

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

11/4/20 – 11/24/20

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.	11/4	12:00-6:00	Community Center in McGregor
Thurs.	11/5	12:00-6:00	Light of Cross Church in Garrison
Fri.	11/6	10:00-4:00	VFW in Brainerd
Fri.	11/13	1:00-6:00	Clow Stamping in Merrifield
Thurs.	11/19	2:00-7:00	Nisswa Community Center
Fri.	11/20	9:00-2:00	Nisswa Community Center

11/2 – 11/8

Central Lakes Performing Arts Center presents **A Brainerd Community Theatre** production of "Scotland Road" by Jeffrey Hatcher. The year is 1992. A Norwegian fishing boat crew traveling the North Atlantic spots and icebergs. A dark figure dots the white background which the crew discovers is a young woman, dressed in clothing from the early 1900s. When they bring her aboard their vessel, she says only one word: "Titanic." If you'd like to see the show, available to view **Wed. Nov. 4 through Sat. Nov. 7** and tickets are \$10. Event and ticket information is available at CLCPerformingArts.com or by calling the box office Tues. or Thurs. from 10:00-2:00. The link will be emailed beginning Nov. 3rd.

The **Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's** has an exciting **matching gift** to let you know about! Any donations to the Walk made between **now 11:59 PM Thurs., Nov. 5th** will be matched 1-for-1 up to a total of \$1,500 thanks to a generous gift by a local Brainerd area donor **in honor of Julie and Bill Gulliford**. At last check, \$1,000 had already been raised! Donations can be made online at Act.ALZ.org/Brainerd or checks can be entered using the ALZ mobile app. You can also make a donation to any **Brainerd Lakes Area** Walk to End Alzheimer Team.

Full Tummies - Weekend Edition has recently gotten bigger and better at the **Baxter Cafe!** The Full Tummies program is now providing free weekend lunches to "anyone" regardless of age. **The Brainerd Outreach Program** is also providing each family with a set of prepacked meals! If you know anyone who might benefit, just have them call The Baxter Café (218) 829-1739, on **Saturday morning Nov. 7th** between 8am and 10:30am to order meals to be picked up, curbside, between 11:30 -12:30. In addition, those who need it will also be directed to the **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd for an additional meal if needed.

Girls! Are you ready for another Block Party in Pequot Lakes!? Well GET ready because the next **Pequot Lakes Block Party** will be happening on **Sat. Nov. 7th** from 9:00-5:00 throughout the town! There will be goodies and specials at all the businesses! SO, pick up a special card at any of the participating Pequot businesses and have it stamped at each stop you make on the 7th. Once you've gotten a stamp from every business (21 of them!), bring it to Leslie's and you could win a gift package valued at over \$800! Even if you don't FILL the card, bring it in and you could win a second place prize!

The 3rd Annual MN Lions Children's Cancer fundraiser hosted by the **Garrison Bay Lake Area Lions Club Charities** featuring a MN Wild Rice Cook Off, Craft, Bake and Fudge Sale will be held on **Sat., Nov 7** at the Deerwood Auditorium from 9:00 to 2:00. The MN Wild Rice Cook Off will feature 6 hot dishes donated by area Lions clubs with judging at 10:30am. Following the judging a FREE will donation lunch of hot dish, roll, cookie and beverage will be served at 11 am while supplies last. All current MN health guidelines and mandates will be followed and enforced. Masks will be required in the building unless eating lunch. Proceeds from this event benefit the Minnesota Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation for awareness and research. For more information call a Lion at 218-330-7804.

The **Minnesota State Patrol** is currently looking for people to make a difference and **become troopers**. Applications are now being accepted **through Sun. Nov. 15th**. They are looking for people currently in law enforcement or those with a law enforcement degree. They are also looking for people with NO law enforcement experience at all. The Law Enforcement Training Opportunity program is designed for candidates who have a two- or four-year degree in any discipline and want to become a trooper. Register at MNTrooper.com.

