



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



Publication of the Thief River Falls Times

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## Foundation allocates \$44,000 in emergency grants to address food insecurity in region

The Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region announces the allocation of \$44,000 in emergency grants from its Nonprofit Relief Fund to help address food insecurity across the region. These funds will support 22 local food pantries and nonprofit organizations with \$2,000 grants each, serving communities in Grand Forks, Walsh and Polk counties.

Among the grant recipients are Care & Share/New Hope Food Shelf of Crookston, Grace Lutheran Community Food Shelf of Erskine, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf of Fosston, and Nutrition Services Incorporated (which has locations in Crookston, East Grand Forks, Erskine, Fosston and Mentor).

"With so many families facing new financial strain, especially after changes to SNAP benefits, we felt it was important to act with-

out delay," said Becca Baumbach, president and chief executive officer of the Community Foundation. "Our local food pantries and nonprofits know how to get resources directly to those who need them most. This is a moment for us to show what community looks like when we pull together — and we invite others to join us in helping meet this urgent need."

In Minnesota, nearly 454,000 residents received

SNAP benefits monthly in FY 2024 - about 7.8 % of the state's population.

With inflation, heating/cooling costs, and transportation barriers impacting many households, the combination of benefit freezes and rising needs is creating a heightened demand on local food systems.

The \$2,000 grants to each food pantry/nonprofit are intended to:

- Support the purchase of fresh produce, dairy

items, culturally relevant foods, and shelf-stable staples.

- Expand hours or outreach to meet growing demand (including first-time food pantry users).

- Provide flexibility for organizations to address immediate operational or supply-chain constraints.

### Join the effort

The Community Foundation encourages individuals, businesses and philanthropic donors to join in

strengthening local food security efforts. Contributions to the Foundation's Nonprofit Relief Fund ensure that resources are available when critical emergencies arise — allowing the Foundation to respond swiftly when neighbors face unexpected hardship.

To donate or learn more, visit [gofoundation.org/relief](http://gofoundation.org/relief) or contact the Community Foundation office at [communityfoundation@gofoundation.org](mailto:communityfoundation@gofoundation.org).



The above map depicts the eligible area for owner-occupied home loans through the Small Cities Development Program. (Submitted)

## Applicants sought for SCDP loans

Northwest Community Action Agency, which is administering the Small Cities Development Program grant for the City of Crookston, is seeking additional applications from owner-occupied homes for the program.

What does this mean for you? Eligible homeowners in the highlighted area on the map could receive up to \$25,000 in the form of a forgivable loan for home renovation needs.

Eligible criteria:

- Participants in the program must be income qualified. Refer to income limits below.

- Must be used on your primary residence in the eligible area.

- Homes must have needs that go beyond basic maintenance.

- The work that can be done under this program is generally limited to repairs or replacement of existing,

deteriorated features, such as windows, doors, furnaces, plumbing, electrical repairs, roofs, siding, foundation repairs etc.

- General "remodeling" cannot be done and that funds must be used to address existing building deficiencies.

Eligible applicants must have a gross household incomes which do not exceed the following limits based on side of your household:

- One person — \$53,600
- Two people — \$61,250
- Three people — \$68,900
- Four people — \$76,550
- Five people — \$82,700
- Six people — \$88,800
- Seven people — \$94,950
- Eight people — \$101,050

To learn more or to submit an application, reach out to Taylor Wyum at [twyum@crookston.mn.us](mailto:twyum@crookston.mn.us) or 218-280-6368.

## Pirate Fine Arts Boosters provide \$21,207 in funding

Pirate Fine Arts Boosters granted \$21,207 in funding requests and arts scholarships Wednesday, Oct. 8. The program request included:

- Orchestra — CML and Crookston High School repertoire, 1/2 size Eastman cello — \$1,545

- Band — drum heads for drumline, new music, drumline hardware, auxiliary percussion instruments — \$2,225

- Choir — sixth grade and general music supplies, grades 6-12 instruction — \$1,600

- Elementary music — African drumming residency and Little Opera of the North residency — \$1,750

- Middle school art — Miscellaneous art supplies — \$400

- Senior high art — display unit x4, extension legs, miscellaneous paint and glazes, and mobile charging cabinet — \$8,100

- Speech — assistant speech coach — \$1,000
- Theater — spring musical — \$1,500

- Music Department — Damp-Chaser Grand System, installation, grand undercover and installation, and tuning — \$1,770
- Arts scholarships awarded in 2025:

- Just For Kix dance camp — \$577
- International music camp — \$740

## Drive begins for school supplies

"Children and Youth" is one of the four pillars of the American Legion. To that end, the Crookston American Legion Post 20 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20 Nels T. Wold invite the community to donate school supplies, full size personal hygiene products and money to purchase weekend meal supplies for children in need.

School supplies and personal hygiene products can be dropped off in the collection box inside the south entrance at the Golden Link. Donations by check can be mailed to Jean Tate, ALA Treasurer, 1117 Norton Circle, Crookston MN 56716. Write school in the memo. All donations will be delivered to the schools Thursday, Dec. 4.

## Veterans Day observed in TRF

by April Scheinoha Editor

"There were times I didn't think I would make it," said Doug Krout.

Krout, a Vietnam War veteran, spoke about his experiences Tuesday, Nov. 11 during a Veterans Day program at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls. Krout, 79, grew up in Washington. In May 1966, he was drafted into the Army and soon departed on his first trip outside of the state.

Krout thought about what he may do in the Army. He briefly considered joining the Green Berets. However, Krout asked himself why he would want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

Krout eventually attended Officer Candidate School and was approved for flight school. Within a month, four of his fellow soldiers had their orders for their flight training. All four became helicopter pilots. Krout waited three months to learn his fate. He eventually learned that his paperwork was lost. Krout was then given the choice of piloting helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft. He chose the latter.

After receiving the appropriate training, Krout was sent to Vietnam in January 1969. A fellow pilot told him that there would be hours of pure boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror. Krout learned the pilot was right. While in Vietnam, his responsibilities included reconnaissance, finding targets and conducting air strikes.



Representatives of the American Legion Post 117, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2793 and their auxiliaries posted the colors Tuesday, Nov. 11 during a Veterans Day program at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls.

now lives in rural Pennington County.

Students, staff and community members also heard from Brianna Hagl, president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Hagl became involved in the organization to connect with her ex-husband, an Army National Guard veteran who served in Iraq. It also served

as a way to honor her grandfathers, who also served in the military.

The American Legion and VFW auxiliaries serve veterans and their families. Hagl said they stand for those who stood for us.

LHS seniors Briley Olsonawski and Amery

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# Multistate outbreak of infant botulism linked to infant formula

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health officials in several states, including at the Minnesota Department of Health, are investigating a multistate outbreak of infant botulism linked to By-Heart Whole Nutrition infant formula.

Botulism is a rare but serious illness caused by a toxin that attacks the body's nerves. Botulism causes difficulty breathing, muscle paralysis, and even death.

As of Saturday, Nov. 8, 13 infants with suspected or confirmed infant botulism have been reported from 10 states. One case was reported in Minnesota in August. No deaths have been reported. Infants ranged in age from 16 days to approximately 6 months.

Infant botulism often

starts with constipation but is usually first noticed as difficulty feeding (sucking and swallowing), a weak and altered cry, and lack of head control.

