



# CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"

The deadline for advertising in the Nov. 29 Crookston Watch is Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 12 p.m. due to Thanksgiving.

Publication of the Thief River Falls Times

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A Veterans Day program was held Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the Golden Link in Crookston. Besides representatives from various veterans groups, the speakers included Girls State participants. Those pictured spoke during the program. (Submitted)

## Next steps considered for Washington School

by Anna Phalen  
Correspondent

"This year, it's time to move." "It's going to be a win-win for us, but by law, we have to have an open forum." Those comments were made by School Board member Tim Dufault in an Oct. 27 interview with KROX Radio.

Washington School is the current spot for Crookston Pre-K students, but are changes on the way?

In May 2025, a school board meeting was held in which a vote took place regarding the decision to move the Pre-K classes from Washington School to Highland Elementary. In a 5-1 vote, the board approved the move, ultimately leading to the decision to close Washington School. Board members present were Jaelyn Martin, Tim Dufault, Mike Theis, Lorri Capistran, and Patty Dillabough, all voting yes to the closure, with Marcia Meine casting the single no vote. At that time, then-Superintendent Randy

Bergquist stated that the board had made it clear that they would be making plans for potential savings of around \$130,000 per year.

A public forum on the matter was held Wednesday, Nov. 12 in the Highland School auditorium, drawing more than 100 community members. During the presentation, district representatives outlined both the efficiencies and benefits they believe would come with relocating Pre-K to Highland. They also provided an overview of the ESSER III funds used to help cover the cost of the recent kindergarten addition to the building.

Among the potential benefits discussed were reduced district costs, upgraded entrances with modern security systems, a handicap-accessible playground, new state-of-the-art classrooms, in-room Pre-K bathrooms, possible bussing savings, and the ability to

Page 7

## Lambeau returns home after 13 days in the wilderness

by April Scheinoha  
Editor

Jeff Keller is a man of faith, but he had given up the hope of ever seeing his dog Lambeau again. But God and Lambeau had other plans.

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Jeff and Lambeau were hunting in the Lancaster area. It's an activity they've enjoyed together for many years. However, during that hunting trip, Lambeau and his human hunting buddy became separated near a wooded area. Thirteen days later, the 15-year-old yellow pointing lab and the man with whom he has spent most of his life were reunited.

During that time, many searches were conducted for Lambeau. Family and friends searched for him. Jeff also believed that Tanner and Tyler Lyberg created a network of searchers to look for Lambeau. In the meantime, Kittson County endured a lot of rain, leading to quite a bit of standing water. Temperatures dipped into the teens at night.

Believing he would never see his dog again, the Thief River Falls resident couldn't look at Lambeau's dog food anymore. His wife, Lorie, do-

nated it to the Pennington County Humane Society. However, every time Jeff pulled into his garage, he still expected to see Lambeau greeting him.

Then on Monday, Nov. 10, Jeff received a phone call from Steven Sjostrand, one of his former football players. He told Jeff that dumb luck led him to find Lambeau on a gravel road northwest of Lancaster. Lambeau was found about three-fourths of a mile from where Jeff had last seen him.

Jeff assumed that Lambeau had passed away. He told Steven to bury the dog, but he wanted Lambeau's collar back. To Jeff's surprise, Lambeau was alive and he became emotional, realizing he would see his dog again.

Before long, the two of them were reunited. When he heard Jeff's voice, Lambeau lifted his head in recognition. Jeff appreciates all of the people who helped search for him.

Lambeau is slowly recovering from his ordeal. Jeff said Lambeau is extremely emaciated and drinking a lot of water. He also eats several small meals a day. Two of Jeff's grandchildren, who don't see Lambeau on a daily basis, have told Jeff that it



Jeff Keller and his dog, Lambeau, reunited Monday, Nov. 10 after they became separated while hunting 13 days earlier. Here, they are pictured on Saturday, Sept. 13, opening day of the sharp-tailed grouse season. (Submitted)

appears his physical condition is improving.

Jeff isn't sure how Lambeau survived 13 days in the wilderness, but he noted Lambeau has good instincts.

It could also be that it's because he has a name synonymous with athletics, but don't tell Jeff since he's not a Packers fan.

## Slaughterhouse ordinance reviewed

by Anna Phalen  
Correspondent

The Crookston Ways & Means Committee met Monday, Nov. 17 following the regular City Council meeting to discuss proposed changes to the zoning ordinance and to hear a presentation on the city's comprehensive plan draft.

### Slaughterhouse zoning ordinance discussion

The committee continued its ongoing review of a proposed ordinance that would allow slaughterhouses within Crookston's Heavy Industrial Zone (I-1).

Council member Derek Brekken opened the discussion by expressing support for moving the ordinance forward but questioned whether the process has been fair. Council member Henry Fischer agreed with those concerns. Council member Morgan Hibma said she would support the ordinance only if it included assurances that no livestock would be kept outdoors and that operations would maintain USDA certification at all times.

Jake Snyder spoke in favor of the ordinance, saying he felt Brent Epema, owner of B&E Meats, has been placed "under the microscope" throughout the process.

Epema addressed the council directly, explaining that his facility was built with the intention of keeping all animals inside and that his business is already subject to numerous regulations — regulations he says he has always followed. He emphasized his long-standing ties to Crookston, noting that raising his family and investing in the community have been priorities throughout the project. Epema reiterated that several city officials had previously given him approval to proceed and that the project has been years in development.

Committee members noted that the facility would process only about five to seven animals per day. Epema responded by pointing out that he had processed 800 deer during

Page 2

## Rotary honors UMN Crookston Students of the Semester

The Crookston Rotary Club honored University of Minnesota Crookston Students of the Semester on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at Scobey's. They included Alina Ivashchenko, Brooklyn Jensen, Ayush Singh and Donah Tran.

Alina Ivashchenko, math/science/technology from Kyiv, Ukraine, participates in multiple service projects organized by Multicultural International Club and Cooking International Foods. She likes to play soccer, cook and organize events. When she graduates, she plans to work in the field of software engineering, and reunite with her family and travel the world.

Brooklyn Jensen, ag/natural resources from Detroit Lakes, serves as vice president of the Horticulture Club; social media coordinator of the Cheer Club; a member of Crookston Students for Sustainable Development and a social media assistant. Jensen's hobbies include embroidery, hand

crocheting, working out, fitness, writing, painting and pottery. When she graduates, she plans to attend graduate school in Ireland and become a professor after working in the field.

