

PSAs Week of 2 / 13 / 23 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...

2/15	Wed.	9:00-3:00	Pillager High School in Pillager
2/20	Mon.	12:00-6:00	CHI St. Gabriel's in Little Falls

**February is American Heart Month –
TAKE CARE OF YOUR "TICKERS!"**

Tickets are selling fast for the **2023 Clear Vision with Confidence** event coming **Mon. Mar. 6, 2023** to Grand View Lodge. The event will be held from 11:00-5:00 where attendees will enjoy a Keynote Presentation about "Powering Up: How Self-Awareness Helps Women Succeed (by Dr. Tasha Eurich), networking opportunities, a panel of local leaders, a plated lunch, silent auction and more! Tickets start at \$75 for general admission. Get tickets online at ClearVisionWithConfidence.com. Funds raised will benefit The Confidence Learning Center and Camp Confidence, a camp that serves people of all ages with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

2/13 – 2/19

Lakes Area Rescue, which provides emergency medical services for Crow Wing and Cass Counties, is **currently looking for Volunteer First Responders** to join their team, primarily in the East Gull Lake area. If you live in that area and would like to be a first responder, they need you! No experience necessary – training and equipment are provided. More information can be found online at LakesAreaRescue.com.

Don't forget to treat your dog this **Valentine's Day** with a trip to the **Buster Dog Park** in Brainerd where you can share your love for your pup! Brainerd Parks & Rec will have their **Smooch A Pooch** kissing booth in the park from **NOW UNTIL Fri. Feb 17th** where you can snap a picture of you and your pooch. For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Brainerd Parks & Rec*.

The **Heartland Animal Rescue Team** in Baxter is holding an adoption event from **Tues. Feb. 14 through Sat. Feb. 18th**. All cat and dog adoption fees are reduced this week as part of their **HART Sweet Hearts** week. All adoptable animals can be visited at the shelter during their regular business hours, Tues. – Sat. 11:00-4:00. For more info, visit HARTPets.org.

The **Crow Wing County Volunteer Coordinators Open House** will be held on **Wed. Feb. 15th** from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at The Center in Brainerd. If you are a volunteer coordinator or if you work for an organization that uses volunteers, please join this group for a light breakfast and coffee to learn more about the Association and how it can benefit your organization. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search for *Volunteer Coordinators Association of Crow Wing County*.

Join **Jack Pine Brewery** in Baxter for another **Pints for a Purpose** on **Wed. Feb. 15th** from 5:00-8:00pm. \$1 from every pint sold during that time will be donated to the **Pohl Children's Foundation**. Guests will also enjoy pizza from Papa Murphy's and will have the chance to win gift cards and prizes. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Pints for a Purpose Baxter*.

Join **The Babinski Foundation** for a **Meet Your Match Speed Dating** event on **Thurs. Feb. 16th** at their facility in Pequot Lakes. Join them for drinks and sweets, fun activities, a dog/cat kissing booth and maybe find your forever Valentine during "speed dating!" The event runs from 2:00-6:00 and all are welcome. For more information, visit BabinskiFoundation.org and click on Events.

Kinship Partners presents a **Who's Got Game** Fundraiser on **Fri. Feb. 17th** at the Taconite Canteen & Event Center in Ironton from 6:00-10:00pm. Teams of 4 to 8 are invited to join them for a brain-busting night of trivia, appetizers and fun all to support mentoring in the Brainerd Lakes Area! Tickets are \$40 per person and can be reserved online at KinshipPartners.org.

The annual **Nisswa Winter Jubilee** will take place **Fri. Feb. 17-Sun. Feb. 19th** throughout the town of Nisswa! The fun starts Friday with great food and drink specials throughout the town, including live music by King's Ransom from 8:00-12:00 at The Pickle! Saturday will feature a medallion hunt, fun for the kids and the Nisswa Winter Jubilee Parade at 12:00! Snow sculpting, Nisswaschlagen, wood splitting and storytelling and more live music that night at the Nisswa Legion and at the Pickle! Sunday, then, don't forget about the **Nisswa Fire Department's Ice Fishing Derby** on Nisswa Lake from 12:00-2:00 where it's only \$5 a hole to fish! Learn more online at Nisswa.com or follow the *Nisswa Winter Jubilee* on [Facebook](#). Get your \$5 Jubilee Button for savings all around town!

