly paddling event that encourages outdoor recreation and community connection.

As part of the latest event, on June 17, participants launched canoes and kayaks east of Crookston along Highway 2 and made their way down the river to Central Park. The approximately 90-minute paddle offered a chance to enjoy the outdoors, spend time with family and friends, and see the community from a different perspective.

Wednesdays on the Water is made possible through a collaborative effort involving the University of Minnesota Crookston, the University of Minnesota Extension, Polk County Public Health, the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership, the City of Crookston, and Crookston Parks and Recreation. Together, the organizations aim to promote healthy lifestyles, outdoor recreation, and greater appreciation for the river.

A special thank you goes to Oliver's Canoe Outfitters and the University of Minnesota for providing free

canoe and kayak rentals for participants. While personal boats are welcome, free rental equipment is available for those who need it. Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (THE Bus) was a big help in transporting people to the site.

Additional Wednesdays on the Water events are scheduled for July 8 and Aug. 5. Organizers encourage residents of all ages and experience levels to participate.

Those interested in attending or reserving rental equipment can contact Keenan Devier at 218-650-0669 for more information.

Wednesdays on the Water offers a fun and accessible way for community members to get active and experience the Red Lake River from a unique perspective. Organizers hope residents will take advantage of the opportunity to paddle, connect with others, and make lasting summer memories on the water.

For those interested in more opportunities to get outdoors and connect with others, organizers also encourage residents to take part in the weekly Wellness Walk. Held each Wednesday at noon, walkers meet at the Main Street Courtyard across from True Value and follow an approximately one-mile route through downtown Crookston.



A stretch of the Sand Hill River is poised to shed an impairment for fish habitat. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is accepting comments through Wednesday, July 22 on the proposed delisting. (Photo courtesy of the Sand Hill Watershed District)

## Clean Water Fund work leads to proposed delisting of the Sand Hill River

Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources supported conservation work that significantly contributed to four lakes, two river reaches and one creek's proposed removal from the state's impaired waters list.

The lakes are in or near the seven-county Twin Cities metro — where monitoring started years earlier and therefore more data exists to show improvement. A designated trout stream in Hubbard County, part of the Sand Hill River in Polk County that now supports redhorse species, and a segment of a Sauk River tributary in Stearns County round out that list.

"The delistings are encouraging because they show that our investments and planning and projects and programs are definitely working," Maggie Karschnia, BWSR clean water coordinator, said of state and local governments. "The proposed delistings represent the payoff from sustained effort and collaboration over an extended period of time."

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval finalizes the status.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is accepting comments through Wednesday, July 22 on its proposed 45 removals (22 of them re-

sulting from known restoration work) and 46 additions to the 2026 draft impaired waters list. MPCA staff will then respond to all comments within 30 days. The EPA has another 30 days to respond.

### Sand Hill River

Redhorse species and other migratory fish returned to the Sand Hill River after rock riffles and rock arch rapids replaced four dams west of Fertile on the Sand Hill River, a Red River tributary. The \$1.6 million project — backed by a \$475,000 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the West Polk SWCD, a \$118,750 match from the Sand Hill River Watershed District, a \$933,000 DNR Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and a \$100,000 Enbridge Ecofootprint grant — restored fish passage and improved habitat while maintaining streambank stability. It followed 20 years of watershed-wide work by local, state and federal partners.

"Without the Clean Water Funds, this wouldn't be possible. There isn't enough local tax base to be able to institute the type of projects that we've been able to put out there on the landscape. Those (funds) also support monitoring, planning and restoration efforts.

They support implementation of conservation practices that would reduce sediment or runoff," said April Swenby, SHRWD administrator. "This delisting would highlight the value of the public investment in clean water, and it demonstrates that these investments can lead to measurable improvements on Minnesota's rivers and streams."

A 62-mile-long stretch was listed as impaired for fish habitat in 2014. Now, a 15-mile-long segment of that stretch — from Kittleson Creek to just east of Fertile — is poised to shed that impairment.

"The proposed delisting of the Sand Hill River validates over a decade of collaborative conservation work aimed at reversing ecological damage, signifying the success of targeted watershed strategies," said Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD manager. She applied for the Clean Water Fund grant, facilitated the riffles project and facilitated One Watershed, One Plan planning for the Sand Hill River watershed.

Now, Bernd said Sand Hill River-related work is focused on comprehensive ecosystem restoration, flood mitigation and water-quality improvements. The Sand

Hill River Ecosystem Restoration Project Team is designing a habitat and channel stabilization project centered on a three-mile priority stretch of river east of Beltrami. WBIF-supported work aims to reduce turbidity and E. coli via targeted agricultural and structural best management practices.

"(The delisting) validates our public funding, drives community engagement and (sends) the message that keeping healthy waters clean is far more cost-effective than attempting to restore them," Bernd said.

### The future

"It is really exciting that we're seeing more delistings," said Leya Charles, MPCA water assessment and impaired waters list coordinator. "We're expecting that trend to continue, being that there's a lot of really good work and really good funding in Minnesota, a lot of really engaged watershed management organizations that are doing this work. It really does take that grassroots level."

Landowners' involvement is key to improving water quality.

"Clean Water Funds have been an important part of the equation because they help these communities,

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The 107th Ninth District American Legion Auxiliary Convention was held June 12 and 13 in Moorhead. Representing the area were Margee Keller, treasurer (Crookston); Denise Milton, president (Bagley); Jean Walker, parliamentarian (Warren); Sharon Lanctot, acting secretary and executive member

(Crookston) and Joanie Krantz, community service chairperson (Karlstad). Annual reports and awards were presented. Crookston was presented a certificate for Children and Youth and a plaque and certificate for Publicity. (Submitted)

## What should Crookston tell the future?

### Time capsule to be buried July 4

by Anna Phalen Correspondent

What would Crookston want future generations to know about life in 2026?

That question is at the heart of a new community time capsule project being organized by the Prairie Skyline Foundation in conjunction with the United States' 250th anniversary. The capsule, which will be sealed on July 4, 2026, and opened 50 years later in 2076, is intended to preserve a snapshot of everyday life in Crookston for future generations.

Community members are

invited to contribute items to the time capsule, which was generously donated by NAPA Crookston Welding. Suggested items include photographs, essays, artwork, letters, images of local storefronts, descriptions of community traditions, USB drives and other memorabilia that help tell the story of Crookston today. Donations will be accepted through Friday, July 3.

