

PSA

May 8– May 19

The American Red Cross continues to face a critical blood shortage and is issuing an emergency 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:

Visit www.redcrossblood.org (where you can download the FREE Red Cross Blood Donor App) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make your appointment:

Thurs.	5/9	10:00-4:00	CRMC in Crosby
Fri.	5/10	8:00-2:00	CRMC in Crosby
Fri.	5/10	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum in Baxter
Thurs.	5/16	10:00-4:00	Brainerd VFW
Fri.	5/17	12:00-5:00	Bertha-Hewitt High School in Bertha
Tues.	5/21	12:00-6:00	Emily City Hall
Wed.	5/22	10:00-2:00	Swanville High School
Wed.	5/22	12:00-6:00	McGregor Community Center
Thurs.	5/23	11:00-5:00	Riverwood Health Center in Aitkin
Thurs.	5/23	12:00-6:00	Motley United Methodist Church

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:

Wed		9:30-11:30	Pine River-Backus Family Center in P.R.
Fri.	5/10	10:00-12:00	Northland Area Family Center in Remer
Tues	5/21	10-12 & 1-2:30	Pillager Family Resource Center / Pillager
Tues	5/28	9:00 – 11:00	Cass Co. Health, Human & Vet. Serv

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

Crow Wing County and **Lakes Area Law Enforcement** have come together to introduce **The Vitals App**. Vitals is the new app that helps protect people with visible and invisible conditions and disabilities by voluntarily communicating critical information to law enforcement and first responders. Each Vitals individual is assigned a Vitals beacon that transmits a private and secure signal to authorized first responders that are within 80 feet, allowing them temporary access to critical information that can help the individual and law enforcement de-escalate what could become a dangerous or emergency situation. To learn more, or to register for the service, visit TheVitalsApp.com or text VITALS to 797979.

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 **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.

History and Brainerd Public Schools history, is made every day. The missions of **BPS Archives** are to protect and preserve the history of BPS, its students, graduates, teachers and staff through the collection and display of BPS-related artifacts. John Erickson, the BPS Archivist & Curator, is looking for artifacts, items and donations to BPS Archives that may currently be hidden away in your attic or basement just waiting to be displayed, talked about and appreciated. If you have any items (BHS letter jackets, flyers, photos, pamphlets, pins, crowns, etc) that you would like to donate to the cause, please call John at 218-330-1780 or send an email to BPS.History@isd181.org.

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

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.

May 11 Figure Studies

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

If you are looking to **volunteer** more in 2019, please visit the **United Way of Crow Wing and Southern Cass County's** website at UnitedWayNow.org. There, you can click on the Volunteer tab. Choose the organizations you'd like to help or the people you'd like to work with and the United Way will send you notifications when volunteer opportunities arise that you have chosen! No commitment... Just Volunteer... make a difference – visit UnitedWayNow.org.

Having cancer is often one of the most stressful experiences in a person's life. But support groups help many people cope with the emotional aspects of cancer by providing a safe place to share and work through feelings and challenges. **Any female with a cancer** diagnosis is invited to this **supportive and caring group** facilitated by professionals and meets the second Friday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center. Speakers will also be asked to attend and discuss various topics throughout the year. For more information about the Women's Cancer Support Group please call 218-828-7685.

Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving rural communities. There are no income qualifications to participate in Ruby's Pantry – Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats and would like to save on their grocery budget. Ruby's Pantry is "a hand up, not a hand out." For a \$20 cash donation you will receive a "share" with up to \$120 or more worth of groceries. There are no limits of how many shares that can be purchased at this time. Ruby's Pantry food distribution for the Brainerd Area is at the National Guard Armory the **2nd Tuesday of the month**. Food distribution begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m. Ruby's Pantry has no government funding. It is primarily funded by the contributions of our guests. Participants should bring containers to put their food in. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218-824-5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's!