On Nov. 8, ByHeart Inc. recalled two lots of Whole Nutrition Infant Formula:

- Lot: 206VABP/2512-61P2 ("Use by 01 Dec 2026")
- Lot: 206VABP/251-131P2 ("Use by 01 Dec 2026")

ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula is available for sale online and at major retailers nationwide. Additional lots may be recalled as the investigation continues. Parents should not use recalled infant formula and throw it away or return it to where it was purchased. If an infant has consumed By-Heart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula and has any of

these symptoms, parents should reach out to their health care provider immediately:

- Poor feeding
- Loss of head control
- Difficulty swallowing
- Decreased facial expression

ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula makes up less than 1% of all infant formula sales in the United States, and this outbreak does not create shortage concerns of infant formula for parents and caregivers.

Additional information about this outbreak can be found on the CDC's website: Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Infant Formula, November 2025.

More information about botulism can be found at [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/botulism/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/botulism/index.html).



On Monday, Nov. 10, the Crookston Lions Club presented a \$34,248 check to Care and Share and New Hope Food Shelf. The donation will help cover the cost of a new cooler/freezer for the food shelf. (Courtesy of KROX)

## Lions Club donates funds to Care and Share/New Hope Food Shelf/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) it right now. Without that ability, we would only be able to give canned goods, no meat, no dairy, and no other items like that. This will have a huge impact that will be sustainable for years to come," Diaz said.

John Vik of the Crookston Lions said the Lions Club started Hunger Pilot Grant applications a few years ago, and this is perfect for the New Hope Food Shelf.

"It was excellent because the hunger applications were just approved a few years ago. When it started as a 50% grant, the project had to be outlined and designed, but the project could not be started until the application had been approved," said Vik. "We applied for a \$20,000 grant, and they came back later and said we've changed the format and we now give 75% of the project. So all of a sudden we got an extra \$14,000, which they can use with other projects and, of course, to pay for what they were doing here, too. So it worked out as a real plus for this operation to give them what

they needed. For the Lions Club, it's just great to do things to build your community."

### Turkey and Ham Drive

"The Care and Share/New Hope Food Shelf is currently holding a Turkey and Ham Drive to collect 140 donations for the food shelf. Unfortunately, due to the current costs, we are unable to purchase the turkeys and hams as we have in past years. So we are asking the community to come together to get turkeys and hams so that we can provide holiday dinners for people who are unable to get those things and to have some normalcy right now," said Diaz. "It could be monetary funds specifically stating to buy turkey and hams, or they can drop them off here, and we can store them so that we can start passing them out for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

### Give to the Max Fundraiser

The Care and Share/New Hope Food Shelf is also participating in the Give to Max fundraiser. "Give to the Max is where you pick your char-

ity of choice, the one that specifically aligns with your heartstrings," said Diaz. "We simply ask that you continue to consider those who are unhoused, those in our community who need a food bridge, and that you choose an organization that will help in all these areas. And early giving started on November 1, and the last day is November 20."

To donate, go to [www.givemom.org/donate/care-and-share](http://www.givemom.org/donate/care-and-share).

### Every day home products

Donations of every day home products are always appreciated. Diaz said food items aren't the only donations that are important for the food shelf. "We just have a lot of need for donations, food drives," said Diaz. "We take advantage of a lot of products that we use at home, but garbage bags, things like that, just necessities that you would use at home. Those are significant expense items for us that, if donated, would be a tremendous help to our organization."

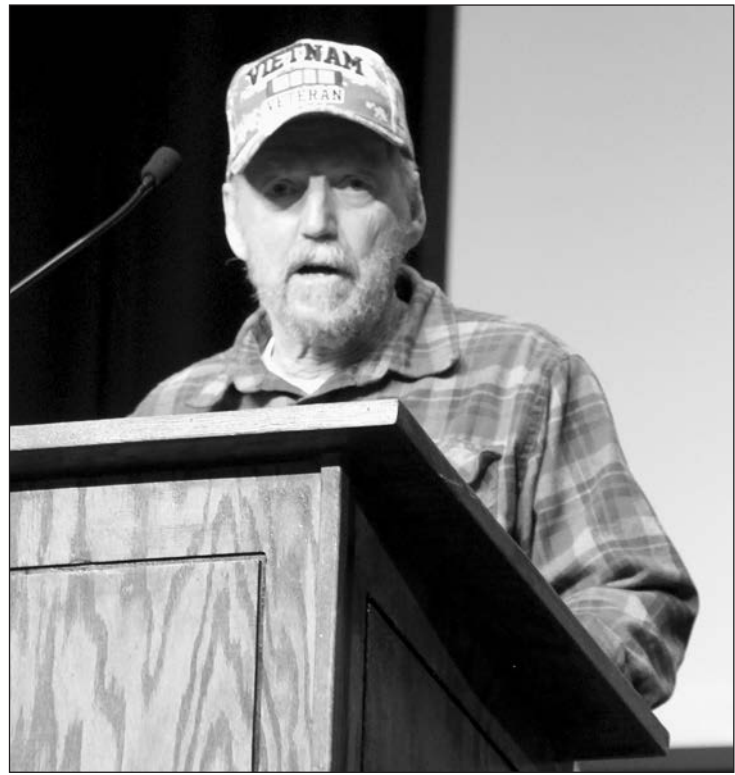
## Veterans Day observed

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Rodriguez spoke about Boys and Girls State, respectively. The American Legion and its Auxiliary provide those respective opportunities for students who have recently completed their junior years of high school. During Boys and Girls State, attendees learn about politics, forming their own governments in the process.

Olsonawski, who was elected lieutenant governor at Boys State, said Boys State was one of the highlights of his summer. Besides learning about government there, he said he learned more about himself and how to be a leader.



Vietnam War veteran Doug Krout was the guest speaker Tuesday, Nov. 11 during a Veterans Day program at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls.

# Crookston Area Ministries

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
23928 265th St SW - Crookston  
(East of Highland School)  
Church: 281-5629  
Preston Hoiseth, Pastor  
Web: [www.biblebaptistcrookston.org](http://www.biblebaptistcrookston.org)  
Email: [biblebaptist@midco.net](mailto:biblebaptist@midco.net)  
Sundays: 7:45 a.m. & 10:05 a.m., Heavenly Sunlight radio program on KROX, 10 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages including adults, 11 a.m. Morning Worship, 6 p.m. Evening Worship  
Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Service

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

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON & ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY**  
702 Summit Avenue - Crookston  
218-281-1735, Parish,  
218-281-1835, School & RE Offices  
The Most Reverend Bishop Cozzens  
The Very Reverend  
Msgr. David Baumgartner  
Saturdays: 5 p.m. Mass at Cathedral, 10:30 a.m. Mass at Gentilly  
Daily Mass: 7:45 a.m. Tuesday-Friday (Monday Communion Service 7:45 a.m.)  
Please visit our website:  
[www.crookstoncathedral.com](http://www.crookstoncathedral.com)  
for more information.