11/9 – 11/15

CLC Performing Arts Center and The Brainerd Community Theater will present **"Home for the Holidays"** variety show to be streamed starting mid-December but they are **NOW accepting virtual auditions!** The show will be comprised of songs, skits, holiday greeting and connection between and among friends and family. It's open to anyone who would like to submit a video audition. Video record a song you want to sing, an instrument you'd like to play, a skit you've written – anything that fits the holiday season and would be appropriate to a general audience. Record then submit your recording to George at George.Marsolek@CLCMN.edu **BEFORE NOVEMBER 9th**! They will select as many as they can to be a part of the show!

Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or healthcare directive. **Essentia Health** is offering free, online classes via Zoom, a video conferencing platform, to learn more about advance care planning. Upcoming classes will be held at 11:00 on **Mon., Nov. 9**, (Tues., Dec. 8, at 11:00 a.m.). To register for the class, visit EssentiaHealth.org and click on "Classes & Events."

((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. You must stay in your vehicle.)) **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** is **Tues., Nov. 10th** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, 1511 Northern Pacific Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. Food distribution begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our community on the second Tuesday of the month. There are no income guidelines to participate; Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats. For a \$20 cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Participants should bring containers to put their food in. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's!

Area Seniors are encouraged to participate in a **Virtual WRAP Seminar** via Zoom presented by **Wellness In The Woods**. The two day, (15 hr CEU) approved **Wellness Recovery Action Plan** will be facilitated by Copeland trained facilitators from 9:00-4:30 on **Wed. and Thurs. Nov. 11th and 12th**. Learn to create an individual wellness plan. Create a plan to decrease difficult emotions and improve a life of wellness and hope and connect with other seniors in the community. To get the materials and link to participate, send an email to JODE@MNWITW.org. Supported by Cuyuna Area Connections and Sourcewell. Learn more at MNPeerSupport.org.

The **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center** invites you to enjoy the **Lamplighter Community Theater's** production of "**The Last Five Years,**" an emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in and out of love over the course of five years. The show's unconventional structure consists of Cathy, the woman, telling her story backwards with Jamie, the man, telling his story chronologically. The show will be performed live at The Landmark Inn in Staples **Thurs – Sat. Nov. 12-14th** at 7:30pm and again on **Sun. Nov. 15th** at 2:00. The in-person shows are limited to 50 guests per show and masks are required. The show can also be live-streamed. To get tickets (\$12 for live show.... \$10 for streaming) can be purchased through a link on the theater's Facebook page – search Lamplighter Community Theater Staples.

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The final season **Pine River Market Square Indoor Farmer's and Crafter's Market** is scheduled for **Sat. Nov. 14th** from 9:00-2:00 at The Warehouse Community Center in Pine River. The market features fresh produce, baked goods, canned goods, honey, preserves, goat milk soaps and lotions, essential oil blends, log furniture, quilted items, fabric masks and more! Guidelines for social distancing and mask-wearing for indoor events will continue to be followed.

Do you know a family that is struggling right now and could really use a nice gift... a really nice gift? Well, nominate them for **The Best Christmas Ever** and they could be the lucky recipients of something pretty special. If you would like to nominate a family from the Brainerd Lakes area who may need help paying bills... a new vehicle for a special needs child or disabled adult... a trip or getaway...or simply a bump of cash, go to BCEmovement.org and nominate that family. **Nominations are being taken through Nov. 15th**. Just after Thanksgiving, the family will be chosen and the fundraising will start in hopes of supplying that family with what they need to have the Best Christmas EVER.

