

# CORONA-TIMES PSAs

## Week of 5 / 31 / 21 A

### BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS due to COVID- 19.**

Wed.	6/2	9:00-3:00	First Lutheran Church in Aitkin
Thurs.	6/3	1:00-6:00	Light of the Cross Church in Garrison
Fri.	6/4	12:00-6:00	Aitkin United Methodist Church in Aitkin
Tues.	6/8	12:30-6:00	Milaca Evangelical Free Church in Milaca
Thurs.	6/10	8:00-2:00	Camp Ripley in Little Falls
Fri.	6/11	10:30-3:30	Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd
Fri.	6/11	12:00-6:00	Shoe Sensation in Baxter

## 5/31 – 6/6

**Crossing Arts** presents "**Bob Ross Cherrywood Challenge**" quilt exhibition **now through Sat. June 5<sup>th</sup>** at its location in Brainerd. Every year, Cherrywood Hand Dyed Fabrics challenges artists to create a unique piece of art with a limited color palette. Given the simple rules, artists push themselves to create an original fiber art piece, taking inspiration from the art and legacy of the late Bob Ross, creator of Public Television's "The Joy of Painting." [CrossingArts.org](http://CrossingArts.org) for more info.

**CLC Performing Arts** will host a **Movie Under The Stars** event on **Wed. June 2<sup>nd</sup>** starting at dusk. Outdoor seating on the south lawn of CLC Brainerd Campus will start at 8:30. Though unable to tell you the name of the film being shown, it is described as having to "do with an extermination company specializing in ghosts." The movie is free to attend. You can learn more online at [CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com).

Join the **Crosslake Chamber** for its **Explore Crosslake Business Meeting** on **Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Crosslake Fire Department. The meeting of business owners, managers and key staff will take place from 7:45-9:15 A.M. The fire chief will be on hand to provide a tour of the new facility following the abbreviated meeting. For more information, visit [Crosslake.com](http://Crosslake.com).

Residents of Central Minnesota are invited to join **MnDOT** planners online on **Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>** to test their knowledge of the state transportation system and share their vision for its future. The "**Let's Talk Transportation!**" virtual event will be held from 5:30-7:00. Topics will include aging infrastructure, climate change, economy and employment, equity, safety and transportation options. To sign up, go to [MinnesotaToGo.org/stories](http://MinnesotaToGo.org/stories) and select the June 3 option for the Central Minnesota event.

**Nutritious lunches** will be available to area youth again this summer through the **Cuyuna Lakes Lunch Bunch**, a free program organized by area churches and Cuyuna Regional Medical Center. The lunches are available on weekdays starting **now through Friday, Sept. 3**, ((except for Memorial Day and July 4)). They will be at the following locations: 11:15 to 11:35 a.m. in Ironton at Grandpa's Park; ....11:45 a.m.-12:05 p.m. at Crosby Food Shelf, 302 Cross Ave.; ....and 12:15 to 12:35 p.m. in Deerwood American Legion parking lot. Volunteers preparing and distributing lunches will take all safety precautions including wearing gloves and masks. The Cuyuna Lakes Lunch Bunch's goal is to provide meals for students who normally receive free or reduced lunches through school programs. The lunches are prepared and distributed by several local volunteers and employees of CRMC.

**Brainerd ISD 181 Child Nutrition Services** will continue to provide free meals to all children 18 and under by providing a **Curbside Pickup** site from **Tues. June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 26**. The **Summer Meal Program 2021** will be held at the Washington Education Service Building (at 804 Oak Street) in Brainerd where parents can pick up meals between 11:00-12:30 Monday through Thursday each week. Delivery is NOT available. Closed July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Auditions for Brainerd Community Theatre's** summer production of '**Xanadu: The Musical**' will be held on **Tues., June 1** and **Wed., June 2**. The auditions will take place in the Chalberg Theatre on the Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College. Auditions will begin both evenings at 7 p.m. This parody is a jukebox musical that features the chart-topping tunes of Electric Light Orchestra (ELO) and Olivia Newton-John and is a bona fide 80s blast! There are 9 to 11 roles available for the show. Those auditioning should come with a rock or pop song prepared (1 verse and chorus required only), and should be prepared to sing to a karaoke track that they bring or that can be played from Apple Music, provided by director Amy Borash. Questions can be forwarded to Amy at [AimsleyB@brainerd.net](mailto:AimsleyB@brainerd.net) The production is slated for outdoor performances July 28-30 and August 3-5.

