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Crosby-Ironton High School Girls Basketball likely state bound Tori Oehrlein sets records and signs with Gopher women



Crosby-Ironton High School Girls Basketball team celebrated Tori Oehrlein's 5,000th point against Ongie on Friday, Jan. 16. Oehrlein went on to surpass Rebekah Dahlman's Minnesota all-time career points record of 5,060 points on Tuesday, Jan. 20 with 57 points against the Mille Lacs Raiders. Photos provided by C-I High School Girls Basketball Coach Pete Vukelich.

By ANN SCHWARTZ

While Tori Oehrlein scored her 5,000th career point in Ongie, the 12 wins, 5 losses, Crosby-Ironton girls' basketball team continues their winning ways.

They are likely to enter state tournament play. But first, two major games on the schedule are February 17 versus Proctor and February 21, versus Minnehaha Academy.

"Our only losses are to big schools. We are a 2A school but we play tougher, harder 4A schools," explained Head Coach Pete Vukelich in a recent interview. "We like to be challenged by larger, tougher schools rather than

who we might play around here. Then we are ready for the playoffs. Proctor is pretty much our section rival and we'll have to get past them to get to state."

Three outstanding senior on the team:

Tori Oehrlein has signed to play basketball with the University of Minnesota Gopher women's team. She also reached 5,000 career points at a recent game against Ongie where the Rangers scored 100 points.

Oehrlein set state records for numbers of rebounds and numbers of assists, said Vukelich.

"She is a highly decorated

player who has seen it all."

Sammie Hachey has been a starter for four years and is a great scorer.

Lucy Lewandowski is a great utility player and longtime starter – a great



Sammie Hachey

rebounder. "She'll give us whatever we need that night, like 12 rebounds or whatever we ask her for," said Vukelich. "These students model great leadership to the other girls."

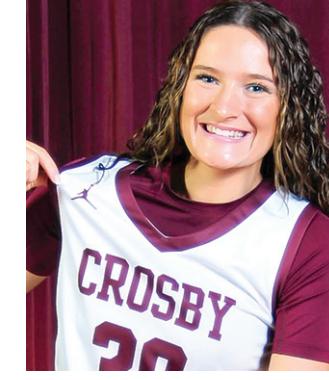
While not a "yeller" Vukelich says he lets his teams work hard and also play hard.

"We need to lighten up once in a while and have some fun. But my players and I trust one another. They'll make suggestions of what to do on the court to improve the game."

He said they continue to play hard and recently lost a game against Monticello, a large school, in overtime.

"That's the first time we've gone to overtime in five years. They are a 4A school

and we really wanted to win.



Tori Oehrlein

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While not a "yeller" Vukelich says he lets his teams work hard and also play hard.

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"That's the first time we've gone to overtime in five years. They are a 4A school

and we really wanted to win.

We are learning a lot. Our motto is 'we either win or we learn.' We don't say that we lose."

The community has packed the stands for the last four years as the girls made their runs to state – also getting them used to playing in front of large and loud crowds. Families and businesses — the Hudson and Super One — have provided meals for the team.

In another month, the lady Rangers will be that much closer to a state championship berth (fingers crossed). Get out to the local gym on these cold, dark evenings and support the great C-I basketball tradition that continues with the Class of '26.



Lucy Lewandowski



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- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, and scrap metals can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

The landfill is open only to residents of Crow Wing County for recycling and disposal needs.



For more information, please call 218-824-1010.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

January

26th - Cribbage players wanted, 1-2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd. 31st - Justin Morneau Ice Fishing Classic 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Nitti's Hunters Point Resort on Mille Lacs Lake 31st - Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza at Hole in the Day Bay on Gull Lake. The largest charitable ice fishing contest on the planet and a winter tradition like no other. Over \$4.5 million donated to charity. A \$3 million annual economic impact on the Brainerd Lakes Area. Thousands of anglers. Endless excitement. Cash, trucks, top-tier gear, and unforgettable memories await.