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

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND  
Bishop Derek Pruitt  
435-979-4491  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

**CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523  
Pastor Matt Williams  
218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN**  
100 Jefferson Ave SW - Fertile  
Pr. Dan Morton  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
Check out website for further information  
[www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**ENCOUNTER CHURCH**  
209 North Main - Crookston  
Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12)  
Find us on Facebook

**FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN**  
4391 340th Ave - Fertile  
Pr. Dan Morto  
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Check out website for further information  
[www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

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

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD**  
33276 339th Ave. SW - Eldred, MN  
c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN - 218-281-1239  
Pastor: Steven Bohler  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Service

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

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

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

**GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT**  
Gary Johnson, Pastor  
<http://www.gosen-church.com>  
Facebook: Gosen Church  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and [gosen-church.com](http://gosen-church.com))

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Pastor Noah Thompson  
Pastor John Merseth  
1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston  
Phone: 218-281-4342  
Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC)**  
Church Office: 218-687-4035  
332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535  
Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship  
Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube

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

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

**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
1727 Widman Lane - Crookston  
For information call: 218-281-6252  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Public Talk, Watchtower Study  
Thursdays: 7 p.m. Christian Life, Ministry Meeting

**LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN**  
10802 423rd St SE - Fertile  
Pr. Dan Morton  
Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service  
Check out website for further information  
[www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**  
Nielsville, MN  
Monty & Amanda Brown  
For information call: 218-946-2675  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service

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

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

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X**  
600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston  
218-281-6880, 218-773-8020  
Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass

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

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

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

**RODNES LUTHERAN**  
35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine  
South of Hwy 2 on Cty 210  
Office: 218-687-4345  
Pastor Joel Smeby  
[www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran)  
Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston  
Phone: 218-456-2568  
Pastor David Jahn  
Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID**  
Sundays: For the months of October, November and December, weekend Mass on Saturdays at 5 p.m.  
Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

**MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN**  
13960 380th St SE - Fertile  
Pr. Dan Morton  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service  
Check out website for further information  
[www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org)

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
205 S Broadway - Crookston  
Rev. Gregory Isaacson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Michael Ozaki, Associate Pastor  
218-281-4276  
9 a.m. Broadcast Worship live over Crookston Cable TV Channel #3, KROX Radio 1260AM, KROX 105.7FM and streaming live on Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN.  
For additional information and calendar updates, please check out our website at [www.trinitycrookston.org](http://www.trinitycrookston.org)

Sundays: 9 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, 10:45 a.m. - Worship at First Presbyterian Church  
Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book Study at First Presbyterian Church

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

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

This Church Directory Is Sponsored By The Following Businesses

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Fax: (218) 681-4455  
e-mail: trftimes@trftimes.com  
http://www.trftimes.com

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**THIEF RIVER FALLS Times**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Friday**  
8 am - 3 pm

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Joshua Miller, 48**

**Crookston** - Josh Russ Miller, age 48, of Crookston, passed away on Thursday, November 6, 2025, following a hemophilia medical emergency at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, with his mom by his side.



He was born August 21, 1977, in Ada, Minnesota. Josh's educational journey was spent at several schools, including Fertile-Beltrami, Washington Elementary in Crookston, Luella Merrett in Fort Worth, TX, Ada-Borup West, and Climax-Shelly. This diverse educational background contributed to the well-rounded and thoughtful individual he became.

Despite facing numerous health challenges, Josh approached life with strength and resilience with his admirable, uncomplaining spirit. His positive attitude and determination inspired many around him. He was kind, considerate, and generous. Always attentive and polite, Josh made sure anyone he interacted with felt like they mattered and were important in his life.

In his leisure time, Josh found joy in connecting with family and friends, sharing laughter and creating lasting memories. He was an avid gamer and a devoted fan of the Vikings, relishing every moment he spent watching the team play.

His adventurous spirit led him to experience the thrill of many travels, including a trip to New York City to witness the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade and the Rockettes, and enjoying a helicopter flight over the

city's skyline. Other cherished memories included visits to Disneyland, Six Flags in Arlington, and scenic road trips to Colorado, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks. One unique highlight of his life was witnessing a Vikings game at the US Bank Stadium.

Josh is survived by his mother, Laurel Ystenes. Aside from being a wonderful son and tremendous help to his mom, Josh also shared his home with his beloved cat, Princess Josie, who he spoiled rotten. He is also survived by his aunts and uncles, Bob Miller, Susen Miller, Diann Prussia, Sharyn Gregor, Elaine Bitker, Karen Ingebretson, Pam Brownmiller, Jan Harpenau, Myrna Cigelske, Dee Larson, Arla Jensrud, Norma Johnson, Eileen Basile, JoAnn Smith; and other beloved family and friends. In the last few years, Josh has spent many hours and special moments playing games with his young second cousin Kane.

He is preceded in death by his father, Ross Miller; paternal grandparents, Russ and Janice Miller; maternal grandparents, William and Augusta Ystenes; uncles, Willard Ystenes, Gordon Cigelske, Tim Brownmiller, Rick Harpenau, and Willard Johnson; aunt, Avis Ystenes; cousins, Shannon Larson, Corey Bitker; and his furry friends: Pookie, Spaz, Sabbath and Lucky.

Josh will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

His family will be holding a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

An online guestbook can be found at: [www.stenshoel-houske.com](http://www.stenshoel-houske.com).  
A00003B2025NV15

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Attn: Human Resources  
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Warren, MN 56762

[www.northvalleyhealth.org](http://www.northvalleyhealth.org)

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North Valley Health Center is seeking a dedicated and experienced Clinic Manager to lead and support our busy Rural Health Clinic. This is an ideal opportunity for a motivated individual who thrives in both patient care and administrative oversight. Key responsibilities include overseeing and managing the operational success of our providers and nurses; ensuring compliance with organizational standards and healthcare regulations; collaborating with internal and outside departments to maintain high-quality patient care; and creating and maintaining the day-to-day schedules of our providers and clinic nurses.

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North Valley Health Center  
Attn: Jill Lysford  
300 W. Good Samaritan Drive  
Warren, MN 56762

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

November 15, 2025  
**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 333**

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

**ASSUMED NAME:** D and S Creations

**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:** 407 GOLF TER, CROOKSTON, MN 56716 USA

**NAMEHOLDER(S):** Name: Debra A Crotteau  
**Address:** 407 GOLF TER, CROOKSTON, MN US

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

**SIGNED BY:** DEBRA A CROTTEAU  
**EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:** [dandscreations3@gmail.com](mailto:dandscreations3@gmail.com)

November 8, 15, 2025  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Pursuant to MN Statutes 103D.311, the Polk County Board of Commissioners shall meet in regular session on December 2, 2025. At this meeting, the County Board shall make two (2) appointments to the Board of Managers of the Sand Hill River Watershed District. The term of these appointments will commence on January 1, 2026, and terminate on January 1, 2029. Persons in-

terested in being appointed to serve on the Board of Managers of the Sand Hill River Watershed District must submit their name to the Polk County Board of Commissioners for consideration by 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 14, 2025. The mailing address is Polk County Board of Commissioners, 612 North Broadway, Suite 211, Crookston, MN 56716. (218) 281-5408

November 15, 2025  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT OF THE FINAL LAYOUT FOR TRUNK HIGHWAY 2 STATE PROJECT 6002-76 FOR THE CITY OF CROOKSTON**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with State Statute that the City of Crookston will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Crookston City Hall Council Chambers at 124 N Broadway, in Crookston, MN.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments regarding the approval of the final layout for the Trunk highway 2 - State Project 6002-76.

Ashley Rystad  
City Clerk  
City of Crookston

November 15, 2025  
**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF CROOKSTON MOWING AND UNPAID WATER IMPROVEMENTS OF 2025 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Crookston, Minnesota, will meet in the City Hall in the City of Crookston, Minnesota, on the 17th day of November 2025, at 5:30 P.M. to consider objections to the proposed assessments for Mowing and Unpaid Water Improvements of 2025 heretofore ordered by the City Council. The proposed assessment roll is on file

with the City Clerk and open to public inspection.

The proposed parcels to be assessed consist of delinquent mowing, miscellanies, and water/sewer charges in the City of Crookston, Minnesota.

