

News

4/1/21

Centracare's South St. Cloud urgent care location will reopen after being closed for a year because of the pandemic. It'll be available for after hours care for minor injuries and sickness.

Minnesota Farmers Saw their Highest Annual Profits in Nearly a Decade due to Rising commodity prices, good weather and two rounds of government aid.

And the Minnesota Wild lost their second straight game to the San Jose Sharks yesterday, falling 4 to 2. They'll try to get back on track tonight against the Vegas Golden Knights.

4/2/21

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help investigating a series of grass fires.

Since March 29th, the Benton County Sheriff's Office, Foley Fire Department, Sauk Rapids Fire Department, and DNR fire crews have responded to 7 grass fires burning in road ditches in Benton County. The number and frequency of these fires, along with evidence found at some of the scenes, have led investigators to believe some or all of these fires have been intentionally set.

Anyone with information about these fires or the suspect(s) is asked to contact the Benton County Sheriff's Office or Tri-County Crime Stoppers.

Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties are all under burning restrictions for the time being...the Minnesota DNR says no open burning right now because of fire risk. People who disobey that are financially liable for damage caused if the fire escapes.

For the first time since January, Minnesota has topped over 2,000 new cases of COVID-19. The Minnesota Department of Health says there were 2,140 new cases reported Wednesday.

4/5/21

If you're in the tri-county area, you may get a survey in the mail soon. It's a Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, and officials are hoping to use the information to help build a healthier community...it'll ask about everything from physical activity to financial stress to mental health issues. About 6,500 of these will be mailed out, and answers of course will be totally anonymous.

Well normally tax day would be just 10 days away...but just a reminder that the tax deadline was pushed back a month to May 17th for individual returns, it's still April 15th for business taxes.

And the Minnesota Wild host the Colorado Avalanche tonight, and will welcome back fans. 3000 fans will be allowed into Xcel Energy Center, with plenty of safety measures in place. The game starts at 7.

Like so many others, Mark wasn't able to see his elderly mom for over a year because of COVID....but that finally all changed last week. This is our good News Story of the day. Mark's mom is 98 years old, her name is Yoshia, and she lives at an assisted living facility, and last Tuesday, he was able to surprise her with a visit. Before, he'd only been able to visit through the lobby window, but that was tough...she was hard of hearing, and it just wasn't ideal. But after getting vaccinated, Mark was able to actually go into his mom's room, and see her face to face....and the look on her face was priceless....she had no idea he was coming, so she was just shocked, and ecstatic...you can look the picture up online..it's amazing...she was just so happy to see her son in person. He said that moment will be with him forever.

4/6/21

Well yesterday, St. Cloud officially got up to 84 degrees...that was a record high for April 5th, breaking the previous high of 81 from that we hit in both 1912 and 1991.

The Minnesota fishing opener WON'T be on Mother's Day weekend this year...it'll be the Saturday after it, May 15th. But for moms who fish, Minnesota is doing something special...it'll be Take a Mom Fishing weekend on May 8th and 9th, which allows moms to fish without a license.

In sports, men's college basketball crowned a new champion as Baylor took down previously undefeated Gonzaga. The Twins obliterated the Tigers 15 to 6, and the Wild fell short against the Avalanche 5 to 4.

4/7/21

Radar estimates of over 3" of rain since yesterday just northwest of the Waite Park area and estimated 5" between Orrock and Zimmerman.

The FBI is on the lookout for scammers who are selling fake COVID-19 vaccine cards, and they're also reminding you how important it is to keep your personal information off of social media, including whatever information might be on your vaccine cards. Scammers could reproduce fake cards with your information.

4/8/21

A fire at the site of the former St. Cloud Children's Home is under investigation. According to officials from the St. Cloud Fire Department, the fire started around 3:00 a.m. and Firefighters were able to contain the fire to one building on the campus.

Twins baseball is back home at Target Field, and today thousands of fans will get to sit in the seats to watch the squad take on the Seattle Mariners. 10,000 fans will be allowed in the stadium to watch the game in person with safety measures such as screening questions and zip tied seats to enforce social distancing.

State leaders are urging Minnesotans to slow down as speed related traffic fatalities are breaking records so far this year. There have been 83 traffic deaths this year in Minnesota and 33 of which were due to speeding. That's compared to 19 speeding-related deaths at this time last year.

4/9/21

The Royal Family announced this morning that Prince Philip, husband to Queen Elizabeth II, has peacefully passed away at Windsor Castle. He was 99.