Ayush Singh, a business major from New Delhi, India, is the state president for Minnesota Collegiate DECA and author of "Navigating Social Power Dynamic." Singh's hobbies include the gym, running and learning new skills. When he graduates, he plans to attend a Web-3 based certification program.

Doanh Tran, humanities/social science/education from Vietnam, is on the Club Executive Board, and participates in choir, theatre, and art journal. Tran's hobbies are reading, creative writing, watching movies and hanging out with friends. When she graduates, she plans to do something creative like working as a writer, director, actor, model or teacher, and traveling around the world.



The Crookston Rotary Club honored University of Minnesota Crookston Students of the Semester on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Pictured are (from left) Students of the Semester Ayush Singh; Doanh Tran; Brooklyn Jensen and Alina Ivashchenko; (back

row) Crookston Rotary President Brandon Lee; UMN Crookston Chancellor Dr. Mary Holz-Clause, and Student of the Semester Chairperson and UMN Crookston Music Professor George French. (Submitted)

# Promotional video reviewed County observes Hazard Awareness Week

by Anna Phalen  
Correspondent

The City of Crookston's new promotional video was presented at the Monday, Nov. 17 meeting of the Crookston City Council. The meeting also featured final decisions on cannabis application fees and 2026 non-profit grants.

**Promotional video**  
Jeff Evers and Bo Brorby opened the meeting with a preview of Crookston's new promotional video, highlighting a wide range of local businesses and downtown landmarks. The video features the Fournet Building, including its grand staircase and glass-ceiling views, along with several local shops — Willow & Ivy, Real Good, Widman's, Creating Confidence, China Moon, Erickson's Embroidery, 2nd Street Boutique, Wonderful Life Foods, and True Value.

Evers and Brorby said business owners were eager to participate and encouraged any others interested to reach out. With no formal visitors bureau in town, the video is expected to serve as a valuable tool to promote Crookston and invite resi-

dents and visitors to explore the downtown area. The video will be shown in various public locations, including the Fournet, Crookston Sports Center and the University of Minnesota Crookston.

**Cannabis application fees**

The council approved a resolution establishing local cannabis-related application fees. Council member Joseph Shostell voted against the measure, but it ultimately passed. Council member Dylane Klatt was absent from the meeting. It was noted that if the city had not acted, Polk County could have assumed control of the licensing process.

**City Branding and Communications Plan**

The council also approved a contract with Anchor Marketing to develop a comprehensive communication and branding plan for Crookston. City Marketing Coordinator Keenan Devier described it as an opportunity to give the city a refreshed, unified image.

The \$30,000 project will rely on funds already allocated for marketing efforts. Some concerns were raised

about ensuring Crookston residents remain involved in shaping the brand, but the firm assured the council that local input will be central to the work. The mayor pointed to successful economic development efforts in Perham and Fosston — communities the firm has also assisted.

**2026 Non-Profit Grants**

After extended discussion in earlier meetings, the council approved the 2026 non-profit grant allocations:

- Golden Link — \$75,000
- Tri-Valley — \$17,000
- Ox Cart Days — \$6,000
- Care and Share — \$15,000

These allocations amount to roughly four percentage points of the city's levy. Council member Morgan Hibma cast the lone vote against the final list, expressing interest in prioritizing organizations that serve the greatest number of residents. Mayor Dale Stainbrook suggested tabling the item again, but council member Derek Brekken noted that a unanimous decision was unlikely regardless of delays, prompting the council to move forward with a vote.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office — Emergency Management Division is participating in the statewide Winter Hazard Awareness Week campaign this week (Nov. 17-21). Winter Hazard Awareness Week is promoted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security Emergency Management. This week allows Minnesotans an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the hazards we face each winter season. These hazards include dangers from winter weather, dangers from heating sources, and ventilation issues, just to name a few.

Each day of the week has a hazard topic. Monday was Winter Storms. Minnesota experiences a vast variety of inclement weather conditions during the winter months. Polk County is especially prone to experiencing brutal cold, heavy snowfall, and extreme winds. A number of different watches, warnings, and advisories are issued during the winter season. Winter Weather Advisories are issued when winter weather will cause travel difficulties. Winter Storm Warnings are issued for heavy snowfall, or the combination of dangerous blowing and drifting snow. A combination of blowing or falling snow, cold temperatures, and windy conditions can prompt a blizzard warning. Polk County is covered by the National

Weather Service's Grand Forks Office. You can get additional weather information by visiting [www.weather.gov/fgf](http://www.weather.gov/fgf).

Tuesday's topic addressed Outdoor Winter Safety. Whether you are out enjoying the snow, or forced to work in it, it is important to dress adequately. During brutally cold weather exposure to the elements can lead to hypothermia or frostbite. It is also important to consider the dangers of venturing onto thin ice. Remember that there should be at least four inches of fresh, clear ice before attempting to walk onto a frozen body of water.

Wednesday's topic addressed Winter Fire Safety. During winter, there is usually an increase of structure fires. Reasons for the increase in structural fires include holiday lights, holiday displays, and using alternative heating sources. To help prevent fires, keep decorations at least three feet from heating sources, and remember to check your furnace and chimney to ensure they are operating properly. Thursday's topic addressed Indoor Winter Safety. Some common indoor safety concerns that occur during the winter are monitoring carbon monoxide levels, managing moisture conditions to prevent mold and mildew growth, and minimizing chemical and environmental exposure. Friday's topic covered

Winter Driving. It is important to ensure that your vehicle has been serviced and is ready to take on the cold weather. A winter survival kit included in your vehicle could be the difference between life and death in some situations. It should include a bag/container to store food and water, a flashlight, candles, matches, a blanket, and a distress sign to display in the window of your vehicle.

More information can be found by visiting the Polk County webpage at [www.co.polk.mn.us](http://www.co.polk.mn.us) or by visiting the Minnesota HSEM website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem>.

## Books & Brews to meet

Join the Crookston Public Library for a book club discussion of "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich. This novel is set in the Red River Valley in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

The group will meet at Drafts Sports Bar & Grill on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. Appetizers will be provided by the Friends of the Crookston Public Library; participants are responsible for the cost of any additional food and all drinks. All adults are welcome. Registration is not required. For more information, visit [larl.org/events](http://larl.org/events) or call the library at 218-281-4522.

# Ordinance reviewed

(Continued from Page 1) the past week alone without receiving any complaints.

Brekken noted that he felt Epema was being "picked on." Epema has operated B&E Meats since 2006 and said he has never received a complaint in that time.

The committee agreed to move the ordinance to a vote at the next council meeting Monday, Dec. 1.

