

# KKJM Spirit 92.9 Q3 Issues & Programs

News

7/1/20

4th of July festivities in St. Cloud will include a military flyover from two F-16 Fighting Falcons piloted by Minnesota Air National Guard members. That'll be happening between 11:08 and 11:13 Saturday morning.

The University of Minnesota will now require all faculty, students and visitors to the campus to wear a face covering in any enclosed indoor space. Exceptions include an assigned apartment or residence hall or when alone in an office or study area.

And after a long hiatus, the St. Cloud Rox start their season tonight...they'll play the Willmar Stingers in an away game. Their home opener is tomorrow night at the Rock pile.

7/2/20

You may have heard about the military flyover that's happening as part of the 4th of July celebration...just a head's up that they did change the time for that...they're now planning to reach St. Cloud between 10:30 and 10:45 Saturday morning.

After closing its doors because of the pandemic, the Minnesota Zoo is getting some much-needed financial help. The zoo will get 6 million dollars in relief funding from the state to stay up and running.

And St. Joe isn't having their normal Joetown Rocks celebration, but they ARE still having fireworks...they'll be tonight at 10 PM in the same place they normally are...and while the park will be blocked off, you can watch from your car or yard.

7/3/20

If you're up late for the 4th of July, there's also a full moon after the fireworks....it'll be in the sky at 12:44 early Sunday morning.

And speaking of fireworks, they ARE still having a show in St. Cloud...it's 10 PM tomorrow night...they're not saying where they're launching the fireworks from in order to keep a big crowd from gathering, but they'll announce what direction to look when you're watching from your yard, and that announcement will happen at Saint Cloud Fireworks dot org just a few minutes before the show.

And what a way to start off the season at Joe Faber Field...the St. Cloud Rox won in walk-off fashion in extra innings, 7 to 6 over the Rochester Honkers last night. That evens their record at 1 and 1 on the season.

7/6/20

Metro Bus resumed all of its regular services as of yesterday. Wearing a mask isn't a REQUIREMENT but they do strongly recommend it.

National Night Out, a chance to get to know your neighbors and build the police and community relationship, is being moved back. Typically it's in August, but the new date is October 6th.

And if you have Twins fans in your house, the Twins schedule will be released at some point today...it's a shortened season...60 games, and the Twins first game will be July 24th.

7/7/20

Waseca Police Officer Aric Mattson who was severely injured in the line of duty in January continues to make improvements. A CaringBridge post from his wife Megan says he has slowly but surely put up a fight to regain the daily capabilities that we take for granted. His memory is all there...his appetite is back, and he's able to write letters back and forth to his daughters weekly. He'll have another surgery in the coming months.

The Stearns County Sheriff's Office Lobby is open to the public again as of yesterday.

And the Twins schedule is out...they'll head to Chicago to take on the White Sox for their first game July 24th. They'll play the Cardinals for their home opener July 28th.

7/8/20

St. Cloud Technical and Community College said all sports are on hold through the Fall Semester this year...that means volleyball and at least the beginning of basketball will be cancelled.

Governor Walz is prepared to call Minnesota lawmakers into a special session that would start Monday. It's triggered by an extension of the peacetime authority that Walz has used to manage the coronavirus in Minnesota.

And if you need to use a computer at the library, the Great River Regional Library is now offering computer access by appointment. You can call whatever branch you plan to use and set up a time.

7/9/20

We avoided the worst of it here, but severe weather, including tornadoes, tore through parts of Minnesota yesterday. Sadly, one person lost their life and at least two were hospitalized in Otter Tail County.

MN Department of Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker says July 27th is when we should all know what will happen in K to 12 schools this fall.

And just a head's up if you go through the self-checkout at Coborn's a lot...because of a national shortage of coins, those self-checkout lanes are cards only right now.

7/13/20

State legislators will begin another special session starting today. Governor Walz hopes they'll be able to agree on police reform and accountability measures as well as a capital investment deal. The Governor also plans to extend his peacetime emergency by another 30 days to ensure the state can continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tax deadline for the 2019 filing year is coming up on Wednesday. The federal government made the decision earlier this year to push the deadline from April 15th to July 15th due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you need to file an extension you must do so by Wednesday.

7/14/20

For the first time in four months, visitors deemed "essential caregivers" by state health officials will be able to visit residents in nursing homes and assisted care facilities.

Residents can have more than one essential caregiver. Visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and are required to wear a mask when visiting their loved one.

Gov. Tim Walz announced yesterday he is extending the state's peacetime state of emergency due to the ongoing pandemic. The governor had previously extended the emergency order back in the middle of June. It was set to expire on Monday. The new order will expire August 12th unless it's extended again. The peacetime emergency gives the governor power to issue executive orders and regulate businesses.

Minnesotans looking to take the written exam for a driver's license now need to make an appointment. The state will no longer accept walk-ins due to the high demand and backlog in testing.

