

# COMMUNITYNEWS

## MnDOT improves descriptions of winter road conditions

MNDOT REPORT

Travelers will have a better understanding of road conditions using the Minnesota Department of Transportation's improved winter road condition descriptions on the 511mn.org website and smart-phone app.

The old winter road descriptions were 'good,' 'fair,' 'difficult' and 'hazardous/travel not advised.' The new descriptions are 'normal,' 'partially covered,' 'completely covered,' 'travel not advised' and 'closed.'

The changes were made because the descriptions were subjective and the public didn't always understand or look at the meanings listed on the 511 website, according to Kelly Braunig, 511 coordinator.

"We were getting a fair amount of complaints," she said. "An interpretation of good or fair might be completely different from person to person. We listened to our users and made improvements."

Braunig looked at what

other states in the area used as descriptions for winter road conditions and adopted those from Iowa.

"We think the public will have a better understanding of the terms now," Braunig said. "It's easier to understand that roads are 'partially covered' rather than 'fair,' or 'completely covered' instead of 'difficult.'"

More details of each road condition description are available at <http://hb.511mn.org/RoadConditions.htm>.

"We encourage people to use other resources, such as radio, television and weather apps, to make decisions about traveling," Braunig said. "We think the public will appreciate these improvements to our 511 system."

These changes are part of Governor Dayton's administration-wide effort to implement "Plain Language" when communicating with Minnesotans. Follow this link to view the Executive Order: <http://mn.gov/governor/images/EO-14-07.pdf>.

## BORDERLAND BRIEFS

### LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUM

The public is welcome to a Local Candidate Forum at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 at Backus Community Center. Featuring competing candidates in the races for: Ranier City Council; Falls Council – Center, West and East Wards; Minnesota House Dist. 03A; County Sheriff; and Koochiching County Board Districts 1 and 4.

### COMMUNITY OKTOBERFEST

International Falls Chamber of Commerce members will host Community Oktoberfest at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at the VFW Club. Featured will be an \$8 German meal, special performances, cash bar, raffle prizes, and the live band, "Uncommon Joes."

### 'FAITH AND THE BELIEVERS TOO' CONCERT

"Faith and the Believers Too," local rhythm and blues band, will present a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday in The Dungeon at Backus Community Center. The public is welcome to listen to old favorites with music of today added to the program. Suggested donations of \$10 will be accepted, proceeds to benefit "Music in the Dungeon" and promotion of music events in the community. Refreshments will be served. Elevator open for use. Information and directions at [mrfaithslasers.com](http://mrfaithslasers.com) or Facebook "Faiths Dungeon".

### I FALLS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

I Falls Partners in Education will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Falls Elementary School library. Speaker David Skwarok, information technology director, Independent School District 361, will speak on "Technology – What's New at ISD 361."

### TEEN GAMING

Teen Gaming is planned for 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday at International Falls Public Library. Pizza will be served. For students in grades 7 and up.

### CARTOONING AT THE LIBRARY

Art Studio will present Cartooning at 10:30 a.m. Friday at International Falls Public Library. This free program, made possible by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, will help explore ways to express oneself by creating characters and drawing simple comics. For all ages; those under age 8 need to be accompanied by an adult.

### BORDERLAND HUMANE SOCIETY

Borderland Humane Society will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at River's Edge Villa dining room. The public is encouraged to attend, voice concerns and give opinions on animal-related issues that affect the community; or simply listen in and see what the society is doing.

## CALENDAR

### TODAY

- Retired Boise Cascade electricians, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Walk-ercise group, 10-11 a.m., Backus Community Center 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.
- East Koochiching Sanitary Sewer District Board, 11 a.m., Sanitary District Boardroom, 1412 Highway 71,
- Salvation Army Advisory Council, noon, Salvation Army building.
- Girl Guards, Sunbeams and Adventure Corps, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Free At Last, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Forestland Annex, lower level conference room.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 5:30-8 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- International Falls Recreation Commission Board, 5:45 p.m., city council chambers.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Men's Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Members and guests Elks Lodge 1599 Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., Octoberfest.
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, 7 p.m., Americlnn.
- Girl Scouts Swim Party Extravaganza, 7-8 p.m., Falls High School pool.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

