

COMMUNITYNEWS

Highway 11 project meeting Tuesday

Detour to extend through Sept. 8

MNDOT STAFF REPORT

An open house will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Bethany Lutheran Church in Loman to provide information to the public on the Highway 11 project. The Minnesota Department of Transportation will host the meeting. The Highway 11 project is focused on repairing approximately 11 miles of pavement, as well as do-

ing culvert replacement, shoulder widening, and ditch grading. Motorists are currently experience a detour which will extend through Sept. 8. Detour dates are changeable due to weather and the contractor's sequence of operations. The meeting will include representatives from MndOT and Davidson Construction, the prime contractor on the project. The project and public impacts will be discussed. The public are encouraged to attend.

Timeshare reselling scams still prevalent

Twin Cities region continues to be claimed as home for foreign fraudsters

BBB STAFF REPORT

Timeshare reselling schemes continue to plague the marketplace and just two recent cases have defrauded victims out of more than \$40,000 and \$20,000, respectively. Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota regularly receives inquiries about, and helps uncover, bogus timeshare reselling firms claiming addresses in the Twin Cities. Though these entities look legitimate at first glance, a closer review of their operations reveals they are not actually located here and exist solely to defraud consumers. "Timeshare reselling scams have really ramped up in recent years," said Dana Badgerow, president and CEO of BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota. "People who own timeshares should understand they're dealing with professionals. Recently, a consumer's attorney reviewed an agreement sent by one of these fraudulent entities. Even the attorney stated the documents looked legitimate." In most cases of this type of fraud, timeshare owners receive calls from individuals claiming to represent companies which had secured buyers or renters for their timeshares. The callers are told there will be no upfront fees. However, after receiving official-looking contracts, consumers are eventually informed they have to wire escrow funds to Mexico – or money to cover transfer fees, closing costs and/or taxes and liens – in order to close the deal. Upon wiring the funds as requested, customers are then usually told that still more unexpected costs have arisen and they will need to wire yet more money to complete the transaction. This process often continues until consumers realize something is amiss.

Just some of the fraudulent entities – claiming addresses in our area – which BBB has uncovered in recent months are: Business Events International, Century Title Escrow Inc., Corporate Services International Group and Financial Planning 2Go. More recently, BBB has learned Minne Realty Services and NSR Services, Inc. are not legitimate timeshare resellers. BBB advises people looking to sell their timeshare properties to always: ■ Be wary. If you currently own a timeshare and are approached by a company saying they have buyers or renters lined up, exercise caution. ■ Investigate. Don't be dazzled by a fancy website or one that has photos of exotic locales. Creating websites is fairly easy. Use a business you can trust by accessing free BBB Business Reviews at bbb.org. ■ Look for an established track record. Does the company have a history or did they just "pop up on radar"? ■ Watch out for upfront fees and requests to wire funds. Remember, unless it's negotiated into the purchase agreement, only buyers pay closing costs. Many complaints to the BBB regarding supposed timeshare reselling entities involve situations where people were told they needed to wire "escrow funds," or that they just had to pay taxes or closing costs and their timeshare would be rented or sold. Never wire money to someone you don't know. ■ Confirm licensing requirements— Verify where the company is located and in what states it does business. Ask if the company's salespeople are licensed to sell real estate where your timeshare is located. If so, confirm that with the state licensing board.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Community Market, 9 a.m.-noon, Backus Third Street parking lot.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous Open, 9 a.m., Alano Club.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Pineview Recovery Center, Littlefork.

MONDAY

- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Weight Watchers — weigh-in, 5-5:30 p.m.; meeting, 5:30-6, Littlefork Lutheran Church.
- Women's Non-Violence Group, 5:15-6:45 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Cribbage, 7 p.m., Elks Lodge 1599.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Women's Step Study, 7 p.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Narcotics Anonymous, "How It Works" step gathering, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

TUESDAY

- Water Testing, 8 a.m.-noon, Koochiching County Health Department.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church men, 8:30 a.m., Lenard's.
- Rainy Lake Medical Center hospital campus present and former employees, 9 a.m., Lenard's.
- Boise Cascade retirees and former employees – paper test, beater room and ChemLab, 9 a.m., Grandma's Pantry.
- Rainy Lake Medical Center Auxiliary, 10 a.m., hospital campus, meeting room.
- Bone Builders, 10 a.m., Woodland Apartments.
- 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.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Alanon, 1:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (283-3739, 283-8540).
- International Falls City Council, 4:30 p.m., Falls Municipal Building, council chambers.
- TOPS MN34, 5 p.m. weigh-in; 5:45, meeting, Koochiching County Senior Center.
- Women's Ministries, 5-7 p.m., The

- Salvation Army.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., pizza, bean salad, peaches, Backus Community Center.
- After Loss Group, 5:30 p.m., Island View Lodge.
- Beginner's Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- Guy's Meatloaf Supper, 6 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Greater International Falls Jaycees, 6 p.m., Americlenn.
- Women's Support Group, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Littlefork Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9641 and Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Post Home.
- International Early Iron Car Club, 7 p.m., Leon, 283-9773; Sandy, 807-274-2345.
- Texas Hold'Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Pineview Recovery Center, Littlefork.
- "Celebrate Recovery," 7-9 p.m., Evangelical Covenant Church.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church.

WEDNESDAY

- 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.
- Community Market, 4-6:30 p.m., Backus Third Street parking lot.
- 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.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Cartooning in the Digital Age, 6-8 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Men's Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Members and guests Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King's Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Texas Hold'Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

DIGITAL AGE CARTOONING FEST

Cartooning in the Digital Age is planned for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at International Falls Public Library. For middle school to adult cartoonists and wannabees. The first hour will cover basics of cartooning; the second hour technology and business of cartooning.

AFTER LOSS GROUP

The After Loss Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 2 at Island View Lodge.

VETERANS HOMES

Christopher Bonander, a social workers at the Minnesota Veterans Home – Silver Bay, will visit northern Minnesota in September to share information and answer questions about Silver Bay and the other Minnesota Veterans Homes. A free presentation is offered at 10 a.m. Monday at the senior center in Nett Lake and at 1 p.m. at the Koochiching Senior Center. The Veterans Homes offer skilled care and board and care for veterans and their Spouses. The Veterans Homes differ from the private sector in many ways, a news release said.

LOTTERY

Wednesday's Daily 3
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Wednesday's Northstar Cash
4, 10, 15, 16, 19
Wednesday's Gopher 5
1, 16, 31, 34, 35

Wednesday's Hot Lotto
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Hot Ball
2
Saturday's Mega Millions
29, 31, 51, 60, 64

Mega Ball
1
Wednesday's Powerball
28, 32, 35, 36, 52
Powerball
31

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ANNUAL SENIOR FISH FRY
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Sunday September 14, 2014
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Kerry Park Arena - Free to All Seniors!
Serving Starts at 11:00 am
Please, No Early Arrivals

NOTICE OF COUNTY SPECIAL SUMMER CHANCE TIMBER AUCTION SALE

ON KOOCHICHING COUNTY TAX-FORFEITED LANDS INTERMEDIATE AUCTION SALE
10:00 AM
Monday, September 8, 2014
REGULAR AUCTION SALE
Immediately following Intermediate Auction
Monday, September 8, 2014
LITTLEFORK COMMUNITY BUILDING
Littlefork, MN
Complete information may be obtained from the Land and Forestry Office located in the Courthouse in Int'l Falls, and from County Land and Forestry Offices in Littlefork, Big Falls and Northome.