

COMMUNITYNEWS

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

TRIATHLON CANCELED

The Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon scheduled for Aug. 9 is canceled due to flooding and lake contamination.

STORIES IN THE PARK

Stories in the Park at 6 p.m. tonight at the Eighth Avenue green space will feature 30 to 40 minutes of stories and games about large cats.

LIBRARY MOVIE PRESENTATION

International Falls Public Library will present the movie “The Black Cauldron” at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Popcorn will be provided. This is also the last day to turn in hours read for a summer reading t-shirt.

SONS OF NORWAY

Anyone interested in joining the Sons of Norway, Vinland Lodge 1-193, or curious about what they do, may gather at 2 p.m. Sunday for a New Member Dinner and Program. Cost is \$12; no charge for those sponsored by a member. Reservations are required today. Call 218-343-2396 or 283-3009 and leave message.

OUTDOOR BOOT CAMP

Learn how to use the new outdoor fitness equipment at Ranier Park at 7 a.m. every Tuesday throughout the summer. The classes will be led by Erin Shikowsky and/or Ashley Hall at Evolve U Fitness. Bring water and wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes.

MEN’S GARDEN CLUB

The Koochiching Men’s Garden Club is holding its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 5 at Hampton Court. LeRoy Kelly is hosting.

POLICE REPORT

International Falls Police Department

Hit-and-run: Robert O. Lucas, Sun City, Ariz., reported July 24 damage to the driver side passenger and driver doors of his vehicle after it was struck while parked on Fifth Street by a vehicle that left the scene.

International Falls Fire Department

Tree fire: Fire fighters blocked the road and waited for the power company to arrive July 22 after a tree caught fire after it had been blown onto a power line at 1320 13th St. by a storm. Once the limb burned, the tree lifted off the power line.

LOTTERY

Sunday’s Daily 3 2, 0, 0	Friday’s Mega Millions 22, 29, 33, 41, 68
Sunday’s Northstar Cash 9, 13, 15, 26, 29	Mega Ball 12
Friday’s Gopher 5 6, 10, 19, 33, 37	Saturday’s Powerball 24, 28, 30, 38, 39
Saturday’s Hot Lotto 1, 4, 5, 24, 32	Powerball 16
Hot Ball 10	

STATE NEWS

MnDOT highway mowing controls invasive species

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Mowing the state highway rights of way is in full swing after the wet spring delayed Minnesota Department of Transportation maintenance workers from starting the job earlier. MnDOT crews mow approximately 45,000 acres of land annually.

MnDOT, like other landowners in the state, is required to control plants on the Department of Agriculture’s restricted noxious weed list. Mowing is one way MnDOT controls them. Many of the plants seen along roadsides display vibrant colors when in bloom, but to the trained

eyes of MnDOT’s roadside vegetation crews, they are invasive and a threat to native plants, animals and ecosystems.

“We want a diverse plant population on our roadsides because it’s healthier to have different kinds of plants and grasses,” Tina Markeson, roadside vegetation supervisor, said in a release. “When invasive species take over, it causes issues in the long run.”

Markeson cited purple loosestrife as an example of an invasive plant that competes with native species. The invasive plant can form dense stands that replace native plants needed by wildlife for food

and habitat, she said.

Mowing is usually limited to shoulders and medians to:

- Maintain sight distances for crossing and merging traffic
- Allow motorists to see approaching wildlife
- Aid in the identification of erosion issues
- Allow people to exit the vehicle if needed

State law restricts mowing the entire right of way until after July 31 to protect ground nesting birds.

Timing of the mowing is important to prevent seed formation and so plants are not moved down the road in mowing equipment.

“We aim to mow when plants are in their bud stage, so we’re not spreading the seeds and making the problem worse,” Markeson said. “Knowing the weed and the timing of its development saves money so the right method or combination of methods is used at the right time.”

Some of MnDOT’s mowers have automated vehicle location systems to help maintenance crews mow around noxious weed patches. Operators use an on-screen map to mark new areas of noxious weeds and go back at the right time to mow or spray. The technology also tracks the use of herbicides, when used, so

operators can better track where areas are sprayed. The technology is anticipated to reduce herbicide usage by 50 percent.

