

PSAs Week of 9 / 26 / 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 very low levels. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now.

9/28	Wed.	12:00-6:00	The Community Center in Browerville
9/30	Fri.	9:00-3:00	VFW in Brainerd

Urgent NOTICE from H.A.R.T:

Because the **Heartland Animal Rescue Team** in Baxter does not euthanize animals for time or space, they have had to make the difficult decision to **STOP all animal intake until further notice**. This includes personal surrenders or strays that you may have found. With this update, they are also stopping their surrender list. HART is extremely sorry for the inconvenience, but with slow adoptions and continuous intake, they simply do not have the kennel space anymore. For info: HARTPets.org.

9/26 – 10/2

The 2022 Coats for Kids Drive is underway and we are looking for **donations of new or gently used coats** of all sizes so we can keep our lakes area kids-in-need warm this upcoming winter season. Please bring your donations of new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, and/or gloves (any winterwear with working zippers and no holes/tears) to Crystal Cleaners on Washington Street in Brainerd **NO LATER THAN 5:00p.m. on FRIDAY, SEPT. 30!** Crystal Cleaners will clean the items and get them ready for distribution in October. The annual Coats for Kids Drive is a partnership between Crystal Cleaners, Kinship Partners and Hubbard Radio. Visit KinshipPartners.org for a current list of other drop-off locations or to volunteer.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and although the topic of suicide can be scary to think about, it is time to deepen the conversation. We ALL have mental health that needs to be taken care of and there are resources available if you or someone you know is contemplating suicide. A new **mental health crisis line** is now available to Minnesota residents as part of a nationwide effort to make the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** number easier to remember. Now, you can **CALL or TEXT 988** any time of any day to access resources. There are currently four call centers across the state of Minnesota. There is also a phone number to call if you need to talk... 1-800-273-TALK (8255). You can also contact Crow Wing County Community Services locally at 218-824-1140 or call The Crisis Line.

Join the **Confidence Learning Center** and the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Sept. 27th** from 4:30-6:00 at Camp Confidence in East Gull Lake. This is being held in conjunction with the center's Community Day where guests are invited to tour the camp, network and enjoy delicious appetizers from Black Bear Lodge & Saloon, plus beverages from Roundhouse Brewery. There is also a chance to win some fun prizes! As a courtesy to the host, please RSVP online in advance at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

The **Brainerd Amateur Hockey Association** (BAHA) invites kids to **Try Brainerd Hockey!** This event is free to all participants. No hockey or skating experience is necessary. During the sessions, the kids will learn basic skating and hockey related skills all while having a blast and hanging out with other kids! On **Tues. & Wed. Sept. 27 & 28**, kids are invited to the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd – as long as they are between the ages of 4 and 9 (with a parent/guardian). Both nights, **Girls** will take to the ice from **5:30-6:15**. **Boys** will have ice time from **6:30-7:15**. Equipment is provided, so pre-registration is required (for sizing). Register online at BrainerdHockey.com.

The **Pequot Lakes Chamber** invites the public to an **Explore Pequot Lakes Business Meeting** on **Wed. Sept. 28th** at Savi Skin Studio in the Jack Pine Center in Pequot lakes. The morning meeting will be held from 7:45-9:15. The event is a chance to network and learn more about the business, business owners, manager and key staff. All area welcome.

Pinehaven Youth & Family Services is seeking individuals who are interested in becoming a **licensed parent or parents**. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, Amy Walz, Director of Foster Care at Pinehaven will answer any questions and conduct pre-license interviews to anyone seriously interested in joining the Pinehaven team on **Thurs. Sept. 29th** at the Brainerd Public Library. The session will be held from 3:00-5:00. The event will also feature Kimberly Henderson, who does medication management for children ages 5-17. For more information, call 218-828-2027.

