

PSA

Feb. 26 – Mar. 8

The American Red Cross continues to face a critical blood shortage and continuing its call for eligible blood and platelet donors of all types to give NOW and help save lives. Blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. Commit to give and make a difference. Use the Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment. **Upcoming**

blood donation opportunities:

Thurs.	2/27	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum in Baxter
Mon.	3/2	12:00-6:00	Gull Lake Center in Nisswa
Tues.	3/3	12:00-6:00	Staples-Motley High School in Staples
Wed.	3/4	8:30-2:30	Maslowski Wellness & Research Ctr in Wadena

BATTLE OF BADGES DRIVE – CALL 838-LIFE--- 838-5433

Wed.	3/4	9:00-3:00	First Lutheran Church in Brainerd
Thurs.	3/5	12:00-6:00	First Lutheran Church in Brainerd
Fri.	3/6	12:00-6:00	First Lutheran Church in Brainerd
Wed.	3/11	8:00-2:00	Wadena Deer Creek HS in Wadena
Wed.	3/11	9:00-2:00	Pillager High School in Pillager
Wed.	3/11	1:00-7:00	St. Francis Center in Little Falls
Thurs.	3/12	12:00-6:00	VFW in Randall
Thurs.	3/12	12:00-6:00	St. Francis Center in Little Falls
Fri.	3/13	8:30-2:30	St. Francis Center in Little Falls
Fri.	3/13	12:00-6:00	Good Sam Society-Bethany in Brainerd

Cass County Public Health is hosting some upcoming walk-in **Immunization Clinics** for children who are on MA/MnCare or who are un- or under-insured. Select immunizations are available for adults who are un- or under-insured: Pine River-Backus Family Center in .R.

Wed.	3/4	9:30-11:30	Pine River-Backus Family Center
Fri	3/13	10:00-12:00	Northland Area Family Center in Remer
Tues	3/17	10-12 & 1-2:30	Pillager Family Resource Center / Pillager
Tues	3/24	9:00 – 11:00	Cass Co. Health, Human & Vet. Serv

For more information, call 218-547-1340 ext. 246

The **Crossing Arts Alliance** in downtown Brainerd offers fun **events for KIDS** every **second Saturday** of the month from 10:00 to 11:30... AND from 12:00-1:30. A \$3 per child (or \$5 per family) donation for materials is requested (but no child will be turned away for inability to pay). Pre-registration IS REQUIRED for the classes.

Sat.	3/14	Northern Lights in Pastels
Sat.	4/11	Creative Thumbprint in Mini Books

For more information and to register (required), visit CrossingArts.org.

Would you like to be trained to be a **Census Taker** for the **2020 U.S. Census**? 2020 Census Jobs provide great pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training. To apply, visit 2020CensusJobs.gov/jobs. For more information or help applying, call 1-855-JOB-2020.

In an effort to provide a safe environment to share stories, provide support and education to those who have lost a loved one to suicide, a **Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group** invites you to its bi-weekly **Monday** meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. The group meets from 7:00-8:30 at Lutheran Church of the Cross on County Road 13 in Nisswa. This is a group for adults only. With questions, contact Jeri Borgwarth at jeriborg@hotmail.com

Essentia Health clinics are offering 10-minute **Flu Shot** appointments at all of their locations in the lakes area. The **Walk In Flu Clinics** will give the options for flu vaccinations that will include flu shots and a high dose flu shot options for those 65 and older. The clinics are in Baxter, Brainerd, Crosslake, Emily, Hackensack, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager and Pine River. To make an appointment, call 218-828-7100.

The **City of Brainerd** will use **Crow Wing County Alert** powered by EverBridge to make sure you know about issues that may affect your safety. This system allows the City of Brainerd to contact thousands of residents in seconds, so you can find out about an emergency right away. Receive important messages from the City of Brainerd via email, phone, and much more! Get up-to-the-minute information about severe weather, road closures, snow emergencies, event cancellations, and much more! To register for the Crow Wing County Alert, visit ci.Brainerd.mn.us.

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** is seeking **individuals and couples who can serve as foster parents** to children, especially older children and sibling groups. Ideal foster parents have compassion for kids and are open to caring for children from different backgrounds. Professional training and ongoing support is provided. If you can open your home and your heart to a child and would like to learn more, visit FosterCareMN.org.

