



CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



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Council reviews compensation study

by Anna Phalen
Correspondent

The Crookston City Council reviewed the ABDO Classification and Compensation Study at its meeting Monday, Dec. 15.

Michael Mooney of ABDO presented the results of the study, explaining that ABDO worked closely with the city to review the current state of job descriptions and compare Crookston's wages with those in similar communities.

The study followed a three-step process:

- Market Data Collection utilizing the 2025 League of Minnesota Cities Survey and a manual market survey
- Matching, where comparable job titles and summary descriptions were aligned with City of Crookston positions
- Analysis, comparing average minimum and maximum wages for each position

Positions were scored using four primary factors: Know-How, Problem Solving, Accountability, and Special Conditions, which included physical effort, hazard exposure, and sensory attention.

Market data was collected from Alexandria, Cloquet, Detroit Lakes, East Grand Forks, Fergus Falls, Hermantown, International Falls, Little Falls, Luverne, Park Rapids, Pipestone, Redwood Falls, Sauk Centre, Thief River Falls, Virginia, and Windom. Mooney noted that the search area was expanded to account for Crookston's role as a hub community surrounded by smaller towns.

The market analysis showed that union pay range minimums are approximately 6% below market minimums, while union

pay range maximums are approximately 13% below market maximums. Mooney emphasized that individual employee wages may fall anywhere within the current pay range, meaning minimum and maximum market comparisons do not necessarily reflect each employee's compensation compared to the market.

ABDO recommended a Step and Grade compensation model consisting of 23 grades and nine steps, with average minimum pay aligned to market minimums. The proposed model includes a 5.25% increase between grades and a 3.75% increase between steps. Both the current and proposed compensation systems were confirmed to be compliant with Minnesota Pay Equity requirements.

The estimated current annual payroll is \$1,624,000. Implementation

costs include:

- Phase 1 implementation, effective Jan. 1, 2026: \$32,000 (2%)
- Phase 2 – 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment, effective Jan. 1, 2026: \$64,000 (4%)

The combined annualized cost totals \$96,000, representing a 5.86% increase.

Council member Joseph Shostell asked whether years of service were considered when determining market value. Mooney responded that years in position were not factored into the market comparison; instead, the study focused on wage ranges among comparable communities. With no further questions, the presentation concluded.

Public hearing on Minnesota Department of Transportation project

A public hearing was held regarding municipal consent for Minnesota Department

of Transportation State Project 6002-76, presented by MnDOT Project Manager Matt Uppren and consultant Jake Nordick.

Uppren explained that municipal consent is required whenever a state project runs through a city. The project originated from a 2021 corridor study conducted jointly by MnDOT and the City of Crookston, which included a community panel.

The project corridor includes downtown portions of Main Street and Broadway and proposes reducing the roadway from three through lanes to two lanes, along with lighting and safety improvements. Two traffic signals on Broadway will be replaced, crosswalk striping refreshed, and various curb and turning radius improvements made to accommodate truck traffic while improving pedestrian safety.

Specific design elements include:

- Widened turning radius at Roberts Street and Broadway
 - Bike lane accommodations on the east side of Broadway and south side of Roberts
 - Improved turning radius at Roberts and Main
 - Bike lanes continuing between Fourth and Sixth streets
 - Sidewalk-based bike lane routing on the north side of Sixth Street
 - Elimination of dual westbound lanes at Roberts and Ash Street
 - Curb line adjustments near the Tri-Valley building and bridge tie-in
- Traffic signal evaluations showed insufficient volumes at several intersections. As a result, the Second Street

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Committee reviews housing development

by Anna Phalen
Correspondent

The Crookston Ways and Means Committee reviewed proposed housing development plans at its meeting Monday, Dec. 15.

Casey's property development presentation

The committee heard a presentation from Taylor Wyum regarding a proposed residential housing development previously referred to as the Casey's project, now being identified as Broadway Villas.

Wyum explained that the project would consist of six owner-occupied townhomes. The development has secured \$978,381.82 in grant funding to support construction. Homes would be sold to buyers meeting the 2025 income eligibility limit, defined as households earning at or below \$134,400 in gross annual income.

Wyum noted that the de-

veloper intends to pre-sell the townhomes if possible. Under the proposed structure, the Crookston Housing and Economic Development Authority would retain ownership of the land until each unit is sold to a homebuyer.

No formal action was taken, and the presentation was informational.

Farmer's Union Industries rail spur - Phase 2 discussion

The committee discussed a request from Farmer's Union Industries related to Phase 2 of the rail spur project, specifically addressing access and land use.

Rather than pursuing an easement, Farmer's Union Industries plans to request a land lease, estimated at \$3,500 per year. The proposed frontage road would run along Highway 75, with a northern road extension entering the industrial park

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The students of Our Savior's Lutheran School presented their Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 11. Students shared the story "From Everlasting to Everlasting: The Story of the Christmas Wreath." Through scripture, song, recita-

tions, the Advent wreath, crown of thorns, laurel wreath, and Christmas wreath, histories and connections to Christianity were explained. (Submitted)

Hedden named Tri-Valley Council CEO



Melody Hedden

Melody Hedden has been named the next chief executive officer of the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in Crookston. She began her new role Monday, Dec. 1.

Hedden has dedicated her career to the human services field for the past 26 years. After graduating from high school in small town Franklin, N.C., in 1994 she began working for the local Head Start program as a family service advocate. After 11 years of serving in that role, she was promoted to eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance specialist.

After three years in the role, while earning an associate degree in human services from Southwestern Community College, Hedden relocated her family to Crookston to accept a position with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council as its Head Start family and community services manager.

"This position provided me with the opportunity to share my vision for intentional and meaningful fam-

ily service delivery while I earned my bachelor's degree in human services from Walden University in Minneapolis," Hedden said.

After five years with the program, Hedden was promoted to assistant director of program services. During this time, she earned her master's degree in human services. She spent four years in this position before transitioning to Head Start director for Western Kentucky University.