**Comprehensive Plan draft presentation**

The committee also heard a presentation on the draft of the city's Comprehensive Plan as part of the "Empow-

ering Small MN Communities" initiative.

Key points highlighted included:

- Crookston currently has more commuters traveling into the city for work than East Grand Forks.
- The city could benefit from expanded or updated walking trails and pedestrian paths.
- Community growth should focus on enhancing existing assets and supporting strategic development.
- Future land-use opportunities exist for both industrial and residential expansion.

- Highway 2's route through the city is considered a major asset, with steady traffic volume; the Minnesota Department of Transportation was advised to keep the current traffic lights in place longer.
- There is a growing need for additional market-rate housing.

Other priorities identified include air-conditioning the sports center, developing a community center, enhancing the city's tree canopy, expanding education and outreach efforts, and fostering business incubation.

# NWRDC to hold annual meeting Dec. 6

The Northwest Regional Development Commission will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Dec. 6 at the American Legion Club in East Grand Forks. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with a lunch at 12 p.m.

At this meeting, the NWRDC will elect its board of directors, appoint seven public interest representa-

tives, review and approve its Calendar Year 2026 Work Program, and review all other program activities for the past year.

The NWRDC invites and encourages public officials and other interested persons to join all or part of the day's events. If you have questions or plan on attending the lunch, contact Amy Trudell

at the NWRDC office at 218-745-6733 or [atrudell@nwrdc.org](mailto:atrudell@nwrdc.org).

# City Hall to be closed

City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

# 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: <a href="http://www.biblebaptistcrookston.org">www.biblebaptistcrookston.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:biblebaptist@midco.net">biblebaptist@midco.net</a> 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 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN <a href="http://www.fisherbyglad.org">www.fisherbyglad.org</a> Pastor Gretchen Enoch 218-891-4632 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 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: <a href="mailto:resurrect@gvtel.com">resurrect@gvtel.com</a> Church website: <a href="http://www.resurrectionfree.org">www.resurrectionfree.org</a> Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b> 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information <a href="http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org">www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</a></p>
<p><b>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN <a href="http://www.fisherbyglad.org">www.fisherbyglad.org</a> Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-893-4243 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 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Check out website for further information <a href="http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org">www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</a></p>	<p><b>FREEDOM CHURCH</b> Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston <a href="http://hellofreedomchurch.com">hellofreedomchurch.com</a> Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN</b> 10802 423rd St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information <a href="http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org">www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</a></p>	<p><b>RODNES LUTHERAN</b> 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on Cty 210 Office: 218-687-4345 Pastor Joel Smeby <a href="http://www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran">www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran</a> 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 Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information <a href="http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org">www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</a></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 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: <a href="http://www.crookstoncathedral.com">www.crookstoncathedral.com</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>ENCOUNTER CHURCH</b> 209 North Main - Crookston Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12) Find us on Facebook</p>	<p><b>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT</b> Gary Johnson, Pastor <a href="http://www.gosen-church.com">http://www.gosen-church.com</a> Facebook: Gosen Church Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and <a href="http://gosen-church.com">gosen-church.com</a>)</p>	<p><b>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Nielsville, MN Monty &amp; Amanda Brown For information call: 218-946-2675 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> 707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston Phone: 218-456-2568 Pastor David Jahn Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN</b> 4391 340th Ave - Fertile Pr. Dan Morto Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information <a href="http://www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org">www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</a></p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastor Noah Thompson Pastor John Merseth 1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston Phone: 218-281-4342 Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p><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 - FERTILE</b> 10490 438th St SW Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 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 <a href="http://www.trinitycrookston.org">www.trinitycrookston.org</a> 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</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MENTOR</b> 105 Harrison Ave N - Mentor Pastor Rev. Michael Sletto 218-637-8263 Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC)</b> Church Office: 218-687-4035 332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535 Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube</p>	<p><b>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X</b> 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020 Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	<p><b>ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR</b> Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)</b> Church Office: 218-891-4581 Pastor Doug Thompson Website: <a href="http://tclstpaul.org">tclstpaul.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com">trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com</a> 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> 510 North Broadway - Crookston 218-281-4853 <a href="http://crookstonfirstpres.org">crookstonfirstpres.org</a> Rev Michael Ozaki, pastor Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship (live-streaming at <a href="http://crookstonfirstpres.org">crookstonfirstpres.org</a> or on our Facebook page) Communion 1st Sunday Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book study</p>	<p><b>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 33276 339th Ave. SW - Eldred, MN c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN - 218-281-1239 Pastor: Steven Bohler Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Service</p>	<p><b>HARVEST CHURCH</b> 520 Fisher Avenue - Crookston 218-281-2264 Pastor Dave Finsaas <a href="http://www.harvestchurchcrookston.com">www.harvestchurchcrookston.com</a> 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 SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> Crookston Pastor Steven Bohler Sundays: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID</b> Sundays: For the months of October, November and December, weekend Mass on Saturdays at 5 p.m. Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston 218-281-3393 website: <a href="http://crookstonmethodist.com">crookstonmethodist.com</a> - view services here email: <a href="mailto:wesleyumcrox@gmail.com">wesleyumcrox@gmail.com</a> Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)</p>

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**THIEF RIVER FALLS Times**

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**Monday - Thursday**  
8 am - 5 pm

**Friday**  
8 am - 3 pm

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Geraldine Newquist, 91**

**Crookston** - Geraldine Marion Newquist, 91, of Crookston, passed away on November 14, 2025, at the Benedictine Living Center with her loving family by her side.



Geraldine was born on August 5, 1934, in Clearbrook, to Carl Hansen and Inga Melhus Hansen. She attended Clearbrook High School, where she graduated in 1952 before attending nursing school in Crookston. Geraldine worked as a nurse for over 40 years.

When she was not working, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and visiting with friends. She loved taking trips to the casino and enjoyed her trips with the Golden Link Senior Center.

When she was younger, she especially enjoyed taking

camping trips with her family. She loved all animals, especially her cat Fritz.

Geraldine is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Richard Allen Newquist; son, Randy Newquist; siblings, Glen Hansen, Arlyce Anderson, and Richard Hansen.

Geraldine is survived by her children, Anthony (Polly) Newquist, James (Marti) Newquist, Daniel (Lori) Newquist, David (Kathy) Newquist, Kathy (Tom) Mix, Lisa (Kurtis) Boe; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; brother, David Hansen; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Geraldine's family will celebrate her life with a memorial service on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 2 p.m. from the chapel at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. A committal service will take place at Oakdale Cemetery following the service.

A00003B2025NV22

**James Murphy, 85**

**Crookston** - James Francis "Jim" Murphy, 85, of Crookston, passed away Sunday evening, November 16, 2025, surrounded by his family.