The breathtaking glamour of the Jazz Age comes to the stage in Simon Levy's adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, ***The Great Gatsby*** at the Pequot Lakes High School Auditorium starting on **Fri. Feb. 17th** at 7:00. Presented locally by the **Greater Lakes Area Performing Arts** (GLAPA), the play is set in New York and tells the story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman who he love in his youth. Show times are Feb. 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7:00 and on Feb. 19 & 26 at 2:00. Get tickets online at GLAPA.org.

It's time for the **19th Annual Fishing For Ducks Ice Fishing Contest** on Mille Lacs Lake at Garrison Bay. Hosted by **Garrison's Ducks Unlimited**, the contest will take place on **Sat. Feb. 18th** and the top prize is \$20,000!!!! Tickets are \$30 until 11:59 PM on Sun. Feb. 12th...then they go up to \$40. The pre-party will be held on Fri. Feb. 17th at the Garrison VFW. Free entry with your fishing ticket! Learn more online at FishingForDucks.org.

The **Brainerd Curling Club** invites the public to Open Curling from 6:00-9:00 on **Sat. Feb. 18th**. Open Curling is for members of the club and community members, including those who are just curious about the sport. You can try curling, work on skills or find others for pick-up games. Brooms and sliders are available to use at no cost. Bring clean, rubber-soled athletic shoes and comfortable clothes for the ice. There is no cost for Curling Club members... and just \$10 for non-members (\$25/family). For more info, visit BrainerdCurling.org. The club is located on the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd.

The public is invited to a **Sunday Breakfast** at the **Brainerd VFW** on **Sun. Feb. 19th** from 8:00-12:00. There will be seven menu items to choose from for only \$10. By attending, you will help to support this veteran organization. The VFW is at 309 S. Sixth Street in Brainerd. For more info, visit BrainerdVFW.org.

The public is invited to a **FUNdraiser** for **Be A Pal** at **Roundhouse Brewery** in Nisswa on **Sun. Feb. 19th** from 1:00-4:00. The event will include music, food, beverages, raffles and activities for kids! \$1 from each plat of food or pint of beer sold will go toward helping Be A Pal, which works to connect adults in senior living facilities with community members through letter writing. Learn more online at BeAPalMN.org.

Join the **Northland Arboretum** each and every week for **Sunday Funday Movie & Game Night!** On Sundays, including **Sun. Feb. 19th**, a free kids movie starts at 1:30 (bring your own blanket!) followed by games and a chance to get outside and enjoy cross country and snow shoe the trails! The event is free for Arb members and \$5 for non-members. Popcorn, hot chocolate and other concessions will be available for sale. Adults must accompany children at all times. The event runs from 1:00-4:00. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Northland Arboretum*.

The **Lakes Area Skate Park Association** will host a **Taco Buffet Fundraiser** on **Sun. Feb. 19th** at The Local 218 restaurant in Brainerd. The buffet will be up and running from 4:00-7:00 and will also include raffle drawings. The cost is \$15 (Kids 6 and under eat free), includes a bottled water, and all the proceeds will benefit the Lakes Area Skate Park. Full bar service will be available with \$1 sodas.

The public is invited to the **Breezy Point Ice Arena** on **Sun. Feb. 19th** for a **Family Skate Night** that will run from 6:00-7:00. Admission is \$5 per skater, with a maximum \$20 for a family. Limited free skate rental and sharpening will be available. Members of the Breezy Point Skate School and Figure Skate Club skate for free. Popcorn, candy and hot cocoa will be available for purchase.

2/20 – 2/26

The **Babinski Foundation** will host an **Adoption Event at Camping World** in Baxter on **Fri. Feb. 24th** from 10:00-2:00. Babinski will have adoptable cats and dogs on-site, where you can stop and meet the animals and Babinski staff... enjoy a bite to eat and support the Babinski Foundation. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *The Babinski Foundation Pequot Lakes*.

