



Once removed completely from Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports that wild turkey restoration has been a phenomenal success. This photo was taken west of Thief River Falls.

## UMC Lecture Series

# Shapiro to lead inaugural Bergland Lecture Series



**Bob Bergland**  
 Photo: Dole Archive and Special Collections.

An inaugural lecture series in tribute to former United States Secretary of Agriculture and Minnesota House of Representatives member Robert 'Bob' Bergland commences with an event at the University of Minnesota



**Jacob Shapiro**

Crookston on Thursday, Dec. 5, encouraging co-creation of new ideas to advance agriculture and rural communities. The first session called "The Changing Geopolitical Landscape and Opportuni-

ties for Agriculture," by Jacob Shapiro will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. in Bede Ballroom followed by lunch in Brown Dining Hall.

"The Bergland Lecture Series was created to ensure ongoing interaction with all the members of the agriculture ecosystem, and its future-oriented presentations were designed to spark thinking and collaboration," says U of M Crookston Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause. "While the event is open to the public, it is requested individuals RSVP by Dec. 2 to Chris Winjum at cwinjum@crk.umn.edu."

At the first event, there will be a tribute to Bob Bergland via video by USDA Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, followed by a lecture provided by speaker Jacob Shapiro, who is head of Geopolitics and Macro Research at Bespoke and host of "The Jacob Shapiro Podcast." Shapiro is a consultant to Fortune 500 companies and focuses on how political events affect the American economy with a focus on agriculture and rural economics. Later that morning of the event, a break-out discussion will be held around the future of the agriculture ecosystem.

"The Bergland family is very honored and proud to have this lecture series named after him," says Bob's daughter, Diane Dahl.

# MaKenna Romuld races to WISSOTA Midwest Modified National title

by Chris Stepan  
 WISSOTA Auto Racing

**M**aKenna (Kenna) Romuld, from Grand Forks, North Dakota raced to the 2024 WISSOTA Midwest Modified National Rookie of the Year title after a solid first season in the division. She moved from the Go Kart ranks into the Midwest Modified division this past season and entered approximately 40 events during her rookie campaign, and once the season was wrapped up, she finished inside the top ten 24 times, landing her rookie honors for her efforts during the season.

MaKenna, who is just 15 years old, graduated from the Forks Karting Association after the 2023 season, where she spent the majority of the past 10 years competing in Karts. From age 5 when she began, she raced regularly with the association until breaking through with her first feature win at age 11 in 2018.

She competed regularly at the River Cities Speedway in her hometown, plus at the Buffalo River Speedway in Glyndon, MN, the Devils Lake Speedway in Doyon, N.D., the Casino Speedway in Watertown, S.D., the Jamestown Speedway in Jamestown, N.D., the Greenbush Race Park in Greenbush, and the I-94 Speedway in Fergus Falls, during the course of the 2024 season. Her highest finish of the year came at Buffalo River as she recorded a third place finish in the night's feature race. She also finished inside the top five another pair of times, both at Greenbush and Devils Lake.

MaKenna's aspirations were to race a sprint car one day, but her family came across a Midwest Modified for sale that had been owned by local racers Dustin Strand (who owns Millennium Chassis / SRT Specialties and is the builder of the car) and Jory Berg, and thought it was the perfect move to make to get into 'big car' racing. Her family knew that with the local support of both Dustin Strand and Jory and Tim Berg, she would go that route and learn from two of the area's best during her rookie season. Of the nearly 40 events that MaKenna competed in over the course of the season, she recalled the John Seitz Memorial weekend as one of her favorites. She has never

had the opportunity to compete in the event before, but knew it was one of the biggest events at her hometown track each year. She was able to win a b-main during the event, qualifying for the feature and then racing from 17th up to finish 12th in the feature that night. She also raced from 24th up to finish 10th the night before against a stacked field of competitors in town for Seitz Memorial weekend.

MaKenna is sponsored by Sound Decision, Senske & Sons Transfer, NAPA Crookston Welding, Premier Homes & Builders LLP, Grinch Service & Sales, Best Used Trucks, Stenvold Ag, Southgate Casino, Bar & Grill, Chuck's Carpentry, LLC., Homes by Hobbs, Knutson Printing Company, Mallory Britton, Independent Aflac Agent, Advanced Ag Solutions LLC., Dawes Detailing, LLC., Boxcar Brand, Dylan Castoreno - Dilly Dilly, Backstretch Productions, and she is also

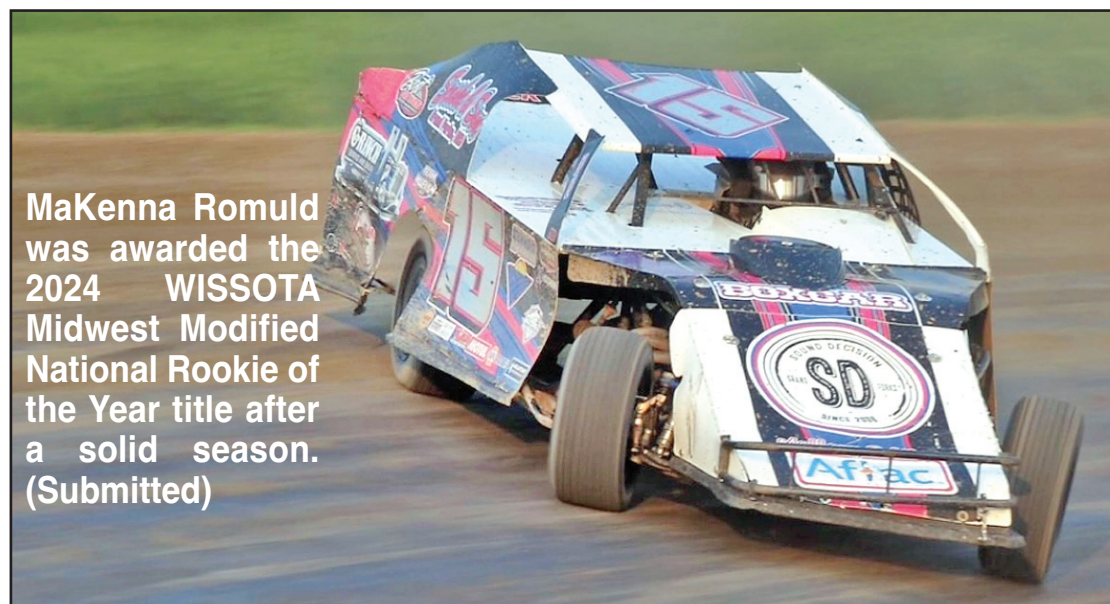
supported by her mom Kaylie, and stepdad Joe, along with her sisters Kamber and Ava. Her grandpa Bobby and Hannah do all the tire work, dedicating the entire nights to the tire machine. She also wanted to give a big shoutout to Tim and Jory Berg, as they are brains of the operation. She said, "They know exactly what the car needs and have provided driver coaching and set up direction for us all season."