"The director position has been great, but I missed being up north and quite honestly my co-workers at Tri-Valley," said Hedden. "I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as Tri-Valley Opportunity Council's chief executive officer and plan to continue the mission of ensuring services are intentional and meaningful. Personally, my family growing up was dependent on community action agencies to meet our basic needs. I was sensitive to the fact my parents were struggling and the burden that placed on them. As I began to have children of my own, those feelings resurfaced because I too struggled to provide basic needs for my children. I can recall the moment I decided the grips of poverty would not hold me down and I would break the cycle. I strategically studied, relocated and worked hard to ensure others were provided with opportunities to break generational poverty. I am thrilled about this new chapter of my life and am excited about the team I will be

working with."

Tri-Valley Interim CEO Corky Reynolds said, "Tri-Valley staff and all the individuals we serve should be excited Melody has assumed the CEO role. Melody brings years of experience and dedication to this leadership position. Melody will help ensure meaningful and appropriate opportunities will be provided to those in need. Melody's enthusiasm and commitment are contagious and uplifting."

The search for the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council's new leader was led by Pierson Henry Executive Search.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 74 counties in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

Deadlines change for next two editions

Due to the holidays, the advertising deadlines for the Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 editions of the Crookston Watch will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23 and Tuesday, Dec. 30, respectively.



Crookston American Legion Auxiliary Nels T. Wold Unit 20 honored local veterans by placing wreaths at the four sites the Crookston Veteran's Council honors on Memorial Day. Wreaths Across America is a national program that places wreaths on graves in national veteran's cemeteries. This year, those

wreaths were placed on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Gentilly Cemetery as well as the following Crookston locations - Oakdale Cemetery, Hafslo Cemetery and Veteran's Memorial. Crookston Unit 20 chose to place wreaths locally and placed them on Thursday, Dec. 11 due to the weather forecast. (Submitted)

Crookston man charged with stalking and domestic assault by strangulation



Andrew William Gregg

A Crookston man has been charged in Polk County District Court after he allegedly engaged in a pattern of stalking conduct and strangled a woman with whom he had been engaged in an on-again, off-again relationship.

Andrew William Gregg, 28, has been charged with felony pattern of stalking conduct, felony domestic assault by strangulation, misdemeanor domestic assault and two gross misdemeanor counts of interference with privacy. He was arrested. The complaint was filed Friday, Dec. 12, but the allegations stem from incidents spanning from about June 13 to Sept. 13. It was unclear from the complaint as to why it was first filed now.

According to the complaint, a Crookston police officer was dispatched to a home June 13. He encountered Gregg, who appeared to be under the influence of something and had been locked out of the home by the woman. Gregg said the woman had been suicidal in the past, and he was concerned she would harm herself. The woman said they had verbally argued and she asked him to leave her home several times. She was eventually able to lock him out,

but she wanted her key back. She said she wasn't suicidal and wasn't going to harm herself. Gregg initially said the key was inside the woman's home, but he eventually gave the key to the officer, who told him that the woman no longer wanted him at her home.

Later, the woman reported that Gregg had allegedly broken into her home June 26. However, the woman didn't report it at that time. She said he had knocked and called, but she wouldn't answer him. At about 10 to 11 p.m., she found him standing inside her home after he allegedly entered through an unlocked window. He told her he wouldn't have entered the home in such a way if he still had a key. She said he made her go outside to see how he had entered the home. She said a bicycle, a broken screen and scuff marks from the incident were still there.

Sept. 13 incident
On Oct. 12 and 13, the woman spoke with a detective, telling him about a Sept. 13 incident that occurred after Gregg was drinking alcohol. She also believed he had been using cocaine. He allegedly called her a derogatory name, slapped her in the face multiple times, pulled her hair and put his hands around her neck three times. On the third time, she was choked to the point that she was unable to breathe, felt dizzy and felt like she were going to pass out.

The woman allegedly said he also pulled clothing off of her body even though she told him to stop. She indicated he sexually assaulted her. She said he told her not to tell anyone and implied that she deserved what had

happened. (The complaint doesn't include any charges of criminal sexual conduct.)

The woman took photographs of her injuries that evening as well as from Sept. 14 through Sept. 16. She said she told several friends about it.

The woman provided the detective with six time-stamped photographs. They allegedly showed bruises along her jaw and right arm; bruises and swelling on her left collarbone area; redness and swelling on her cheeks; and redness along her neck area.

The detective also reviewed several text messages between Gregg and the woman. On Sept. 15, he allegedly asked her if her eyes hurt and if she felt better. He then texted that he knew she was trying to convince herself that he was a horrible person in order for her to move on. However, he said they both knew he loved her with everything he had. Gregg also offered to hold her and no one needed to know if he did. He also instructed her to keep her head and called her beautiful. Saying she was broken, the woman replied that she didn't know what to do, what to feel or who she was anymore. She also texted that she wished he had killed her that night.

The detective and a police officer went to the woman's home, where the detective allegedly observed a bent, dented screen on the ground; a propped-up bicycle; and shoe tread marks and scuff marks leading to the window.

On Oct. 14, the detective interviewed a man, who said the woman told him Sept. 15 that Gregg had allegedly hit, choked and sexually assaulted her as well as threw

her around.

The detective also interviewed a female, who said the woman told her that Gregg had allegedly choked and hit the woman on Sept. 27. The friend went to the woman's home and spoke with Gregg. He allegedly admitted hitting her. The friend recorded conversations with the couple. The detective reviewed a recording during which Gregg allegedly admitted touching and hitting the woman. He also said it killed him that he had engaged in such a manner and he could never be more sorry. In a second recording, Gregg allegedly noted his mind wasn't right that night. He said he never felt more betrayed and vowed never to engage in such a manner again. However, Gregg noted it didn't excuse his behavior as there was no excuse.

The detective interviewed another female friend, who said the woman had told her about three or four weeks earlier that Gregg had allegedly sexually assaulted the woman. The friend also saw bruising on the woman's face. The woman told her that Gregg had caused the bruising.

