

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

Week of 3/ 8 / 21 A

BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS due to COVID- 19.**

(* BATTLE OF THE BADGES blood drive... but mostly full at print time)

Tues.	3/9	12:00-6:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter
Wed.	3/10	8:00-2:00	Wadena Deer Creek HS in Wadena
Wed.	3/10	9:00-3:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter
Thurs.	3/11	12:00-6:00	VFW in Randall
Fri.	3/12	8:00-2:00	VFW in Brainerd
Fri.	3/12	8:00-12:00	Maslowski Wellness Center in Wadena
Wed.	3/24	8:00-2:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter (BHS)
Thurs.	3/25	8:00-2:00	Camp Ripley in Little Falls
Thrus.	3/25	11:30-5:30	Lion's Park in Swanville (Swanville HS)
Fri.	3/26	1:00-6:00	Clow Stamping in Merrifield
Mon.	3/29	12:00-6:00	American Legion in Ironton
Tues.	3/30	12:00-6:00	American Legion in Pequot Lakes

3/8 – 3/14

March is Minnesota Food Share Month. It will run this year from **NOW through Sun. APRIL. 11th**. A grant will partially match donations by a percentage of total dollars raised. Actual food donations will be counted as \$1 per pound of food. Cash donations allow food shelves to purchase the groceries at a discounted rate from Second Harvest Food Bank. Please consider donating to your local food shelf during March and help make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and friends.

Crossing Arts presents its newest exhibition '**Light, Color, And The Northern Landscape**', Artwork by Steven Weagel. 'Light, Color, And The Northern Landscape' showcases the defined skill and beauty of Steven Weagel's hand-blown glass pieces and metalwork. Weagel creates all of the glass portion of his artwork at Vandalia Glassworks in South St. Paul and all of his forging and welding is done at his studio near Pequot Lakes. Open now, this exhibition will be on display in their gallery **through March 26**. Due to COVID-19 and regulations for large group gatherings, there will not be a public reception, but the public is invited to visit the gallery during regular business hours to view the artwork. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 or online at CrossingArts.org. Hours are Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Second Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Crossing Arts is in Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

The next **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** will be on **Tues. March 9th** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, in Brainerd. Food distribution is from 4:30-6:00. Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our community on the second Tuesday of the month. There are no income guidelines to participate. For a \$20 cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Call 218.824.5617 for more info. ((To comply with COVID-19 this is a drive-thru distribution. *You must stay in your vehicle.*))

The **Brainerd Public Library** invites the public to join them for a **Virtual Author Talk** event via Zoom on **Thurs. Mar. 11** at 6:00 that will feature New York Times Best Selling **Author William Kent Krueger**. He will be there to discuss his book "This Tender Land," a novel about four orphans who are on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. To register, visit KRLS.org and click on events. Or call for the link at 829-5574.

Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin is giving the **Pfizer Covid-19 vaccinations** to ANYONE 65 and older on **Thurs. Mar. 11th**. For an appointment at a Riverwood vaccine clinic on March 11th or later call **844-428-1323**. Vaccinations are free.

The **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd invites you to "look up and get lost" during a **Stargazing** event on **Thurs. Mar. 11th** at 6:00pm. Adults, kids and families are invited to view a presentation indoors and then move outdoors to locate constellations, identify stars, and find deep space objects. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served! Due to COVID, no telescopes will be used, but all are encouraged to bring binoculars. Please also bring a camping chair. \$10 for members/\$15 for non-members. Pre-registration is REQUIRED by calling 829-8770. (if it's cloudy, the class will be canceled and you'll get your money back.)

The organizers of the **Downtown Brainerd St. Patrick's Day Celebration** have had to shift gears this year and will not be holding a parade in Brainerd. However, lakes area residents are encouraged to dress up and show their Irish side as the annual **Medallion Hunt** will be taking place in the **days leading up to Sat. Mar. 13th**. Clues to the medallion's whereabouts will be printed in the Brainerd Dispatch prior to that Saturday, but the medallion must be turned in at Shep's on 6th by 1:00, Sat. Mar. 13. Downtown Brainerd's "Pot of Gold" discount days will also be running at participating businesses Mar. 13-17th with discounts available through a pot-of-gold scratch-off ticket! Learn more by visiting Facebook and searching Destination Downtown Brainerd Coalition.