Mount Ski Gull invites you to join the fun at their **Fall Fundraiser, Paul Bunyan's Oktoberfest Picnic** as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary! Paul's Picnic will be held on **Thurs. Sept. 29th** from 5:00-8:30 outside at Mount Ski Gull. This year's event will consist of a catered meal from Sunshine Summerhouse (BBQ Ribs n' fixins), live music by Ted Feyder, sunset chairlift rides (with photos), an online auction and the 3rd Annual Babe's Great Pumpkin Race! Adult beverages will be available for purchase (cash/card). Tickets for the fundraiser start at \$60/person (\$50 for youth). Learn more and reserve tickets online at MountSkiGull.com.

The **Brainerd Lakes Area Drug Education Coalition** (BLADE) has partnered with the **Northland Arboretum** to host a **Recovery Walk** on **Thurs. Sept. 29th** at 5:30. This is a chance for the community to come together to celebrate Recovery Month by increasing awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders and restoring hope by spreading these important messages, "behavior health is essential to health, prevention works, treatment is effective and people recover." The event will include music, activities, door prizes and fellowship. There will be a candlelight walk through the Arb at dusk to honor those in recovery and their loved ones. All ages are welcome. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search BLADE Brainerd Lakes or send an email to BLADE@CrowWing.us.

Brainerd Community Theater is pleased to announce **Auditions for "A Christmas Carol"** by Charles Dickens in a new adaptation by Patrick Barlow. Auditions will be held in the Dryden Theater at Central Lakes College (Brainerd) on **Thurs. & Fri. Sept. 29 & 30** from 5:00-6:00 each night. Virtual auditions may also be requested. To sign up for an audition time, visit CLCPerformingArts.com. Rehearsals will begin in October with the show running December 13-15 at the Dryden Theater.

The **Grassroots Concert Series** continues in Nisswa which will take place again on **Fri. Sept. 30th** and feature **Dennis Warner**, who will take to the Live Well Nightclub & Coffee Bar stage at Journey Church in Nisswa at 7:30. Doors open at 6:30. General admission is \$10. Until further notice, masks are still required to attend. (N-95 masks will be available for those who need one). Seating will be arranged for provide social distancing. To learn more about this concert and the series, visit GrassrootsConcerts.org or call 218-838-4266.

Lakes Area Music Festival will present **The Great American Songbook** on **Fri. Sept. 30th** at 7:30 at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd and tickets are available now. The show will feature **Broadway soprano Andrea Ross** who will perform a mix of jazz standards, pop songs and show tunes of the early decades of the 20th century. Tickets are name-your-price... pay what you can to support this program and organization. Reserve tickets online at LakesAreaMusic.org/Events.

There are just a few spots left for those wanting to take part in the **10th Annual Fishing To End Hunger** tournament on **Sat. Oct. 1st**, with the check-in and fisherman's dinner on **Fri. Sept. 30th**. The dinner is Friday from 4:00-7:00 at Bar Harbor in Lake Shore, which is also the launch location for the tournament on Saturday. This is a 2-person per boat fishing tournament, and the cost is \$500 per boat. Proceeds will benefit **The Outreach Program of the Brainerd Lakes Area**, which provides meals to soup kitchens, food shelves, community meal programs, shelters, churches and any place food is needed. Pre-registration is required. Visit FishingToEndHunger.com.

Heritage Church in Baxter invites you to join them in celebrating 100 years with a **Centennial Homecoming!** The weekend begins **Fri. night Sept. 30th** with interviews with former pastors and youth pastors, alumni choir, and worship time that will feature music from several decades. **Saturday's** activities include a social time and hymn sing in the morning featuring former Pastor's son Paul Schaible; a time to review the Our Heritage Display, Opportunity to tour the Adult and Teen Challenge Facility, and a Family, Food and Fun night. **Sunday** morning will feature the recognition of former staff members and their families with retired District Superintendent, Pastor Clarence St. John, as keynote speaker. Get more information at IAmHeritage.org and join the celebration September 30th – October 2nd at Heritage Church in Baxter!

