



CROOKSTON WATCH

"NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S REGIONAL NEWSPAPER"



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Callen James Goering has the distinction of being RiverView Health's first baby born in 2026. He was born Friday, Jan. 9 at 6:58 a.m. via a planned cesarean section. (Submitted)

Callen James Goering is RiverView Health's first baby of 2026

Callen James Goering is off to a milestone-filled beginning to life.

Born Friday, Jan. 9, at 6:58 a.m., Callen is the first child of Hailey Seaver and Keaton Goering of Grand Forks. He is also the first grandchild on both sides of the family, welcomed by grandparents Derick and Amy Seaver and Josh and Heather Bruley, all of Crookston, and Troy and Jen Goering of Detroit Lakes. Adding to the list of firsts, Callen holds the title of RiverView Health's first baby born in 2026.

Originally from Crookston, the couple did not expect to welcome the first baby of the year as Callen was not due until Jan. 16. However, weighing in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces and

measuring 20.5 inches long, he was ready to make his debut via a planned cesarean section performed by Dr. Kari Wessman.

"As a first-time mom, I thought everything went very smoothly," said Hailey. "The nursing staff, doctors and everyone else who cared for us were exceptional. A huge thanks to Dawn (Johnston) and Dr. Wessman for such a great experience throughout pregnancy and always being there to answer all of my questions."

As a RiverView baby, Callen joins several special family members who were also born at RiverView, including grandparents Amy, Heather and Josh. His family also shares a deep-rooted connection to RiverView Health. Hailey, a radiologic

technologist in Mayville, N.D., completed a student rotation in lab and radiology at RiverView. Grandma Amy has worked at RiverView for 30 years and currently serves as director of clinics. His great-grandmother, Joan Morlan, dedicated 47 years to RiverView as a nurse before retiring a few years ago, and his great-great-grandmother, Pat Romuld, who passed away in 1981, also worked as a nurse at Bethesda/RiverView for many years before retiring.

With such a strong family legacy of patient care, it's no surprise Hailey values quality healthcare. "I absolutely would recommend RiverView to expecting couples," she said. "My care team all the way through, in all aspects, was amazing."



RiverView Health welcomed its first baby of 2026 on Friday, Jan. 9. Callen James Goering is the son of Hailey Seaver and Keaton Goering of Grand Forks, N.D. Callen's family has a long history with RiverView Health. (Submitted)

Project proposals sought for environment and natural resources funding

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources has issued its 2027 request for proposals for funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Approximately \$121 million from the lottery-generated fund is available for projects that aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

The LCCMR is requesting proposals to address funding priorities that stem from the LCCMR strategic plan for funding from the ENRTF. Anyone with a project idea consistent with these priorities may submit a proposal. Priorities fall within the following categories:

- A. Resiliency
- B. Water
- C. Education and Outdoor Recreation
- D. Fish and Wildlife
- E. Energy
- F. Land
- G. Small Projects

The release of this request for proposals begins the competitive process through which the LCCMR selects projects to recommend to the Minnesota Leg-

islature for funding from the ENRTF. Proposals responding to the 2027 request for proposals are due by Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. From March through July 2026, the LCCMR will consider proposals received and make a final selection of projects to include in its recommendations to the Legislature for the 2027 session. Funds for approved projects are available July 1, 2027.

New applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal. Lobbying or professional grant-writing experience is not necessary for success. LCCMR staff are available on a first-come-first-serve basis as time permits to review proposals for clarity, completeness, and potential eligibility issues. New applicants will be prioritized for these reviews. For instructions on arranging a review and for more information on the 2027 request for proposals, visit the 2027 Proposal and Funding Process page on the LCCMR website (www.lccmr.mn.gov/funding_process/process_2027.html).

The ENRTF Fund is a permanent dedicated fund

in the Minnesota state treasury that was established by 77% voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1988. The amendment directs 40% of the net proceeds of the Minnesota State Lottery into the Trust Fund through the year 2050. Since 1991, approximately \$1.1 billion from the ENRTF has been spent on over 1,700 projects that protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources in every county of the state.

The LCCMR is made up of five state senators, five state representatives and seven citizen members. The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since then, approximately \$1.5 billion has been appropriated to over 2,600 projects recommended to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

Crookston Council and Ways & Means meetings set

The Crookston City Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet immediately following the council meeting at the same loca-

tion. Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the council chambers.

To watch the council and/or Ways and Means meetings live, visit the city's

YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel.

All notices may also be found online at www.crookston.mn.us.

NAMI Minnesota to host program for caregivers

Caregivers supporting children and teens living with a mental illness often carry an invisible burden. Parents, family members, educators and youth-serving professionals frequently describe a constant state of worry, exhaustion and self-doubt as they try to meet the complex needs of youth. While the focus is naturally on the child, NAMI Minnesota (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) emphasizes that caregiver well-being is not optional — it is essential.

Greta Kjos, who has been a caregiver for a daughter with a mental illness, works closely with families across Minnesota. "Caregivers often put themselves last, believing that taking care of their own needs is selfish," said Kjos, director of children's programs at NAMI Minnesota. "But we see every day that when care-

givers receive support, education, and permission to care for themselves, they are better equipped to support their children. Caregiver well-being directly impacts youth outcomes."

Caregivers of youth with mental illnesses face significantly higher risks of burnout, compassion fatigue, anxiety, and depression. When caregivers are overwhelmed or depleted, it becomes harder to make clear decisions, maintain patience, and offer the steady presence young people need most.

Self-compassion — the practice of responding to personal stress and suffering with kindness rather than self-criticism — is increasingly recognized as a powerful, evidence-based tool for sustaining



Nature's artistry has been on display quite frequently over the past few weeks as rime ice has coated trees. Here, rime ice coated trees Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Greenwood Trails in

Thief River Falls. Freezing fog led to the formation of the rime ice.

Man charged with possessing child sexual abuse material



Michael Anthony Arpa

A Crookston man has been charged in Polk County District Court after he allegedly possessed two videos and two still images of child

sexual abuse material.

