

KKJM Issues and Programs Quarter 1 2019

1/22/19

Even though it's been cold, make sure the ice is thick enough before taking a vehicle onto it...yesterday in Blue Earth County in the southern part of Minnesota, 4 different vehicles went through the ice on the same lake...Fortunately, everyone survived, but police are reminding us that ice should never be considered completely safe.

Well we know we have great teachers in Central Minnesota...a few of them are up for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year! Shelby Chollett from Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School, Chris Ann Johnson at Apollo High School, Nancy Davis at Rice Elementary, and Lynette Faber at John Clark Elementary in the Rocori District.

The Wild won last night...4-2 over the Vegas Golden Knights. They're now 3rd in their division.

1/23/19

Well we only got 1.3 inches of snow in St. Cloud, but the weather across the state was enough to make things pretty messy...the State Patrol says there were 232 crashes from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. yesterday on the state's highways and interstates, as well as 113 spinouts.

A bill to require motorists to use hands-free devices when talking on the phone while driving passed its first committee stop in the Minnesota Legislature yesterday. Lawmakers heard emotional testimony from several people who lost loved ones in crashes caused by distracted drivers. 16 other states and the District of Columbia already have hands-free laws.

And today marks 32 days of the partial government shutdown. That means 800,000 federal employees will miss their second paycheck. President Donald Trump signed a bill to provide back pay when the shutdown ends.

1/24/19

General Mills announced [a nationwide recall](#) of five-pound bags of Gold Medal Unbleached Flour because it could have Salmonella. They said the recalled bags have a "better if used by" date of April 20, 2020. Only five-pound bags are affected.

Now that it's tax season, St. Cloud police say be careful...this is the time of year where W-2 forms get stolen out of mailboxes and thieves then file bogus tax returns to try to get a refund check. If your company offers electronic W-2's, or you can collect a physical copy at work, those are two good options to help avoid identity theft.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has increased the speed limit on a number of two lane state highways from 55 to 60 mph. The change has already happened on some of them, and for others will be in effect as soon as signs can get posted. This is happening after a 5 year study on these roads.

1/25/19

If you're looking for some indoor fun for your kids with the extreme cold this weekend, District 742 is holding a Run and Read Event. It's for kids 1 to 5, it'll include story time, time in the gym to run around, and snacks too. It's a free event, though they are accepting donations for the food shelf....it's tomorrow from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Quarryview Education Center in Waite Park.

And you may remember in the Jayme Closs case there was a large sum of reward money for information...turkey products company Jennie-O from Jayme's hometown of Barron Wisconsin is donating their half of the reward directly to Jayme. Jennie-O President Steve Lykken says that he hopes a trust fund can be set up for Jayme's current and future needs.

In sports, the Timberwolves beat the Lakers 120-105 last night. That gets them back to .500 on the season...they're 24-24.

1/28/19

A lot of schools 2 hours late this morning because of the weather...Albany, Alexandria, Annandale, Becker, the Benton Stearns Voyager Program, Buffalo/ Lake Hector/Stewart, Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose, Dassel-Cokato, Eden Valley/Watkins, Foley Public/Parochial Schools, Glencoe/Silver Lake, HOLDingford, Hutchinson, Kimball, Litchfield, Little Falls, Long Praire/Grey Eagle, Melrose, Monticello, Osakis, Paynesville, Plerz, Rocori, Royalton, Sartell/St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids Rice, all of St. Cloud District 742, Swanville, and Upsala.

With the snow and the dangerous cold this week, it's a great idea to have a winter survival kit in your car...here's what the Minnesota Department of Public Safety says should be in it: 1.

Candles and matches

2. A knife

3. A red bandanna or cloth for signaling authorities

4. Pencil and paper

5. A whistle

6. Snacks (such as raisins, hard candy, food bars)

7. A cell phone charger

8. Flashlight

And 9. Spare batteries

The ultimate winter survival tip they say is that If you get stranded, stay in your car.

