

PSA

Mar. 17 – Mar. 31

The American Red Cross continues to face a critical blood shortage and continuing its 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:**

The demand for blood won't stop with the coronavirus, and neither will the American Red Cross. Accident victims, cancer patients and so many others continue to need lifesaving blood. But today, we are facing a severe blood shortage and need *all* healthy donors to make an appointment to give now. Donating blood is safe and can help save lives. Please schedule an appointment today by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

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:

Pine River-Backus Family Center in .R.

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| Wed. | 9:30-11:30 | Pine River-Backus Family Center | |
| Fri | 10:00-12:00 | Northland Area Family Center in Remer | |
| Tues | 3/17 | 10-12 & 1-2:30 | Pillager Family Resource Center / Pillager |
| Tues | 3/24 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Cass Co. Health, Human & Vet. Serv |

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

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.

Sat. 4/11 Creative Thumbprint in Mini Books

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

POSTPONED.....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

Would you like to be trained to be a **Census Taker** for the **2020 U.S. Census**? 2020 Census Jobs provide great pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training. To apply, visit 2020CensusJobs.gov/jobs. For more information or help applying, call 1-855-JOB-2020.

Essentia Health clinics are offering 10-minute **Flu Shot** appointments at all of their locations in the lakes area. The **Walk In Flu Clinics** will give the options for flu vaccinations that will include flu shots and a high dose flu shot options for those 65 and older. The clinics are in Baxter, Brainerd, Crosslake, Emily, Hackensack, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager and Pine River. To make an appointment, call 218-828-7100.

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.

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.

POSTPONED....Children ages 2 to 8 and their parents/guardians are invited to the **Brainerd Public Library** every Tuesday for **Family Story Time**. From 10:00-11:00 enjoy a story, songs and crafts all based around a different theme each week. The story time is free and all are welcome.

The Lakes Area Food Shelf is pleased to announce new ADDITIONAL hours of service to the communities of **Breezy Point, Jenkins, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Lake Shore**. The Food Shelf is now open the **First and Third Thursdays** from 5 to 7 PM., in addition to our regular hours of Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m until Noon. Access to healthy food is a critical component of our lives. By adding hours we hope to be more accessible to our present and future clients. The location: Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes.

Lakes Area Habitat For Humanity is looking for **volunteers** to go into to-be demolished homes and strip them of anything resalable. There are a number of salvages scheduled and they need help. They also need volunteers to build homes and work at the ReStore. To volunteer, call 218-454-7020.

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** is now accepting applications and nominations for their **Business Excellence Award, Business Legacy Award and the Lakes Proud Small Business of the Year Award**. The deadline for submissions is Tues. Mar. 31st. Winners will be presented with their awards at the annual Celebration of Excellence Annual Dinner that will be held at Cragun's Resort on Nov. 19th. If you have questions, contact Sue at 822-7119 or send an email to Sue@BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Help make a brighter, more successful future possible for young people by **fostering a teen. Foster parents are urgently needed** for Minnesota teens. Nearly 40% of children in the state's foster care are ages 12 to 18. As a foster parent, you can provide teens with the support, safety and love that they need to thrive. **Lutheran Social Service** can provide you the training and support you need to make a difference by becoming a foster parent. Learn more by calling Lutheran Social Service or visit FosterCareMN.org.

Let's all fight for a hunger-free Minnesota during **March Food Share Month!** Please donate to the March Campaign by giving to your local food shelf. The Salvation Army and our local food shelves are in need of your help. Please make your donation to The Salvation Army, PO Box 385 in Brainerd or at their office at 208 S. 5th Street. Donations of food and/or money are appreciated. Please check online for each food shelf in your area. Your donations will go farther this month as donations are matched by FoodShare Minnesota. The drive runs **Mar. 1st-Apr. 12.**

Tickets are on Sale NOW for the upcoming **Brainerd Sports Boosters 6th Annual Tapped & Corked** event (April 18th) at The Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. The event will run from 4:00-7:00 during which time, guests will sample craft beers, wines and amazing food! Tickets go on sale Mon. Feb. 3rd and are \$40 in advance at BrainerdSportsBoosters.org. They'll be \$50 at the door. Must be 21 or older to attend. Non-sampling designated drivers \$10.