Items may be dropped off at the Polk County Historical Society (719 E. Robert St.), Crookston City Hall, the Crookston Public Library and The Jeweler. Organizers hope to collect more than 250 items representing the people, places, and experiences that make Crookston unique.

Once the collection period has ended, the public is in-

invited to attend the sealing ceremony on Saturday, July 4 at 12 p.m. at the capsule's burial site located at 210 N. Ash St.

Prairie Skyline Foundation hopes the time capsule will provide future residents with a meaningful glimpse into life in Crookston in 2026 — showing not only what the community looked like, but also what its residents valued, celebrated and hoped for. Organizers envision the capsule serving as a message across generations, preserving the stories, traditions and spirit of the community for those who will call Crookston home in the future.

For additional information or to ask questions about the project, call 701-330-7606.

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# Proposed delisting of the Sand Hill River/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) from planning to action," Karschnia said. "Those dollars are leveraged with other local, state, federal and private funding, which then allows them to move forward with larger, more expensive projects that otherwise likely would not have happened. ... BWSR's funding often is that tipping point to getting these waters where they need to be."

Delistings are proposed when data show a solid trend in water-quality improvement and meet the state water quality standard.

The MPCA monitors about 26,000 water bodies — including 11,564 lakes, plus wetlands and stream reaches — in a 10-year cycle. Since the first impaired waters list was released in 1994, about 2,250 water bodies have been added; about 125 have been removed.

"Forty-five delistings? Amazing. But there's also so much other work that is happening behind the scenes in those trends and those improvements that just might not have quite triggered that it's good enough for a delisting," Charles said.

# Let the experts handle the fireworks

This Fourth of July, Minnesota physicians are once again urging their fellow Minnesotans to leave the fireworks up to the professionals.

"Every summer we hear of too many sad stories about people getting injured by fireworks," said Minnesota Medical Association President Lisa Mattson, MD. "Last July, a 13-year-old Minnesotan in Mahanomen County died from a fireworks accident. So, please stay away from firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, sparklers, and all of those dangerous items. It's better to be safe, than sorry."

According to the latest statistics (2024) from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, hands and fingers were the most

often injured body parts (36%), followed by head, face, and ears (22%). In 2024, there were 11 reported fireworks-related deaths, which is a 38% increase over 2023. Overall, 14,700 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks injuries in 2024, and 1,700 of those involved the seemingly harmless sparklers.

According to the CPSC, adults ages 25 to 44 made up the largest share of victims (32%), followed by people ages 15 to 24 (24%).

"Lighting off fireworks is a time-honored tradition in our country, but it's a dangerous one," Mattson said. "They can result in severe burns, blindness, scars, and even death. Please leave them to the professionals who can take all the necessary safety precautions."

# Crookston man charged with selling cocaine to informant

A Crookston man has been charged in Polk County District Court after he allegedly sold one or more mixtures of a total weight of 17 grams or more of cocaine. The charges stemmed from multiple sales of cocaine to a confidential informant in May and June.



Ricardo Mello

Ricardo Mello, 38, has been charged with felony first degree controlled substance crime — sale (aggregated offense), felony first degree controlled substance crime — sale, and four felony offenses of third degree controlled substance crime — sale.

The complaint indicated that Mello was on supervised release at the time. He was released from prison April 16, 2025, for felony second degree murder, gross misdemeanor fourth degree assault of a peace officer, felony criminal vehicular operation — gross negligence and gross misdemeanor obstructing legal process. The Minnesota Department of Corrections has issued a detainer/warrant for him.

The charges stemmed from a May 1 meeting between a Crookston police of-

ficer and an informant. Mello allegedly agreed to sell an 8-ball, or about 3.5 grams of cocaine, to the informant three days later for \$250. On May 4, Mello dropped off a baggie of cocaine at the informant's home. The substance had a presumptive positive test result for cocaine. With the packaging included, the cocaine weighed about 4.8 grams.

The next day, the officer and informant met again. As part of the controlled-buy procedures, the informant was given an electronic recorder/transmitter and \$250 in drug-buy money. The officer saw the informant with Mello. The informant said they had paid \$250 to Mello, who said he had to break up the cocaine into powder form since he obtained it in brick form. Mello told the informant that the fixed price was \$250 for an 8-ball even if the informant purchased larger amounts.

On May 6, the informant told the officer that they had spoken with Mello, who allegedly agreed to sell two 8-balls for \$500. The informant was provided an electronic recorder/transmitter and \$500 in drug-buy money. An undercover Pine Prairie Drug Task Force officer then drove the informant to Mello's residence. The informant returned to the vehicle with two baggies of a white powdery substance after paying \$500. A

portion was field-tested and had a presumptive positive test result for cocaine.

On May 14, the informant again went to Mello's residence while wearing an electronic recorder/transmitter. The informant allegedly paid \$500, receiving two baggies of a white powdery substance and one baggie containing some suspected marijuana. A portion of the substance was field-tested and found to have a presumptive positive test result for cocaine. The cocaine weighed about 10 grams with the packaging. The informant said Mello provided the marijuana for free.

Mello said he could sell the informant four 8-balls or about 14 grams of cocaine if the informant had the money. However, if the informant wanted more, Mello said they may need to wait.

On May 28, the informant again went to Mello's home. Two baggies of a white powdery substance and a baggie of suspected marijuana were provided for a price of \$500. A portion of the white powdery substance was field-tested and had a presumptive positive test result for cocaine.

On June 16, the informant met with Mello, who allegedly agreed to sell the informant an ounce of cocaine for \$1,600, saying he wouldn't have a problem obtaining that amount. He also told the informant that the

latter individual could make some money by selling the ounce for \$2,000. While meeting with the informant, Mello displayed a knife. He also referred to possessing a gun that he could grab from a storage place elsewhere if needed.

Later that day, the informant was provided with \$1,600 in drug-buy money. Mello gave the informant about 30.2 grams of cocaine with the packaging included. An officer later reviewed a recording of the exchange, which occurred in a vehicle. He recognized Mello's voice.

Mello was arrested a short time later. In his wallet, law enforcement allegedly found the \$1,600 in pre-recorded drug-buy money.

