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Vol. 26 • Issue 46

Sat., November 15, 2025

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Start giving early as Give to the Max Day ends Nov. 20

Get ready to open your hearts and your wallets, because Give to the Max Day is back for its 17th year on Thursday, Nov. 20.

What started in 2009 as a one-time campaign to celebrate the launch of GiveMN.org, the state's digital home for generosity, has grown into one of Minnesota's most

beloved traditions. That first year, organizers hoped to inspire a spark of giving. Instead, they lit a wildfire: more than \$14 million was raised in just 24 hours.

Since then, Give to the Max Day has become a model for online giving events nationwide. Nearly one million donors have contributed more

than \$355 million to 14,000 nonprofits and schools across the state—fueling community projects, arts programs, food shelves, and so much more.

This year's event promises the same spirit of generosity

that's made it a highlight on Minnesota's calendar. Early Giving is already underway, allowing donors to get a head start on supporting their favorite causes.

Throughout the day on

Nov. 20, you can visit GiveMN.org to watch live fundraising totals, see which organizations are winning bonus prizes, and add your donations to the statewide effort of giving.

Veterans Day presentation



On November 11 at the Hazelton Town Hall, Linda Amundson (left) with the Ripple River Quilt Guild, presented Louie Rowell (center), a local army veteran, with a beautiful hand made quilt to honor his years of service. Louie accepted the quilt with his wife, Maryann, at his side. His son-in-law Norman Madison, niece Bonnie Naughton, her husband Matt Naughton and friends, Mike and Lisa McGill were also in attendance.



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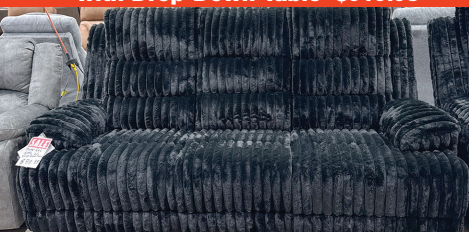
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Hotdish invitational returns

Nothing says Minnesota comfort food quite like a steaming pan of hotdish—and the Brainerd Lakes Area Lions Breakfast Club is serving up another round of delicious community fun!

In collaboration with Jack Pine Brewery and the Northland Arboretum, the 8th Annual Hotdish Invitational will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive in Baxter.

The event kicks off with a Jack Pine Brewery Social Hour at 2 p.m. in the Ar-

boretum's front parking lot, featuring fire pits and craft beer for sale. Then, at 3 p.m., doors open for ticketed attendees, who'll receive their voting chip at check-in before heading downstairs to sample some of the best hotdishes in the Lakes Area, crafted by local restaurants.

Attendees can enjoy tasting at their own pace and then vote for their favorite, with the Golden Crockpot and the title of Hotdish Invitational 2025 Champion awarded at 4 p.m. The event wraps up around 4:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at Eventbrite. Act fast—tickets are known to sell out, and when they're gone, they're gone.

Organizers remind attendees not to purchase tickets from third parties or unknown sellers online, as scams have unfortunately circulated in past years.

All proceeds from this heartwarming (and belly-warming) event go to support the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, helping feed those in need in our community.

Weary Ramblers soulful folk sound

The sweet sounds of Americana will fill the air in Nisswa as The Weary Ramblers take the stage at Journey Church on Friday, Nov. 21, as part of the long-running Grassroots Concerts series.

The Iowa-based folk duo—Chad Elliott and Kathryn Fox—blend award-winning songwriting, rich harmonies, and multi-instrumental talent to create a sound that's heartfelt, authentic, and full of storytelling charm. Their new

album, released in October, showcases the pair's musical chemistry and deep roots in the Americana tradition.

The concert begins at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served at Journey Church, located at 5459 Lakers Lane (next to the school in Nisswa). Admission is \$15 at the door for adults and \$5 for children under 12 who can listen attentively—a true family-friendly evening of

live music.

As always, Grassroots Concerts welcomes nonperishable food items or donations (cash or check) to support local food shelves—turning great music into community goodwill.

Looking ahead, the concert series continues with Jack Klatt performing on Friday, December 5.