Jim was born in Crookston on June 28, 1940, the son of Thomas "Jay" and Zelia (Charron) Murphy. He was baptized at St. Francis Parish in Fisher and graduated from Fisher High School in 1958.

Jim was drafted into the United States Army and served in Germany as an MP. Once honorably discharged, Jim worked as a water softener salesman but moved on to bigger and greener adventures.

Jim spent his career working for Crookston Implement, "John Deere," starting as a salesman in 1976 and ending his career as the general manager in 2003.

On October 29, 1966, he was united in marriage to Betty Lou Marie Hoffman at St. Anne's Catholic Church, in Crookston. Their marriage was blessed by the births of four children: Lisa, Christopher, Sarah and Susan. Lisa passed away at the age of four after an illness in 1972.

Growing up, Jim was a hard worker, starting out picking potatoes for \$0.13/hour. He played 6-man football in high school and was the first ever Homecoming king for Fisher High School. Over the years, he played softball, curling and was an avid bowler.

Jim was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Knights of Columbus, Fisher American Legion and Crookston 40/8.

During retirement, Jim loved his coffee time with friends, playing cards with friends and family, supporting Fisher High School football, working puzzles and trying his luck at bingo and the casino.

Jim will be very lovingly remembered by his family and many friends. Grateful to have shared in Jim's life is his beloved wife of 59 years, Betty; their three children: Christopher (Jill) Murphy of Spring Creek, NV, Sarah (Michael) Gerads of Brooklyn Park, and Susan Murphy of Crookston; seven grandchildren: Josie (Ryan) Clymens, Keegan Murphy, and Libby Murphy, Joshua Gerads, Rachel Gerads, Rebekah Gerads (fiancé Jacob Shepherd) and Mikey Gerads; great-grandchildren: Darny Clymens and Finnegan Clymens; his sisters, Sister Pat Murphy of Wichita, KS; Betty Flatt of Enderlin, ND and Lucy Tanner of Little Falls; in-laws, Marilyn Olson, Don Hoffman, and Debbie (Ken) Winger, all of Crookston. In addition, Jim leaves behind several nephews, nieces and many cousins.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Lisa; grandchild, Sam Murphy Gerads; parents, Jay and Zelia Murphy; parents-in-law, Earl and Lilia Hoffman; brothers-in-law, Jim Flatt and Ed Tanner; nephews, Brian and Andy Hoffman. May God bless the memory of Jim Murphy.

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the care Jim received these past few years: Dr. Kanten at Riverview Hospital, Dr. Panico at Altru Cancer Center and Dr. Gupta at Roger Maris Cancer Center. We also appreciate all the care and support from HIA Hospice.

A Christian Burial celebrating the life of James Francis Murphy will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2025, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston.

Visitation will be at the Cathedral on Sunday, November 23, 2025, from 5-7 p.m., with a 7 p.m. prayer service and time for sharing memories. A visitation will also take place for one hour prior to the funeral service.

Military Honors will be provided by the Army National Guard Honor Guard and the Crookston Color Guard.

A00003B2025NV22

*Please help us Celebrate*  
**Raymond and Marian Tollefson's**  
*75th Wedding Anniversary*

The families of Ray & Marian invite you to join them at Resurrection Church in Beltrami for services at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 30, 2025. Following the service, we will honor and celebrate their 75 years of marriage with a cake and ice cream reception.

Your presence is the best gift they could ask for. In lieu of gifts, please email us your fond memories and stories of how Ray and Marian have touched your life and interacted with you. Even if you are unable to join us, please send these stories in. We will be presenting them with a large print collection of these stories for them to read and cherish. Please email your stories to RnM75Anniversary@gmail.com by November 25. You can also mail them to Anniversary, 27670 410th St. SW, Crookston, MN 56716.

This gathering is not a surprise party, but we won't make them aware of it until closer to the date. So for now, we'd appreciate it if you didn't mention it to them.

Thanks so much and we're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

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Halle Nicholas (left) and Mercedes Aceves, who attended Girls State thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary, spoke Tuesday, Nov. 11 at a Veterans Day program. The program was held at the Golden Link. (Submitted)

## LETTERS

# Washington Elementary needs to be preserved

*Editor's note: Caitlyn Michno also submitted this letter as a letter to the editor. The Crookston Watch provided the letter to Interim Superintendent Randy Bruer in order for him to let school board members know about its upcoming publication and respond if desired. As of presstime, we hadn't received any responses.*

Dear Members of the Crookston Public School Board,

As both a parent of young children in the Crookston schools and a member of the Crookston Early Child Initiative, I want to express my deep concern about the potential closure or relocation of Washington Elementary School. Beyond its long history in our community, Washington plays a crucial and irreplaceable role in supporting our youngest learners and strengthening the long-term vitality of Crookston.

**A model for high-quality early education**

Washington Elementary has been recognized as a model for early learning design. During a 2025 visit, Dr. Michael Georgieff, co-director of the University of Minnesota's Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, commended Washington's classroom setup, organization, and program structure, noting how the environment supports brain development, engagement, and emotional regulation for young learners. MIDB research emphasizes that birth through age eight is a critical window for brain growth, when high-quality environments and interventions have lasting benefits for cognition, language, and social-emotional development.

Research also shows that specific classroom features - such as intentional layouts, dedicated small-group learning spaces, and areas for exploration that allow opportunities for self-regulation - support early literacy, language development, and social-emotional outcomes. Large reviews and policy analyses confirm that high-quality preschool programs and well-designed learning spaces improve school readiness and predict gains in language and literacy. Studies further demonstrate that classroom organization and

dedicated regulation areas allow children to engage more fully in learning and practice self-regulation skills. This evidence reinforces what many of us already know: Washington Elementary is an environment where young children thrive.

**The importance of maintaining space for growth**

Crookston Public Schools has experienced steady growth in early childhood programs, with preschool enrollment rising from 71 students in 2021 to 110 in 2024. Relocating this program to Highland Elementary School, where classroom space would be condensed and shared among more students, risks limiting our ability to meet current demand or plan for future growth. Smaller rooms, higher densities, and reduced flexibility make it more challenging for teachers to provide effective instruction and learning opportunities for our children.

Discussion with classroom teachers and early childhood intervention specialists reinforce these concerns. They report that the current layout and dedicated spaces at Washington Elementary directly support small group instruction, sensory-friendly environments, and quiet areas for regulation. Reducing these spaces would compromise the quality of instruction and the ability of students, particularly those with special needs, to engage fully in learning.