Law enforcement executed a search warrant at Mello's home, where they allegedly found a blender containing white powder as well as some suspected marijuana and a digital scale. They also found items containing Mello's name there.

A sheriff's deputy later reviewed recorded telephone calls made at the jail. In a June 16 phone call with his daughter, Mello allegedly admitted he was incarcerated because he hadn't been doing things right. In a phone call with his mom June 17, he said it was his fault that he was incarcerated.

# NWROC to hold Crops and Soils Day

The Northwest Research and Outreach Center Crops and Soils Day is set for Wednesday, July 16 at NWROC's Maintenance/Farm Operations building south of County Highway 71 on NWROC's campus.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. for the morning small grains tours. Attendees will board the buses at 8 a.m. to start the tours. A complimentary lunch takes place at about 12 p.m. fol-

lowed by registration for the afternoon sugar beet tour at 12:30 p.m. Buses are boarded at 1 p.m.

- Morning tours feature:
- Wheat Breeding Variety Update by Dr. Jim Anderson
  - Barley and Oat Breeding Update by Dr. Kevin Smith
  - Insect Round Up (We'll Need a Very Tiny Lasso) by Dr. Ian MacRae
  - Performance of Subsur-

face Drainage for Soybean, Wheat and Sugar Beet Production by Dr. Murad Ellafi

- Iron Deficiency Chlorosis in Soybeans by Isabella Fiora
  - Raising Competitive Soybeans by Dr. Angie Peltier
  - Winter Crop Update by Dr. Jochum Wiersma
  - Small Grains Disease by Dr. Ruth Dill-Macky
- Afternoon tours feature:
- Disease Management

in Sugar Beets by Dr. Ashok Chanda

- Strip-tilled Sugar Beets by Dr. Murad Ellafi
- Sugar Beet Tolerance with Ethofumesate Incorporated or Applied Preemergence, and Fall and Spring Applied Soil Residual Herbicides for Waterhemp Control, Sugar Beet Tolerance by Dr. Thomas Peters
- Herbicide, Fungicide and Insecticide Mixtures by Dr. Eric Branch

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# Crookston Area Ministries

<p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 23928 265th St SW - Crookston (East of Highland School) Church: 281-5629 Preston Hoiseth, Pastor Web: www.biblebaptistcrookston.org Email: biblebaptist@midco.net</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: 218-456-2568 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.</p> <p>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 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 - 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, FISHER (LCMS)</b> Church Office: 218-891-4581 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 CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson</p> <p>Sundays: 10:30 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, 218-230-8860</p> <p>Sundays: 10 a.m. Holy Mass</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>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>

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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.

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A Publication of:

Thief River Falls Times  
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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

**LEGAL NOTICES**

June 20, 27, 2026  
**NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 593 CROOKSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 593 shall begin on July 14th, 2026, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on July 28th, 2026.  
The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.  
Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 402 Fisher Avenue, Suite 593, Crookston, MN. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.  
The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on July 28th, 2026.

Dated: June 16, 2026  
BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
Marilyn Wahouske  
Ind. School District 593 Clerk  
June 27, July 4, 11, 2026  
**2026 NOTICE OF FILING**  
Notice is hereby given that the City of Crookston will be accepting Affidavits of Candidacy for the following municipal offices: Mayor - Four (4) Year Term  
Council Member Offices  
Ward Two (2) - Four (4) Year Term  
Ward Four (4) - Four (4) Year Term  
Ward Six (6) - Four (4) Year Term  
At-Large - Four (4) Year Term  
Affidavits of Candidacy for the offices listed above may be obtained from the City Clerk at City Hall, 124 North Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716, beginning July 14, 2026.  
Affidavits of Candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk between July 14, 2026, through July 28, 2026, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Affidavits of Candidacy will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.  
Filing Fee: \$2.00  
The election for these positions will be held during the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.  
Ashley Rystad  
City Clerk  
City of Crookston

**DEATHS**

**Susan Nelson, 72**  
Crookston - Susan Nelson, 72, passed away on March 29, 2026.  
A graveside service for Susan will be held on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Oakdale Cemetery in Crookston.  
**Nancy Moser**  
A memorial service honoring Nancy Moser's life will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston at 1 p.m. with visitation a half-hour prior at 12:30 p.m. Visitation was also held on Friday, June 26, 2026, at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m., and a prayer service at 7 p.m.

**Administrative Assistant Needed Immediately**  
Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. is seeking an experienced **Administrative Assistant**. Duties include billing, coding, financial support, volunteer management, Canva, Google Drive, and assisting the Executive Director.  
Qualified applicants should have strong organizational and computer skills.  
*For more information, contact Carolina at carolina@careandsharecrk.org.*

**NOTICE OF TOWNSHIP ELECTION FILINGS**  
Gentilly Township in Polk County will be accepting filings for the office of Supervisor A, a 4-year term and Treasurer, a 2-year term. Filings will be accepted at the Clerk's Residence, 25762 185th Avenue SW, Crookston, MN between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm, July 14, 2026 to July 28, 2026. The clerk's office will be open from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on July 28, 2026 (for sure) to accept filings. For other dates and times, please call ahead - 612-889-6458. There is a \$2.00 filing fee for either office.  
- Gene Dufault, Clerk

**Local projects receive funding for renewable energy projects**

Three local projects were among the 52 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects awarded seed grants by the Clean Energy Resource Teams.  
The projects included: Care and Share's renovations of the Hope Center Family Shelter in Crookston; residential energy audits in northwest Minnesota; and Rainbow Research: Cross-Regional Intercultural Clean Energy Transition Team in northwest Minnesota.

"CERTs Seed Grants have always provided a way to move ideas forward," said Melissa Birch, CERTs co-director. "We're excited to keep the clean energy momentum going across Minnesota, especially for residents who need it the most."

CERTs Seed Grants strive to support underserved communities, including households with high energy burdens, where more than 5% of their income is spent on energy costs (compared to 2% for the average Minnesota household).  
"It's inspiring to see the creative ideas behind these clean energy projects," said CERTs Seed Grant Manager Maggie Kozak. "Communities know what they need to address the issues they face. While the results include saving energy and money, they often also provide comfort and safety for our neighbors and their families."