You can help brighten the holidays by helping to provide a holiday meal for a family in need. Stop by Cub Foods in Brainerd or Baxter anytime between **Sun. Nov. 15 and Tues. Dec. 15th** and make a contribution to the **Holiday Food Basket** program at check-out or at the service desk. A donation of \$25 will help provide a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal for a family. If you can't give \$25, give what you can. Every bit helps. The Salvation Army will use your gift to donate Cub Foods Gift Cards so families can buy their holiday meal. For more information, visit SalvationArmyNorth.org

The **Minnesota State Patrol** is currently looking for people to make a difference and **become troopers**. Applications are now being accepted **through Sun. Nov. 15th**. They are looking for people currently in law enforcement or those with a law enforcement degree. They are also looking for people with NO law enforcement experience at all. The Law Enforcement Training Opportunity program is designed for candidates who have a two- or four-year degree in any discipline and want to become a trooper. Register at MNTrooper.com.

11/16 – 11/22

If you are an older lakes area resident who is feeling isolated and want to connect with people while learning more about being comfortable with technology, you are invited to participate in a **Zoom 101 Class** at Mixed Company coffee shop on **Mon. Nov. 16th** at 4:00pm. Crosby-Ironton Community Education Coordinator Pete Vukelich is partnering with Cuyuna Area Connections to present this class to bring technology information and training to communities, targeting the area's elder populations. The in-person event will adhere to the COVID social distancing and

mask regulations. With questions or to register, contact Pete at 218-545-8822. The **Salvation Army** will kick off its annual **Red Kettle Campaign** on **Thurs. Nov. 19th** at the Cub Foods in Baxter. They are asking people to stop by and make a donation that day, but more-so, asking you to make donations anytime you see a kettle through Dec. 24th. This is the biggest fundraiser for the Salvation Army and they could really use the donations, especially now, during the pandemic. So many families need their services – help with housing, bills, food and more. You can also make a donation online at SalvationArmyNorth.org. // In addition, they are in need of **volunteer bell ringers**. If you are able to take some time and ring bells this holiday season, please call the Salvation Army office in Brainerd at 829-1120 and register over the phone. Or register online at RegisterToRing.com.

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Join the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** as they present a unique fundraiser Business After Hours, Lakes Proud at The District of the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd on **Tues. Nov. 24th** from 4:30-6:00. Show your support of Lakes Proud by helping kick off Small Business Saturday with this fundraiser that will include eats, drinks and treats from Notch 8 Chow House & Drinkery, Loco Espress (*YES, it's ESpress*) Coffee House & Boutique and Goody's Gourmet Treats as they host the final networking event of the year. You could even win prizes! Registration is required and is limited to 150 due to COVID indoor guidelines. To make your reservation, visit BrainedLakesChamber.com or call 829-2838.

MISC...

The **Salvation Army** will kick off its annual **Red Kettle Campaign** on Thurs. Nov. 19th and they are in **need of volunteer bell ringers**. If you are able to take some time and ring bells this holiday season, please call the Salvation Army office in Brainerd at 829-1120 and register over the phone. Or register online at RegisterToRing.com.

Do you know a family that is struggling right now and could really use a nice gift... a really nice gift? Well, nominate them for **The Best Christmas Ever** and they could be the lucky recipients of something pretty special. If you would like to nominate a family from the Brainerd Lakes area who may need help paying bills... a new vehicle for a special needs child or disabled adult... a trip or getaway...or simply a bump of cash, go to BCEmovement.org and nominate that family. **Nominations are being taken through Nov. 15th**. Just after Thanksgiving, the family will be chosen and the fundraising will start in hopes of supplying that family with what they need to have the Best Christmas EVER.

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about **Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule**, which protects residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2020, and April 15, 2021. This year, the Cold Weather Rule will go into effect while the COVID-related moratorium on utility service disconnections for non-payment is ongoing. CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers who may have difficulty paying their natural gas bills to set up a payment plan now so their bills don't become so large they struggle to pay them later. Under the Cold Weather Rule, customers are required to set up a payment plan to prevent disconnection. Customers should call CenterPoint Energy between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, at **800-245-2377** or visit [**CenterPointEnergy.com/Assistance**](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/Assistance)

Tickets to support the **Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes** are on sale now 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.

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.

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

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 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.

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 **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 wants 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 amount so far! 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.