

PSAs Week of 2 / 28 / 22 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 at this time...**

The American Red Cross continues to experience *an emergency blood shortage* that has caused the blood supply to drop to the lowest level in at least six years. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to **make an appointment to give now.**

3/1	Tues.	12:00-6:00	First United Church in Little Falls
3/2	Wed.	8:30-2:30	First United Church in Little Falls
3/4	Fri.	12:00-6:00	Staples Community Center
3/9	Wed.	9:00-3:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter
3/9	Wed.	10:00-4:00	Pillager Community Center
3/11	Fri.	9:00-3:00	Brainerd VFW

MARCH is FOOD SHARE MONTH and during the month, we want to encourage members of our community to donate to your area food shelf. By donating non-perishable food items and/or monetary gifts, the food shelves can continue to help feed our hungry friends and neighbors. The 2022 March Campaign runs now through April 10th. Visit MNFoodShare.org for more information.

2/28 – 3/6

Let **Dairy Queen in Pequot Lakes** do your cooking on **Tues. Mar. 1st** from 3:00-9:00 as 20% of all sales during that time will be donated to the **Pequot Lakes Splash Pad!** Dine in or come through the drive-thru. This fundraiser is only at the DQ in Pequot Lakes.

Do you like pizza and beer? Do you like giving back to your community? Join the fun at **Pints for a Purpose** at Jack Pine Brewery on **Wed. Mar. 2nd** from 5:00-8:00! \$1.00 from every pint sold will be donated to the **Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today!** Papa Murphy's will be providing pizza that the ladies from the organization will deliver to your table! Feel free to ask us anything about their group, they love to share! Also, if you decide to become a member of The Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today that evening, they'll will offer \$5.00 off your membership fee, making it only \$50.00 for the year! Looking forward to seeing you! Learn more at BrainerdLakesAreaWomenOfToday.com.

Join the **Crosslake Chamber** for the monthly **Explore Crosslake Business Meeting** of business owners, managers and key staff on **Thurs. Mar. 3rd** at **Whitefish of the Lakes Senior Living** in Crosslake. Meet and network with others, learn more about events, activities and organizations in Crosslake, and share information about your business! The event is Chamber facilitated, and all businesses are invited to attend regardless of Chamber membership. Always the first Thursday monthly beginning at 7:45 for coffee and networking, and the meeting runs from 8 - 9:15 a.m. Learn more at BrainerdLakesChamber.com or Crosslake.com.

The **Lakes Area United Way** is teaming up with **Second Harvest North Central Food Bank** to offer another **Pop-Up Pantry** on **Thurs. Mar. 3rd** at Central Lakes College, Brainerd Campus. The food will be distributed free of charge starting at 10:00. It will go until 11:30 or until the food is gone. The Pop-Up Pantry is a traveling food shelf that delivers nutritious food directly to families in need. This is a drive-thru event and will be held in the parking lot of CLC – just follow the signs. To learn more, visit UnitedWayNow.org.

Essentia Health will be hosting a **free Virtual online advance care planning class** on **Thurs. Mar. 3rd** from 11:30-12:30 and all are encouraged to participate. Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important that every adult have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive. To learn more and to register, visit EssentiaHealth.org.

Area seniors are invited to attend a panel **presentation on area social services** that will be given as a free **Lunch and Learn** seminar by **numerous Cuyuna Regional Medical Center and Crow Wing County** professionals on **Thur., Mar. 10**, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Deerwood Auditorium. March is national social worker month. Those attending will learn about social work services available in the community to support older adults. Boxed lunches will be provided. Tables will be spaced apart for social distancing and masks will be required when not eating. Space is limited. ***Registration is required by Fri., Mar. 4***, by calling KariLee Pietz at 218-545-5361.

The **Vacationland Figure Skating Club** will present: ***The Greatest Show on Earth*** on **Fri. Mar. 4th** at 7:00 and again on **Sat. Mar. 5th** at 1:00 and 6:00 at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. The club welcomes guest skater Wren Warne-Jacobson to the ice for the event as well! Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. You can purchase tickets in advance – or learn more about the club – online at VacationlandFigureSkatingClub.com.

Dresses for You & For A Cause Annual Prom Dress Sale will be taking place on **Sat. Mar. 5th** at Zion Lutheran Church in Brainerd. The sale will run from 9:00-11:00 at the church (220 8th St. N). If you have a dress or two hanging in your closet, you can donate them from 8 to 9 AM on Saturday. Brand new and gently used dresses for sale. 300+ dress under \$50.00. Sizes 0 to 22 on hand. All profits help the youth group with the National Youth Gathering in Houston Texas July. Cannot make it Saturday? Contact Susan for personal fitting (or to ask questions) 218-330-0305.