Children ages 2 to 8 and their parents/guardians are invited to the **Brainerd Public Library** every Tuesday for **Family Story Time**. From 10:00-11:00 enjoy a story, songs and crafts all based around a different theme each week. The story time is free and all are welcome.

The Lakes Area Food Shelf is pleased to announce new ADDITIONAL hours of service to the communities of **Breezy Point, Jenkins, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Lake Shore**. The Food Shelf is now open the **First and Third Thursdays** from 5 to 7 PM., in addition to our regular hours of Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m until Noon. Access to healthy food is a critical component of our lives. By adding hours we hope to be more accessible to our present and future clients. The location: Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes.

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center is seeking area individuals to join its **advisory council** to provide staff with constructive advice to improve the experience of its patients. CRMC is committed to partnering with patients and families to assist with creating a patient-centered approach to the care delivered every day. The organization recognizes that to best serve the patients and families in the community, it is important for CRMC to include patients and families in decision making. Those who are interested may contact Stephanie Nelson for details at 218-546-2354 or Stephanie.Nelson@cuyunamed.org.

Lakes Area Habitat For Humanity is looking for **volunteers** to go into to-be demolished homes and strip them of anything resalable. There are a number of salvages scheduled and they need help. They also need volunteers to build homes and work at the ReStore. To volunteer, call 218-454-7020.

Paintings by Brainerd Lakes Area artist Kathy Reetz are now on display in a new exhibit at **Brainerd Public Library**. This exhibit of eighteen paintings includes acrylic, watercolor, watercolor/mixed, and alcohol ink works. Reetz is a member of the Brainerd Area Arts Guild and the Crossing Arts Alliance. Her work will be on display at the library through March 30th. The exhibit is free of charge. Exhibits of work by local artists are coordinated by the Brainerd Area Art Guild and the Brainerd Public Library. For more information, contact the library at 218-829-5574.

Tickets are on Sale NOW for the upcoming **Brainerd Sports Boosters 6th Annual Tapped & Corked** event (April 18th) at The Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. The event will run from 4:00-7:00 during which time, guests will sample craft beers, wines and amazing food! Tickets go on sale Mon. Feb. 3rd and are \$40 in advance at BrainerdSportsBoosters.org. They'll be \$50 at the door. Must be 21 or older to attend. Non-sampling designated drivers \$10.

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** is now accepting applications and nominations for their **Business Excellence Award, Business Legacy Award and the Lakes Proud Small Business of the Year Award**. The deadline for submissions is Tues. Mar. 31st. Winners will be presented with their awards at the annual Celebration of Excellence Annual Dinner that will be held at Cragun's Resort on Nov. 19th. If you have questions, contact Sue at 822-7119 or send an email to Sue@BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Help make a brighter, more successful future possible for young people by **fostering a teen. Foster parents are urgently needed** for Minnesota teens. Nearly 40% of children in the state's foster care are ages 12 to 18. As a foster parent, you can provide teens with the support, safety and love that they need to thrive. **Lutheran Social Service** can provide you the training and support you need to make a difference by becoming a foster parent. Learn more by calling Lutheran Social Service or visit FosterCareMN.org.

2/24 – 3/1

Do you enjoy learning about the natural world? If so, consider **becoming a Minnesota Master Naturalist volunteer!** The *Northland Arboretum in Baxter* is hosting a Minnesota **Master Naturalist Volunteer Training** beginning **Tues. Feb. 25th**. Master Naturalist volunteers complete a 40-hour hands-on course with expert instructors and fellow learners – studying natural history, environmental interpretation, and conservation stewardship. Final certification comes with the completion of 40 hours of volunteer service. The classes will be held Tuesdays starting February 25, to May 5, 2020, 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM. For more information and register go on-line go to MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org. Minnesota Master Naturalist is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension.

Join **Select Therapy** as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Feb. 25**, from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at their Baxter location. Black Bear Lodge and Saloon will be serving their delicious meatballs, boneless chicken wings, beef and vegetable pinwheels and assorted cheese with crackers. Attendees will enjoy select craft beers from Roundhouse Brewery in addition to domestic beers and wine. Select Therapy's Host Grand Prize will be a 3 month membership to Takedown Gym (\$144 value)! Everyone will have the chance to win a 1 hour massage, hot packs/cold packs, and 1 free 45 minute therapy or training session at any of the Select Therapy locations. Everyone is invited to learn more about the Chamber and gain exposure for their business by attending this free event. As a courtesy to the host, registration is recommended. To reserve your spot, visit the Chamber's website or call 829-2838.