The total amount proposed to be assessed is \$3,877.14 for delinquent mowing charges and the amount proposed to be is \$9,930.05 for Unpaid Water and Sewer charges.

Written or oral objections will be considered at the hearing.

An owner of property to be assessed may appeal the assessment to the district court of Polk County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or Clerk of the City within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the Mayor or Clerk.

No appeal may be taken as to the amount of any assessment adopted by the City Council unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. All objections to the assessments not received at the assessment hearing in the manner prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.061 are waived, unless the failure to object at the assessment hearing is due to a reasonable cause.

Under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the City may, at its discretion, defer the payment of assessments for any home-stead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments.

The notice of this hearing mailed to property owners contains additional information.  
BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Ashley Rystad, City Clerk of the City of Crookston

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Rural Reflections ...

# Entering the offensive lineman phase of my life

by Grant Nelson



Old football players are how I visually remember numbers; if I need 22 feet of chain, I think of Paul Krause. If I need 44 gallons of fuel, I think of Chuck Foreman. The numbers correspond to the numbers on the jerseys of these exceptional former Minnesota Viking football players. Offensive linemen get less notoriety which means the "60 series" of numbers offer few opportunities for memory visualization. These numbers also have less personality because of the decreased awareness of these very important but faceless players. I recently turned 60 years old, I am now in the offensive lineman phase of my life.

I found the 50s totally great, there are lots of good examples of tough Vikings with numbers in the 50s. Matt Blair was number 59, Wally Hilgenberg was 58, Chris Doleman was 56 and Scott Studwell was number 55. The number visualization associated with these guys made each birthday

seem exciting, another milestone. I am not 50 anymore, I am 60 and there is no looking back.

Enough of numbers for now; they really mean nothing. My 60th birthday was excellent, I mean really great. I think my birthday reminded me that while we all pilot our own boat, we don't always realize how many good friends are pulling on oars for us. My wife started things off by getting me an exceptional birthday day (I love cards) and then making a donation to the Pennington County Humane Society for me. My sister Debbie had previously sent me a book about cats which I was enjoying and I looked forward to the traditional phone call from brother Dave. I also received many texts and social media messages. I was really pleased with all of this and set my mind for the day ahead at work.

Work was a velvet sledgehammer to the head. We occasionally do little things for each other on notable days in each other's lives, but these efforts are fairly modest. The morning of my birthday, I walked into an explosion of tinsel and decorations that was on the opposite side of modest. It was such an overwhelming display that I found myself saying, "what now?" as I passed through each layer of cele-

bratory excess. It was very cool and a mirror of the people with whom I work.

I wanted to be ready for 60, but I think I was over-prepared. I wanted to feel like I was at my best and ready for a decade even without a veteran Minnesota Viking for inspiration. The truth is, I wouldn't have needed any of those things. While I am so confident that I have a calm hand on the tiller of life (or maybe hovering above God's hand). I forgot that I would be sitting, dead in the water, without those family and friends that I count on. Perhaps I will enter the next decade more wise; that's a good birthday present.

I thought a little about the number visualization too, perhaps I needed to dig a little deeper. Vikings offensive lineman Ed White was number 62 and was probably the strongest player in the NFL during his career. Randall McDaniel was number 64 and one of the best guards of his time. Offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman was number 65 and a beast. Offensive linemen are incredibly strong and typically the smartest group, as a whole, of a team. I guess I do have some strong figures to support my visualization; based on early indications, this might be the best decade yet.

# Crookston man charged with two felony drug offenses

by April Scheinoha Editor

A Crookston man has been charged in Polk County District Court after he allegedly possessed one or more mixtures containing a total weight of 25 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Christopher Douglas Morlan, 47, has been charged with felony second degree controlled substance crime - possession, felony third degree controlled substance crime - possession in a prohibited zone and gross misdemeanor third degree driving while impaired - any amount of Schedule I/II controlled substance. He was arrested. A mug shot wasn't available from Tri-County Community Corrections.

According to the complaint, the charges stemmed from an incident at about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. A Polk County sheriff's deputy allegedly observed an idling sports utility vehicle parked with its headlights in operation in the 100 block of N. Main St. Given the time of day, it appeared suspicious. The deputy ran the license plate and determined it was registered to a woman who had recently been arrested for a controlled substance-related DWI. The deputy and a Crookston police officer then began surveillance on the vehicle.

At about 3:15 a.m., someone opened the back hatch, put something inside and then got into the passenger seat. The vehicle left. Law enforcement attempted to follow the vehicle. The deputy observed as the vehicle allegedly traveled at what appeared to be a high rate of speed at the intersection of Main and Robert streets. The deputy attempted to catch up to the vehicle, eventually observ-

ing it traveling on Houston Avenue. The officer was also in pursuit, noticing that the vehicle had no headlights in operation. The vehicle then turned and crashed into a retaining wall at 333 S. Ash St. The driver, later identified as Morlan, attempted to back the vehicle and drive forward again. The officer then activated his squad's emergency lights. Morlan got out of the vehicle and began running into the backyard of the home. After the officer identified himself and yelled at Morlan to stop, Morlan stopped running. However, he continued to walk around and "was moving his hands around his sweatshirt and pants pockets." At one point, he also threw something in the air.

The officer drew his taser, telling Morlan to stop moving and get on the ground. However, he continued "to move his hands around his pants pockets and waistline." Morlan also walked and turned away from the officer. The hand movements continued as Morlan started walking toward the officer, who then discharged his taser. The taser seemed to have no effect on Morlan. The officer told Morlan to get down on the ground, and Morlan soon complied. The deputy soon arrived to assist.

Upon searching Morlan, the deputy allegedly found a knife, a large amount of cash and a wallet. The officer found a glass pipe with white residue in the driveway where Morlan had thrown something in the air. The pipe is consistent with those used to smoke meth. Inside the vehicle, the officer allegedly found a pouch on the floorboard of the driver's seat. It contained a needle, and a plastic baggie with shards and powder that

were believed to be meth. A cell phone was located next to the pouch. Inside the trunk, he found a plastic bottle that appeared to be fashioned into a bong. The meth weighed 25.5 grams with packaging.

Morlan allegedly told law enforcement that he left the apartment and realized the cop was following him. He said he panicked and shut off the vehicle's headlights. When he attempted to turn, the vehicle crashed. At some point, a woman was a passenger in the vehicle and asked to be let out of the vehicle. He let her leave the vehicle and then continued.

Morlan allegedly said he threw a torch and other items when he was running. He said the pipe, which was found by law enforcement, sounded familiar to him. He also recognized the pouch seized from the vehicle, which belongs to his ex-girlfriend. He said there was about half-an-ounce or a little more of meth inside the bag. Morlan said he smokes meth and had used three ounces of meth recently. He said he had last used meth a day earlier in the vehicle he had been driving. He said he again began using meth a couple of months ago.

Law enforcement later went to the intake area of the jail. Inside Morlan's wallet, the deputy allegedly found a dollar bill containing a substance that had a positive test result for meth. It weighed 1.2 grams with the weight of the bill included.

A search warrant was later executed for a blood or urine sample. Morlan agreed to a blood sample, which was taken.

The complaint indicated that Morlan had been driving within 300 feet of three parks.

The complaint indicated that Morlan had been previously convicted of three drug-related offenses in November 2002, July 2005 and August 2017.

# Crookston City Council to meet Monday

The Crookston City Council will meet Monday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet immediately following the council meeting.

A special council meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

The Airport Commission will meet Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 a.m. at City Hall in the conference room.