State and national data also indicate that the need for Individualized Education Programs and special education services is growing. In Minnesota, the number of K-12 students receiving special education services increased from approximately 110,000 to 150,000 over the last 10 years, representing roughly 18% of public school students. Effective support for these students requires adequate space for one-on-one instruction, self-regulation, and safe separation when needed. Preserving Washington's current space is essential to sustaining these services while supporting future growth.

**Investing in our community's future**

# The district should invest in, not close, Washington School

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping Washington School open in Crookston. For decades, Washington has been more than a building - it has been a cornerstone of our community. Washington's dedicated staff and close-knit environment give students the individualized attention they need to thrive, you will never go to another school where the administration staff knows every child by name and greets them every morning.

Closing Washington School would force students into "classrooms" at High-

land Elementary that are not meant to be a classroom and not even big enough for the class. These changes would place unnecessary strain on teachers, students and a facility where currently there are no open classrooms. Also, students currently do not have enough time to eat their lunch and adding another lunch slot will force students to start eating lunch at 10:25 a.m. No kid should have to eat that early and be starving by the end of the school day.

Instead of closing a successful school and diminishing any potential that this

community has for growth, we should be investing in it. Maintaining Washington School supports neighborhood vitality, strengthens family engagement, and protects the high-quality educational experience our children deserve.

I urge the district to listen to parents, educators, and community members who understand the value of Washington School. Keeping the doors open is not just the practical choice, it is the right one.

**A path forward**

I respectfully urge the board to:

1. Maintain Washington Elementary School as the district's primary site for early childhood and preschool education.
  2. Preserve classroom layouts and space that allow children to learn, explore, and engage in environments backed by developmental research and supported by MIDB's positive review.
  3. Plan for future growth rather than reducing space, ensuring the district can meet the increasing needs of young families in Crookston.
- Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to our community's children. As both a parent and professional, I strongly believe that keeping Washington Elementary open is a forward-looking investment in Crookston's future - one that reflects our values, supports our families, and sustains our momentum as a growing, thriving community.

With appreciation,  
Caitlyn Michno

Sincerely,  
Nicole Bruggeman

## POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

# RiverView Health welcomes new occupational, physical therapy team members



Brooke Bischof



Caitlyn Fussy



Allie Reiffenberger

RiverView Health's Rehab Services Team is ex-



Amanda Roberts

panding. The Occupational Therapy and Physical Ther-

apy departments each added two team members recently.

First up is the Occupational Therapy Department with Caitlyn Fussy and Allie Reiffenberger, both occupational therapists.

Fussy, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, is from Little Falls and a graduate of the University of North Dakota. With practice locations in Crookston and East Grand Forks, Fussy's area of focus is pediatrics, lymphedema, adult neurological issues, and hands.

Reiffenberger, OTD, OTR/L, is from Ortonville and a graduate of UND. Reiffenberger's Crookston practice focuses on occupational health, inpatient rehab, and outpatient rehab for adults.

Physical Therapy Department additions include physical therapist Brooke Bischof and physical therapy assistant Amanda Roberts.

Bischof, PT, DPT, is from Kansas City, MO, and a graduate of the University of Missouri. Her Crookston practice includes working with the geriatric population

and individuals with neurological diagnoses. Bischof also has an interest in women's health.

Roberts, PTA, is from Fulda and graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown, S.D. Her areas of focus in her Crookston practice include women's health, balance and mobility rehab, and pediatrics.

For more information on any of the services provided by RiverView Health's Rehab Services Department, call 218-281-9463.

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Rural Reflections ...

## Looking back and looking ahead with thankfulness

by Grant Nelson



Dear Dave,  
Another birthday has passed and I have now entered into my 60s. Last week, I revealed that I always pair my number of years to a corresponding number assigned to a former Minnesota Vikings football player. I decided the 60s won't be too bad as we have had some really great offensive linemen; however, the 70s should be incredible when you consider the excellent defensive linemen who have lined up for the Vikings.  
I have been spending a few hours finishing up the buckthorn battle for 2025, Dave. I was cleaning up two areas of buckthorn we have treated already but had missed a few of these tree or shrubs. I employed the "hack and squirt" technique on these stragglers. This is simply the use of a hatchet to cut through the bark of the tree into the cambium layer, which is the vascular system of the tree. Once I cut into this layer, I have a small squirt bottle, which I use to apply a little pesticide into the cut in order for the cambium to distribute it through the tree. It's simple work but a little tough on the back, hands and shoulders. Today was a day of "basal bark" spraying. This is simply spraying the pesti-

cide on the bark of the tree, which then moves through the bark and enters the cambium layer and kills off this noxious plant.

Most of the cattle left our summer camp for home six weeks ago. One cow had a hoof problem, so I asked that she and her calf stay here in order to care for them while she got better. I have always wondered what it would be like to just have one cow and calf like the pioneers who kept one dairy cow for milk. I really got to know this pair and I began to look forward to giving them their corn each morning. I petted the cow, and the calf got used to me, so he didn't take off when I fed them. This sort of close contact makes emotional ties, and those ties were broken when they went home Monday. It was time, and she was better than before, so it was good for her to head home. Still, I really miss them.

I walked out to the barn after they left and the whole place felt kind of lonely, Dave. I walked around inside the barn and thought of the hours I had spent in this structure either working with cattle or working on the building itself. I began repairing it with former owner Lloyd Noreen in about 1996 and only recently finished it. All of the life I have lived in this barn and all of the hopes I had tied up in this structure made me very nostalgic. It also made me a little sad to think one day this would not be my barn anymore. I suppose Lloyd Noreen had the same aspirations built into this barn as

did Clifford Lindquist before him and Charles Lindquist before all of us.

When I look back at my life so far, life seems rich and long, Dave. When I look forward to life, it seems incredibly short and fleeting. The only cure for any of this is to be thankful for every day, past and present. I am probably not the first person who had personal revelations in a barn, I am glad I have this spot.

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# Pirates drop games to Fort Frances, East Grand Forks

The Crookston Pirate girls hockey dropped its home opener against the Fort Frances Muskies (Ontario) Saturday by a score of 4-2, before falling by a 2-1 margin against the East Grand Forks Green Wave Tuesday night at the East Grand Forks Civic Arena.

On Saturday, the Pirates found their offense a little too late. Bella Fry scored power play goals in each of the first two periods to stake the Muskies to a 2-0 lead. Payton Harbluk added an even strength goal with 5:18 left to play in the second and Peyton Arpin scored 1:23 into the third to make it 4-0 in favor of the Muskies.