Financial and programmatic support comes from the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Division of Energy Resources and the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program, with \$214,000 allocated for 2026 CERTs Seed Grants. The Morgan Family Foundation continues its support with an additional \$63,000. The Carolyn Foundation joins these funders with a contribution of \$105,000. \$54,500 is allocated to each region of Minnesota, and projects are selected by local residents who are members of their regional Clean Energy Resource Team Steering Committee.

"These CERTs Seed Grants demonstrate how community-driven ideas play a vital role in Minnesota's clean energy transition," said Lissa Pawlisch, assistant commissioner of the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

sources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. "By supporting locally led projects - especially in communities facing higher energy burdens - we're helping Minnesotans save energy, reduce costs, and build a cleaner, more equitable, and resilient energy future across the state."

CERTs Seed Grants encourage projects that help people see clean energy working in their own communities.

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218-280-2038  
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July 22 Deadline to Consign ~ Sale Closing Date August 6  
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**POLK COUNTY Minnesota**  
Employment Opportunities:  
**Elections & Forfeiture Specialist - Taxpayer Service Center:**  
\$31.33 - \$39.69/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.  
**Eligibility Worker - Social Services:**  
Starting Wage \$26.56/hr. Position Closes on Monday, July 6, 2026.  
**Assistant County Attorney I - II - Attorney's Office:**  
\$47.55 - \$68.06/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.  
**Community Service Officer - Sheriff's Office:**  
\$26.56 - \$33.64/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.  
**Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II - Sheriff's Office:**  
\$32.90 - \$44.17/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.  
**Mechanical Maintenance Technician - Fosston 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.polkcountymn.gov](http://www.polkcountymn.gov) and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408  
Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

**Polk County Fair**  
**TALENT CONTEST**  
Thursday July, 9 • 7:00 p.m.  
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**THIEF RIVER FALLS Times**  
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The Times office hours are:  
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8 am - 3 pm

Rural Reflections ...

# Corral serves as a framework of memories

by Grant Nelson



built over time. I always wanted a decent corral system. I grew up catching cattle by hand and did not like it. I didn't mind the physical part of it, but I really disliked the chaos. I also thought it created a lot of stress, scared animals and hurt feelings.

I started the corral system by gathering material. I could cut up broken utility poles at the local electric cooperative for free and then use an old converted boat trailer to haul them home. This was back in the mid-1990s, but I continued to cut poles up until about 10 years ago. I would then dig holes for the post with an old hand digger. I always tried to dig five holes each day until I had the last post buried. There's a lot of clay here, so I replaced the wooden handles several times during the project. I feel that I really own those holes because I certainly worked hard to make them.

I never wanted a corral made of lumber planks. I had seen them broken many times and wanted a corral of steel. I was lucky to find some steel pipe a few miles away that I hauled home and stacked by a shed. Most of my pipe was from a gen-

tleman who had salvaged it and piled it at his farm, by a shed. He and I made a deal where I paid him \$15 every paycheck for about two years. He trusted me to keep a record of my installments on a Post-it note. I would then present the note to him and use that old converted boat trailer to haul a load home. I am still proud of the whole transaction to this very day.

The grain bin was hoisted into place by a telehandler in 2012 during a home remodeling project. I then modified it into something that has served pretty well right up to today.

When I look at that collection of steel and lumber, I think of all the best experiences from the farm - how proud I was of my Scottish Highland cattle and the wonderful relationships I made with the cows over time or all of the different agriculture practices I have tried. The corral holds more than cattle, it's the framework for my last three decades of memories. It holds recollections so numerous that it would take several old, rusty converted boat trailers to bring them all home.

# Senior Life Solutions Program welcomes Salinas



Jessica Salinas

RiverView Health's Senior Life Solutions program is pleased to welcome Jessica Salinas, LGSW, to its team.

Salinas is looking forward to helping individuals improve their emotional well-being through counseling services offered in person at the SLS location on RiverView's Crookston campus. She will provide both one-on-one counseling and group therapy sessions, as well as telehealth appointments for those who prefer to receive care remotely.

RiverView's Senior Life Solutions program offers outpatient mental health services tailored to the unique needs of older adults, typically those age 65 and

older. The program helps participants develop coping and communication skills to support better mental health and overall quality of life. In addition to individual and group therapy, services include psychiatric evaluation and medication management. The dedicated SLS team is committed to supporting the emotional health and wellness of older adults throughout the region.

Salinas earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of North Dakota and is grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

"I am interested in nature-inspired healing and modalities that look at the mind, body, and spirit as one cohesive system," she said.

Her path to social work began shortly after high school while working as a special education paraprofessional, where she discovered a passion for helping others navigate life's challenges.

"Working alongside the social work and counseling team while I was a special education paraprofessional

in a primarily Native American school inspired me to pursue the field," Salinas stated. "Going on my own personal inner-healing journey increased the desire for me to work in the clinical field of social work."

Throughout her career, Salinas has gained experience in a variety of settings, including work with Red River Valley Community Action, the Grand Forks School District, and as a case manager serving children in the foster care system. Those experiences have helped shape her compassionate approach to care.

A native of Tolna, ND, Salinas now lives in Fisher with her husband, their four children ages 1, 2, 9, and 10, and three cats. When she's not working, she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, spending time with family, walking, engaging in deep conversations, and practicing meditation and contemplation.

If you or someone you know could benefit from Salinas' services, contact Senior Life Solutions at 218-281-9559.

# Class of 1976 to celebrate reunion

The Crookston Central High School Class of 1976 will gather in Crookston to celebrate its 50-year class reunion, bringing together classmates for a weekend of social events and activities.

The reunion will take place July 10-11. The reunion committee recently received a grant from the Crookston Visitors Bureau to help support the event. Activities will begin Friday,

July 10, with an evening social and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Minakwa Golf Course.

On Saturday, July 11, attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Irishman's Shanty. The celebration will continue with an afternoon social and cornhole tournament from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Drafts Sports Bar.

The weekend will con-

clude with a dinner and evening program beginning at 6 p.m. at the Crookston Inn. The program will include a group photo, a time of remembrance, door prizes, trivia, and other activities.

Organizers encourage classmates to stay informed about reunion updates by joining the Crookston Connections Facebook group.