The Planning Commis-

sion will meet Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

To watch the council and Ways and Means meetings live, visit the city's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel](http://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel).

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

There may be a quorum of City Council members present at the above-mentioned meetings.

# Volunteers sought for BIO Girls

BIO Girls is seeking individuals to help bring the organization back to Crookston. BIO Girls is a Fargo-based nonprofit with a mission to improve the mental health of adolescent girls through empowerment of self and connection with others.

For more information, contact Kylie Holland at [kylie@biogirls.org](mailto:kylie@biogirls.org) or 701-699-0770.

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North Valley Health Center  
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Nathan Weiss D.C., C.A.C.U.

**LETTERS**

**We need to take care of the teachers**

To the Editor:  
Hello, my name is Nikk Caputo, and I wanted to take some time and share my concerns with the ongoing contract negotiations our teachers in our district are going through.

First things first, we need to take care of our teachers. As a former employee in our school district, I have seen these teachers in action and all that they go through, how spread thin they are. Our teachers are no longer just teachers, they are responsible for so much more. They need to be taken care of and shown how much we appreciate them. Our teachers are pouring so much love and guidance into our kids and many are pouring that love from an empty cup. On top of all the behaviors, mental health issues, that they deal with throughout the day, they still show up and teach every single day. With all they have on their plate, they should not have to worry about a contract. They are worth so much more.

I work with children every day. I hear every day how important our teachers are in our kids' lives, how seeing their teacher that day made their day, how their teacher gave them an extra hug today, gave them a meal to bring home today, helped them out of a mental health crisis today, stayed late to help them with their homework today, spent their own money to get them some warm clothes today, how my teacher saved my life today. These are real things.

In Minnesota alone, 95% of districts reported trouble filling open positions, 84% of that report being significantly affected by those shortages. We are very fortunate with the teachers we have in our district. Let's be fair, let's take care of our teachers and show them how much we need and appreciate them.

If you are reading this, the least we can do as parents is call or email your school board, whom we elected, and let them know we want to take care of our

teachers:  
Lorri Capistran  
Treasurer, 2024-28  
218-289-7407 and lorri-capistran@isd593.org

Tim Dufault  
Chair, 2010-26  
218-289-0457 and timdufault@isd593.org

Mike Theis  
Clerk, 2019-28  
218-280-1396 and mike-theis@isd593.org

Patty Dillabough  
Director, 2014-26  
218-281-1156 and patty-dillabough@isd593.org

Jaclyn Martin  
Director, 2024-28  
218-280-1713 and jaclyn-martin@isd593.org

Marcia Meine  
Director, 2023-26  
218-289-4195 and marciameine@isd593.org

Thank you,  
Nikk Caputo

**Library Learning Lab scheduled Monday at Crookston Library**

A hands-on learning activity is scheduled at the Crookston Library on Monday, Nov. 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. offering youth ages 5 to 13 a chance to learn about critical thinking, as well as an opportunity for parents and caregivers to explore the many educational resources

the library offers. Attendees will sharpen their critical thinking skills with a variety of games and activities.

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. The Crookston Public Library is located at 110 N. Ash St. A full calendar of events can be found at [larl.org/events](http://larl.org/events).

**Regional Library to host visit from two authors**

Residents of the region will have a unique opportunity to explore the writing life during a series of author events featuring young adult author Selina Li Bi and middle grade author Tory Christie. The sessions will include an interactive presentation and audience Q&A.

Locally, they will present a program Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 12:40 p.m. at Crookston High School. This program is designed for teens and young adults, as well as anyone interested in writing for these age groups, and are free and open to the public. Attendees will learn about the authors' creative

processes, their writing journeys and the importance of diverse voices in literature. Through interactive presentations and a Q&A session, the authors will demonstrate how different perspectives shape the connections between readers and characters.

**Crookston School Board provides update on contract negotiations with CEA**

Hello Community Members, Parents, Students and Taxpayers of the Crookston Public School District,

The Crookston School Board entered into the negotiation process with the Crookston Education Association in March 2025. Since that time, we have met seven times to work on settling a contract. As we all know, our teachers are the backbone of our District and their value is immeasurable. While we have met many times, we have not settled the contract. The next step in this process is mediation. This is scheduled for Nov. 19, 2025. A mediator sits with both parties to try and work out an agreement. Prior to that mediation session, the Board would like to relay to you what has occurred up to this point during the negotiations process.

There were initial offers back and forth between the Board and the Crookston Education Association during the past several months. While nothing has been agreed to, we wanted to present what the current offer was between the Board and the CEA.

We believe that all information should be shared with you and not just portions of the proposal. The following are items discussed during negotiations.

**Salary adjustments**  
**CEA Offer** - Salary increases - CEA offered to the board a 3% increase plus step and lane increases for 2025-26 and 3% plus step and lane increases for 2026-27. CEA also requested a career step 20 for all employees that qualify which would increase pay by \$750 plus the 3% increase on top of that.

If this offer was implemented, the lowest pay would be approximately \$48,456 and top pay could be \$86,806. The total entire contract package for the two-year contract would increase approximately 9.33%

**Board Offer** - Salary increases - Board offered 2.25% increase plus step and lane increases for 25-26 and 2.25% increase plus step and lane increases for 2026-27.

If this offer was implemented the lowest pay would be \$47,752 and top pay could be \$84,785. The total entire contract package for the two-year contract would increase approximately 7.67%.

According to area superintendents, contracts settled have been roughly averaging a 2% salary increase per year for both years of the contract, with the total entire contract package increase averaging 6 to 7%.

**Group insurance**  
The Board agreed to increase District contribution to a single plan from \$1000 to \$1,025 per month. The Board agreed to increase the District contribution to a family plan from \$1,833 to \$1,933 per month. This means that the District pays this amount per teacher for their health insurance per month. Most districts in our region contribute significantly less (around \$1,000) and this is an expensive and highly valuable benefit that we give our teaching staff that in almost every case is significantly higher than surrounding districts.

**Retirement program**  
The Board agreed to increase the 403B contribution to those teachers who participate by \$120. Depending on the years of service, the District will match from \$708 to \$948 per teacher. This is a direct cost to the District.

**Leaves of absence - wellness clause**  
The Board continues to offer a stipend of \$500 to teachers who utilize 0 to 4 sick days per year. Currently, teachers receive 15 sick days per school year. This is meant to provide an incentive for staff to come to work as much as possible. Last year, 27 of 98 teachers we employ received this in-

centive. The Board did not agree to expanding this incentive further to include an additional stipend of \$300 for teachers who used between 5 and 7 days of sick time.

**Leaves of absence - personal leave**  
The Board did not agree to an additional \$650 stipend for those teachers who did not use any of their five personal days or 75% of five days at current sub rate, whichever is higher.

**Full-time substitute teachers**  
The Board requested a "carve out" for the position of a full-time substitute teacher position. CEA and the Board came to an agreement on language to allow this position in the future.

**Activity schedule - extracurricular pay**  
The Board requested increasing the extracurricular pay scale with the same percentage that the teachers' contract settles and add Pirates Cove to Group 8 and move FFA to Group 4. CEA agreed to these salary changes and movements.

**Language change requests**  
The following three language articles were added two years ago and have proved to be difficult to administer, not what we felt was in the best interest of kids, and in some cases quite expensive to the District. The Board initially wanted to remove all three from the contract but have offered to compromise to modify language. CEA has not agreed to any modification to any of the language changes.