"Also, Cody Hansen is our best teammate, showing up to just about every race this season. Mike Stenvold and Kyle Britton also joined as many events as their schedules allowed. If they couldn't make it, they'd be watching the live feed or texting for updates."

When asked about becoming the WISSOTA Midwest Modified Rookie of the Year, MaKenna said, "In the best words I can describe, this feeling is like a dream that I'm still waiting to wake up from!" She also said, "I could

not have done this without the help and support from my sponsors, but especially from my team. From something small like fans coming down to saying 'Hi' after the races, to the support my sponsors and family have given me, to form into something big like winning the National Rookie of the Year award. One thing that does not go unnoticed is the time, money and effort my stepdad Joe and grandpa Bobby have blessed me with. These guys not only paid thousands of dollars out of pocket, but also stood by my side the entire season throughout all the ups and downs and they were both there through all of it, and I couldn't be more thankful for them!"

The Midwest Modified Division first was sanctioned by WISSOTA in 2001 and because of her efforts, MaKenna becomes the first female to ever win the award. Congrats to MaKenna and her team!



MaKenna Romuld was awarded the 2024 WISSOTA Midwest Modified National Rookie of the Year title after a solid season. (Submitted)



MaKenna (Kenna) Romuld poses with her family and sponsors after she was named the 2024 WISSOTA Midwest Modified National Rookie of the Year. (Submitted)

## Minnesota Dept. of Transportation

# Johnson to retire from public service



Jimmy Johnson will retire Wednesday, Dec. 4 after 25 years of state service. He is currently employed at the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Thief River Falls station. However, he has worked at the Crookston, Erskine and Warren truck stations in the past. (Submitted)

Jimmy Johnson, Thief River Falls truck station, plans to retire from the Minnesota Department of Transportation Wednesday, Dec. 4 after 25 years of state service.

In 1999, Johnson began his career at MnDOT as a transportation specialist in Crookston. Throughout his career, he has worked at the Erskine, Warren and Thief River Falls truck stations.

"One of my best memories at MnDOT was a time where I was able to plow the road, so a woman could get to town to have a baby. That baby is my grandson," said Johnson.

Johnson will enjoy his retirement by spending more time traveling and attending his grandchildren's games.

District 2 comprises over 1,800 miles of state highways across 14 counties and employs approximately 270 people to handle snow and ice control, roadway construction, traffic, land acquisition, business operations, planning, design and other transportation duties.

# Minnesota completes lead pipe inventory

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) announced that 100% of the state's community water systems have completed an inventory of their service lines as part of a national effort to identify where lead pipes need to be replaced.

MDH has been working with community water systems across the state to eliminate exposure to lead from drinking water. MDH estimates that of the 1.5 million service lines in Minnesota, just under 90,000 are made of lead. That total may increase as approximately 280,000 service lines will require additional verification.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature initiated a lead service line replacement project and set a goal of replacing all of the state's lead service lines by 2033. This meant work had already started in Minnesota ahead of the federal push announced on Oct. 8 to have all lead service lines in the country replaced within 10 years. Several water systems - including Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis - have already started replacing their lead service lines.

"There is no safe level of lead exposure, so getting lead out of drinking water is a public health imperative," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dr. Brooke Cunningham. "The efforts to identify and remove lead service lines represent a significant step forward in our commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of

their drinking water from a community water system can find out if they have a lead service line at Do you have a lead service line?, an online mapping application developed by the University of Minnesota and MDH.

Residents will be notified by their water system if they have a service line made of lead or that may contain

the service line identification.

"Nationally, Minnesota has one of the highest rates of completion for the service line inventories," said Sandeep Burman, manager of MDH's Drinking Water Protection Section. "The work to replace lead service lines has begun, and we're well on our way to eliminating this source of lead exposure."

Millions of dollars in state and federal funding are available for water systems to replace lead service lines in Minnesota, including \$240 million appropriated by the 2023 Minnesota Legislature. In May 2024, MDH received funding applications for 129 lead service line replacement projects across 78 different municipalities. Funding for replacement is funneled through the public water system, not individual property owners. By state law, water systems need to prioritize their replacements based on efficient use of funds and certain health equity criteria including low-income neighborhoods and children's health.

**Check <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/> to find out if your water service line is lead and needs to be replaced**

all in Minnesota."

Service lines connect the water main to the interior plumbing in a building. When service lines are made of lead, they can be a source of lead in drinking water. Lead is a poisonous metal that can cause serious health problems, especially in children and pregnant people.

The completed inventories cover approximately 4.5 million Minnesotans. Minnesota residents who get

lead and about the next steps the system will take to replace those lines or identify the material. These notifications are not an indication that there is an immediate problem with their drinking water. Water systems routinely test drinking water for lead and notify residents separately if there's an issue. For residents with service lines of unknown material, future assistance will be available to water systems to complete

## Women fall to Hardrockers

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team picked up a dominant 74-55 road win over South Dakota School of Mines Friday, Nov. 22 at the King Center in Rapid City, S.D.

