

KKJM-Spirit 92.9 2019 Q3 Issues & Programs News

7/1/19

I'm sure you heard the tough news from Friday about the North Memorial Air Care helicopter that crashed in Brainerd. Nurse Deb Schott and pilot Tim McDonald didn't make it. Paramedic Josh Duda was hurt in the crash, but IS expected to survive. Many first responders and community members gathered for a prayer vigil for him over the weekend.

Now that we're into July, the Great Minnesota Get together is less than two months away, and it just got some international recognition. Newsweek put the Minnesota State Fair on its list of 10 best late summer festivals. It's the only American celebration on the list.

And in sports the Twins beat the White Sox once and lost twice to them over the weekend. They're 53 and 30 on the year, still comfortably in first place in their division.

7/2/19

Well during a week when we remember the freedom we have, how appropriate that a World War II Veteran was honored. 96 year old Boyd Sorenson who lives in Waite Park received the French Legion of Honor...it's France's highest award. Sorenson flew 89 missions during World War II, including the beginning of the liberation of France on D-Day.

If you or someone in your family is a veteran or is currently serving, Valleyfair said yesterday that military members can get in for free this weekend. Free admission includes active military, retired military, National Guard, veterans and those who have been honorably discharged. The deal runs Thursday through Sunday, you just have to show a valid military ID.

The DNR will be cracking down on Boating Under the Influence this weekend...they're sending extra officers to the lakes to patrol. They're calling it Operation Dry Water...they're just trying to keep everyone safe since alcohol is involved in 30 percent of fatal boat accidents in Minnesota.

7/3/19

Lots of fun stuff going on in Central Minnesota over the next few days. Joetown Rocks kicks off tonight at 5 in St. Joe, they'll be live music, food, games...fireworks at 10:15...that'll continue tomorrow with the annual 4th of July Parade and more live music. And then of course tomorrow night is the 73rd annual St. Cloud fireworks show, and they always do a great job. The fireworks start at 10, but get there early...the St. Cloud municipal band will play at 8:30 at Hester Park, and of course there'll be lots of food vendors and fun at both Hester Park and Wilson Park.

And while the fireworks are a lot of fun for many, they can be a big problem for those who have served in our military and suffer from PTSD, and so the Minnesota DNR is trying to help out...all 75 of Minnesota's parks and recreation areas will be free for veterans tomorrow. It's illegal to launch fireworks in any of those areas, and so it's a safe, quiet place to celebrate the 4th.

And if you live in St. Cloud and you've been wondering if the garbage and recycling schedule is changing for this week, it's not...it stays the same even with the 4th. The only thing that's different is the city compost site will be closed tomorrow.

7/8/19

You may have heard about this that happened over the long weekend...on the morning of the 4th, there was a fire at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton School in St. Cloud. No one was hurt, but a vestibule, an adjoining hallway, and the ceiling above that area were damaged. The police and fire departments aren't sure yet what caused the fire...they're actively investigating.

If you or someone you know is looking for part time work at the end of this summer, the state fair is looking for employees. They're holding a job fair Wednesday from 4 to 8 on the Fairgrounds at the Progress Center. You don't need a resume, but you need to be at least 16 years old and be free to work all 12 days of the fair.

And for the 2nd time in a row, the US women are World Cup Champions. They beat the Netherlands 2-0 to claim the championship. It's the 4th World Cup title all time for the USA.

7/9/19

The National Night Out is about a month away, Tuesday, August 6th, but they say now is the time to get your neighborhood signed up. The National Night Out is an annual event to get together with your neighbors and have some food, ice cream, and just socialize, it helps keep neighborhoods safer....and if you get signed up, a local police officer will drop in and visit too. You can find out more on the National Night Out Website.

Well IF the rain holds off at some point tonight, sounds like we'll be able to see something pretty cool...Saturn, Earth, and the sun are all in a straight line right now with earth in the middle, so Saturn should be visible in the night sky. If you have a telescope, you may even be able to see one of Saturn's moons.

And the Major League Baseball All Star game is tonight....three Minnesota Twins made it onto the All-Star Roster....Jake Odorizzi, Jose Berrios, and Jorge Polanco.

7/10/19

Police are asking for help to find a missing teenager from St. Cloud...his name is Jayden Anderson, he's 16...he's 5 foot 11 with brown hair and blue eyes...he has his ears pierced and a tattoo on his right forearm that says "Anderson"....you can see a picture on the Jacob Wetterling resource center Facebook page...Jayden Anderson was last seen near Litchfield on June 27th...he left a facility with another teen and hasn't been seen since...if you see him, contact St. Cloud police.

With the recent earthquakes out in California, maybe you've been wondering, DO earthquakes ever happen in Minnesota? The answer is rarely...44 years ago today was the strongest earthquake in Minnesota history...a 4.6 magnitude earthquake around Morris that rattled dishes and windows, shook buildings and startled people. Scientists say it's pretty unlikely that a truly big earthquake would hit here.

And in sports, the Major League Baseball All Star game was last night, a couple of Twins played in it, and the Twins American League team ended up winning 4-3.

7/11/19

Just a head's up if you're gonna be driving in downtown St. Cloud next week...Veterans Bridge that crosses the Mississippi over by the convention center is gonna be closed while they work on utilities. Detours will be posted. No word on exactly when it will re-open.

Maybe you're a big fan of HGTV shows like Fixer Upper...you might wanna check this one out, it features a Minnesota couple...it's called Stay or Sell featuring Brad and Heather Fox who live in the Twin Cities. They help homeowners decide to keep their house or buy a new one - then update whichever they choose. The show just started playing this week on HGTV.

And the St. Cloud Rox won one game and lost one in a double-header with the Rochester Honkers. The Rox are in 2nd place in their division right now.

7/12/19

The American Red Cross needs your help! They issued an emergency need for blood donations of all types. Blood donations have been distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. There were fewer blood donors and blood drives last week due to the Fourth of July. Every two seconds someone needs blood, and every 30 seconds, someone needs platelets in the US, so if you wanna help, you can schedule your blood donation appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org.

