

COMMUNITYNEWS

Too many distracted drivers on the road

**Q: There are way too many other drivers on their cell phones calling or texting. Why don't you enforce these laws? We never hear about it.**

**A:** I agree that there are too many drivers that are distracted while driving. We are doing our best to enforce the laws and reduce the number of crashes on our roadways.

Minnesota does have a law making it illegal for drivers to read/compose/send text messages and emails, or access the internet using a wireless device while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

I believe that distracted driving, namely texting and using the internet on our phones, is a major distraction that causes many crashes. I've based this belief not only on my years of training and experience from several traffic stops and crashes, but also on the statistics.

Each year in Minnesota distracted or inattentive driving is a factor in one in four crashes, resulting in at least 70 deaths and 350 serious injuries. I believe these numbers are vastly under reported due to law enforcement's challenge in determining distraction as a crash factor.

Driving itself is a challenging activity that involves steering, checking mirrors in traffic, signaling, maintaining safe speed, reading road signs, and more. Adding non-driving tasks behind the wheel increases the risk of a crash. Attentive driving is critical as the traffic environment



Sgt. Neil DICKENSON  
MINNESOTA STATE PATROL

can change in an instant, such as lights changing, vehicles braking quickly, changing lanes, road conditions, and pedestrians crossing or walking along the roadways.

A recent in-depth study showed that the average person checking/or sending their phones for a text message takes their eyes off the roadway for approximately 4.6 seconds at a time. Now at 55mph you have traveled over 370 feet in that time (well over the length of a football field.)

Ask yourself, what can happen in that time and distance? Could you drift over the shoulder and hit somebody changing their flat tire? You can have all the laws you want, but unless the motoring public obeys them, not much will change.

We need to know the serious dangers of distracted driving and understand that texting and driving is unacceptable. The Minnesota State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies have been, and will continue be actively involved in distracted driving campaigns throughout all of Minnesota.

LOTTERY

<b>Sunday's Daily 3</b> 9, 0, 0	<b>Friday's Mega Millions</b> 4, 20, 44, 65, 74
<b>Sunday's Northstar Cash</b> 2, 4, 13, 19, 25	<b>Mega Ball</b> 14
<b>Friday's Gopher 5</b> 3, 15, 21, 25, 47	<b>Saturday's Powerball</b> 1, 24, 44, 45, 51
<b>Saturday's Hot Lotto</b> 2, 14, 22, 24, 36	<b>Powerball</b> 28
<b>Hot Ball</b> 7	

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

BOYS BASKETBALL PARENTS NIGHT

Bronco Boys Basketball Parents Night is set for 6:45 p.m. Friday at Falls High School gymnasium. Senior players, cheerleaders, manager and parents will be honored.

BIRCHDALE SOUP SUPPER

Birchdale Church will serve a soup supper from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday. Home-made soups, rolls and pies will be featured. Free will

offering will be accepted. The public is welcome.

TOP THE TATER DINNER

Top the Tater dinner is scheduled for 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday at Backus Community Center. The \$6 per person charge includes baked potato, toppings, salad, dessert and beverage. Dinner precedes Border Concert Association concert, "Todd Oliver and Friends" at 7 at Backus Auditorium. Dinner ticket value packs are

available for sale at the door. Dinners available "to go." Call Backus at 285-7225 for information.

HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP

A first time homebuyers workshop is planned for 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Feb. 26 at KOOTASCA Community Action, 2232 Second Ave. E. Topics include: Qualifying for a Mortgage, Credit, Shopping for a Home/Realtor Services, Insurance, Inspections

and Closing. The \$40 per family charge is payable to KOOTASCA. Registration is required. Call Sandy O'Fallon at 218-999-0828 or at 1-877-687-1163.

SENIOR LAW PROJECT SESSION

Legal Aid Senior Law Project, International Falls Outreach Attorney Robin Raplinger will be available for a Legal Aid Senior Law Project session from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the basement meeting