The **Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today** are ready to help you **Flock Your Friends** and raise money to help animals! Right now, you can have a small, medium or large flock of pink, plastic flamingos delivered and set up at a location of your choice (within a 15 mile radius of Brainerd/Baxter) for \$1/bird. Twenty to fifty birds will "migrate" from location to location and stay in each spot for 2-3 days (restrictions apply). Don't want to be flocked? You can "purchase" flocking insurance for a \$50 donation. All the money raised from the flocking will be donated to the **Heartland Animal Rescue Team** (HART) and the **Ruff Start Rescue**. The flocking will continue until the birds fly south on **Sat. Oct. 1st**. To flock your friends, relatives, rival business, visit BrainerdLakesAreaWomenOfToday.com.

The **Legacy Chorale of Greater Minnesota** will host a **Variety Show** on **Sat. Oct. 1st** at the Community Center in Nisswa! The "celebration of music and loyalty" will feature live talent from the chorale's members along with appetizers, dessert and a cash bar. Social hour starts at 6:00 with the show starting at 7:00. Tickets are \$35 and available through Eventbrite or by calling 218-410-3030. Learn more online at LegacyChorale.org.

Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa will celebrate the **2022 World Day of Prayer** on **Sun. Oct. 2nd** at 9:00. The theme is: I Know the Plans I Have For You! (Jeremiah 29: 1-14). World Day of Prayer at LCC will include special music and traditional Irish dancers from the Hudson Irish Dance Academy followed by a time of fellowship where traditional foods from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland will be served. Artifacts and information about the same countries will be on hand too. All are welcome! For more info, call Carolyn at 218-963-7660.

Gabriel's Home Family Fall Festival Fundraiser will be held on **Sun. Oct. 2nd** from 1:00-4:00 at their facility on Co. Road 108 in Brainerd. Anthony and Lisa Kinney invites everyone to come out for an afternoon of fun that includes pumpkin painting, face painting, pumpkin bowling, egg/spoon races, stick horse races, a coin dig, s'mores, hot dogs, brats and of course, a time to visit with the animals! The cost is \$10 per child (adults are FREE). All of the proceeds from the event will go to support the rescue horses at Gabriel's Home. For more info, call 218-839-6882.

10/3 – 10/9

Join **Mount Ski Gull** for a family-friendly adventure as they host a **Guided Night Hike** on **Tues. Oct. 4th** from 6:00-7:30. at Mount Ski Gull. The hikes include stops to do fun, educational night activities. Topics COULD include using your senses at night, learning about nocturnal animals, predators/prey, astronomy and more! The hike is about 1 mile (1.5 hours) with stops along the way. **MUST** register in advance at MountSkiGull.com. The cost is \$10 for adults.... \$2 for youth.

Lakewood Health System, in partnership with the **Alzheimer's Association**, will be offering a **Support Group For Caregivers** of those with loved ones diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The group meets the first Wednesday (**Wed. Oct. 5th**) of every month from 11 to 12 in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood's Senior Campus. The group is designed to provide emotional, educational and social support for those who care for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's. Participants will develop coping methods, and encouragement to help maintain their person, and their physical and emotional health, as well as optimally care for the person with dementia or Alzheimer's. For more info, call 218-894-8818.

The **Lakes Area United Way** is proud to announce that the annual **Chili Cook-Off** is returning to the Westgate Mall in Brainerd on **Wed. Oct. 5th** from 11:30-1:00. The celebratory theme is "Together Again!" The UW is looking for businesses to register, with booth sponsorships starting at \$100. Tickets for the event will be \$10, which will include entry into the event and a bowl for tasting! Visit UnitedWayNow.org for info.

Jack Pine Brewery in Baxter will host another **Pints for a Purpose** on **Wed. Oct. 5th** from 5:00-8:00 where guests will be supporting the **Be A Pal** non-profit here in the lakes area. During that time, \$1 from every pint sold will be donated to Be A Pal and there will also be pizza, games, a raffle, and live music! Be A Pal provides social-emotional support, within our community, by connecting individuals with pen pals of all ages. Learn more at BeAPalMN.org.

Central Lakes College Cultural Thursday Presents: ***Tales of Laughing Fox – The Culture and History of the Anishinaabe People through Storytelling and Flute Performance*** on **Thurs. Oct. 6th** at Chalberg Theater on the Brainerd Campus starting at 12:00. Michael's presentation consists of stories, culture, history and music of the Anishinaabe peoples. With over 20 flutes in his collection each with their own story, voice and song. Michael Laughing Fox Charette weaves traditional storytelling with his own experiences.