The Golden Eagles improved to 2-4 with Friday's win, while South Dakota Mines dropped to 0-5. Minnesota Crookston wrapped up their non-conference slate in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The Golden Eagles got great production from their starters as they accounted for 72-of-74 points Friday. Emma Miller (junior, G, Albertville) scored 19 points on 8-of-17 from the field Miller finished with a double-double of 10 points, and added three assists. Miller is eighth all-time in scoring for the Golden Eagles. She needs 68 points to surpass Brittani Weise for seventh all-time.



by Kieran Lang for UMC

History of UMC tied to some names more than others

## Olsonawski family has had a major impact on the school's athletics program

Wyatt Olsonawski is in the net for the Golden Gophers

## UMC adds Matt Hobson as athletic trainer

The University of Minnesota Crookston athletic staff announced the hiring of Matt Hobson as an athletic trainer for the Golden Eagles. Hobson joins Associate Athletic Director Steven Krouse, and Associate Head Athletic Trainer Shelby Conard on the Sports Medicine staff at Minnesota Crookston.

Hobson comes to Minnesota Crookston after serving as the assistant athletic trainer at Bellevue East High School in Bellevue, Neb., 2020-24. Hobson assisted in the organization of concussion testing for each athlete prior to the athletic season. He supervised and mentored student athletic trainers from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Hobson maintained professional relationships with physicians to provide optimal medical care for all athletes.

Hobson previously served as an intern athletic trainer for softball and cross country at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. He provided service-oriented care for athletes to make sure they received timely, economical, and encompassing care while participating in athletics. He collaborated with interdisciplinary personnel to develop and implement comprehensive diagnostic

and treatment plans to improve health and performance of multiple athletes. He assisted in management of inventory and procured expendable medical supplies supporting day-to-day departmental operations.

Hobson was a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Midland University in Fremont, Neb., for the 2016-17 academic year. He worked alongside five other athletic trainers to provide care for 30-plus athletic teams. Hobson assisted in pre-participation exams for all teams, and kept medical records necessary for continuation of care.

Hobson earned his Master of Science in organizational leadership from Creighton University in 2020. He earned his Master of Science in adult organization and learning in 2017 from Midland University. Hobson received his Bachelor of Science in athletic training from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2016.

He is a National Athletic Trainer Association member. Hobson is a Mid-America Athletic Training Association member. Hobson is a BOC Certified Athletic Trainer. He is Red Cross CPR/AED/First-Aid certified. Hobson is a native of Papillion, Neb.

The history of the University of Minnesota Crookston is one with a lot of names. Whether it be the names of the school, the different names of the mascots, or the many students, faculty and staff that have made their impacts on campus. One of the most impactful names in the school's history, is a name that has been passed through generations at the University - the Olsonawski's. It started with Gerald Olsonawski in the mid-1960's, and continues today stretching all the way to Wyatt Olsonawski.

The Olsonawski family, originating in Hallock, has had a major impact on the athletics program. Wyatt currently plays for the hockey team, and his uncles Mark and Mike Olsonawski both played football. Mark also playing hockey, and his father, Nathan Olsonawski, played hockey. For the Olsonawski's, being a Golden Eagle is extremely important.

"I think with the history of my family," said Wyatt, "I feel kind of privileged to be a Golden Eagle considering all

the stories that I've heard from my family. I feel proud to be a Golden Eagle considering the lineage I have."

His uncle Mark is one of the most important Golden Eagle athletes. He is the record holder for most rushing yards, most career receptions, and most career touchdowns for the Golden Eagles football program. When I asked Mark what it means to not only be a Golden Eagle, but what does it mean to be an Olsonawski, he said, "Ultimately, it is what example are you setting? And it better be one that can be a role model for others."

It's important to each member of the Olsonawski family to leave their own legacy when they graduate from the University of Minnesota Crookston.

"I think for me it's a different time and it's a new program and I feel like it's almost like I'm kind of starting my own story," said Wyatt. "I've worked my way through hockey for a long time, and I feel like now, even though I've heard all the things about Mark coming in here and how much he's done for the program, I still feel like I'm kind of

writing my own story and I get to try to leave my own mark here at UMC."

Mark said, "I would say that the Olsonawski name means being an example of integrity rooted in faith and an example for people to follow by just always working hard and doing the right thing."

Every summer, the University of Minnesota Crookston and Mark Olsonawski host the Mark Olsonawski Golf Tournament in an effort to raise money for Golden Eagles athletics and the scholarship fund. It is a very important fundraiser, both to the University and to the Olsonawski's. For Mark, it's a way to show what the Olsonawski's care about, but also it is how he shows his appreciation for his alma mater.

"But for me, the golf tournament itself is a way to, again, give our family name a very positive image, showing that we're people that can give back to our communities. For me it's a way to give back to the community I was raised in for the first 18 years of my life and it's also a way to give back to the community of Minnesota Crookston which raised me

through four years of college."

The Olsonawski family is a family that truly cares about the University of Minnesota Crookston and all it has to offer. To Wyatt, the Golden Eagles are like a second family to him; "I think it makes my time here at UMC honestly a lot easier and it makes it go by really fast because you know as a group we're really tight-knit."

Wyatt is a junior this year and has been one of the Golden Eagles' top goal-tenders for the last three years now. He has been a high impact member of the hockey team and has loved his time as a Golden Eagle, and he looks forward to his remaining time at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

The Olsonawski's are one of the most impactful families that have attended the University of Minnesota Crookston. They all make a point to be involved with the University, no matter how long ago they graduated, and they will always know that The University of Minnesota Crookston will be a second home.

