

PSA

Feb. 5 – Feb. 10

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:

Wed.	2/6	9:00-2:00	Pillager High School in Pillager
Tues.	2/12	10:00-4:00	Brainerd VFW in Brainerd
Thurs.	2/14	12:00-6:00	Palisade Assembly of God Church
Thurs.	2/14	10:00-4:00	CRMC in Crosby
Fri.	2/15	8:00-2:00	CRMC in Crosby
Mon.	2/18	12:00-6:00	Elks Lodge in Wadena
Wed.	2/20	12:00-6:00	American Legion in Pequot Lakes
Wed.	2/20	12:00-6:00	Sebeka High School
Fri.	2/22	12:00-5:00	Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter
Wed.	2/27	2:00-7:00	Upsala High School in Upsala

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	2/6	9:30-11:30	Pine River-Backus Family Center in P.R.
Fri	2/8	10:00-12:00	Northland Area Family Center in Remer
Tues	2/19	10-12 & 1-2:30	Pillager Family Resource Center / Pillager
Tues	2/26	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.

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

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.

Tootie Harris is pleased to announce that she will be providing the **Silver & Fit Exercise & Healthy Aging Program** at the Nisswa Community Events Center to help older adults achieve improved health through regular exercise. The Silver & Fit program was designed to provide Medicare beneficiaries with opportunities to improve their fitness by offering no cost or low cost access to contracted trainers across the country. The class schedule will started in **January 2019 on Tuesday and Thursday** mornings at 10:00. Advanced registration is required. Call Tootie at 712-330-6312 to reserve your spot today.

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.

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.

Want to introduce your kids to the sport of **Curling**? You can bring your child/ren ages 6 to 18 to the ice of the **Brainerd Curling Club** for a fun and FREE **introduction to the sport of Curling**. They'll learn some of the rules and etiquette of the game while working on skill development. Each session will be led by experienced instructors. Participants should wear clean, rubber-soled shoes, and warm, loose-fitting clothes. (Temp is 45). Parents can watch from the comfort of the social area. Call the Brainerd Curling Club for more information. The sessions run from 2:00 to 4:00 on:

Sun. Feb. 3
Sun. Feb. 4
Sun. Feb 17
Sun. Feb. 24

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.

Feb. 9	Valentine's Arty Party (making coffee filter flowers, cards and more)
Mar. 9	Intro to Animation
Apr. 13	Watercolor Painting
May 11	Figure Studies

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

Free **federal tax forms and instructions** on how to file the forms are now available in limited quantities at the **Brainerd Public Library**. The Internal Revenue Service has provided forms and instructions for the 1040 and the new Schedules 1-6. For all other forms, Kitchigami Library System patrons may use the library computers to access them online, and printing will be available for 15 cents per page. Computer access is free for anyone with a library card in good standing. For more information call 218-829-5574 or visit the library's Facebook page at facebook.com/brainerdpubliclibrary.

The **Brainerd Public Library**, as part of a generous grant from the Essentia Health St. Joseph's Foundation, purchased **three light therapy boxes** that have been shown in clinical studies to alleviate many of the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder. They are positioned in comfortable reading areas throughout the library and are available for patrons to use in the library when they wish. For more information call 218-829-5574 or visit the library's Facebook page at facebook.com/brainerdpubliclibrary.

Beginner Ski Lessons for those 13 years of age or older are available at **Mount Ski Gull** every **Saturday** from 11:30-1:00. The cost is \$29.99/person/lesson. Lift ticket and Rental are additional. Please call ahead to reserve your spot – 218-963-4353. For more information, visit MountSkiGull.com/lessons

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 Amy Renner or Erin Kennedy in the Cancer Center at Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center at 218-828-7685.

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.

Time to start prepping your team for the **16th Annual Good Sam Bowl** coming to Jack's House **May 5th & 6th**! Organize your team, make a pledge, contribute a prize, sponsor a bowler, donate to the silent auction or simply make a tax-deductible donation! For more information or to reserve a lane, call Sheena at 825-2505.

2/4 – 2/10

Region Five Development Commission was recently the recipient of MnDOT's Regional Transportation Coordinating Council grant and will be hosting a **public meeting on Tues. Feb. 5th at 6:00 pm** at the Pine River-Backus High School cafeteria. The public is invited to attend this event to discuss regional transit coordination needs. Complimentary food will be provided to registered guests. Visit RegionFive.org to register today!