You may want to wait for a slightly warmer week, but the Hike Hoppers Park Blast is a fun way to get exercise and have fun. It's a scavenger hunt at 8 local county parks, where you search for prize codes that are 50 feet or less off the trails. There is a small fee to play...you can find out more and register at [Hike Hoppers dot org](http://HikeHoppers.org).

In sports, Gopher's men's basketball won last night, they beat #19 Iowa 92-87, and the Timberwolves fell to the Utah Jazz 125-111.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is reminding us to be prepared with this dangerous cold. A lot of this is just common sense, but they say obviously dress in layers, check on family friends and neighbors who might need help, bring your pets inside or make sure they have warm shelter and unfrozen water, and make sure your vehicle has an emergency kit.

Roads are still slick in areas from the snow we got yesterday and the extreme cold now...the Minnesota State Patrol responded to 134 crashes and 137 spin outs, just from midnight to 10:00 a.m. yesterday morning. This type of cold can lead to black ice too, so a good reminder to slow down and take our time today.

And families in need can save on dental expenses this week...kids can get their teeth cleaned for free at the St. Cloud Technical College on Friday...it's through the Give Kids a Smile Program. You can set up an appointment by calling 320-308-5919.

1/30/19

Our top story of the day...you may have seen this on social media...an Illinois police department has placed Elsa — the Queen of Arendell from the [Disney movie "Frozen"](#) — under arrest Tuesday for [bringing frigid cold temperatures](#) to the Midwest. For the first time in forever, Elsa is being punished for her crimes.

On a more serious note, no mail today. The U.S. Postal Service has joined the large list of closures. They're suspending delivery not only for Minneosta, but also for Western Wisconsin, Iowa and Western Illinois.

And hopefully you don't have to go outside much today, but in case you do it's good to be aware of the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite shows up first as redness or pain. Other signs include a white or grayish-yellow skin area, skin that feels unusually firm or waxy. Skin will also be numb. Hypothermia is marked by shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.

And in sports, even though Minnesota is pretty much canceled today, the Timberwolves and Gophers men's basketball teams will STILL be in action today down in the Cities...the Timberwolves host the Grizzlies at the Target Center at 7, and the Gophers will take on Illinois at the arena at 8.

1/31/19

Xcel Energy is urgently asking all customers to reduce their natural gas usage after the severe cold snap placed what the company calls "a significant strain" on its natural gas system. The utility provider asked Minnesota customers to temporarily reduce their thermostat settings to 63 degrees, if possible, through Thursday.

If you're using space heaters to help keep you warm, especially if you've turned your heat down like Xcel Energy requested, the MN State Fire Marshal posed these tips for safely using them. He said.

- Don't leave space heaters and other alternative heat sources **unattended**
- Keep space heaters **at least 3 feet from anything** that can catch on fire (wood, cloth, plastic, combustibles, paper, rugs, etc.)
- Plug space heaters directly into an outlet, **not an extension cord**

The city of St. Cloud wants to hear from you...there's a survey you can fill out online or via a copy they sent you in the mail...they want to hear how they're doing and how residents view St. Cloud. If you didn't get the survey in the mail, you can find it on the City of St. Cloud's website. You have through February 9th to fill it out.

2/1/19

The St. Cloud police say they've found a child who went missing yesterday. It was a scary situation....11 year old Brennan, who has high functioning autism, ran from his home yesterday, and with the temperatures and the family being new to the area, his mom called police. Fortunately a local homeowner found Brennan and took him in and let police know he was there, and he is now safe and sound.

Well now that we're on the other side of the polar vortex...let's talk about just how cold it get...one town in Minnesota ALMOST set an all time state record. The unincorporated town of Cotton, which is about 35 miles north of Duluth, dropped down to 56 below....that's just 4 degrees shy of the record of 60 below from 1996 in Tower, Minnesota. Makes our 17 degree high today look pretty balmy.