Here are the three items:  
• Contracted time - "The first 15 minutes prior to the start of each student contact day will be reserved for parent and team communication. These 15 minutes would fall within the 440-minute work day and not be considered part of the 56-minute prep time the teacher receives per day"

The board offered that each teacher be available twice per week in the first 15 minutes as well as the first two weeks and the last two weeks of student contact days. Without changes, we cannot have teachers meet students outside in the mornings or assist with morning supervision of students. It is not in the best interest of kids and additional staff must be hired at an additional cost. CEA did not agree to this change.

• Workshop days - Prior to the start of school the District holds "workshop days." This is normally four days that includes training and meet the teacher. With the contract language added two years ago, 45% of the time available during pre-service is required to be reserved for "teacher preparation in their classrooms and would not be scheduled with official workshop duties by administration."

The Board requested to modify the 45% requirement to 30%. This will allow the district to provide mandatory and important training to all teachers within the allotted time. CEA did not agree to this change.

• Subbing reimbursement - Language was added two years ago that stated, "If teachers, when asked by administration, to take additional students into their classrooms and/or covering substituting duties for the district, they shall be reimbursed at the rate of 80% of the current sub pay rate for half to a full day, 40% for less than half a day but more than one period, and 25% for one period."

This is a large expense to the District. If we split one classroom for a day and four teachers take on any additional students each would receive \$128 for the day. That would cost the District \$512 for splitting that classroom.

The Board requested to modify the language to

state, "In a split classroom scenario, teachers who take on additional students will equally divide the board approved amount of \$220 sub daily rate among themselves. Teachers reassigned to a classroom do not receive the additional sub daily rate." This modification request is an attempt at controlling the high cost this language has caused the district.

CEA does not agree to modifying the language.

The above three language modification proposals are what CEA has described as the Board trying to "deteriorate working conditions for teachers." The Board wants to do what is best for kids and teachers while balancing our fiscal responsibilities to our community and taxpayers.

**Contracted time - Outside contract day compensation**

The Board offered a \$50 stipend per contractual day if the teacher exceeded two or more hours past their contracted hours and are doing activities past their contracted day. An example is when a teacher is on a field trip that extends more than two hours past their contracted time.

CEA countered that any hours past their contracted day would be paid at the current staff development rate of \$34.05. For the overnight Itasca field trip, all hours past contracted day would be paid at \$34.05, including hours while sleeping which would substantially increase costs and likely make trips too expensive to continue.

**Hourly pay for Behind the wheel**

The Board requested teachers who provide Behind the Wheel driver education be paid at the rate of \$30 per hour. The current rate is \$27. CEA countered at \$28.83. Board has researched and wanted to make this position more competitive with area

schools who are already above \$30.

There are other items that were presented that may be considered "less critical (but still important)" that are not covered in this letter.

**Concerns about administrative salaries**

The Board would like to address concerns about the superintendent's salary and the HR/payroll director salary and position.

Our current interim superintendent has been a valuable resource to our district. He is receiving \$175,000 in salary but no additional benefits like vacation, sick time, retirement, health insurance, 403B matches, life insurance, and no severance, so this is the reason for the higher salary. His contract is for 0.8 time. Randy Bruer has been putting in significantly more time than contracted and has not received extra compensation for it.

In reference to the HR/payroll director position, with 200+ district employees, more HR support is needed. To be fiscally responsible, instead of hiring a \$75,000-\$80,000 salaried HR position, we added duties to an existing payroll position and increased their compensation by \$18,000 per year.

We realize this letter is lengthy, but the Board wanted our community to be fully informed, and transparency is what we have strived for in this communication. Some of the items presented can be complicated and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss anything with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any board member or Superintendent Randy Bruer.

Sincerely,  
Crookston Board of Education

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# Minnesota Crookston captures Rivalry Rock, ending season with 2-0 win over Dragons

The University of Minnesota Crookston played their best offensive game of the season to pick up a 2-0 win over Minnesota State University Moorhead Thursday, Nov. 6 in Crookston. The Golden Eagles hoisted the Highway 75 Rivalry Rock for a second-straight time this season in triumph, as they claimed the rivalry trophy which was established in 2013.

Minnesota Crookston picked up back-to-back wins against the Dragons for the first time since 2015 and 2016. In the Rivalry Rock series, MSU Moorhead has the slight edge 6-5-2 since 2013. The two teams are actually tied in the overall series 6-6-2 since 2013, but the non-conference game in 2016 was not played for the Highway 75 Rivalry Rock. The 2025 season is the first time both the non-conference and NSIC tilt with the Dragons were played for the trophy, with Minnesota Crookston claiming the win in both. The trophy was established by former head coaches Joe Alianiello and Rollie Bullock



Members of the University of Minnesota Crookston Women's Soccer Team celebrate after defeating Minnesota State University Moorhead for the second time this season to keep the Rivalry Rock trophy. (Photo by Dalston Kelly)

to commemorate the just 70 miles behind the two schools on U.S. Highway 75.

The Golden Eagles improved to 2-13-3 (1-12-2

NSIC). Minnesota Crookston does finish last, but not without ending the season on a strong note with a 2-0 win over the Dragons, and a 1-1

tie Sunday against UMary. Minnesota Crookston picks up two wins for the first time since 2022. The Golden Eagles improved substantially in goal differential from 43 in 2024 to 28 in 2025. Minnesota Crookston also improved offensively, with seven goals compared to four in 2024.

In the last 12 games, the Golden Eagles picked up a win, two ties, six one-goal losses, and three 2-0 losses to strong sides in the conference. Minnesota Crookston has a lot of positives to build on after the first season in the Danny Burstein era.

MSU Moorhead ended the season with a 3-14-1 (2-13-0 NSIC) record. The Golden Eagles scored two goals in a game for the first time since a 2-1 win over University of Sioux Falls last season. Minnesota Crookston finished

Thursday with 11 shots, seven on target. MSU Moorhead notched nine shots, five on frame.

The Golden Eagles were propelled by goals from Emmah Burnes (Jr., MF, Tulare, Calif.), and Marsia Green (Jr., MF, Waconia). Burnes and Green both notched their first career goals. Minnesota Crookston had assists from Sarah Burgum (Sr., F, Mandan, N.D.) and Riley Edemann (Fr., D, Santa Clarita, Calif.). Burgum notched her first points of her senior season, while Edemann added her team-high second assist in her freshman season.

The Golden Eagles were guided by two shots on goal from Green, Finch, and Kedin Geremiah (Jr., MF/F, Winnipeg, Manitoba) each notched two shots, one on goal for each. The Dragons

looked to two shots on goal from both Lilly Johnson, and Sophie Thompson.

Minnesota Crookston set the tone early as the most offensive side, as they had two shots on goal in the first 10 minutes. The Golden Eagles took a 1-0 edge in the 11th minute on a perfectly placed corner kick from Burnes, which went over the keeper and into the netting for the tally.

The two teams traded opportunities throughout the next 25 minutes, as both teams had fairly equal possession with the Dragons looking to get on the board. However, Minnesota Crookston struck again as they took advantage of another set piece. Off the free kick from Edemann, she found Burgum who hit the ball landing with Green who sent it off the post and into the goal to give Minnesota Crookston a 2-0 advantage.

The Dragons had the lone shot on goal in the final 10 minutes of the first half, but Minnesota Crookston led 2-0.

Throughout the first 30 minutes of the second stanza both teams were able to trade opportunities, in a physical half by both. However, neither found the back of the net. Minnesota Crookston was able to control pace in the final 15 minutes with the lone shot on goal. The Golden Eagles captured the victory 2-0 over the Dragons.