# Crookston Area Ministries

<p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 23928 265th St SW - Crookston (East of Highland School) Church: 281-5629 Preston Hoiseth, Pastor Web: www.biblebaptistcrookston.org Email: biblebaptist@midco.net Sundays: 7:45 a.m. &amp; 10:05 a.m., Heavenly Sonlight radio program on KROX, 10 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages including adults, 11 a.m. Morning Worship, 6 p.m. Evening Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study &amp; Prayer Service</p>	<p><b>CLIMAX LUTHERAN CHURCH SAND HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> P.O. Box 49 - Climax, MN 56523 Pastor Matt Williams 218-857-2215 • 218-857-3362 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 209 2nd Street S - Fisher, MN www.fisherbyglad.org Pastor Gretchen Enoch Phone: 218-891-4632 Sundays: Worship times alternate, please visit our website or call for information.</p>	<p><b>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES</b> 1727 Widman Lane - Crookston For information call: 218-281-6252 Sundays: 10 a.m. Public Talk, Watchtower Study Thursdays: 7 p.m. Christian Life, Ministry Meeting</p>	<p><b>RESURRECTION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC</b> 415 West 6th St. - Beltrami Pastor Joel Kangas Church email: resurrect@gvtel.com Church website: www.resurrectionfree.org Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b> 402 6th St E - Beltrami Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p><b>BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>CONCORDIA LUTHERAN</b> 100 Jefferson Ave SW - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>FREEDOM CHURCH</b> Pastor Joel Schwartz 218-275-2350 101 W 2nd St Crookston Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN</b> 10802 423rd St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 11 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>RODNES LUTHERAN</b> 35473 180th Ave SE - Erskine South of Hwy 2 on City 210 Office: 218-687-4345 Pastor Joel Smeby www.facebook.com/RodnesLutheran Sundays: 7 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KRJB (106.5FM), 10 a.m. Worship (live on Facebook and in person)</p>	<p><b>MAPLE LAKE LUTHERAN</b> 13960 380th St SE - Fertile Pr. Dan Morton Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>
<p><b>CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - CROOKSTON &amp; ST. PETER'S - GENTILLY</b> 702 Summit Avenue - Crookston 218-281-1735, Parish, 218-281-1835, School &amp; RE Offices The Most Reverend Bishop Cozzens The Very Reverend Msgr. David Baumgartner Saturdays: 5 p.m. Mass at Cathedral Sundays: 9 a.m. Mass at Cathedral, 10:30 a.m. Mass at Gentilly Daily Mass: 7:45 a.m. Tuesday-Friday (Monday Communion Service 7:45 a.m.) Please visit our website: www.crookstoncathedral.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>ENCOUNTER CHURCH</b> 209 North Main - Crookston Pastor Mathew McWaters - 218-281-4017 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (ages 4-12) Find us on Facebook</p>	<p><b>GOSEN CHURCH, INDEPENDENT</b> Gary Johnson, Pastor http://www.gosen-church.com Facebook: Gosen Church Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosen-church.com)</p>	<p><b>LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Nielsville, MN Monty &amp; Amanda Brown For information call: 218-946-2675 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> 707 4th Ave. NE - Crookston Phone: 218-456-2568 Pastor David Jahn Saturdays: 10 a.m. Sabbath School, 11:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 205 S Broadway - Crookston Rev. Gregory Isaacson, Senior Pastor Rev. Michael Ozaki, Associate Pastor 218-281-4276 9 a.m. Broadcast Worship live over Crookston Cable TV Channel #3, KROX Radio 1260AM, KROX 105.7FM and streaming live on Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN. For additional information and calendar updates, please check out our website at www.trinitycrookston.org Sundays: 9 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. - Worship at Fisher /Byglad Church, 10:45 a.m. - Worship at First Presbyterian Church, 11 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Point, Maple Lake - Mentor Thursdays: 1 p.m. - Book Study at First Presbyterian Church</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAABERG LUTHERAN AT RINDAL, MN</b> 4391 340th Ave - Fertile Pr. Dan Morto Sundays: 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Check out website for further information www.unitedinchristlutheranparish.org</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastor Noah Thompson Pastor John Merseith 1221 Barrette St #2605 - Crookston Phone: 218-281-4342 Sundays: 1:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>MAPLE BAY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Pastor David Jore Parsonage: 218-574-2222 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - FERTILE</b> 10480 438th St SW Fertile 218-945-6649 Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston 218-281-3393 website: crookstonmethodist.com - view services here email: wesleyumcrox@gmail.com Rev. Ruth Sanders, Pastor Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May), 10:45 a.m. Worship (Communion 2nd Sunday)</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 2814 Cherry Street - Grand Forks, ND Bishop Derek Pruitt 435-979-4491 Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MENTOR</b> 105 Harrison Ave N - Mentor Pastor Rev. Michael Sletto 218-637-8263 Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERSKINE (NALC)</b> Church Office: 218-687-4035 332 Vance Avenue - Erskine, MN 56535 Rev. Pamela Thorson, Pastor Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Worship also on GVTel TV, Facebook and Youtube</p>	<p><b>NEXUS CHURCH</b> 605 3rd Ave NE - Crookston Lead Pastor, Danny Holwerda, Jr. Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH - MENTOR</b> Fr. Larry Delaney Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN (ELCA)</b> 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</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 321 5th Avenue South - Crookston 218-281-5402 Pastor David Johnson Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 33276 339th Ave. SW - Eldred, MN c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN - 218-281-1239 Pastor: Steven Bohler Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Service</p>	<p><b>HARVEST CHURCH</b> 520 Fisher Avenue - Crookston 218-281-2264 Pastor Dave Finsaas 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</p>	<p><b>OUR LADY OF SORROWS' CHAPEL - Society of St. Pius X</b> 600 E Robert St - U.S. Hwy 2 E - Crookston 218-281-6880, 218-773-8020 Sundays: 2 p.m. Holy Mass</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - EUCLID</b> Saturdays: Mass at 5:00 p.m. for the months of October, November and December Tuesdays: Mass at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>THRIVING LIFE CHURCH</b> 22722 350th St. Erskine, MN 56535 Pastor Jim Binder 218-556-1545 https://thrivinglifemn.org Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship</p>

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The Times office hours are:  
Monday - Thursday  
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## DEATH NOTICES

### Alice Florence Sebenaler, 98

Alice Florence Sebenaler, 98, of Mentor, passed away on November 22, 2024.

The Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Mentor on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. Burial was at St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery.