During the summer months of June through August, the **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd is offering nature talks entitled "**Naturally Speaking**" with a MN Master Naturalist. Each week will feature a different topic (check Facebook & Instagram for those topics). The talks will take place every **Wednesday** at 1:00, just meet at the Arb's Holden Gazebo! The events are free to Arb members... non-members will need to purchase a day pass. For more information, visit [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

**Crow Wing Energized** invites all to learn how to create a healthier lifestyle and **prevent diabetes** during a FREE 24-session **National Diabetes Prevention Program** over the course of **one year**. Groups will meet with a certified lifestyle change instructor to help participants lose weight, eat healthier, change habits and increase physical activity. There will be 16 sessions offered over the first 4 to 6 months, with the **FIRST session** starting on **Wed. June 2<sup>nd</sup>** and monthly follow-up sessions for the remainder of the year. All classes will be taught online through the Zoom platform. You can access this by calling in, using your I-pad or tablet or logging in on your computer. A scale is also required to participate in this class as you will be weighing in weekly from your home. Once you have registered, your coach will reach out to you with directions on how to join the class. Register at [CrowWingEnergized.org/events](http://CrowWingEnergized.org/events).

As **Essentia Health** aims to connect everybody who wants a **vaccination** with a shot, they are expanding opportunities for those in the Brainerd Lakes area. Essentia Health St. Joseph's-Baxter clinic is extending their COVID-19 vaccination hours on a limited basis. On **Wednesday's June 2**, June 23, and June 30, the vaccination clinic will be open until 6 p.m. The extended hours allow those working a day job, or students increased availability to get the shot without having to take time away from work or class. On Saturday's June 5 and June 26, they will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Walk-ins will be accepted, but making an appointment is encouraged as it is the best way to ensure you can receive a vaccination. During the extended time periods, those 12 and older will be able to receive the shot. Patients and non-patients can make an appointment by using [MyChart](#) or by calling (833) 494-0836. Essentia Health St. Joseph's-Baxter is still offering vaccinations Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Join the **Chamber in Crosslake** for the next **Explore Crosslake Business Meeting** on **Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from 8:00-9:30AM via Zoom. Always the first Thursday of the month, and usually in person, you can join them for a meeting of local business owners, managers and key staff. Network with others, learn more about events, activities and organizations in Crosslake, plus share info about YOUR business. For more info about the link to the events, visit [Crosslake.com](http://Crosslake.com).

**Operation Sandwich** will once again be providing **Summer Lunch Kits** to kids and families in need across the lakes area. **Beginning Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, lunch kits can be picked up Thursdays (through 9/2) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd between 1:00-1:30 or at the trail parking area on Grand Oaks Drive in Baxter from 5:30-6:00. Kits can also be picked up at the Pine River Chamber of Commerce between 11:30 and 12:00... Jenkins Veterans Park from 12:30-1:00... Pequot Lakes Trailside Park from 11:30-12:00 and at Nisswa Elementary from 12:30-1:00. The kits come with 5 days of lunch supplies for your family including bread, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, additional/varying snacks and fresh produce at no cost. Request for meals must be made in advance. To request meals or learn more, visit [BridgesOfHopeMN.org](http://BridgesOfHopeMN.org).

**Jr's No. 19 BBQ & The U.G.L.Y Cheesecake Co.** at 302 W. Washington Street in Brainerd (old BrickHouse Pizza building) presents "**A Decade of Decadent BBQ**" fundraiser for the **Mid Minnesota Women's Center** on **Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 11:00-7:30. For \$10 per plate during that time, you'll enjoy 2 rib bones, ¼ chicken, beans, cole slaw, a bun, butter and cookie and HALF of the proceeds from each plate will be donated to the MMWC. Pre-order, Take-out, Drive-thru, Curb-side or Dine in, to pre-order, call 825-9000. Learn more by logging on to Facebook and searching Mid Minnesota Women's Center.