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** will host a **Candidate Forum** on **Thurs. Oct. 6th** from 6:00-8:00 at Eagle View Elementary School in Breezy Point to learn more about the candidates running for **Breezy Point City Council** and **Pequot Lakes School Board**. This is a great opportunity to hear from each person and make an informed choice at the polls in November. Pre-registration is NOT required. Learn more online at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Auditions for **Stage North Theater's** performance of **ANNIE** will be held on **Fri. Oct. 7th and Sat. Oct. 8th** at the Franklin Arts Center in Brainerd. Learn more online at StageNorthTheater.com or Call 218-232-6810.

Join the **Crossing Arts** on **Sat., Oct. 8** from 10:00 to 12:00 noon, as they give out **creativity kits** to anyone who wants a little bit of creative fun. Kits will be available on tables inside of Crossing Arts. Kits include two art projects, a coloring sheet, and more! This month's kit will feature Matisse Painting with Scissors & Mixed Media Collage. Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 or visit CrossingArts.org. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit in downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

Northern Lakes Youth Hockey Association will host **Come Try Hockey for FREE** on **Sat. Oct. 8th** at the Breezy Point Hockey Center from 12:30-2:00. Gear will be provided at no charge. Register for Come Try Hockey at NorthernLakesLightning.com.

MISC...

Community Action of Pequot Lakes and the **Pequot Lakes Community Library** are teaming up once again for **"Parkas for Pequot Lakes,"** a winter clothing collection drive for hats/mittens/gloves in children and adult sizes during the months of **September and October**. All donations will be delivered to Eagle View Elementary School in early November. Donations should be new or in very good condition. Zippers must be in working order. The library (drop off location) is ½ mile north of the stop sign on Rasmussen Road in Pequot Lakes. They are open M, Tu, W, and F from 9:00-5:00... 9:00-7:00 on Thursdays and 10:00-4:00 on Saturdays. For more info, visit Facebook and search Community Action of Pequot Lakes.

The **Brainerd VFW** announces its **2022-23 Patriot's Pen Competition** for students in grades 6-8. The theme is "My Pledge To Our Veterans." Students are asked to write and enter a 300- to 400-word essay where they could win cash prizes of \$100, \$150 and \$200. Then on to the district, state and national where there are \$55,000 in prizes given away by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The **deadline for submissions is Mon. Oct. 31st**. Competition details are online at BrainerdVFW.org/Patriots-Pen.

The **Brainerd VFW** announces its **2022-23 Voice of Democracy Competition** for students in grades 9-12. The theme is "Why is the Veteran Important?" Students are asked to write then present an audio recording of what they write for a chance to win monetary prizes. The local level could win you \$200, \$250 and \$300. Then, on to the district, state and national levels where there are \$154,000 in prizes given away by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The **deadline for submissions is Mon. Oct. 31st, 2022**. Competition details are online at BrainerdVFW.org/Voice-Of-Democracy.

The **Minnesota Loons Hockey Team** is still accepting applications for its **Billet Program** for the **2022-23 season**. The team needs host homes/families to house players and be a role model to these players who come from all over North America to play hockey here in Breezy Point/Central Minnesota. Families/individuals receive a monthly stipend & complimentary season tickets to the home games. To apply, visit MNLoons.com or send an email to: Bailey@MNLoons.com.

Bridges of Hope announces that the **Brainerd Area Overnight Shelter** is now open for the season. If you are in need of a warm, safe place to sleep between the hours of 7:00PM and 8:00 AM and are 18 or older, you are welcome. Those who need a bed need to arrive at the shelter between 7:00 and 11:00 PM. The shelter address is 1926 S. 7th Street. For more information, visit BridgesOfHopeMN.org/WarmingShelter.