### Gloria Bergstrom, 94

Gloria Bergstrom, 94, of Twin Valley, passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

A visitation will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, with a prayer service starting at 6:30, at the Anderson Family Funeral Home in Twin Valley. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 11:00 am, with the visitation continuing an hour before, at Zion Lutheran Church in Twin Valley.

### Robert Joseph, 62

Carlin, NV - Robert Charles Joseph, 62, passed away on Friday, November 15th, 2024.

### LeRoy Hedahl, 92

LeRoy Hedahl, 92, of Twin Valley, passed away on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., with a visitation starting one hour before, at Zion Lutheran Church in Twin Valley. Burial will take place at the Twin Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

### Vincent Babler, 87

Vincent H. Babler, 87, of Boru, passed away on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at Winchester Lutheran Church, Boru. Inurnment will be held at Fargo National Cemetery in Harwood, ND on May 6, 2025.

## Minot surges to win with three pointers

Minnesota Crookston men's basketball saw a late first half surge from Minot State, who used a barrage of threes to defeat the Golden Eagles in the conference opener on Tuesday night in Minot.

Minnesota Crookston falls to 1-4 (0-1 NSIC).

The high scoring Beavers would score the first five points of the game, but Chandler Meeks (R-sophomore, G, Omaha, Neb.) would get the Golden Eagles on the board with a driving layup.

Meeks would eventually tie the game up at eight, scoring six of the teams' first eight points.

Reid Grant (senior, G, Johnston, Iowa) would bury back-to-back threes, giving

the Golden Eagles a brief 14-13 lead.

Trailing 15-14, Micah Garrett (junior, G, Portland, Ore.) would drive and finish a tough layup, regaining the Golden Eagle lead.

Minot State would eventually take a 31-20 lead, but Landon Dimler (freshman, F, Mankato) would bury a right wing three to cut the lead to single digits.

Moments later, another freshman would get into the scoring column, as Caiden Swenby (freshman, G, Fertile) would bury his first career three, cutting the Beaver lead to 13.

MSU would hit a late three, giving them momentum heading into the half-time break with a 44-31 lead.

The second half would be all Beavers, who would outscore the Golden Eagles 39-21, cruising their way to an 83-52 NSIC victory.

Meeks led the way with 14 points on 7-12 shooting from the field. Grant finished with nine points, while Garret added six.

The Golden Eagles shot less than 40%, while the Beavers seemingly couldn't miss, shooting 57% from the field.

### What's Next

Minnesota Crookston will jump on a plane and head to the Sunshine State for a pair of games this weekend, starting with Eckerd College on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. (CT).

## Syrett leads equestrian team

The University of Minnesota Crookston equestrian team competed Saturday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 24 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The weekend was highlighted by Minnesota Crookston earning reserve champion in Saturday's show, and by Belle Syrett (sophomore, Winnipeg, Manitoba) winning High Point Rider Saturday.

Saturday, Syrett opened up the weekend by winning a first-place ribbon in Open Fences. Syrett also took first in Open Flat for her section, while Alexandra Wentland (senior, Colorado Springs, Colo.) placed first in her section of Open Flat.

Avery Crook (freshman, Minnetonka) notched a second-place finish Saturday in Open Flat. Jane Droll (sophomore, Highland Park, Ill.), and Kaitlyn Cleland

(sophomore, Northfield) claimed second in their sections of Limit Flat, while Jada Schimke (junior, Maple Grove) took home the second-place ribbon Saturday in Intermediate Flat.

Schimke placed third Saturday in Limit Fences, as did Kaylynn Berry (freshman, Louisville, Ky.) in Open Flat. Chloe Bucholz (freshman) finished third in Novice Flat.

Sophie Gustafson (sophomore, Sleepy Eye) had a fourth-place finish Saturday in Limit Flat, as did Samantha Halliday (sophomore, Fort Frances, Ontario) in Novice Flat. Droll, Christina Fiedler (junior, Burtrum), and Zoe Waldron (junior, Maple Grove) all had fifth-place finishes Saturday, while Wentland, and Cleland took sixth.

Sunday, Wentland took

the first-place ribbon in Open Flat. Schimke had a first-place nod in Limit Fences, as did Droll in Limit Flat. Krista Duncan (freshman, Hancock) placed first in Pre-Novice.

Wentland, and Syrett each took second-place ribbons in their sections of Open Flat, while Schimke placed second in Intermediate Flat.

Cleland took third in Limit Fences, as did Crook in Open Flat. Fiedler took third in Novice Sunday.

Droll, Berry, Halliday, Cleland, and Bucholz all had fifth-place nods Sunday, while Syrett, and Gustafson notched sixth-place finishes.

The Golden Eagles next compete in NCEA meets Jan. 23 and 24 in Fresno, Calif. Their next IHSA meet for the jumping seat team is March 1 in Crookston.

## Marshall Soybean & Corn Growers donate to food shelves

The Marshall Soybean and Corn Growers are putting their checkoff dollars to good use by donating \$600 in hams to food shelves in Warren, Argyle, Strandquist and Gryla.

"It is very important and helpful to those in need," Board secretary/treasurer Cecil Deschene said. "The Marshall County food shelves do tremendous work, and we are proud to help the families in our community."

Deschene noted that Minnesota's soybean and corn farmers play an important role in providing feed for the meat that ends up on the family table.

In Minnesota, pork is one

of the meat industry's top exports, creating over 44,000 jobs and generating \$6 billion in annual economic activity. Pigs consume over 20 billion pounds of soybean meal each year, increasing the taste of the pork and ensuring a high-quality product for consumers.

The mission of Marshall County is to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to help families and individuals achieve their potential through active community participation and to protect, promote and improve the health and quality of life in Marshall County, Minnesota.