Children of all ages are invited to **The Brainerd Public Library** for the **Eagle Readers Story Time** on **Wed., Feb. 26** at 10:30 a.m. The theme will be "love and baking." The Eagle Readers story time is presented every fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is free of charge to the public. For more information or to register, contact the library at 218-829-5574 or visit the library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/brainerdpubliclibrary.

Community members are invited to a **Law Enforcement Job Fair** at **Central Lakes College** from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on **Wed., Feb. 26** in the gym of the Brainerd campus. This event is perfect for those who are thinking about a career in law enforcement, corrections or probation. Representatives of the career field from across the region will be there to speak with visitors. The career fair is sponsored by the CLC Criminal Justice Program. Questions? Contact CLC Counselor Suzie Karsnia 855-8015 or CLC Criminal Justice Instructor Gae Davis 855-8264.

2020 Chamber Day at the Capitol will be on **Thurs. Feb. 27th**, from 1:00-5:30, hosted by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. You can join the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** as they unite with statewide business leader to oppose new labor mandates. The MN Chamber will provide an issue briefing before you meet with your area legislators at the MN Capitol. The cost is \$30, includes issue briefing and reception. Register online at BrainerdLakesChamber.com. Carpooling will be arranged for those who register.

Brainerd Community Theater will again present Edward Albee's "**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**" **Thurs. & Fri. Feb. 27 & 28** at 7:30 and on **Sat., Feb. 29th** at 2:00 at the Chalberg Theater at CLC in Brainerd. Reserved seating tickets are \$12 for adults... \$10 seniors (60+)... and \$8 for those under 18. CONTAINS ADULT LANGUAGE. Get tickets online at CLCPerformingArts.com or by calling 855-8199.

History will come alive at the **Brainerd Public Library** on **Fri., Feb. 28** from 12:00 to 2:15 as **Arn Kind** is back with another historical experience: "**Minnesota in the Vietnam War.**" The Vietnam War, the longest in American history, cost the nation 56,000 lives, 300,000 wounded, 1,200 missing in action, and \$141 billion. The program will describe the increasing commitment of each of five American presidents, the rising antiwar protests at home and eventual U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, and the lingering tragic effects of a war that had never been declared. The program will have a 15-minute break, and the presentation includes non-firing reproductions of weapons of war. For more information, contact the library at 218-829-5574.

The **Pine Grove Zoo** in Little Falls wants everyone to attend the **2020 Pine Grove Zoo Gone Wild Coming Out of Hibernation Party** on **Fri. Feb. 28th** at the Little Falls Ballroom. Social hour with appetizers starts at 7:00 followed by entertainment by Deuces Wild! Dueling Piano Show at 8:00. Tickets are \$48. Get them by calling 320-616-5595 or emailing Info@PineGroveZoo.com. All this info is online at PineGroveZoo.com. (Must be 18 or older with a valid ID to attend.)

It's time for the **16th Annual Mille Lacs Kite Crossing** weekend in Garrison on **Fri. – Sun. Feb 28-Mar. 1st** in Garrison where you can test your endurance and race across a frozen lake in the heart of Minnesota. This is the premiere snowkite competition in North America and features free-style, short races, exhibitions, lessons and the main event: the race across Lake Mille Lacs – and back – approximately 28 miles! Find more information about the event and how to register online at MilleLacsKiteCrossing.com.

The Garrison Commercial Club says the **Garrison Winter Festival** will be held on **Sat. Feb. 29th** from 10:00-5:00 in Garrison and will feature the Kids Pro Ice Racing Snowmobile Circuit's eighth and final race of the season. Also enjoy the Mille Lacs Kite Crossing (see above), softball on the ice, rocket launches, bon-fires, s'mores, a meat raffle and a heated tent with food and beverages. For more information, visit GarrisonMN.com.

Get ready for fun at the **19th Annual Ice Tee Open** on **Sat. Feb. 29th** to support **Camp Knutson** on the ice in front of Moonlite Bay in Crosslake. From 11:00-4:00, golfers will be on the ice playing golf. Bring your own club... Moonlite will provide the (tennis) balls. Entry fee is \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids under 14. Families are welcome. They will also have a silent auction, hole in one contest, food and drink specials and prizes! Call Jess at Moonlite Bay for your tee time. 218-692-3575.