Michael Anthony Arpa, 37, has been charged with three felony counts of possession of child sexual abuse material; minor under 14 (separate work).

According to the complaint, the charges stemmed from a Nov. 13 notification to a Crookston Police Department detective regarding an Internet Crimes Against Children CyberTip from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The tip pertained to a Kik social media account, which had been flagged as uploading child sexual assault materials. A search warrant was later executed for information pertaining to the account.

On Dec. 2, a Polk County sheriff's investigator received the results from the search warrant. MediaLab, the parent company of Kik, provided four media files from July 4 through July 9 that allegedly contained child sexual assault materials. The materials included a video of a prepubescent girl's vaginal area engaged in sexual intercourse with a man; a video of a girl around 5 years old, who wasn't wearing underwear, performing oral sex on a man; a still image of a nude girl about 10 to 12 years old; and another still image of the same 10- to 12-year-old, who was topless. The third charge against Arpa pertains to the two still images.

The detective allegedly tied Arpa to the Internet Protocol address used by the Kik account. MediaLab had also provided several photos that had been associated with the account. The selfies depicted Arpa.

On Jan. 7, a Crookston police officer conducted a traffic stop on Arpa's vehicle. Arpa was then taken to the police department. During a statement to a detective, Arpa allegedly said he used Kik "and had been to rooms on Kik that were 'not good.'" Arpa nodded his head when told that law enforcement was aware that he had videos or images depicting a child engaged in sexual acts or exposed intimate parts," according to the complaint.

Program for caregivers/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) caregivers over the long term. Research shows that self-compassion can reduce stress, lower burnout, and improve emotional resilience, particularly for people in high-responsibility caregiving roles.

To help support parents, caregivers, and professionals, NAMI Minnesota is offering a free virtual workshop, "Self-Compassion for Caregivers: Supporting Yourself While Supporting Youth with Mental Health Challenges," on Monday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 7 p.m. The one-hour session will introduce participants to practical, research-backed self-compassion tools designed for real-life caregiving situations — whether in moments of crisis or in the quiet exhaustion that often follows.

The workshop will be led by Amy Noelle, whose work focuses on helping people reduce burnout and build sustainable resilience through accessible, real-world practices.

This class is part of NAMI Minnesota's SuperWeek, a broader week of free educational offerings focused on mental health, advocacy, and support. More information is available at namimn.org.

NAMI Minnesota encourages caregivers to remember caring for themselves is not a distraction from caring for young people. It is one of the most important ways to sustain hope, connection, and practical support. "Because caregivers matter, too — and the young people in their lives need them to believe that."

New campaign highlights free tobacco cessation resources

Quit Partner, the free commercial tobacco cessation program from the Minnesota Department of Health, encouraged Minnesotans to keep quitting commercial tobacco as the state marked the third annual "Minnesota Quitter's Day" on Friday, Jan. 9.

Gov. Tim Walz proclaimed Jan. 9 as "Minnesota Quitter's Day," urging Minnesotans to eliminate the stigma associated with making multiple attempts to quit. "Quitter's Day" occurs on the second

Friday in January, when most people have already given up on their New Year's resolution.

"An unsuccessful quit attempt is not a failure, it's just one step in the quitting process," said Mike Sheldon, commercial tobacco cessation expert at MDH. "Most people make several attempts before they quit for good. What's most important is staying engaged and reaching for the help that's available."

Quit Partner has launched a new campaign, "Easier Said Than Done," recognizing the challenges of quitting. Most people make eight to 10 quit attempts before quitting permanently. However, with Quit Partner's free services, Minnesotans are twice as likely to successfully quit.

Quit Partner enrollees can speak to trained coaches who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to share tips, send reminders and offer encouragement to help people stay on track with their quit. The program also offers free quit medications used as nicotine replacement therapy, including patches, gum and lozenges.

"Quitting is hard to do alone, so it's good to have a partner to help you get it done," said Sheldon. "Quit Partner equips people with a variety of tools, so they can quit their way. Our coaches help Minnesotans create a customized plan that works for them to keep quitting long term."

Most commercial tobacco users want to quit, but only 3% quit successfully without

professional help. Many Minnesotans seek that support this time of year. Sign-ups for Quit Partner's resources increase by about 33% every January, and since the previous "Minnesota Quitter's Day" a year ago in 2025, more than 5,000 Minnesotans enrolled for free support.

Quit Partner also has special programs designed for people living with mental illnesses or substance use disorder, American Indian communities, pregnant and postpartum people and teens age 13-17. Quit Partner's support and services are free for all Minnesota residents regardless of insurance status.

For more information about Quit Partner, visit quitpartnermn.com.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of the Crookston Watch, the location for an upcoming blood drive was inaccurate. It should have read that a blood drive will be held

Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 1:30 to 6 p.m., and Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Vitalant provided the wrong location.

Fire escape planning tips

Experts estimate someone has as little as two minutes to safely escape their home once a smoke alarm sounds. The Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office provides the following tips and information to help you and your family create a fire escape plan for your home:

- Designate a safe meeting place outside your home everyone can get to after a fire. Make sure everyone in your family understands where to go.
- Use graph paper to

draw a floor plan of your home and show two ways out of each room.

- Make sure each family member is aware of two ways out of each room.
- Practice your family escape plan twice each year.
- Practice at different times of the day to make sure people know what to do during nighttime hours.
- Walk through your home periodically and inspect all exits and escape routes.

City Hall to be closed Monday

City Hall will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. 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

**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

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

**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

**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

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

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

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

FREEDOM CHURCH
Pastor Joel Schwartz
218-275-2350
101 W 2nd St Crookston
hellofreedomchurch.com
Sundays: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship

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

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)

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

**CATHEDRAL OF THE
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218-281-1735, Parish,
218-281-1835, School & RE Offices
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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.