Minnesota crossed the 3 million mark this week for Covid 19 vaccines administered.

The St. Cloud State men's hockey team is headed to the NCAA national It will be their first-ever National Championship game.

4/12/21

A crushing loss for St. Cloud State University hockey as they lost 5 to nothing in the NCAA National Championship game against the University of Massachusetts on Saturday night.

The MN Wild and the Twins also suffered losses over the weekend.

Brooklyn Center police say an officer involved incident Sunday during a traffic stop that resulted in the death of a 20 year old man lead to clashes between protesters and law enforcement overnight. A curfew was enacted in the city which was lifted at 6am today. Several businesses in the area had windows broken and looting take place. The BCA says the incident is under investigation.

4/13/21

In a press conference yesterday the Brooklyn Center Chief of Police said the incident involving police that resulted in the loss of life of 20 year old Daunte Wright was accidental, and that the officer meant to tase him but grabbed the wrong weapon. The incident remains under investigation by the BCA. Monday afternoon's scheduled Minnesota Twins game was postponed due to the situation and concerns of unrest, and will be made up at a later date.

Yesterday marked the start of Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota.

Each day of the annual awareness week has a theme:

- Tuesday: Severe weather, lightning and hail
- Wednesday: Floods
- Thursday: Tornadoes (Sirens will sound at 1pm)
- Friday: Extreme heat

The FDA and CDC have announced that they are calling for an immediate pause on the use of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots

4/14/21

Organizers with Joetown Rocks have decided to cancel this summer's celebration again this year due to COVID-19 concerns. The event was scheduled for July 3rd and 4th.

Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter submitted her resignation yesterday as did the police chief as the investigation continues there. At least 60 people were arrested after protesters and police clashed for a third night.

The Twins played as scheduled Tuesday and will make up Monday's postponed game as part of a doubleheader today.

The federal government has announced it will help pay funeral costs for COVID-19 related deaths. FEMA will provide up to \$9,000 for funeral expenses incurred after January 20th of last year for deaths related to coronavirus.

4/15/21

It's Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota, and today's focus is on [tornadoes](#). Sirens will sound across the state today at 1:45 and 6:45 p.m. It's a good time to discuss and practice your school, work, and home safety plans in case of a real tornado.

Former Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter is scheduled for an initial court hearing in downtown Minneapolis today. Potter is being charged with second-degree manslaughter in the death of 20 year old Daunte Wright. If convicted she could face up to 10 years in prison.

Minnesota officials extended the peacetime emergency for another 30 days in order to boost the state's response to more infectious variants of the COVID-19 virus. The federal government and 46 other states remain under emergency orders.

4/16/21

Covid-19 cases are on the rise again in Minnesota. There were 2,736 new cases reported Thursday including 273 cases locally. Statewide 700 people are currently hospitalized due to the virus.

Meanwhile the Minnesota State High School League board is asking state health officials to allow spring sports athletes to compete outdoors without wearing masks. The recommendation by the league's sports medicine advisory committee applies only to actual competition. Athletes would be required to wear masks during breaks such as before and after races and while sitting in the dugout or standing on the sidelines.

4/19/21

Closing arguments in the Derek Chauvin trial are set for this morning, followed by jury deliberations.

Even though the weather is chilly to start this week, it is tick season now....confirmed cases of Lyme disease have been trending up in Minnesota in recent years, so take precautions if you're going to be in the woods or in tall grass.

The Wild had a good weekend...they beat the Sharks both Friday and Saturday....and a tough loss for Minnesota volleyball...they fell to Pittsburgh in the NCAA tournament regional semifinal.

4/20/21

Students at more than 110 schools across Minnesota walked out of class yesterday afternoon and gathered to protest racial injustice.

The jury in Derek Chauvin's trial was sequestered yesterday to deliberate the charges Chauvin faces.

And the Minnesota Wild stretched their winning streak to four games with a 5-2 victory over the Arizona Coyotes last night.

4/21/21

The jury found Derek Chauvin guilty on all charges yesterday. Judge Peter Cahill said he expected to begin a sentencing hearing in about eight weeks.

The Minnesota Twins have had at least four positive coronavirus tests in the past week among players and staff, including right fielder Max Kepler. Everyone who has tested positive is experiencing only mild symptoms. The Twins lost yesterday's game to the Oakland Athletics 1 to nothing...they'll play them again this afternoon.