The detective interviewed a third friend, who said the woman allegedly told her that Gregg had slapped, choked and sexually assaulted the woman. The friend saw bruises on the woman's chin and clavicle. The friend believed Gregg was a "scary guy and very manipulative," according to the complaint.

The woman filed a petition for a harassment restraining order Oct. 15. At that time, under oath, she said "Gregg slapped, strangled and sexually assaulted her on Sept. 13."

The following day, the detective interviewed the woman again. She allegedly said Gregg recorded them having sexual intercourse several times, but she didn't provide consent to the recordings. The woman said she caught Gregg recording them one or two months earlier.

Search warrants

On Oct. 17, a search warrant was executed at Gregg's house, 112 Fourth Ave. S. in Crookston on allegations that he possessed and used cocaine; assaulted and harassed the woman; and possessed at least one firearm. The complaint indicated that the woman said she saw Gregg using cocaine more than 10 times and had last seen him snorting cocaine about a month earlier at his home. She said he had given her cocaine three to four times with the last time sometime after March 17.

Upon learning about the search warrant, Gregg told law enforcement about a gun located in a safe under a bed. During the execution of the search warrant, law enforcement allegedly found a Glock 17 9mm handgun and three loaded 9mm ammunition magazines in a gun safe under the bed. A Ruger 10-22 rifle and an ammunition magazine were also found under the bed. Three boxes of 9mm ammunition were also found, but it was unclear where they were found.

Three vials and a baggie were found in three areas of the home. All contained a white powdery residue. Field tests were conducted, and the residues allegedly tested positive for the presence of cocaine. A total of \$316 in cash was found next to one of the vials. On top of a kitchen cabinet, they found a plate with a rolled-

up bill.

After Gregg was arrested, the detective executed a search warrant for his phone. On Nov. 10, the detective noted his observations from the execution of the search warrant. On the phone, the detective allegedly observed two recordings of the couple having sex — on Aug. 30 and Sept. 1. On both of the recordings, he could see the woman and her breasts. On the second recording, the woman could be heard telling Gregg to turn off the recording.

The detective also allegedly observed a number of drug-related text messages July 28, Aug. 16, Sept. 13 and Oct. 10. Gregg had been engaged in separate conversations with two people. The messages referred to obtaining drugs, prices and amounts. (This complaint doesn't include any drug offenses.)

The detective also found a text message thread from June 26-27 regarding the couple breaking up. At one point, the woman allegedly said there was no coming back even though his words sounded nice. She texted she was scared of him.

On Dec. 2, the woman provided the detective with a recorded conversation. During the recording, Gregg allegedly said he would never hit her again, but she may not believe him.

City Hall closure

City Hall will close at noon Wednesday, Dec. 24 and be closed all day Thursday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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
Email: biblebaptist@midco.net
Sundays: 7:45 a.m. & 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 & Prayer Service

BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
40976 235th Street SW - Fisher, MN
www.fisherbyglan.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 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

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

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
Rev Michael Ozaki, pastor
Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship (live-streaming at crookstonfirstpres.org or on our Facebook page) Communion 1st Sunday
Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book study

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN
www.fisherbyglan.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
hellofreedomchurch.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)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastor Noah Thompson
Pastor John Merseith
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
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.hope4fertility.org
email: hope4fertility.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: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Check out website for further information
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
Church website: 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
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
10480 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
Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com
Phone: 218-281-3638
Pastor Curt Peterson
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship
You may worship via Facebook Live: 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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)
Church Office: 218-891-4581
Pastor Doug Thompson
Website: tlcstpaul.org
Email: 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.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHER (LCMS)
Church Office: 218-891-4581
Pastor Doug Thompson
Website: tlcstpaul.org
Email: 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
website: crookstonmethodist.com - view services here
email: wesleyumcrox@gmail.com
Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)

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THE CROOKSTON WATCH
 324 Main Avenue North
 P.O. Box 100
 Thief River Falls, MN 56701
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OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday
 8 am - 3 pm

Library to host "Noon" Year's Eve program

Children and their caregivers will get the New Year's Eve experience minus the late bedtime with activities at the Crookston Public Library. It will host a "Noon" Year's Eve party on Wednesday, Dec. 31, starting at 11 a.m.

The free program will include crafts and activities. A balloon drop will be held at noon. The program is geared for youth, but all ages are welcome to attend.

More information is available at larl.org/events.

Grants available to strengthen specialty crop sector

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant program. SCBG funds projects that will increase the competitiveness of Minnesota-grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Funding is made available through the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

This grant will prioritize projects that focus on:

- Supporting beginning farmers and first-time specialty crop producers
- Marketing and promotion to increase specialty crop sales
- Aggregation and distribution to increase access to/sales of specialty crops
- Preventing and managing pests and diseases affecting specialty crops

The MDA anticipates awarding approximately \$1.25 million using a competitive review process. Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000, with an estimated 12 to 15 grants to be issued, depending on final award amounts. Full grant details are available on the MDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant webpage. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.

Note: This is a federally funded program. Publishing the request for proposals does not commit the state to awarding any federal funds.

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DEATH NOTICES

Bernard Junior Elseth, 86

Crookston - Bernard Junior Elseth, 86, of Crookston, passed away on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

Bernard's family celebrated his life with a memorial service on Saturday December 6, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston.

Steven Neal Flateland, 71

Steven Neal Flateland, 71, of Crookston, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston.

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Employment Opportunities:

Public Safety Telecommunicator – Sheriff's Office:
 \$26.99 – \$34.20/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025.

Clerk Typist Cashier III – License Center
 \$20.18 - \$25.56/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025.

Clerk Typist Cashier IV – Finance Department:
 \$21.39 - \$27.09 / hr. Position closes on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 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 and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408 Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

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Family Based Service Provider – Social Services
 \$25.47 - \$32.26/hr. Position Closes on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025.

For a full job description and to complete an application, go to <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem/default.cfm>.

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Crookston City Council reviews compensation study/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) and Ash Street signal will be removed, while signals at Roberts and Main and Roberts and Broadway will be reinstalled.