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

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)

**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

**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

**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
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

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

**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

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

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

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

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

**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

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

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

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

**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: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)

**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

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

**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

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
- EUCLID**
Sundays: For the months of January, February, and March, weekend Mass on Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**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 Bible Study

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

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

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 CHURCH,
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Church Office: 218-891-4581
Pastor Doug Thompson
Website: tlcfstpaul.org
Email: trinity.st.paulparishes@gmail.com
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THIEF RIVER FALLS Times

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday
8 am - 3 pm

DEATH NOTICES

LaVern Samshal, 89

Crookston - LaVern Marion Samshal, age 89, passed away on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at the Villa St. Vincent in Crookston.



She was born on a farm in Fossum Township on February 21, 1936, as the oldest child to loving parents Alfred and Ella (Olman) Slette.

Growing up, LaVern attended country school before attending and graduating from Twin Valley High School in 1955. The following year, on September 23, 1956, she married the love of her life, Milan Samshal, at the Gary Lutheran Church parsonage in Gary. They moved to Crookston, where they would build their life together and raise their three children.

LaVern had many interests that brought her joy. She enjoyed camping and could often be found sitting with her husband in the evening by the campfire, watching the sunset. She loved flowers, which she was able to enjoy in the yard she and her husband cared for.

She liked bird watching and relaxing in the peace and beauty of nature. She also enjoyed reading, dancing, and traveling with her husband.

Her relationship with Milan was truly a once in a lifetime love. They did everything together and could always be found on the dance floor at family weddings, creating many memorable moments. They would go for drives together and enjoyed eating out on Saturday nights, and on Sundays, LaVern watched Hallmark movies.

Her career was dedicated to the care of others, working as a nurse's aide at Bethesda and RiverView hospitals. She was also a member of

Trinity Lutheran Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, Eagles Auxiliary, and VFW Auxiliary.

LaVern is survived by her children, Debbie (Gary) Knutson of Crookston, Ron (Judy) Samshal of Moorhead, Diane (Scott) Riopelle of Crookston; grandchildren, Justin (Tracey) Knutson, Jessica (Derek) Williams, James (Shilo) Knutson, Jason (Brandi) Knutson, Jennifer (Joey) Perreault, Matt (Marissa) Riopelle, Mitch Riopelle, Travis Samshal; great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Easton, Hunter, Carley, Jadelyn, Jaron, Camden, Hadley, Brinley, Mosley, Colton, Noah, Parker; bonus grandchildren, Bridget, Jenny, Shad, Aaliyah; and other beloved family and friends.

LaVern is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Milan Samshal; parents, Alfred and Ella Slette; parents-in-law, Oscar and Blenda Samshal; siblings, Lloyd Slette, Arlene Bushie; siblings-in-law, Wally Bushie, Janice (John) Peterick, Marlene (Wayne) Hall, Ervin (DeeAnn) Samshal; and great-grandson, Kason Williams.

LaVern leaves behind the legacy of love and compassion. Her life is a testament to the positive impact one person can have on many. Her presence will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A funeral service celebrating LaVern's life will be held at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home in Crookston on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Visitation will be one hour prior.

Interment will be in the spring at St. Olaf Lutheran Cemetery in rural Twin Valley.

LaVern's family would like to thank the hospice nurses and Villa staff for the care and comfort they provided.

A00003B2026JA17

Ethel Safranski, 90

Ethel Safranski, 90, Argyle, passed Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, January 16, 2026 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Argyle.

Interment was at St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Argyle.

Private Pesticide Workshop set

Farmers, stay for the day during the Private Pesticide Workshop set for Friday, Feb. 13 at Northland Community and Technical College, 1101 Hwy. 1 E., Thief River Falls. It will also feature two add-on courses – a Nitrogen Smart course prior to the workshop and a Stop the Bleed course immediately after the private pesticide course.

The workshop will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Private pesticide applicators must renew their license by March 1 of the expiration year to avoid a gap in certification and the need to retest to again obtain certification. The registration fee for this in-person workshop is \$100 and must be paid by check the day of the workshop or applicants may pre-register at pat.umn.edu. Bring your private pesticide card and a picture ID. Registration for the private pesticide portion of the day begins at 12 p.m.

The Nitrogen (N) Smart course is customized for the area and will feature Brad Carlson with general information about N dynamics; Jochum Wiersma with small grains nitrogen recommendations; and Lindsay Pease with strategies to reduce nutrient loss. That presentation will start at 10:30 a.m. with registration opening at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Northland theater. There is no pre-registration. Lunch will be provided.

After the workshop, stay for another 30 minutes and learn how to "Stop the Bleed" using three methods of bleeding control. Each participant will leave with a "Stop the Bleed" kit. No registration is needed, just stay in your seats for this life-saving information.

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Leslie Welch, Jr., 74

Leslie (Les) Raymond Welch, Jr., 74, of Ada, passed away on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

A gathering of family and friends to celebrate and remember Leslie's life will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Fredrikson-Ganje Funeral Home, Ada

Dennis McDaniel, 91

Crookston - Dennis Julian McDaniel, age 91, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025.

A memorial service celebrating Dennis's life will be held at Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home in Crookston, on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Visitation with family will be one hour prior.

The service will be livestreamed, details to which will be available at www.stenshoelhoucke.com/obituaries/dennis-mcdaniel.

Arthur Gredvig, 101

Arthur (Art) Leroy Gredvig, 101, passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026.

Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Concordia Lutheran Church, Fertile, with full military rites to follow.

Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church.

A private family burial will take place at Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, Fertile at a later date.

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\$26.56 – \$33.64/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II – Sheriff's Office:
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\$28.15 – \$35.66/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled.

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Rural Reflections ...

I could have been on the Olympic luge team

by Grant Nelson



We are less than a month away from the Winter Olympic Games. Is it a big deal? Are there others who are excited about it, but I just don't happen to be in their social circle?

The Winter Olympics were huge in my world, at least at one time. If a Winter Olympics landed in the same winter as the I-500 snowmobile race, it was almost more than a 10-year-old could absorb. The Winter Olympics were so different to me as the United States did not dominate them like the Summer Olympics. The medal count seemed closer and more intense; plus, there were events that seemed strange to me.