The **17th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Minnesota** will be held on **Sat. Mar. 5th** at Breezy Point Resort. Get your team together – or jump alone – and get registered in advance to take the plunge into the icy waters of Pelican Lake – for a good cause. Make sure to dress up, too, for the costume contest that will take place prior to the 1:00 plunge! To register or to donate, visit PlungeMN.org.

The **24th Annual Deerwood Outdoor & Gun Show** is planned for **Sat., Mar. 5th** from 9 am to 5 pm and **Sun., Mar. 6th** from 10 am to 3 pm at the Deerwood Auditorium. Buy, sell or trade items will be on display on more than 30 tables from local and outstate vendors. All federal and local gun laws must be observed. The public is invited; admission is \$5.00 per day and children under 16 are free but must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions available with proceeds benefitting Boy Scout Troop 100. Fresh Kettle Corn will also be available for purchase outside the auditorium. The Outdoor & Gun Show features a fantastic raffle again this year. Tickets are \$5.00 each, must be over 21 to purchase and winner need not be present to win. More info is online at DeerwoodOutdoorShow.org.

The **Cuyuna Range Knights of Columbus** invites the public to a **Free Will Pancake Breakfast** at St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin on **Sun. Mar. 6th**. Serving will take place from 8:30-11:30. Breakfast includes pancakes, maple syrup, pork sausage links, scrambled eggs, juice, fruit cocktail, milk, and coffee. (Gluten Free options available). All are welcome.

The **Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office** invites lakes area residents to **Skate With A Cop** on **Sun. Mar. 6th** at Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. Law enforcement officers from Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, the Brainerd Police Department and the Baxter Police Department will be participating and would love to see you! The skating party runs from 2:00-4:00 with free snacks and refreshments provided by Cub Foods. If you need more information, call 218-829-4749 or visit them on Facebook.

3/7 – 3/13

Confidence Learning Center invites all lakes area women to the **3rd Annual Clear Vision with Confidence** on **Mon. Mar. 7th** at The Gull Lake Center at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. Registration starts at 1:00 with a Local Panel Discussion (What does "Your Healthiest Healthy" Look Like in Leadership?) starting at 2:00. During the event, enjoy networking, a vendor alley, silent auction and dinner. The event will also feature three National Keynote Speakers, Collette Campbell (Diversity)... Heather Abbott (Overcoming Adversity)...and Samantha Harris (Your Healthiest Healthy) and finish the night with a Tito's Handmade Vodka Cocktail Hour. General Admission tickets are still available. Get them online at ClearVisionWithConfidence.com.

The next **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** will be on **Tues. Mar. 8th** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, 1511 Northern Pacific Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. Food distribution begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. 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; Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats. For a \$22 cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's! ((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. *You must stay in your vehicle.*))

Join **Kinship Partners** for **Trivia Night** at the Snarky Loon Brewing Company in Jenkins on **Thurs. Mar. 10th** from 5:00-8:00. Stop in for a beer, food, trivia... PLUS learn more about Kinship's youth mentoring programs! \$1 from every pint sold will benefit Kinship in the Pequot Lakes area. Free will donations would be appreciated. Trivia starts at 6:00 for those wishing to play. Visit KinshipPartners.org for more info.

The 2022 Downtown Brainerd St. Patrick's Day Celebration will take place at 1:00 on **Sat. Mar. 12th**. Join Shep's on 6th and Brainerd Community Action as they celebrate all things Irish! Head to downtown Brainerd for food, drink specials, family activities, a Medallion hunt, and the parade. For more information, visit Facebook and search Shep's on 6th

Crossing Arts presents, Turquoise Nugget Ring class with artist Jim Reed, on **Sat, Mar. 12th**, from 12:00 - 3:30 pm. In this class you will learn to cut turquoise stones to create a custom ring from the ground up. Under the instructional guidance of a skilled professional, you'll be learning how to make a stone setting and band in which the turquoise will be set into. This class is \$140. Limited to 3 students. Classroom instruction will take place at Jim Reed's Workshop. Upon registration a confirmation email will be sent disclosing directions of class location. Crossing Arts members, as a benefit of membership, will receive a \$10 gift card when attending the class. They ask that you please Pre-register for this class at CrossingArts.org/workshops or give them a call to reserve your spot. For more info., contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416

The **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd invites you to a **Full moon Snowshoe Hike**, hosted by Bryan Pike, on **Sat. Mar. 12th** from 7:30-8:30p.m. Enjoy a guided hike of the trails of the Arb under a full moon and warm up after the hike with hot chocolate and cookies. Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots and plan for an hour hike. If cloudy, bring a headlamp. The cost is \$10 for Arb members.... \$20 for non-members. Class size is limited, payment due at registration and is not refundable. Call the Arb to register in advance at 218-829-8770 or visit NorthlandArb.org.