4/22/21

An increase in the child tax credit this year that will give millions of parents [\\$3,000 to \\$3,600 per child](#) could be extended to 2025 under a plan reportedly set to be unveiled in the coming days by President Biden.

A new behavioral crisis center will be built in St. Cloud after Stearns County got a 5 million dollar grant from the Minnesota Department of Health. It'll be constructed on the site of the former Central Minnesota Mental Health building, which will be demolished...the plan is to have it finished in December.

And the Minnesota Wild won their 5th straight game last night, knocking off the Arizona Coyotes 4-1.

4/23/21

New Minnesota Department of Health guidance allows students who play outdoor sports to do so without masks, though they still need to wear them when they're not actively playing.

Minnesota leaders say they're doubling down on COVID tests for middle and high school students, after an increase in coronavirus cases in children.

And the Tri-County Humane Society is kicking off their annual silent auction this morning...it's entirely online this year and it raises money to help care for animals at their new shelter. You can learn more on their website at Tri County Humane Society dot org.

4/26/21

The annual Governor's Fishing Opener isn't too far away...it's May 13-15...it's in Otter Tail County, but anyone across the state can participate through a virtual fishing competition with prizes for catching the biggest walleye.

If you're looking for a job, Metro Bus in Saint Cloud is looking for drivers. They're having an open house this Thursday...you can learn more at Recruitment at StCloudMTC dot com.

The Minnesota Wild won their 7th straight game over the weekend, beating the San Jose Sharks 6 to 3 and clinching a playoff berth in the process.

4/27/21

Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals ranked the St. Cloud hospital as the 2nd best in Minnesota, behind only Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Minnesota State Fair General Manager Jerry Hammer said that "planning is proceeding" for the 2021 Great Minnesota Get Together. He said though they don't know exactly what this year's fair will look like, they're planning for a variety of scenarios based on evolving health and safety guidelines.

You can now sign up for a COVID vaccination appointment directly at any of the statewide community vaccination sites, including the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. You can learn more at MN dot gov slash Covid 19.

4/28/21

Governor Walz said yesterday that Minnesota will NOT adopt a vaccine passport system. Walz is also expected to soon announce the easing of some COVID-19 restrictions, including capacity limits.

We've been hearing about REAL ID for a while, but US travelers now won't need it for another 2 years. Previously, the REAL ID rules were going to go into effect in October of this year, but now the Department of Homeland Security has pushed the date back to May of 2023 due to the pandemic.

And the Twins lost to the Cleveland Indians yesterday 7 to 4. That drops their record to 7 and 15 on the year.

4/29/21

Restaurants and other small businesses are getting some more help through the Small Business Administration's Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Qualifying businesses will share in the 28.6 billion dollars in emergency assistance through this fund. The application portal for this opens up tomorrow.

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, there's gonna be an Artisan Fair at the River's Edge Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday with lots of handmade items like paintings, jewelry, pottery and crafts. It's free to attend but you do need a ticket...go to EventBrite.com and look for MN Artisan Fair.

And the Wild lost a heartbreaker last night...falling 4 to 3 to the St. Louis Blues after allowing 3 third period goals, including the gamewinner with just 23 seconds left.

4/30/21

The Sartell Police Department is teaching classes about safety for kids when they're home alone. They'll cover everything from fire and kitchen safety to internet safety and making a 911 call in an emergency. A number of different first responders will be teaching.

If you're planning a summer road trip this year, it could be tougher to put fuel in your tank and might cost you more money as there are fewer truck drivers hauling fuel where it needs to go.

The first round of the NFL draft was last night...the Vikings selected offensive tackle Christian Darrisaw.

5/3/21

The Diocese of St. Cloud announced they'll be closing Holy Cross School in Marty at the end of this school year.

Something to mark on the calendar that your kids might enjoy...the EAA chapter 551 is offering free plane rides for kids 8 to 17 on Saturday May 15th at the St. Cloud airport. They're asking you to pre-register at Young Eagles Day dot org.

In sports, the Twins blasted the Royals 13-4 yesterday. The Wild just squeaked past the Blues over the weekend...4 to 3 in overtime. They'll play the Vegas Golden Knights tonight.

5/4/21

Governor Walz plans to announce loosened COVID restrictions later this week. He hasn't said specifically what will change with this week's announcement, but recently said the 2021 [Minnesota State Fair](#) would look like "a pretty close to normal event."

Speaking of normal, a St. Cloud summer staple is returning...the annual St. Cloud fireworks show will be back at Wilson Park on July 4th.