Authorities say three young children who went missing under suspicious circumstances earlier this week in Tennessee were found safe in northern Minnesota. 6-year-old Analia Essex, 2-year-old Abigail Christian, and 1-year-old Michale Christian were located in Cass County. Their non-custodial parents, Amanda Essex and Michale Darrel Cristian, were taken into custody.

Little Zoe had a lot to celebrate on June 30th. She turned 8 years old, and more importantly she beat cancer...stage 4 neuroblastoma after 16 months of treatments. Now it would've been totally understandable if she just wanted to focus on herself on her birthday and get some presents, eat some cake, but she did something different. Her family threw her a big birthday bash, and what she decided is that instead of presents, she wanted guests to bring an unwrapped toy for kids in the hospital, or money to help kids with the same kind of cancer she had. And her guests totally came through, 750 dollars and 200 toys. She said "I have everything I need."

7/15/19

It was a scary situation up in Duluth when a mom was removing her twin toddlers from their van when the van rolled away with one of the girls inside. It hit another vehicle, then got stuck in the trees below. Officer Todd Simmons was on his way to work when he came across the situation...he was able to get the girl out of the van and call for medical help. Fortunately she was ok, and her mom said she had barely a scratch on her.

Just a head's up if you're driving through downtown St. Cloud this week, Veterans Bridge that goes across the Mississippi downtown is closed starting today. They're doing a reconstruction project and water main improvements. Detours will be posted.

And the Twins had a good weekend overall, they took 2 of 3 games against the Cleveland Indians. They have a 6 and a half game lead over the Indians in their division.

7/16/19

Well we missed the severe weather in most of Central Minnesota yesterday, but it hit the Twin Cities metro pretty hard in areas...there was flooding, hail, tree damage, and quite a few flights were cancelled and delayed at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport.

Authorities need our help looking for another missing teenager. His name is Lawrence Hernandez, he's 16 years old, 6 foot 1, 160 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. He may have been wearing red shoes and he has a tattoo on the inside of his right forearm. Hernandez left the same Litchfield facility that 16 year old Jayden Anderson did, who's also missing, they left the same night, but it's not clear if they left together or separately. Contact police if you have any information.

And it was 50 years ago today that the Apollo 11 spacecraft launched with a 3 man crew. Two of them would be the first to walk on the moon.

7/17/19

You may remember the fire at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton School in St. Cloud on the morning of the 4th of July. After several agencies thoroughly investigated, they determined it was an accident caused by a pinched wire in a fluorescent light fixture that had been updated with LED bulbs. The damage estimate is over one million dollars.

Benton County has raised the tobacco buying age to 21. They're the 9th county in Minnesota to do this. It affects smaller towns that don't have their own tobacco ordinances like Rice and Gilman, but it won't affect St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, or Foley.

And the Twins lost to the Mets yesterday 3-2...they'll get another shot at them today. First pitch is scheduled for a little past noon at Target Field.

7/18/19

Lots of people have been using FaceApp the last couple of days to digitally alter their pictures to make themselves look older....just a head's up...something you might want to be aware of...the terms and conditions of FaceApp allow it access to use, modify, adapt and publish any images that you offer up. Some people aren't too concerned about it, saying their terms and conditions are pretty much the same as Facebook or Snapchat...but some are...one US senator has gone so far as to send a letter to the FBI asking them to investigate the app.

Well we're getting closer and closer to the Great Minnesota Get Together...they announced some new attractions to see there...they'll have 3 new rides...including a giant pirate ship ride. They'll have a goat booth...it's an education station about goats....and then they'll have the Angry Birds Universe exhibition...based on the popular game...it's a hands on, interactive exhibit where you can Build and race handheld vehicles; launch larger-than-life Angry Birds with massive slingshots; learn about flight dynamics; and propel down a zip line to knock over enormous foam structures

7/19/19

Well with the extreme heat today, air conditioners are working hard, and racking up electric bills all around Central Minnesota. XCel Energy gave a few tips to help keep things cool and save money on that bill....they say use ceiling fans to help circulate cool air through your house, change that A/C filter, close drapes and blinds during the heat of the day, turn off unnecessary lighting and replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs, and also wait to run dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers until after the heat of the day.

St. Cloud police officer Darin Vossen was honored at last night's Twins game at Target Field for arresting the most drunk drivers in the state last year, he made 168 DWI arrests. It's the second time he's led Minnesota in that category.

And speaking of that Twins game, they bounced back after a 3 game losing streak to beat the Athletics 6-3.

7/22/19

Well severe storms rolled through parts of Central Minnesota Friday...they missed St. Cloud, but parts of Stearns County were included in warnings. The worst of it hit our neighbors in Western Wisconsin though, where many trees were blown down, homes were damaged, boats were flipped and thousands lost power

Just a head's up if you drive on County Road 75 in St. Cloud a lot...there's some road construction there that starts today...it'll close it down to a single lane at 33rd street south, which will likely slow traffic quite a bit, and it's expected to last about 2 months.

And it was a big win for the Twins last night, they squeaked out a walk-off victory over the Oakland A's, 7-6. That's their 60th win of the season, and much needed as the Cleveland Indians have closed the gap and are only 3 games behind the Twins in the AL Central.

7/23/19

Well we're only 9 days away from Minnesota's hands-free law going into effect on August 1st. You'll no longer be able to hold your phone while driving. Options that ARE legal are to have the phone mounted on the dash so if you're using a GPS or making a call you can just use a single touch or voice activation, you can also have the phone on speaker in the cup holder or passenger's seat, and you are allowed to wear earphones, but only in one ear.

The Twins got a big win last night...they beat the Yankees 8-6, and even got a triple play. They'll take them on again tonight at 7:10 at Target Field.

7/24/19

After a 10 month deployment in the middle east, over 650 members of the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division are back home, including 12 soldiers from Central Minnesota. There's going to be an official Welcome Home ceremony for them at the State Fairgrounds next month.

