

Palisade blood drive to be held in memory of Darlene Bixler

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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On Thursday, Feb. 27, the Palisade community will pay tribute to former community blood drive coordinator and volunteer Darlene Bixler.

Bixler began volunteering with American Red Cross blood drives as a member of the Palisade American Legion Auxiliary. She spent hours calling donors to schedule appointments and setting up for blood drives. Bixler was passionate about supporting the work of the Red Cross and later became the community blood drive coordinator.

Bixler's final blood drive was Nov. 13, 2012, the day she died. Friends and fellow Auxiliary members stepped up to ensure that the blood drive would continue that day.

"As each Palisade blood drive approached, Darlene gave all of her time and energy to ensuring its success," said Cathy Carman, Red Cross donor recruitment representative who worked closely with Bixler. "Because she took such pride in hosting blood drives, it is so fitting to dedicate this blood drive in her memory."

Blood drive in Palisade

The blood drive in memory of Bixler will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27 from noon to 6 p.m. CT at Mihm Hall, 103 N. Venum in Palisade.

To make an appointment, please call Carol Thompson at 308-394-5780 or Jo Howard at 308-285-3403. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The blood drive in memory of Bixler comes at an important time for the Red Cross. From Jan. 2 through mid-February, more than 1,000 Red Cross blood drives in 34 states and Washington,

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D.C. have been canceled, resulting in more than 35,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations. The extraordinary number of cancellations is the equivalent of the Red Cross having to shut down its national operations for more than two full days.

As a result, blood products are being distributed to hospitals as quickly as donations come in. While all blood types are needed to help restock Red Cross shelves, there is an urgent need for type O negative, O positive, B negative and A negative blood.

How to donate blood

Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).