The 2019 MN United Snowmobilers Association's Winter Rendezvous will be in town **Thurs. Feb. 7 through Sun. Feb. 10th** headquartered out of Cragun's Resort. The event attracts 250-350 avid snowmobilers who represent Minnesota snowmobile clubs. These snowmobilers are responsible for maintaining the 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails as well as provide input and guidance to the state organization, MN United Snowmobilers Association, in the conduct of its business. Be ready to hear them, see them and greet them!

The **Lakes Area Music Festival** invites the public to hit the road with them for a musical treat! The **trip to Minneapolis** takes place on **Thurs. Feb. 7th**. Beginning with the mysterious opening of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto and culminating with the heroic brass fanfare of Strauss' tone poem, the Minnesota Orchestra will illuminate the symphonic wizardry of these legendary composers. If you'd like to take the coach bus ride from Brainerd with bus lecture by Artistic Director Scott Lykins, the cost (which includes lunch and ticket to concert) is \$90. If you'd like to drive yourself and meet at the Minnesota Orchestra Hall, the cost is \$60 (ticket and lunch only). For more info and to reserve your seat, visit LakesAreaMusic.org.

It's time for another **2nd Thursday Happy Hour For A Cause** at Prairie Bay in Baxter. From 5:00-7:00pm on **Thurs. Feb 7th**, come make a minimum \$15 donation to Productive Alternatives then enjoy appetizers from Prairie Bay and adult beverage sampling from Cash Wise Liquor. Please RSVP. Visit ProductiveMN.org for more information.

To recognize and honor Black History Month, the **Central Lakes College Cultural Thursday Program** and **the Office of Equity & Inclusion** are hosting Bukata Hayes, Executive Director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council on **Thurs., Feb. 7th** at 12:00 in the Chalberg Theatre. Hayes' discussion is titled "We All Have a Place at the Table: Being on the Right Side of the Moral Arc." For more questions on this presentation or the Cultural Thursday series, please contact Tracey 855-8183.

The **Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District** will host its annual **Tree & Plant Sale Open House** on **Fri. Feb. 8th** at its headquarters behind the historic county courthouse in Brainerd. During the open house, you can pre-order trees, tree cages, plants and seeds for the upcoming spring. You can also enter drawings, visit with specialists, and see a number of vendor exhibits. The Open House will run from 9:00-3:00. For more info, visit CrowWingSWCD.org or call 828-6197.

An exhibit featuring a wide selection of **photographs by Brainerd Dispatch photographer Steve Kohls**, will be on display at **The Crossing Arts Alliance** Feb. 8 – Feb. 23. This exhibition will spark memories for many, from the images captured throughout the years from the local area and beyond. Reminiscing on events and news stories that were an important part of the time, all captured through Steve's creative eye for that perfect shot that will tell an amazing story for years to come. The public is invited to the **opening reception** of "You Can't Make This Stuff Up, 43 Years As A Dispatch Photographer", on **Fri., Feb. 8th** from 5 - 7 pm. A free will donation may be given at the door. Light refreshments will be served. The Crossing Arts Alliance is located at 711 Laurel Street in downtown Brainerd. For more information visit CrossingArts.org.

2/11 – 2/17

“The Pleasures of Cottage Gardening” will be presented by Master Gardener JoAnn Weaver on **Tues., Feb. 12th** at 12:00 p.m. at the Brainerd Public Library. A cottage garden traditionally has an informal appearance, contains old-fashioned flowers, and is located close to the home. This class will review cottage garden design principles and highlight plants suitable for Zone-3b cottage gardening. Register for this free program by calling the library at 218-829-5574.

The **Kiwanis Club of Brainerd** invites the public to a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** on **Tues. Feb. 12th** at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. The dinner will run from 5:00-7:00, and is catered by Chef Mike’s Catering, LLC. The cost is \$7 per meal and the proceeds will support the Brainerd High School Key Club.