**A Meat Raffle** will be held on **Fri. June 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Brainerd American Legion as a fundraiser for the **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen**. The raffle will be held from 5:30-7:00 and will feature a variety of top quality meats from the Emily Meat Market.

Many **Brainerd Public School** employees go above and beyond assigned job expectations every day to ensure students receive a high-quality education in a safe and positive learning environment. The Brainerd Public Schools **Above and Beyond Award** is intended to annually recognize employees who demonstrate a positive attitude that inspires others and consistently go above and beyond what is expected so students can be successful. Eligibility: All employees, full- or part-time, are eligible for this award regardless of their job classification or other awards received. Nominations: A student, parent, staff member, or community member can nominate an employee. Nominations can be completed online and submitted electronically or completed by hand and mailed in. To submit an electronic nomination go to [www.isd181.org](http://www.isd181.org). ***Nominations will be accepted through June 4.***

The **Lakeshore Conservation Club** announces that **the Youth Hunter Education Challenge** (YHEC) will be held on **Sat. June 5<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00-3:00. The event is held for kids ages 10 to 18. Stations include shotgun, muzzleloader, .22, pellet gun shooting, archery, blood tracking and many other events for kids. Prizes could be won! Food will be available for purchase. Pre-registration is required by emailing Eric at [LLARSON@TDS.net](mailto:LLARSON@TDS.net)

Fishing is a great pastime, but couple it with a fundraiser with a higher purpose and now you have an event that is making a difference! The **2021 Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Fishing Challenge** on Gull Lake will be held on **Sat. June 5<sup>th</sup>** and will support the work to offer hope and healing to men and women struggling with addiction. Join us with your fishing partner to compete for thousands of dollars of prizes and a chance to win a new Lund boat! Go to [MNTC.org/events](http://MNTC.org/events) for complete details.

## **6/7 – 6/14**

**Pequot Lakes Community Education** is offer **Youth Drivers Education** this summer. This will be the State mandated 30 hours of classroom instruction for drivers permit. This class will be delivered in an ONLINE version. Students must log-in and attend **ALL 30** hours of the class and pass the final exam in order to apply for their permit. The instructor will be Dan Moddes and the class will be online **Mon. June 7<sup>th</sup> through Fri. June 18<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00-11:30 each day. The fee is \$80. Students must have a reliable internet connection, computer with a camera and sound. Students must be turning 15 within 6 months of June 18, 2021. Any questions please contact Andrea Nelson, [anelson@isd186.org](mailto:anelson@isd186.org) or call 218-568-9342.

While the **Brainerd Public Library** is not hosting in-person events quite yet, **Brown Bag Lunch Author Visits** will be presented as live events on the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library Facebook page. On **Mon. June 7<sup>th</sup>** from 12:00-1:00, local author Julie Jo Larson will discuss her newly releases guide, "100 Things to Do in Minnesota Northwoods Before You Die." For more information, call 829-5547 or visit the Facebook page: Friends of the Brainerd Public Library.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church** in Backus invites kids to its **Vacation Bible School** 2021, entitled Rainforest Explorers - Jesu- Leads the Way" which will run the week of **June 7-11**. From 9:00-12:00 each day, kids will enjoy bible stories, crafts, games and so much more! Contact the church for more information.

A 3-part **class** on how you can turn a rhubarb leaf into a garden bird bath will be held starting **Mon. June 7<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 at the **Northland Arboretum**. The other two parts will be held, then on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of June with each class lasting anywhere from 1 to three hours at the most. The class is being presented by Kathy Wernberg and costs \$40 for Arb members and \$45 for non-members. Class size is limited and the fee is non-refundable. All supplies will be provided as you make a cement casting of the leaf and turn it into a piece of art. To sign up for the workshop, call the Arb at 829-8770. Learn more online at [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

The Brainerd Public Library invites the public to attend a free Zoom gardening webinar entitled "Hostas: From Mini to Giant" on Tues. June 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Register for the webinar by calling the library at 829-5574 or online at [TinyURL.com/CWGarden](https://TinyURL.com/CWGarden). A link will be sent upon registration.