The Pirates battled back. Adley Vigness broke up the shutout with an unassisted goal with 6:57 remaining. A little over two minutes later, Peyton Demarais found the net to make it 4-2. The Pirates had additional scoring chances late but couldn't find the net as the Muskies held on for the win.

Picking up the lone assist for the Pirates was Logan Brekken.

Crookston goaltender Madilyn Abrams finished with 22 saves in the 4-2 loss.

Two days later, the Pirates found themselves in a defensive battle with the Green Wave.

East Grand Forks took a 1-0 lead when Sydney McDonald slid the puck past Abrams. Blake Schultz and Laurel Kolstoe were credited with assists for the Green Wave.

There was no scoring for the next 27 minutes as the teams traded scoring chances. The Green Wave went up 2-0 17 seconds into the third period on an unassisted shorthanded goal by Schultz.

The Pirates cut the deficit to one goal with 4:32 remaining on a goal by Emma LaPlante, with assists by Catelyn Maruska and Jensen Stinar.

The Pirates needed a goal to tie but were unable to get the puck past EGF goaltender Reese Kvasager, who finished the night with 21 saves.

The Pirates were back in action Thursday night against Moorhead. Results from that game will appear in next week's edition of The Crookston Watch.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
Fort Frances (ON).....	1	2	3	4
Crookston.....	0	0	2	2
First period - Fort Frances, Bella Fry (Sienna Tom, Logan Neurinski) (power play) 5:48.				
Second period - Fort Frances, Bella Fry (Logan Neurinski) (power play) 5:11; Fort Frances, Payton Harbluk (Sophia Tanguay) 11:42.				
Third period - Fort Frances, Peyton Arpin (Bella Fry) 1:23; Crookston, Adley Vigness (unassisted) 10:03; Crookston, Peyton Demarais (power play) (Logan Brekken) 12:27.				
Shots - Fort Frances 11-8-8-27; Crookston 6-8-15-29.				
Power plays - Fort Frances 2-for-4; Crookston 0-for-0.				
Penalties - Fort Frances 0; Crookston 4 (8 minutes).				
Goalie saves - Fort Frances, Shaya Shute 27; Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 22.				

Scoring	1	2	3	T
Crookston.....	0	0	1	1
East Grand Forks.....	1	0	1	2
First period - EGF, Sydney McDonald (Blake Schultz, Laurel Kol-				

stoe) 7:05.  
 Second period - No Score  
 Third period - EGF, Blake Schultz 0:17; Crookston, Emma LaPlante (power play) (Catelyn Maruska, Jensen Stinar) 12:28  
 Shots - Crookston 7-8-7 - 22; East Grand Forks 8-7-9 - 24.  
 Power plays - Crookston 1-for-9; East Grand Forks 0-for-3.  
 Penalties - Crookston 3 (6 minutes); East Grand Forks 9 (18 minutes).  
 Goalie saves - Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 22; East Grand Forks, Reese Kvasager 21.

Greater Minnesota	Conf. overall pts
Bemidji.....	3-0-0 4-0-0 6
Roseau.....	2-1-0 2-2-0 4
East Grand Forks 1-2-0	3-2-0 2
Thief River Falls...1-2-0	2-2-0 2
Moorhead.....	0-0-0 2-2-0 0
Warroad.....	0-0-0 2-0-0 0
Crookston.....	0-2-0 0-3-0 0

**Results**  
 Thursday, Nov. 13 - Bemidji 6, Thief River Falls 1.  
 Friday, Nov. 14 - Moorhead 7, Buffalo 3; East Grand Forks 6, Fort Frances (ON) 1.  
 Saturday, Nov. 15 - Fort Frances (ON) 4, Crookston 2; Moorhead 6, Northfield 3; Thief River Falls 13, International Falls 0; Warroad 1, Westonka/SWC 0.  
 Tuesday, Nov. 18 - Bemidji 4, Roseau 1; East Grand Forks 2, Crookston 1.



Crookston senior Emma LaPlante is mobbed by teammates after scoring the Pirates' first goal of the night and cutting the deficit to one against East Grand Forks Tuesday night. The Green Wave held on for the 2-1 win. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

# State football championship games set

**9-Player State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Thursday, Nov. 6 - 1N Kittson County Central 49, 4N Cook County 0; 2N Fertile-Beltrami 40, 3N Cromwell-Wright Area 14; 1S Hills-Beaver Creek 44, 4S Red Rock Central 14; 2S Hillcrest Lutheran Academy 40, 3S Mabel-Canton 38.  
 ■ Semifinals, Thursday, Nov. 13 at US Bank Stadium - Hills-Beaver Creek 30, Fertile-Beltrami 14; Hillcrest Lutheran 27, Kittson County Central 21.  
 ■ Championship, Saturday, Nov. 22 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Hills-Beaver Creek vs. Hillcrest Lutheran.  
**Class A State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Friday, Nov. 7 - 1N Breckenridge 57, 4N Barnum 14; 2N Mahanomen/Waubun 17, 3N Upsala/Swanville 8; 1S Minnetonka 42, 4S Lester Prairie 6; 3S Murray County Central 29, 2S Fillmore Central 26.  
 ■ Semifinals, Saturday, Nov. 15 at US Bank Stadium - Minnetonka 28,

Mahanomen/Waubun 14; Breckenridge 28, Murray County Central 21.  
 ■ Championship, Friday, Nov. 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Minnetonka vs. Breckenridge.  
**Class AA State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Thursday, Nov. 6 through Saturday, Nov. 8 - 1N Holdingford 40, 4N Barnesville 24; 2N Eden Valley-Watkins 30, 3N Moose Lake/Willow River 14; 1S Jackson County Central 42, 4S Caledonia 15; 2S Goodhue 29, 3S Waterville-Elysian Morrissetown 28.  
 ■ Semifinals, Friday, Nov. 14 at US Bank Stadium - Jackson County Central 38, Eden Valley-Watkins 0; Goodhue 24, Holdingford 7.  
 ■ Championship, Friday, Nov. 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Jackson County Central vs. Goodhue.  
**Class AAA State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Friday, Nov. 7 through Saturday, Nov. 8 - 1N Annandale 19, 4N Litchfield 7; 3N Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 28, 2N Pierz vs. 7; 1S