The game was the final for Minnesota Crookston seniors Burgum, Finch, and Emma Dudycha (Sr., D/MF, Austin), who set the culture and helped build the program in Burstein's first season. Minnesota Crookston looks to build on the positives from the 2025 season as they head into the future.

## Golden Eagles drop road matches

Winona State could do no wrong offensively on Saturday afternoon, hitting .385 in the match and sweeping Minnesota Crookston (15-25, 10-25, 16-25).

Minnesota Crookston falls to 6-20.

It would be a good start for the Golden Eagles, who would take a 5-2 lead early on with a pair of kills from Madison Carsten (Jr., OH, Wadena) and a block by Emma Malek (Jr., MH, Plainfield, Ill.).

The set would be tied at eight, nine and ten, but Minnesota Crookston would take an 11-10 lead following a Warrior service error, but the Warriors would score 11 in a row to control the set and win by double-figures.

The same start would not happen for the maroon and gold in the second set, as WSU would score nine straight points to open the set. The run would be halted by a duo block from Sophia Haag (Fr., OH, Calgary, Alberta) and Lexi Scharold (So., MH, Alexandria, Kent.).

Minnesota Crookston would get within six at 12-6, but that's as close they would get in the set two loss, 25-10.

The third set would be tighter. Early in the set, it would be tied at one, two, three and five. Following the

tie at five, WSU would score five straight, but the Golden Eagles would get back within four following a Carizma Muth (R-So., OH, Randolph, Wis.) kill.

Later in the set, the Golden Eagles would get within five at 19-14, but the Warriors would pull away for the 25-16 win in the set and the match win.

Muth led the way with eight kills on 29 total attacks, as well as finishing with eight digs. Carsten finished with seven kills, while Megan Schoenfelder (Sr., MH, Zumbrota) ended the match with a season high six kills.

Set One

**UMS falls to CSP**

Nationally-ranked Concordia-St. Paul controlled the match with the Golden Eagles on Friday night in NSIC volleyball action, sweeping the Golden Eagles (14-25, 20-25, 14-25).

Minnesota Crookston falls to 6-19. CSP would take a 5-1 lead early on in the first set, but the Golden Eagles would answer with a pair of points on a kill from Sophia Haag (Fr., OH, Calgary, Alberta) and a Dana Melby (R-Sr., S, Gonvick) service ace.

Later on in the set, Lexi Scharold (So., MH, Alexandria, Kent.) would collect a

kill to make it 10-7.

The Golden Bears would control the set from that point and win by 11.

The Golden Eagles would take three leads early on in the second set, including a 5-4 lead on a kill from Madison Carsten (Jr., OH, Wadena).

Minnesota Crookston would continue to fight to stay in the match. The maroon and gold would trail 14-10, but would score two straight and cut the lead in half.

CSP would try to pull away and would eventually take a 23-16 lead, but two straight points from Muth would get the Golden Eagles back within five.

The Golden Eagles would fight hard but would lose by five.

The third set would start out all Golden Bears, who would take a seven point lead early on.

Minnesota Crookston would have a stretch where they would score four of five points in the set, but it wouldn't be enough, as they would lose by 11.

Carsten and Scharold led the way with six kills, while Melby and Ellery Ehresmann (Fr., S, Albany) combined for 20 assists.

## UMC splits hockey series with UST

It is that time of year again as the Golden Eagles and the University of St. Thomas Tommies go head to head in the regular season. In net Friday, Nov. 7 for the Golden Eagles was Adam Goody (Jr., G, Airdrie, Alberta) who enters the game with a 2-1-0 record, a 2.67, and .902 save percentage. For the Tommies, it was Van Eigner. He entered the night with a 3-1-0 record, a 3.00 goals average, and a .904 save percentage. The Golden Eagles had a miraculous comeback win 5-4.

It was an action packed first period full of big hits and a few goals. With 12 minutes to play, Mason Romfo (So., F, Langdon, N.D.) was able to push one past Eigner off of the rebound for a powerplay goal. Anthony Foster (Jr., F, Warroad) and Alexander Bailey (5th, D, Crosby, N.D.) had the assists. Following the goal, it was back to a goalie show between Goody and Eigner.

Fifteen minutes into the opening frame, Dalston Kelly (Jr., F, Minto, N.D.) wired a shot past Eigner for his third of the season. His goal was also assisted by Bailey. That two-goal advantage did not last long before Winston Wheaton scored an unassisted goal for the Tommies to make it a 2-1 game. That would be how the score stayed for the remainder of the first.

The second period was almost all goalies. Just 4:52 into the second period, Michael Scherer put one past Goody to tie the game 2-2, but the remainder was all Goody versus Eigner. Goody saved 16 of the 17 shots he faced in the second and

Eigner saved all 16 shots he faced. These two teams were heading into the final 20 minutes dead even.

The Tommies were all over the Golden Eagles from the jump in the third period, and it was reflected when Luke Morissette fired a shot past Goody to claim the Tommies' first lead of the night just 2:21 into the period. Two minutes later and the Golden Eagles were staring down a 4-2 deficit following a Drew Fisher goal.

Three minutes after going down 4-2, Kadin Edwards (Fr., F, Crookston) rifled a shot past Eigner and the Golden Eagles and their fans had a fire lit under them. Edwards was assisted by Tyler Lorenz (So., D, Shakopee) and Dalston Kelly (Jr., F, Minto, N.D.) and the Golden Eagles only trailed by one.

Two minutes later, Anthony Foster had the tying goal with an assist from Mason Romfo. The Golden Eagles had found new life, and that continued as Ben Hines (Jr., F, Detroit Lakes) gave the Golden Eagles the lead with an electrifying goal and celebration for the team's third goal in two and a half minutes.

Goody made 35 saves on 39 shots, Eigner made 38 saves on 43 shots.

**Game two**

Golden Eagle Hockey took the ice for game two of their two-game series against the University of St. Thomas, but this time it was St. Thomas who took the win with a final score of 3-2. Tyler Swanson (So., G, Moorhead) was in net for the Golden Eagles.

Swanson entered the game with a 3-0-0 record, a .933 save percentage and a

1.33 goals against average. The Tommies turned to Matthew Perrault.

The first period was heavily dominated by the Tommies, but Swanson stole the show. Swanson saved all 12 shots he faced while Perrault saved the four he faced. The physicality from the Nov. 7 game was not nearly as high, but the intensity stayed the same. The teams headed to the second tied at zero.

The Tommies broke the ice early into the second period, with Brennan Hogan scoring just four minutes in. Less than a minute later, Anthony Madigan got a break-away and took full advantage of it to make it a 2-0 game. The Tommies held onto that lead for most of the second period before Edwards pushed the puck through to get the Golden Eagles within one. His goal was assisted by Hines and Lorenz to bring the score to 2-1 entering the third.

The third period saw one goal from each team. Anthony Madigan scored his second of the game just two minutes into the third, and it was back to a two goal game. The Golden Eagles kept pushing, trying to complete their second two goal comeback in two days, and Jackson Dodds (5th, F, Watford City, N.D.) brought it back to a one goal game with assists from Fox Dodds (5th, F, Watford City, N.D.) and Riley Benson (Fr., D, Mentor) and the momentum began to shift. The Golden Eagles fought hard, but ultimately fell short and dropped just their second game of the season.

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# Pirates fall to Prowlers in season-opener

Thief River Falls skated to a 3-1 girls hockey win over Crookston Tuesday night at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

"The outcome could have been better, but that's the type of competition we will see in section 8," said Crookston Head Coach Reed Olson. "A lot of girls were playing their first varsity game. We have a lot to work on in practice."