If you're looking for something to do this week, Cold Spring's hometown pride days start tomorrow and go through Saturday. They're gonna have lots of fun stuff live music, a bean bag tournament, community wide garage sales, and of course a whole lotta food including a wing and cupcake eating contest. You can find out more at Hometown pride CS dot com.

And hard to believe it's that time of year, but the Vikings kick off training camp this week...it starts Friday. There'll be 16 practices in Eagan that are open to the public to watch. It's free, but you do have to reserve tickets ahead of time because they only have a limited amount. They

say if some days are already sold out, don't give up hope because there are always no shows, and so tickets become available. Go to Vikings.com if you wanna learn more

7/25/19

If you or somebody you know is looking for a job, St. Cloud's School District 742 is holding a job fair. There are some teaching positions available, and they're also looking for paraprofessionals, nutrition services, and custodial services. It's July 31st, Wednesday of next week, at Quarryview Education Center in Waite Park.

With HOT weather the next couple of days, should be a great opportunity to get out on the lake, and the "No wake" restrictions have been lifted on a number of Stearns county lakes. The sheriff's office had to place a no wake within 300 feet of shore rule earlier in July on Augusta Lake, Carolina Lake, Clearwater Lake, Grass Lake, Lake Lousia and Lake Maria, but that's lifted now because water levels have gone down.

And the Twins lost to the Yankees 10-7 last night. They're still in first place in their division, but only leading the Cleveland Indians by 2 games now.

7/26/19

A new law in Minnesota will soon ban e-cigarettes and vapes in most indoor workplaces and public places. Beginning August 1, vaping will have the same rules as traditional cigarettes, no longer allowing them in restaurants, offices and other public spaces. Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm said the new law underscores the fact that e-cigarettes are a health concern.

Highway 15 has been closed between St. Augusta and Kimball for quite a while, since early May, maybe you've been affected by that...it's finally open again as of this morning, so if you're headed that direction today, you'll be good to get through.

And the Twins dominated the Chicago White Sox last night, they hit 5 home runs and won 10-3. They'll play them again tonight.

Today's Good News story of the day is really a love story. Mr. and Mrs. Kuroki got married years and years ago. They lived on a dairy farm, they had 2 kids, they had a full life. After 30 years of marriage, they planned on retiring and travelling, but those plans were soon dashed because Mrs. Kuroki, when she was just 52, lost her vision because of complications from diabetes. And

you can imagine how hard that would be...and she really struggled with it...she became depressed, she started staying inside all day. So Mr. Kuroki got an idea...he some people stopping to admire his small garden of pink flowers...and he figured, hey if I can't take my wife to see the world, I'll bring the world here. And so he spent 2 years planting thousands of flowers, he knew his wife wouldn't be able to see them, but she'd be able to smell them, and he hoped people would come to visit. It became just a stunning garden, and the plan worked...and a decade after he first planted it, it's become a major tourist attraction...it brings in up to 7000 people EVERY DAY...all because of the love of this husband and wife.

7/29/19

Please pray for Gilroy, California...3 people lost their lives in a shooting at a festival there last night, and at least 15 others were injured.

There was some severe weather in Minnesota yesterday...there were confirmed tornadoes in Silver Lake and Scandia. There were also earlier reports of a confirmed tornado in Foley, but the National Weather Service says there are no reports of damage there.

And Minnesota will likely have a hometown rooting interest in future Olympics. Regan Smith is a 17 year old from Lakeville, and she just shattered the world record in the 200m backstroke. She'll swim in the U.S. Olympic trials next June to try to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

7/30/19

Just two days 'til August 1st when a few new laws go into effect...just a reminder of some of them...of course the big one is that hands-free law...you'll be required to use hands-free devices if you want to talk on the phone while driving. There's also the "slowpoke law"...Slower drivers must move over to let faster drivers pass on the freeway...And vaping in public indoor spaces and workplaces will become illegal.

It was a night of memories and dedication last night as friends and loved ones gathered for a ceremony remembering Casey Myers. Casey and her unborn son lost their lives in December in a car accident. Last night, a bench was dedicated to them at Centracare Health Plaza where she worked, and over 100 people were there. CentraCare Health also started a memorial fund in Casey's name.

If you're looking for something fun to do, the Benton County Fair kicks off today. There'll be lots of animals, shows, live music, and of course food. Admission is free and it goes from today through Sunday.

7/31/19

You may have heard there was a major data breach at Capital One...one of the largest data breaches ever of a major bank, with 100 million people affected in the US and Canada, including nearly 140 thousand social security numbers compromised. Capital One says it will let you know if your data was affected "through a variety of channels." They're offering free credit monitoring and identity protection to people affected.

Well if you were outside yesterday morning, it felt a little bit like fall...it got down to 50 in St. Cloud, but up north, it was a Minnesota record. International Falls dipped down to 37 degrees, which is the coolest July 30th temperature EVER in Minnesota since they started recording 'em. It breaks the previous record of 38 degrees set way back in 1898.

And you've probably been seeing that wind turbine along highway 15 in St. Cloud for years...well it's finally coming down. It was built in 2011 and had a lot of issues...it never produced any energy for the St. Cloud VA, and it wasn't gonna be cost effective to fix it, so it's being removed...they started that process yesterday. Most of the parts will be reused or recycled.

8/1/19

Well today is the day several new laws go into effect. The biggest one of course is that hands free bill. You can no longer hold your cell phone and talk while driving...what you CAN do is have it on speaker or bluetooth beside you or mounted on the dash. You can also wear ONE earbud. The slowpoke law also is now active...it essentially means slower drivers who don't move out of the left lane to let faster drivers pass can be ticketed.

There COULD be a building referendum in the Sauk Rapids Rice School district soon. They're considering one to replace Pleasantview Elementary School, which was damaged by a fire earlier this year. The proposal would be to rebuild pleasantview for about 37 million, which would come out to around 6 dollars and 58 cents a month for the average homeowner in the area. If the referendum is approved by the school board, the vote for it would be November 5th

And the Twins beat the Marlins 7 to 4 last night. They're still in 1st place in their division...holding onto a 3 game lead over the Cleveland Indians.

