

# COMMUNITYNEWS

ASK A TROOPER

## Flashing your headlights

BY CURT S. MOWERS  
Minnesota State Patrol

**Q.: There was a very recent ruling by a judge that motorists can legally flash their lights to warn other motorists of a speed trap. How does this affect law enforcement and is this issue that simple, or is there a lot more to it than that? Thanks.**

A.: I heard of the ruling, but I have not yet read any specific legal documents related to that ruling. Remember, our traffic law in Minnesota requires dimming your bright lights within 1,000 feet of meeting another vehicle, and that still stands. (M.S.S. 169.61 (b) states: “When the driver of a vehicle approaches a vehicle within 1,000 feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.”

When you are meeting another driver and they flash their lights at you, the first thing most driv-

ers think of is that maybe you have your own bright lights on and the other driver is trying to get you to dim them.

Other reasons that motorists flash their lights is to warn of a hazard, like deer on or near the highway, objects in the roadway or a host of other reasons or hazards. I suppose it differs from where you live, but in my circles, the least of all reasons motorists are flashing their headlights is to warn someone of a speed trap. I don’t think it’s a big topic of discussion in many law enforcement circles.

The main point is, when another driver flashes their headlights at you, are you always going to know the exact reason why? If some drivers think there is a speed trap ahead and they slow down, then we are “money ahead” it seems and we have one less speeding driver out on the highway. I am not sure, but that is probably why the ruling came out, and it is no surprise and nothing new really.

Thanks for asking.

## BORDERLAND BRIEF

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Rural Development Office of Bemidji will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the basement conference room of Koochiching County Courthouse. The United States Departmnt of Agriculture, Rural Development, offers home loans to low income households to purchase or build single family dwellings. For those who already own their homes, Rural Development has a home improvement program available for very low income households at an interest rate of 1 percent. Applicants for loans must meet established income guidelines, have acceptable credit and show repayment ability. Grants to remove health and safety hazards from existing homes may be available to those over 62 years of age who qualify. For more information, call the Bemidji office at 218-751-1942, ext. 4, or visit the USDA website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn>.

## POLICE REPORT

International Falls Fire Department

*Assist:* The department assisted in a semi-truck rollover Wednesday at the intersection of Highway 11-71 and 332. No further information about the accident was available.

International Falls Police Department

*Hit-and-run:* Michael W. Zahn, Sixth Street, reported Feb. 16 that his vehicle

was damaged when it was struck during the night while parked in front of his residence by a vehicle that left the scene.

*Collision:* Vehicles driven by Casey Jo Stenberg, 25, Tenth Street, and a 14-year-old collided at 18th Street and Main Avenue Feb. 14 causing more than \$1,000 damage. Court action is expected to address the child, who took the vehicle without the owner’s permission.

## CALENDAR

### TODAY

- Moose Lodge events – Open, noon; Bingo, 1 p.m.; Cornish Game Hens Supper, 6 (reservations, 283-3615).
- Shooting Hoops with Ron and Friends, 1-3 p.m., Backus Community Center gymnasium.
- Guided Snowshoe Hike, 2-3:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center.
- Open Gym, free, 3-5 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- A.A., 7 p.m., Alano Club.

### SUNDAY

- American Legion Post 66 serving breakfast, 8-11 a.m., VFW Post.
- Open Discussion, 9 a.m., Alano Club.
- A.A., 7 p.m., Pineview Recovery Center.
- Sunday Night Into Action Group, Step and Tradition Study, (bring Big Book and Twelve by Twelve), 7:30-9 p.m., Borderland Alano Club.

### MONDAY

- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Red Hattitude Kats, 11 a.m., Giovanni’s.
- Red Hat Loon-a-Ticks, noon, Lenard’s.
- Community Band, 4 p.m., The Dungeon, Backus Community Center.
- International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission, 5 p.m., City Hall.
- Women’s Non-Violence Group, 5:15-6:45 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Texas Hold ‘Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Rainy Rustic Rider Vintage Snowmobile Club, 7 p.m., Thunderbird Lodge.
- Cribbage, 7 p.m., Elks Lodge 1599.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Women’s Step Study, 7 p.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Borderland Substance Abuse Court Alumni Recovery support group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.
- Narcotics Anonymous, “How It Works” step gathering, 7:30-9 p.m., Alanon Club.

### TUESDAY

- Water Testing, 8 a.m.-noon, Koochiching County Health Department.
- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- WIC Clinic, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Koochinchig County Health Department.
- Koochiching County Board of Commissioners, 9:30 a.m., Koochiching County Courthouse.
- Bone Builders, 10 a.m., Woodland Apartments.
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, 10-10:45 a.m., Rainy Lake Medical Center, clinic campus.
- 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.
- Salvation Army Advisory Council, noon, Salvation Army building.
- Falls High School Class of 1948, 1 p.m., Lenard’s.
- Alano, 1:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (283-3739, 283-8540).
- Crafty Science, 3-7:30 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- 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., scrambled eggs, sausages, hash browns, fresh fruit, Backus Community Center.
- Beginner’s Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- Hamburger Gravy Over Mashed Potatoes Supper, 6 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Women’s Support Group, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Texas Hold ‘Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- A.A./N.A., 7 p.m., Pineview Recovery Center.
- Adult mixed volleyball, 7-9 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Hall.
- “Celebrate Recovery,” 7-9 p.m., Evangelical Covenant Church.
- BigBook Study, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.
- Non-smoking Alcoholics Anonymous Group, 7:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church.

### WEDNESDAY

- Recycling curbside collection, 8 a.m., areas north of 11th Street and west of Highway 53 (includes Terrace Lane).
- Retired Boise Cascade Papermakers Local 159, 9 a.m., Lenard’s.
- AARP Tax-Aide Service, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action (283-5236).
- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium 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.
- 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.
- Community Band, 5 p.m., The Dungeon, Backus Community Center.
- Men’s Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., hand-breaded shrimp.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King’s Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Women of the Moose, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Koochiching Masonic Lodge No. 270, A.F. & A.M., 7 p.m., 416 Third St.
- Downtowners Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.
- Line Dancing, 8 p.m., Moose Lodge.

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## LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY’S DAILY 3

5, 5, 5

WEDNESDAY’S NORTHSTAR CASH

5, 9, 13, 23, 27

WEDNESDAY’S GOPHER 5

2, 7, 18, 38, 47

WEDNESDAY’S HOT LOTTO

10, 20, 28, 33, 45

HOT BALL

12

SATURDAY’S MEGA MILLIONS

23, 29, 31, 37, 70

MEGA BALL

14

WEDNESDAY’S POWERBALL

1, 17, 35, 49, 54

POWERBALL

34

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