The biathlon was unknown to me except once every four years during the Olympics and the biathlon scene from the James Bond movie "For Your Eyes Only." Eric Heiden was a speed

skater in the 1980 Winter Olympics who picked up nine gold medals and displayed the biggest thighs ever seen in a speed skating skinsuit. Dorothy Hamill won everyone's heart with her beautiful figure skating and her "Hamill Camel" in 1976

I remember where I was for two world events – the tragic attack on the World Trade Tower and the night the United States defeated the USSR in the semifinals of men's Olympic hockey. It was such a huge event, a win made even more stark as it occurred in contrast to a time when our nation was at low morale. There were even familiar names included on that team who had played on area college hockey teams. It felt like we were out there; it was America's team.

A friend and I decided in high school that we were going to be a part of the Olympic luge team. The luge is a sled that carries two people down a track, kind of like bobsledding. I think we both had used a sled at least once and the price-point for entry into this sport looked good, so we mailed off for the registration information.

The whole process never really went anywhere, but it was a nice winter diversion.

The X Games were a Winter Olympics, kind of. They were definitely oriented to a demographic which left me behind some time ago; however, I thought they were fun. At the time I watched them, my concept of an impressive snowmobile was one that didn't need new spark plugs every few hours. You can imagine my amazement the first time I saw one flip in mid-air. I don't know how the X Games are now broadcast, but it's probably on some streaming service that I have never heard of, so I have as much a chance of seeing them as I do becoming a world-class luge competitor.

The Winter Olympics are being promoted aggressively, but I think they just stand out less as there's so much else to watch. There are so many other stories out there so that the Olympic story feels no more important than maybe the halftime show at the Super Bowl; maybe that's just me, I hope so. We could use an event to rally around right now.

The TurfMutt Foundation's tips to keep pets safe this winter

Getting outside in winter reduces stress, improves mood, and helps with social connection and physical health for both people and pets. But the TurfMutt Foundation urges pet parents to be prepared when taking their canine companions outside this winter.

"For a dog, there's really no such thing as a bad season, only bad preparation," said Kris Kiser, president and chief executive officer of the TurfMutt Foundation.

The TurfMutt Foundation offers these essential tips for safe winter outings with your dog:

• **Be a paw protector:** Sidewalks and streets covered in ice melt can irritate your pet's paws and could even be toxic if ingested. Applying paw balm or wax can help or fitting your dog with booties for even more protection. Always wipe their paws and belly when you come

back inside to remove any residue.

• **Beware of toxins:** When using de-icer on your own property, look for pet-safe products to avoid skin irritation and toxicity. Use de-icer in pet-safe areas, avoid over-use and keep pets inside when applying the product. Sand, clay cat litter and heated mats are safer alternatives.

• **Short, sweet and safe:** Dogs may have fur, but that doesn't mean they are immune to the effects of the cold. Remember, if you're shivering, they are, too. Limit time outside on brutally cold days and watch for cues your pet has had enough. A tucked tail or lifted paw means it's time to head inside.

• **Dress for success:** Dogs need their natural coats to stay warm in the winter, so don't shave it. For dogs with shorter fur, a water-resis-

tant coat or sweater can help keep them warm. Remember to take the wet clothes off as soon as you get home and ensure they dry completely before the next outing.

• **Clear the way:** You can use a snowblower to clear a path in your backyard, so your dog can easily get to their "business" area without sinking in deep snow. Always keep your pup and kids inside when using outdoor power equipment.

• **Leash on:** When visiting community parks and green space, be sure to keep your dog on a leash. Heavy snow can cover familiar scents and landmarks, making it easy for even well-trained dogs to get lost. Make sure your dog's tag and microchip are updated with your current contact information just in case you get separated.

POLICIES

Letters To The Editor: The staff of the *Crookston Watch* encourages written responses to editorial comment or letters with original thoughts or ideas of general interest. Letters should be intended for publication in *Crookston 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 218-681-4450. We will attempt to correct the error or clarify the misunderstanding in the next issue.

LETTER

Looking back as a guide to looking forward, we need public radio and public television now more than ever

To the Editor:

In preparing to write my annual family report for the past and coming year, I happened on an opinion piece that I penned in 2013 that was published in the Grand Forks Herald: "On creativity, raising children and NPR." As I read and reflected on my thoughts from over a decade ago, I thought readers might entertain some new thoughts after glancing back in time.

My, my, how the world has changed since then and is positioned to change even more dramatically in the days ahead. I was a college professor at the University of Minnesota Crookston for 49 years and prided myself on teaching students how to think and not just what to think. Creativity, in my view, is key to preparing for the future, and public radio and public television are key to culturing creative minds.

Never did I think that these media forms would come under political assault for public support!

My opinion piece was as follows:

Like other listeners of National Public Radio, I've had the occasion to think new thoughts, tweak old ones and simply do new things thereafter after hearing stimulating interviews.

Some years back, I heard Richard Florida, author of, "The Rise of The Creative Class," interviewed on NPR. He spoke of the fundamental importance of creativity in entrepreneurship and problem solving. He described a fellow with generous amounts of body hardware and art, who had just landed a lucrative job with a software company – not someone you would write off, but simply one who marches to the beat of a different drummer and not bound by con-

ventional thinking.

Just the kind of people we need to come up with solutions to challenges of the new world and an uncertain future!

In his book, Florida classifies cities by their "Creativity Index" according to size – small, medium, and large. Silicon Valley, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Austin fall into the latter category and are hotbeds of creativity and innovation (and economic prosperity) because that's where creative people like to live. Creative people seek environments that are open to personal differences and enjoy a mix of influences, including different kind of music and food, Florida said.

Creative people want to socialize with people unlike themselves, trade views and spar over issues.

We may miss the boat in trying to attract innovation

and economic development by simply building business incubators and expecting creative people to come. Instead, we must also make sure the location provides the sort of amenities that creative people like when they are not working, Florida believed.