The city of Crosslake may not be holding its famous St. Patrick's Day Parade this year, but that is NOT stopping them from having fun! Join the **Crosslake Chamber** for some **Crosslake St. Patrick's Shenanigans** from **Fri. Mar. 12 – Sun. Mar. 14!** Dig out your costume box and join them for fun shenanigans all over town! They also want you to get out your green decorations (that you MAY have used on a float) and decorate your home or business as part of the **Crosslake St. Pat's Yardi Pardi Decorating Contest!** Trophies and bragging rights are up for grabs for the best decorated home and business! Learn more online at Crosslake.com or download the Crosslake App.

As part of Crosslake's St. Patrick's Shenanigans weekend, make sure to sign up to take part in **The Lucky Leprechaun Amazing Race!** Download the EventZee App to your mobile device, then beginning **Fri. Mar. 12th at 7:00 a.m. through 11pm Sat. Mar. 13th**, travel to the participating businesses that will host "missions" and follow the prompts on your device to complete each "mission" (could be trivia, photos, videos, etc). Complete as many missions as you can and you may win prizes! Prize winners will be announced Sun. Mar. 14th! The winner of the Race will get a trophy and a sweet ride in the 2022 Crosslake St. Patrick's Day Parade! Learn more at Crosslake.com. Register for the race through the EventZee App.!

Crossing Arts in Brainerd will host another **Creativity Kit Distribution** on **Sat. Mar. 13th**, from 10 to noon, to anyone who wants a little bit of creative fun. Kits will be available on tables in the front of Crossing Arts. In case of inclement weather, the distribution will take place indoors. These kits have two art projects (3-D Rainbow and Mini Mondrian), a coloring sheet, and more. Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** wants to remind lakes area residents that that if you are in need of a lunch on the weekends, they provide free weekend lunches to anyone regardless of age. If you know anyone who might benefit from a free lunch on the weekends, just stop by the sharing Bread Soup Kitchen at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd on **Sat. Mar. 13th** between 12:00 and 12:30. Meals will be given out then.

3/15 – 3/21

The **American Red Cross Minnesota and Dakotas Region** is excited to announce a brand-new virtual event – **Powering the Mission**. This event will feature dynamic guest speakers and three inspiring mission stories highlighting how the Red Cross makes an impact across the three-state region. The public is invited to attend this free event **Tues., Mar. 16** from noon to 1 p.m. Registration is requested at RedCross.org/mission.

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3/22 – 3/28

Youth On Stage presents an **Open Mic Night** on **Mon. Mar. 22nd** from 6:30-8:30 at The Eagles Club in Brainerd. Any youth with a family-friendly talent is welcome (singing, dancing, comedy, poetry, magic, etc). A free cheeseburger meal is given to all performers, plus there are chances to win prizes! Masks are required at the Eagles Club except while sitting at your table eating or while performing. Registration is required in advance at YouthOnStageMN.org.

Join the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** for **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Mar. 23rd** at the American Institute of Nondestructive Testing in Baxter's Industrial Park. The event will run from 4:30-6:00 and guests will enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages while learning about the curriculum at the Institute with hands-on learning stations. Guests will be required to wear masks during the event. Prizes could be won! Registration is appreciated. Register at BrainerdLakesChamber.com

A collection of women from all walks of life, each with a different and fascinating life story, is the subject matter of Jane Martin's deeply compelling play **'Talking With,'** next up in **Brainerd Community Theatre's** season of streamed performances. The play will be available for home viewing **March Thurs. Mar. 25 – Sun., Mar. 28**. The production will be made available for same-day viewing. Updated and current ticket information is available by visiting www.CLCPerformingArts.com.

The **Crossing Arts Alliance** is proud to open the application process for its annual **arts scholarship**. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from high school in the Lakes Area (Brainerd, Crosby, Crosslake Charter, Pequot Lakes, Pillager, and Pine River). The applicant must be planning to pursue further education in the arts including, but not limited to, visual art, music, drama, speech, literary arts, dance/movement, photography, and technology-produced arts. To apply, applicants are asked to answer five questions listed on our website, in either a written narrative (no more than 500 words) or presented through a video (3 to 5 minutes in length). **The deadline to apply is March 26, 2021.** Applications and more information can be found by visiting our website – CrossingArts.org/arts-scholarship. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416.

