

# Open pickleball, silk painting, loom hat knitting classes offered in PL

**PINEANDLAKES ECHO JOURNAL**  
PEQUOT LAKES — Pequot Lakes Community Education offers the following upcoming classes. Register online at [isd186.org](http://isd186.org) under Community Education or call 218-568-9200.  
• **Open Pickleball:** 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 4-6 p.m. Sundays in the

Pequot Lakes High School auxiliary gym. Fee: \$4 per time.  
All ages and levels can participate in this open play opportunity. Community Education will supply the nets, balls and a limited number of rackets.  
Enter through the Community Education office, located inside Door #4, to

sign in and pay, prior to heading to the gym.  
Register with Community Education prior to attending.  
• **Paint on Silk! (ages 8+):** 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, in Pequot Lakes High School Room D128. Fee: \$36.  
Draw a design onto a stretched silk hoop using a water-soluble resist.

Once the resist is dry, use sumi brushes to paint with the bright silk dyes and watch the magic happen.  
Display your silk art piece by hanging it somewhere that will allow light to pass through. Students can choose from a selection of designs provided or pursue their own ideas.

Instructor is Tracy Miller.  
• **Loom Hat Knitting for Beginners (ages 9+):** 3-5:30 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 8 and 15, in Pequot Lakes Middle School Room C101. Fee: \$59.  
Learn how to knit two winter hats on a loom. This is perfect for those with no knitting experience.

Supplies will be provided for participants to keep. These supplies will consist of four different sized knitting looms, a knitting hook, yarn, two faux fur pom poms and pom pom makers. Even noncrafty people will walk away with an awesome hat.  
Instructor is Heidi Knudsen.

# Nisswa Christmas Home Tour tickets still available

**PINEANDLAKES ECHO JOURNAL**  
NISSWA — Tickets are still available for the Lakes Area Food Shelf’s 32nd annual Nisswa Christmas Home Tour, scheduled Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 19-21.  
Ticket sale revenue provides the dollars to buy critically needed food for those in the Brainerd

lakes area with food insecurities. Several hundred tickets remain available and all proceeds benefit the Lakes Area Food Shelf.  
With food prices outpacing inflation this year, the food shelf continues to have new friends and neighbors shopping daily along with the approximately 125 families it

serves weekly.  
In 2023, the food shelf has averaged eight new households (22 individuals) per week needing food. Through Aug. 31, the Lakes Area Food Shelf has provided needed food to 586 households in the Brainerd lakes area.  
The Nisswa Christmas Home Tour is a way to

kick start the Christmas season by viewing two elaborately decorated homes in the Nisswa area. Participants are shuttled from Nisswa to these homes and can shop and dine in Nisswa before and/or after the tour.  
Shuttles run every 15 minutes throughout the three days, but tickets need to be purchased for

specific departure times.  
Participating Nisswa stores include Buffalo Plaid, Olde Crow Gatherings, Anchored In, Crew, Chocolate Ox and Northern Gifts & Sweets.  
Tickets and additional information are available at <https://lafshometour.com/>.

CALENDAR
<b>PINEANDLAKES ECHO JOURNAL</b>
<b>October</b>
<b>4:</b> Children's author Kevin Lovegreen, 8:30 a.m., Crosslake Community School
<b>4:</b> Children's author Kevin Lovegreen, 3:30 p.m., Pequot Lakes Community Library
<b>4:</b> Lakes Area United Way Chili Cook-Off, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Northern Pacific Center, Brainerd
<b>5:</b> Children's author Kevin Lovegreen, 9 a.m., Pine River-Backus Elementary School
<b>5:</b> Hackensack Lions Club turkey dinner, 4-7 p.m., Hackensack Community Center
<b>5, 7-8, 12, 14-15:</b> Pequot Lakes Community Theatre: “Enchanted April,” 7 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, Pequot Lakes High School auditorium
<b>7:</b> Will Steger presentation, 1 p.m., Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa
<b>8:</b> Kids fishing contest (ages 15 and under), noon-4 p.m., Pine River
<b>9:</b> Go Pine River and Distinguished Service Dinner, Pine River
<b>7:</b> Fishing to End Hunger
<b>7:</b> Gull Lake Oktoberfest

## National Solar Tour includes Ponto Lake cabin

BACKUS — The 2023 National Solar Tour Open House will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8, and will include local locations.  
The tour will feature Minnesota sites, including the solar collectors of Gene and Kathleen Sevens at 1835 East Ponto Lake Road, Backus.  
Those considering solar as an option for providing inexpensive electricity and reducing fossil fuel use, and wanting to talk with homeowners who have already taken this step may stop by during the open house.

The Ponto Lake site is a unique ground-based “shed” design so the homeowner can use the space beneath the collector. The site also features a number of electric conversion devices, including an electric garden tractor and automobile (Tesla Model 3).

For those who are extra curious, there will be handouts of charts, facts and figures showing the finances of the site’s solar conversion.

The tour, co-sponsored by Minnesota Renewable Energy Society, also includes a site at Balsam Moon Farm from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. Balsam Moon is six miles west of Pine River at 3148 Bungo Creek Lane SW, Pine River.

## Babinski Foundation to host haunted trail Oct. 13-14

PEQUOT LAKES — The Babinski Foundation Animal Shelter will host fall events Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14, with a haunted trail and fall festival.

The Babinski Haunted Trail will run from 7-10 p.m. both days and will include a bonfire, s’mores and more for a \$10 entry fee.

A family friendly fall festival will run from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, with attractions for children and adults, including hay rides around the property, face painting by the Painted Turtle team, a bouncy house, carnival games, guided horse rides, a free petting zoo, a hay maze, pumpkin decorating, a prize filled corn pit and more.