It's a bright orange payphone in the middle of Raleigh, North Carolina. And it'll ring as people walk by. This is today's Good News Story of the Day. And as you're walking by this bright orange payphone, if you pick it up when it rings, you'll hear something like this: PLAY CLIP.

It's all part of something a church down there is doing. It's their Celebration of Love week. And so it's just messages of positive affirmation...helping people deal with the stress of day to day life. And then I love this part of it...after YOU get affirmed, the phone lets you record a message of affirmation to pass on to somebody else. Pay it forward!

8/2/19

We've been hearing all week about Minnesota's hands-free law...you can no longer hold your phone and talk while driving...the St. Cloud police department is specifically focusing on that law right now...they really want to reinforce that new legislation and help our community be safer. You ARE still allowed to talk on the phone while driving, but you have to have it on speaker or going through bluetooth, or you can have ONE earbud in, and of course you can't be holding the phone while you're talking.

I'm sure you remember 5 year old Landen who was so badly injured in that incident at the Mall of America...some good news there...his family says he's finally out of intensive care, where he had been since April. He's now in an inpatient, physical rehab program at another hospital.

In sports, the Twins lost to the Marlins last night 5 to 4. They'll be at Target Field all weekend for a series with the Kansas City Royals.

8/3/19

President Trump ordered flags to be flown at half-staff to honor and remember the victims of the two tragedies this weekend in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, where 29 people lost their lives and about 50 more were injured. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, in accordance with this, ordered flags to be flown at half staff on Aug. 8th this week.

Well we've been talking a lot about the new hands-free law in Minnesota that just went into effect. In the first 36 hours of the law, the State Patrol stopped 162 drivers for violating it. Just a reminder, you can't hold your phone while driving anymore.

And the Twins had a successful weekend...they won 3 games over the Kansas City Royals. They've now won 8 of their past 10.

8/4/19

Communities across Minnesota will host National Night Out activities tonight. The annual nationwide event is a way to make your community and neighborhood safer by getting to know your neighbors. And it's a chance for residents to talk with police officers in a low-stress setting. St. Cloud has around 60 registered events.

The Perkins in downtown St. Cloud has closed their doors for good after over 40 years in business. A sign on the door yesterday let customers know they had decided to shut down, and that their employees would be offered jobs at other local Perkins.

And it was a thrilling win for the Twins last night...Miguel Sano hit a walk off two run home run in the bottom of the 9th to give them the 5-3 win over the Atlanta Braves. It was their 70th win of the season, and they're in first place in their division by 4 games now.

8/7/19

If you see a lot of police at the Sauk Rapids middle school today, it's just a drill. They're holding an active threat training session. It'll be from 5 to 10 tonight, and then they'll have another session a week from today.

Last night was the annual National Night Out, and Central Minnesotans were part of it. The idea behind National Night Out is to get together with your neighbors and eat and talk and that helps make communities safer....law enforcement stops by too to help foster that community/police relationship. There were 63 events in St. Cloud.

And the Twins lost to the Braves last night, 12-7, they'll play again today at Target Field.

8/8/19

Well, it seemed like the winter that would never end, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation just released numbers that reflect that. They just put out their financial numbers for this past winter, and they spent 133 million keeping roads clear. They're calling this past winter's weather the most severe in a decade.

The bank that owned the former house of Jayme Closs and her parents decided to demolish it this week after letting the family know. Neighbors are relieved to see it go.

And Minnesota was ranked the 3rd best state in the country, according to US News. They ranked all 50 states in 8 different categories including economy, education, healthcare, etc., and Minnesota ended up #3, trailing only New Hampshire and Washington.

8/9/19

If you're looking for something to do tonight, there's an art crawl in downtown St. Cloud. It's family friendly...kids can get their faces painted, play with sidewalk chalk and listen to live music. It's along St. Germain street between 5th avenue and 10th avenue in downtown St. Cloud, and it goes from 5 to 9 tonight.

Well the Minnesota Licensing and Registration System, MNLARS that had so many problems is finally being replaced. Governor Tim Walz says the state signed a 33.9 million dollar contract with an outside vendor called Fast Enterprises which has successfully implemented its software in 11 other states.

And in sports, the Twins lost to the Cleveland Indians 7-5 last night...they now have a slim 1 game lead over them in the AL Central, they'll play again tonight, tomorrow, and Sunday. And ready or not, here comes football. The Vikings have their first preseason game tonight. They play against the Saints in New Orleans at 7 o'clock.

8/12/19

The amphitheatre in Waite Park is getting closer and closer to reality. They've now poured the concrete stage and are continuing construction. They of course will hold concerts there, but it also could host dinner theaters, food festivals, movies in the park, and even weddings...Weather permitting, the amphitheatre will be finished by May or June of next year.

If you've ever been to Minnesota's largest candy store in Jordan, it was a crazy weekend for them. Early, early Sunday morning, a car went off the highway, crashed through a fence, and crashed into the store. Fortunately there was no one in the store at the time, and workers have already repaired the large hole where the car crashed through the building.

In sports, the Vikings won their first preseason game of the year, they beat the Saints 34-25 on Friday. The Twins had a pretty rough weekend...they dropped 3 of 4 games to the Cleveland Indians...that means they're now tied with Cleveland for first place in their division.

8/13/19

The St. Cloud Police Department is helping out kids in need as they go back to school. They're holding an event today at the St. Cloud Rotary Community Outpost, or COP House...it's from 3 to 5...and they have backpacks and school supplies available for kids in need. The address is 600 13th St. South in St. Cloud if you or someone you know is interested.

There's been some confusion about Minnesota's new "Slowpoke Law" which requires slower-moving drivers to move out of the left lane for faster drivers. There are some exceptions to it...1. Overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

2. Preparing for a left turn at an intersection/private roadway.

3. Preparing for a left side exit.

4. The lane you're in is designated and posted for a specific type of traffic, such as an HOV lane

5. The vehicle is an authorized emergency vehicle.

In sports, the St. Cloud Rox made the playoffs this year...they're in a best of 3 series with the Willmar Stingers...they dropped game one 4 to 1 last night. It's now a must win game in Willmar tonight at 7:05.