Join **Paul Bunyan Land Amusement Park & Campground** as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. June 8<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30-6:00 at their location east of Brainerd on Hwy. 18. Guests will enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages. Owners Lois Smude and Mandy Rademacher will share the history of the park and future plans. You could win prizes! RSVP as a courtesy to the host at [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com).

Something new is coming to Downtown Brainerd! The **Here for Good Market** will take place **every Tuesday starting June 8<sup>th</sup>** (through Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>) from 3pm-7pm on South 7th Street. In addition to functioning as a marketplace for local growers and makers, this market will also feature activities such as live music, food and artist demos, and games. The goal of hosting this weekly event is to create a shared space where the community can come together to share experiences through food, art, and culture. For more information, search Destination Downtown Brainerd on Facebook.

The next **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** will be on **Tues. June 8<sup>th</sup>** 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. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's! ((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. *You must stay in your vehicle.*))

The **Northland Arboretum** will be holding a **Plant Sale** on **Thurs. June 10<sup>th</sup>** from 12:00-3:00 in the lower level of their welcome center and everyone is welcome to stop by and shop! During the event, there will be a presentation entitled "New Perennials" followed by a Q&A/refreshment session. To attend the presentation, you'll need to reserve a spot by calling the Arb (829-8770) – the cost is \$5. Space is limited. To learn more, visit [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

Everyone is invited to enjoy live local music while overlooking the beautiful shores of Serpent Lake at **Crosby Memorial Park** this summer! **Music In The Park** will **start June 10<sup>th</sup>** as the "Kickoff to Summer" and continues the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 5:00-8:00 during June, July and August. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, guests will enjoy music by Christian McShane and Amanda Standalone, food and activities for all ages. For more information about the evenings, visit [CuyunaLakes.com](http://CuyunaLakes.com).

The **Boots & Buckles Saddle Club** will be hosting the **Tuff-N-Nuff Professional bull riding event** on **Fri. & Sat. June 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>** at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd. The shows will start at 7:00 each night with gates opening at 6:00. Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be purchased at Cub Foods in Brainerd or Baxter or on BBay. They will be \$15 at the gate. Those 6 and under get in free.

The **Pelican Lakes Conservation Club** will host another **Pancake Breakfast** on **Sat. June 12<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-11:00 at their club in Breezy Point. The breakfast costs \$7 and will feature pancakes, link sausage, scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, biscuits and sausage gravy. The club is located just south of the Breezy Point Resort gates on County Road 4, then east onto Thrane Drive.

# MISC...

The **City of Brainerd** is reminding residents that **mowing your grass** into the streets is not allowed and is considered an illicit discharge into the city's storm sewer system. If the city finds residents practicing this behavior, it says a warning will be given and you will be asked to clean it up. When grass and leaves are blown into the streets, the debris finds its way into the storm sewer and in most cases will find its way to the river, increasing phosphorus in the river and lake system and leads to large algae blooms. Learn more by visiting Facebook and searching City of Brainerd.

During the pandemic, did you find yourself without health insurance? At **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid**, our team Project Care is a team of Certified MNSure Navigators who are ready to help you get affordable insurance! If you need help applying for a public health insurance program, give us a call today at 320-253-0121, or email us at [projectcare@mylegalaid.org](mailto:projectcare@mylegalaid.org)

Anyone age 12 and older is invited to obtain a **COVID-19 vaccination** at **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's Crosby Clinic**. Patients and community members may call 218-546-7000 to schedule a COVID vaccine appointment. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered so a second appointment will also be required for a second dose to be administered three weeks later at the same appointment time. Youth age 12 to 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to provide consent. Currently, CRMC is **focusing on Wednesday afternoon appointments**. However, scheduling options are continuously being updated so call for options.