And the Minnesota Wild won a thriller last night...they scored three 3rd period goals to take down the division leading Vegas Golden Knights 6 to 5.

5/5/21

Governor Walz says he'll announce a reopening plan for the state tomorrow. He says he thinks Minnesotans can start assuming they'll have a very normal looking summer.

In his State of the City address yesterday, St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis announced that an Amazon Fulfillment Center is coming to town. It's the second Amazon Fulfillment Center in Minnesota, and the plan is to open it this year.

And the Twins lost yesterday, falling to the Texas Rangers 6 to 3.

5/6/21

Gov. Walz is set to announce the timeline for easing COVID restrictions today at noon. At last night's school board meeting, it was announced that both in-person proms and graduation ceremonies will be back for St. Cloud's District 742. And the Wild came up just short to the Vegas Golden Knights last night...they lost 3 to 2 in overtime.

5/7/21

Praising God that a scary situation had a peaceful resolution..St. Cloud Police said all five hostages are safe and a suspect is in custody following a standoff between law enforcement and the suspect at the Wells Fargo Bank at 33rd Avenue South in St. Cloud. Officials say the bank robbery suspect was known to police prior to the incident.

Governor Tim Walz revealed a three-step timeline yesterday for ending nearly all statewide COVID-19 restrictions by May 28th, and also set thresholds for ending Minnesota's mask mandate by July 1st at the latest.

And the Twins lost to the Texas Rangers yesterday 4 to 3.

5/10/21

The FDA is expected to authorize Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12-15, possibly as early as this week.

As the Minnesota Legislature enters the last full week of its 2021 session, lawmakers face tough negotiations for a balanced budget by next Monday's mandatory adjournment date.

And the Minnesota Wild had a good weekend...they beat the Anaheim Ducks twice..they'll start a two-game series with the St. Louis Blues on Wednesday night.

5/11/21

The FDA has expanded the emergency use authorization for the [Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) to children ages 12 to 15, meaning access for millions more adolescents. The Pfizer vaccine is so far still the only one approved for use in 16-to-18 year olds.

The city of Sartell still plans to hold its annual Summerfest, though it'll be a little bit different...they're calling it "Slightly Summerfest," it's from June 9th to 13th and they'll have a number of events like mini golf, the 5K diaper dash, and a city wide garage sale.

And Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota is looking for volunteers like you. One of the ways to volunteer is to be a mentor...they say You don't need any special degrees or job skills. You just have to want to positively impact a young person. You can find out more at Big Defenders dot org.

5/12/21

Minnesota will get about \$200 million dollars more than it was expecting in Federal Covid-19 Relief Aid.

The Twins say they'll increase attendance beyond 10,000 fans at Target Field starting Friday, but the ramp up to 100% capacity will take place over the next couple of months.

If you're looking for something to do to make the community a better place, Stearns County could use your help...they're looking for volunteers to help clean up litter from parks and trails. Google Stearns County Parks to learn more.

5/13/21

The St. Cloud Airport will be able to reconstruct two of its taxiways thanks to a 3.7 million dollar grant. That project should start mid-summer.

The Minnesota Department of Health said that 61 percent of Minnesotans have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

And the Wild lost 4 to nothing against the St. Louis Blues last night. They'll play them one more time tonight in their regular season finale...playoffs start next week.

5/14/21

Governor Walz is set to sign an order this morning to fully remove the statewide mask mandate after the CDC announced that fully vaccinated people can go without masks indoors. The Governor's office clarified that since the "safe learning plan" is in place, masks will be required in school through the end of the school year.

Minnesota police are cracking down on speeders starting today. They're doing this because speed related traffic-fatalities are on track to be the highest they've been in 10 years.

And the Wild rested 5 of their regular players and lost in their regular season finale to the St. Louis Blues 7 to 3 last night. They'll take on the Vegas Golden Knights in round 1 of the playoffs starting Sunday at noon.

5/17/21

Well normally it's in April, but now it's today...the deadline to have your income taxes for 2020 filed. If you're unable to file them by today, you can request an extension until October 15th. You can learn more on the IRS website.

Though the statewide mask mandate has ended, Centracare will still require masks in its facilities for the time being, saying people must remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19.

And a huge playoff win for the Minnesota Wild yesterday...they took down the Vegas Golden Knights 1 to zero in overtime for a 1 to nothing lead in the best of 7 series. Game 2 is Tuesday night.

5/18/21

The Biden administration announced yesterday that about 39 million families will start receiving child tax credit payments for the first time starting July 15th. Qualifying families will get monthly payments of up to 300 dollars for each child under 6 and 250 dollars for each child 6 to 18.