8/14/19

Well it was a quick storm yesterday, but it brought a lot of rain. 1.1 inches was the official total at the St. Cloud airport, though parts of Central Minnesota got more...part of Pinecone road in Sartell was temporarily closed because of flooding.

Next year is the 2020 nationwide census, and officials are looking for help. Over 1000 Census Bureau openings are available just in Central Minnesota. If you're interested in applying, there are a number of census job days at the St. Cloud library. The first one is today from 3 to 7, and there's also one tomorrow from 10 to 2. You can apply in person.

And unfortunately the St. Cloud Rox lost their playoff game to the Willmar Stingers last night...that means their season is over. The Twins won though...they had a back and forth game with the Milwaukee Brewers but ended up winning 7-5.

8/15/19

Don't get scared if you hear the Emergency Alert System activate around 1:10 this afternoon. Minnesota is testing the Blue Alert System, which was started back in 2015 to help identify and locate suspects who've seriously hurt or taken the life of a police officer. If it was a real Blue Alert, you'd hear information about the suspect such as what they look like and what vehicle they're driving, but today's is just a test.

And along those lines, it was a scary situation in Philadelphia when a man opened fire on police as they were serving a warrant. He wounded 6 officers and started a standoff that extended into the night. Fortunately, police were able to take him into custody, and though 6 officers were wounded, none lost their lives and all of them have been released from hospitals.

When you head to the State Fair this year (hard to believe it starts a week from today), you may notice some security changes: More officers, more security cameras and bolstered gate security. In addition to that, bag checks will remain in place — as they have for the past four years.

8/16/19

To reinforce the new hands-free law, St. Cloud police used an unmarked vehicle to look for people holding their phones while behind the wheel, and then marked squad cars pulled them over. In less than 5 hours this past Tuesday, they made 23 stops. They're planning to do more of these in the future, so just a good reminder to put the phone down.

If you are a college student or you know one, just a head's up from the Better Business Bureau. They want you to be aware of scams involving employment, rental apartments, and fake credit cards. Employment scams were the big one last year with college students trying to make money. The Better Business Bureau has a tool called the Scam Tracker that you can use if something seems a little bit off. It's at BBB dot org.

The Twins got back on track last night, they blasted the Rangers 13-6. They're just a half game ahead of the Indians in their division.

8/19/19

If you're flying out of the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport any time soon, make sure to give yourself plenty of time to get through security. Starting today, TSA PreCheck and CLEAR PreCheck passengers in Terminal 1 will be directed to use the South Checkpoint. All other passengers, including standard, First Class and Sky Priority, and CLEAR Standard will need to use the North Checkpoint. The changes are a result of remodeling in the South Checkpoint and will remain in effect during construction, which is expected to be complete by mid-December.

If you drive by St. Cloud Cathedral high school frequently, this will affect you...they're closing the road right in front of the high school from today through next spring because of a major construction project at Cathedral....that's 7th avenue north....You'll still be able to get to the school through the other surrounding streets.

And it's hard to believe but it is already State Fair Week! The Great Minnesota Get Together opens this Thursday. It has lots of new things to explore this year, including the Angry Birds Universe with lots of hands on interactive activities for kids and kids at heart, the Goat Booth for animal lovers, new rides on the Midway, and 31 brand new foods.

8/20/19

It's move in weekend for area colleges. Students will begin moving into St. Cloud State, St. Benedicts and St. Johns beginning Thursday. Classes are set to begin on Monday.

A sure sign that summer is ending soon-all wading pools in the St. Cloud area are now closed. The pools closed Sunday and splash pads will close soon as well.

And another sign that summer is winding down-the Minnesota State Fair begins this Thursday. The fair runs through Labor day and features rides, vendors, animals, and over 500 food options, including 31 new things to try this year.

8/21/19

[The Stearns County Sheriff's Office](#) will be holding an informational meeting for youth ages 15-21 years old who are interested in a law enforcement career. The Police Explorers program teaches law enforcement skills and competitions are held across the state against others in the Program. The informational will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the

Stearns County Law Enforcement Center. Applications are available at the [Stearns County Sheriff's Office](#).

Use caution when driving on roads in Sherburne county. Police say someone has been throwing nails and screws on roadways. They've been found on rural roads in Big Lake and other areas. A Big Lake squad car was damaged after driving over some of them. Police are reviewing security footage from nearby businesses, and ask anyone who knows anything to please come forward.

With move in day taking place tomorrow at St Cloud State University there will be some street closures in that immediate area to assist with traffic flow. Streets will be closed east of 5th Avenue South and south of 4th Street South, and will reopen Friday.

8/22/19

You may have noticed a circus tent has appeared in the parking lot at Crossroads Center. Cirque Italia has come to town, it's a water circus featuring contortionists and trapeze artists among others all performing in and around water. Performances begin today and run through the weekend. We've posted a link for details and ticket information on the Spirit 92.9 Facebook page.

Minnesota NICE is a real thing according to a recent poll. The rankings, [from travel website Big 7](#), are based on first impressions at airports and train stations, among other factors. Minnesota is followed by Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas and Wyoming.

Minnesota's Hands Free law went into effect earlier this month, banning drivers from having their cell phone in their hand while driving. During the first week of the hands-free law 678 citations were written.

8/23/19

A tour bus from Little Falls was involved in a collision yesterday about a half mile from the Minnesota State Fair. The bus from Andy's Charter Service was carrying a group to the fair when another tour bus crossed an embankment and collided with it. According to the Little Falls Community Schools superintendent, fourteen people on the Andy's Charter Services bus were taken to the hospital with injuries that varied. Riders who were not injured were taken to the fair by state patrol officers and other buses.

It was a busy first day for the great Minnesota get together yesterday. Parking lots and park and ride lots were all full by 10am.

Students have begun moving in to area colleges and universities for the new school year, and The 5th annual Veterans Appreciation Picnic will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Barden Park on the SCSU campus. The cook-out helps welcome students and includes hamburgers and hot dogs as well as a silent auction. All the money raised will go to the Student Veteran Organization's Student Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. It's open to the community and veterans and active military eat free.