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The **Northland Arboretum** invites you to a **Maple Syrup Farm Tour** on **Sat. Mar. 27th** starting at 9:00. Hike into the woods, collect sap, watch in the sugarhouse where sap is being cooked into syrup and learn about maple sugaring traditions. End the tour with syrup samples over fresh pancakes. The tour is at the Farm of Harry and Judy Worm on Red Pine Road in Brainerd. Face masks will be required. \$10 for adults/\$5 for kids. Pre-registration at 829-8770 is **REQUIRED**. Space is limited.

It's time for another **Full Moon Snowshoe Hike at the Northland Arboretum** on **Sat. Mar. 27th** from 7:30-8:30 where guests will enjoy a guided hike by the light of the full moon. Bring snowshoes or winter boots and plan for an hour hike. If it's cloudy, bring a headlamp. You can warm up after the hike with hot chocolate and cookies. The cost is \$10 for Arb members ...\$20 for non-members.... Class size is limited. To register, stop by the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd or call 829-8770.

MISC...

The **Brainerd Lions Scholarship Program** will be awarding 10 \$1,000 scholarships for the 2020-21 School year and the **deadline to submit applications is Thurs. Apr. 1st, 2020**. There will be five \$1000 scholarships awarded for **ANY high school Senior in the ISD 181 district** that is pursuing a higher education at any two-year, 4-year or vocational technical college. The recipient does not have to be a Brainerd High School graduate, but must live within the ISD 181 district, have maintained a 2.5 GPA or better, and have served the community or school in a volunteer capacity. The application is available by going to the ISD 181 Student Success Center Website, the Brainerd Lions Website or contacting Nancy Cross at 218-829-9079. This is a stand-alone scholarship. // In addition, they will award five \$1000 scholarships for any **student entering their 2nd year or higher year in college**, includes any 2-year, 4-year or vocational technical college. The recipients must be from the ISD 181 district, but the scholarship recipients not limited to being a Brainerd High School graduate, have maintained a 2.5 GPA or better, and have served the community or school in a volunteer capacity. This application is available by accessing the Central Lakes College Foundation, the Brainerd Lions Website, or contacting Nancy Cross at 218-829-9079.

Lakewood Health System in Staples is taking appointments for **COVID-19 vaccines** for those who are 65 years of age or older. They are distributing Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Their other priority now is essential caregivers, K-12 educators, and licensed childcare providers. Anyone in those groups may call 218-894-1515 (and choose option #2). For more information, visit LakewoodHealthSystem.com.

Crow Wing County is seeking candidates for **seasonal watercraft inspector** positions. These positions conduct inspections of entering and exiting watercraft equipment at public water accesses and will have frequent public contact with boaters to educate them about aquatic invasive species. Those interested in applying can visit CrowWing.us/careers or contact Human Resources at 218-822-7030.

Brainerd Community Theatre is looking for local “show-offs” for a **Local Talent Show!** Singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, poets, jugglers, magicians, dog trainers, yodeler and any others with a special talent, this is for you! Sign up to be a part of this fun and you will be able to record your performance (max 5 min) and submit it for the contest (ongoing)! To participate, visit CLCPerformingArts.com.

Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Do you have a plan for if you were suddenly unable to care for them? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** can help you build peace of mind through **Emergency Care Planning Services**. LSS can work with you to answer questions like: Who will care for my spouse if I no longer could? What resources would be available to my family? Work with an experienced care provider to develop a plan at no cost to you. Get started by calling 1-800-488-4146.

The **Brainerd VFW** is accepting **applications for the annual Scout of the Year Award**. This is a K-12 program. Last year’s winner was Jenna Lee of Brainerd. She received \$300 locally, then won district competition. Jenna was a 12th grader and is now in college to become a teacher. The **deadline for applications this year is May 1st**. Awards go up to \$5000 nationally. Details and application forms can be found at BrainerdVFW.org/scout.