February

2nd & 9th - Cribbage players wanted, 1-2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd. 5th - 7th - Crosslake Winterfest Family Fun Zone - Three days of indoor and outdoor activities throughout Crosslake for all ages to enjoy! <https://business.crosslake.com/events/Details/2026-winterfest-in-crosslake-1412268?sourceType=Website> <https://www.facebook.com/events/1349070712750018/> 12th - The Brainerd Lakes Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group meeting, 1 p.m. at Lord of Life Church, 6190 Fairview Drive, Baxter. Call (218) 829-4017 if you have questions. 12th - Bridges of Hope Hope on the Slopes at Mount Ski Gull. Admission for spectators is free. Team check-in begins at 3:30pm, with races starting at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event will support Bridges of Hope's programs.

Area Births, Open Houses, Engagements, Weddings &

Community Events are published **FREE!**

Send your community events information to hopper@crosbyironton.net



ISAIAH OSLIN

Isaiah Anthony Oslin, a boy, weighing 8 lbs., 10 ozs., was born Jan. 16, 2025, in Aitkin, to Bethany Kinzer of Aitkin and Cole Oslin of Mora. Grandparents are Steve and Jen Kinzer of Aitkin and Gary and Kimberley Oslin of Mora.

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AITKIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Notice of Aitkin County Republican Precinct Caucuses



Tuesday, February 3rd 2026
at 7:00 p.m.

As required by MN Statute 202

You are cordially invited to participate at your local Precinct Caucus to:
Elect delegates and alternates and help develop the Republican Party Platform.

Volunteer to be an Election Judge or Poll Challenger for the 2026 Elections.

2026 Aitkin County Republican Precinct Caucus Locations

Hill City School 500 Ione Ave.,

Hill City MN 55748

Convener: David Lange 218-697-2446

Precincts: City of Hill City, Ball Bluff Township, Cornish Township, Hill Lake Township, Macville Township, Verdon Township, West Libby Township, NE Aitkin UNORG (including unnamed Townships T52-22 and T51-22), NW Aitkin UNORG (including unnamed Unorganized Township T51-25W, Unorganized Township T51-27W (Lemay), Unorganized Township T52-25W (Quadna), Unorganized Township T52-24W (Ruth), Unorganized Township T50-25W (Hebron), Unorganized Township T52-27W (Shovel Lake), Unorganized Township T50-26W (Bain), and Unorganized Township T50-27W (White Elk))

Grace Lutheran Log Church
48155 Lake Avenue, McGregor, MN 55760

Co-Conveners: Tom & Joyce Peterson

612-272-4283

Precincts: City of Palisade, Balsam Township, Haugen Township, Logan Township, East Libby Township, Shamrock Township, Turner Township, Waukenaboo Township, Workman Township.

McGregor Public Library

111 E. Center Avenue,

McGregor MN 55760

Convener: Kari Abbott 218-768-3011.

Precincts: City of McGregor, City of Tamarack, Clark Township, Fleming Township, Jeavn Township, McGregor Township, Salo Township, Spalding Township, Unorganized Township T47-24W (Davidson).

Northwoods Church Aitkin 810 2nd St. NW Aitkin, MN 56431

Co-Conveners: Jennifer Cummings 218-820-6752 Randy Thompson Precincts: City of Aitkin, Aitkin Township, Morrison Township, Spencer Township, NW Aitkin UNORG (including: unorganized Townships T48-27W (Blind Lake) and T49-27W (Esquagamah)).

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 36696 320th Street, Aitkin, MN 56431

Co-Conveners: Dale Lueck 218-927-2495. Bob Gerhart Precincts: Farm Island Township, Hazelton Township, Nordland Township.

Mille Lacs Trails Building 31844 235th Lane, Aitkin, MN 56431

Convener: Travis Leiviska 218-670-0478 Precincts: Glen Township, Kimberly Township, Lakeside Township, Lee Township, Malm Township, Unorganized Township T45-24W (Jewett), Wealthwood Township.