The **Brainerd Lions** will host **The Hammering Hammer Handles Indoor Fishing Contest** on **Sat. Feb. 29th** at the Brainerd American Legion. The contest will run from 1:00-4:00. With your purchased event ticket, you will draw three Hammering Hammer Handle tokens with a fish weight on it. At the contest, there will be games of skill to win MORE tokens to help you get the heaviest stringer of three fish. No age limit. Prizes and drawings will continuously be drawn during the event. Must be present to win. Tickets are \$20 and the **proceeds will benefit The Shop** (Brainerd/Baxter's youth center). With questions about tickets, call 218-838-1756.

The **Brainerd Basketball Association** announces its **23rd Annual Brainerd 3rd & 4th (grade) Paul Bunyan Classic Registration** on **Sat. Feb. 29th** (boys) and **Sun. Mar. 1st** (girls) at Forestview Middle School in Baxter. Entry fee is \$200 per team with a guaranteed minimum 3 games. Registration is available online with both online and offline payment options. To register/more info, visit BrainerdBasketball.com or call Jason at 839-9351.

3/2 – 3/8

Tickets are on sale NOW for “**Clear Vision with Confidence**” – a half day women’s learning event held at Cragun’s Resort on **Mon. Mar. 2nd**. The event will feature New York Times Best Selling Author & Motivational Speaker **Rachel Cruze** along with influential leaders from the Brainerd Lakes Area as panel speakers. At this event, attendees will learn tools to take into their daily lives, whether it be in business or personal lives. ((Speakers include Kristi Westbrook, Dr. Hara Charlier, Cindy Clough and Kim Ellingson.)) The event is a **fundraiser for the Confidence Learning Center** Tickets are \$50 purchase online at ClearVisionWithConfidence.com.

In honor of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month, **Central Lakes College** will host a number of events including **A Celebration of Women’s History Month**, featuring speakers, a slideshow and cake, which will be held on **Wed. Mar. 4th** at noon in the cafeteria at the Brainerd campus. The event is free and open to the public. **Central Lakes College** announces another **Cultural Thursday** event at CLC in Brainerd. The events are free and open to the public and begin at 12:00. On **Mar. 5th**, presenter Rosymar Hjermstad will give an “Update on Venezuela.” For more info, call 855-8131.

Central Lakes College will celebrate its **Cultural Thursday** event on **Thurs. Mar. 5th** entitled “**An Update on Venezuela**” with presenter Rodymar Hjermstad talking about what is currently happening in her native country. The event is free and will take place at 12:00 in the Chalberg Theater on the Brainerd campus of CLC. It’s open to the public.

Isaac Schultz will speak in Staples on **Thurs. Mar. 5th** at 5:30 at the Timbers Event Center in Staples. His topic is, “What it’s like to work in the belly of the beast.” The event is sponsored by **Crossroads Conservatives**. Isaac will share many of the battle stories, internal dynamics and long-lasting tensions which have defined the last decade in Minnesota politics. Reservations are appreciated. Please call Diane at 218-296-1348. Special menu options will be available with the program to begin after dinner.

The **Minnesota Department of Transportation** is inviting the public to attend an **open house** in Baxter on **Thurs., Mar. 5**, to learn about a future 2022 project that will improve four miles of **Business Highway 371** between Barrows and Joseph Street in Brainerd. The open house will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the MnDOT Office at 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter. Guests will learn about the future project, see layouts, take home handouts, and have an opportunity to speak with project staff. There is no formal presentation and attendees may arrive anytime.

It’s time for another concert of the **Grassroots Concert Series** at the Live Well Night Club & Coffee Bar in Nisswa. On **Fri. Mar. 6th**, Courtney Yasmineh will take the stage. She’s a Chicago native who ran away from home at 17 and discovered the music of Bob Dylan. Admission is \$10 at the door for adults... \$5 for kids under 12 with listening attention, when accompanied by an adult. They also ask for a non-perishable food or cash donation for the local food shelf. For more info, visit GrassRootsConcerts.org.

Join the fun at the **13th Annual Ms. Blarney & Mr. Malarkey St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock Prince & Princess contest** on **Fri. Mar. 6th** at Manhattan Beach Lodge in Crosslake. The contest starts at 8:00, so if you want to compete, get there early! Each winner gets a \$600 Prize Package! Contestants must be 21 or older, be willing and able to participate in the 46th Annual Crosslake St. Patty’s Day Parade on Mar. 14th and be energetic and enthusiastic! For early registration forms, call 218-692-3381 or stop by Manhattan’s or White Fish Lodge & Suites. This an event geared toward an adult crowd...just a heads up!