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons will be installed near City Hall and the library to assist pedestrians crossing the roadway.

The project timeline is as follows:

- December 2025: Municipal consent
- February 2026: 60% plan submittal
- June 2026: Final plans completed
- December 2026: Project advertising and bidding
- May to October 2027: Construction

MnDOT representatives noted that business owners were shown the plans during a three-day outreach period. With no public

comments, the hearing was closed.

After the public hearing closed, the council approved a resolution granting municipal consent for the project, formally allowing the downtown sidewalk and roadway project to move forward. The resolution passed without additional discussion.

BDPI grant application

The council also approved a resolution authorizing submission of a Business Development Public Infrastructure grant application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The Crookston Industrial Park Infrastructure Expansion Project would construct roadway, water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater infrastructure to support approximately 73 acres of new industrial land and provide

access to a railroad spur scheduled for completion in spring 2026.

Contract with interim city administrator

The council approved an updated interim city administrator contract for Police Chief Darrin Selzler, effective Jan. 1, 2026. His previous contract was for the latter part of 2025.

Council reports

Council member Dylane asked whether pool-related questions would appear on an upcoming ballot; it was reported that the task is in progress.

Council Member Morgan Hibma reported that the Park Board met and that the pool will be closed through Monday, Jan. 5 due to life-guard shortages during the traveling holiday and for scheduled maintenance. She also noted that the Crook-

ston Area Community Fund donated winter gear to local schools and contributed food items to the Backpack Program that supplies food items for students during weekends and holiday breaks.

Shostell thanked Michelle Christopherson and Keenan Deevier for organizing the upcoming Crookston Connected event, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Crookston Inn.

Council member Clayton Briggs thanked the Water Department for assistance with needed repairs on a residential street.

Mayor Dale Stainbrook reported that pool attendance numbers are up, thanked the Street Department for their work, and wished the community a Merry Christmas.

Housing development/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) and continuing east.

The matter was discussed for direction and future consideration, with no formal action taken.

Housing Incentive Program discussion

Committee members reviewed the City of Crookston's Housing Incentive Program, which is currently set to expire Dec. 31.

The program offers incentives to individuals who purchase privately-owned lots within city limits. Incentives include:

- Two-year property tax abatement
- Free water hookup
- Free sewer hookup
- Two free months of water, sewer, and garbage service, to be used within six months of issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy
- Free swimming pool pass
- One \$50 Parks and Recreation certificate per

family

- Boulevard trees

The committee discussed the program's effectiveness and the pending expiration date but took no formal action during the meeting.

Discussion about search for city administrator

The committee also continued discussions regarding the search for a permanent city administrator. It was noted that the previous search did not yield any viable candidates.

Members discussed the possibility of using an outside hiring firm to assist with recruitment and emphasized the importance of setting up the next administrator for long-term success. Training options for the newly selected administrator were also discussed.

Interim City Administrator Darrin Selzler indicated he is willing to remain in the interim role until a suitable candidate is identified.

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Rural Reflections ...

Brighten up and quit arguing about temporary things



We have arrived at the time of the year when I typically give a Christmas pep talk. I normally have a pretty deep reserve to share my enthusiasm for Christmas. This year, I had to dig deep.

I have never seen more division between people than I do today. I'm sure our culture has gone through similar division in the past; however, it was prior to my memories. We are divided by our political ideas. There's nothing new about differing ideas; however, the lack of civility used to discuss those differences is something relatively new. It also leaves lasting scars due to the cruelty of the arguments.

Part of this problem is that everything is now political; many opinions are not based on verifiable fact but rather the opinions of whichever political party you favor. It's a lazy prac-

tice; you simply parrot the loudest speaker in your party instead of thinking for yourself. Instead of using our critical thinking to find the truth, we find someone on social media who mirrors our own biased ideas. These sources typically are not vetted and are mostly opinion and created for entertainment. They are not news and are created based on political viewpoint, not properly sourced fact. Programs that claim to be news are, unfortunately, not much better.

Here is the problem, our culture has begun to idolize our government. Communist governments work very hard to eliminate religion because they want their people to idolize them. We have freedom to practice our religions guaranteed in the Constitution. If we are Christians, we are to worship God above all else. However, when we idolize or worship our government — or anything else we humans create, we are worshipping ourselves above God. It is here that we find our greatest unhappiness.

There is no satisfaction to be found in the mirror. There is only conceit and ruin. The good things we

enjoy in life are given as a gift by God, not because we deserve them. At Christmas, we start the story of the greatest gift ever given to man, eternal life. This eternal life was ignited by the birth of Jesus and came to full light when he died for our sins. We cannot earn eternal life by following rules or regular church attendance. We can only accept eternal life and know God as master, father and savior. It is that gift we celebrate at this time of year.

So you want to brighten up this Christmas? Then quit admiring the stuff that separates you from God — namely your politics and your own ego. Quit arguing about things that are only temporary and be thankful for things that are eternal. We are at the threshold of the only pathway that leads to happiness, and you did not build it. You did not earn it. It does not belong to you; however, it is yours to use forever. Quit focusing on the flawed world we live in and rejoice at the perfect world we are promised. You have a reason to be joyful, go celebrate! Merry Christmas.

Crookston Connected Event to be held Jan. 29

Interested in learning more about the City of Crookston? Attend Crookston Connected on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., at the Crookston Inn and Convention Center.

The purpose for this event is to give Crookston residents an opportunity, outside normal business hours, to meet with city staff in an informal setting and learn more about Crookston and key projects. The Crookston Housing and Economic Development Authority and collaborating partners invite the public to stop by and participate in discussions

that connect the community while gaining an understanding about the community projects that involve all residents.

Projects and topics include, but are not limited to, the 2027 Highway 2 Corridor Reconstruction Project, Crookston's Comprehensive Plan, and Broadway Villa's Twin Home Housing Project. Have conversations with Crookston Mayor Dale Stainbrook and the rest of City Council, city department heads and city boards. This is an opportunity to have one-on-one conversations about the topics, proj-

ects and initiatives that are important to residents and the community as a whole.

