

COMMUNITYNEWS

ASK A TROOPER

MSP Dodge Charger

BY CURT S. MOWERS
Minnesota State Patrol

Q: I know that numerous police agencies have Dodge Chargers. Do you know if the State Patrol uses one too or do they use something else for similar purposes? I would like to know what you can tell me about that program as far as the State Patrol. Thanks!

A.: For us, it is a specialty vehicle and not our typical fleet/patrol vehicle. The Charger "program" is run statewide. Almost every State Patrol district in the state currently has one, except Rochester and Thief River Falls; however, both of those districts have plans to acquire a charger or similar unmarked vehicle in the near future.

Each district may operate its Charger program a little bit differently. For example, the Brainerd District's charger arrived in 2010. Currently, that vehicle is black in color, unmarked, and has the 5.8 liter V8 engine. The district troopers were able to pick the color they preferred. There were about five different colors to choose from. This vehicle rotates throughout the district, "serving time" in every station.

The emphasis for the ve-

POLICE REPORT

**International Falls
Fire Department**

House fire: Firefighters responded at 7 p.m. Friday to a call from a neighbor to a rental house owned by Robert J. Discenza on First Avenue West. Department officials said a fire in an attic was extinguished. A damage estimate and the cause was unavailable.

**International Falls
Police Department**

Collision: Vehicles driven by Jeffrey L. Kalar, 38, Moundsview, and Colton Greenlee, 17, County Road 24, collided Saturday at 10th Street and 10th Avenue causing more than \$1,000 damage.

Hit-and-run: Lynnea R. Dahlgren, 10th Street, reported that the vehicle she was driving was struck by a snowmobile Feb. 27 at Ninth Avenue West and Ninth Street that left the scene. Her vehicle sustained minor damage, according to the report.

Collision: Vehicles driven by Gina G. Shinner, 33, Town Road 273, and Jeanete L. White-Clinton, 79, Second Avenue East, collided Feb. 27 at Ninth

hicle was to be unmarked; work the different stations and be able to locate unbelted motorists. The areas of emphasis were around schools and areas that young drivers congregated. As of late, the vehicles have been used quite a bit to find violators who are texting or using a mobile device while driving. As one supervisor notes, the goal of the Charger program is to hide in plain sight to correct driver behavior that would not occur around a marked squad. Also, the Charger program allows every trooper an opportunity to drive an unmarked vehicle during their career, which has not always been the case in the past.

Troopers are responsible for keeping track of their daily activity on a log sheet. All of the statistics and reports surrounding the use of it are reported quarterly to the State Patrol fleet lieutenant in St. Paul.

It is possible that someday, each district could get an unmarked cross-over type vehicle. One thing about the Charger that should be noted is that it is a very trustworthy car. Looking at the Brainerd District Charger as an example again, the only mechanical issues they needed to deal with have been preventative maintenance items.

Avenue West and Fifth Street causing more than \$1,000 damage.

Collision: Vehicles driven by Robert A. Urban, 53, First Avenue West, and Ryan T. Bloom, 36, County Road 24, collided Feb. 27 at Fourth Avenue West and Ninth Street causing more than \$1,000 damage.

Collision: Vehicles driven by Lisa A. Thorpe, 34, Glenwood Avenue, and Francis R. Talbert, 32, Eighth Avenue West, collided Feb. 27 at Second Avenue West and 17th Street. No damage estimate was included in the report; Thorpe complained of a sore shoulder.

Collision: Vehicles driven by Scott C. Lestico, 39, 17th Street West, and Travis C. Netland, 23, Seventh Street, collided Feb. 24 at Ninth Avenue West and Ninth Street causing more than \$1,000 damage.

**Koochiching County
Sheriff's Office**

ATV theft: Eric L. Fry, County Road 77, reported Feb. 28 that an all-terrain vehicle valued at \$1,500 was taken from his residence.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- 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.
- Falls High School Class of 1963, 11:30 a.m., Lenard's.
- Test of emergency sirens – 1 p.m., International Falls; 2, Fort Frances.
- After School Arts, Theater Games, 4-5:30 p.m., Backus, Room 101.
- 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.
- Men's Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Falls High School Class of 1979 35-year reunion planning gathering, 6:30 p.m., Americinn lounge.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., chicken breast/wild rice, ginger carrots, salad, dessert.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King's Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Downtowners Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Hospital retirees, 8 a.m., Lenard's.
- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- 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.
- Storytime, 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Parkinson's support group, 11 a.m.-noon, Faith United Church of Christ, Fireside Room.
- Flu Clinic, noon-4 p.m., Koochiching County Health Department.
- After School Arts — Spanish I, 4-5 p.m.;

Spanish II, 5:15-6:15, Backus, Room 205.