### THURSDAY

- Bone Builders, 10-11:30 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.
- Habitat for Humanity Gummi Bear Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Super One and County Market.
- Falls High School Class of 1960, 11:30 a.m., Lenard's.
- Servants of Shelter Board, noon, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.
- Teen Gaming, 2-5 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Ostomy support group, 2:30 p.m., Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic.
- Gannon Anderson Benefit, meatballs and mashed potatoes, 4-7 p.m., Moose

- Lodge.
- 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.
- Borderland Humane Society, 5:30 p.m., River's Edge Villa.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., curried chicken and rice, fruit, dinner roll, Backus Community Center.
- 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.
- Childbirth Classes, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Medical Center.
- St. Thomas Bingo — Bonanza, 6:45 p.m.; Bingo, 7, Aquinas Hall.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

### FRIDAY

- Walk-ercise group, 10-11 a.m., Backus Community Center gymnasium.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Habitat for Humanity Gummi Bear Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Super One and County Market.
- Family Flu Shots, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Koochiching County Public Health Department.
- Cartooning presentation, 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Serenity Sisters, Women's A.A., noon, Backus, Rational Alternatives, Room 101.
- Members and guests Elks Lodge 1599 Friday Light Meal, 5:30 p.m., Don's Special Burgers and 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

### SATURDAY

- Hope for Recovery workshop, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- Northland Art Society-hosted Watercolor Workshop with Barb Gray, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., NAS Art Room 114, Backus Community Center.
- Bingo, 1 p.m.; 7 Generations buffet, 6, Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

## LOTTERY

**Sunday's Daily 3**  
7, 8, 0

**Sunday's Northstar Cash**  
11, 13, 20, 29, 30

**Friday's Gopher 5**  
4, 34, 39, 41, 44

**Saturday's Hot Lotto**  
12, 14, 27, 29, 41

**Hot Ball**  
4

**Friday's Mega Millions**  
2, 32, 35, 50, 59

**Mega Ball**  
3

**Saturday's Powerball**  
10, 19, 37, 38, 39

**Powerball**  
28

## POLICE REPORT

### Ontario Provincial Police

*Body recovered:* OPP Underwater Search and Recovery Unit located the body of Brandon Romark, 22, of Fort Frances, at around 6:30 p.m. Sunday after family re-

ported to police Saturday he hadn't returned home as expected and was last seen in the area of the Sorting Gap Marina along the Rainy River. A post mortem investigation was conducted at the Lake of

the Woods District Hospital Monday. The Fort Frances Crime Unit is continuing the investigation. Further information will be released as it becomes available.

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### To reach us:

Phone: (218) 285-7411  
Fax: (218) 285-7206  
Web site: [ifallsjournal.com](http://ifallsjournal.com)

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### Staff

*Chairman*  
Arlin Albrecht

*Publisher*  
Rob Davenport:  
[rob@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:rob@ifallsjournal.com)

*Editor*  
Laurel Beager:  
[laurel@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@ifallsjournal.com)

*Circulation Manager*  
Dana Hartje:  
[dana@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:dana@ifallsjournal.com)

*Advertising Manager*  
Mickie Olson:  
[mickie@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:mickie@ifallsjournal.com)

*Production Supervisor*  
Jerry Flansberg:  
[jerry@northstarpublishingmn.com](mailto:jerry@northstarpublishingmn.com)

*Office Manager*  
Kami Kostiuik  
[kami@northstarpublishingmn.com](mailto:kami@northstarpublishingmn.com)

### News

*Sports Editor*  
Kevin Boneske:  
[kevin@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:kevin@ifallsjournal.com)

*Staff writer*  
Emily Gedde:  
[emily@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:emily@ifallsjournal.com)

*Staff writer*  
Spenser Bickett:  
[spenser@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:spenser@ifallsjournal.com)

*Obits/weddings/Borderland Briefs*  
Tammie Calder:  
[tammiec@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:tammiec@ifallsjournal.com)

### Display advertising

*Display ad representative*  
Wyatt Wimmer:  
[wyatt@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:wyatt@ifallsjournal.com)  
Kelsea Davis:  
[kelsea@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:kelsea@ifallsjournal.com)

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RAISE A STEIN • DANCE A POLKA • ENJOY

**LIVE MUSIC: UNCOMMON JOES 8 P.M.**

ABOUT OKTOBERFEST:  
At the annual Oktoberfest in Munich, the event is known for its traditional 'oompah' music and beer drinking. As the evening wears on, the music becomes louder and people begin to link arms, swinging beer mugs from side to side, swaying- and offering a toast to contentment and relaxation.

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