This is a community collaborative that relies on public input. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and live music. The Tractor Beams will perform at 6:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority and collaborating partners.

For more information, go to www.crookston.mn.us/418/Crookston-Connected-Event.

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Girls Basketball Boll scores 1,000th point in Pirate loss

Crookston senior Chloe Boll scored her 1,000th career point in the first half of the Pirates' home girls basketball game against the Perham Yellowjackets on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Boll's milestone point came on a two-point field goal that briefly tied the game at 2-2. The Yellowjackets outscored the Pirates 50-15 over the remainder of the first half and went on to claim a 78-29 win in the match-up of Section 8AA teams.

Perham's Kaia Anderson led all scorers with 27 points. Boll was the only Pirate to reach double figures with 11 points.

Scoring

	1	2	T
Perham.....	52	26	78
Crookston.....	17	12	29

Perham - Kaia Anderson 27, Ashtyn Kunza 14, Quinn Hanson 8, Sophie Nelson 7, Lauren Gjerde 6, Addi Draeger 5, Nora Rosenthal 2, Regan Hemberger 2, Brynn Freeland 2, Claire Pilgrim 2, Olivia Philipps 2.

Crookston - Chloe Boll 11, Grace Boll 7, Halle Nicholas 6, Madi Bruggeman 2, Brooklyn Waldal 2, Morgan Boll 1.

Green Wave claim 75-30 win over Pirates

East Grand Forks started fast and never let up in a 75-30 win over Crookston in a Section 8AA girls basketball game Friday night (Dec. 12).

The Green Wave outscored the Pirates 41-12 in the opening half and continued to pull away in the second. Tatem Votava and Hayden Berg combined for 40 points to lead the Green Wave. Chloe Boll scored 14 to lead the Pirates.

Scoring

	1	2	T
East Grand Forks.....	41	34	75
Crookston.....	12	18	30

East Grand Forks - Tatem Votava 27, Hayden Berg 13, Lillie Thorvilson 10, Lane Hams 9, Jerzey Perkerewicz 8, Geena Jordheim 4, Kayla Carpenter 2, Kelsey Spilde 2.

Crookston - Chloe Boll 14, Madi Bruggeman 5, Brooklyn Waldal 4, Halle Nicholas 3, Grace Boll 2, Morgan Boll 1, Brynna Kopecky 1.



Crookston senior Chloe Boll scored her 1,000th career point during the first half of the Pirates' Thursday, Dec. 11 home basketball game against Perham. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

Girls Hockey Pirates beat Lakers in OT for third straight win

Jensen Stinar scored the game winning goal in overtime, as Adley Vigness buried a shot with 3:59 remaining to tie the game at four.

Vigness was credited with an assist on the game-winner. Also picking up assists for the Pirates were Stinar (2) and Lauren Tull. Madilyn Abrams recorded 18 saves to pick up the win for the Pirates, which was the third straight for the Pirates.

Scoring

	1	2	3	OT	T
Crookston.....	1	2	1	1	5
Detroit Lakes.....	0	2	2	0	4

First period - Crookston, Emma LaPlante (power play) (Jensen Stinar) 11:36.

Second period - Crookston, Emma LaPlante (unassisted) 0:42; Detroit Lakes, Aurora Jabas (unassisted) 3:06; Crookston, Emma LaPlante (Jensen Stinar) 8:27; Detroit Lakes, Aurora Jabas (unassisted) 16:11.

Third period - Detroit Lakes, Hadley Songstad (power play) (Josie Stattelmann) 5:34; Detroit Lakes, Aurora Jabas (unassisted) 12:38; Crookston, Adley Vigness (Lauren Tull) 13:01.

Overtime - Crookston, Jensen Stinar (Adley Vigness) 4:26.

Shots - Crookston 16-6-12-3-37; Detroit Lakes 1-9-11-1-22.

Power plays - Crookston 1-for-1; Detroit Lakes 1-for-1.

Penalties - Crookston 1 (2 minutes); Detroit Lakes 1 (2 minutes).

Goalie saves - Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 18; Detroit Lakes, Taylin Anderson 32.

No. 6 Bemidji skates to 9-2 win over Crookston

Bemidji scored six goals in the opening period and never looked back in a 9-2 win over Crookston in a girls hockey game Tuesday night at the Crookston Sports Center.

Aubrey Bartrum and Adley Vigness scored goals for the Pirates, with Shyuh Burnette collecting the lone assist.

The 9-2 loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Pirates. The Lumberjacks, who are currently ranked sixth in Class AA, im-

proved to 8-1. The Pirates fell to 4-8.

Scoring

	1	2	3	T
Bemidji.....	6	1	2	9
Crookston.....	1	1	0	2

First period - Bemidji, Ella Mae Swanberg (27 Millie Knott, Bailey Rupp) 2:59; Bemidji, Bergen Bakke (Callie Malkowski, Megan Berg) 4:34; Bemidji, Bailey Rupp (Mattie George) 5:39; Bemidji, Bailey Rupp (Millie Knott) 6:28; Crookston, Aubrey Bartrum (Shyuh Burnette) 10:42; Bemidji, Bailey Rupp (Mattie George) 15:17; Bemidji, Bergen Bakke (Millie Knott, Ella Mae Swanberg) 16:50.

Second period - Crookston,

Adley Vigness (power play) 8:29; Bemidji, Megan Berg (power play) (Ella Mae Swanberg, Naomi Johnson) 14:28.

Third period - Bemidji, Bailey Rupp (even strength) (Millie Knott, Mali McLean) 5:07; Bemidji, Naomi Johnson (short handed) (Bailey Rupp, Millie Knott) 14:31.

Shots - Bemidji 14-10-8 - 32; Crookston 4-6-4 - 14.

Power plays - Bemidji 1/3; Crookston 1/3.

Penalties - Bemidji 4 (8 minutes); Crookston 3 (6 minutes).

Goalie saves - Bemidji, Lily Lauer 11; Libby Brown 1; Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 23.