Wagner Township Hall 11550 MN State Hwy 18, Finlayson, MN 55735

Co-conveners: Donald Roepke 763-458-9011 Paul Peterson Precincts: City of McGrath, Beaver Township, Idu Township, Millard Township, Pliny Township, Rice River Township, Seavey Township, Wagner Township, White Pine Township, Williams Township.

You are eligible to participate in the Republican caucus if:

- You will be eligible to vote in the fall general election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- You live in and will be a registered voter in the precinct
- You are in agreement with the Republican Party of Minnesota Principles as found in the Minnesota Republican Party's Constitution.
- You will also be able to participate in Governor Candidate straw poll on caucus night.

Aitkin County Annual Convention

Saturday, February 28

Registration opens 9 a.m., Convention at 10 a.m. sharp

Northwoods Church 810 2nd St. NW, Aitkin, MN 56431

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Prepared & paid for by the Aitkin County Republican Party, PO Box 331, Aitkin, MN 56431

Point In Time Count matters

On Wednesday, January 28, communities across Minnesota and the nation will take part in the 2026 Point In Time (PIT) Count—an annual effort to count people experiencing homelessness on a single night. The count is held during the last 10 days of January to ensure consistency across the country. A winter night is chosen to better identify those unable to access emergency shelter, and the end of the month helps include people who may have used limited funds for temporary motel stays earlier.

The PIT Count includes people in a wide range of living situations. Some are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, or housing paid for by an agency. Others are unsheltered, living in tents, vehicles, campers, fish houses, storage units, or abandoned buildings. People who are doubled up—staying with friends or family while searching for housing—also count. Every experience matters.

The data collected helps communities track trends over

time, plan effective responses to homelessness, and direct resources where they are most needed. Federal funding is tied directly to these numbers, making an accurate count essential.

Information is gathered through a confidential survey that takes about 15 minutes to complete, either face-to-face or on paper. The count follows guidelines from the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is supported by local partners.

In Crow Wing County, individuals experiencing homelessness who wish to participate can contact Housing and Homeless Specialists at 218-824-1183. Locations to complete the survey are available throughout the county. You count, and your participation helps shape future support.

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper
Saturday, Jan. 10,
17, & 24, 2026)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Palisade Community Center. Township supervisor Tom Anderson may attend remotely via phone or Zoom. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss and decide matters that may come before the board.

Dated this 30th day
of December, 2025
Jane Grimsbo Jewett, clerk
Libby Township
2.91

(Published in NewsHopper
Saturday, Jan. 24 & 31, 2026)

SPENCER TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

The Board of Spencer Township will hold its: Regular March monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, Jan 13th, Feb 10th, March 8th (at 1 p.m. Sunday due to Annual Meeting on the second Tuesday, the 10th), April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, July 14th, Aug 11th, Sept 8th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th, and Dec 8th at Spencer Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 6 p.m.

Any special meetings such as the Board of Appeal and Equalization will be posted a month ahead of the meeting and published at least two weeks before the meeting.