## Lecture series/Continued

**About Bob Bergland**  
Bob Bergland was born in Roseau, and studied agriculture at the University of Minnesota in a two-year program. As a farmer, he became an official of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Science for the Department of Agriculture from 1963-1968. Bergland served as a member of the House of Representatives for Minnesota's seventh congressional district from 1971 to 1977 and appeared on subcommittees for conservation and credit, and livestock, grains, dairy, and poultry. He served as the United States Secretary of Agriculture from 1977 to 1981, and then became the chairman of Farmland World Trade before serving in roles for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. After retiring in 1994, Bergland was elected by the Minnesota State Leg-

islature to a term on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Bergland passed away in 2018 at the age of 90.

U of M Crookston's laboratory building is named after Bergland, and was a collaborative effort among U of M Crookston, the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC), and the Agricultural Utilization Re-

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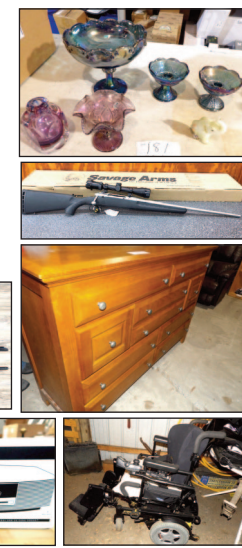
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\$5 million for food security in Minnesota announced

Ahead of the holiday season, Gov. Tim Walz announced \$5 million in new funding to put food on tables across the state. Walz made the announcement and joined volunteers to stock shelves at the Neighborhood House food shelf in St. Paul.

"All Minnesotans deserve to sit around a full table and spend time with loved ones during the holidays," said Walz. "Minnesotans are generous people who do their part to ensure their neighbors have what they need – and this funding will go a long way to supporting those efforts. I'm grateful for our partnership with organizations working to tackle food insecurity and distribute these funds quickly."

Funding is authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act and will support food shelves amid increased visits and strains on the emergency food system. Funding will also support eligible Tribal Nations and American Indian Food Sovereignty grantees. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families will partner with The Food Group to distribute funds to food shelves across the state.

Turkey production

In 2023, about 218 million turkeys were produced in the United States, a decrease from 223 million turkeys in 2020.



EDITORIAL OPINIONS

Dave Hill, Editor ~ e-mail: dhill@trftimes.com

Editorial opinion published under this heading is intended to stimulate thinking and discussion among our readers. Unless specified otherwise, the editorials are written by Editor Dave Hill

and do not represent opinion of other staff members. Opinions in items from other publications may not coincide with the editor's own views but are offered for their general interest.

Just checking for lead

"I said, LEAD pipes," I hollered. Lord, I grumbled, adding something about getting old.

The City of Thief River Falls discussed lead water service lines during a recent meeting. They had learned the community has received a \$778,000 grant to replace lead and galvanized water lines.

Back in the old days, which I won't call good, lead pipes were used for water service lines. When the pipes corrode, the lead can dissolve or flake into the water that flows from our faucets. Lead is highly toxic. It's particularly toxic to children and pregnant women. It can damage the brain, kidneys and nervous system, even at low exposure levels.

One of the more famous or infamous recent examples is what happened in Flint, Mich. In 2014, lead was found in a sample from a home. It made headlines nationwide, and it led to dozens of class action lawsuits, and large scale efforts to replace the lead service lines.

So, there's a fair amount of interest everywhere in making sure lead service lines are addressed. Minnesota took note of all the news, and set a goal to replace all lead service lines by 2033.

During the recent Thief River Falls City Council meeting, Water Systems Superintendent Wayne Johnson estimated that there are about 40 lead water service lines and about 50 galvanized water service lines in the community. The grant money the city received would be used to replace the lines. It's a voluntary program. Affected area residents will receive a letter in the next two weeks or so with details about how they can be a part of this program.

So I was curious. Is my home one of the homes? I searched the internet and was directed to the Minnesota Department of Health. It has a website and interactive map showing service line material by address (https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/). Cool map! (Someone had to do a lot of work.) The map shows the state of Minnesota and when I typed in my address it showed where my home was located and that I didn't have any lead or galvanized water service lines, and that's why I was hollering. "There's no lead in our pipes!" I yelled, again. "You don't have to yell."

Well, it's been my experience, and my experience in the news industry, that sometimes you do have to yell to get people's attention.

It's worth checking to see if you have lead in your water service lines.

POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

Our state and country are at their best when we build each other up

by Sen. Amy Klobuchar

This week, families across our state are gathering to spend quality time together, give thanks, and, of course, eat some delicious Minnesota-raised turkey.

We all know we live in divided times. But this Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for the fact that what unites us as Minnesotans is far greater than what divides us.

We respect the dignity of work and the simple idea that our family members, friends, and neighbors should be able to afford a house or apartment, health care, and for our seniors, a quality place to live out their lives.

We want our kids to suc-

ceed. We want them to get the education they need — whether it's a strong high school education followed by a job, a one- or two-year degree, a four-year degree, or an apprenticeship — to find careers they love.

We support the men and women who keep us safe — we want them to have the training and equipment to do their jobs, and the health care and benefits they've earned. And we want them to know we are always grateful for their service.

And we share a love for our country, our state, our democracy, and the promise of the American dream.

Thanksgiving first became a national holiday in the middle of the Civil War, when President Lincoln

called on all Americans to heal their divisions and restore "peace, harmony, tranquility and Union." More than 160 years later, that call for unity rings as true as ever.

Our state and our country are at their best not when we tear each other down, but when we build each other up and cross the river of our divides. So today, let's remind ourselves and our families that the path to higher ground begins with finding common ground.

Happy Thanksgiving, Minnesota. May your holiday be filled with joy, togetherness, and a little extra whipped cream on your pumpkin pie.

Rural Reflections ...

Time is a valuable resource

by Grant Nelson



Am I old or am I enlightened? Have I just learned my lessons from my mistakes? What am I missing? These are the questions I ask myself each time I wonder why people are in such a hurry.

I used to pride myself on how I spent my time being busy. I still think it is good to be busy at work as long as that activity leads to productivity. There are too many who spend their "busy-ness" causing problems as they enjoy the powerful feeling of chaos they exact through manipulation. These people are easy to locate as their fellow employees quit while they go about their busybody way.