Crookston boys skate to home win

The Crookston boys hockey team remained unbeaten and won for the fifth time in six games to start the 2025-26 season with a 4-2 home win over the Mayville/Port (ND) Ice Dawgs Friday (Dec. 12) at the Crookston Ice Arena.

The Ice Dawgs led early following a goal by Liam Marquardt 4:35 into the first period.

The Pirates evened things up four minutes later with the first of two goals by Garrett Fischer with assists by Jay Reese and Greyson Ecker.

The Pirates took the lead for good with 4:46 remaining in the opening period with Gavin Aakhus scoring and assist by Liam Larson.

Following a scoreless second frame, the Pirates added to their lead with a power play goal by Greyson Ecker with 5:46 remaining in the game. Reese and Fischer were credited with assists on the goal.

Fischer scored his second goal and third point of the night with 1:18 remaining to provide additional breathing room for the Pirates. Ecker and Reese were credited with assists on the play.

The Ice Dawgs scored the final goal of the night, with Wyatt Heskin finding the net on a power play with 23 seconds remaining.

Teegyn Johnson saved 24 shots while picking up the win for the Pirates.

Scoring

	1	2	3	T
Mayville/Portland.....	1	0	1	2
Crookston.....	2	0	2	4

First period - Mayville/Portland (ND), Liam Marquardt (Easton Hanson, Carter Anderson) 4:35; Crookston, Garrett Fischer (Jay Reese, Greyson Ecker) 8:40; Crookston, Gavin Aakhus (Liam Larson) 12:14.

Second period - No Score

Third period - Crookston, Greyson Ecker (power play) (Jay Reese, Garrett Fischer) 11:14; Crookston, Garrett Fischer (Greyson Ecker, Jay Reese) 15:42; Mayville/Portland (ND), Wyatt Heskin (power play) (Brayden Caron) 16:37.

Shots - Mayville/Portland (ND) 10-7-9 - 26; Crookston 8-17-14 - 39.

Power plays - Mayville/Portland (ND) 1-for-2; Crookston 1-for-3.

Penalties - Mayville/Portland (ND) 4 (8 minutes); Crookston 3 (6 minutes).

Goalie saves - Mayville/Portland, Jack Mattson 35; Crookston, Teegyn Johnson 24.

Pirates fall to Rams on senior night

The Crookston girls basketball team honored seniors Chloe Boll and Halle Nicholas prior to Tuesday's game against unbeaten Roseau. The Pirates played what was arguably their best game of the season, leading the Rams 30-17 at the half, before falling short of the upset in a 61-53 loss.

The Pirates had big nights from Boll, 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Brooklyn Waldal, who finished with 14 points.

Scoring

	1	2	T
Roseau.....	17	44	61
Crookston.....	30	23	53

Roseau - Brooklyn Hulst 12, Aliviah Mather 7, Anna Ulvin 18, Audrey Hayden 24.

Crookston - Brooklyn Waldal 14, Chloe Boll 18, Halle Nicholas 9, Madi Bruggeman 6, Grace Boll 6.



Crookston junior Aubrey Bartrum celebrates after putting the Pirates on the board in the first period of Tuesday's loss to Bemidji. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

2025-26 Crookston Pirates

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Mady Knutson
Current Sport: Girls Soccer
Position: Defense
Favorite Subject: History
Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings
Favorite Food: Tacos from Red Pepper
Favorite Movie/TV show: 10 Things I Hate About You
Career Highlight/favorite memory: Scoring my first varsity goal in the playoffs.
Other Sports/Activities: Dance
Hobbies outside of athletics: Shopping and getting fun drinks with my friends.
Plans After High School: Attend South Dakota State University and major in radiology.

Nashelle Tellez Vasquez
Current Sport: Girls Soccer
Position: Defense
Favorite Subject: English and Music
Favorite Sports Team: Inter Miami (soccer)
Favorite Food: Pasta
Favorite Movie/TV show: Monte Carlo
Career Highlight/favorite memory: Playing a game called World Cup
Other Sports/Activities: Leo Club, Theater: one and three-Act, FFA, Valley Fiddlers and Pop Strings, marching/pep band, speech, participated in Miss Crookston
Hobbies outside of athletics: Drawing, playing clarinet and violin
Plans After High School: Go to college and major in political science.



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Arriaga, Hlucny and Pierson win titles at Rodd Olson Invitational

Crookston wrestlers Mauricio Arriaga, Gavyn Hlucny and Emma Pierson won championships at the Rodd Olson Invitational Saturday at Crookston High School.

Arriaga won the boys championship at 107 pounds. His day included a win by fall over Ty Isaacs of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley/Nevis, a 17-0 win by technical fall over Oakley Kern of New York Mills, and a 14-3 major decision win over Emmytt Ketterling of Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton.

Hlucny was dominant in his first two bouts Saturday, pinning Benjamin Thureen of DGF in the quarterfinals and Cooper Ackerman of Park Rapids Area in the semifinals. The championship match was a different story, however, with Hlucny taking the championship with a 1-0 win over Carson Kozojed of Hillsboro/Central Valley.

Pierson was one of three Crookston girls competing Saturday and she was the Pirate's lone girls champion, winning the 155-pound weight class. Pierson beat Sophia Betz-Hilliard of Larimore by 10-1 major decision

in the opening round of the round-robin, and clinched the championship with a win by fall in 26 seconds over Skaura Thorn of Larimore in round number three.

Also placing for the Pirate boys wrestling team were Gabriel Perala, fifth at 127; Jose Arriaga, fifth at 160; Jaron Knutson, fourth at 172; and Lucas Perala, fifth at 172.

Also placing on the girls varsity team were Aaliyah Anchondo, fourth at 142; and Matalie Perala, fourth at 130-136.

Varsity Boys

Team Scores - 1. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 194.5; 2. Mahnomen-Waubun 168.5; 3. New York Mills 134; 4. United Clay Becker 130.5; 5. Walker-Hackensack-Akeley/Nevis 122.5; 6. Park Rapids Area 101.5; 7. Crookston 70.5; 8. Hillsboro/Central Valley 47.5; 9. Larimore 15.