We had David and Yeda Arscott in the Crookston community for a short time. They epitomized the attributes of creative young people.

Yeda was trained as an architect and David as a hydrologist in Zurich, Switzerland. Along with being a first-rate scientist, David was an avid canoeist. While passing a former brewery along the Red Lake River in Crookston, they envisioned a microbrewery and a theme restaurant overlooking the river.

Such a development could become a destination and draw people from afar, in contrast to a conventional restaurant, they believed. That's the thing about creative people, they look at the same things as the rest of us but think different thoughts.

More recently, NPR interviewed Sir Ken Robinson, a celebrated British educator and creativity champion. In a 2006 TED talk, he asked, "Do schools kill creativity?"

We are all creative as young children, but we may miss opportunities to nourish creativity in struggling

to teach the basics, teach to the test and meet parental and state demands, Robinson contended.

Often, creative children are the dreamers and do not learn in conventional ways. In his book, "The Element," Robinson relates a cute story about a 6-year-old girl who didn't pay much attention in most of her classes but liked drawing class. One day, the teacher was fascinated by her focus and asked what she was drawing. Without looking up, the little girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." Surprised, the teacher replied, "But no one knows what God looks like."

The little girl said, "They will in a minute."

This reminded Robinson that children are remarkably confident in their own imaginations, and that we often lose that as we grow up.

Robinson goes on to describe Gillian Lynne as a young girl in the 1930s having a tough time fitting in – daydreaming, fidgeting, and generally being disruptive in regular school.

Then, she went to dance school. The world now knows her as one of the most accomplished choreographers of our time and the person who, along with Andrew Lloyd Webber, created "Cats" and "Phantom of the Opera."

One size doesn't fit all! How do we nourish cre-

ativity? In times of fiscal constraints, creativity classes – art, creative writing, music, dance – often are the first to be dropped. We might, as a culture, start by acknowledging the critical importance of creativity in the total education of the student.

My wife (also a teacher) and I raised three reasonably successful children without fully appreciating the value of creativity. They now have children of their own and we have had frequent discussions about the importance of creativity and the likes of Richard Florida and Sir Ken Robinson. Thanks, NPR and PBS.

Dan Svedarsky Retired wildlife biologist and past director of the Center for Sustainability at the University of Minnesota Crookston

Stegmans earn master's degrees at Jamestown

Crookston residents Katelyn Stegman and Kyle Stegman recently earned Master of Education degrees in curriculum and instruction. They earned the degrees from the University of Jamestown at the end of the fall 2025 semester.

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Spoilers rally to beat Pirates

Grafton/Park River scored three unanswered goals in the third period to defeat Crookston 5-4 in a boys hockey game Monday night in Grafton.

Grant Funk and Jay Reese scored two goals apiece for the Pirates. Gavin Aakhus, Liam Larson, Masen Reitmeier, Garret Fischer (2) and Greyson Ecker recorded assists for the Pirates.

Pirates are blanked by Pirates
The Crookston boys hockey team was held to just 11 shots on goal in a 7-0 shutout loss to East Grand Forks Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Crookston Sports Center.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
East Grand Forks.....	1	6	0	7
Crookston.....	0	0	0	0

First period - EGF, Nolan Meulebroeck (power play) (Jace Panzer)

9:11. Second period - EGF, Tucker Lovejoy (Jace Panzer) 2:14; E G F, Max Bies (Cole Schmiedeberg, Nolan Meulebroeck) 2:39; EGF, Braden Overgaard (unassisted) 5:26; EGF, Easton Olson (Max Bies) 9:55; EGF, Cy Hjelmen (Max Bies) 14:06; EGF, Tucker Lovejoy (unassisted) 16:59.
Third period - No score
Shots - EGF 12-18-8 - 38; Crookston 4-4-3 - 11.
Power plays - EGF 1-for-3; Crookston 0-for-4.
Penalties - EGF 6 (20 minutes); Crookston 4 (11 minutes).
Goalie saves - EGF, Noah Schindele 11; Crookston, Brady

Chandler 31.
Scoring
Crookston..... 1 2 3 T
Grafton/Park River..... 1 2 1 4
First period - Crookston, Grant Funk (Gavin Aakhus, Liam Larson) 1:39; Grafton/Park River, Noah Suda (Trace Anderson, CT Lee) 10:56.
Second period - Crookston, Grant Funk (Masen Reitmeier) 9:15; Crookston, Jay Reese (Garrett Fischer, Greyson Ecker) 12:19; Grafton/Park River, Jonathan Presteng (even strength) 13:39.
Third period - Crookston, Jay Reese (Garrett Fischer) 2:52; Grafton/Park River, Augie Miller (Trace Anderson) 6:52; Grafton/Park River, Noah Troftgruben (power play) (Thomas Aasand, David Jelinek) 14:06; Grafton/Park River, Noah Troftgruben (Jonathan Presteng) 16:38.
Shots - Crookston 8-9-11 - 28;

Grafton/Park River 9-7-7 - 23.
Power plays - Crookston 0-for-2; Grafton/Park River 1-for-3.
Penalties - Crookston 3 (6 minutes); Grafton/Park River 2 (4 minutes).
Goalie saves - Crookston, Tegyn Johnson 18; Grafton/Park River, Kaisin Twamley 24.

Wrestling

Arriaga and Hlucny place second

The Crookston boys wrestling team traveled to Glenwood Friday night to compete in the Minnewaska Invitational, with Mauricio Arriaga and Gavyn Hlucny leading the way with runner-up finishes.

Arriaga wrestled to a runner-up finish at 107 pounds with wins over Cullen Steffen of Little Falls and Grady Braaten of Minnewaska Area, before losing the championship match to Kaiden Nelson of Thief River Falls.

Hlucny drew a bye to the semifinals and pinned Clay Nelson of Thief River Falls to reach the championship match at 152 pounds. Hlucny's bid for a championship ended with a 5-4 loss to Noah Cameron of Little Falls.