MnDOT also uses prescribed burns and biological controls to control weeds.

“MnDOT’s goal is to provide a roadside environment that is ecologically appropriate and self-sustaining and maintains scenic qualities, while ensuring traveler safety,” Markeson said.

For more information, go to MnDOT’s roadside vegetation management program website, www.mndot.gov/roadsides/vegetation/.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission, 8 a.m., Koochiching County Courthouse, Commissioners’ Boardroom.
- Recycling curbside collection, 8 a.m., north of 11th Street and west of Highway 53 (includes Terrace Lane).
- Women of the Moose Crazy Days Table, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., outside Moose Lodge.
- Sing and Play in the Park, 10-11 a.m., Ranier Park.
- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Wednesday Study Group, 10:15 a.m., Faith United Church of Christ.
- Community Market, 4-6:30 p.m., Backus Third Street parking lot.
- Sunbeams and Girl Guards, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Free At Last, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Forestland Annex, lower level conference room.
- Community Band, 5 p.m., The Dungeon, Backus Community Center.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Stories in the Park, 6 p.m., Eighth Avenue green space (near community gardens).
- Men’s Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Borealis Bards, music and script readings, 6:30 p.m., Smokey Bear Park.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., London broil steak dinner.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King’s Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Texas Hold ‘Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Bone Builders, 10 a.m., Woodland Apartments.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Northland Art Society open, various

- arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Movie presentation, “The Black Cauldron,” 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Caring and Sharing ... a Time for Caregivers group, 1:30 p.m., Faith United Church of Christ, Fireside Room.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 4-8 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Adventure Corps, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Weight Watchers, 4:45-5:15 p.m. weigh-in; 5:15 meeting, Zion Lutheran Church.
- Falls Trap Club, trap shooting, 5:30 p.m., Moonlight Rock Road.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., fish and chips, mixed veggies, dinner roll, Backus Community Center.
- Polish and Dogs on the Grill, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Beginner’s Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- The Lamplighters, women’s support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse, 407 Fourth St.
- Bike Night, 6:45 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Line Dancing, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Serenity Sisters, Women’s A.A., noon, Backus, Rational Alternatives, Room 101.
- Elks Lodge Friday Light Meal, 5:30 p.m.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- For Those in Need, Addiction Recovery, 7 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1340 Keenan Drive.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

SATURDAY

- Community Market, 9 a.m.-noon, Backus Third Street parking lot.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

The Journal

Red Wing Publishing Co.
1602 U.S. Highway 71
International Falls, MN
56649
Published Wednesday and Saturday except on holidays
Periodicals postage paid at International Falls, MN
56649

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International Falls Recreational Hockey
2014-2015 Season Registration
and Family FUN day

Date: August 5 & 6
Time: 4:00-8:00 P.M.
Location: Kerry Park Arena

FUN AND GAMES!
On August 5th, we will be having a Family Fun filled event day with food, games, informational handouts and autographed MN Wild raffle prizes FREE to those who register as a way of showing our appreciation for your support this upcoming season. Thank you in advance to all our volunteers!!

Free Equipment for First Years and Tormites.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- First Year hockey players will need to bring a copy of their birth certificate.
- All Hockey Players and Volunteers (Coaches and Managers) must register with USA Hockey and bring a copy of their Registration Confirmation to sign ups. To register, go to: <http://www.usahockeyregistration.com>
- Save \$50.00 by registering by August 6th! For those who can't make it on August 5th or 6th, please contact **Chris Zahn: (218) 324-0988** for early registration.

For All Your Propane Needs Remember...
Membership Has Its Benefits

There are many benefits of being a member of Northern Star Cooperative Services!

- Being part of a team that is working toward a common goal; the betterment of the cooperative and its members.
- Having the ability to purchase a variety of goods and services at fair and competitive prices.
- Switch out your tank for our tank for FREE!
- Having access to programs and services that have been specifically designed with you, the member owner, in mind.
- To receive the benefits of patronage refunds on the purchases you make with Northern Star Cooperative Services.
- Current customers receive a FREE propane safety check!

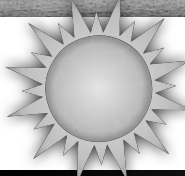


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