8/26/19

It was a busy first weekend for the great Minnesota get together! The Minnesota State Fair announced it's biggest opening day crowd on Thursday with 133,326 people passing through the gates. Friday's crowd was a record breaker as well. The fair runs through Labor Day. Today is seniors and kids day. There will be reduced admission, \$10, for those over the age of 65 and those ages 5-12.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) submitted a report to Congress recommending that they designate 988 as the new dialing code to be used for a nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline, which would make it easier for Americans in crisis to access potentially life-saving resources.

The number must be approved by the house and senate before taking effect. The current number to reach the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-TALK.

8/27/19

A gas leak caused 3 buildings near Stearns Drive and Second Street North in Sauk Rapids to be evacuated yesterday.

According to Xcel Energy a third party hit a gas line while digging causing the leak.

A man who pushed for Minnesota's hands-free driving law says he wants to take his fight to Wisconsin. Thomas Goetz lost his pregnant daughter to an alleged distracted driver in February 2016 near Stillwater. He spent the next three years lobbying Minnesota lawmakers to make it illegal for drivers to use a cellphone or other electronic device while behind the wheel. The new law took effect Aug. 1. Goetz now hopes that within a year Wisconsin will be the 19th state with a hands-free law.

Police have located and arrested the person believed to be responsible for throwing nails and screws onto roadways in Sherburne County, causing damage to numerous vehicles, including a Big Lake squad car. A 63 year old Elk River man is in custody.

8/28/19

Well some severe weather passed through Central Minnesota on Monday, and now it's confirmed there were two tornadoes. The first was an EF-0 North of Milaca and the second was an EF-1 that developed just southeast of town. There were no injuries, though the storm resulted in some significant damage .

You'll be seeing some new look squad cars in Stearns County in the coming weeks. They have a new design and color that they're rolling out...the vehicles will be black with gold lettering and a thin blue line representing all law enforcement.

The Twins won last night...they beat the White Sox 3-1. They'll play again tonight in Chicago.

8/29/19

Veteran's Drive in St. Cloud is closed this morning between 23rd and 25th Avenue. There was a crash with a power pole, and so they're working on repairing that, but it'll be closed this morning, so just a head's up if you'll be travelling on Veteran's today.

In case you haven't heard yet, there's been a recall on millions of children's water bottles that were sold at a lot of stores, including Target, Wal-Mart, and Costco. It's the Contigo Kids Cleanable Water Bottle, and they say it could pose a choking hazard because of the silicone spout. You can go to Recall dot GoContigo dot com to learn more.

And it's a big day in sports. The Twins try to get their 5th win in a row this afternoon, the Vikings have their last preseason game tonight in Buffalo, the Gophers football team kicks off their year against South Dakota St. University, and a number of local high school football teams start their seasons as well.

8/30/19

Well maybe you have friends or family in Florida and Georgia...pray for those states as they brace for Hurricane Dorian. It's tough to say how strong it's going to be...it's a Category 2 hurricane right now but may strengthen to a category 4 storm by Monday somewhere between the Florida Keys and southern Georgia, and if it makes landfall as a category 3 or 4 storm, it's likely going to cause a whole lot of damage.

Just in time for the new Tech High School opening in St. Cloud, 33rd street south will open up over by county road 75 in St. Cloud. They're making some finishing touches today, and it should be open tonight.

If you've ever wondered what the best-selling foods at the state fair are, they actually put together a top 10 list every year...no word on 2019 yet, but among the top last year were Giggles Campfire Grill (Home of the duck drummies), Miller's flavored cheese curds, The Blue Barn, Fresh French Fries, The All You Can Drink Milk Booth, and unsurprisingly the top one by a wide margin was Sweet Martha's Cookies.

9/3/19

Big thunderstorms rolled through a good chunk of the state last night, setting off severe thunderstorm warnings in Central Minnesota, and even a radar indicated tornado down in western Hennepin county. The National Weather Service also reported 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hail in New London as well as 63 mph winds in Alexandria.

And speaking of storms, continue to pray for those in the path of Hurricane Dorian...it's remained stationary but it's been wreaking havoc on the bahamas...it's still a big hurricane...category 3. Hundreds of thousands of people in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were ordered to evacuate before the storm rolls up the Eastern Seaboard. Several large airports announced closures and many flights were cancelled yesterday and today.

And if the Mississippi seems a little lower the next few days, that's because St. Cloud is doing a drawdown...they need to do some maintenance at the city's hydroelectric facility, so they're dropping the level about 2 and a half feet in the pool upstream from the plant.

9/4/19

You've probably been following the story of 5 year old Landen who was hurt so badly at the Mall of America...great news there...the family posted an update yesterday and he's finally home with them after 4 and half months. Landen will continue outpatient rehabilitation for his injuries as he adjusts to life at home and school. The family said this: "Thank you to all of you who prayed for us and loved us during the past 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ months. You helped to give us hope and show us the Glory of God's great love here on earth even during the darkest of days."

There's a special meeting at the St. Cloud Library tonight hosted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. It's geared towards parents and caregivers of kids and young adults on the autism spectrum. They'll be talking about autism in general and also what services are available. It's in the Bremer Room at the Great River Regional Library tonight at 6.

And if you went to the Great Minnesota Get Together this year, you were part of a record. For yet another year, the all time Minnesota State Fair Attendance record was broken...the fair had 2,126,551 visitors.

9/5/19

Hurricane Dorian is once again a major storm..it's back up to a category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph. As of earlier this morning it was about 95 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina, so continue to pray for those in its path if you think of it.

The auto industry is trying to help keep kids safe. By the 2025 model year, nearly all new vehicles sold in the U.S. will come with electronic reminders for people to check back seats so they don't leave children behind. Vehicles would give drivers audible and visual alerts to check back seats every time they turn off the ignition.

And Minnesota's state-run health insurance exchange has announced a seven-week enrollment period for 2020 coverage. MNsure said yesterday that you'll have from Nov. 1st to Dec. 23rd to shop for 2020 health coverage. That's eight days longer than the federal open enrollment period.