Gov. Walz and top legislative leaders came to a budget agreement yesterday that should fend off a state shutdown later this summer if all goes according to plan. Lawmakers will need a special session to wrap up details in the form of bills.

And the Twins had a rough go of it last night...they lost to the Chicago White Sox 16 to 4. They'll get another shot at them tonight. Also tonight the Wild will play game 2 of their playoff series against the Vegas Golden Knights...it's a late one...the puck drops at 9.

5/19/21

New guidance says Americans should start getting screened for colon cancer earlier, at age 45 instead of 50. It says adults at average risk of the disease should get screened from ages 45 to 75. How often depends on what type of testing they choose.

Lots of local cities are deciding whether or not to go forward with their usual summer festivities this year...you may have heard the church of St. Joseph decided NOT to host their annual Joetown Rocks event, but the city just decided they WILL still have their annual 4th of July parade. Registration opens tomorrow.

And the Wild lost game 2 of their playoff series against the Vegas Golden Knights 3 to 1 last night. The series is now even at 1 game apiece. Game 3 is back here in Minnesota at the XCEL Energy Center tomorrow night.

5/20/21

Well we pretty much just had rain here yesterday, but some parts of the state had severe weather roll through...Rice County in southern Minnesota had a confirmed tornado touchdown that did some damage to trees. Fortunately no one was injured.

Well just in time for the warm weather this weekend, the swimming quarries at Quarry Park in Waite Park are now open. Park hours are 8 AM to a half hour after sunset every day.

And the Twins fell to the White Sox 2 to 1 yesterday...meanwhile the Wild are gearing up for game 3 of their playoff series against the Vegas Golden Knights...that's tonight at 8:30 at the Xcel Energy Center.

5/21/21

The City of St. Cloud has seen an increase in vehicle thefts lately, and so they're looking to hire a full-time auto theft investigator. The city council will be asked to approve a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce for this position. As of April, over 100 vehicles have been stolen in St. Cloud this year.

If you're already looking for summer activities, here's one close to home: the Stearns History Museum is opening a World War II exhibit. It starts in about a month....June 19th.

And after a hot start, the Wild got cold and fell to the Vegas Golden Knights 5 to 2 last night. Vegas now leads the best of 7 series 2 games to 1...game 4 is tomorrow night in St. Paul.

5/24/21

The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline jumped 8 cents over the past two weeks, to \$3.10 per gallon. An industry analyst says it's due to the supply disruption from the 10-day shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline as well as a rise in corn prices.

A new program called Cops FORE kids is kicking off this summer...St. Cloud police officers will take some local kids golfing. The police department has been working with district 742 to find students who could benefit from this, and it'll get started next month.

And after losing to the Vegas Golden Knights over the weekend, the Wild find themselves in a 3-1 hole in their best of 7 series. They'll have to win the next 3 games to avoid being knocked out of the playoffs, starting with tonight's game in Las Vegas at 9:30.

5/25/21

Governor Tim Walz has asked for a statewide moment of silence at 1 PM today, marking one year since George Floyd lost his life.

Extra seat belt patrols have now started as Minnesota law enforcement kicked off the "Speaking Up about Buckling Up" campaign. 39 unbelted motorists have lost their lives this year...a 44 percent increase from this time last year.

And the Minnesota Wild forced a game 6 in their playoff series by beating the Vegas Golden Knights 4 to 2 last night. They'll play tomorrow at 8 PM in St. Paul.

5/26/21

You may have been hearing about a bear in southeast St. Cloud recently...the DNR says it's been put down. It was becoming more aggressive and had been there for a while, and attempts to chase it out of the area were unsuccessful.

Leaders in the Rocori school district say they plan to reexamine policies on bullying and discipline following reports that students of color have been targets of racist harassment.

In sports, the Twins beat the Orioles yesterday for their third straight win. And it's win or go home for the Wild tonight in a critical game 6 playoff matchup against the Vegas Golden Knights...the puck drops at 8 PM.

5/27/21

According to a press release from the Governor's office, the first 100,000 Minnesotans to get vaccinated between Memorial Day weekend and the end of June will be eligible for a wide range of vaccine incentives of their choosing, including state park passes, fishing licenses, and fair tickets.

Sporadic gasoline outages at convenience stores may become more common this summer due to a shortage of qualified fuel tanker truck drivers across the nation.