An **Omelet Breakfast** is planned at the **American Legion in Deerwood** from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. **Sun., Mar. 13th**. The menu will include omelets with your favorite ingredients, hash browns, toast, coffee and orange juice. Limited bar will also be available. The cost is \$10.00 for adults.... \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds benefit the Deerwood American Legion and its support of the Community.

MISC...

St. Patrick's Parade in Crosslake is coming up on **Sat. Mar. 19th** starting at 2:00 through downtown Crosslake! If you and your crew want to have a float in the parade, you do need to pre-register and you can do-so online now at Crosslake.com. Then be ready to have some fun on the 19th...the parade starts at Crosslake Town Square and the route is just over a mile! This year's celebration theme is "Shamrocks & Shenanigans!" And don't forget to register for that morning's **8th Annual Clover Dash 5K & Kids Fun Run** starting at 9:00. Again, either go online to Crosslake.com or download the Crosslake App.

Join the **Brainerd Sports Boosters** for the **6th Annual Tapped & Corked Tasting Event Fundraiser** on **Sat. Apr. 23rd** at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. The event, which features the sampling of over 20 craft beers, seltzers, wines and food, will run from 4:00-7:00, and a limited number of tickets are available. Get tickets in advance at Cash Wise Liquor (Brainerd or Baxter), Jack Pine Brewery, Roundhouse Brewery or from the BHS Athletic Department. Learn more about the event online at BrainerdSportsBoosters.org.

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 April 1, 2022.** 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.

The Driving for Hospice Golf Fundraiser will be an 18-hole best ball scramble with shotgun start at noon **Fri., June 17**, at Cuyuna Rolling Hills Golf Course. Players will compete for cash and other great prizes. A hole-in-one and best dressed 80's themed team contest is planned together with other fun activities. Proceeds will stay in the community and provide end-of-life care to area people. Register today online at CRMCGolf.GiveSmart.com.

Brainerd Lakes Area residents are encouraged to **turn in your empty toner and ink jet cartridges** at either of **The Office Shop** locations (Brainerd or Aitkin) for recycling. By doing so, you will be helping the **Zachary Johnson Kids with Cancer Fund**. The fund offers grants to surrounding area families with a dependent child (age 21 or under) who has any form of cancer. It can be used for anything that the patient or caregiver wishes. If you are interested in applying for a grant, contact Riverwood Foundation or stop at either Office Shop location. Or to donate, visit RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving or call 218-927-5158.

Walk with the Doc, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's free health program that brings doctors and individuals together to walk, will continue in Crosby throughout the winter months. Depending on the weather and per the group's preferences, the walks may be held indoors or outdoors. The goal of Walk with Doc is to improve the health of participants. Walks are held **every Wednesday** starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Hallett Community Center. Participants hear a brief presentation on the benefits of walking and wellness and then walk at their own pace. Indoor walks will be held around the Hallett's ice-skating rink and the outdoor walks will be along the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area trails near the Croft Mine. For more info, visit CuyunaMed.org.

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's Household Hazardous Waste Program is now **open Monday – Friday** from 8AM-5PM. County residents can bring in all types of household chemicals for disposal such as cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, paints, stains, and automotive chemicals. Upon arrival at the landfill site, residents must stop at the Landfill Office where you will get instructions on how to proceed. Visit CrowWing.US for more information.

If you are looking for **volunteer opportunities** here in the lakes area, the **Lakes Area United Way** has a bunch of choices for you! Visit UnitedWayNow.org and click on the Get Connected banner. From dog walkers, to crisis line volunteers, to handyman services... game players, wheelchair transport drivers... the list goes on. If you want to volunteer, visit that site. Non-profits are also encouraged to register if they are in need of volunteers!

Youth on their own who are **experiencing homelessness** are less visible in our community. Most are sleeping on a friend's couch, in their cars or camping in tents for shelter. This can be lonely and scary. Fortunately, **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** provides transitional housing, crisis shelter, street outreach and more for youth age 24 or younger experiencing homelessness. November is National Runaway & Homeless Youth Prevention Month. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness and are 24 or younger, please call 888-828-4383 for support.

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The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd offers free meals to those in need every **Mon.-Sat. from 5:00-6:00** p.m. and on **Sun. from 12:30-1:30** p.m. If you are in need of a meal during the week, please stop by during these hours and food will be served free of charge. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit SharingBread.com for more.

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.