The POHL Children's Foundation is offering a **Forever Family Grief Support Group**, a 6-week grief support group that invites families who have lost a loved one to come together and create a community of support that encourages healing and growth of the entire family who are in transition after loss. The groups are FREE to families through scholarships provided by the Pohl Children's Foundation. The groups are offered in Little Falls, Staples, Deerwood and Baxter. For more information, send an email to PohlChildrensFoundation@gmail.com or call 218-820-2626. The website is PohlChildrensFoundation.org.

Whether you are brand new to the sport of ice skating, have taken lessons before, or just love to skate outside, **Vacationland Figure Skating Club (VFSC)** has the perfect class for you. Options are available for every age and ability – preschool to adult! The **Learn To Skate** regular season runs from **Sun. Oct. 16th – Feb. 26th** with all classes held at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. If you would like to learn more or register for classes, visit VacationlandFigureSkaingClub.com.

The Lakes Area Growers hosts the **Brainerd Farmer's Market every Tuesday** in the parking lot of the Franklin Art Center in Brainerd from 8:00-12:30. Find Minnesota grown fruits and vegetables like asparagus, peas, green beans, broccoli, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes raspberries, grapes, apples and more! They will also have hand-crafted items and locally raised food like meat and dairy products, buffalo meat, eggs, etc.

Nisswa Farmer's Market is open **every Thursday** at the American Legion in Nisswa from 8:00-12:30. Lakes Area Growers feature Minnesota grown fruits and vegetables like asparagus, peas, green beans, broccoli, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes raspberries, grapes, apples and more! They will also have hand-crafted items and locally raised food like meat, breads and dairy products, buffalo meat, eggs, etc.

Baxter Farmer's Market is open **every Friday** in the parking lot of the Westport Shopping Center and will be open from 8:00-12:30. Lakes Area Growers feature Minnesota grown fruits and vegetables like asparagus, peas, green beans, broccoli, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes raspberries, grapes, apples and more! They will also have hand-crafted items and locally raised food like meat, breads and dairy products, buffalo meat, eggs, etc.

Community Action of Pequot Lakes and the **Pequot Lakes Community Library** are teaming up once again for "**Parkas for Pequot Lakes,**" a winter clothing collection drive for hats/mittens/gloves in children and adult sizes during the months of **September and October**. All donations will be delivered to Eagle View Elementary School in early November. Donations should be new or in very good condition. Zippers must be in working order. The library (drop off location) is ½ mile north of the stop sign on Rasmussen Road in Pequot Lakes. They are open M, Tu, W, and F from 9:00-5:00... 9:00-7:00 on Thursdays and 10:00-4:00 on Saturdays. For more info, visit Facebook and search Community Action of Pequot Lakes.

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is in **need of volunteers** to help us complete three current build projects, as well as in our bustling ReStore. Here are the areas where we need help right now: Construction, ReStore staff, pick-up/salvages and others. If you want a rewarding volunteer experience, many of our volunteer say that they receive more by volunteering than they feel they give...and that there is so much to learn! To volunteer or see opportunities, visit LakesAreaHabitat.org/Volunteer or call 218-454-7021.

The **Lakes Area United Way** is proud to announce that the annual **Chili Cook-Off** is returning to the Westgate Mall in Brainerd on **Wed. Oct. 5th** from 11:30-1:00. The celebratory theme is "Together Again!" The UW is looking for businesses to register, with booth sponsorships starting at \$100. Tickets for the event will be \$10, which will include entry into the event and a bowl for tasting! Visit UnitedWayNow.org for info.

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!

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.

A new **mental health crisis line** is now available to Minnesota residents as part of a nationwide effort to make the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** number easier to remember. Now, Minnesotans can **CALL or TEXT 988** any time of any day to access resources. There are currently four call centers across the state of Minnesota.

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. Volunteer opportunities are available.

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.

The Northern Minnesota Railroad Heritage Association (NMRHA) Train Club invites the public to stop by their club in Crosslake to see all the trains! They have three different scale layouts in their 8,000 square foot facility in Crosslake. There are fun things for kids and free gifts for them as well! The club is located on County Road 66 across from Zorbaz in Crosslake and is open to visitors **every Saturday** from 10:00-2:00 year round! A donation of \$5 for those over the age of 5 is appreciated.