Waseca 14, 4S Holy Family 0;3S Minneapolis North 50, 2S Pine Island 21.  
 ■ Semifinals, Saturday, Nov. 15 at US Bank Stadium - Waseca 14, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 13; Annandale 36, Minneapolis North 20.  
 ■ Championship, Saturday, Nov. 22 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Waseca vs. Annandale.  
**Class AAAA State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Thursday, Nov. 6 - 1N Grand Rapids 54, 4N Benilde-St. Margarets 7; 3N Orono 36, 2N Fergus Falls 14; 1S Marshall 21, 4S Totino-Grace 9; 2S Kasson-Mantorville 35, 3S Hill-Murray 21.  
 ■ Semifinals, Thursday, Nov. 13 and Friday, Nov. 14 at US Bank Stadium - Orono 15, Marshall 14 (OT); Kasson-Mantorville 16, Grand Rapids 14.  
 ■ Championship, Friday, Nov. 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Orono vs. Kasson-Mantorville.  
**Class 5A State Tournament**

■ Quarterfinals, Saturday, Nov. 8 - 1N Elk River 53, 4N Minneapolis Washburn 20; 3N Spring Lake Park 13, 2N Alexandria Area 12; 1S St. Thomas Academy 21, 4S Rochester Mayo 14; 2S Chanhassen 23, 3S Cretin-Derham Hall 19.  
 ■ Semifinals, Saturday, Nov. 15 at US Bank Stadium - Spring Lake Park 39, St. Thomas Academy 23; Chanhassen 22, Elk River 19.  
 ■ Championship, Saturday, Nov. 22 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Spring Lake Park vs. Chanhassen.  
**Class 6A State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Friday, Nov. 7 - Minnetonka 34, St Michael-Albertville 7; Edina 23, Eden Prairie 21; Moorhead 35, Centennial 21; Lakeville South 49, Maple Grove 31.  
 ■ Semifinals, Thursday, Nov. 13 and Friday, Nov. 14 at US Bank Stadium - Edina 42, Minnetonka 41; Moorhead 26, Lakeville South 21.  
 ■ Championship, Friday, Nov. 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Edina vs. Moor-

head. 1N Elk River 53, 4N Minneapolis Washburn 20; 3N Spring Lake Park 13, 2N Alexandria Area 12; 1S St. Thomas Academy 21, 4S Rochester Mayo 14; 2S Chanhassen 23, 3S Cretin-Derham Hall 19.  
 ■ Semifinals, Saturday, Nov. 15 at US Bank Stadium - Spring Lake Park 39, St. Thomas Academy 23; Chanhassen 22, Elk River 19.  
 ■ Championship, Saturday, Nov. 22 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Spring Lake Park vs. Chanhassen.  
**Class 6A State Tournament**  
 ■ Quarterfinals, Friday, Nov. 7 - Minnetonka 34, St Michael-Albertville 7; Edina 23, Eden Prairie 21; Moorhead 35, Centennial 21; Lakeville South 49, Maple Grove 31.  
 ■ Semifinals, Thursday, Nov. 13 and Friday, Nov. 14 at US Bank Stadium - Edina 42, Minnetonka 41; Moorhead 26, Lakeville South 21.  
 ■ Championship, Friday, Nov. 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium - Edina vs. Moor-



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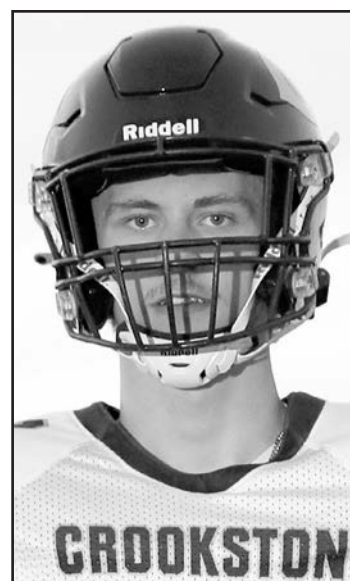
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### Masen Reitmeier

**Current Sport:** Football  
**Position:** WR/DB  
**Favorite Subject:** Gym  
**Favorite Sports Team:** Oregon Ducks  
**Favorite Food:** Tacos  
**Favorite Movie/TV show:** Trailer Park Boys  
**Career Highlight/favorite memory:** Getting a win  
**Other Sports/Activities:** Hockey and baseball  
**Hobbies outside of athletics:** Hunting and hockey  
**Plans After High School:** Not decided

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### Logan Brekken

**Current Sport:** Tennis  
**Position:** 1st/2nd Doubles  
**Favorite Subject:** History  
**Favorite Sports Team:** Minnesota Wild  
**Favorite Food:** Pasta  
**Favorite Movie/TV show:** Modern Family  
**Career Highlight/favorite memory:** Going to state twice, or spending time with the whole team.  
**Other Sports/Activities:** Hockey, Leo Club.  
**Hobbies outside of athletics:** Working with kids, babysitting.  
**Plans After High School:** Going to the U of M for speech-language hearing sciences.



### Emma LaPlante

**Current Sport:** Girls Tennis  
**Position:** 1 Singles/Doubles  
**Favorite Subject:** US Government  
**Favorite Sports Team:** UND Men's Hockey  
**Favorite Food:** Panera Bread Mac and Cheese  
**Favorite Movie/TV show:** The Office  
**Career Highlight/favorite memory:** Watching Chloe Boll jump over a bench at state  
**Other Sports/Activities:** Hockey, volleyball, golf, NHS, Leo Club  
**Hobbies outside of athletics:** Shopping  
**Plans After High School:** Hopefully go someplace warm for school.



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## Veterans Day



The missing man table was displayed Tuesday, Nov. 11 as part of the Veterans Day program held at the Golden Link. It honors military members who are missing, captured or imprisoned. Each item included in the display serves as a symbol. (Submitted)

## RiverView Health welcomes Rachel Rudolph



Rachel Rudolph, MS, RDN, LD

Rachel Rudolph, MS, RDN, LD, recently joined RiverView Health and is excited to help patients of all ages with nutrition-related issues.

A native of Fort Wayne, IN, Rudolph earned both her

bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University in Muncie, IN. She previously worked as an inpatient clinical dietitian in West Virginia, primarily in intensive care units, where she managed nutrition support for patients on ventilators. She also covered several other units, including pediatrics and labor and delivery. Throughout her career, Rudolph has worked with a diverse range of disease states, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and kidney disease.

"I love food and have always been interested in nutrition," said Rudolph. "I knew I wanted to work in healthcare, so becoming a dietitian was a perfect fit."

"I am very much a people person, so I love getting to chat with patients and help them realize that nutrition doesn't have to be a scary

topic. I am a firm believer that you can make all foods fit into your life in a healthy way."

Rudolph's professional interests include pregnancy, breastfeeding and pediatrics, as nutrition plays a crucial role in healthy growth and development.