7/15/20

St. Cloud State University has announced that all Students, faculty, and visitors are now required to wear face masks when in campus buildings. Masks will also be required for the fall semester beginning August 24th in all buildings and classrooms.

Applications open today for child care providers to receive additional funding relief during the months of July, August and September. The Minnesota Department of Human Services will distribute an additional \$56.6 million in funds to licensed child care providers in addition to \$40 million in Emergency Child Care Grants distributed over the past few months. The application window will close on July 23rd.

TODAY is the tax deadline for the 2019 filing year. The federal government made the decision earlier this year to push the deadline from April 15th to July 15th due to the pandemic. If you need to file an extension you must do so today.

New York now says they're now requiring visitors from Minnesota and Wisconsin to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

7/16/20

Walmart & Sam's Club announced earlier this week that they'll start requiring masks on Monday. Walmart has also created the position of Health Ambassador and will station them near the entrance to remind people without a mask of the new requirements. Sam's Club associates at the entrance will follow the same process with members, reminding them of the requirement. Free masks will be provided if you don't have one, or you can buy one in the store.

A decision from the St. Cloud City Council is expected Monday regarding mandating that masks are worn inside public places in the city. The city council voted to add the issue to the agenda for Monday evening's meeting. If passed it would be considered "unlawful" for a person to enter or remain in a "space of public accommodation" without wearing a mask. Exceptions would include children under five, those with a medical or developmental disability, or those who need to speak to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. Violators would get a written warning letter, a \$250 fine, and for a business caught not following the mandate, the city says they could face "adverse licensing actions under city code."

7/17/20

Add Target and Best Buy stores to the list of retailers that will be requiring customers wear face masks inside their stores. Target will require them beginning August 1st. Walmart & Sam's Club announced earlier this week that they'll start requiring masks on Monday. The St. Cloud city council will decide Monday whether or not to enact a mask mandate in all public places.

The Minnesota Department of Health announced the new Make a Plan Minnesota campaign which encourages parents and families to create a plan for childcare, finances and family spokespersons in the event someone contracts COVID-19.

Just a reminder-Next week will be the final week to collect the additional \$600 weekly federal unemployment payment for those currently receiving unemployment benefits unless it's extended by the federal government.

**7/20/20**

The St. Cloud City Council will vote on a city wide mask mandate at their meeting tonight. It has to have a 5/7ths majority to pass.

The National Weather Service says 4 tornadoes touched down in Minnesota and western Wisconsin over the weekend. No injuries were reported with any of them.

And the Minnesota Zoo is reopening to the public on Friday. Zoo officials say their new experience is designed with the health and safety of guests, staff and animals in mind. [All tickets must be purchased in advance online for a specific date and entry time.](#)

**7/21/20**

The St. Cloud City Council passed the mask ordinance at last night's meeting. That means masks are now required in indoor public spaces in St. Cloud. The ordinance is for 30 days, but could be extended or cut short by another city council vote.

The Minnesota Twins will keep using off-duty Minneapolis police officers for security during the 2020 season. They'll start their regular season this Friday and have their home opener a week from today.

The Tokyo Summer Olympics that were supposed to start this week have been moved back one year...the schedule will stay almost exactly the same...opening ceremonies will be July 23rd of 2021.

### **7/22/20**

Governor Walz will announce today whether or not Minnesota will require face masks statewide in public places.

Centracare is limiting who can get tested for the virus because of an increased demand and a national shortage of tests. You can get tested if you have symptoms, if you're a critical worker, if you have known exposure to someone who tested positive, or if you need to get a test before a procedure.

And the NFL has cancelled its preseason. Normally there are 4 preseason games leading up to the regular season.

### **7/23/20**

Gov. Tim Walz has issued an executive order mandating mask use for indoor public spaces. It starts Saturday. Exemptions are in place for people with certain medical or mental health conditions, and kids under 5 years old.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate reached consensus on a slate of recommendations aimed at reforming policing in Minnesota. The proposal includes a number of things, including Prohibiting choke holds and hog-tie style restraints, Improving stress and trauma resources for officers, and mental health and crisis intervention training for officers. Governor Walz is set to sign the bill today.

The annual St. Cloud Earth Day run is officially cancelled. It HAD been rescheduled for Labor Day weekend. If you've already paid your registration fee, that'll be refunded in the next few weeks.

### **7/24/20**

A lot of people anxiously awaiting this coming Thursday July 30th...that's when the Minnesota Department of Education and Governor Tim Walz will share the plan for the upcoming school year.

The Minnesota Zoo re-opens today...guests will be able to see animals both on the indoor and outdoor trails...you do have to reserve a time and tickets in advance...you can do that at MN Zoo dot org.

And finally, a few months later than normal, it's opening day for the Minnesota Twins...they take on the White Sox in Chicago at 7:10 tonight...the Twins home opener will be this coming Tuesday.