Sad news for a lot of people as the Mall of America is saying goodbye to a store that was a staple in many childhoods...the American girl store will close at the mall on March 20th. The mall will announce new tenants soon.

2/4/19

Benton County Deputies are getting body cameras soon. The cameras were just ordered after being approved in the county's budget, and will be put into use in the spring.

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, the St. Cloud area school district is holding a job fair this Thursday. They're looking for paraprofessionals, custodial staff, nutritional services, and bus drivers. They'll have onsite interviews...it's from 4 to 6 PM this Thursday at Quarryview Education Center in Waite Park.

And it feels like the movie Groundhog day...the Patriots are Super Bowl champions yet again...they beat the Los Angeles Rams 13-3 in the lowest scoring Super Bowl ever. Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman was named the game's MVP.

2/5/19

MnDOT is asking us to be more cautious around snowplows after reporting 25 crashes between vehicles and state plows already this winter. They say the main causes of these crashes are people driving too fast for conditions, driving too close to the plow, and driver inattention. The safest place you can be is well behind the snowplow and away from the snow cloud it creates.

Texting and driving could face a much more expensive penalty...Sen. David Osmek is introducing a bill to sharply increase fines for those caught texting while driving. Currently the fine for a first offense is \$50. Osmek's bill would move that to \$150 for the first offense, \$300 for the second and \$500 for the third violation, along with a 30-day driver's license suspension on the third offense.

Well it's hard to believe, but next year is already another nationwide census...they happen every 10 years, and so Minnesota officials are already coordinating efforts so that they can count every resident in the state in 2020. One of the reasons this is a big deal is because census data dictates the nearly \$8.5 billion per year in federal funding that's allocated to Minnesota, and the state [could lose](#) about \$15,000 for each uncounted resident.

2/6/19

The State of the Union address was last night...President Trump called for bipartisanship, but wouldn't yield on hard-line immigration policies, renewing his call for a border wall.

Well this is right here in our Central Minnesota Community, and it's awesome....The Clearwater Travel Plaza has been holding a variety of fundraisers for a while...they've now raised over 200 thousand dollars to help the Coborn Cancer Center in St. Cloud.

And just a reminder from the Minnesota State Patrol with this snow coming up...they say if there are flurries flying, our headlights need to be on!

And in sports the Timberwolves and Wild both lost last night...the Wolves fell to the Grizzlies 108-106, and the Wild dropped one to the Sabres in a shootout, 5 to 4.

2/7/19

More Shopko closings are on the way, and this time one of the ones in St. Cloud will be shutting down. The East side Shopko will be permanently closing on May 12th.

A couple of local students are moving on to the state spelling bee. Lydia Johnson from Sauk Rapids and India Ratha from St. Cloud took 1st and 2nd in a field of 25 students from 12 school districts. They'll compete at state later this month, and the winner of that will move on to the Scripps's National Spelling bee in May.

In sports, Gophers men's basketball dropped a close one to the Wisconsin Badgers last night 56-51. Their record is now 16-7 on the year.

Here's our good news story of the day. Sometimes the little things turn out to be the big things Like many 16 month olds, little Carter is inquisitive and friendly. And so when she and her daddy were waiting at the airport for a flight, of course this little one wanted to explore and make friends. And she walked up to this man named Joseph and said hi. And he asked if she wanted to sit with him. And so for the next 45 minutes, this man, who had never met this little one and her dad before...hung out with Carter...taught her to draw pictures on his tablet, watched cartoons with her, even accepted her generous offer to share her snacks. And her dad was so impressed by this, he posted about it on social media and it just blew up...thousands and thousands of shares....and he said "Watching them in that moment, I couldn't help but think, different genders, different races, different generations, and the best of friends. This is the world I want for her," ""Thank you for showing my daughter what kindness and compassion looks like.