Everyone in **Brainerd School District 181** are invited to review and provide feedback on the schematic design for the new drop-off and pick-up zones and controlled entrance at **Forestview Middle School** in Baxter. Visit the Forestview page on **Blueprint181.org** to review the plans and submit input. A computer is available for public use in the Welcome Center, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday- Friday at the Washington Educational Services Building, 804 Oak Street in Brainerd. The input submitted by the public will be shared with the Board of Education and the project oversight team for consideration.

Central Lakes College is proud to announce that **Mary Aarlgard, Play Off the Page**, will be offering youth theater workshops this June for students entering 1st through 4th and 5th-9th grades. Those entering 1st-4th grades will have the opportunity to create their own characters and work together to create a play. They will meet from 10:00-12:00 June 10-14, *but must register BY JUNE 7th*. Those entering 5th-9th grades will meet from 10:00-12:00 June 17-21 and *must register by June 14th*. Both workshops will meet in Dryden Theater at CLC Brainerd Campus. Registration fee is \$55/ person and is non-refundable. To register call 218-855-8253.

Attention, drivers! Spring is here, and along with sun and warmth you can expect post-winter road hazards—like pot holes, uneven pavement, springtime showers, and an increased number of cyclists and pedestrians. Did you know that 2018 was the deadliest year for pedestrians since 1990? This spring, slow down on wet roads, avoid potholes, and stay on the lookout for pedestrians and cyclists.

Many Brainerd Public School employees go above and beyond assigned job expectations every day to ensure students receive a high quality education in a safe and positive learning environment. The **Brainerd Public Schools Above and Beyond Award** is intended to annually recognize employees who demonstrate a positive attitude that inspires others and consistently go above and beyond what is expected so students can be successful. **Nominations** are now being accepted. Eligibility: All employees, full- or part-time, are eligible for this award regardless of their job classification or other awards received. Nominations: A student, parent, staff member or community member can nominate an employee. Nominations can be completed online and submitted electronically or completed by hand and mailed in. To submit an electronic nomination go to www.isd181.org. To receive a copy of the nomination form to submit by mail, contact Janet Horn at Washington Educational Services Building, 804 Oak St., Brainerd, MN 56401. Nominations will be accepted through June 7. Selection process: The selection process will involve a selection committee to determine winners. The committee, made up of district staff and administrators, will review nominations and make recommendations.

The Brainerd Writers Alliance is encouraging excellence in literary writing. We are currently accepting writing entries for this year's contest. Deadline for submission is at noon on Sat. June 22, 2019. The Brainerd Writers Alliance welcomes submissions under the following regular categories: Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry. Winners in each category will receive a cash prize and free entry to this year's writers' conference. Details on our guidelines and how to submit your entries are located on our website at www.BrainerdWriters.com

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.

5/6 – 5/12

"A Few Good Men" will be performed at the Dryden Theater in Brainerd on **Tues. May 7, Wed. May 8 and Thurs. May 9** at 7:30pm. The play is part of the **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center's Cultural Art Series**. Tickets are available by calling 855-8199 or visiting CLCPerformingArts.com.

Crow Wing Energized will present Central MN Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Kate LaPage who will discuss important concepts surrounding the topic of **sex trafficking in Minnesota** on **Tues. May 7th** at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. The workshop will teach participants about the Safe Harbor Law, about what trafficking exploitation is and what it looks like in Minnesota, how to identify victims/survivors and red flags and about relationship dynamics. The workshop will run from 10:00-11:30 and is free to attend. Please pre-register online at CrowWingEnergized.org/events.

It's time for the **Annual Brainerd Elks Fishing Fling** on **Wed. May 8th** at the Brainerd National Guard Armory. The social hour begins at 5:00, dinner (choice of prime rib or chicken supreme) is at 7:00 and the program with prizes starts at 8:00. The featured speaker will be WCCO-TV Sports Director and Host of "Sports to the Max" on WCCO Radio, Mike Max. Reserve your \$65 tickets now, only 275 will be sold. Call 829-2643 after 3:00 or contact any Brainerd Elks member. Proceeds will benefit the Elk's Youth Activities Fund.