**7/27/20**

If you're driving on I-94 west of St. Cloud this week...just a head's up that there'll be some road construction between Sauk Centre and Albany starting Wednesday, so you may run into some slowdowns.

If you need to renew your driver's license, the license center in downtown St. Cloud is open again, but by appointment only. If your license expires between March 13th and September 30th, Governor Walz extended the expiration dates of driver's licenses to October 31st.

The Twins had a good opening weekend...they took the series from the Chicago White Sox, winning 2 and losing 1...their home opener is tomorrow night against the Cardinals.

**7/28/20**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is cautioning us about mysterious unsolicited packages of seeds arriving in some mailboxes in the state. The source and motivation behind the mailings is under investigation.

If you get something like that, they say don't plant the seeds, but don't throw them away either...they say [get in touch with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by email](#), or by calling the "Arrest the Pest" hotline.

The FDA has now [flagged more than 80 varieties](#) of hand sanitizers it says have tested positive for methanol contamination which can lead to some severe health problems. There's a searchable do not use list on the FDA website if you want to make sure yours is legitimate.

And the Twins home opener is tonight...they'll take on the Cardinals at 7:10

**7/29/20**

Tomorrow's the day many have been waiting for...Governor Walz and the Minnesota Board of Education are scheduled to announce statewide guidance for schools this fall.

There'll be no St. John's football this fall, but there COULD be this spring. The Johnnies conference the MIAC made the decision to postpone a number of fall sports including football, but the conference is working on a spring schedule for the postponed sports.

The Twins got their third win of the young season last night...they beat the Cardinals 6 to 3 in the Target Field home opener.

**7/30/20**

Governor Walz will announce the state's guidance for the new school year in a press conference this afternoon at 2. Infectious disease expert Dr. Michael Osterholm says the governor is set to give schools guidelines and flexibility to make their own back-to-school decisions this fall, NOT a statewide mandate.

The US News and World Report ranked the St. Cloud hospital the 3rd best in Minnesota. Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis came in second and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester took the top spot.

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency shortage of convalescent plasma, a potentially lifesaving treatment for COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma is a blood donation collected from individuals who have fully recovered from COVID-19. If that's you, you can learn more about how you can help at [Red Cross Blood dot org](https://www.redcrossblood.org).

8/.3/20

While Gov Walz announced last Thursday he's leaving it up to each individual school district to decide whether they'll be starting the new school year with in person or distance learning, Catholic Schools have announced they plan to start with in person learning. Their plan will be flexible to accommodate distance learning or the hybrid model of in-person and distance learning.

Voters in Stearns County can cast absentee ballots in person starting Tuesday. In-person absentee voting can be done at the Stearns County Administration Center downtown St. Cloud, the Stearns County Service Center in Waite Park, or Melrose City Hall. Many surrounding towns will be open for in-person absentee voting on August 8th.

8/4/20

Over 700 Minnesotans have reported receiving seed packets mailed from China. The MN Department of Agriculture says if you receive such a package, to report it to them and not to open or plant the seeds. So far seeds tested have not been anything for concern, but they still recommend disposing of them in case there are any for invasive species included.

If you hear a knock at the door this week it may be a Census taker. They'll begin going door to door this week to complete census information for households who have not already submitted it by email or mail. Due to the pandemic the deadline for completing your households census information has been extended to October 31st.

Voters in Stearns County can cast absentee ballots in person starting Today. In-person absentee voting can be done at the Stearns County Administration Center downtown St.

Cloud, the Stearns County Service Center in Waite Park, or Melrose City Hall. Many surrounding towns will be open for in-person absentee voting on August 8th.

8/5/20

There will be no Friday night lights at Minnesota high schools this fall. Board members of the Minnesota State High School League voted Tuesday to move the football season to spring, with a shorter season, fewer games, and no scrimmages. The postseason plan has yet to be determined. The board also voted Tuesday to move the volleyball season to spring. All other fall sports, including soccer, will remain the fall, with restrictions.

Authorities are warning of a scam related to COVID 19 contact tracing that you and your loved ones should be aware of. Some people have been receiving text messages saying they have been in contact recently with someone who has been diagnosed with the virus, and asking for personal information including bank information so a test can be sent to check if they're infected. If you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the Minnesota Department of Health will get a hold of you by phone, not by text. The MDH also says no one will ever ask you for your social security number, credit card numbers, bank information, or money.

8/6/20

St. Cloud Area School District 742 says they will begin the 2020-2021 school year with a hybrid learning model, meaning students will receive a combination of in-person and distance learning. Most students will attend school two days weekly and three days online. Students also have the option to enroll in the St. Cloud Area Schools Distance Learning Academy, a year-long distance learning option. School officials say they'll review local health data every two weeks to determine if a change is needed to go back to distance learning for all students, or to bring all students back for in person learning.

Sartell Schools have said By August 17th the school board will decide which learning model will be used to start the school year in more detail based on the latest COVID-19 data in Stearns County.