# UMN system selected for Planning Innovation Cohort

The University of Minnesota system has been selected from a competitive pool of applicants for Campus Compact's 2026 Campus Action Planning Innovation Cohort. CAP is a strategic planning framework that helps colleges and universities advance civic and community engagement across all institutional functions, complementing and aligning with existing institutional processes. All five UMN campuses, including Crookston, will participate in the Innovation Cohort as one institution.

UMN Crookston's campus-community team, led by Senior Vice Chancellor Rosemary Johnsen, includes faculty, staff, and community partners. Crookston will use

the intensive seven-month support program to advance both campus-level and system-level community engagement alignment through this process. Johnsen noted that "working with UMN system campuses while enjoying the support of Campus Compact will allow us to develop our commitment to the region in exciting ways."

Campus Compact is one of the preeminent organizations committed to promoting the public purposes of higher education. It was founded in 1985 and has over 300 college and university members, including the UMN campuses in Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and the Twin Cities. During the project

period of June 2026 to January 2027, the campus teams will create coordinated community engagement action plans aligned with the University's system wide strategic plan, Elevate Extraordinary 2030.

Building on recent university-wide engagement alignment efforts and Carnegie Community Engagement Classification self-studies, the initiative will establish shared goals, measurable outcomes, and sustainable implementation strategies that strengthen civic and community engagement, experiential learning, and student-community partnerships across the university system.

# Library to hold learning activity for youth

A hands-on learning activity for youth ages 5 to 18 is scheduled at the Crookston Public Library in two sessions, one on Monday, June 29 at 6 p.m. and the other on Tuesday, June 30 at 10:30 a.m. The programs offer young learners the opportunity to explore learning

about doodling in a hands-on and fun way, as well as an opportunity for parents and caregivers to explore the many educational resources the library offers.

This is one of several programs for youth held throughout the month; others include weekly Story-

time (Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.) for youth ages 3 to 6 and a weekly Baby Bounce (Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.) for youth ages 0 to 3.

All programs are open to the public and are offered free-of-charge.

\*\*\* CELEBRATING \*\*\*

# 4<sup>TH</sup> of JULY

AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**CROOKSTON AMERICA250 COMMUNITY TIME CAPSULE**  
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As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, The Prairie Skyline Foundation invites residents, businesses, schools, churches, organizations and surrounding areas to contribute to Crookston's official America250 Community Time Capsule.

**TIME CAPSULE ON DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 3RD, 2026**



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**CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED**  
JUNE 22 - JULY 3, 2026

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719 E Robert St, Crookston, MN 56716

**Crookston Public Library**  
9 AM - 8 PM (Most Days)  
110 N Ash St, Crookston, MN 56716

**Crookston City Hall**  
Mon-Thurs 9 AM - 4:30 PM  
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**The Jeweler**  
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**WE ARE SEEKING**

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- ★ Letters to the Future
- ★ Business Cards
- ★ Local Historical Items
- ★ Digital Archives (USB Drives)
- ★ Crookston & Red River Valley Keepsakes

**Community Goal:**  
250-2,500 Contributions

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**  
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**The Prairie Skyline Foundation**  
9 AM - 5 PM, Annual Yard Sale  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026\*\*  
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**QUESTIONS?**  
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**If you are interested in having your NEWS included in the Crookston Watch contact April at the Northern Watch in Thief River Falls.**

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**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 Phalen • annaphalenn@gmail.com**

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

# Record rundown: Anglers catch state record fish

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has certified nine new state record fish this spring.

Of the nine records certified so far this spring, two have been in the weight category, which requires the angler to harvest the fish and have it weighed on a certified scale. Seven of the records have been in the catch-and-release category, which requires the angler to provide photos of the fish, with clear length measurements and species identification, and ensure that the fish was released in good condition by making sure it's not bleeding heavily and can swim away on its own.

"It's fantastic to see these great fish and really shows what amazing fishing opportunities we have in Minnesota," said Mandy Erickson, DNR fisheries program consultant. "We're thrilled that so many people have participated in the state record fish program. This is a fun way to recognize anglers and highlight some of the impressive fish being caught

throughout the state."

## Bigmouth Buffalo

Ryan Bauman of Golden Valley caught and released a bigmouth buffalo that was 36.25 inches long from Sweeney Lake in Hennepin County on April 14. The fish topped the previous record by more than 2 inches.

## Black Crappie

David Selle of Lino Lakes harvested a black crappie that weighed 4 pounds, 1 ounce on May 3 from Cedar Lake in Rice County. Selle's catch bested the previous record by a little more than an ounce.

## Blue Sucker

Joe Busch of Cottage Grove caught and released a blue sucker that was 31.25 inches long on May 16 from the Mississippi River in Dakota County. This was the first blue sucker reported that has met the minimum length requirement since the species' addition to the record fish program in 2024.

## Bluegill Sunfish

Chris Mulcahey of Waterville harvested a bluegill sunfish that weighed 2

pounds on May 29 from Big Stone Lake in Big Stone County. Mulcahey's fish was 3 ounces heavier than the previous record holder.

## Lake Sturgeon

Travis Keating of Fargo, N.D., caught and released a lake sturgeon that was 80 inches long on April 18 from the Rainy River in Lake of the Woods County. The fish added 2 inches to the record length.

## Lake Trout (two records)

Two anglers caught and released record lake trout this spring, both from Lake Superior in Lake County. The first angler was Matthew Hammer of White Bear Township, who caught a lake trout that was 44 inches long on April 13. The fish eked out a new record by .75 inches over the previous record-holder.

Then, Joe Bouta of Benson caught and released a lake trout that was 45.5 inches long on May 9. The fish bested Hammer's record by 1.5 inches.

## Rainbow Trout

eligibility requirements. All hunters should review the details and instructions on the DNR elk hunting page before applying, and additionally there are links to instructional videos and answers to frequently asked questions about the new electronic licensing system on the Minnesota DNR buy a license webpage (mndnr.gov/buyalicense).

This is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt for Minnesota residents. Successful applicants who choose not to purchase a permit will be eligible for future elk hunts and receive an application point toward their 10-year application history preference. Two tags will be available for the 10-year application history pool, and one tag will be available to eligible agricultural landowners who reside within Zone 30 (Caribou-Vita).

For more on Minnesota's elk, visit the DNR elk management webpage (mndnr.gov/elk).

