

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

WEEK OF 9 / 28 / 20 A

BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS due to COVID- 19.**

Wed.	9/30	12:00-6:00	VFW in Browerville
Fri.	10/2	11:30-5:30	FitQuest in Baxter
Wed.	10/7	8:00-2:00	Lakewood in Baxter
Fri.	10/23	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum in Baxter
Thurs.	10/29	10:00-4:00	VFW in Brainerd
Fri.	11/6	10:00-4:00	VFW in Brainerd

9/28 – 10/4

The Brainerd Public Schools Foundation & Warrior Nordic Ski Team will host the **2020 Warrior Homecoming Run** virtually this year! You can do a 1k, 5k or 10k any time **between now and Sat. Oct. 3rd**. The fee to participate in the 1k is \$15.... For the 5k or 10k it's \$30 for adults and \$20 for students. All participants receive an event T-shirt. To register, visit BPSF.org. Proceeds will benefit the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation and the Warrior Nordic Ski Team.

The latest **Brainerd Public Schools Blueprint 181** construction project is set to kick off on **Mon., Sept. 28**. The **celebration** for the remodeling project at the Warrior Early Learning Center (former Baxter Elementary School building) will be streamed live on the district's YouTube channel at 4:30pm. In accordance with COVID-19 safety precautions, the public is invited to participate in the celebration by watching on YouTube. Find information about Blueprint 181 by visiting blueprint181.org, emailing blueprint181@isd181.org, or by calling 218-454-6900.

Mount Ski Gull on the west side of East Gull Lake has **its hill open** on Tuesday nights (**Sept. 29**) for **running, walking and hiking** from 5:00-7:30pm. The goal is to encourage an active lifestyle for those who are interested in getting some fun exercise! The cost is \$5/person...12 and under are free with a paying adult. You must sign in outside the chalet each Tuesday night and get a wristband to be on the hill. Foot access only. Visit MountSkiGull.com for more information.

The **Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity "Habitat 500 Ride"** will host its final ride on **Wed. Sept. 30** as they seek to raise \$30,000 as they celebrate their 30 years of helping families. If you want to participate or donate, visit LakesAreaHabitat.org. At last check, they were about \$6,000 away from meeting the goal! Please help!

Calling all artists! This year **Crossing Arts** Alliance's annual 8x8 art fundraiser is going online. Between October 18 - 25, you'll have a chance to bid on an original piece of art in an online silent auction and support Crossing Arts in the process. 100% of the proceeds go towards supporting our mission of promoting and enhancing the arts in the lakes area. **Interested in contributing your talents to this highly-anticipated event?** Crossing Arts provides the canvases, so stop in and pick up an 8" x 8" canvas at Crossing Arts, put your creativity to work, and return your **finished piece to us by October 1!** For more information contact Crossing Arts at 21-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Our hours are Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

As a precursor to Native American Heritage Month, **Central Lakes College's** Office of Equity and Inclusion and the **Cultural Thursdays Program** will host a free Zoom webinar with **Kevin Belin, a Navajo language teacher** at the International Baccalaureate Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, NM. The webinar will take place on **Thurs, Oct. 1** from 12- 1 p.m. Please pre-register at the link below for access information to this webinar. To register for the webinar, contact Tracey to get the link at 218-855-8183.

Lakes Area voters will have the opportunity to hear directly from local candidates by attending a **Candidate Forum**, courtesy of area chambers, the League of Women Voters and the Brainerd Dispatch. The event is free to attend and open to the public. All safety rules will be followed related to COVID-19 restrictions. People can attend the events in person or view them live on Facebook. To manage in person attendance, you must RSVP via BrainerdLakesChamber.com/vote. The next candidate forum will be feature **candidates running for State Senate & House of Representatives**. It will be held at 6:30pm, **Thurs. Oct. 1st** at the Gull Lake Center at Grand View Lodge.

Raffle tickets to support the **Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes** go on sale **Fri. Oct. 2** and only 500 will be sold! Five winners will be drawn on Tues. Dec. 1 at 6:00. Prize 1 is a \$1,000 gift card for grocery shopping at Schaefer's Foods of Nisswa... Prize 2 is \$1,000 worth of dining at any of the 3 Cheers restaurants (Iron Range Eatery, Notch B, Prairie Bay, Sherwood Forest)... Prize 3 is \$1,000 cash.... Prize 4 is \$1,100 Nisswa Shopping Spree.... Prize 5 is a \$1,000 Car Care package! Get tickets by calling Shawn at 218-961-0055. Learn more at OutreachProgramBLA.org.

(after being rained out in July) **The Bikers for Kids Benefit Ride for Lakes Area's Kinship Partners** will take place on **Sat. Oct. 3rd** from 10:00-4:00. Registration will be from 10:00-11:30 at the Brainerd American Legion with a Corvette Show from 10:00-12:00. Lunch will be served from 11:00-12:30. The ride will start at 1:00, make two stops and end at back at the Legion for a social at 4:00. The cost is \$25 for the rider; \$15 for passengers; \$15 for non-riders; kids under 18 are free. Pre-Register online at KinshipPartners.org/Bikers-For-Kids. For more info, call 829-4606. The event is a partnership between American Legion Riders Post 255, Central Lakes Corvette Club, and Kinship Partners.