Also placing for the Pirates were Lucas Perala, fifth at 160, and Jaron Knutson, sixth at 172.

Minnewaska Invitational

1. Thief River Falls 241; 2. Little Falls 207; 3. Minnewaska Area 139; 4. Wabasso 99; 5. Albany 88.5; 6. Belgrade-Brookton-Elrosa 84.5; 7. Badger/Greenbush-Middle River 83.5; 8. MAHACA 71.5; 9. Crookston 49; 10. BOLD 39.

Crookston Boys Varsity
Mauricio Arriaga (2-1) 107 - 2nd (18.5 pts) - Bout 13 (Mat 2) - Quarters: Varsity - 107 - Mauricio Arriaga (13-2) So., CROO over Cullen Steffen (4-5) Fr., LIFA (TF 17-1 (4:15)); Bout 51 (Mat 2) - Semis: Varsity - 107 - Mauricio Arriaga (13-2) So., CROO over Grady Braaten (17-6) So., MIAR (MD 12-2); Bout 117 (Mat 2) - 1st Place Match: Varsity - 107 - Kaiden Nelson (20-3) Fr., TRF over Mauricio Arriaga (13-2) So., CROO (TF 19-3 (4:00)).

Gabriel Perala (0-2) 127 - DNP (0 pts) - Bout 25 (Mat 2) - Quarters: Varsity - 127 - Beau Haugen (19-10) So., MAHA over Gabriel Perala (3-7) So., CROO (TF 15-0 (1:23)); Bout 63 (Mat 2) - Cons. Sub-Semis: Varsity - 127 - James Engelstad (2-3) Sr., TRF over Gabriel Perala (3-7) So., CROO (F 2:33).

Gavyn Hlucny (2-1) 152 - 2nd (18 pts) - Bout 74 (Mat 3) - Semis: Varsity - 152 - Gavyn Hlucny (11-1) Sr., CROO over Clay Nelson (4-4) Jr., TRF (F 1:04); Bout 137 (Mat 2) - 1st Place Match: Varsity - 152 - Noah Cameron (15-1) Sr., LIFA over Gavyn Hlucny (11-1) Sr., CROO (Dec 5-4).

Jose Arriaga (0-2) 160 - DNP (0 pts) - Bout 39 (Mat 1) - Quarters: Varsity - 160 - Trey Zamarron (10-9) Sr., CROO over Jose Arriaga (7-7) Sr., CROO (F 1:58); Bout 78 (Mat 3) - Cons. Sub-Semis: Varsity - 160 - Tyson Lightfoot (6-13) Jr., WABA over Jose Arriaga (7-7) Sr., CROO (F 2:24).

Lucas Perala (1-2) 160 - 5th (7 pts) - Bout 38 (Mat 2) - Quarters: Varsity - 160 - Blake Iverson (7-15) Jr., ALBA over Lucas Perala (3-6) Sr., CROO (F 3:40); Bout 105 (Mat 3) - Cons. Semis: Varsity - 160 - Aiden Mueller (17-10) Jr., BBE over Lucas Perala (3-6) Sr., CROO (Dec 9-5); Bout 138 (Mat 3) - 5th Place Match: Varsity - 160 - Lucas Perala (3-6) Sr., CROO over Blake Iverson (7-15) Jr., ALBA (F 1:21).

Jaron Knutson (1-3) 172 - 6th (5.5 pts) - Bout 81 (Mat 1) - Cons. Sub-Semis: Varsity - 172 - Jaron Knutson (9-8) So., CROO over Tristan Schmitz Sr., MAHA (TF 17-1 (2:19)); Bout 42 (Mat 3) - Quarters: Varsity - 172 - Jude Bailey (13-6) So., MIAR over Jaron Knutson (9-8) So., CROO (F 3:07); Bout 107 (Mat 2) - Cons. Semis: Varsity - 172 - Colby Twardowski (16-7) Jr., LIFA over Jaron Knutson (9-8) So., CROO (F 2:09); Bout 141 (Mat 3) - 5th Place Match: Varsity - 172 - Dylan Hofarth (11-9) Jr., ALBA over Jaron Knutson (9-8) So., CROO (Dec 7-2).



Crookston senior Senior Liam Larson applies pressure to the Green Wave during a 7-0 loss on Jan. 8. (Photo by Isaac Telle)



2025-26 Crookston Pirates

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Pictured from left to right are members of the Crookston High School Fall Clay Target 5-Stand Team: front row - Evan Boucher, Garrett Wilkens, Austin Thode, Kia Hoppe and Eli Hoppe; back row - Lennon Prudhomme, Coach Randy Prudhomme, Assistant

Coach Wyatt Wilkens and Range Safety Officer Steve Videen. (Photo by Nicole Wandrie, Joyful Heart Photography)

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Boys Basketball

Pirates drop games to Ponies, Panthers and Flyers

The Crookston boys basketball team dropped three games during a busy week of basketball, falling 74-57 at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Thursday night, 83-61 against Section 8AA foe Park Rapids at home Monday night and 77-76 in overtime at home against Bagley Tuesday night.

Reggie Winjum led the Pirates in scoring in two of the three games, scoring 18 against the Ponies Thursday night at 26 in the overtime loss Tuesday.

Carter Fee led the Pirates with 15 points in the home loss to the Panthers Monday night.

Perham - Reggie Winjum 10, Nolan Cassavant 7, Beau Smith 8, Carter Fee 15, Joshua Hesby 8, Nolan Johnson 11, Gavin Reitmeier 2.

Park Rapids - Cobe Diekmann 13, Kaden Gartner 8, Parker Hunter 16, Brady Hirt 2, Owen Hase 1, Domyic Pope 17, Parker Larson 2, Zackary Brewer 3, Carter Hirt 18, Sawyer Harvey 3.

Scoring	1	2	T
Bagley.....	27	46	4 77
Crookston.....	32	41	3 76

Bagley - Drayden Thompson 18, Ethan Rud 14, Brett Schwegel 12, Ethan Proulx 11, Isaiah Fox 10, Will Gray 5, Trenton Frazier 4, Connor Coyle 3.