And after being down 3 to 1 in their playoff series, the Minnesota Wild have forced a winner-take-all game 7 after beating the Vegas Golden Knights 3 to nothing last night. That game will be in Las Vegas tomorrow night at 8.

5/28/21

More than a year after the state of Minnesota shut down as a precaution against the pandemic, as of this morning almost all of the statewide restrictions have been lifted. Overnight, remaining capacity limits on indoor spaces were lifted.

Xcel Energy launched a new program this week that provides up to 75% past-due forgiveness for those behind on energy bills due to the pandemic.

And it's a playoff game 7 for the Minnesota Wild tonight...they take on the Vegas Golden Knights at 8 PM. The winner advances to play the Colorado Avalanche.

6/1/21

Minnesota transportation officials have come up with a 20-year plan that they hope will encourage more walking by creating more safe spaces for pedestrians along state roads and highways.

If you have a middle or high schooler thinking about going into healthcare, Saint Cloud State University is hosting St. Cloud Scrubs Camp. It's a day camp where students can learn more about various roles within healthcare. The camp is July 14th and 15th and you can find more information on the SCSU website.

And in sports, the Twins beat the Orioles yesterday 3 to 2. They'll play them again in Baltimore tonight.

6/2/21

A sad reminder to slow down and concentrate on driving...officials say eight people lost their lives on Minnesota roads over Memorial Day weekend. 159 people have died on the roads so far this year, a 43% increase from a year ago.

As you may have heard, the St. Cloud Fireworks show is back this 4th of July, and they're looking for volunteers to help make it happen. Learn more at [St Cloud Fireworks dot org](http://StCloudFireworks.org).

And if you're planning on doing any fishing on Mille Lacs Lake anytime soon, walleye fishing there has returned to catch and release only.

6/4/21

Top Minnesota politicians are expressing confidence they'll avert a July 1st government shutdown, though they have produced little proof that they're making progress in budget negotiations.

Both Stearns County Licensing Centers are once again open for walk-ins for car, ATV, snowmobile, and boat tabs.

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity has named a new director: Chad Johnson will take over the role at the end of this month.

6/7/21

Well this heatwave has been RECORD-SETTING...St. Cloud officially reached a high of 96 on Friday, beating the previous June 4th record of 95 that was set way back in 1900. Saturday's high of 96 tied the record.

If you're gonna be travelling on Westbound I-94 between Monticello and Hasty this week, may wanna allow yourself some extra time...there'll be delays there as they work on a construction project.

It's exciting to have live theater back...you may have heard GREAT Theater is putting on a live production of Cinderella outdoors at the brand new Ledge Amphitheater in Waite Park. That debuts next month and tickets are now on sale for that at Great Theater dot org.

6/8/21

Splash pads are still open, but unfortunately all 7 wading pools in St. Cloud are closed because of a shortage of lifeguards.

A St. Cloud police officer is ok after his vehicle was hit head on earlier this week by a driver allegedly under the influence. The officer was treated for minor injuries.

And it's starting to feel like a real summer again after so much was canceled last year... the Benton County Fair is among the events that are back this year...they're planning on a very-normal looking fair in August.

6/9/21

The IRS has [released the dates](#) that you'll get your [monthly Child Tax Credit](#) payments if you're eligible and not opting out until tax time. The first is just over a month away on July 15th.

If you're looking for something to do next week, the US Police Canine Association is holding regional trials at Athlos Academy, Tech High School and Clark Field this coming Monday and Tuesday. They'll be testing the K-9 dogs agility, obedience, and a number of other categories. It's open to the public and free to watch.

And an exciting finish for the St. Cloud Rox last night...trailing by two in the ninth, they scored three runs on back to back home runs to steal a win from Rochester on the road. They're 3 and 4 on the young season.

6/10/21

Because of the drought-like weather we've been experiencing and low water levels, both Sartell and Sauk Rapids have issued temporary water bans. That means no watering is allowed on either public or private properties, and splash pads in those two cities are also closed.

Catholic Charities will once again open for in-person service starting Monday after doing walk-ups for more than a year. Services including the food shelf will be by appointment only.

And the Twins lost to the Yankees 9 to 6 yesterday...they're currently last place in their division.

6/11/21

It's Take a Kid Fishing Weekend. You can fish for free if you take a kid today through Sunday.

Governor Walz encouraged Minnesota lawmakers to put aside ideological differences and pass a budget on day one of the June special session, which starts Monday. He said the latest economic forecast came back and Minnesota is looking at an additional \$1.8 billion dollars in surplus.

