

COMMUNITYNEWS

ASK A TROOPER

Call police if involved in crash

Q: My fiancé went into the ditch last week when the roads were icy and hit the new guard rails along I-35. For insurance purposes he called the police to get a report on record. He was told by the officer that usually he would be written up for reckless driving. Is this true? He was trying to be responsible by calling in the incident. If you get in an accident and don't hit another vehicle are you supposed to call it in?

A: 169.13 RECKLESS OR CARELESS DRIVING

Subdivision 1. Reckless driving. (a) Any person who drives any vehicle in such a manner as to indicate either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

Subdivision 2. Careless driving. Any person who operates or halts any vehicle upon any street or highway carelessly or heedlessly in disregard of the rights of others, or in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any property or any person, including the driver or passengers of the vehicle.

169.14 SPEED LIMITS

Subdivision 1. Duty to drive with due care. No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions. Every driver is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of the actual and potential hazards then existing on the highway and must use due care in operating a vehicle. In every event speed shall be so restricted as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

From your information, I feel that failure to drive with due care would fit this event you described. Drivers are required to travel at speeds that are reasonable and prudent under the conditions. Most crashes can be prevented by reducing your speed on ice or snow covered roads.

If involved in a crash, you must stop your vehicle immediately. If



Sgt. Neil DICKENSON

MINNESOTA STATE PATROL

possible, park it off the road. If someone has been injured, call for emergency help right away.

If only property damage is involved, you don't have to call the police. If property damage occurs to something other than a vehicle, you're required to pass along your information to the owner of the property. In this case the Minnesota Department of Transportation is the owner of the guardrail and would be required to be notified.

The driver of a vehicle involved in a crash resulting in bodily injury to or death of any individual or total property damage to an apparent extent of \$1,000 or more, shall forward a written report to the commissioner of public safety within ten days. Law enforcement would provide the form to you or it can be found at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs>

Give your name, address, date of birth and vehicle registration number to the other driver(s) and to the police. If anyone involved in the crash asks to see your driver's license and insurance information, you must comply, or call police and provide it to law enforcement.

I recommend that you call police if involved in a crash. Law enforcement will provide the proper documents that will be needed, arrange to have the vehicles removed, assist with traffic control, provide medical assistance, help notify the owner of damaged property and investigate how and why the crash occurred.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send questions to Sgt. Neil Dickenson, Minnesota State Patrol, 1131 Mesaba Ave., Duluth, MN 55811 (Follow on Twitter @MSPPIO_NE or at neil.dickenson@state.mn.us).

CALENDAR

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.
- 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., shrimp 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

- Bingo, 1 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

LABOR ASSEMBLY OFFICERS ELECTED

The Koochiching Area Labor Assembly elected officers for 2015 at its Dec. 18 meeting. Joe Schwartz was elected to a two-year term as president. Former president, Mike Holden, who served two terms, will serve as co-vice president

along with Mark Thorpe. Renae Whitbeck was elected secretary.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SUPPER

The Moose Lodge will serve a lobster and/or prime rib New Year's Eve supper at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Prepaid reservations are due by Monday. Call

283-3615.

COUNCILORS OPEN HOUSE

An open house in honor of councilors Gail Rogn-erud and Paul Eklund is planned for 1 to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at City Hall council chambers. A brief ceremony will begin at 1:20.

LOTTERY

Sunday's Daily 3

4, 9, 4

Sunday's Northstar Cash

5, 9, 23, 27, 31

Friday's Gopher 5

24, 32, 35, 38, 46

Saturday's Hot Lotto

3, 24, 26, 29, 44

Hot Ball

2

Friday's Mega Millions

14, 18, 58, 59, 68

Mega Ball

4

Saturday's Powerball

14, 15, 19, 31, 56

Powerball

5

POLICE REPORT

International Falls Police Department

Theft: Joseph F. Beitel, First Avenue West, reported Monday the theft of a snow blower valued at \$1,000 from his yard.

Property damage: Four houses in the area of Ninth Avenue West and Eleventh Street were damaged when they were shot with what appears to be a BB gun, according to a report Monday.

International Falls Fire Department

False alarm: Firefighters turned out to the AmericInn, Highway 71, Saturday for what was a false alarm.

Citrus fruit may not be brought into US from Canada

CBP REPORT

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations want importers and the traveling public to know that mandarin or "Christmas" oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit, and pomelo are banned from non-commercial import into the United States.

"This time of the year, around the holiday season we see an influx of 'Christmas Oranges' when Canadian citizens travel to southern states for the winter," said Pembina Area Port Director Mary Delaquis. "We want to inform travelers that these products are prohibited from being imported into the United States

because of the unseen diseases and pests they may carry."

Fresh fruits and vegetables grown outside of the U.S. or Canada are typically prohibited. However, even some Canadian and U.S. grown fruits and vegetables may not be brought into the U.S. by travelers. These include: Canadian origin tomatoes, peppers, green onions, leeks, chives, garlic with green tops, and home-grown potatoes; and U.S. grown oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit, and pomelo. Also, rice soybeans, chickpeas, and safflower seed grown in most North African and Middle Eastern countries are prohibited due to Khapra beetle, a small, but very

destructive pest that attacks stored grains.

Remember to declare all fruits, vegetables, plants, meats, processed animal products (such as dried soup mixes and pet food), pets, or wood products, including firewood, to CBP officers at ports of entry.

Failure to declare prohibited agriculture products or food items may result in the issuance of fines up to \$1,000.

Before bringing fruits, meats and dairy/poultry products into the U.S. from Canada, you can check whether they are permitted by reviewing the "Know Before You Go" tip sheet, located in the Travel section of cbp.gov at www.dhs.gov.

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Staff

Chairman
Arlin Albrecht

Publisher
Rob Davenport:
rob@ifallsjournal.com

Editor
Laurel Beager:
laurel@ifallsjournal.com

Circulation Manager
Dana Hartje:
dana@ifallsjournal.com

Advertising Manager
Mickie Olson:
mickie@ifallsjournal.com

Production Supervisor
Jerry Flansberg:
jerry@northstarpublishingmn.com

Office Manager
Kami Kostiuik
kami@northstarpublishingmn.com

News

Sports Editor
Kevin Boneske:
kevin@ifallsjournal.com

Staff writer
Emily Gedde:
emily@ifallsjournal.com

Staff writer
Spenser Bickett:
spenser@ifallsjournal.com

Obits/weddings/Borderland Briefs
Tammie Calder:
tammiec@ifallsjournal.com

Display advertising

Display ad representative
Wyatt Wimmer:
wyatt@ifallsjournal.com
Kelsea Davis:
kelsea@ifallsjournal.com

Classified advertising
classifieds@ifallsjournal.com

Subscriptions

circulation@ifallsjournal.com

Member

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VIKING BAR

412 3rd street, Int'l Falls

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27th
AT 6PM

HOLIDAY HAT
CONTEST PRIZE
GIVE-AWAYS, FOOD, &
MUSIC AT 9PM BY UNCOMMON JOE &
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

DRINK SPECIALS START AT 7PM
\$4 pitchers and 50¢ taps
FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST
AT MIDNIGHT
FREE CAB RIDES STARTING
AT 10PM

MUSIC AT 9PM BY KING OF THE ROAD

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thunderbird Lodge will be closed the 24th & 25th.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
DINNER FEATURE

Chicken Cordon Bleu
Breaded Chicken Breast stuffed
with ham and Swiss cheese on
a bed of wild rice. Served with
fresh vegetables & choice of salad.

10 miles east of Int'l Falls on Hwy. 11
218-286-3151
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