The Rudolph family moved to Crookston from southern Ohio about a year and a half ago as Rudolph's husband began teaching as a professor at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The couple has a 4-year-old son, a 4-month-old daughter, and two black cats. Outside of work, Rudolph's favorite activity is baking in her free time, especially as the weather starts to get cooler.

If you are interested in nutrition services, talk to your primary care provider regarding a referral to Rudolph.

## District considers next steps

/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) share staff more efficiently.

District officials also noted areas where Washington School would require significant investment should it remain open. These updates include dehumidification, air exchange, HVAC improvements, and fire sprinklers – estimated at roughly \$3 million. Additional needs include reconditioning the heating boilers, fire-wrapping heating pipes, asbestos abatement for floor tiles and piping, improvements to accessibility, and upgraded security access.

If the Pre-K program is moved, Highland Elementary would also require certain additions or adjustments, such as kindergarten cubbies, possible bathroom updates, added cabinetry for Title services, changing tables in all bathrooms, lunch tables, and additional storage.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for public questions and comment. Dozens of concerns were raised, ranging from logistics to long-term planning. Several attendees expressed that they did not feel their questions were fully addressed, with many answers coming from only one board member. As the meeting concluded, a number of community members said they were left wondering whether the decision to close Washington School had already been effectively finalized.

In the days following the forum, a petition began circulating both digitally and on paper to keep the school building open. As of Tuesday, Nov. 18, the petition had gathered more than 200 online signatures along with four pages of handwritten signatures. While the reasons for signing vary, many participants share a similar question: How will this all work moving forward?

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 24 at 5 p.m. at Crookston High School.

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### Polk County Minnesota Employment Opportunities:

**Public Safety Telecommunicator:**  
 \$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:**  
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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

## Concordia students kidnap squirrels

Fluffy, pudgy, and arguably adorable, Richardson's ground squirrels are nevertheless considered an agricultural pest due to their nibbling and burrowing, and with the decline of tallgrass prairie, their range and population have shrunk significantly.

Through careful monitoring and a little scientific squirrelnapping, a group of Concordia College scientists are hoping to help.

"Richardson's ground squirrels are pretty misunderstood and persecuted," said Dr. Joe Whittaker, associate professor of biology and environmental and sustainability studies at Concordia.

Richardson's ground squirrels were listed as a species "of special concern" in 2013, meaning that they're either extremely uncommon in the state or have unique or highly specific habitat requirements and deserve careful monitoring, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

One of the historically largest groups of the squir-

rels on state land crashed mysteriously in 2022, despite being considered one of the last secure populations of them in Minnesota — and despite being protected.

The Concordia team began monitoring the remaining Richardson's ground squirrels of the Mentor Wildlife Management Area in 2024, as well as populations in Clay and Polk counties, conducting population estimates and studying individual squirrels' habitat use.

Monitoring continued in 2025, and, at the urging of the DNR, the biologists captured two squirrels and moved them to the Mentor WMA.

While squirrel abduction and relocation may sound like a drastic move, it has the potential to restore some genetic diversity to the squirrel population. That would allow the fluffy rodents to recover from the population bottleneck that left them less adaptable to future changes to their environment, and therefore, more vulnerable in general.

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# UMN Crookston doesn't renew Meseck's contract

The University of Minnesota Crookston Athletic Department announced Monday morning that Head Volleyball Coach Nick Meseck's contract has not been renewed, effective immediately.

Meseck just finished his fourth full season as head coach and was in his fifth year at Minnesota Crookston.

Minnesota Crookston recently closed out the 2025 season with a 6-22 record.

"We would like to thank Coach Meseck for his com-

mitment and service throughout his five years and wish him the best in his future endeavors," said Athletics Director Stephanie Helgeson.

A search for the next head coach will begin immediately.

# Huskies sweep the Golden Eagles

The University of Minnesota Crookston played their second ranked opponent in three matches on Friday, Nov. 14 at home against St. Cloud State. The Huskies proved why they are ranked so high, sweeping the Golden Eagles (11-25, 13-25, 16-25).

### Set One

Abigail Ernster (Fr., OH, La Crescent) would get the Golden Eagles on the board with a kill for a 1-0 lead.

The set would see the Huskies lead 5-2, but Emma Malek (Jr., MH, Plainfield, Ill.) would collect a kill to cut the lead to two.

From that point, it would be all Huskies, who would win the opening set by 14.

### Set Two

Set two would be all

Huskies, at least to start. SCSU would take a 7-0 lead, but two straight points from the home team would make it 7-2.

Minnesota Crookston would do a nice job to chip away and would eventually cut the lead to just two at 10-8, following a kill from Carizma Muth (R-So., OH, Randolph, Wis.).

Later in the set, the Golden Eagles would cut the lead to 18-13 on a Madison Carsten (Jr., OH, Wadena) kill.

That would be the last point for the Golden Eagles, who would fall in the set by 12.

### Set Three

With their backs against the wall, the Golden Eagles would jump out to a nice 7-3

lead, following a big duo block from Malek and Megan Schoenfelder (Jr., MH, Zumbrota).

SCSU would score five straight following that, but Muth would collect a kill as the Golden Eagles would regain a one-point advantage.

The Huskies would continue the trend of the first two sets and they would pull away for the sweep of the Golden Eagles.

### Individual Stats

Muth and Ernster each had nice nights, finishing with six kills apiece. Carsten finished with five kills and 10 digs, tied with Lauren Schnettler (R-Fr., DS, Brownville) for the team lead in digs on the night.

# Golden Eagle hockey ranks 13th in ACHA

The ACHA has officially published its first regional rankings of the season, with the Golden Eagles opening at 13th. This means that there are four WCHA teams ahead of the Golden Eagles: #2 University of St. Thomas, who the Golden Eagles split their season series with, #4 University of Minnesota, who the Golden Eagles will match up with in Minneapolis on Jan. 16 and 17, #7 Minnesota State University - Mankato, and #10 University of Wisconsin. The University of Jamestown is the only other WCHA team ranked, coming in at 16th.

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<p><b>2022 Chevy Silverado 4x4</b></p> <p>1500 LTZ Crew, 6.2 V8, Silver Ice Metallic, 46k ..... <b>\$43,790</b></p>	<p><b>2022 Chevy Silverado 4x4</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>2500 LTZ Crew, Duramax, Summit White, 41k ..... <b>\$54,990</b></p>	<p><b>2021 Chevy Silverado 4x4</b></p> <p>1500 RST Crew, 3.0 Duramax, Summit White, 91k ..... <b>\$34,590</b></p>
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