If you are looking for **volunteer opportunities** here in the lakes area, the **Lakes Area United Way** has a bunch of choices for you! Visit [UnitedWayNow.org](http://UnitedWayNow.org) and click on the Get Connected banner. From dog walkers, to crisis line volunteers, to handyman services... game players, wheelchair transport drivers... the list goes on. If you want to volunteer, visit that site. Non-profits are also encouraged to register if they are in need of volunteers!

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** invites everyone to the **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays Summer Fling** on **Tues. June 15<sup>th</sup>** at Hunts Point Gun Club in Pequot Lakes. Team and Individual registration is open and sponsorships are available. The event is for experienced and novice shooters. Spend the day outdoors enjoying team bonding, networking and good-natured competition on the 16 station sporting clay course on the 300+ acre preserve in Pequot Lakes. \$150 for an individual... \$600 for a team of 4. Registration will start at 12:30 with a 2:00 Shotgun Start. At 6:00, food will be served with awards and prizes handed out. Register in advance at [BrainerdLakesChamber.com/events](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com/events).

The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd temporarily has **new hours** and is offering free meals to those in need every **Mon.-Sat. from 5:30-6:00** p.m. and on **Sun. from 1:00-1:30** p.m. If you are in need of a meal during the week, please stop by during these hours and food will be handed out at the door or outside. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit [SharingBread.com](http://SharingBread.com) for more.

**WIC services for Crow Wing County** residents continue to be offered remotely through **August 21, 2021**. Program appointments and services will be conducted by phone. If you would like more information regarding WIC please call the office at 218-824-1073 or email at [WIC@crowwing.us](mailto:WIC@crowwing.us).

The **Brainerd Public Library** invites members of the public to join the **Brainerd Book Club**, held **every second Wednesday** of the month at 1:00 p.m. for one hour. The book club currently meets online via Zoom, and is welcoming new members who like to discuss a variety of books including literary novels, mysteries, as well as nonfiction titles such as memoirs and biographies. Library staff members lead the discussion and often recommend related books and other materials available through the library. The Friends of the Brainerd Public Library support this book club by providing the funds to purchase ten copies of a title for patrons to borrow. These copies may be requested for curbside pickup appointment during the month prior to the meeting by calling the Library at 218-829-5574 during business hours. To get the link to join the Zoom discussion, email the Library at [Brainerd@KRLS.org](mailto:Brainerd@KRLS.org).

**The Brainerd Public Library** is now open scheduled hour for patrons to go in and browse the library. **Grab & Go short browsing sessions** are now available Monday through Friday during specific hours. During Grab & Go, customers wearing a mask can come into the library building to pick up requests, browse for 15 minutes or less, use the public internet computers or get assistance with brief reference questions. The also still offer contact-free curbside pickup by scheduled appointments as well and can help people access library resources over the phone and by email. For Grab & Go hours, visit [BrainerdPublicLibrary.wordpress.com](http://BrainerdPublicLibrary.wordpress.com) and click on Menu... or call 829-5574.

Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Do you have a plan for if you were suddenly unable to care for them? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** can help you build peace of mind through **Emergency Care Planning Services**. LSS can work with you to answer questions like: Who will care for my spouse if I no longer could? What resources would be available to my family? Work with an experienced care provider to develop a plan at no cost to you. Get started by calling 1-800-488-4146.

**The Crisis Line & Referral Service** is looking for compassionate **volunteers** to help answer calls from those in the area who may be experiencing a crisis and need someone to listen. Their volunteers are truly a lifeline for those who call the Crisis Line, with compassion, concern and with the highest level of integrity and confidentiality, the volunteers listen, affirm, encourage and offer hope by connecting with callers to resources that can truly help them. Hours for volunteers are flexible, you can do it from home or wherever! Training will be provided. You must be 18 or older. To learn more, visit [CrisisLineAndReferralService.org](http://CrisisLineAndReferralService.org).



Is your home in need of repairs, but you're unsure of affordable financing options? You may be eligible for a home repair loan or grant through **USDA Rural Development**. They offer very-low-income homeowners 62 years of age or older to remove health and safety hazards. For more information, call the Baxter office at 218-829-5965 or visit [RD.USDA.gov/MN](http://RD.USDA.gov/MN). A message from the USDA Rural Development, an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.