## Application period is open for license to hunt elk in MN

Minnesotans wishing to hunt elk have through Tuesday, July 7, to apply for one of 12 elk licenses offered this year by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"We've increased elk harvest opportunities this year based on higher elk counts from the 2026 aerial surveys compared to last year," said Paul Burr, acting big game program leader. "The DNR remains committed to the sustainable management of Minnesota's elk while providing hunting opportunities and keeping herds within their limits set by state law."

There are three recognized herds in northwest Minnesota: Grygla, Kittson Central and Kittson Northeast (also known as Caribou-Vita). This year, licenses are available to eligible state-licensed elk hunters for all three herds.

"This will be the first time since 2012 that the Grygla herd has been open to hunting," Burr said. "The herd's increased survey count is encouraging and provides addi-

tional harvest opportunities."

Hunters can apply for one of the 12 elk licenses available across three hunt zones and seven seasons. Seasons A-F will be Saturday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Sept. 20, and Season G will be Saturday, Sept. 26, through Sunday, Oct. 4. Each season corresponds to a specific zone and license type, with three either-sex licenses offered (in Seasons A, C and E) and the remaining nine allocated as antlerless licenses.

Before applying, hunters should carefully review the hunting seasons, hunt zones and dates, maps showing updated elk hunt zone boundaries including a map of the updated Grygla hunt boundary (Zone 10), and other hunting regulations on the DNR elk hunting webpage (mndnr.gov/hunting/elk).

Hunters will apply using the DNR's new electronic licensing system, so the application process will look different this year. Hunters applying for a landowner license must first create a land profile and attest they meet

## Landowners can apply for second round of Minnesota DNR reforestation funding

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting applications for the second round of its Field to Forest Cost Share Program through Dec. 1. Private landowners participating in the program can receive up to 75% reimbursement for tree planting costs and an additional \$500 per acre after they complete their planting.

The first round of the Field to Forest program opened in 2025 and generated strong interest across the state.

The program supports large-scale tree planting or

seeding on three acres or more of open land that was historically forested. It is not intended for residential landscaping, planting in existing forests or converting grasslands to forests. To promote forest diversity, each project must include a minimum of three tree species.

Landowners participating in the program can purchase seedlings from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, private nurseries or the Minnesota State Forest Nursery (mndnr.gov/nursery). Funding is limited and applications are first-come, first-served and will be re-

viewed on a rolling basis by DNR forestry staff. Planting and seeding projects are scheduled through spring 2027 with reimbursement and incentive payment provided after a DNR forester verifies that the landowner has completed the project.

Interested landowners should contact their local DNR stewardship forester (mndnr.gov/woodlands/cfm-map.html) to begin the application process.

Funding for this program is provided through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

Sadie Spatafore of Maple Grove caught and released a steelhead rainbow trout that was 30 inches long on May 10 from the Stewart River in Lake County. Sadie improved upon the previous record, which was set by her older sister, Lucy, by 1.5 inches.

## Shortnose Gar

Isaac Richart of Northfield caught and released a shortnose gar that was 30.5 inches long from the Minnesota River in Scott County on June 6. This is the first shortnose gar reported that has met the minimum length requirement since the DNR added the species to the record fish program in 2024.

"It's exciting that some records continue to be bro-

ken, like the lake trout, black crappie and bigmouth buffalo, which have been broken several times over the past year," Erickson said. "Anglers are getting outside, making memories on the water or ice, and sharing their stories with others."

## More Information

The record fish program has been managed by the Minnesota DNR, and its predecessor fisheries management agencies, for around 100 years. In 2024, the Minnesota DNR expanded the record fish program by allowing anglers to earn catch-and-release records for 18 species, up from the four species that had been recognized in a previous version of the catch-and-release record

program. That change was made in response to the increasing popularity of catch-and-release fishing and to raise the profile of native rough fish.

Also in 2024, the Minnesota DNR refreshed some categories for weight records, by keeping a separate list of records for fish established before 1980 based on weights not documented on state-certified scales.

Requirements for getting a fish certified as a record, minimum length requirements, application forms and lists of current record fish are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/recordfish).

## State Parks and Trails' Junior Ranger program expands with new activity book for kids 9 and up

A new Junior Ranger activity book aimed at ages 9 and up is now available at Minnesota state parks and recreation areas.

With activities designed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' state park naturalists, the new "Junior Ranger: Get curious!" book offers a range of educational activities for kids to engage with the natural world in Minnesota. The book focuses on investigating Minnesota's misunderstood wildlife, like bats, snakes and turkey vultures.

"Our first Junior Ranger booklet, for ages 6 and up, has been very popular since it launched in 2023," said Jenni Webster, naturalist at Interstate State Park. "We're excited to add a second booklet, so kids can continue to learn about nature as they get out and enjoy Minnesota state parks."

The Junior Ranger program offers a kid-focused way to engage with the state park system, learn about the natural world, and discover the benefits of time spent in nature, including creativity and relaxation.

Once kids complete their booklet, they can take it to a state park ranger station or visitor center to collect a special Junior Ranger patch. A brand-new bat patch is available for those who complete

the "Junior Ranger: Get curious!" activity book. Visitors can pick up Junior Ranger activity books at most state parks and recreation areas. A map of pickup locations and printable versions of the booklets are available at mndnr.gov/junior-ranger.

The Junior Ranger program is funded through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Legacy funds support Minnesota Department of Natural Resources programs and projects that go beyond the results achieved by other state funds, to build a long-term conservation legacy for Minnesota.

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## DNR seeks input on proposed special fishing regulations

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for input on several special fishing regulation proposals.

Each year, the Minnesota DNR reviews existing fishing regulations, proposes new special regulations that apply to individual waters and asks the public for input about the proposals. All new special regulations are reviewed on a regular basis to evaluate effectiveness.

The DNR is proposing either new regulations or changes to existing experimental and special fishing regulations for the 2027 fishing season that address the following:

- Cedar Lake near Anandale (Wright County) – sunfish;
- Cuyuna Country State

Recreation Area Mine Pits (Crow Wing) – northern pike German Lake (Otter Tail County) – sunfish;

- Hovde Lake (Cass County) – sunfish;
- Mink and Somers lakes (Wright County) – sunfish, walleye and minnows;
- Namakan Reservoir lakes (St. Louis County) – walleye;
- North Ten Mile and South Ten Mile lakes (Otter Tail County) – sunfish;
- Pine Lake (Cass County) – northern pike;
- Pleasant Lake (Stearns County) – sunfish;
- Rush Lake (Otter Tail County) – sunfish;
- Notifications of the proposed changes to fishing regulations have been posted at the accesses on each lake included in the proposal.

