

COMMUNITYNEWS

The law of stopping on the interstate

BY SGT. CURT S. MOWERS
Minnesota State Patrol

Q: I was driving on the interstate and I pulled off onto the shoulder to take a call on my cell phone, which I thought was the responsible thing to do. As I sat there, a Minnesota State Trooper pulled in behind me, came up to my car and asked if I was having a problem. I told him I was fine, just answering my phone. He

told me it was not legal to stop on an interstate highway for reasons other than an emergency – even to answer the phone. I was amazed to find this was the law. Is there a law that explains where you have to go or what you need to do before answering your phone while driving?

A: There is no specific law explaining where you have to go or what you need to do before answering your

phone while driving. The phone really wasn't the issue here. Being this was an interstate highway, Minnesota law does not allow motorists to stop on a freeway unless it is for an emergency. Signs are posted at all entrance ramps onto the freeway. Pedestrians, bicycles, motorized bicycles and non-motorized traffic also are prohibited from entering onto the freeway.

We encourage motorists to find a safe place to exit

and utilize their phones from there. The main reason stopping along a freeway is a safety issue is due to the high speeds and the fact that there is not a lot of room for error. On any other roadway, always find a safe and legal place to pull over to stop, but never use a turn lane or bypass lane to stop in. Use common sense and try not to use the phone at all when driving. Even though it may be technically legal (for most motorists,

not all) to be on the phone, it is not safe.

One issue we often deal with on interstate highways in particular stems from passers-by who call in to report a "possible" stalled, occupied vehicle. A trooper is then sent to the reported location to either find someone talking on their phone or no longer at the site. Instances like this prevent us from utilizing our resources as efficiently as possible.

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

BCEC ANNUAL GATHERING

BCEC annual gathering is planned for Thursday at the Philosopher's Club. Social hour is at 5 p.m., with supper at 6.

MOVIE MATINEE

The Annual Relay For Life Movie Matinee is planned for Saturday at Cine 5. Showtime begins at 10 a.m., with doors open at 9:30. Movies include "Frozen," "Rise of the Guardians," "Grown Ups 2," "Hop" and "Pitch Perfect." Good will cash donations will be accepted. Luminaries available for \$5 each and "In Honor of" and "In Memory of" cards for \$1 each. Baked goods will be available for purchase.

NOLAN AVAILABLE TO CHAT

Congressman Rick Nolan will be at the Coffee Landing Cafe at noon today. The public is welcome to stop by and chat.

BACKUS CLOSED

Backus Community Center office and Backus Kids Club will be closed Friday. Call Backus at 285-7225 for information.

LIBRARY STORYTIME

Storytime at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at International Falls Public Library will feature stories about "Rabbits." Stay and play for about 30 minutes following storytime with toys designed to help teach early science skills.

FUNNY GUY PERFORMING

Sean Emery, funny guy who juggles, has been rescheduled for 11 a.m. Friday at International Falls Public Library. (This performance was snowed out earlier). For all ages.

ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM

An Acoustic Music Jam is planned for noon April 26 at the Littlefork VFW. Pickers of all levels are welcome. Jam will be led by Sloughgrass members. Littlefork American Legion Post 490 will serve hamburgers, beans, chips and coffee for \$5. Proceeds go toward the Littlefork-Big Falls Senior Scholarship. The VFW will be open for beverages.

POLICE REPORT

International Falls Police Department

Theft: Adam E. Ames, Eighth Street, reported Thursday that several items were taken from the basement of his residence.

LOTTERY

Sunday's Daily 3 8, 4, 4	Friday's Mega Millions 3, 42, 44, 47, 57
Sunday's Northstar Cash 4, 13, 16, 18, 25	Mega Ball 8
Friday's Gopher 5 26, 27, 38, 45, 47	Saturday's Powerball 14, 26, 45, 54, 55
Saturday's Hot Lotto 11, 14, 23, 38, 39	Powerball 20
Hot Ball 2	

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Retired Boise Cascade electricians, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- 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.
- Congressman Rick Nolan available to chat, noon, Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Junior Broncos Introduction to Swimming and Diving, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Falls High School pool.
- 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.
- International Falls Recreation Commission Board, 5:45 p.m., city council chambers.
- Men's Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., Swiss steak and mashed taters.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King's Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, 7 p.m., AmericInn.
- Texas Hold 'Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Downtowners Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.
- Adventure Corps, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Weight Watchers, 4:45-5:15 p.m. weigh-in; 5:15 meeting, Zion Lutheran Church.
- BCEC annual gathering, 5 p.m., social; 6, supper, Philosopher's Club.
- Falls Trap Club, trap shooting, 5:30 p.m., Moonlight Rock Road.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., turkey, baby red potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll, Backus Community Center.
- Burgers Supper, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- 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.
- After School Arts – ArtSmart, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Backus, Room 205.
- Labor and Delivery childbirth class, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Medical Center hospital campus.
- Maundy Thursday Service of the Shadows, 7 p.m., Faith United Church of Christ.
- Line Dancing, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Fresh Start, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- Backus Office and Backus Kids Club closed.
- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Sean Emery performance, 11 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Serenity Sisters, Women's A.A., noon, Backus, Rational Alternatives, Room 101.
- Junior Broncos Introduction to Swimming and Diving, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Falls High School pool.
- Elks Lodge Friday Light Meal, 5:30 p.m., shrimp and French 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.
- Grape Vine Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

SATURDAY

- Annual Relay For Life Movie Matinee, 10 a.m.; doors open, 9:30, Cine 5.
- Moose Lodge events – Open, noon; Bingo, 1 p.m.; no supper.
- Open Gym, free, 3-5 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- A.A., 7 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Bone Builders, 10 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.
- Falls High School Class of 1960, 10:30 a.m., Lenard's.
- Storytime, "Rabbits," 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- North Star Hospice Luncheon, noon, Backus Community Center.
- Flu Clinic, noon-4 p.m., Koochiching County Health Department.
- Junior Broncos Introduction to Swimming and Diving, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Falls High School pool.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 4-8 p.m., Backus, Room 114.

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April 20

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Honey Glazed Ham with a raisin sauce served with gourmet potatoes, vegetable medley and your choice of salad.

Chicken Breast filled with cranberry wild rice stuffing and served with mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable medley and your choice of salad.

Reservations are appreciated
218-286-3151

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