Dated January 13, 2026
Bonnie Ganz, Clerk
Spencer Township
4.3

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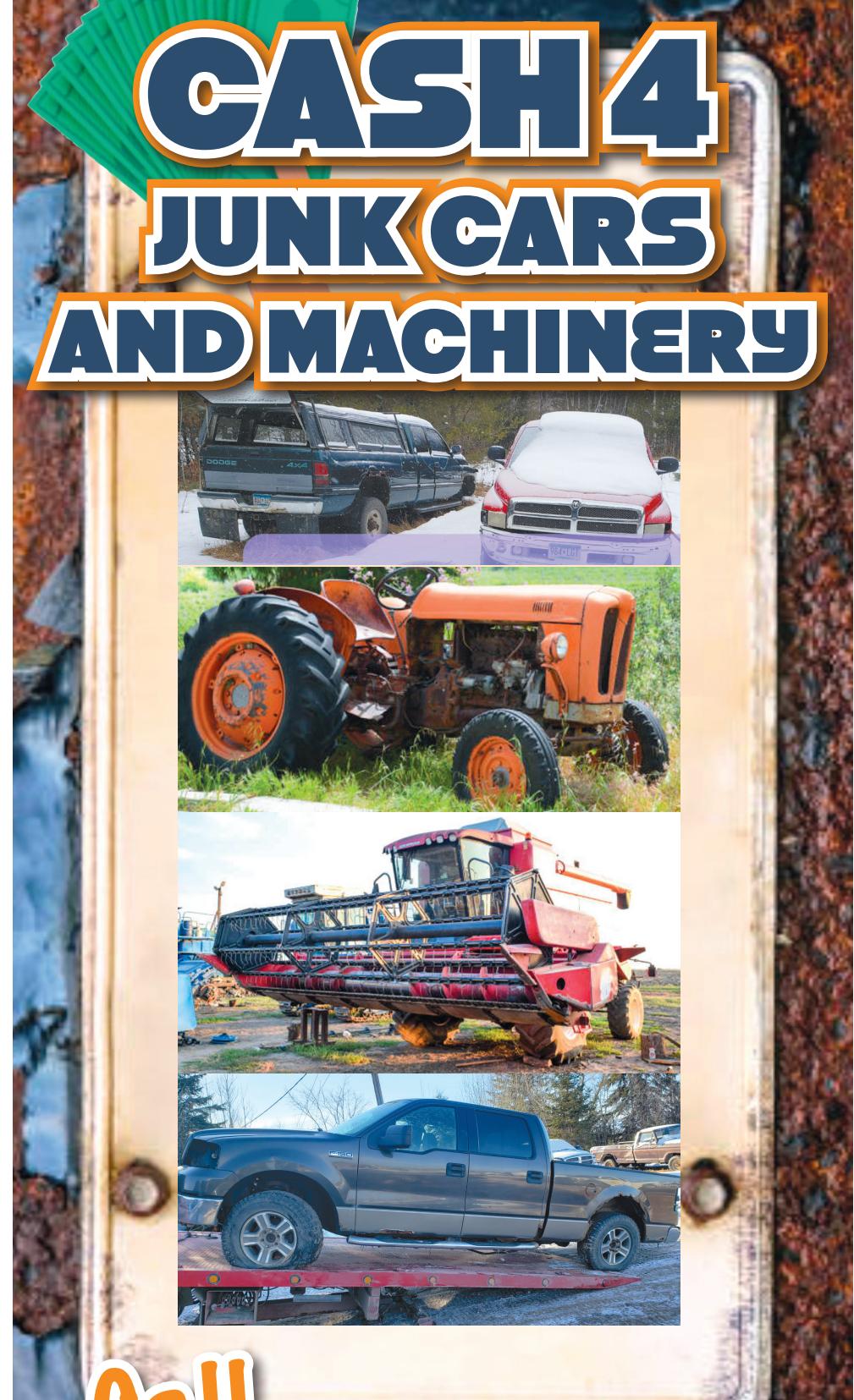
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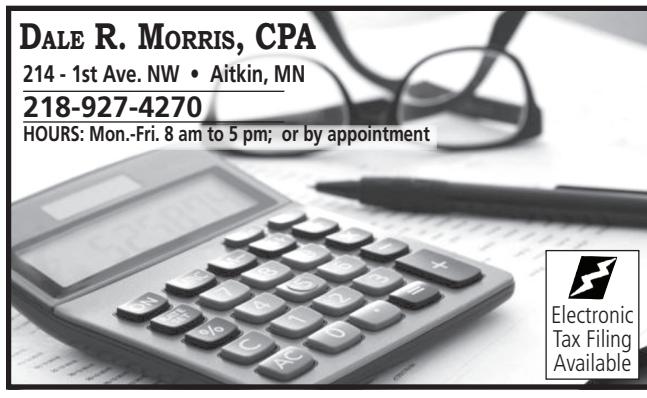
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\$13.95 SQ. YD. OR **\$1.55** SQ. FT.