The **Geritol Frolics** has discontinued production of its shows and will conduct **a liquidation sale** to dispose of its huge inventory of clothing, accessories, costumes, fabric, equipment and hardware. The sale will take place in the upper gym at Franklin Arts Center on **Wed. May 8** from 12:00-7:00.... And on **Thurs./Fri./Sat. May 9-11** from 9:00-4:00. Cash or check ONLY. All pieces are priced to sell and all sales are final. Proceeds from the sale will go toward establishing a perpetual scholarship for a local graduation senior going to college.

Join the **Rural Renewable Energy Alliance** for **Happy Hour For A Cause** on **Thurs. May 9th** from 5:00-7:00pm. For a minimum \$15 donation, you'll enjoy food, friends and wine at Prairie Bay in Baxter. The money raised from this event will go to RREAL's partnership with Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity to empower a local HfH homeowner with solar energy. RSVP at MyRREAL.org.

Wild & Free Wildlife Rehabilitation program will hold their annual **Garage Sale Fundraiser** on **Wed. May 8** from 3:00-8:00... on **Thurs. & Fri., May 9 & 10** from 8:00-8:00 and on **Sat. May 11** from 8:00-2:00 at the VFW in Garrison. All the proceeds from the huge sale will go to benefit Wild & Free and the animals being cared for at the facility. All are welcome.

The **Pine River Chamber of Commerce** invites you to attend the annual spring fundraiser titled "**Light It Up**" on **Thurs., May 9** from 5:00-8:00 P.M. at Bites Grill & Bar, just south of Pine River on Highway 371. The event will feature a beer/wine/spirits tasting, appetizers and a fun and exciting Silent Auction! You need not be a member of the Chamber to attend. Advance tickets are on sale at \$20. Tickets at the door will be \$25. Advance tickets are available at the Pine River Chamber of Commerce Information Center and from committee members. Net proceeds from the fundraiser have been used over the years for many community projects. This year's proceeds are targeted to enhance the Parade of Lights, Summerfest and community lighting at the holiday season. Call the Chamber at 218-587-4000 for information.

Area business and community leaders are invited to participate in **Good for Business: A Community Conversation Employee Mental Well-Being**, a free conference planned for **Thurs. May 9th** at The Woods in Merrifield. A number of speakers will facilitate the conference. The conference is open for the community, lunch and refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Visit CuyunaMed.org/wellness/GoodForBusiness.

2019 MINCED – A Finer Version of "Chopped" cooking competition hosted by SPROUT will take place on **Fri. May 10th** from 5:00-9:00 in the Sprout Kitchen Stadium in Little Falls. Watch area chefs face off against rival chefs using mystery ingredients to create a one-of-a-kind dish! HINT: The chefs will find the mystery ingredients in East African cuisine. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$25/family (2 adults and 2 kids), ages 12 and under are free. There will also be dinner and drinks, available for purchase from pop-up restaurants and bar. Find tickets at SproutMN.com and click on MINCED.

It's time again for the **National Association of Letter Carriers** to host its **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** on **Sat. May 11th**. You are asked to leave a non-perishable food item/s in or near your mailbox on this Saturday before your letter carrier arrives and s/he will take those items and donate them to your area food pantry or food shelf.

An **electronics recycling drive** is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Sat., May 11th** to benefit continuing education for area youth through the Deerwood Technologies Scholarship Fund. The event is at Deerwood Technologies, 21301 Archibald Road (at the corner of Archibald Road/Hwy 6 and Cross Drive) in Deerwood. Bring in computer towers, monitors, laptops, speakers, keyboards, mice, routers, network hubs, cable boxes, batteries, any size printers, copiers, fax machines, VCRs, DVD and CD players, radios, PDAs & MP3 players, cell phones, telephones, extra cables, digital cameras, camcorders, power supplies & transformers, microwaves, small electronics – razors, toothbrushes, hair dryers, curling irons, electric brooms and sweepers, all for \$0.55 per pound. Drop off old Christmas lights for recycling too! Free of charge. Televisions are being accepted for a donation of \$15.00 each. No major appliances will be accepted. For more information: Visit www.deertech.com or email events@deertech.com

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and in an effort to reduce the stigma of mental illness, **Crow Wing Energized** will be hosting a **Make It OK public presentation** on **Sat. May 11th** at the Brainerd Public Library. The public is encouraged to attend this free presentation that will run from 1:00-2:00pm. For more info, visit CrowWingEnergized.org.