For more information, visit www.grassrootsconcerts.org or call 312-720-2849.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- November**
- 14th - "Come as you are" is the theme of the St. John's Lutheran Church Fall Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Serving beef stew, variety of salads, desserts, beverage and also a craft and bake sale. Everyone welcome.
- 15th - Hunting for the Holidays Annual Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., at the Deerwood American Legion hosted by the Walter Scott Erickson Post #557 Auxiliary. Sloppy Joe lunch is available.
- 15th - Deer Camp Vendors Fair Lunch and Bake Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aitkin United Methodist Church, 104 - 2nd Street NW, Aitkin. Lunch \$7 Chicken Salad Croissant and more.
- 15th - Live Animal Presentation at Northland Arboretum, 11a.m. – 1 p.m.fun and educational visit from the Pine Grove Keepers Zoo.
- 15th - Northland Arboretum Hotdish Invitational, social hour 2 p.m. in the Arboretum parking lot, doors open at 3 p.m. winners will be announced at 4 p.m. Proceeds go to the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen.
- 15th - Hilltop Chapel's Hunters Supper Turkey with all of the trimmings, 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Admission for adults \$15, children 6-12 \$5 and ages 5 and under free. Raffle Drawing. Need not be present to win. Located at the Waukenabo Community Center/Town Hall, 36797 Grove Street, Palisade. Handicap accessible.
- 19th - Cascade United Methodist Church Free Monthly Supper, starting at 5:30 p.m. This local mission, Call 218-534-3507 to reserve your seat. The church is located at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood on Highway 6 and 210 between Deerwood and Crosby
- 21st - Iowa folk duo, Weary Ramblers, will perform at the Grassroots Concerts, 7 p.m. at the Journey Church, 5459 Lakers Lane (next to the school in Nisswa.) Chad Elliott and Kathryn Fox showcase multi-instrumental performances with tight harmonies and great storytelling. Seating is first-come, first-served. Grassroots welcomes your nonperishable food, cash or check donation to a local food shelf. For information call 312-720-2849 or go to www.grassrootsconcerts.org.
- 21st & 22nd - Holiday Market at the Emily Wesleyan Church in Emily. Call Janet Salut at 218-821-3395.
- 22nd - Northland Arboretum Holiday Market 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with over 30 local vendors offering a wide variety of gifts, handmade goods, crafts, and seasonal products, you're sure to find something special for everyone on your list.
- 28th - Nisswa City of Lights downtown Nisswa start at 12 p.m.
- 28th - World Famous Fish House Parade in Aitkin, 1 p.m. Parade line up starts as early as 10 a.m. at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds. To enter a float into the parade log on to aitkin.com/fishhouseparade

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Nov. 8 & 15, 2025)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at the Palisade Community Center. Township supervisor Tom Anderson may attend remotely via phone or Zoom. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss and decide matters that may come before the board.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2025
Jane Grimsbo Jewett
Clerk, Libby Township
2.76

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- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, and scrap metals can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

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Local organizations in Brainerd are once again teaming up to make sure no one goes without a warm Thanksgiving holiday meal. On Thursday, November 27, the Brainerd American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Elks Lodge, and Eagles Club will continue a cherished community tradition—preparing and distributing 1,500 free Thanksgiving



dinner for residents across the Brainerd area. The meals are free to anyone in need or anyone

who wishes to share in the community spirit, though donations are always gratefully accepted to help support this annual effort. Local Police and Fire Department members will help deliver meals to homes from 9 to 10:30 a.m., while drive-by meal pickup for the public will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the Brainerd American Legion. Because of the space needed to assemble so many meals, there will be no indoor dining this year—all meals must be picked up or delivered. Those wishing to reserve a dinner can call the Brainerd Legion at 218-829-2249. This massive community undertaking relies on dozens

of volunteers, and help is needed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thanksgiving Day to prepare, package, and distribute the meals. Anyone who would like to lend a hand can reach out to Event Chair Janelle Lacy at the Brainerd Legion. She can be contacted by cell at 218-851-4205 or work at 218-829-2249 for more information or to sign up for a

volunteer shift. In addition, the Brainerd VFW will once again remain closed on Thanksgiving Day so that volunteers and staff can spend time with their families, while still fully supporting the meal effort. For over three decades, this collaboration between Brainerd's veterans' organizations has embodied the true meaning of the holiday.

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While hunters haunt the woods, their ‘widows’ brake for bake sales



“Hunting widows” at Trinity Lutheran in Brainerd purchased sweets like caramel rolls, almond and cinnamon breads and lefsa to fuel their hunts for great bargains and crafts. Later, they enjoyed a cozy soup lunch with varieties like Bacon Cheeseburger Chili, Tortilla Soup, Hungarian Mushroom Soup, and Chicken Wild Rice Soup— to name a few.

By ANN SCHWARTZ

As rifle shots crack through the woods and orange-clad stalkers try to get their deer, another movement is afoot. Bazaars, bake sales and hunters’ supper have begun. Throughout the realm, while some men and women climb into their deerstands early on frosty mornings, others climb into their cars, ready with cash for baked goods and holiday décor.