Minnesota's largest amusement park, Valley Fair, in Shakopee, announced on Tuesday that they intend to stay closed for the remainder of 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic.

At least 100 people lost their lives in the catastrophic explosion in the Lebanese capital of Beirut Tuesday evening that also injured 4,000. The exact cause of the blast remains unknown, although authorities said that more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate, an industrial compound, were stored in a warehouse at the scene of the blast.



8/7/20

The Minnesota Department of Health said Thursday that out of more than 15,000 COVID-19 tests, the state saw an increase of 867 cases. Stearns County had 20 new cases, Sherburne County had 36 and Benton County had 2 cases.

A new, free app is available for you if you need to park in downtown St. Cloud. The ParkMobile app allows you to pay for your parking as well as monitor the time left on a meter and add time to avoid a ticket.

**8/10/20**

Minnesota's primary election is tomorrow. If you don't know where to vote or aren't registered, there's a bunch of helpful info for ya on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website. Of course there will also be safety measures at polling places, and many will be or already have voted absentee.

It was a scary situation at Quarry Park over the weekend...a man was struggling to stay above water...fortunately a bystander pulled him to the edge and he was treated on scene and was fine. The Sheriff's office reminds us there are no lifeguards at the Quarries and recommends using flotation devices.

Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America is back open today after a 5 month closure. The guest capacity is reduced to 250 people right now, and of course they'll be social distancing and sanitizing as well.

**8/11/20**

Primary Election Day is here. You do need to wear a mask if you're voting...though if you forget one they have disposable ones at your polling place...pens will be sanitized after every use and they'll be wiping down voting booths and other surfaces frequently. A lot of Minnesotans have also voted absentee for this primary.

After losing 4 straight, the Twins got back on the right track with a 4-2 win over the Brewers last night. They'll play them again tonight.

And if you just need something to brighten your day a little bit, the Planters Nutmobile will be in Central Minnesota for the next couple of weeks. Keep your eyes peeled for a 26 foot long

peanut on wheels. It'll be at a few local events, including the Waite Park library reopening on the 17th.

### **8/12/20**

Primary Election Day was yesterday...in the St. Cloud mayoral race, incumbent Dave Kleis got the lion's share of the early returns at 61 percent...so it that race has been narrowed down to 2 people now...it looks like Kleis will go against Steven Schiller, who got 16 percent of the votes to come in 2nd.

The Big Ten is postponing fall sports. That means no Minnesota Gophers football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, or field hockey this fall. There is a possibility of a spring season.

And the Twins couldn't hold off a late rally and fell to the Brewers 6 to 4 last night, but they are still in first place in the AL Central.

### **8/13/20**

The FDA has now listed 149 hand sanitizers to avoid because they may contain methanol, which can be toxic, or have less than the required amount of alcohol. Most of the flagged hand sanitizers were produced in Mexico, but a handful were produced in the U.S. or China. You can learn more at [FDA dot gov](https://www.fda.gov).

If you haven't completed the census yet, you may have a census worker stop by soon...they're getting data from households in the St. Cloud area. They'll have a government ID badge and they'll be following health and safety guidelines if they stop by. You can also take part in the census online at [2020 Census dot gov](https://www.census.gov).

And the Twins dominated last night, they beat the Brewers 12-2, and they're still in first place in their division.

### **8/14/20**

Sauk-Rapids Rice schools will start the year with in-person learning for grades K through 12. Of course there'll be plenty of safety measures in place. Sartell schools haven't announced their decision yet, but will on Monday. And as you've likely heard, St. Cloud schools are going with hybrid-learning to start the year.

The events of this year have had little impact on housing prices in Minnesota, new data shows. Home prices climbed 4.8% in the past year, continuing eight straight years of increase.

And after the old skate park in St. Cloud was removed to make room for Costco, the new one is now up and running. It's at the entrance to Heritage Park, and there'll be an official opening for it this coming Tuesday.

**8/17/20**

The National Weather Service has confirmed at least six tornadoes from Friday's severe storms that swept across Minnesota, with storm surveys still under way. There were no reports of injuries.

Catholic Community Schools will be moving forward with in-person classes full time starting in September.

The Science Museum of Minnesota is reopening to members for the last two weekends in August, and will be open to the public the first weekend in September. They will be requiring advanced registrations.

**8/18/20**

Sartell-St. Stephen schools made the decision that preK through 5th graders will attend school in person 5 days a week, while 6th through 12th graders will start the year with a hybrid of in-person and distance learning. Their school year starts September 8th.

Well if it seems like you've been hearing about more bear sightings lately, there may be a good reason for that...the DNR says a shortage of food in northeastern and north-central Minnesota is causing more bear-human conflicts in those parts of the state. To help keep black bears away, people should remove food sources that attract them like garbage, birdseed and food stored in coolers.

And the Twins beat the Royals 4-1 last night...they're still in first place in the AL Central.