CANCELLED....Tickets are on sale now for the **Brainerd Lakes Family YMCA's 24th Annual Y Ball** at the Grand View Lodge in Nisswa on **Fri. Apr. 3rd**. The event will feature a silent and "lively" live auction, a wonderful dinner and entertainment, featuring (music and dancing with) Junk FM! The proceeds from the night's events will be used to build the programs at the Y and strengthen the foundation that the Y provides for people of all ages in the community. Tickets are \$70 and can be purchased online at BrainerdLakesYMCA.org. Sponsorships are also available.

Crow Wing County offices will remain open to provide services to residents. However, the public is encouraged to use online services or call instead of coming in person if possible. To protect the public's health and slow the rate of transmission of **COVID-19**, Crow Wing County employees will be implementing social distancing while they serve the public. Staff remain committed to being a reliable and trusted source of factual information and preparedness suggestions. Staff are following recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to help reduce transmission of the virus to protect residents, families, and employees.

In an effort to protect the public, limit exposure, and prevent the spread of the rapidly evolving **COVID 19** pandemic, the **City of Crosby** Council has made the decision to suspend all city services with the exception of essential public safety services beginning Tues., Mar. 17. The following facilities are **closed** through March 29, 2020: • City Hall • Library • Hallett Community Center • DMV Police, Fire, and limited Public Works services will continue. This date may change as more information becomes available. The City will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates to the public. The City of Crosby urges each and every individual to follow CDC guidelines to contain the spread of the Coronavirus.

3/16 – 3/22

Due to the concern for the health and well-being of **The Center** members and the public, The Center will be **closed** beginning **Tues. Mar. 17th** until further notice. Donut making will cease as well until further notice. **HOWEVER, MEALS on WHEELS** will be delivered.

CANCELLED!!! **Central Lakes College Cultural Arts Series** will feature the film **“Neither Wolf Nor Dog”** in the Chalberg Theater on **Tues & Wed. Mar. 17 & 18** at 6:30 both nights.

CANCELLED....In honor of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month, **Central Lakes College** is hosting a number of events including **a presentation by Betty Folliard**, founder of the ERA Minnesota and former three-term state representative who will give an up-to-the-moment update on the state of the Equal Rights Amendment that is now getting national attention. There will be two sessions on **Thurs. Mar. 19th**... one at 1:00 and one at 5:30. The event is free and open to the public.

CANCELLED!!! **Brainerd Public Schools ISD 181** will host its annual **Kindergarten Round-Up** on **Thurs. Mar. 19th** from 5:00-6:30 at all the elementary schools within the district. Those with children entering Kindergarten in September are invited to attend – with the child! It’ll be an informative evening for those entering kindergarteners and their families. If you have a student that needs to register for the 2020-21 year, visit the welcome center at the Washington Educational Services Building or call 218-454-6900.

CANCELLED.....Crow Wing County Board Chair, Paul Koering, announced that the **Public Hearing** in front of the county Board scheduled for **March 19** at 6:00 p.m. regarding Crow Wing County becoming a **“2nd Amendment Dedicated County”** is **cancelled**. Chair Koering has scheduled the issue to be on the Board’s agenda on April 14 at their regularly scheduled County Board meeting. According to Chair Koering, “While circumstances may dictate the need to make this adjustment, I remain committed to bringing this issue to a vote of the full County Board. Contact information for all County Board members, as well as a detailed map of each of their districts, is always available on Crow Wing County’s website at CrowWing.us and clicking on “County Board.”

POSTPONED...TBD....The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** will be hosting an **Eggs & Issues MN Legislative Forum** on **Fri. Mar. 20th** at the Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes. The event will run from 8:00-10:00am and will feature a number of lakes area senators and representatives.

CANCELLED!!!! It's time for another concert of the **Grassroots Concert Series** at the Live Well Night Club & Coffee Bar in Nisswa. On **Fri. Mar. 20th**, Claudia Schmidt will be performing. She's a Grassroots favorite as she brings her quirky, hodge-podge back to town. Admission is \$10 at the door for adults... \$5 for kids under 12 with listening attention, when accompanied by an adult. They also ask for a non-perishable food or cash donation for the local food shelf. For more info, visit GrassRootsConcerts.org.

POSTPONED...TBD!!!! The **Everything Expo** will be held on **March 20 & 21** at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. Friday the show will run from 10:00-7:00, Saturday from 10:00-5:00.

POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 20. The **Warehouse** will host its **17th Annual Flea Market, Crafts, Garage Sale & Silent Auction Fundraiser** on **Sat. Mar. 21st** at their facility (two blocks east of 371 on Norway Avenue) in Pine River. The fundraiser will be held from 8:00-2:00, though the silent auction will go until 3:00. Enjoy a variety of vendors, garage sale items and more. There will also be a bake sale, and rolls, pies, coffee and lunch for sale. All the proceeds will support The Warehouse After-School Program and Community Center. For more info, call 587-5404.

POSTPONED UNTIL FALL OR WINTER: The **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**, a collection of films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet, is coming to Brainerd on **Sat., Mar. 21**, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Tornstrom Auditorium, 804 Oak St.

CANCELLED.....Central Lakes College **Cultural Arts Series** will present the all-female country group **Farewell Angelina** at the Chalberg Theater in Brainerd on **Sat. Mar. 21st** at 7:30pm. This four-gal group has been called a "superstar act with killer songs by Roughstock...and Rolling Stone says "wickedly smart songwriting delivered with a healthy dash of sass...deft playing...a sonic knockout!" Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults... \$10 for those under 18. Get tickets online at CLCPerformingArts.com or call 855-8199.

3/23 – 3/29

Going through cancer can be an incredibly stressful experience. **Cancer patients** are invited to bring a guest and participate in a new support offering, Healing Through Art, at Essentia Health – St. Joseph's Medical Center. Healing Through Art combines psychotherapeutic techniques with the creative process to improve mental health, resilience, and well-being. The process of creativity promotes self-expression, self-awareness, and coping skills. Techniques may include drawing, painting, coloring, collage, journaling, and more. Participants do not need to have artistic ability. The next class will be held on **Tues. Mar. 24**, at 1:30. Each class is 1 hour long. Register with the Cancer Center at Essentia Health – St. Joseph's Medical Center at 218-828-3113.

Central Lakes College in Brainerd and Staples invites the community to their annual **Community Open Houses** on **Thurs. Mar. 26th** from 3:00-6:00. Go check out the Brainerd Campus, the Staples Campus and the Heavy Equipment Campus – one or all of them! Take a campus tour, chat with faculty and staff, meet students, enjoy family activities, refreshments and so much more. Everyone is welcome.

It's time for **Happy Hour for a Cause** at Cuyuna Brewing in Crosby. For a minimum donation of \$15 per person, guests will enjoy a night of light appetizers from **Iron Range Eatery**, beer tasting and they'll learn about a local non-profit! The event runs from 5:00-7:00. On **Thurs. Mar. 26th**, guests will learn more about **Tri-County Community Action** and 100% of the proceeds that night will go to that cause!

CANCELLED....Central Lakes College Cultural Arts Series presents Grammy award winning guitarist **Laurence Juber** at the Dryden Theater at CLC in Brainerd on **Thurs. Mar. 26th** at 7:30pm. Juber fuses folk, blues, jazz, pop and classical styles into an unforgettable solo performance. General admission tickets are \$15 for adults... \$10 for those under 18. Get your tickets online at CLCPerformingArts.com or by calling 855-8199.

CANCELLED.....Stage North Theatre Company proudly presents the 1934 musical "**Anything Goes**" at the Franklin Arts Center Auditorium in Brainerd. Shows will be **Thurs. & Fri. Mar. 26 & 27th** at 7:30...and on **Sat. Mar. 28th** at 2:00. It will also run Thurs. & Fri. Apr. 2&3 at 7:30 and Sat. Apr 4 at 2:00. Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchase online at StageNorthTheater.com. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance. (Due to the nature of live theater, children 5 and under will not be admitted.)

3/3- - 3/31

Crow Wing Energized and **Second Harvest North Central Food Bank** will hold another **Pop-Up Produce Pantry** on **Mon. Mar. 30th** from 10:00-12:00 (or until the food is gone) at the Westgate Mall in Baxter. The Pop Up Produce Pantry is a traveling food shelf that delivers nutritious food directly to families in need. The food is free, you just need to bring boxes or bags to carry your food. The pantry is held in hopes of increasing access to fresh, healthy food to all in north central Minnesota.