Verse Like Water: The visiting poet program of **Central Lakes College** presents Romanian-American poet Maya C. Popa at 12:00 noon on **Fri. Feb. 24** in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. A book signing and craft talk will follow this free literary event. Popa teaches poetry at New York University and celebrates the relationship between poetry and wonder in the human heart. For more info, visit CLCMN.edu.

The **2023 Gull Lake Frozen Fore Weekend** is set for **Feb. 24-Feb. 26th** stationed out of Hole-In-The-Day Bay on Gull Lake. The Frozen Flop will be held Friday at 7:00 followed by music under the tent at 7:30 and 9:00. ... Visit GullLakeEvents.com for registration and more information.

The first phase of **BPS 150: THE EXHIBITION** may now be visited at its exhibition location, Brainerd High School. The next guided tour, given by BPS archivist John Erickson will be held on **Sat. Feb. 25th** at 1:00 (one last tour will be held Mar. 4th). The tour takes about 30 minutes and will include an introduction, overview and commentary on the 45 exhibits of Phase 1. The event is in celebration of the 150 years of delivering educational public services to the people of Brainerd and beyond by Brainerd Public Schools. There is no limit of registrants, but registration is required. Visit [Facebook](#), search *Brainerd Public Schools Archives*, and register on the link provided.

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MISC...

The Minnesota Department of Health and **Crow Wing County** remind county residents that **FREE Radon Testing Kits** are available right now by stopping by the Land Services building in Brainerd. The Department recommends that all homes should be tested for radon every 5 years. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that occurs naturally in the soil and can enter homes through cracks and openings in floors and walls. Two-in-Five homes have radon levels that could cause significant health risk, but it is preventable. Free test kits can be picked up at Land Services at 322 Laurel Street. One kit limit per household. Call 218-824-1010 for more information.

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is in **need of volunteers** to help us complete two current build projects, as well as in our bustling ReStore. 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! Habitat needs help with construction of the homes, helping at the ReStore, which deals in recycling new and like-new building and home materials AND they need help with pick-ups and salvages. If you can help in any of these areas, please send an email to Heidi.Gould@LakesAreaHabitat.org or call 454-7012.

Crow Wing County Community Services is looking for **volunteer drivers** to help some residents get to and from appointments, grocery stores, doctor appointments and other important destinations. Volunteers must have a reliable vehicle, pass a background check and have a valid driver's license. Reimbursement is available for some mileage (at current IRS rate). If you would like to volunteer, call Matt at Community Services 218-824-1228.

It's snowplow season and residents of **Crow Wing County** can once again find out just where their snowplow is during snow events! **Where's My Snowplow?** is a web-based map that uses GPS to track the 15 county plows and show you the current location of each plow. Track the plows in real time- updated every five minutes during winter events. Visit CrowWing.US to find the snowplow tracker!

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.

Bridges of Hope reminds the public that the **Brainerd Area Overnight Shelter** is open for those in need of a warm place to sleep. 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 **Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Fund** (BLAWF) invites everyone to save the date and plan to join them at Grand View on **Tues. Apr. 18, 2023**, to honor the **Women Making Waves and Ripple Maker Recipients**. The Woman Making Waves and Ripple Maker awards recognize women who have significantly contributed by giving of their time and/or financial resources to help local charities. We ask that if you know any local women who fit either of these criteria to please nominate them online at CommunityGiving.org/BrainerdWomensFund.

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!

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 will meet the **first Wednesday of every month** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood's Senior Campus (401 Prairie Ave. NE). The group is designed to provide emotional, education and social support for those who care for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's. Participants will develop coping methods, along with some 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. Masks are required to be worn during the meeting.

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.

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.

My Neighbor To Love Coalition is a local non-profit with a mission to end homelessness in the Brainerd Lakes Area by building affordable rental housing, connect people to supportive services and create a community of hope and belonging. They are raising funds right now to build the first four housing units. To learn more or give a donation, visit MNTLC.org.