**8/19/20**

There's a phone scam going around St. Cloud that St. Cloud police want to make you aware of. A number of people have been called by someone impersonating a police officer who says that there's a warrant for that person's arrest and then asks for their social security number and financial info. If you get a call like that, they say just hang up. Police won't ask for information like that over the phone, nor would they call to let you know there's a warrant out for your arrest.

Well a lot of moviegoers are excited...Marcus Parkwood Cinema in Waite Park is opening back up this Friday. It'll be limited to 25 percent capacity, and you can order tickets and even snacks and drinks online in advance.

And the Twins won the border battle last night...they beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4 to 3 in extra innings.

**8/20/20**

If you've bought fresh peaches from Aldi or Target lately, state officials say don't eat them...there have been 23 Minnesotans who got sick with salmonella and it's linked to peaches from the Wawona packing company that supplies peaches to both Aldi and Target...the people got sick between July 12th and August 3rd. Aldi recalled peaches from that company yesterday and Target is taking them off shelves as well.

The annual Minnesota Renaissance Festival is cancelled this year...it'll be back starting in August of next year.

And the Sartell HealthPartners Clinic is shutting down permanently this month, resulting in about 100 layoffs.

### **8/21/20**

Minnesota's unemployment rate dropped to 7.7 percent last month. That's down from 8.6 percent in June. Nationally the unemployment rate is at 10.2 percent.

The Boys and Girls Club in St. Cloud had a successful fundraiser earlier this week...it was a virtual event that raised over 137 thousand dollars.

And the Timberwolves will have the #1 overall pick in this year's NBA draft after winning the draft lottery last night. The draft is in October.

### **8/24/20**

University of Minnesota President Joan Gabel wants to delay re-opening campuses in the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester for two weeks in the wake of virus outbreaks at other U.S. colleges. The Board of Regents will consider the proposal today.

The Great River Regional Library system is re-opening their libraries for brief visits...they're calling it grab and go...you can browse for books and items to check out. Look through the bookshelves, ask library staff questions, and pick up your holds, while keeping your visit as brief as possible.

And the Twins continue to hold the first place spot in the AL Central...they beat the Royals 5 to 4 last night.

### **8/25/20**

Praying for our neighbors in Kenosha, Wisconsin after another night of unrest in the aftermath of the police-involved incident with Jacob Blake.

Several University of Minnesota campuses will start online this year....The University of Minnesota Board of Regents voted to delay move-in at the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester campuses for at least two weeks, while also moving undergraduate classes to online instruction during that time.

And the Twins won again last night, they beat the Cleveland Indians 3 to 2.

### **8/26/20**

A little bit of road construction that might slow ya down today...Division street in St. Cloud will be down to one westbound lane for a short section of roadway between 24th avenue and 27th avenue, so right over by Walgreens. That should just last one day.

The Vikings announced they'll play their first two home games of the season with no fans in attendance. Their week 1 opener is on September 13th against the Packers.

And the Science Museum of Minnesota is re-opening...they'll start with members only this weekend, and then they'll re-open to the general public September 4th with limited hours, only open Friday-Sunday.

### **8/27/20**

Well if you think of it, pray for people in southwestern Louisiana near the Texas border...hurricane Laura made landfall there overnight as a category 4 storm with 150 mile per hour winds ...it weakened to a category 2 earlier this morning but is still extremely dangerous. Officials said search missions and damage assessments would begin when conditions allow it.

If you live on the North side of St. Cloud, just a head's up that the intersection of 25th ave North and 12th street is gonna be closed starting Monday...that's over by North Junior High.

And there's a new sports arena coming to Sartell...they just had a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday...it'll be for multiple sports...it'll have ice for 4 months and turf for 8 months. They're hoping to start construction next week.

### **8/28/20**

Students in District 742 will have to wait a little bit longer to actually GO to school...they'll still start September 8th, but that first week will be all virtual learning...then the following Monday, September 14th, is when the first group of students will head to school in person.

Please continue to pray for those in the path of Hurricane Laura...it's already claimed 6 lives, and though it's been downgraded to a tropical depression, it still caused heavy rain and tornadoes yesterday, and the threat of tornadoes may redevelop in the system today.

If you're doing some back to school shopping this weekend, the St. Cloud police department is holding a school supplies drive through Monday. You can drop off donations at the St. Cloud Rotary Community Outpost and a few other local locations.

### **8/31/20**

A power outage has been affecting around 1300 Xcel Energy customers in St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids Sartell, St. Joe, and Waite Park . Overnight thunderstorms are the likely cause.

Minimum wage is going up slightly in Minnesota...it's a 6 cent increase for smaller employers...so 8 dollars and 21 cents per hour...and larger employers will pay out 10 dollars and 8 cents per hour, an 8 cent increase. That'll start on January 1st.

And the Vikings made a big move over the weekend, trading for Defensive End Yannick Ngakoue from Jacksonville. Their first game is now less than two weeks away against the Packers.