107 - Mauricio Arriaga, 3-0, first place. Quarters: Mauricio Arriaga (8-0) So., CROO over Ty Isaacs (0-2) 8th, WHAN (F 0:38); Semis: Mauricio Arriaga (8-0) So., CROO over Oakley Kern (3-1) 8th, NYM (TF 17-0 (4:10)); 1st Place Match: Mauricio Arriaga (8-0) So., CROO over Emmytt Ketterling (2-1) 8th, DGF (MD 14-3).

127 - Gabriel Perala, 0-2, fifth place. Quarters: Wyatt Helmbrecht (2-6) So., NYM over Gabriel Perala (4-4) So., CROO (F 1:52); Cons. Sub-Semis: Gabriel Perala (4-4) So., CROO over Bye; Cons. Semis: Eli Pazdernik (5-3) 7th, MAWA over

Gabriel Perala (4-4) So., CROO (TF 18-1 (4:17)); Bout - 5th Place Match: Gabriel Perala (4-4) So., CROO over Bye.

152 - Gavyn Hlucny, 3-0, first place. Quarters: Gavyn Hlucny (8-0) Sr., CROO over Benjamin Thureen (1-3) Sr., DGF (F 3:53); Semis: Gavyn Hlucny (8-0) Sr., CROO over Cooper Ackerman (2-2) Sr., PRA (F 1:35); 1st Place Match: Gavyn Hlucny (8-0) Sr., CROO over Carson Kozojed (6-2) Sr., HCV (Dec 1-0).

160 - Jose Arriaga, 1-2, 5th place. Quarters: Zander Deutsch (3-0) Jr., DGF over Jose Arriaga (5-3) Sr., CROO (TF 19-4 (4:50)); Bout - Cons. Sub-Semis: Jose Arriaga (5-3) Sr., CROO over Bye; Cons. Semis: Manny Johnson (7-2) Sr., MAWA over Jose Arriaga (5-3) Sr., CROO (F 3:29); Mat 3 - Bout - 5th Place Match: Jose Arriaga (5-3) Sr., CROO over Cade Mueller (3-6) Jr., HCV (Dec 7-4).

172 - Jaron Knutson, 2-2, fourth place. Quarters: Jaron Knutson (6-3) So., CROO over Avery Jones (0-8) Sr., UCBB (F 0:32); Semis: Caden Larson (6-1) Jr., DGF over Jaron Knutson (6-3) So., CROO (F 3:37); Cons. Semis: Jaron Knutson (6-3) So., CROO over Lucas Perala (1-2) Sr., CROO (TB 5-3); 3rd Place Match: Cade Walz (6-2) So., MAWA over Jaron Knutson (6-3) So., CROO (Dec 9-2).

172 - Lucas Perala, 1-2, fifth place. Quarters: Corbin Schiller (7-2) Sr., PRA over Lucas Perala (1-2) Sr., CROO (F 5:37); Cons. Sub-Semis: Lucas Perala (1-2) Sr., CROO over Bye; Cons. Semis: Jaron Knutson (6-3) So., CROO over Lucas Perala (1-2) Sr., CROO (TB 5-3); Mat 3 - Bout - 5th Place Match: Lucas Perala (1-2) Sr., CROO over Jonathan (JD) Knox (1-3) Sr., WHAN (F 1:33).

Varsity Girls

130-136 - Natalie Perala, 0-3, fourth place. Champ. Round 1: Kymbree Green (2-6) 7th, LARI over Natalie Perala (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 2:33); Champ. Round 2: Keanna Merkens (3-3) Sr., UCBB over Natalie Perala (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 0:43); Champ. Round 3: Johanna Lang (5-5) 7th, LARI over Natalie Perala (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 0:32).

142 - Aaliyah Anchondo, 0-3, fourth place. Champ. Round 1: Stella Fortier (1-2) Fr., DGF over Aaliyah Anchondo (0-3) 7th, CROO (F 2:27); Round 2: Haley Manners (3-1) Fr., PRA over Aaliyah Anchondo (0-3) 7th, CROO (F 0:25); Champ. Round 3: Aubrey Walz (2-1) 7th, UCBB over Aaliyah Anchondo (0-3) 7th, CROO (F 0:24).

155 - Emma Pierson, 2-0, first place. Champ. Round 1: Emma Pierson (2-0) Fr., CROO over Sophia Betz-Hilliard (6-4) Fr., LARI (MD 10-1); Champ. Round 2: Emma Pierson (2-0) Fr., CROO over Sakura Thorn (1-8) Fr., LARI (F 0:26).

Junior Varsity Boys

Kolton Bahrenfuss, 2-1, 3rd place. Quarters: Kolton Bahrenfuss (2-1) So., CROO over Bye; Semis:

Jason Donarski-Borg (2-1) So., PRA over Kolton Bahrenfuss (2-1) So., CROO (F 1:21); Cons. Semis: Kolton Bahrenfuss (2-1) So., CROO over Dominic Flores (1-2) 7th, WHAN (F 0:48); 3rd Place Match: Kolton Bahrenfuss (2-1) So., CROO over Juan Emmanuel Patlani Sanchez (0-2) 8th, UCBB (F 0:31).

Jose Contreras, 0-2, 5th place. Bout - Quarters: Jose Contreras (1-2) 8th, CROO over Bye; Semis: Vernon Rude (3-0) Fr., DGF over Jose Contreras (1-2) 8th, CROO (F 2:16); Cons. Semis: Oakley Walz (2-2) So., UCBB over Jose Contreras (1-2) 8th, CROO (F 2:31); 5th Place Match: Jose Contreras (1-2) 8th, CROO over Bye.

Eli Marsyla, 0-3, 6th place. Quarters: Eli Marsyla (0-3) Fr., CROO over Bye; Semis: Ryder Rood (2-1) So., UCBB over Eli Marsyla (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 1:14); Cons. Semis: Don Turner (3-1) So., MAWA over Eli Marsyla (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 0:16); 5th Place Match: Brandon Vaughn (1-2) 8th, HCV over Eli Marsyla (0-3) Fr., CROO (F 1:13).