What I want to talk about is the time after work during which you are free to roam about the world. I have decided that there is no greater

luxury than time. Time's worth is greater than gold and cannot be created by man, so why not treat it like a treasure?

I love to drive my pickup or take a drive with my wife. What a freedom to have your own vehicle to drive where you wish. What I don't understand is why people are in such a hurry when they drive. My pick-up is probably passed by other vehicles the most in any given period of time. I drive the speed limit or much slower in the winter. I don't know how many times I have been passed by another vehicle only to arrive at a major intersection or a common destiny at about the same time. The driver of this car subjects themselves to increased stress and increased danger as they hurry through that portion of their life and fail to appreciate the freedom of driving a vehicle. I know some people are late and believe they are making up time, but they are actually wasting this valuable resource.

Convenience store lines are long sometimes. I think most people have good manners and patiently wait their

turn. I have turned this scenario into an observation of time. While I wait, I think about the things I appreciate and consider how good my coffee will taste after I pay for it. I also remind myself that I am on my own time and that I am on no time-clock.

Sitting still and being quiet is a gift you give to yourself. This is time for your mind to idle without load. It is time to listen for your creator's voice or to allow your body to relax. It is time to nap or read or serve as base camp for a traveling cat or dog with no destination. Rest and relaxation is not an indulgence, but rather a necessity. Those who tell you otherwise do so in their own interest. People in this area are known for their work ethic so I don't think spending time idle equals idleness.

Being still is recognition of the gift of time. It is almost like saluting the seconds as they pass by. Use time as the gift it is while you recognize its source and honor it by giving your full attention. I think I have found my answers.

If you are interested in having your NEWS included in the Crookston Watch contact Editor David Hill at the Northern Watch in Thief River Falls. dhill@trftimes.com • 218-681-4450 For your ADVERTISING needs we have a salesman in Crookston weekly. If you would like him to stop by your business for a visit, please contact Eric Charlson • echarlson@trftimes.com 218-689-7507 • 218-681-4450



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# Sports - at University of Minnesota Crookston

## UMC signs area athletes on National Signing Day



### UMC basketball excited about future

Third year head Golden Eagles Basketball Coach Bryan Beamish announced the signings of Spencer Swenson (F, St. Cloud) and Brady Westphal (G, West Fargo, N.D.) on Monday afternoon.

The Golden Eagles are currently four games into the season. Minnesota Crookston will kick off NSIC play on Tuesday, as they head to the Minot Dome to take on the Minot State Beavers.

The Golden Eagles figure to return a ton of talent to next year's squad, including Chandler Meeks (R-sophomore, G, Omaha, Neb.), Micah Garrett (junior, G, Portland, Ore.) and Christian Bowen-Webb (junior, G, Atchison, Kan.) in the backcourt. Freshmen Hunter Lorenson (freshman, G, Lake City), Landon Dimler

(freshman, F, Mankato) and Brayden Carlson (freshman, F, Woodbury) have had early impacts this season.

Coach Beamish is thrilled about the pair of signees and mentions their outstanding prep careers.

"I am very excited to add Spencer and Brady to our basketball program. Both have had very successful AAU and high school careers," mentioned Beamish. "Both of these players fit our Six Standards and I can't wait to coach them next fall."

Beamish is excited about adding Westphal to the family.

"Brady is a very solid guard that has good range and high IQ. He gives us more depth at the guard position and his shooting ability will continue to help our offensive system."

Swenson's first cousin is Dalton Knecht of the Los Angeles Lakers and Beamish is excited about the ceiling and length of the former Sauk Rapids-Rice star.

"Spencer is a very versatile player that can play multiple positions on offense as well as guard multiple positions on defense. Very good size and skill mixed with a competitive edge which translates to NSIC."

The signees who are reported in this release either signed an Athletic Aid Agreement or an Institutional Declaration of Intent (IDI). All signees released by the University of Minnesota Crookston have been verified by the compliance office that all documents have been properly signed and dated, and have been authorized for release.

## UMC soccer team announces six student-athletes to play for Golden Eagles

The University of Minnesota Crookston soccer team announced the signing of six student-athletes to begin playing for the Golden Eagles during the 2025 season. Minnesota Crookston signed: Aleisha Cortez (MF, 5-1, South St. Paul/Academy of Holy Angels), Phoenix Debrusk (Thunder Bay, Ontario/Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute), Riley Edemann (D, 5-8, Santa Clarita, Calif./Hart H.S.), Lilly Goehring (MF, 5-

2, Hartford, S.D./West Central H.S.), Payton King (GK, 5-5, Fairfield, Calif./Rodriguez H.S.), and Maeva Lucas (MF, 5-3, Delano/Delano H.S.).

Minnesota Crookston signed two student-athletes from Minnesota, one from South Dakota, one from Ontario, and two from California. The Golden Eagles have tried to focus on the region, while also adding talented players from across the nation and internationally. On

the 2024 roster, the Golden Eagles had 11 student-athletes from Minnesota, four from South Dakota, two from North Dakota, one from Wisconsin, one from Michigan, two from Canada, three from California, one from West Virginia, and one from Ukraine.

The Golden Eagles showed improvement in 2024, as they picked up a win over the University of Sioux Falls, and draws with Black Hills State University,

and Minnesota State University Moorhead. Minnesota Crookston had their best season since 2022, as they looked to set the foundation for the program moving forward in Head Coach Neil Mancktelow's second season. It was also Assistant

Coach Morgan Philliber's second season for the Golden Eagles.

The signees who are reported in this release either signed an Athletic Aid Agreement or an Institutional Declaration of Intent (IDI). All signees released by

the University of Minnesota Crookston have been verified by the compliance office that all documents have been properly signed and dated, and have been authorized for release.

## UMC volleyball signs Adrienne Venditto

Following their final match of the 2024 season, Minnesota Crookston volleyball announced the signing of Adrienne Venditto (Grand Rapids).

Venditto is the lone signing up to this point for the Golden Eagles.