**9/1/20**

Walmart is launching a new membership service for shoppers this month that it hopes can compete with Amazon Prime. Called Walmart+, it will cost \$98 a year, or \$12.95 a month, and give members same-day delivery on 160,000 items, a fuel discount at certain gas stations and a chance to check out at Walmart stores without having to wait at a register.

The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced Monday it will postpone all competition through December 31st, 2020. That's the conference St. John's and St. Ben's play in.

And the Twins lost their 6th straight game last night...they fell to the White Sox 8 to 5.

Your good news story of the day started with a man who kept getting a motion alert on his security camera...and he noticed that there was this little kid who, every time he'd ride past the man's house on his bike, would just zip into the man's driveway for a few seconds, cuz it was a nice area for a bike, and then he'd head on his way. The kid kept doing this over and over. And so the man decided to do something about this kid. What he did...is create a racetrack for him with sidewalk chalk. And so the next time the kid came by, he was a little confused at first, but then his mom pointed out what he was supposed to do, so he rode his bike on the racetrack. The man who owned the driveway would re-make the racetrack every time it rained. And the kid, and even others passing by, would use this fun little driveway racetrack. The kid kept improving on his bike riding skills as he practiced....and who knows...maybe one day this kid will be a professional cyclist, and he'll look back on one man's kindness as something that helped him on his way.

It was an anonymous note that was short and insensitive...it asked Jimmy and Marilyn to paint their home, calling it an eyesore. What the person who left this didn't realize is that Jimmy and Marilyn are both in their 70s. She has multiple sclerosis and is mostly confined to her bed...he recently recovered from a quadruple bypass. And as they struggled with these health issues, their house had fallen into disrepair. Jimmy was really bothered that the person who sent the note didn't even sign it...just remained anonymous. But that neighbor's rudeness didn't get the last word...the story got out and people rallied around Jimmy and Marilyn...a GoFundMe page has raised over 68 thousand dollars to be used towards home repairs. Jimmy says he's

overwhelmed by the kindness of his community. How cool...and just another reminder that everyone's fighting a battle that we know nothing about...and we can either be rude to people and make things worse, or be kind and make things better.

**9/2/20**

Authorities in St. Cloud are asking for help in finding a missing Clearwater woman. 27 year old Jeanette Ozuna was last seen in St. Cloud with her group home visiting the library...she left on her own and hasn't been seen since and they're concerned for her welfare. She's 4 foot 11, approximately 170 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes, and she's believed to be in the Twin Cities area. If you know anything, contact St. Cloud police.

Some good news with the virus situation...an extensive study shows that COVID-19 antibodies last at least 4 months.

The University of Minnesota is letting students back on campus later this month with strict quarantine rules in place. residence hall students can start moving in on September 15th on the Twin Cities campus. the university will require students to mostly stay in their dorm rooms for the first 10 days, unless they're going to an in-person class, the dining hall, or other limited exceptions.

**9/3/20**

It was a scary situation in the Royalton area earlier this week when a farmer fell into a grain bin. 61 year old James Schlicting was pinned up to his neck, but fortunately first responders were called and were able to rescue him. He was treated at the hospital and released.

Highway 23 east of St. Cloud is getting a facelift...they'll be resurfacing it between Benton County road 1 and highway 95...it'll be down to a single lane in both directions...and that starts after the holiday weekend on Tuesday.

And longtime Twins broadcaster Bert Blyleven is stepping down from the broadcast booth. His final game was last night, and the Twins beat the White Sox 8 to 1.

Brian had a great job, he was VP at a digital advertising agency. Unfortunately he was laid off in June. But what he did next turned into our good news story of the day. Brian decided while he searched for a new job, he would do some good! And so this summer, he started giving back by mowing lawns for senior citizens and veterans...at no charge, completely free. He even launched a website where people can request a lawn mowing. Just another awesome example of doing what we can with what we have and loving our neighbor!

**9/4/20**

An honor for Holdingford Elementary...they were named a School of Excellence by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association.

The state of Minnesota will be providing free COVID-19 saliva tests for teachers, school staff members, and child care providers this fall. The state said the tests are not required to return to work in a classroom or child care setting, but they're encouraging teachers and childcare workers to take advantage of the free testing program when needed.

And the Twins had last night off, but they're back in action at 1:10 this afternoon against the Detroit Tigers.

**9/8/20**

A good-sized section of 5th Avenue North in St. Cloud...right over by the hospital and right along the Mississippi will be closed for 3 years starting tomorrow because of construction at the water treatment facility.

You may remember Waseca Police Officer Arik Mattson, who was gravely wounded in the line of duty in January...he's been recovering ever since, and his wife Megan posted an update over the weekend that he's had a setback with a couple of seizures. She shared some positive things too though...Arik turned 33 years old, and with restrictions lifting a bit Megan was able to make a surprise visit to him recently. She says Arik is constantly walking somewhere, or riding an adaptive bike with a staff member.