- 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.
- Burgers Supper, 5 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Falls Trap Club, trap shooting, 5:30 p.m., Moonlight Rock Road.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., sloppy joes, French fries, fruit, Backus Community Center.
- Beginner's Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- Northland Art Society, 6 p.m., Backus building, art room.
- The Lamplighters, women's support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse, 407 Fourth St.
- Chef James Shipley Cooking Class, 6:30 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- After School Arts, ArtSmart, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Backus, Room 205.
- Cribbage, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Fresh Start, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- 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., French dip and French fries.
- 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.
- Grape Vine Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

SATURDAY

- Fly Tyers Gathering, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Moose Lodge events – Open, noon; Bingo, 1 p.m.; Potato Crunch Chicken Supper, 6 (reservations, 283-3615).
- Open Gym, 3-5 p.m., free, Backus Community Center.
- Guided Snowshoe Hike, 2-3:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center.
- A.A., 7 p.m., Alano Club.

LOTTERY

SUNDAY'S DAILY 3 7, 9, 3	SATURDAY'S HOT LOTTO 15, 18, 30, 42, 46	MEGA BALL 6
SUNDAY'S NORTHSTAR CASH 5, 12, 18, 21, 24	HOT BALL 4	SATURDAY'S POWERBALL 3, 8, 25, 30, 47
FRIDAY'S GOPHER 5 10, 18, 23, 31, 37	FRIDAY'S MEGA MILLIONS 3, 31, 50, 58, 59	POWERBALL 13

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

CLASS OF 1979

Falls High School Class of 1979 classmates will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the AmericInn lounge to make plans for the 35-year reunion. Classmates are urged to attend.

SCOUTS SKATING, SLEDDING

Local Girl Scouts are welcome to a skating and sledding event set for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Ranier Park. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served.

CORRECTION

In a story on the Education page in Saturday's edition, Sara Wendt, of Littlefork, is among the initial field of 128 candidates from across the state nominated for Teacher of the Year. She teaches sixth grade at Indus School.

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VFW Post

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Friday & Saturday

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BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit us – www.backusab.org or Facebook – Backus AB

March 7	Cooking Class – Chef James Shipley – 6:30 pm
March 8	Open Gym – Free – 3:00 – 5:00 pm
March 11 & 13	Borealis Bards – 6:30 pm
March 14	Top the Tater – 5:00 – 6:30 pm – Sponsor: Streiff's Floral
March 14	Border Concert – 7:30 pm – Charlie Albright, piano
March 15	Open Gym – Free – 3:00 – 5:00 pm
March 18 & 20	Borealis Bards – 6:30 pm
March 22	Backus Performing Arts Series Galactic Cowboy Orchestra – 7:00 pm
March 25 & 27	Borealis Bards – 6:30 pm
March 28	Cooking Class – Chef James Shipley – 6:30 pm
March 29	Borderland Musical Showcase – 7:00 pm
March 31	Documentary Movie – 6:30 pm "Eating Alaska"
April 1	Top the Tater – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Sponsor – Up North Builders
April 1	Border Concert – 7:30 pm – Mack Bailey, singer
April 1 & 3	Borealis Bards – 6:30 pm
April 4	Cooking Class – Chef James Shipley – 6:30 pm

Community Café

Free Meals - Tuesdays & Thursdays • 5:30 – 6:00 pm

WATCH FOR DETAILS

Royal Feast at Castle Backus
Dinner Theater - April 5th, 5 p.m.

"Backus is fully accessible to persons with disabilities – Please call our office for specific accommodations."

Call Backus Community Center for Information 218-285-7225

Best Food!

Best View!



**Join us every
Wednesday for
BBQ Ribs**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
DINNER FEATURE**

Roquefort Steak

*12 oz. New York strip with grilled onions
and melted blue cheese with your choice of
potato and salad.*



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