Central Lakes College Cultural Art Series presents **The Beatles "Abbey Road – An Album Tribute"** performed by Collective Unconscious on **Sat. May 11th** at the Chalberg Theater at CLC-Brainerd. Tickets are \$20 for adults... \$15 for those under 18. Purchase tickets online at CLCPerformingArts.com or call 218-855-8199.

The **17th Annual Cuyuna Agate & Mineral Show** will be held **Sat. May 11th and Sun. May 12th** at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd. There, you will see agates from around the world, handcrafted jewelry, fossils, crystals, unique décor items, displays and more. There will be a kids' corner, knappers, a silent auction and rock cutting. Concessions will be available. Admission on is \$2 for adults... kids under 12 is \$1. ON SUNDAY, MOMS AND KIDS get in FREE! This is a Buy, Sell, Trade event. For more info: CuyunaRockClub.org.

5/13 – 5/19

People who experience childhood trauma don't "just get over it." Whether you experienced childhood trauma or not, you can help. Learn more at a free **"Self Healing Communities Project" presentation on Mon. May 13** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd. The dinner and presentation starts at 5:30 and it's free. Childcare will be provided for those attending the presentation. For more info, call Tom at 218-297-1385 or visit BridgesOfHomeMN.org.

"Cool-weather Crops from the Kitchen Garden" will be presented by Master Gardener JoAnn Weaver on **Tuesday, May 14** at 12:00 p.m. at the Brainerd Public Library. Wondering what to grow in your garden when the weather is just starting to warm up? This class offers an overview of gardening tips relevant to the many varieties of specialty lettuce, spinach, peas, radishes, asparagus, and other types of produce that prefer cooler temperatures. Sign up for this free program by calling the library at 218-829-5574 or registering online at TinyURL.com/CWCgarden.

Join the Brainerd Lakes Chamber for another **Business After Hours on Tues. May 14th at Crow Wing Power** in Brainerd. Business After Hours runs from 4:30 to 6:00 and guests are encouraged to bring their business cards, be ready to network, have fun, learn more about this chamber business and maybe win a prize! Mike's Catering will be serving food and there will be complimentary beverages and music from Andy Fischer. Crow Wing Power will be giving away a soft sided cooler with wine and an electric grill. RSVP by calling 829-2838 or on the Chamber's website.

Join the **United Way of Crow Wing and Cass Counties** for a **Business After Hours** event at **Chase on the Lake** in Walker on **Tues. May 14th** from 5:00-7:00. The event will take place in the 502 Restaurant & Bar. Bring your business card and \$2 cash for the Split The Pot and door prizes. The event is free to attend and open to all.

Children of all ages are invited to attend the **Eagle Readers story time on Wed., May 15** at 10:30 a.m. at the **Brainerd Public Library**. This month, the stories and craft will have a Showers Bring Flowers theme. Registration is required. The Eagle Readers story time is presented every third Wednesday of the month 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 by searching Brainerd Public Library.