The Vikings take on the Packers in their first game this Sunday, and while fans won't be allowed at U.S. Bank Stadium, they're offering people the opportunity to have their face in the stands with a cardboard cutout. You do have to buy it, but all proceeds will go to charitable causes.

**9/9/20**

Nine million Americans who haven't filed an income tax return in the last two years will be getting a letter from the IRS soon telling them that they may still be eligible for the stimulus check [most Americans received](#) earlier this year. The IRS also wants people to know that it is not a scam if they get this letter.

The Paramount Center for the Arts in St. Cloud announced they'll stay closed through the end of 2020.

And the Twins lost to the Cardinals 6 to 4 last night. They're in third place in their division right now, but just a half game out of the lead.

**9/10/20**

If you and your family love seeing the lights at Bentleyville in Duluth every Christmas season, they say it IS gonna happen this year...it'll just be a little different...it'll be a drive-through tour instead of a walk-through, and it'll be 10 dollars per vehicle.

It's less than 2 months until election day, and if you're not registered to vote it's certainly not too late...To vote in Minnesota, you must be at least 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 google Minnesota Secretary of State you can find all the information you need to get registered there.



And a lot of football fans excited...the NFL season kicks off tonight with the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Houston Texans. The Vikings play the Packers this Sunday at noon.

### **9/11/20**

Today of course marks the 19th anniversary of 9/11. A number of memorials will take place to honor those whose lives were lost.

Absentee voting in Minnesota starts a week from today. You can apply for an absentee ballot at MN votes dot org.

If you're a Saint Cloud State hockey fan you'll have to wait a little bit longer this year for Husky hockey...the National Collegiate Hockey Conference is delaying the start of their season...they're hoping as of now to kick things off November 20th.

### **9/14/20**

A lot of students in district 742 are back to school in-person today. The USDA extended its summer food service program, so that means students in St. Cloud schools can get some free meals for the time being.

The Minnesota Red Cross is sending much needed help to the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the wildfires out west. With no end in sight, the need for help and supplies is overwhelming. 12 volunteers headed out west over the weekend.

And the Vikings season got off to a rocky start yesterday...they lost to the Packers at US Bank Stadium 43 to 34.

### **9/15/20**

As wildfires continue to rage on the west coast, some Minnesotans are headed there to help. Seven Minnesota fire departments are sending firefighters and equipment to Oregon today to try to save houses and other structures from going up in flames.

Speaking of those wildfires, we can see smoke from them in the sky...it creates hazy conditions and also some colorful sunsets, but the good news is it's high enough that it shouldn't affect our air quality.

And the Twins dropped game 1 of an important series against the division leading Chicago White Sox...they lost 3 to 1. It's a 4 game series, so they'll get 3 more shots at them, starting tonight at 7:10.

### **9/16/20**

If you've still been craving that fair food, The Minnesota State Fair will be holding a second food parade Oct. 1-4 and 8-11. Tickets will be sold using a lottery system., and you do have to

register by tomorrow at noon if you're interested...you can find out more at MN state fair dot org.

There was another fire at Northern Metal Recycling in Becker last night...employees noticed it on a conveyor belt and quickly contained it. Back in February there was a fire in a pile of junked cars there that burned for days. The cause of this latest fire is under investigation.

The former Old Chicago Building in St. Cloud is now the home of House of Pizza. It's their third location in the area, and they open for the first time this afternoon.

### **9/17/20**

Please pray for those in the path of Hurricane Sally...it made landfall yesterday and at least one person lost their life...540 thousand homes and businesses are without power in south Alabama and the Florida panhandle.

The Minnesota State High School League will meet as early as tomorrow to discuss whether or not to bring football and volleyball back this fall. If approved, football games would start around Oct. 2, and volleyball matches could begin two weeks later.

Meanwhile Minnesota Gophers football IS back...the Big 10 announced they'll be having a football season beginning on the weekend of October 24th. Each team will attempt to play eight games in eight weeks.

### **9/18/20**

Centracare is offering free training to recognize and help those who are experiencing thoughts of self-harm. It's called SAVE, and the next training is this coming Tuesday...you can learn more on Centracare's website.

Early voting starts today. If you want to vote absentee for this year's election, you can apply at MN votes dot org.

And another deep playoff run for the Minnesota Lynx...they beat the Phoenix Mercury 80 to 79 last night to advance to the WNBA semifinals. They'll take on the Seattle Storm in a best of 5 series.

### **9/21/20**

Sauk Rapids Schools are switching to distance learning for Pleasantview Elementary School and hybrid learning for the middle school and high school in order to contain the spread of the virus. They'll re-evaluate in October.

The Minnesota State High School League is meeting this morning to re-visit their decision to move high school football and volleyball to the spring. There's a chance those sports could be back this fall, depending on what the board decides.

And speaking of sports, rough day for the Vikings yesterday...they got clobbered by the Colts 28 to 11. Good weekend for the Twins though...they beat the Cubs twice and clinched a playoff spot.