2/8/19

Yesterday was pretty unbelievable in regards to the amount of crashes...the State Patrol responded to 562 crashes across the state, as well as 37 jackknifed semis and 788 vehicles that went into the ditch. THANK YOU to our law enforcement and first responders who are bravely serving when the weather gets bad like this.

St. Cloud is under a snow emergency right now...that means if you're illegally parked, you WILL be towed. It started at 12:01 this morning, and it'll go 72 hours from that point unless it's rescinded because of improved conditions, but right now...make sure you're not parked in the wrong place, or will you end up in the impound lot.

And it's no secret that the MNLARS driver licensing and vehicle registration system has had issues for a while...governor Tim Walz is trying to fix that...he signed an executive order creating a blue-ribbon council to advise state government on information technology issues, he'll also ask the Legislature for another \$16 million in the current budget to continue fixing the MNLARS system and to beef up staffing in the division that distributes license plates, vehicle titles and driver's licenses.

2/11/19

It was another busy weekend for the Minnesota State Patrol...between 6 AM and 8:30 PM yesterday, they responded to 375 crashes and 395 spinouts. Down in the cities there was a crash that involved 17 vehicles, fortunately there were no life-threatening injuries. But with another round of snow coming, let's make the State Patrol's job a little easier and drive carefully.

Police want help in finding a missing teenager and her infant son. The Waite Park Police Department says 17 year old Morgan Styke and her 9 month old son left Minnesota back in October with the baby's father, 19 year old James Spence. Family hasn't heard from her in quite a while, and there's been no traceable cell phone or bank card activity. Morgan is considered a runaway, and police just want to talk to her to make sure she's ok. Contact the Waite Park police department if you have any information.

If you're planning on surprising that special someone with flowers this week, the Better Business Bureau says be careful. This is the time of year when fake flower shops will show up online and take your money without actually delivering any flowers. The Better Business Bureau says to make sure the shop actually exists by calling or by visiting the location.

2/12/19

A few Central Minnesota schools running late because of the snow today...Mississippi Heights Elementary in Sauk Rapids is CANCELLED, not because of the snow, but because of a water main break outside of the school.

Minnesota education officials and lobbyists are surveying districts to decide whether to ask lawmakers for a shorter school year after winter weather has forced so many school closings lately. As it is now, a number of districts could fall short of the state requirement for time in school if they don't add makeup days. A spokesman for Governor Tim Walz has assured districts that they won't be punished for keeping students safe.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation says more than 40 snow plows have been hit so far this winter. They want to remind us that when those snowplows are out, like this morning, they are considered emergency vehicles, so give them plenty of room to make the roads safe for everyone.

In sports, the Timberwolves beat the LA Clippers 130-120 last night, and St. Cloud State Men's hockey is still #1 in the nation for the 4th straight week.

2/13/19

Well it definitely feels like it's been a really snowy month...we've had officially 14.1 inches for February in St. Cloud...that's close to a foot above normal so far. We have a chance to get in the top 10 snowiest Februarys ever if we get a couple more inches the second half of this month.

There's a new app that the St. Cloud Police Department will be using when they're called to situations with people struggling with mental health issues. It's called the Vitals Aware Service App, and it's free to enroll yourself or your loved ones...when enrolled, police will then have important information about someone's mental health condition and how to de-escalate a situation, which could save lives. You can find out more about the app at [The Vitals App dot com](http://TheVitalsApp.com).

Well a month ago on January 13th you might remember there was a fire at Pleasantview Elementary in Sauk Rapids. Officials still haven't determined what caused it, and no word on when the investigation will be over. The good news is plenty of donations have come in and are still coming in to help the school.

2/14/19

There's a scam letter going around...you could get this in your mailbox today. Stearns county deputies said a number of people got a letter yesterday from dot service dot com...the letters say they're about a person's Department of Transportation number which is past due and need their biennial update, and may be fined 1000 dollars per day if they don't renew. If you get this letter, it IS a scam, and you can go ahead and throw it away.