room at International Falls Public Library. The Senior Law Project serves people 60 and over. Income and assets will not exclude one from meeting with the attorney to discuss legal issues. There is no charge. Walk-ins accepted, however appointments are preferred and will be given priority. For an appointment or for more information, contact Raplinger at 218-749-3270, ext. 405, or 1-800-886-3270, ext. 405.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Ash Wednesday Come-Anytime-Service, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Faith United Church of Christ.
- Retired Boise Cascade electricians, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- AARP Tax Aide preparation, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Backus Community Center, Rooms 208/209 (free, appointments, 283-5236).
- Walk-ercise group, 10-11 a.m., Backus Community Center gymnasium.
- WIC Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Northome.
- Community Clothes Closet drop-offs, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Aquinas Hall.
- 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.
- 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., Giovanni's pizza and salad.
- Little Lambs (3 years to kindergarten) and King's Kids (1st-5th grades), Youth Group (6th grade-up), 6:30-7:30 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, 7 p.m., Americinn.
- Adult Mixed Volleyball, 7:15 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Community Clothes Closet open, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Aquinas Hall.
- AARP Tax Aide preparation, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Backus Community Center, Rooms 208/209 (free, appointments, 283-5236).
- 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.
- Storytime, 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- "Employer of the Day," UnitedHealth Group, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., WorkForce Center,

- Rainy River Community College campus, Room SC-128.
- Falls High School Class of 1960, 11:30 a.m., Lenard's.
- Servants of Shelter Board, noon, KOOTASCA.
- Ostomy support group, 2:30 p.m., Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic.
- Falls Hunger Coalition (Food Shelf) annual gathering, 2:30 p.m., Forestland Annex, downstairs conference room.
- Weight Watchers, 4:45-5:15 p.m. weigh-in; 5:15 meeting, Zion Lutheran Church.
- Citizens for Backus/AB annual gathering/board member election, 5 p.m., Backus Community Center, conference room.
- Community Café, 5:30-6 p.m., cheeseburger pasta hotdish, green beans, 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 office.
- St. Thomas Bingo — Bonanza, 6:45 p.m.; Bingo, 7, Aquinas Hall.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- AARP Tax Aide preparation, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Backus Community Center, Rooms 208/209 (free, appointments, 283-5236).
- 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.
- 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., chicken Parmesan sandwich, salad, dessert.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Bronco Boys Basketball Parents Night, 6:45 p.m., Falls High School gymnasium.
- 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

- Northland Art Society workshop, fused glass trinket plate — Diana Kangas, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus Community Center, Art Room 114.
- Guided Snowshoe Hike, 1-3 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center.
- Soup Supper, 4-7 p.m., Birchdale Church.
- "TET — Vietnamese New Year" special dinner, 6 p.m., Backus Community Center, dining room.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

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PUBLIC ADVISORY:  
MOONLIGHT ROCK LANDFILL  
NOT OPEN FOR RECREATIONAL USE

OfficeMax Seeks Cooperation of International Falls Recreationalists in Preserving Private Property and Protecting Public Safety.

OfficeMax® Incorporated (NYSE: OMX), a leader in office products and services, is reminding residents of International Falls, Minnesota and surrounding areas that the Moonlight Rock landfill is a closed private industrial facility with functioning equipment and is not open to public access for recreational activities, including ATV riding, snowmobiling, hiking or cycling.

OfficeMax asks all recreationalists to avoid the Moonlight Rock landfill and use approved open public recreation areas instead. OfficeMax has posted "Private Property" signs along the property perimeter to indicate boundaries and help direct public access away from the closed landfill site.

Knights of Columbus  
LENTEN FISH FRYS  
Aquinas Hall

Serving every Friday during Lent

February 20th 5-7 p.m.    February 27th 5-7 p.m.  
March 6th 5-7 p.m.    March 13th 5-7 p.m.  
March 20th 5-7 p.m.    March 27th 5-7 p.m.



Walleye Fillets

Fried Potatoes, Coleslaw, Fresh Bun  
Choice of two vegetables,  
Beans & Pickles, Lemonade or Coffee

One Fillet  
\$11.00

Two Fillets  
\$14.00

All Meals \$1.00 OFF with Food Shelf Donation

BORDER CONCERT ASSOCIATION



presents...  
TODD OLIVER & FRIENDS  
7:00 p.m.  
Monday  
February 23, 2015  
Backus Auditorium

Todd Oliver, nationally known for his amazing real-life talking dogs and hilarious comedy, presents an all new show - Todd Oliver & Friends - filled with his canine companions Irving and Lucy, plus a "real" cast of characters like Pops and Miss Lilly, and his outstanding Smiling Eyes Band. There's lots of audience participation, fun music and good clean comedy. Versatile performer, ventriloquism, pop music and talking dogs. A great family show!

Sponsored by: Stewart's Super One  
Tickets available at the door for non-members.

EAT BEFORE THE CONCERT:  
Enjoy the "Top the Tater" Supper  
Starting 5:00 p.m. at Backus