### **9/22/20**

The Minnesota State High School League voted yesterday to return football and volleyball back to the fall season. Both sports will start practice September 28th, with the first games coming in October.

The Mall of America is donating a temporary retail space to a number of businesses that are struggling either due to the pandemic or because of damage from the civil unrest over the summer. It will be located on Level Two, on the south side of the mall.

And just be aware of a phone scam that's affected a few people in Stearns County...the Grandparent scam...where the scammer makes the grandparent think they're helping a grandchild who's in trouble. If you ever get a call that seems a little off...the Stearns county Sheriff's Office says call the child's parents first and then call the police.

### **9/23/20**

Early detection is key when it comes to prostate cancer, and so Centracare is holding a free screening tonight for men ages 45 to 70. It's 4:30 to 6:30 at the Coborn Cancer Center, and they want you to call for an appointment at 320 229 5100.

If you've missed barbecue from Famous Dave's since it closed in St. Cloud...good news...it's back...sort of. Famous Dave's food is being made at Granite City since they're both owned by the same parent company, so it's available for delivery only through Door Dash and Food Dudes.

And the Twins won their 3rd straight game last night, knocking off the Detroit Tigers 5 to 4. They're just a half game out of the lead in their division.

### **9/24/20**

Some tough news as the State Patrol is investigating a hit-and-run crash in which a cyclist lost his life yesterday morning in St. Cloud. It happened around 5:36 AM on northbound Highway 23, near Arnold's and across from Summerland. If you have any information, contact the St. Cloud State Patrol office.

Local Boys and Girls Club member Samantha Zheng won a National Boys and Girls Club art contest. There were around 4000 submissions, and Samantha's was one of 33 National winners. Her work is called "My Little World" and it'll be displayed in the Boys and Girls Club's online gallery.

And the Twins are back in first place in their division after a 7 to 6 win over the Detroit Tigers last night. The Twins have just 3 games left in the regular season, all against the Cincinnati Reds.

**9/25/20**

For the first time in 130 years, The Salvation Army is kicking off its annual holiday fundraising campaign early in order to "help rescue Christmas for those in need". They're seeing a drastic increase in requests for services, but at the same time, they're expecting a decrease in funds raised through red kettles. While you won't see those red kettles until November 13th, you can give online anytime at [SalvationArmyNorth dot org](http://SalvationArmyNorth.org).

And St. Cloud Area schools are looking for 23 Minnesota Reading Corps and eight Minnesota Math Corps tutors for this school year to help students struggling with reading and math. There are three different levels of commitment for tutors: 35, 25 or 18 hours a week, and you can opt to serve just a single semester or make a commitment for a full academic year. Full-time tutors get a stipend of 650 dollars every two weeks, and can also earn over 4000 dollars additionally for student loans or tuition. If you're interested you can apply at [ReadingAndMath dot net](http://ReadingAndMath.net)

**9/28/20**

If you noticed flags at half-staff yesterday, it was because yesterday was Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day, so that was to honor those who gave their lives.

This week is National Fall Foliage Week...in St. Cloud, we're only at about 25 to 50 percent of peak color, but there are a lot of spots in the state that are farther along....there's a helpful tool on the DNR's website if you want to find out where the best spots are...just Google Fall Color Finder Minnesota and it'll pop up.

And it was a tough loss for the Vikings yesterday...they're now 0-3 after falling 31-30 to the Titans. But it's not all bad in Minnesota sports...the Twins clinched the AL Central for the second straight year...their playoff run starts tomorrow as they host the Houston Astros in a best of 3 series.

**9/29/20**

Visitor restrictions are getting tighter at the St. Cloud hospital and other Centracare and Carris facilities. Starting tomorrow, they'll no longer allow visitors, except for if it's an end of life situation, a critical illness, if you're a parent or guardian of a minor who's a patient, and a couple of other exceptions. The new measures are because of a new surge in virus cases, according to a press release.

Crossroads Mall was locked down for a little while yesterday afternoon because of a suspect who fled police in a stolen vehicle...then got out at the mall and went in. Police found the suspect inside and arrested him.

And an exciting day for Twins fans...they start the playoffs against the Astros this afternoon in a best of 3 series. First pitch at Target Field is set for 1 o'clock.

**9/30/20**

The bureau of criminal apprehension is investigating an incident involving a wanted suspect and St. Cloud police last night in which the suspect did not survive. No officers were injured in the incident.

A fire at Cutting Edge Grinding along Lincoln Avenue in Sauk Rapids caused irreparable damage yesterday. Though the building is still standing, it can't be salvaged. About 1 million dollars of equipment was destroyed along with another 40 thousand dollars in product. No one was hurt in the fire.

And the Twins dropped game 1 of their playoff series to the Houston Astros yesterday...they now face a must win game 2 since it's a best of 3 series. Game 2 starts just past noon today.