Thief River Falls controlled the puck for most of the game and outshot the Pirates 34-13.

"We need to do a better job of breaking out," Olson said. "It was in our zone quite often. Get it deep and work from there. We are pretty young and want to get those basics down before we try to evolve off that."

The Prowlers broke a scoreless tie 4:20 into the opening frame, with a goal by Ava Seeger and assists from Brynn Hennen and Kiptyn Anderson.

The Prowlers led 1-0 for the remainder of the first period. The Pirates tied the game a little over three minutes into the second period. Adley Vigness scored an unassisted goal at the 3:09 mark to make it 1-1.

"Every time she would skate the puck up the ice, we thought she had a chance to score," Olson said. Making Vigness' opening night performance more impressive is the fact that she only had a week of practice under her belt after wrapping up her volleyball season for Sacred Heart the previous week.

The Prowlers regained the lead with a goal by Lila Dalager and assist by Grace Knutson with 4:39 remaining in the second period.

The Prowlers added an insurance goal with 4:34 remaining, with Charleigh Hamre finding the net and Miley Cota earning the assist.



Crookston senior Ava Martin battles for control of the puck with Thief River Falls freshman defenseman Rowan Kennett during Tuesday night's girls hockey game. Thief River Falls defeated Crookston 3-1. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

Junior goaltender Madilyn Abrams kept the Pirates in the game with 31 saves.

"She played well," Olson said. "That was her first varsity start as well. She played well in practice and that translated into the game. The first two goals, she was screened by a couple of our players. If you take away those, it's 1-1."

Scoring  
1 2 3 T  
Crookston.....0 1 0 1  
Thief River Falls.....1 1 1 3  
First period - TRF, Ava Seeger

(Brynn Hennen, Kiptyn Anderson) 4:20.

Second period - Crookston, Adley Vigness (unassisted) 3:09; TRF, Lila Dalager (Grace Knutson) 12:21.

Third period - TRF, Charleigh Hamre (Miley Cota) 12:26. Shots - Crookston 3-7-3 - 13; TRF 13-6-15 - 34.

Power plays - Crookston 0-for-3; TRF 0-for-3.

Penalties - Crookston 3 (6 minutes); TRF 4 (8 minutes). Goalie saves - Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 31; TRF, McKenna Carr 12.

Greater Minnesota Conf. overall pts  
Roseau .....2-0-0 2-1-0 4

Bemidji.....1-0-0 2-0-0 2  
Thief River Falls...1-1-0 1-1-0 2  
Moorhead.....0-0-0 0-2-0 0  
Warroad.....0-0-0 1-0-0 0  
Crookston.....0-1-0 0-1-0 0  
East Grand Forks 0-2-0 1-2-0 0

Results

Friday, Nov. 7 - East Grand Forks 8, Northern Lakes 1; Roseau 5, Thief River Falls 1; Warroad 4, Proctor/Hermantown 1; Hill-Murray 6, Moorhead 3.

Saturday, Nov. 8 - Proctor/Hermantown 5, Roseau 2; Bemidji 8, East Grand Forks 2; Maple Grove 3, Moorhead 1.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 - Bemidji 3, Grand Rapids/Greenway 1; Roseau 5, East Grand Forks 1; Thief River Falls 3, Crookston 1.



Crookston junior goaltender Madilyn Abrams tracks the puck during the second period of Tuesday night's game between the Pirates and Thief River Falls Prowlers. Abrams had 31 saves in the 3-1 season-opening loss for the Pirates. (Photo by Scott DCamp)

## Golden Eagle men's cross country finishes strong

The Golden Eagles' 2025 season has officially ended, and it was the best year in program history. That was proven with another strong showing at Regionals. The Golden Eagles finished 18th, besting their previous record of 28th at the 2024 Regionals. That means the Golden Eagles finished ahead of 12 teams, with the previous record being four. They also obliterated their previous

record for points with 504, the previous record being 773. The final total team record set today was the lowest team 10k average, which was set at 33:30.

Noah Revels (R-Jr., Farmington) became the highest individual finisher at Regionals in program history with a 39th place finish with a time of 31:56 which is a new personal record. Aaden Nauman (So., Windom) finished 96th

with a time of 33:20 for a new personal record. Riley Hanson (R-Jr., Farmington) finished 102nd with a time of 33:27 for a new personal record. All three top runners for the Golden Eagles broke the previous record for highest placement in program history which was previously set by Connor Thoennes (Sr., Coleraine) with a placement of 124 in 2023. Connor Thoennes was next for the

Golden Eagles, finishing 133rd with a time of 34:12. Robert Ingle (Jr., Laura, Ohio) finished 134th with a time of 34:12. Zach Hanson (R-Jr., Farmington) finished 172nd with a time of 35:26.

This ends the Golden Eagles' best season in program history. It is a year that set program records and set the bar moving forward. This was also the final season for Connor Thoennes, Noah Revels and Robert Ingle, three runners who gave the Golden Eagles all they had in their time here.

## Golden Eagle women's cross country finishes the season on a high note

The Golden Eagles Cross Country season has come to an end following a strong showing at the Central Regionals. That race was their highest finish at Regionals in program history, finishing in 18th. That means it is also a record for most teams beaten at 18 and the fewest points with 530. Each of those records were previously set in 2024. This is also the highest individual finisher in program history, a mark that three separate runners bested today.

Morgan Shaw (Jr., Redmond, Ore.) finished 52nd with a time of 22:23, which is

also a program record. Golden Eagle alum Anna Grabowski previously held the highest finish in program history at Regionals with a placement of 117th, while Madison Hilliard (Sr., Jacksonville, N.C.) held the fastest time at 23:32 which was set in 2022. Natalie Wood (R-So., Big Timber, Mont.) was the next to finish, placing 78th with a time of 22:46. Madison Hilliard placed 112th with a time of 23:14. Next for the Golden Eagles was Caroline Kuehne (So., Long Prairie) placed 127th with a time of 23:36. Grace Alwardt (Jr., Lake

Elsinore, Calif.) placed 164th with a final time of 24:30. Amber Collins (Fr., Deer Creek) placed 197th with a time of 25:51. Rivyn Di Padova (Fr., Soldiers Grove, Wis.) placed 198th and set a new personal record with a time of 25:52.

The Golden Eagles' season has officially come to a close, and what a season it was. This marks the best season in program history, and thus sets the standard for the program moving forward. Madison Hilliard was the lone senior this season, and what a phenomenal career she had with the Golden Eagles.

# AUCTIONS

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218-280-2038

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## Polk County Minnesota Employment Opportunities:

**Custodian I - Facilities:**  
\$20.18 - \$25.56/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025.

**Public Safety Telecommunicator - Sheriff's Office:**  
\$26.99 - \$34.20/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

**Assistant County Attorney I - II - Attorney's Office:**  
\$42.22 - \$57.76/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**Community Service Officer - Sheriff's Office:**  
\$25.47 - \$32.26/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II - Sheriff's Office:**  
\$31.55 - \$42.36/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**Engineering Technician - Highway:**  
\$26.99 - \$38.06/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**Mechanical Maintenance Technician - Incinerator:**  
\$25.47 - \$32.26/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

**Sort Line Operator I - II - Fosston:**  
\$19.22 - \$25.56/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

# Holiday FAIR

SATURDAY, NOV. 15  
9 am - 3 pm  
Ralph Engelstad Arena  
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