9/6/19

If you have friends and family out east and you've been following Hurricane Dorian, it weakened to a category one storm as of early this morning as it's skirting North Carolina's coast.

When it comes to fall activities, a local attraction is getting statewide attention. Quarry Park in Waite Park is one of Explore Minnesota's Must Dos for fall hiking. If you've never been there, it's big...600 acres, with lots of trails for walking and even mountain biking. You can get an annual parking pass for 20 dollars.

It's a huge weekend for sports. The Twins have a series with the 2nd place Indians, Gophers football takes on Fresno St, and the Vikings play the Falcons Sunday. And tonight it's a big game between St. Cloud Tech and St. Cloud Apollo at Tech's brand new stadium, and they're using the opportunity to fight cancer. There'll be a special poster you can buy as well as game photos available with all proceeds going towards cancer research.

9/9/19

The St. Cloud Tech vs. St. Cloud Apollo football game this past Friday night was more than just a football game, they teamed up with the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund to Tackle Cancer. They sold posters and even passed around a helmet in the crowd with proceeds going to cancer research...and it was a huge success...they raised close to \$1500. Three dozen first responders and 15 ambulances from Minnesota headed to North Carolina over the weekend to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. Gov. Tim Walz authorized the emergency response when North Carolina asked for help. The first responders are divided into three teams which each include five ambulances, five paramedics, five emergency medical technicians, a team leader and a logistics support leader.

And in sports, the Vikings had a big win in their season opener yesterday...they crushed the Falcons 28-12. That sets up a showdown this coming Sunday in Green Bay vs. the Packers.

9/10/19

If your kids have never been in an airplane, they can get a free airplane ride at the St. Cloud airport. Weather permitting they'll be doing that this Saturday for kids ages 8 to 17, it'll be from 9 to noon.

If you live in the Monticello area you might see some unusual activity in the general vicinity of the nuclear power plant...but don't get scared...it's just a drill they do every other year in case of a disaster. There won't be any sirens or warning systems...they'll just have field teams practicing in the area.

And according to a Wallet Hub survey, our own Minnesota is the 3rd happiest state in all of America...behind only Hawaii and Utah. They took into account a lot of different factors but 3 main categories...1) Emotional & Physical Well-Being, 2) Work Environment and 3) Community & Environment...and they said Minnesota is number 3.

9/11/19

18 years after 9/11, Americans across the country will take time to mourn and remember the victims who lost their lives in New York City, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. September 11th has also become a day for people to perform acts of kindness and service in honor of the 9/11 first responders and victims. One way you can help is giving blood...there's a shortage locally. Another way is to donate money to help hurricane Dorian victims...you can find out more about that at 9 11 day dot org.

Another way to commemorate the day is with the annual ceremony in St. Cloud...it's at 5 PM on the steps of the police department. It's about 20 minutes long.

In sports, the Twins won last night...they beat the Nationals 5-0. They're in a good spot right now...they've got a 5 game lead over the Cleveland Indians in their division.

9/12/19

Maybe you were one of the thousands of people affected by a power outage. XCEL energy says about 3500 people in St. Cloud and Waite Park lost power around 2:30 yesterday afternoon. It was caused by a downed power line in south St. Cloud, though officials didn't say how the power line came down.

Well just another reminder that it is state law to STOP when you see a school bus's lights flashing and stop arm extended, even if you're travelling in the opposite direction on a two lane-two way street. One local bus service says they've already seen 15 stop arm violations, and we're only on week 2 of school. You can get up to a 500 dollar fine for one of these violations.

Well as you look outside you've probably already noticed the leaves starting to change on a few trees...we're getting to that time of year...and so the Minnesota DNR's Fall Color Finder is live again. It shows a map of the state and where you can see the best colors as we get into this season so you can plan trips to see 'em...it's on the DNR's website if you wanna check it out.

9/13

Well our official rain total at the St. Cloud airport was 1.99 inches yesterday. That brings us to over 3 inches above the September average. Things got a little worse in the southern part of the state though...floodwaters temporarily shut down Interstate 90 in Austin and highway 93 in Henderson

We mentioned this earlier this week, but in case you missed it, the Young Eagles club is offering free airplane rides for kids at the St. Cloud airport tomorrow. It's for ages 8-17, and it'll go from 9 AM to 1 in the afternoon.

And another event going on tomorrow...the brand new Sartell High School is hosting an open house if you wanna check it out. There's a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 AM, and then the open house is on 'til 4.

9/16/19

There's a grand opening for the brand new St. Cloud Tech high school tonight. There'll be a ceremony at 6 with St. Cloud mayor Dave Kleis and a few others, a ribbon-cutting, and then self-guided tours of the school.

Meanwhile, the old Tech High school building will become St. Cloud's new city hall. It needs renovations beforehand, which Mayor Kleis hopes to start this fall, with a moving in target date of Spring of 2020.

In sports, the Vikings lost their first game of the young season to the Packers yesterday 21-16. They're now 1 and 1. The Twins had a good weekend overall, they won 2 of 3 vs. the Cleveland Indians. They've got a 4 and a half game lead in their division.

9/17/19

The new amphitheater in Waite Park officially has a name...they're calling it The Ledge. It should be finished by next summer, and they're hoping to host 15 to 20 national acts every year.

And if you or someone you know uses the Venmo app to transfer cash...police want you to be aware of a scam going around. Scammers are texting some Venmo users and telling them their account "is about to be charged and if you want to cancel the withdrawal, you need to log on and decline it." The text message includes a link to a fake site meant to look like Venmo, but is just being used to steal information.

If you have any duck hunters in your family, the DNR says this season should be good. Biologists continue to see favorable counts of breeding ducks in Minnesota. The season opens this weekend.

9/18/19

Well as of yesterday, we had added another .91 inches of rain to our total for September...obviously we've added to that now this morning. We're over 3 and a half inches above the average rainfall for this month.