And the Twins won last night...they took down the Yankees 7 to 5.

6/14/21

Minnesota crop farmers are in desperate need of rain. It's been a challenge trying to keep crops alive while much of the state is navigating abnormally dry or moderate drought-like conditions.

In case you missed the news over the weekend, the great Minnesota Get Together is officially back for this year...the State Fair is happening August 26th through Labor Day. Masks will not be required, and they don't anticipate attendance limits.

And in sports the Twins got smoked by the Astros yesterday, 14 to 3. The St. Cloud Rox had a big victory though...they beat the Eau Claire Express 9 to nothing for their 6th straight win.

6/15/21

With the drought-like conditions lately, water usage in St. Cloud has been extremely high...even breaking a record with 16 million gallons used a week ago. But the city's water capacity is still high enough that St. Cloud is NOT considering any type of water ban right now.

Sartell, meanwhile, has lifted its watering ban, but the city says residents need to stick to the odd/even schedule. They're also asking people to consider only watering 2 to 3 times per week rather than every other day, and to water between 10 PM and 2 AM so they don't get to those dangerously low water levels again.

Families who may be eligible for the [monthly Child Tax Credit payments](#) set to begin next month, but who don't normally need to file a tax return, have a new online tool to help get them set up. The IRS said yesterday the [Non-filer Sign-up tool](#) is an update to the one used last year by people who needed to get signed up to receive the COVID-19 stimulus payments. You can learn more at IRS dot gov.

6/16/21

Minnesota law enforcement handed out over 2000 tickets for seat belt violations between the end of May and early June...it was part of a Click it or Ticket crackdown.

The Red Cross has a huge need for blood donations...they're experiencing a severe shortage of blood right now. They're offering an Amazon gift card as an incentive for donors...you can learn more at RedCrossBlood dot org.

And a rough game for the Twins last night...the Mariners shut them down 10 to nothing.

6/17/21

The city of Sauk Rapids has lifted its watering ban. They're now back on their odd/even watering schedule, but residents are not allowed to water their lawns between 10 AM and 6 PM.

St. Cloud Police Officer Ryan Priebe is the recipient of the 2021 Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Officer of the Year award.

And the Twins won yesterday...they took down the Mariners 7 to 2.

6/18/21

Juneteenth has been officially recognized as a Federal Holiday...it's tomorrow, June 19th, and it commemorates when over 250,000 enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were made aware they were free, over 2 years after the emancipation proclamation.

The Minnesota DNR is stressing water safety after a big increase in boat-related fatalities...9 people have lost their lives so far this season in Minnesota. That's the most at this point of the year in over a decade.

And if you're looking for something fun to do this weekend...Little Falls has their festival today and tomorrow...Avon has their spunktacular days today and tomorrow...and though Foley Fun Days doesn't officially kick off until Monday, they have some events leading up to it this weekend.

6/21/21

State legislature has 10 days to complete 15 budget bills before shutdown

Some much needed rain yesterday. Quarter of an inch in St. Cloud still leaves us 1 ¾ inches below normal for month of June.

6/22/21

If you've got plans to fly anywhere this weekend you may want to make sure your flight hasn't been canceled. Hundreds of American Airlines flights have been canceled this weekend and Monday due to weather, labor shortages, changes in crew member schedules and a rapid increase in customer demand.

The Red Cross says a blood shortage is causing surgeries in some areas of the country to be canceled or postponed. They say the shortages are a result of surgeries that were delayed during the pandemic that are now being rescheduled, causing a backlog in supplies. Typically, the Red Cross would have five days worth of all blood types. Now their supply of O blood would last half a day. You can schedule an appointment to give blood at [red cross blood dot org](http://redcrossblood.org).

Our prayers are with the family of the man who died as a result of what police say was a random incident of violence Sunday morning in St. Cloud. 68 year old Edward Ward was a professor at St. Cloud State University. He taught in the Management and Entrepreneurship Department.

6/23/21

With just over a week remaining to the state's budget deadline and the threat of a government shutdown, lawmakers are making slow progress on a proposed two-year budget. They have made some headway in the area of education spending. Another big agreement is a plan to give bonuses to frontline workers who stayed on the job during the pandemic.

If you missed going to college sporting events last year, good news...the University of Minnesota announced they're planning to have fans at full capacity for all sports starting this fall.

And after a one year hiatus, Summertime by George is back for its 10th year...the kickoff is tonight in St. Cloud.