Trinity Lutheran in Brainerd is one church whose fellowship hall was overloaded with customers this past Saturday. These customers hunted for Doug Johnson’s caramel rolls (he bakes hundreds), lefsa, krumkake and strong coffee. They donated to Lutheran World Relief. They snatched up wreaths and bobbles and bows to dress up their homes for the holidays.

Many groups have made the Minnesota Firearms Deer Opener into “Deer Widows Weekend,” getting together with groups of friends and relatives to eat, shop and plan their own shenanigans.

While some grow beards and belch in cabins in the woods, others stay in luxury hotels, enjoying the spa and time out to go to bazaars and

bake sales.

Don’t fret. The season has a lot of life in it yet. Here is just a sampling of what is to come:

- SoulShine Holiday Pop-up, 4758 County Road 77, Nisswa, Nov. 13 -Nov. 15
- Live music at the Landing, Aitkin, Friday, Nov. 14: 6-9 p.m.
- Deerwood American Legion, hot beef or hot chicken sandwich, Friday, Nov. 14, 4-7 p.m. Don’t forget the mashed potatoes and gravy.
- Hunting for the Holidays Craft and Vendor Show. Deerwood Legion, Saturday, November 15, 9-3.

Hilltop Chapel Hunters’ Supper. Turkey and the trimmings. Saturday, Nov. 15, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

These are just a small sample of the entertainment, food and fun available in the Lakes Area this month.

Check these out or just drive around your community and look for signs. Not signs of deer, folks, but signs that say “Lefsa for sale.”



Dave Boudin, 93, demonstrates his technique with his paintings displayed for sale at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd.



Doug Johnson's caramel rolls were a favorite at Trinity Lutheran.



Ladies from Trinity Lutheran were ready to help customers purchase their bake sale items.



Friday, Saturday & Sunday November 14-16 Flannel & Fabulous Girls Weekend

Sip • Spa • Shop • Sparkle!

Spend a cozy, fun filled weekend with your besties in your most fabulous flannels shopping-crafting-adventuring-drinking-eating.

Friday Night Retail Bingo
8-9 p.m.
FREE & OPEN TO ALL!
Details can be found at ruttgers.com/events

Get all the details at ruttgers.com/events

Craft Fairs • Relaxing Spa Specials • Craft Spirit & Wine Tastings • DIY Craft Sessions • Fabulous Food • Retail Therapy & Holiday Specials
Book Your Stay at ruttgers.com

Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
\$45 adults, \$17 kids (4-11),
3 & under Free

Call Now 218-678-4644 to reserve your spot!

Carving Station:

Rosemary & Sage Broasted Turkey with Cranberry-Jalapeno Relish, Triple Smoked Dark Cherrywood Bone-in Ham, Slow Roasted Rosemary and Sea Salt Prime Rib with Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish

Chef's Salad Bar • Chef's Sides:

Mascarpone Mashed Potatoes with Creamy Mushroom Gravy, Winter Squash Agrodolce, Sweet Potato Streusel Casserole with Crispy Coconut, Charred Brussel Sprouts with Bacon & Maple-bourbon Glaze, Spinach & Artichoccke Dip with Tortilla Chips, Crusted Rosemary Scalloped Potatoes, Four Cheese Mac & Cheese, Gruyere & Fontina Cheese Corn Casserole, Fresh Baked Sweet Potato Rolls, Peel & Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce, Smoked Salmon and Lake Trout by Northern Waters Smokehaus

Desserts:

Apple Pumpkin Pecan Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream, Vanilla Creme Brule, Flourless Chocolate Torte, Assortment of Fruit & Cream Pies





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Host Your Holidays at Ruttger's

Call **218-678-4626** to book your office holiday party/gathering.

POOL OPEN

Front Desk/ Lobby Shop/ Pool Hours
Sunday-Wednesday 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Call 218-678-2885 to **BOOK A FUN POOL PARTY** for your kids, friends, or family celebrations.

Pool Punch Passes available for purchase at the Front Desk



Winter Hours

If you would like a personal shopping experience, please contact **Miranda** at **218-678-4673** or email miranda.caddy@ruttgers.com

The Garage

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bear Pine Bar & Ruby's

Serving Ruby's Menu
Thursday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.





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— Plan Ahead for the Holidays —
**Early Newspaper Deadlines
Friday, November 21**

Send your ads, photos, stories and community events to
hopper@crosbyironton.net
or log on to **NewsHopper.net**