Crookston - Reggie Winjum 26, Carter Fee 17, Nolan Johnson 13, Beau Smith 11, Gunnar Groven 5, Nolan Cassavant 4.

Section 8AA		Overall	QRF
W	L	W	L
Thief River Falls.....	7	3	64.9
DGF.....	7	4	56.3
Staples-Motley.....	7	4	55.6
Osakis.....	6	4	55
Perham.....	6	5	54.1
East Grand Forks.....	8	4	53.2
Warroad.....	9	6	48.4
Barnesville.....	5	7	45.8
Hawley.....	3	9	34.9
Menahga.....	4	7	27.1
Roseau.....	3	10	26.1
Wadena-Deer Creek.....	2	8	24.2
Park Rapids Area.....	2	6	21.8
Crookston.....	0	9	12.6

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston.....	20	37	57
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo.....	37	37	74

Crookston - Reggie Winjum 18, Carter Fee 15, Nolan Johnson 10, Gunnar Groven 8, Beau Smith 3, Nolan Cassavant 2, Josh Hesby 1.

WAO - Kyden Kotrba 18, Noah Sedlacek 18, Sebastian Johnson 14, Ethan Ellerbusch 10, Noah Dvorak 8, Rylan Fredrickson 2, Sidney Carlson 1.

Scoring	1	2	T
Park Rapids.....	33	50	83
Crookston.....	22	39	61



Above: Crookston boys basketball coach Bruce Erdmann speaks with his players during a timeout in overtime during Tuesday's game against Bagley. The Pirates battled to force overtime but ultimately fell to the Flyers, 77-76.

Spoilers rally to beat Pirates in boys hockey

Grafton/Park River scored three unanswered goals in the third period to defeat Crookston 5-4 in a boys hockey game Monday night in Grafton.

Grant Funk and Jay Reese scored two goals apiece for the Pirates. Gavin Aakhus, Liam Larson, Masen Reitmeier, Garret Fischer (2) and Greyson Ecker recorded assists for the Pirates.

Pirates are blanked by Pirates

The Crookston boys hockey team was held to just 11 shots on goal in a 7-0 shutout loss to East Grand Forks Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Crookston Sports Center.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
East Grand Forks.....	1	6	0	7
Crookston.....	0	0	0	0

First period - EGF, Nolan Meulebroeck (power play) (Jace Panzer) 9:11.

Second period - EGF, Tucker Lovejoy (Jace Panzer) 2:14; E G F, Max Bies (Cole Schmiedeberg, Nolan Meulebroeck) 2:39; EGF, Braden Overgaard (unassisted) 5:26; EGF, Easton Olson (Max Bies) 9:55; EGF, Cy Hjelmen (Max Bies) 14:06; EGF, Tucker Lovejoy (unassisted) 16:59.

Third period - No score

Shots - EGF 12-18-8 - 38; Crookston 4-4-3 - 11.

Power plays - EGF 1-for-3; Crookston 0-for-4.

Penalties - EGF 6 (20 minutes); Crookston 4 (11 minutes).

Goalie saves - EGF, Noah Schindele 11; Crookston, Brady Chandler 31.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
Crookston.....	1	2	3	4
Grafton/Park River.....	1	3	5	9

First period - Crookston, Grant Funk (Gavin Aakhus, Liam Larson) 1:39; Grafton/Park River, Noah Suda (Trace Anderson, CT Lee) 10:56.

Second period - Crookston, Grant Funk (Masen Reitmeier) 9:15; Crookston, Jay Reese (Garrett Fischer, Greyson Ecker) 12:19; Grafton/Park River, Jonathan Presteng (even strength) 13:39.

Third period - Crookston, Jay Reese (Garrett Fischer) 2:52; Grafton/Park River, Augie Miller (Trace Anderson) 6:52; Grafton/Park River, Noah Troftgruben (power play) (Thomas Aasand, David Jelinek) 14:06; Grafton/Park River, Noah Troftgruben (Jonathan Presteng) 16:38.

Shots - Crookston 8-9-11 - 28; Grafton/Park River 9-7-7 - 23.

Power plays - Crookston 0-for-2; Grafton/Park River 1-for-3.

Penalties - Crookston 3 (6 minutes); Grafton/Park River 2 (4 minutes).

Goalie saves - Crookston, Tegyn Johnson 18; Grafton/Park River, Kaisin Twamley 24.



Crookston girls skate to big section win over East Grand Forks

The Crookston girls hockey team skated to a big section win Monday night, defeating East Grand Forks 2-1 at the East Grand Forks Civic Arena.

The Pirates got all the offense they would need in a two-goal second period. Catelyn Maruska broke a scoreless tie 6:20 into the period and Adley Vigness made it a 2-0 lead for the Pirates with 40 seconds remaining in the second.

Aubrey Bartrum and Vigness assisted on Maruska's goal. Vigness' goal was unassisted.

The Green Wave got on the board 2:35 into the third period, but they couldn't get anything else past Crookston goaltender Madilyn Abrams, who finished with 29 saves in the win.

Crookston's win over East Grand Forks came between losses to River Cities on Friday, Jan. 9 and Roseau on Tuesday, Jan. 13. River Cities defeated Crookston 8-2 at the Crookston Sports Center and Roseau blanked Crookston 7-0 at the Rams Sports Center.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
River Cities.....	4	2	2	8
Crookston.....	1	0	1	2

First period - RC, Tessa Boden (short handed) 1:59; RC, Sydney Burnevik (power play) (Tessa Boden, June Semling) 3:25; Crookston, Emma LaPlante (Christina Hershey, Jensen Stinar) 7:35; RC, Tessa Boden (Callie Alphin, Anna Pitzen) 8:57; RC, Bella Lindquist (June Semling, Sydney Burnevik) 9:13.

Second period - RC, Marisa Peterson (Livy Reed, Avery Anderson) 9:01; RC, Caitlin Easton (Tessa Boden, Anna Pitzen) 12:30.