Minnesota Crookston finished with their most wins (7) since 2017 and their most conference wins (4) since 2022. The Golden Eagles lost just one senior in Bailey Schaefer from the 2024 roster and have a number of pieces they can build on next season. Carizma Muth (R-freshman, OH, Randolph, Wis.), Emma Malek (sophomore, MH, Plainfield, Ill.) and Madison Carsten (sophomore, OH, Wadena) figure to lead the offense, while Baily Teveldal (freshman, S, Baltic, S.D.) had an

outstanding freshman year and Kailee Waasdorp (sophomore, DS/Lib., West Fargo, N.D.) finished with a career high in digs this past season.

Heading into his fourth season at the helm, Nick Meseck is excited about the signing of Venditto and what she can bring to an already solid roster.

"We are very excited to add Adrienne Venditto to our Golden Eagle family! She gives us depth at a few positions. Adrienne has a great platform, a whippy arm, and a great personality on and off the court."

The signees who are reported in this release either signed an Athletic Aid Agreement or an Institutional Declaration of Intent (IDI). All signees released by the University of Minnesota

Crookston have been verified by the compliance office that all documents have been properly signed and dated, and have been authorized for release.

## UMC women's basketball signs two

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball program announced the signings of Emma Pierson (G, 5-9, Cherry Valley, Ill./Belvidere H.S.), and Anna Westby (F, 5-11, Eveleth/Rock Ridge H.S.).

Pierson and Westby show a focus on signing top players from the region. The Golden Eagles currently have 10 players on their roster from Minnesota, one from Wisconsin, one from Illinois, and one from Idaho.

The Golden Eagles are coming off a 9-19 season in

Head Coach Natalie Moynihan's first season with Minnesota Crookston. They were led by Emma Miller (G, Albertville), who is in the Top 10 all-time in scoring at Minnesota Crookston. She became the first player to receive All-NSIC accolades in back-to-back seasons since 2016. The Golden Eagles returned a strong core heading into the 2024-25 season. Miller currently is guiding the Golden Eagles through four games with 21.3 points per game. Freshman Willow Thiel (F, Perham) is notching 11.5 points, and 7.3 re-

bounds per game, while Taryn Frazer (G, Cass Lake) is averaging 10.8 points per game, while shooting 54.5 percent form beyond the arc.

The signees who are reported in this release either signed an Athletic Aid Agreement or an Institutional Declaration of Intent (IDI). All signees released by the University of Minnesota Crookston have been verified by the compliance office that all documents have been properly signed and dated, and have been authorized for release.

## UMC Athletic Dept. receives President's Award

The University of Minnesota Crookston Athletic Department received the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence for the second consecutive year. Minnesota Crookston also received the honor for 2023.

The Golden Eagles were one of just 43 NCAA Division II programs to receive

the prestigious accolade from the NCAA. Minnesota Crookston joined Augustana University, and Concordia University-St. Paul as the only NSIC programs to receive the honor. The award is bestowed to programs with an Academic Success Rate of 90% or higher.

The Division II ASR in-

cludes transfers into a school in the calculation and removes those who transferred out of the school while academically eligible. The ASR also includes over 30,000 non-scholarship student-athletes in the division who were enrolled in the four years covered in the most recent data.

Even when using the less-inclusive federal graduation rate, student-athletes are outperforming their peers in the general student population by 6 percentage points. For Division II student-athletes, the federal rate is 59%, while the general student body federal rate is 53%.

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VOLVO D13, I-SHIFT 12 SPEED,  
198,358 MILES **\$38,500**



**2017 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA DETROIT**  
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BEET RUBBER, 170,535 MILES **\$54,950**



**2018 INTERNATIONAL LT625 SLEEPER**  
ISX - CUMMINS, EASTON ULTRA SHIFT  
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**2018 INTERNATIONAL LT625 DAY CAB**  
ISX - CUMMINS, EATON ULTRA SHIFT,  
492,000 MILES **\$39,500**



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VOLVO D-13, I SHIFT AUTOMATIC,  
539,232 MILES **\$34,975**



**2020 Volvo VNR300 Tandem Axle Daycab**  
D13, 12 Speed, I-Shift  
Automatic 477,467 MILES **\$46,500**



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# Franklin Outdoor Advertising acquires Houck Outdoor

Franklin Outdoor Advertising, a third generation, family-owned billboard company based in Clearwater has announced they have acquired the billboard assets of Houck Outdoor, based in Shoreview. The purchase includes 38 static (traditional) bulletins along the I-94 corridor from Clearwater to Rogers area and along the I-90 corridor near the Fairmont area.

Franklin Outdoor Advertising now has 943 faces throughout Minnesota and Western Wisconsin in 28 counties. It makes Franklin the largest Minnesota-based billboard company.

Dan Franklin, of Franklin Outdoor Advertising said, "We are honored to work with Houck on this purchase. This is a perfect fit for our growth strategy and will be a great complement to our Minnesota plant. We are able to

strengthen our relationships with our existing mutual customers and build on the long-term customer relationships cultivated by Houck."

Tom Houck said, "We have long respected the Franklin family and their way of doing business. We are fortunate to entrust these assets and long-term customer relationships to another legacy billboard family."

**About Franklin Outdoor**

**Advertising:** Franklin Outdoor Advertising was founded in 1977 by James Franklin. His son, Keith, joined the company in 1981. In 2006 Keith's son, Dan, joined FOA full-time after graduating college.

FOA is a vertically integrated company with their own construction, installation, sales, real estate, print, and design teams in house.

While the historical growth of Franklin Outdoor

has been through organically developing new sites, in 2014 the company began more aggressive growth through acquisitions of assets from Minnesota Billboards, Clear Channel Outdoor, and Design Angler's.

Franklin Outdoor Advertising employs 28 people, 12 who have been with FOA for more than 10 years and six who have been with FOA more than 25 years.

Franklin Outdoor Advertising is a proud member and supporter of the Independent Billboard Operators/USA.

Franklin affiliated companies include Franklin Graphics, Adversign, and On Premise Signage.

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