The Minnesota DNR is taking input on these proposed changes via an online questionnaire (mndnr.gov/fishing/special-fishing-regulations-input.html) through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

If people prefer, they may comment directly to the appropriate area office by email, U.S. mail, or phone about individual regulation proposals. Contact information for each area office is available on the area fisheries office webpage (mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries).

Public meetings will be held in September to discuss the proposals and accept comments. Details on the meetings will be posted on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/fishregs) by Aug. 15.

## DNR and Minnesota Twins continue partnership

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Twins are once again partnering on DNR Days at select games.

Anyone with a 2026 Minnesota hunting or fishing license can access a ticket package that includes a special edition Twins fishing cap with a ticket purchase.

The 2026 Minnesota DNR Days partnership includes these upcoming games:

- Saturday, July 11 vs. Los Angeles Angels, 1:10 p.m.;
- Tuesday, July 28 vs. Kansas City Royals, 6:40 p.m.;
- Sunday, Aug. 16 vs. Philadelphia Phillies, 1:10

p.m.;

- Saturday, Sept. 12 vs. Cleveland Guardians, 3:10 p.m.;
- Monday, Sept. 14 vs. New York Yankees, 6:40 p.m.;

Find instructions for buying tickets on the Minnesota DNR Days webpage.

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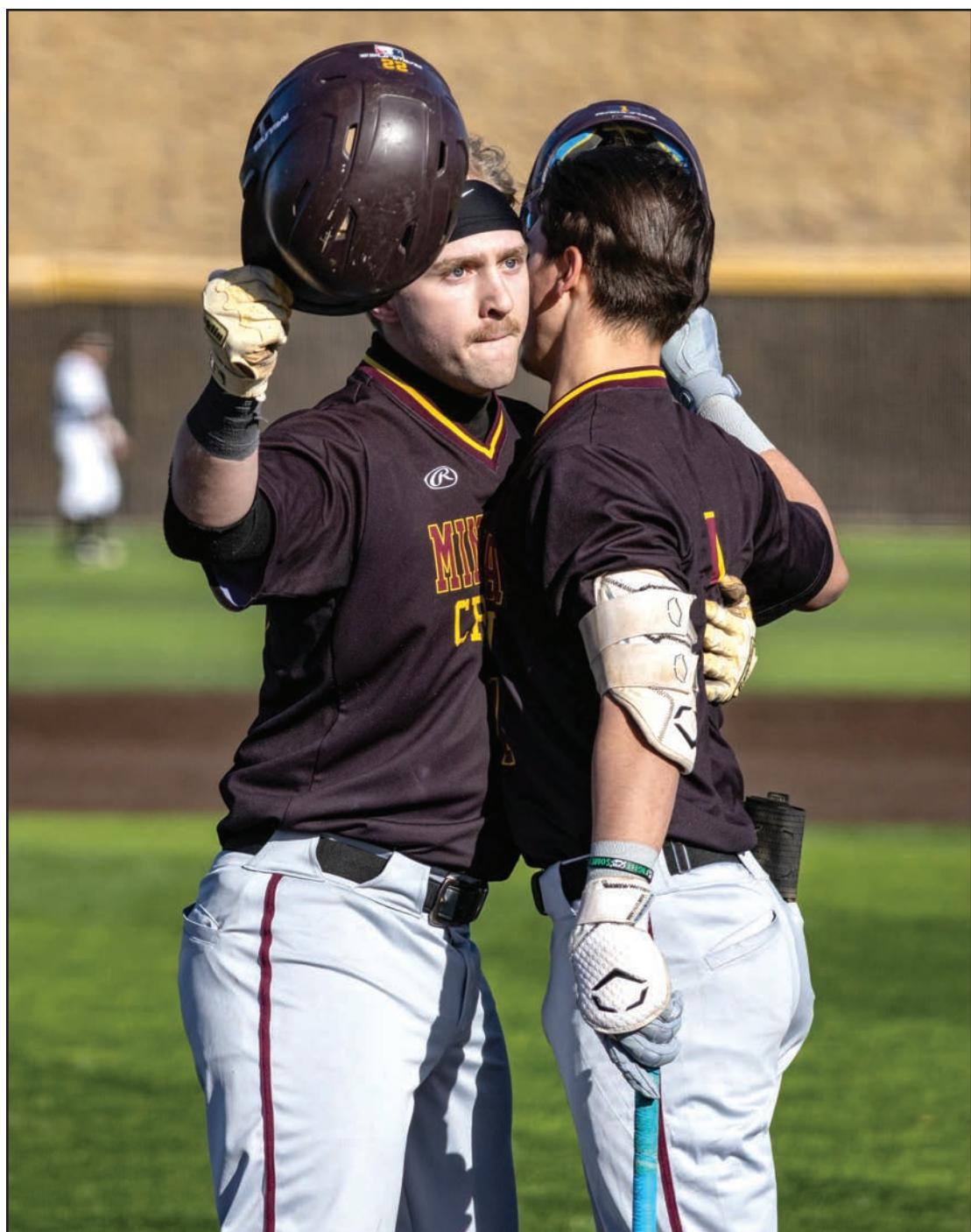
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Jackson Fliflet, a University of Minnesota Crookston baseball player, has been named to the D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team. (Photo courtesy of the University of Minnesota Crookston)

## Fliflet named to D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team

University of Minnesota Crookston baseball player Jackson Fliflet (R-So., C, Wahpeton, N.D.) was named to the D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team as announced Monday. Fliflet has earned two All-Region accolades, as he was also named NCBWA All-Central Region First Team.

Fliflet joins Jake Hjel-

le, Reed Hjelle, Mike Hallquist, Jake Dykhoff, Josh Dykhoff, and Alex Koep as Golden Eagle baseball players to earn All-Region accolades from different sources. The other two student-athletes in program history to receive All-Region were Kenny Perez (2016) and Brock Reller (2021).