Third period - RC, Sydney Burnevik (Bella Lindquist, June Semling) 1:03; Crookston, Adley Vigness (Emma LaPlante) 2:37; RC, Bella Lindquist (June Semling) 4:07.

Shots - RC 19-18-11 - 48; Crookston 5-5-1 - 11.

Power plays - RC 1-for-6; Crookston 0-for-3.

Penalties - RC 3 (6 minutes); Crookston 6 (12 minutes)

Goalie saves - RC, Elin Burnevik 9; Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 40.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
Crookston.....	0	2	0	2
East Grand Forks.....	0	0	1	1

First period - No Score

Second period - Crookston, Catelyn Maruska (Aubrey Bartrum, Adley Vigness) 6:20; Crookston, Adley Vigness 16:20.

Third period - EGF, Ady Hjelmen (Laurel Kolstoe) 2:35.

Shots - Crookston 6-11-5 - 22; EGF 12-7-11 - 30.

Power plays - Crookston 0-for-5; EGF 0-for-2.

Penalties - Crookston 3 (6 minutes); EGF 5 (10 minutes).

Goalie saves - Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 29; EGF, Reese Kvasager 20.

Scoring	1	2	3	T
Crookston.....	0	0	0	0
Roseau.....	2	3	2	7

First period - Roseau, Jasmine Hovde (Ella Ketrang, Amelia Kvien) 4:10; Roseau, Jasmine Hovda (Launa Ullman, Greta Hedlund) 14:28.

Second period - Roseau, Amelia Kvien (Aubrie Lee, Tenley Sandstrom) 4:08; Roseau, Greta Hedlund (power play) (Amelia Kvien, Katrina Christianson) 10:03; Roseau, Ella Ketrang (power play) Amelia Kvien, Tenley Sandstrom) 13:50.

Third period - Roseau, Jasmine Hovda 5:23; Roseau, Tenley Sandstrom (Abigail Simmons) 8:57.

Shots - Crookston 4-7-2 - 13; Roseau 6-7-9 - 22.

Power plays - Crookston 0-for-4; Roseau 2-for-2.

Penalties - Crookston 2 (4 minutes); Roseau 4 (8 minutes).

Goalie saves - Crookston, Madilyn Abrams 15; Roseau, Madilyn Lisell 13.

Left: Senior Carter Fee works to get past Bagley's Zachary Anderson during the Pirates' 77-76 loss on Tuesday. Fee recorded 17 points, including a crucial second-half three-pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining to force overtime. (Photos by Isaac Telle)

Girls Basketball Pirates drop four games during busy week

The Crookston girls basketball team saw its two-game winning streak come to an end with a 62-50 loss at Hawley Thursday, Jan. 8.

The Pirates were coming off back-to-back wins - a 56-37 road win over Ada-Borup-West in the final game before the holiday break and a 48-46 win at Mahnomen/Waubun in the first game following the break on Monday, Jan. 5.

Thursday's game at Hawley was the first of four games in a six-day stretch. The Pirates fell at home to Fertile-Beltrami on Friday, Jan. 6. They dropped a 56-50 heart-breaker at home to Park Rapids on Monday, Jan. 12 and fell 52-27 on the road Tuesday against a strong Warren-Alvarado-Oslo squad.

The 3-10 Pirates traveled to Thief River Falls Thursday night to face Thief River Falls.

Fertile-Beltrami - Madison Stuenness 14, Bailey Iverson 10, Indigo Oistad 7, Mya Erickson 7, Katrina Hitchen 5, Ally Flakne 5, Macy Petry 4, Tessa Opdahl 4, Paisley Raan 3, Sophie Grundhovd 3, Jordyn Rasch 2, Kenna Jensrud 1.

Crookston - Chloe Boll 12, Madi Bruggeman 12, Halle Nicholas 8, Grace Boll 4, Brooklyn Waldal 2

Scoring	1	2	T
Park Rapids.....	32	24	56
Crookston.....	19	31	50

Park Rapids Area - Madeline Brandt 14, Molly Cederstrom 12, Vivian Shepersky 12, Emma Morris 10, Adrienne Cook 5, Kennedy Campbell 3.

Crookston - Chloe Boll 17, Brooklyn Waldal 11, Halle Nicholas 10, Grace Boll 8, Morgan Boll 2, Madi Bruggeman 2.

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston.....	11	16	27
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo.....	21	31	52

Crookston - Madi Bruggeman 14, Chloe Boll 8, Halle Nicholas 3, Brooklyn Waldal 2.

WAO - Macey Boe 13, Annie Peterson 13, Markelle Pederson 13, Miela Pierce 6, Kenley Marquis 4, Jorie Miska 3.

Section 8AA		Overall	QRF
W	L	W	L
DGF.....	13	2	93.2
Perham.....	13	2	87.6
Menahga.....	12	0	80.9
Frazee.....	11	2	76.6
East Grand Forks.....	9	4	73.6
Pelican Rapids.....	8	5	71.5
Hawley.....	5	6	69.4
Wadena-Deer Creek.....	7	4	54.4
Roseau.....	8	3	48.9
Barnesville.....	3	9	39.2
Park Rapids Area.....	4	6	36.9
Thief River Falls.....	2	11	31.2
Crookston.....	3	10	30.9
Warroad.....	2	12	19.5

Scoring	1	2	T
Crookston.....	22	28	50
Hawley.....	26	36	62

Crookston - Chloe Boll 16, Brooklyn Waldal 11, Madi Bruggeman 9, Grace Boll 7, Halle Nicholas 5, Morgan Boll 2.

Hawley - Addison Sanvik 23, Emily Vetter 11, McKenna Walter 8, Ali Langerud 7, Mallory Halverson 6, Jocelyn Schenck 3, Audrina Liebenow 2, Sella Flemming 2.

Scoring	1	2	T
Fertile-Beltrami.....	32	33	65
Crookston.....	20	18	38

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