6/24/21

If you or someone you know loves taking pictures, the city of St. Cloud is holding a photo contest! You have to take the picture within St. Cloud city limits, and they say high priority will be given to submissions that evoke positive emotion. The winning entry gets 500 dollars.

Well this is a time where you WANT your kids to get caught by the police. Sartell and Sauk Rapids police as well as the Benton, Stearns, and Sherburne County Sheriff's Offices are on the lookout for kids wearing helmets as they're riding bikes, scooters, skateboards, and roller blades. When they find those kids, they'll issue a ticket for a free ice cream cone. This is happening all summer.

And the St. Cloud Rox are on a tear lately...they won both games of a double-header over the Willmar Stingers yesterday...they're now on an 8 game winning streak.

6/25/21

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin will be sentenced this afternoon.

Most of Minnesota is still experiencing drought conditions. In the tri-county area we're under a moderate drought, though some parts of the state are in a severe drought.

And if you love going to Twins games, they just announced their Twins pass ticket plan is on sale for home games from July through September...it costs 59 dollars per month which comes out to less than 5 dollars per game. Target Field will be at full capacity starting July 5th.

6/28/21

Minnesota lawmakers have reached the framework of a deal on police reforms and other elements of the public safety bill.

If you're traveling for the 4th of July, unfortunately gas prices still increasing...The average US price of regular-grade gasoline rose 2 cents over the past two weeks to \$3.15 per gallon.

And Gov. Tim Walz says he'll relinquish the special powers that he's been using to manage the COVID-19 pandemic by August 1, ending a peacetime state of emergency that's been in effect since March of 2020.

6/29/21

Well in St. Cloud we officially had 1 and a quarter inches of rain yesterday....we're still close to an inch below the normal amount of rainfall we'd see in June.

The Red Cross is looking for donors to help with a blood shortage across the country. They even have some thank you incentive gifts during July...you can find out more and sign up to give at Red Cross Blood dot org.

And after winning a club-record 12 straight games, the St. Cloud Rox finally lost one...they fell to the Eau Claire Express 4 to 2 yesterday. They'll get another shot at them tonight.

6/30/21

Governor Tim Walz will end his emergency powers tomorrow, July 1st.

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents have agreed to raise tuition for the first time in two years. It'll be a 1.5 percent tuition hike.

And for the first time in franchise history, a Minnesota Wild player is the NHL's Rookie of the year...Karill Kaprizov was given the honor yesterday.

A summer of adventure starts with the right vehicle from Tenvoorde Ford! Whether you're headed on a road trip out west, hauling the boat up north for the weekend, or taking the kids to the beach, Tenvoorde Ford has what you need. Both new and certified pre-owned vehicles available! Tenvoorde Ford...America's oldest family-owned Ford dealership. Online at Tenvoorde Ford dot com!

Mildred is 81 years old, but that hasn't stopped her from conquering something most of us haven't....this is our Good News Story of the Day. 81 year old Mildred just completed her second Tough Mudder. If you're not familiar with the Tough Mudder, it's an obstacle course race that pushes you to your physical and mental limits...and yeah, you definitely get muddy, but Mildred triumphantly completed not one, but TWO of these races....she did her first one back in 2019. At that time her husband was there to support her, but sadly he's since passed away, so she just did this one in his honor. And through the mud, and the water, and the obstacles, she crushed it. Mildred is a rockstar.

Freedom Hymn, Who You Say I am

Helping you celebrate freedom...Happy 4th of July Weekend, from Spirit 92 point 9.

If that guy down the street was checking to see if the flag was still there...**SFX Fireworks**...at 2 AM...sorry about that. Here's a more *encouraging* sound for your day. Spirit 92 point 9

May we think of freedom not as the right to do what we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right. Happy 4th of July weekend, from Spirit 92 point 9.

Advice from a firecracker: Shoot for the stars. Leave a little sparkle wherever you go! And have a *blast*. Happy 4th of July weekend, from Spirit 92 point 9.

Whether you're out on the lake, at the parade, or watching your kids have an impromptu hot dog eating contest...*aside* Hey! Smaller bites please!....we've got the music covered this 4th of July weekend. Spirit 92 point 9

From Munsinger (**MUN sing er**), to the quarries, to the Mississippi, white with foam, God Bless Central Minnesota...our home sweet home.

...with liberty and sparklers for all. Happy 4th of July, from Spirit 92 point 9.

MLK Speech ...Happy 4th of July weekend, from Spirit 92.9