It’s time for a Hawaiian themed **Business After Hours** hosted by **Prairie Bay** in Baxter. The Brainerd Lakes Chamber’s Business After Hours will be held at Prairie Bay on **Tues. Feb. 12th** from 4:30-6:00. Those who attend this business networking event will enjoy their tropical indoor paradise with Hawaiian inspired appetizers, free mini Mai Tais, leis and cash bar! Attendees will have a chance to win a \$100 and 2- \$25 gift cards that can be used at Prairie Bay Grill, Sherwood Forest or the Iron Range Eatery. Winner of the People’s Choice Costume Contest for the Best Dressed Hawaiian will receive a \$25 gift card! RSVP by contacting the Brainerd Lakes Chamber or going online to BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Auditions for Brainerd Community Theatre’s production of **A Few Good Men** are scheduled for **Tuesday, February 12th and Wednesday, February 13th** at 7:00 pm in CLC’s Dryden Theatre. The cast calls for 19 men and 1 woman. Particularly seeking actors to play enlisted Marines/Navy personnel. Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Rehearsals will begin mid-March. Opening night is May 2nd. For more information, contact the director - patrick.spradlin@clcmn.edu or 218-855-8255.

The **Salvation Army in Brainerd** is celebrating **Valentine’s Day** with a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** on **Thurs. Feb. 14th** from 6:00-7:00. For a \$5 requested donation, you’ll enjoy spaghetti with choice of sauce, a side salad, garlic bread and a homemade dessert. RSVPs are required by calling 829-1120. The dinner will be held at the Salvation Army at 208 S. 5th Street in Brainerd. The proceeds will be used toward their youth programs.

Please join the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** at their annual **Eggs & Issues** breakfast on **Fri. Feb. 15th** at the Wilson Bay Dining Room at Madden’s Resort from 7:30-9:30 a.m. There will be an interactive panel discussion with their team of Lakes Area legislators. Network with other members and get the inside scoop on issues that will impact your business or organization in 2019! Individual seats are \$25. Please register for the breakfast online at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

The **Pine River United Methodist Church** is hosting their annual **Ham Dinner** on **Sat. Feb. 16th** from 4:30 – 7:00pm. The cost is \$10. Kids 5 and under free. Tickets are for sale at the door. All are welcome. For more info, call 218-587-2409.

St. Rita’s Parish in Hillman invites the public to a **Prime Rib or Chicken Dinner** on **Sat. Feb. 16th**. Dinner will be served from 5:00-7:30. The prime rib dinner is \$18. The parmesan chicken dinner is \$15. It is handicapped accessible and a cash bar will be available.

Good Samaritan Hospice, Nisswa is hosting a **Hospice Gala** at Wilson Bay Lodge at Madden's on Gull Lake on **Sat. Feb. 16th** from 5:00-9:00. Dress in formal attire and be ready to have fun. Enjoy a silent auction, hors d' Oeuvres, dinner, and music by the "Q" Swing Band. The event is being held to support Good Sam's Client Dreams fund. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at Good Sam Nisswa, Good Sam Bethany and Good Sam Pine River. For more information, call 963-9452.

It's a **Reunion Concert** including Jack Franzen & Boys, The Center's Theatre, and Diane Saumer & Friends coming to Franklin Auditorium on **Sun. Feb. 17th** at 2:00. Enjoy classic country, 50's, rock, jazz, and swing music, along with a radio show performance. Tickets are on sale now at The Center on Kingwood Street in Brainerd and are \$15 for members of The Center... \$18 for non-members... \$5 for children 12 and under. They will be \$18 at the door...seating is limited. Proceeds benefit **The Center**.

2/18 – 2/24

Join **Wild & Free Wildlife Rehabilitation program** for **Pints For A Purpose** at the Jack Pine Brewery in Baxter on **Wed. Feb. 20th**. From 5:00-8:00, for every pint sold, Jack Pine will donate \$1 to Wild & Free. Papa Murphy's pizza will also be available for donation to Wild & Free.

The **40th Annual International Eelpout Festival** will be taking place in Walker **Thurs. Feb. 21-Sun. Feb. 24th**.

A **Benefit Spaghetti Dinner** will be held **for Louis Gorman** at the American Legion Post 255 in Brainerd on **Sat. Feb. 23rd** from 5:00-8:00. Louis, who many know as a CNA in and through his job at an area gym, suffered a stroke on New Year's Day and he's only 45. In addition to the dinner, there will be a meat raffle and a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. (they are looking for a DJ for the event as well...if you can help, send an email to ALLGOR12@outlook.com).

St. Rita's Parish in Hillman will host **Quilt Or Cash Bingo** on **Sun. Feb. 24th** starting at 1:30. In addition to winning a quilt or cash, you could win door prizes. Lunch will be served after the games. The event is handicapped accessible.