The Minnesota Department of Health is investigating an outbreak of E. coli associated with the Minnesota State Fair. They identified 11 cases among people who visited the fair and it looks like contact with livestock is a key factor. Some didn't have direct contact with animals, and may have been exposed through touching contaminated surfaces like fence rails. The Department of Health says this is a reminder to always wash your hands after being around livestock and their enclosures.

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity is building another home for a local veteran...this one's in Sauk Rapids, and they just had a wall-raising ceremony yesterday. They're looking for a veteran to occupy the home...cuz they believe every veteran deserves a safe and decent place to live, and they're taking applications now. So if you or someone you know is a veteran who might qualify for this...you can find out more at the Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity website.

9/19/19

Apollo High School in St. Cloud won't be holding classes on-site today because of a sewer problem. They'll instead have an e-learning day with assignments online, but no students will physically be at school.

Well as the thunderstorms rolled through Central Minnesota early early yesterday, it was a scary situation in Kimball when lightning struck a home in the area. The residents were awakened by a loud boom and said they could smell smoke. There was no fire when first responders got there, but there was a big hole in the siding where it looks like lightning struck an electrical box.

And today is the United Way Day of Caring. Hundreds of people from the community will help out with 67 projects around the St. Cloud area trying to make it a better place. This is the 31st annual day of caring.

9/20/19

If you drive through downtown St. Cloud a lot, I'm sure you've noticed Veteran's Bridge in that area has been closed for a couple months...they were replacing utilities under the bridge...the good news is, it's back open as of yesterday, so you can drive across it again.

Yesterday was United Way of Central Minnesota's 31st annual Day of Caring...hundreds of volunteers came together to help. They did everything from repackaging food, to sweeping, washing windows, and painting, and worked on 67 different projects in the area.

And the Twins won last night, they beat the Royals 8-5. They're still in good shape with a 4 game lead over the Indians with just 9 games left in the regular season.

9/23/19

Severe weather moved through Central Minnesota on Saturday, even triggering a tornado warning in east St. Cloud because of radar indicated rotation. There was also heavy rain and flooding with the storm.

If you or somebody you know is looking for a job, tomorrow could be the day...it's the annual career fair at the River's Edge convention center. It's a free event from 2 to 6 tomorrow afternoon, and there'll be over 100 companies there who are looking to hire new staff.

And the Vikings got back on the winning track yesterday, they dominated the Oakland Raiders 34-14. Next up is a divisional showdown with the Bears in Chicago.

9/24/19

Today is National Voter Registration Day. Even though we're still over a year out from the next presidential election, there are a number of local elections coming up this November. To vote in Minnesota, you must be 18-years-old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Minnesota for 20 days and finished with all parts of any felony sentence. If you're not registered to vote, you can find out more on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website.

There's a new addition to St. Cloud State University...they've just finished up the new Husky Plaza. It has a big bronze husky statue in the middle, and the bricks in the plaza are inscribed by alumni, students, and others. They have a dedication ceremony scheduled for the new plaza this Saturday at 1 as part of their homecoming festivities.

And the Twins magic number is 3...that means that any combination of Twins wins and Cleveland Indians losses that totals 3 would send the Twins to the playoffs. They'll take on the Detroit Tigers this evening.

9/25/19

Just a head's up that 33rd street south in Saint Cloud will be closed at county road 75 for the next 5 days, starting today, so if you travel over there a lot you may want to find a different route. Right in and right out traffic will still be allowed.

If you live in St. Cloud and you're interested in learning more about how the city operates, you can go to St. Cloud 301 Saturday...it's a class with Mayor Dave Kleis and others to teach people what those who serve our city do and give them an opportunity to meet with local leaders and talk. St. Cloud 301 is Saturday from 10 to 2 at the Central Maintenance Building in East St. Cloud.

And the Twins could clinch their division and a playoff spot tonight. They beat the Tigers 4-2 last night. If they beat them again this evening, and the Cleveland Indians lose, the Twins will be the AL Central champions for the first time since 2010.

9/26/19

16 students were detained after a big fight broke out at St. Cloud Tech high school. Around 20 police officers responded and got the situation under control. The school was briefly on lockdown, but then got back to normal activities a little over an hour after the fight started. Extra police are on hand at Tech today to make sure nothing else happens.

In just over a year, October 1st, 2020, your standard Minnesota driver's license will no longer work for boarding domestic flights. That's the date the REAL ID enforcement goes into effect. It's been talked about a lot, but only about 10 percent of Minnesotas are REAL ID ready. You aren't REQUIRED to get a REAL ID, but you'll then need a passport or an enhanced driver's license or ID card to board a flight. You can apply for a real ID at your local DVS.

And for the first time since 2010, the Minnesota Twins are AL Central Champions...they're headed to the playoffs after they won and Cleveland lost last night. As of now, it looks like they'll probably face the Yankees in the first round.

9/27/19

If you've used the food delivery service Door Dash, they confirmed yesterday that 4.9 million of their users, delivery workers and vendors were exposed in a data breach to an "unauthorized third party." Information exposed includes names, e-mails, delivery addresses, phone numbers and in some cases, the last four digits of consumer payment cards. DoorDash will be reaching out directly to people affected in the coming days.

It's homecoming weekend at St. Cloud State University. They have lots of events going on...a fan fest, a 5K, a dedication of their new Husky Plaza, and of course a football game tomorrow followed by fireworks.

And the Twins won again last night, they beat the Tigers 10-4. They have a chance to get their 100th win of the season tonight against the Royals. If they do, that would be just the second time in team history that they've had a season with 100 or more wins.

9/30/19

Well because of the wet weather we've been having, they're saying fall colors should be great this year. Most of Central Minnesota is at 10 to 50 percent of peak color right now, but some parts of the state are farther along as you travel up north. You can always check the Minnesota fall color finding map on the DNR website if you wanna see exactly where the best colors are at right now.

The Vikings had a tough outing in Chicago against the Bears yesterday...they lost 16-6. They'll play the Giants in New York next week. And speaking of New York, the Twins are headed there this week too. They're officially in the playoffs after winning the AL Central, and they're taking on the Yankees in a best of 5 series. The first game will be Friday in New York City.