The fall festival will include food from Skol Food Truck, K&D Kettle, The Woods and more, as well as a farmers market.

Adults may also participate in a silent auction, judge homemade apple pie and enjoy live music by Eric Whitman.

## Online silent auction will support Camp Knutson

CROSSLAKE — The Camp Knutson Happy Camper Gift Market silent auction will run from noon Oct. 14 to noon Oct. 18 online.

This secure, online silent auction will directly support the campers and programs at Camp Knutson.

The auction will feature a large selection of quilts and quilted items, along with various other unique treasures. These are creations made mostly locally, designated and donated by those who are passionate about their art and Camp Knutson.

Shop from home for a vast assortment of both decorative and practical items. All items will be pictured and described online.

Visit [www.campknutson.org/events](http://www.campknutson.org/events)

for more information, to register and to place bids. For help with registration or bidding, contact camp.knutson@lssmn.org or 218-543-4232.

## Breezy Point fashion show set Oct. 17

BREEZY POINT — The Breezy Point Area Women’s Club will host their annual fashion show fundraiser Tuesday, Oct. 17, at Breezy Point Resort.

Proceeds will benefit the Relationship Safety Alliance (women’s shelter).

Cost is \$60 and includes a meal and local entertainment from area merchants showcasing their latest fashions.

Social hour will be at 5 p.m. with dinner, a show and shopping afterward, until around 8:30 p.m. The décor theme is “Disco.”

Raffle tickets will be available for gift baskets and packages.

Buy fashion show tickets online at [www.breezyfashionshow.com](http://www.breezyfashionshow.com).

## Heartland Poets to meet Oct. 7 in Brainerd

BRAINERD — The Saturday, Oct. 7, meeting of the Heartland Poets will include readings of selections from poetry anthologies by members.

The meeting, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brainerd Public Library, will include discussion of opportunities for poets and writers as well as recent readings and conferences members attended.

Attendees will then share poems-in-progress for review. Participants should bring copies of their poems to help attendees give full attention to their efforts.

This meeting is free

and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

## Discussion on folk poetry set Oct. 9 in Crosby

CROSBY — Lawrence Moe, award-winning retired Metropolitan State University faculty member, will speak on “Early Folk Poets of the Red River Valley” at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, at Crosby-Ironton High School in Crosby in an Unlimited Learning program.

Folk poetry is written by ordinary people seeking to preserve meaningful ideas, including those of Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Red River Valley of northern Minnesota and North Dakota.


Today their experiences are inherently interesting to those who study Nordic roots and those Norwegian-Americans with

personal connections to the culture and the valley. They are also fascinating for those curious about Minnesota’s broader history and what has shaped today’s social and economic environment.

Moe has located and analyzed thousands of poems from the region and shared them through more than 300 scholarly and community presentations and various publications.

The program is free for Unlimited Learning members and \$5 for non-members. Before the presentation, Unlimited Learning will hold its 2023 annual meeting, which is anticipated to take no more than 15 minutes.

Members and guests will hear about the state of the organization, elect officers and elect board members.



# FALL PREVENTION Screening Event

▶ KNOW YOUR RISK


**Please join us**

You’re invited to our Fall Prevention Screening Clinic at Good Samaritan Society - Hospice - Nisswa where we’ll help identify your risk of falling, assess changes you can make in your environment and find ways to help you reduce your risk.


**DATE & TIME:**  
**Oct. 18, 2023**  
**1 - 4 p.m.**

**LOCATION:**  
**Good Samaritan Society - Hospice - Nisswa**  
**24090 Smiley Rd. Ste. 200**  
**Nisswa, MN 56468**

To sign up, call (218) 963-9452 or visit the Good Samaritan Society - Hospice - Nisswa page at [good-sam.com](http://good-sam.com).



Good Samaritan Society®



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# Central African Republic is CLC topic Oct. 5

**PINEANDLAKES ECHO JOURNAL**  
BRAINERD — Central Lakes College will host a Cultural Thursday event at noon and 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, featuring Phil Hunsicker, a seasoned traveler and expert on aquatic invasive species in Minnesota.

Hunsicker’s presentation, titled “Crocodile Man and the Central African Republic,” is expected to be an insightful journey into the heart of Africa.

The event will take place in the Chalberg Theatre at CLC’s Brainerd campus.

Hunsicker’s life story began with a trip to Japan at the age of 3 months, igniting a life-long passion for travel. His adventures have taken him from being a student of marine biology in Florida to a Peace Corps volunteer in Central Africa, a fishery

biologist in Alaska, a graduate student in Vermont, and a game park director for the World Wildlife Fund in the African rainforest.

He has also worked as a ghostwriter for Minnesota Public Radio and, more recently, pursued a career as a part-time bluegrass musician.

During his time in the Central African Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer, Hunsicker faced challenges that tested his skills, patience, digestive system, immune system and sense of humor. Despite the difficulties, he looks back fondly on those years.

His mission involved teaching Central Africans how to raise fish in ponds and later how to protect elephants, gorillas and the Central African rainforest.

While he was officially the teacher, he often found himself the student

as he learned invaluable life lessons from the Central African people. The trip profoundly altered his life, and he eventually turned several of his experiences into a novel, “The Crocodile Man Theory.”

Hunsicker’s presentation will offer a unique glimpse into his experiences and provide insights into the challenges and rewards of life in the Central African Republic.

Cultural Thursday events are open to the public, and admission is free. It provides an opportunity for community members, students and anyone interested in cultural exploration to come together and embark on a journey of discovery.

More information about Hunsicker’s presentation and the 25th season of Cultural Thursdays is available at [www.clcmn.edu/cultural-thursday](http://www.clcmn.edu/cultural-thursday).