CANCELLED... Join **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center** as they present **Shaun Johnson's Big Band Experience** on **Sat. Oct. 3** on the south lawn of CLC Brainerd campus starting at 2:00. (Shaun is also a member of Tonic SolFa). Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at CLCPerformingArts.com.

Help support the **Mid-Minnesota Women's Center** by participating in the **Fishing For Lunkers** virtual fishing tournament! The tournament runs **Sat. & Sun. Oct. 3 & 4th** with all the proceeds going to support the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center in Brainerd. The tournament will start at 7:00 Saturday and end on Sunday at 1:00. To participate, download the FishDonkey app. Learn more about MMWC at WomensCenterOnline.org. Or visit Facebook and search Cash for Lunkers Virtual Tournament.

Show your support of **The Legacy Chorale** at "**You Raise Me Up: A Friend n' Fundraiser**" on **Sat. Oct. 3** at 7:00pm. This is your chance to join a worldwide audience and demonstrate how the Brainerd Lakes Area supports local institutions. Join the Legacy Chorale for a first ever Virtual Fall event where you will listen and laugh and hopefully donate to the cause. Sit with your loved ones, and enjoy a presentation of new and old music (some recorded just this month), and a live auction that will sustain the group. Learn more at LegacyChorale.org/events.

10/5 – 10/11

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Get your tickets now for **Paul's Picnic at Mount Ski Gull**, on **Thurs. Oct. 8th** from 5:00-8:00! The fundraiser outdoor picnic will have an Oktoberfest theme and include live music, chairlift rides, pumpkin races, dinner, drinks and an online auction. The dinner will be a catered boxed meal from Sunshine Summerhouse with a BBQ pulled pork sandwich, creamy wild rice soup and Coleslaw. (vegetarian option available.) Advanced ticket purchase is required. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at MountSkiGull.com.

MISC....

Kinship Partners, Crystal Cleaners and Hubbard Radio Brainerd are teaming up for the **2020 Coats For Kids** drive, which WILL be taking place with or without COVID! Community members are being asked to drop off new, or GENTLY used winter coats at Crystal Cleaners in Brainerd **now through Oct. 19th**. Those coats will be cleaned by Crystal Cleaners and prepped for distribution on Oct. 24th at the Westgate Mall in Brainerd. They do ask that the donations are new or in gently used condition. They also ask that all the zippers are in working condition as they cannot replace them. All sizes of coats are needed, and they will also accept hats, mittens, scarves, boots and snow pants. For info. call 218-454-8014 or send an email to MarilynH@KinshipPartners.org.

The **Brainerd High School Music Coupon Books** are once again for sale! They are just \$25 and help to support the music at BHS! Plus, you'll enjoy savings like you cannot believe! Get yours today at Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union in Baxter, Bridge of Harmony, College & Pine Square Stores, Crystal Cleaners, Kingsley Musical School, Meg's Cabin in Nisswa or by calling BHS at 454-6200! You can also order them online at BrainerdMusic.org OR from any BHS music student!

As you may know, in late July, the **Brainerd Family YMCA** experienced significant structural and cosmetic damage to their facility from heavy rainfall and they found out that the damage is not covered by insurance – with damage estimates at over \$148,000. And before that, the pandemic forced the Y to scale back services, putting more strain on their finances. The Brainerd Family YMCA serves over 725 children and their families every year. They provide after-school programming, host summer camps, promote healthy lifestyles and they change peoples' lives. The Y has stepped up when businesses needed it. **IT'S TIME FOR BUSINESSES TO STEP UP. THE Y NEEDS US.** Both CTC and Digital Horizons have each donated \$1,000 to start the grassroots campaign to raise funds for the Y. If you can do the same or similar, please visit GoCTC.com/ymca

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers to help them gather items for their restore as they have been inundated with donations and salvages. They need help tearing job sites apart and unloading back at the store. The schedule is flexible and you'll feel good knowing you are helping others. If you are able to volunteer, please call 218-454-7027 or email Restore@LakesAreaHabitat.org.

Attention animal lovers! **Wild & Free Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization** needs your **help!** FIRST, they want to say thank you for all the donations of Acorns, Apples and dry dog food and they work to fatten up the 8 bear cubs they have before they hibernate.... Wild and Free was overwhelmed by the public's generosity and NOW ONLY NEED ACORNS. They cannot accept any more apples (they rot too fast) and dog food (they have no place to store it all)...So they are still happily accepting JUST ACORNS. If you can donate ACORNS (without grass clippings or fertilizer), please drop your donations at the Garrison Animal Hospital. Thank you! Learn more online at WildAndFree.org.