University of Minnesota Extension is excited to be partnering with North Dakota State University Extension to offer a series of **farm safety webinars** this winter. Each of us has been impacted in some way by an accident, injury, or fatality that has occurred on the farm. These events are devastating to communities and impact the livelihoods of those we know and love dearly. The purpose of these webinars is to empower communities and individuals to prioritize safety on the farm. **The webinar series will be January-March on Thursdays** at 11:00am. Each webinar will last one hour. The Farm Safety Webinar Series is offered free of charge. Participants must pre-register by visiting z.umn.edu/FarmSafetyWebinars. When registering for the webinar series, participants will have access to join each of the five webinar sessions. Questions can be sent to Emily Krekelberg at krek0033@umn.edu

The **Brainerd Public Library** is now offering **no-contact curbside service** for customers to pick up library materials. Library staff is available to help customers request materials over the phone and by email. Curbside pickup times include many hours throughout the week including Tuesday-Thursday evenings until 7:00 as well as Saturdays. You can book curbside appointment by logging on to TinyURL.com/BrainerdCurbside or by calling 218-829-5574.

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center is continuing to care for residents of our communities by offering **contact free COVID testing** in a mobile unit on its Crosby campus. The service is offered weekdays by appointment only. Call 218-546-7462 to schedule a test. The mobile unit is located in front of the Business Support Services building in CRMC’s staff parking lot across Highway 210 from the hospital and clinic’s main entrance. Patients drive up to the unit and remain in their vehicle during the brief test administered by a nurse. Visit CuyunaMed.org for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Crow Wing County residents can now view county highway department snowplows on county roads during winter snow events, to track where plows are and where they are headed. The **"Where's My Snowplow?" link** is a web based map activated during snow events. It uses GPS to track the 15 county snowplows and show their current locations. The map tracks in near real time and updates every 5 minutes during snow events. To access the link, visit CrowWing.us.

Pine Grove Zoo is taking applications for **Zoo Keeping Interns** for the upcoming 2021 season. As a non-profit organization and community partner, Pine Grove Zoo has created an Internship Program to give back and support students interested in the animal field and natural world. Interns gain knowledge and experience with all of Pine Grove Zoo's animal family, not just certain species. Internships allow individuals to learn and discover things about all areas of the Zoo, which can guide students in deciding which part of this field interests them more. Pine Grove Zoo has received high ratings from interns that have been part of the Pine Grove Zoo Team, while some even continue as paid staff during the season. If you are interested in an internship, call 320-616-5595 or email Info@PineGroveZoo.com.

The Crisis Line & Referral Service is looking for compassionate **volunteers** to help answer calls from those in the area who may be experiencing a crisis and need someone to listen. Their volunteers are truly a lifeline for those who call the Crisis Line, with compassion, concern and with the highest level of integrity and confidentiality, the volunteers listen, affirm, encourage and offer hope by connecting with callers to resources that can truly help them. Hours for volunteers are flexible, you can do it from home or wherever! Training will be provided. You must be 18 or older. To learn more, visit CrisisLineAndReferralService.org.

In response to the recent surge of **COVID-19** across our region — and the frequent fluctuations in case rates — **Essentia Health has launched a COVID-19 Regional Projections Dashboard**. This user-friendly dashboard aggregates publicly available data and features an interactive map of Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Users can compare case numbers and projections by state, and drill down further by county. Available metrics include cases per 10,000 people, daily new cases, seven-day positivity rates, etc. It's intended to inform our communities by presenting rich data in a highly visual way. You can access the dashboard by visiting EssentiaHealth.org

The **Destination Downtown Coalition** wants to **bring Babe the Blue Ox back to downtown Brainerd** but needs your financial help to raise the \$2,400 needed. Nor-Son Construction has donated a Babe the Blue Ox statue that they've had at their Baxter office since 2008. Babe is in need of repairs and a new look. The coalition wants this to be a community project that adds to downtown Brainerd's uniqueness. The Crossing Arts Alliance has agreed to head the artistic side with a call out to local artists. They will be putting together a panel to determine placement, find great artists, and judge who will be doing the honors of creating downtown's latest attraction! If you would like to provide financial support for this project please make a donation by clicking on either link and add to the amount so far! Sponsors of \$500 or more will have their name or business logo on a plaque next to the statue. <https://downtownbrainerd.org/donate/>. **Submissions DUE BY APRIL 15th!**