

# LOCALNEWS

## Anderson attends address

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

When Gov. Mark Dayton delivered his State of the State Address Thursday, International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson was in attendance.

Anderson, along with the mayors of Worthington, Rochester, and Bloomington, attended as invited guests of Dayton.

Dayton's address focused on two main topics: education and transportation. Anderson said both topics are very important to International Falls and Koochiching County.

The mayors met in a room in the Capitol with the governor's commissioners and were escorted



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson poses at the state Capitol for a photo with Gov. Mark Dayton Thursday. Anderson was invited by Dayton to the State of the State Address.

to seats in the balcony for the address, Anderson said.

Minnesota Rep. David Dill and Sen. Tom Bakk had front row seats in the House of Representatives Chamber alongside the Minnesota Supreme Court

justices.

This is the second State of the State Address Anderson has experienced.

"The other was given by Gov. Arne Carlson at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Legislative

Dinner in 1995 when I was chairman of the chamber board," recalled Anderson. "It was my honor to introduce the Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson, who in turn introduced Gov. Carlson on that occasion."

## Bike season returns

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The return of warm weather to Borderland means bicycle season is back.

Over the next few weeks, Linds Barnhart, Koochiching County Public Health and Human Services, said more and more people will be seen around the community on their bikes.

Riding a bicycle is a quick mode of transportation, a good form of exercise, and a great way to get some fresh air instead of being cooped up in a vehicle all the time, Barnhart said. People bike for fun, as a workout, or simply as transportation to get to work, go to a friend's house, or run errands.

After a long winter, some people may be rusty on key safety tips. Barnhart reminds people to consider the following:

### Motorists

■ Cyclists have a right to use the roads. Remember to watch for them and give plenty of space when passing.

■ Be especially alert for people riding bike when you are turning or backing up.

### Cyclists

■ Ensure your bike fits you well and is tuned up.

■ Wear a helmet.

■ Ensure that nothing you are wearing or carrying will get caught up in the bicycle to cause a hazard.



Linds Barnhart

### More information

May is National Bike Month and several local events will highlight the importance of riding bike.

Bike to Work Week/Day: Bike to Work Week is set for May 11-15. Friday of that week is Bike to Work Day.

Bike Rodeo: A bike rodeo at Kerry Park Arena is set for May 19. The event teaches kids safe cycling habits and they will receive a free bike helmet.

■ Be visible. Wear bright colors, reflective material, or have lights on your bike.

■ Ride on the right side of the road, going in the same direction as traffic. Ride as close to the shoulder as is safe; if you need to be to the left of the white line a bit because of road conditions, motorists can drive around you.

■ Sidewalks are for pedestrians.

■ Follow the rules of the road, including but not limited to: signal when turning or stopping, yield to vehicles or cyclists

■ who have the right of way, and obey stop signs.

■ Be aware of your surroundings. Motorists should watch for cyclists and give space when passing, but cyclists need to look out for themselves too.

Following the rules of the road makes cyclists' actions more predictable to motorists and increases safety, Barnhart said.

## DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been recently convicted of felony or aggravated misdemeanor crimes in Koochiching County District Court. The information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

**Gregory A. Carlson**, 58, International Falls, was sentenced April 6 for felony fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and ordered to serve 20 days jail and pay \$400 fine and fees. He was placed on five years supervised probation and

ordered to supply a DNA sample to the state. He must submit to random tests and searches and may not use or possess firearms or dangerous weapons. He must follow the recommendations of an evaluation.

**Robert E. Perry**, 48, International Falls, was sentenced April 6 for felony fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

He was sentenced to one year and one day at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and ordered to pay \$75 fees.

**Christopher J. Verdugo**,

23, International Falls, was sentenced April 6 for felony fifth-degree sale of marijuana.

He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years probation. He was ordered to serve 30 days jail as work release and to pay \$350 fine and fees. He was ordered to provide a DNA sample to the state and may not use alcohol or controlled substances. He must complete treatment and may not use or possess firearms or dangerous weapons. He was ordered to serve 40 hours

with the Sentence to Serve program.

**Travis Nicholson**, age unknown, Littlefork, was sentenced April 6 for felony possess pistol/assault weapon — conviction or adjudicated delinquent for crime of violence.

He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and ordered to pay \$600 fine and fees and serve 30 days jail. He was placed on supervised probation and ordered not to use or possess firearms or dangerous weapons. He was ordered to provide a DNA sample to the state.

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**6:30 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2015**  
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