Fliflet was an All-NSIC

First Team selection at catcher after a breakthrough season. He hit .319 with 46 runs scored, 11 doubles, a league-high 19 home runs, 51 RBI, and a .736 slugging percentage. Fliflet had a .416 on-base percentage and a 1.152 OPS. Defensively, he held a .984 fielding percentage with 15 runners caught stealing.

## 48 Minnesota Crookston athletes named to NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

The University of Minnesota Crookston had 48 student-athletes named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Spring All-Academic Teams released Thursday, May 28 by the conference office. This is a record during the spring season for Minnesota Crookston.

The Golden Eagles have incrementally increased their total honorees on the NSIC Spring All-Academic Team each season since 2019.

Minnesota Crookston had 32 student-athletes named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence, and an additional 16 to the NSIC All-Academic Team.

To be eligible for the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence, a student-athlete must have a 3.60 cumulative GPA or higher, while NSIC All-Academic Team members must have a 3.20 cumulative GPA or higher.

Additionally, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at her/his institution (true freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible) and must have completed at least one full academic year at that institution.

The Golden Eagles placed 74 percent of their eligible student-athletes on the NSIC Spring All-Academic Teams.

The baseball team had 14 honorees overall. Cole Hebl

(R-So., Hillsboro, N.D.), Aaron Wensloff (Jr., Roseau), Kyle Odenbach (Sr., Thompson, N.D.), Jake Jaroszewski (So., Fargo, N.D.), Isaac Telle (Sr., East Grand Forks, Minn.), Caden Kappes (Jr., Wahpeton, N.D.), Jonah Norman (R-Jr., Winnipeg, Manitoba), Connor Bushbaum (R-Sr., Saginaw), Carsen Barta (R-So., Fargo, N.D.), and Isaac Wensloff (Sr., Roseau) were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. Tyler Miller (So., Grand Rapids), Aaron Bennett (Sr., Saginaw), Jaxson Bennett (Sr., Saginaw), and Nate Benning (Jr., Browerville) were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team.

The men's golf team had seven student-athletes named to the squads. Andrew Wilhelm (Jr., Fargo, N.D.), Gannon Walsh (Sr., Belgrade), Holdyn Evjen (So., Hermantown), and Ross Koerner (So., Grand Forks, N.D.) were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. Julian Nieto (Sr., Bucaramanga, Colombia), Gabe Weller (So., Alexandria), and Carson Shultis (Sr., Fargo, N.D.) earned placement on the NSIC All-Academic Team.

The women's golf team had five student-athletes honored, all placing on the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence: Anaka Lysne (Sr., Wahpeton, N.D.), Lauren Bowyer (Sr., Ivanhoe), Victoria Olson (So., Cook), Ainsley McLain (Jr., Grafton,

N.D.), and Lilly Mahlberg (Sr., Worthington).

The softball team had 15 honorees on the squads. Ruth Freiberg (Sr., Hopkins), Charlotte Dombrowski (Sr., Valparaiso, Ind.), Chayse Doring (So., Shakopee), Emilee Haggadone (Sr., Lincoln, Neb.), Delaney Penner (So., Winkler, Manitoba), Gabrielle Gomez (So., Lakewood, Calif.), Rayna French (Jr., La Salle, Manitoba), and Bryanna Decker (So., Roseville, Calif.) were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. Riley Blake (So., Las Vegas, Nev.), Hannah Trzinski (So., Stevens Point, Wis.), Irelly Spencer (Sr., Rapid City, S.D.), Madisen Yandle (So., Lakeville), Jocelyn Hernandez (So., Tracy, Calif.), Sophie Juntunen (Sr., St. Michael), and Sydney McMurdie (So., Twin Falls, Idaho) were selected to the NSIC All-Academic Team.

The women's tennis team had seven selections on the squads. Ariadna Solis Guals (Jr., Santpedor, Spain), Asli Oktay (So., Istanbul, Turkey), Katie VanPelt (So., Austin), Abril Manas Hernandez (So., Barcelona, Spain), and Abby VanPelt (So., Austin) all were selected to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. Kavya Singh (Sr., Agra, India) and Daniela de Lucas Rivera (Jr., Madrid, Spain) earned NSIC All-Academic Team accolades.

## UMN Crookston soccer to host ID Camp

The University of Minnesota Crookston soccer program will host an ID Camp August 16 for students entering grades nine through college seniors. The campers will get a chance to experience life as a student-athlete at the university.

The campers will be instructed by Minnesota Crookston Soccer Head Coach Danny Burstein and Assistant Coach Breezie Davis. They will get a glimpse of campus. They will be led through drills and observed by the coaches at Minnesota Crookston and nearby

universities.

The camp will include technical training, possession drills, small-sided and 11v11 games. The campers and their families will get a campus tour and have Q&A sessions with current players and staff. Lunch is provided. The camp will be held August 16 at the Minnesota Crookston Soccer Field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$130 with camp being \$125 plus \$5 in fees. T-shirt and lunch are included.

"I am very excited to have prospective student-athletes

on campus for our ID Camp," said Head Coach Danny Burstein. It will be a great opportunity for interested players to interact with the whole team during our pre-season. They will get a real feel for what it would be like to come and play soccer at UMC. This camp can be a real tool for both us and recruits to find future Golden Eagles."

For more information and to register, visit [soccer.umc-sportscamps.com](http://soccer.umc-sportscamps.com) or reach out to Head Coach Danny Burstein at [burstein@umn.edu](mailto:burstein@umn.edu) or 218-281-8420.

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<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Citizens Day 9:30am</li> <li>• Kid's Pedal Pull 12:00pm</li> <li>• State Championship Baja Racing 6:00pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5k Walk/Run 8:30 am</li> <li>• Bingo 2:00 at Grandstand</li> <li>• Dock Dogs 1:00, 3:00, 4:30pm</li> <li>• State Championship Baja Racing 6:00pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>KIDS BIKE DRAWINGS THURSDAY-SUNDAY 4:00PM</b></p> <p>PETTING ZOO • HANSON MEMORIAL FREE STAGE</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Service 10am</li> <li>• Community Parade 1pm</li> <li>• Dock Dogs 1:00, 3:00, 5:00pm</li> <li>• Super Demo Derby 6pm</li> <li>• Fireworks 10:30pm</li> </ul>

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