Jack Odegaard, 2-0, first place. Champ. Round 2: Jack Odegaard (2-

0) Jr., CROO over Landon Beard (0-2) Fr., WHAN (F 1:09); Champ. Round 3: Jack Odegaard (2-0) Jr., CROO over Raymond Suarez (1-1) Fr., CROO (F 0:37).

Mico Roche, 0-3, 6th place. Mat 3 - Bout - Quarters: Ben Nelson (3-0) So., HCV over Mico Roche (0-3) Jr., CROO (FF); Bout - Cons. Sub-Semis: Mico Roche (0-3) Jr., CROO over Bye; Mat 3 - Bout - Cons. Semis: Jack Short (1-2) So., HCV over Mico Roche (0-3) Jr., CROO (FF); Mat 3 - Bout - 5th Place Match: Jamie Sharp (0-3) Fr., UCBB vs. Mico Roche (0-3) Jr., CROO (DFF).

Raymond Suarez, 1-1, second place. Champ. Round 1: Raymond Suarez (1-1) Fr., CROO over Landon Beard (0-2) Fr., WHAN (F 1:21); Champ. Round 3: Jack Odegaard (2-0) Jr., CROO over Raymond Suarez (1-1) Fr., CROO (F 0:37).

Junior High

Jackson Haaland, 0-2, 3rd place. Champ. Round 1: Liam Nabben (4-4) 7th, LARI over Jackson Haaland (0-2) 7th, CROO (F 2:41); Champ. Round 3: Logan Burger (2-0) 7th, HCV over Jackson Haaland (0-2) 7th, CROO (F 0:46).



Gavyn Hlucny runs an arm bar against Benjamin Thureen of Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton during the first round of the Rodd Olson Invitational held Saturday, Dec. 13 at Crookston High School. Hlucny and Mauricio Arriaga won championships for the Crookston boys wrestling team. Emma Pierson also won a championship for the Pirates competing in the girls varsity tournament. (Photo by Isaac Telle)

Falcons pull away for 73-37 win over Pirates

The Fertile-Beltrami trio of Drew Gullickson, Preston Hanson and Brady Bjerk combined for 54 of the Falcons' 73 points in a 73-37 win over Crookston Friday, Dec. 12 at Fertile-Beltrami High School.

The Pirates played with the Falcons for most of the opening half but trailed 39-20 at the break. The Falcons

improved to 2-0 with the win, while the Pirates dropped to 0-3 with the loss.

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston	20	17	37
Fertile-Beltrami	39	34	73
Crookston - Beau Smith	11,		

Nolan Johnson 9, Carter Fee 5, Reggie Winjum 4, Gunner Groven 4, Nolan Cassavant 4.

Fertile-Beltrami - Drew Gullickson 24, Preston Hanson 15, Brady Bjerk 15, Steven Sather 8, Gage Henrikson 4, Connor Haaven 3, Easton Fredericks 2, Bryer Strem 1, Griffin Roragen 1.

Pirates drop heart-breaker to Gators

Badger/Greenbush-Middle River used a last-second bucket by Payton Gust to claim a 53-51 boys basketball win over Crookston Monday night at Greenbush-Middle River High School.

The Pirates led the back-and-forth battle 30-25 at the break. Crookston senior Reggie Winjum led all scorers with 26 points. Will Foss and Adrian Nelson combined to score 27 points to lead the Gators.

BGMR improved to 2-4 with the win, while Crookston fell to 0-4 with the loss.

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston	25	28	53
Crookston - Beau Smith	3,		
Nolan Johnson 2, Carter Fee 9, Reggie Winjum 26, Gunner Groven 3, Zachariah Ali 8.			

BGMR - Will Foss 14, Adrian Nelson 13, Chase Lorenson 9, Austin Przekwas 9, Payton Gust 6, Levi Wahl 2.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		Division of School Finance 400 NE Stinson Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55413		District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026				ED-00110-48	
General Information: Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.									
District Name:		Crookston Public Schools			District Number:		0593		
Fund	FY 2025 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2025 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2025 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2025 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2026 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2026 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2026 Projected Fund Balances		
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 2,475,229	\$ 1,370,862	\$ 1,163,698	\$ 2,682,394	\$ 1,166,182	\$ 1,144,437	\$ 2,704,138		
General Fund/Other	\$ 2,165,850	\$ 18,724,984	\$ 18,251,552	\$ 2,639,282	\$ 18,245,306	\$ 18,201,124	\$ 2,683,464		
Food Service Fund	\$ 449,870	\$ 1,095,297	\$ 1,124,278	\$ 420,889	\$ 1,171,750	\$ 1,152,632	\$ 440,007		
Community Service Fund	\$ (62,837)	\$ 788,280	\$ 725,443	\$ (0)	\$ 428,972	\$ 682,088	\$ (253,116)		
Building Construction Fund	\$ 3,507,142	\$ 1,157,526	\$ 4,664,668	\$ (0)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)		
Debt Service Fund	\$ 359,854	\$ 5,972,984	\$ 6,045,395	\$ 287,443	\$ 1,731,596	\$ 1,712,050	\$ 306,990		
Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Internal Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Total - All Funds	\$ 8,895,108	\$ 29,109,933	\$ 31,975,034	\$ 6,030,008	\$ 22,743,806	\$ 22,892,332	\$ 5,881,482		
Long-Term Debt				Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81					
Outstanding July 1, 2024	\$ 16,133,595	Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2025			\$0				
Plus: New Issues	\$ 5,435,623								
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 5,521,793								
Outstanding June 30, 2025	\$ 16,047,425								
Short-Term Debt				Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2025					
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$ -	Total Operating Expenditures			\$ 20,823,529.14				
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$ -	FY 2025 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM			1,123.40				
				FY 2025 Operating Cost per ADM					\$ 18,536.17
<i>The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.</i>									
Comments:									
<small>* Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)</small>									