A reminder that the **Northern Minnesota Railroad Museum** is open **each Saturday** from 10:00-2:00 on Co. Rd. 66 in Crosslake. Admission is a minimum \$5 donation to the museum. Masks are strongly encouraged and social distancing is practiced. Fun for the whole family! To learn more, search Northern Minnesota Railroad Heritage Association on Facebook.

The annual competition for **VFW Voice of Democracy scholarship** awards is now open. Students in grades 9 -12 write and read their composition with the theme, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" Up to \$300 is awarded locally with winners going to state and national competition sharing \$154,000. Students in grades 6 - 8 enter the Patriot's Pen competition. This year's theme is, "What is Patriotism to me?" First place locally is \$300 with winners going to state and national competition sharing \$55,000. **The deadline for submissions is October 31st.** More details at BrainerdVFW.org.

As the national pandemic continues, **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** is running low on its supply of masks and is again calling on community members for **donations of hand-sewn cloth face masks** to protect its patients and visitors. Masks may be safely donated Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. at CRMC's main entrance screening station. For answers to any donation questions or an alternative time to make a donation, please contact Jennifer at 218-545-4455.

Central Lakes College invites string musicians of all ages to **join its new Central Lakes String Orchestra**. Rehearsals will be Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm in the Rehearsal Hall, room E471. All string players, both students and community members, are welcome to join. No audition is required. Students can register for MUSC 1420, attend the first meeting on Sept. 2, or by emailing the instructor. Students can also take string lessons by registering for MUSC 1468. Community members join by attending Sep. 9 or by emailing david.thompson@clcmn.edu.

The **Destination Downtown Coalition** wants to **bring Babe the Blue Ox back to downtown Brainerd** but needs your financial help to raise the \$2,400 needed. Nor-Son Construction has donated a Babe the Blue Ox statue that they've had at their Baxter office since 2008. Babe is in need of repairs and a new look. The coalition want this to be a community project that adds to downtown Brainerd's uniqueness. The Crossing Arts Alliance has agreed to head the artistic side with a call out to local artists. They will be putting together a panel to determine placement, find great artists, and judge who will be doing the honors of creating downtown's latest attraction! If you would like to provide financial support for this project please make a donation by clicking on either link and add to the 21% raised so far of our goal! Sponsors of \$500 or more will have their name or business logo on a plaque next to the statue. <https://downtownbrainerd.org/donate/>.

Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard has announced the creation of a **"Safe Exchange Zone"** on the campus of Crow Wing County. The designated area not only provides a safe location for child custody and e-commerce exchanges but also allows people feeling the need to meet in an area that offers a sense of safety and security a place to go. Two parking stalls have been marked for this purpose in front of the Crow Wing County Judicial Center and can be used 24 hours a day. The safe zone is monitored 24 hours a day by law enforcement and officers are able to quickly respond if there were to be a problem.

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The **Lakes Area Farmer's Markets** are up and running for the season through the end of October! The markets are open **TUESDAYS** from 8:00-12:30 at The Franklin Arts Center parking lot... **THURSDAYS** from 8:00 – 12:30 at the Nisswa American Legion...and on **FRIDAYS** from 8:00-12:30 at the Vikingland Harley Davidson parking lot in Brainerd.

The **Little Falls Farmer's Market** takes place every **WEDNESDAY** and **SATURDAY** from 7:00-12:00 in the parking lot of the Boys & Girls Club in Little Falls (509 W. Broadway). Fresh produce and crafted items available.

The **Aitkin Farmers' Market** at Butler's Building is now open every **Sat.** through Labor Day. Located in the parking lot of the historic Butler building at 301 Minnesota Avenue North, it is open from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information call 219 678 2441.

The **Ideal Farmer's Market** is open every **Sat.** at the Ideal Green Market on County Road 39 in Pequot Lakes and runs from 9:00-1:00. For more information and an update on available produce, visit IdealGreenMarket.com.

The **Crosby Farmer's Market** is held in Crosby at the Main Street Plaza on the corner of Cross and Main Streets from 9:00-12:00 every **Saturday**. (They accept SNAP/EBT transactions). For info, visit Facebook and search Cuyuna Range Farmers Market.

Common Goods in Baxter and Crosslake are once again **accepting donations**. They will accept them Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. However, due to COVID-19, we are asking that you call ahead to determine our ability and availability to accept donations. (218) 825-7682. You may call our stores to set up an appointment time for later in the week. They'll need to know how many boxes and bags you plan to donate. Due to new safety protocols, you will be required to wear a mask when donating your items. They will not accept any loose items or clothing on hangers. All clothing/ linens must be in bags. All shoes must be in bags. All hard goods must be in boxes or totes with lids or covers so that they can stack items.

You can now shop at **Common Goods Thrift Shop** from the comfort of your couch! They've created an online store for each location (Baxter and Crosslake). You can have items shipped to you or opt for the contactless, curbside pickup! Purchases support Bridges of Hope. Visit CommonGoodsBaxter.company.site or CommonGoodsCrosslake.company.site, whichever you prefer!