The **Vacationland Figure Skating Club** will present their annual show, "**Skating Through the Decades**" on **Fri. Mar. 6th** at 7:00...and on **Sat. Mar. 7** at 1:00 at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. The show will feature all of the Club's skaters and guest skaters, Annie Bai and Andrew Bai. Tickets can be purchased online at VacationFigureSkatingClub.com or from VFSC skaters in advance for \$8.... Or at the door for \$10. Visit that same website for more information.

Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa will host the **2020 Lakes Area World Day of Prayer, "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk"** on **Sat. Mar. 7th** at the church on Co. Rd. 13 in Nisswa. It is written by the people of Zimbabwe, so there will be a Zimbabwean Coffee "House" set up at the church at 9:30 with goodies and an opportunity to learn more about Zimbabwe from the special guest, Farai Zvidzwa. A worship service will be held at 10:30. The church is handicap accessible and child care will be provided. One Half of the Lakes Area World Day of Prayer Offering will provide resources for Freedom Ranch, a safe home for girls who have been rescued from human trafficking, that is being built in the Brainerd Lakes Area. The other half will be given to World Day of Prayer to share with those known to be in need in Zimbabwe and around the world.

The **Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Minnesota** will be held on **Sat. Mar. 7th** at Breezy Point Resort. Hundreds of people of all ages will be jumping into the bay at Pelican Lake to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. Registration on that day will take place from 10:00-12:30, with a costume contest at 12:00...the plunging starts at 1:00. Start raising dollars, then register at PlungeMN.org.

Crosslake area pubs are hosting the **7th Annual St. Urho's Grasshopper Hop** pub crawl on **Sat., Mar. 7th**. Establishments throughout Crosslake invite you to a fun-filled day of "Test your skills" games at each pub. Prizes will be awarded. Each participant pays a \$20 transportation fee. St. Urho's attire is recommended (green & purple). Wear your St. Patrick's Day Lucky Light-up Lanyard for bar specials, sold at the establishments. Sign up today and get more information from the participating pubs. (Andy's Bar & Grill...Bourbon Room...Cedar Chest...American Legion Post #500...Manhattan's...Maucieri's Italian Bistro...Moonlite Bar Family Restaurant & Bar...Riverside Inn...The Wharf...and Zorbaz). Visit the Crosslake Chamber website or app for full details. The event technically runs from 4:30-7:30.

48th Annual Miss Nisswa Scholarship Pageant & 29th Annual Little Miss Nisswa Program will be held on **Sat. Mar. 7th** at Nisswa Elementary School. The pageant will start at 7:00 as girls in 11th and 12th grade, living within a 10 mile radius of the Nisswa Chamber Office or who have attended Nisswa Elementary & Brainerd High School will compete for scholarship dollars. (not sure if there is a cost to attend).

A benefit for Kevin Flansburg will be held **Sat. Mar. 7th** at the Eagles Club in Brainerd from 12:30 to 5:00. Last summer, Kevin was diagnosed with Mantel Cell Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a very rare form of cancer for which there is no cure. It is in his lymph nodes and bone marrow and he will be starting very aggressive chemo very soon. Kevin cannot work and the family needs help making ends meet on top of the medical bills. At the benefit, you can enjoy taco in a bag... \$5 for 2 meal tickets, \$2 for 1 child meal ticket. There will be a gun raffle - \$10/ticket. The silent auction will start at 1:00. Don't miss the fun while helping out a great guy. For more info, call 320-232-3143.

The public is invited to buy, sell or trade items at the **23rd Annual Deerwood Civic and Commerce Gun Show** the weekend of **March 7th & 8th** at the Deerwood Auditorium. Items from numerous vendors will be on display at more than 40 tables from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday... and 10:00-3:00 on Sunday. There will also be a special display provided by the Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association. Admission is \$5 day or \$9 for two days. Children under age 16 years are admitted free with an adult. Concessions will be available. Proceeds from the event will benefit Deerwood Civic and Commerce which promotes the growth and economic prosperity of the greater Deerwood area. For more information, call 218-534-2936 or send a message to info@deerwoodcommerce.org.