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Open: 9 - 5 Mon. - Sat. or by appointment

Ruttger's
BAYLAKE RESORT
EST. 1898



Winter Specials

Thursdays 4PM-8PM
All You Can Eat** **Broasted Chicken**
Your choice of white or dark meat.
Served with mashed potatoes & gravy,
seasonal vegetable,
coleslaw & a dinner roll \$19

Fridays 5PM-8PM
All You Can Eat** **Fish Fry**
Served with coleslaw, french fries,
seasonal vegetable & a dinner roll \$21
(**No to go containers for reorders on AYCE specials**)

Saturdays 4PM-8PM
Chef's Choice Dinner Special

Sundays 9AM-Noon
Crepe Bar
Crepe's filled with your choice of
Peach, Strawberry or
Blueberry compote. \$4/each

Ruby's & Bear Pine Bar

Winter Hours: Thursdays 4-8 p.m.,
Fridays 11 a.m.-8p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m.-8p.m.,
& Sundays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ruttger's Retail

POOL OPEN
Front Desk/ Lobby Shop/ Pool Hours
Sunday-Wednesday 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.
Call 218-678-2885 to **BOOK A FUN POOL PARTY**
for your kids, friends, or family celebrations.

2 Indoor Pickleball Courts
Sunday-Wednesday 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.
Call 218-678-2885 to reserve.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
Signup at www.redcrossblood.org

Thursday, February 12
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rockin' Ice Bocce
A fun combination of bocce & curling.

Saturday, February 14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Games will begin at 9 a.m. sharp

The day includes
ice games, bonfires, food and drink, music,
and plenty of laughs.

Sign up here!
by Monday, February 9

For questions call 218-678-4666
or email: rob.rathsack@ruttgers.com

PRIZES • PRIZES • PRIZES!
1st place \$500 - 2nd place \$250 - 3rd place \$100
PLUS PRIZES The top 3 teams will ALSO get to pick from the following:
• Oktoberfest 2-Night Stay • 4-Person Round of Golf • \$50 Resort Gift Card

Sweetheart Supper
Saturday, February 14
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
\$185 for 2
Treat your sweetheart to a gourmet meal at Ruby's on the Lake.

Menu includes: Reservations recommended 218-678-4644
One complimentary glass of champagne per person.
1st Course (Shared) Grilled Lamb & Shrimp
Garlic-herb marinade and house-made blueberry habanero reduction.
2nd Course (Select Two) Winter Berry & Burrata Salad
Mixed greens, arugula, seasonal berries, toasted almonds, burrata cheese, mint vinaigrette and balsamic glaze.
-OR- Short Rib French Onion Soup
3rd Course (Shared) Dark honey molasses bread served with honey cinnamon butter.
4th Course (Select Two or One Surf n' Turf) Firecracker Shrimp
Roasted red pepper risotto, wilted spinach, aged Parmesan and micro greens.
-OR- Coffee-Chili Rubbed Ribeye
16 oz. Braveheart Black Angus coffee-chili rubbed ribeye grilled to your liking, topped with garlic herb compound butter, grilled asparagus and au gratin potatoes
-OR- Surf n' Turf (Shared)
20 oz. Braveheart Black Angus coffee-chili rubbed ribeye grilled to your liking, topped with garlic herb compound butter. Two 4oz broiled lobster tails with citrus herb butter, au gratin potatoes and asparagus for two.
5th Course (Shared) Pistachio Honey Baklava Cake
Served with vanilla bean ice cream.

25039 Tame Fish Lake Rd., Deerwood
218-678-2885 • ruttgers.com