The **Crow Wing County Land Services Department** will conduct a **business electronics collection** event on **Wed. May 15th** from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Crow Wing County Landfill Site. This is an opportunity for businesses to dispose of any old electronics. Items to be accepted include CPUs, Monitors, Printers, scanners, circuit boards, wire and cable among many other things. Billing for business/commercial will be accomplished through the Landfill Office. Credit cards or checks will be accepted. With questions, contact the Land Services - Solid Waste Office at (218) 824-1290

The Nisswa Chamber of Commerce will host its **Spring Membership Dinner at Thurs. May 16th** at Cragun's Legacy Pavillion. Social hour starts at 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00 with a program set to run from 7:30-8:00. Tickets are \$40. Please RSVP by Wed. May 8th by calling 218-963-2620, stop by the Nisswa Chamber office. Or send an email to Holly@Nisswa.com

Lakewood Health System Senior Services will host a **fundraiser on Fri., May 17th** from 3 to 7 p.m. The fundraiser will raise money for senior services projects, including a golf cart limo which will be used to transport residents around the community to enjoy the weather and various events. The fundraiser will include games, fun runs (5k, 1k and a walk), food for purchase, a DJ, minnow races, face painting, and more. Food and games begin at 3 p.m., with the 1k run and walk beginning at 5 p.m., and the 5k run and walk beginning at 6 p.m. Costs for the runs: 5k run and walk (ages 13 and up - \$25; ages 12 and under - \$15) 1k run and walk (all ages - \$10) Pets - \$5
RSVP at LakewoodHealthSystem.com and bring your race payment the day of the event. Call or email Bonnie at 218-894-8082 with questions.

Through the love of BBQ, **Qing for Communities** will be holding the First **Camp Sertoma Kids BBQ Cook Off** to raise money and support for Camp Sertoma, a one week summer camp experience for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Camp Sertoma is held in July each year at Camp Confidence, East Gull Lake, with the help of many volunteers from the community and members of the Great Plains Camp Sertoma, Brainerd Noon Sertoma and Sunrise Sertoma Clubs. The event will be held on **Sat., May 18** behind the Randall State Bank from 1 to 5 pm and includes music by A.C.M.E Allstars, viewing of BBQ ribs, judging, rib feasting (\$1/bone) and awards. For more information about sponsorship, donations or BBQ ing contact Bob at 218-537-2346 or email QingForCommunities@gmail.com.

Great fun! Great Cause! Join **The Arthritis Foundation** at the Paul Bunyan Trailhead in Brainerd on **Sat. May 18th** for **The Walk To Cure Arthritis**. You'll help raise vital funds for kids and families living with arthritis while enjoying a morning filled with fun family activities. To register, visit WalkToCureArthritis.org/NorthernLakes.

The **3rd Annual Veterans Kayak Fishing Tournament** will be held **Sat. May 18th** from 1:00-8:00, sponsored by Homeless Wounded Warriors MN, Crow Wing Kayaks, Moon Lite Square, Paddle Anglers and Fifty Lakes Bar & Bottle Shop. Kayaks will be provided, if needed. The tournament is open to all veterans. Preregister by calling Russ at 651-329-1373. ((The event is listed as taking place at Wind, Water & Wheels in Crosslake.))

It's time for the **3rd Annual Kinship Partners Chocolate Walk** in Nisswa on **Sat. May 18th**. Tickets are going fast – only 250 are sold for this event. Walk and shop, collect and eat chocolates that are provided by spectacular chocolatiers. Proceeds from the event go to Kinship Partners youth mentoring program. Get tickets online at KinshipPartners.org or call 454-8014.

The **Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project** is looking for **volunteers** to serve as Facilitators and Community Members in the Brainerd Lakes Area. LARJP provides a forum for juvenile wrongdoers, their families, the victims and community members to repair the harm done to all. Volunteers will be trained. The next training session will be held **May 18th & 19th**. To register, call 454-4145.

The **Toolin' Tour Motorcycle Ride for Habitat for Humanity of Aitkin County** will be held on **Sun. May 19th** starting and ending in Aitkin at the Butler Building. The ride will take participants from downtown Aitkin at 11:30 to Glen, McGregor, Jacobson, Palisade and back to Aitkin where folks will enjoy a grilled picnic dinner at the Aitkin Legion, a silent auction and prizes. Motorcycles and classic cars are invited to join. To register for the ride, or to learn more, visit HabitatForHumanityAitkinCounty.org or call 218-927-5656.