You may have heard that the store Homegoods is coming to St. Cloud...it'll be one of the businesses in the old Sears building in the mall. Sounds it'll open late this year.

And if you're a fisherman, boy this is a dream catch... Darren Troseth caught a 120 pound sturgeon while ice fishing on the St. Croix river yesterday. It's 5 inches longer and about 26

pounds heavier than the current catch and release record holder. The DNR is examining photos and measurements of the catch to determine whether it will officially break the record.

2/15/19

If you love fishing, here's another reason to be excited for summer...the Minnesota DNR says fishermen will be able to keep some walleye during the open-water season on Mille Lacs Lake this year. This is a big deal since it's the premiere walleye lake in Minnesota, and it's been catch and release there for several years in a row.

If you missed January's Super Blood Wolf Moon, make sure you set a reminder to catch this month's because it'll be the largest super moon of the year. On Tuesday early morning, 4 AM...the moon will be the closest to earth that it will be for all of 2019. They don't call this one the wolf moon...is the snow moon.

And we have some crazy, but awesome people here in Central Minnesota...hundreds of people will take the polar plunge tomorrow in Rockville to raise money for the Special Olympics. They literally cut a hole in the ice and jump in. They're hoping to raise 60 thousand dollars this year. If you wanna be part of this and find out more, visit [Plunge MN dot org](http://PlungeMN.org).

In your good news story of the day, it was a simple act of respect, but it's really touched a lot of hearts. Two young men, probably around 10-11 years old, were playing...riding around a scooter and a hoverboard, they were by the fire department, and firefighters began to raise the American flag. And these two boys stopped what they were doing, put their hands on their hearts, and recited the pledge of allegiance as the flag was being raised to full staff. A firefighter snapped a picture of this, and it has blown up on social media...thousands of shares. The fire chief there says, hey, maybe they'll even grow up to be firefighters or police officers. A simple act of respect can go a long ways.

2/26/19

It was a weekend with a lot of people getting stranded...hundreds of Minnesotans (including myself) got stuck in Northern Iowa and southern Minnesota because of awful conditions on the roads...blowing snow and lots of drifts...many roads were completely shut down for quite a while. You might have heard that even the St. Cloud State Hockey team got stuck in southern Minnesota...they spent some time at the Watonwan Jail Sunday because their bus couldn't get through. And the problems weren't just on dry land...hundreds of ice fishermen got stuck on Mille Lacs because of heavy drifting that covered ice roads...fortunately, as of last night, the DNR says everyone who needed to get back to shore had done so.

The Better Business Bureau is warning us about a phony auto dealer who's been ripping people off in Minnesota and North Dakota. It's called Superior Auto Sales, and the scam starts with a vehicle listing on Craigslist...when someone asks about the vehicle, the scammer will talk with them, then send an official looking invoice asking them to pay a 20 percent down payment. But once the money is paid, Superior disappears. The BBB reminds us don't wire money for an online vehicle purchase if you can't view and inspect the vehicle in person first or have a trustworthy third-party inspector do so for you.

2/27/19

Just a head's up if you're traveling through downtown St. Cloud today...Veterans Bridge over the Mississippi that connects 1st street north and east St. Germain street is going to be partially closed. Westbound traffic will be reduced to one lane between 9 and 4 today and tomorrow so that they can inspect it.

If your school-aged kids love their sleep, they'll like this bill being introduced by state Representative Tama Theis...the bill calls for high schools to not start classes before 8:30 AM, and also says buses have to wait 'til at least 7 AM to pick up younger, elementary aged kids. Definitely a while to wait though...IF this goes through, it wouldn't start 'til the 2021-2022 school year.

And the Wild helped their playoff chances with a big comeback win over the Winnipeg Jets last night, 3-2. They're currently in place for one of the last playoff spots.

2/28/19

As we round out a recording-breaking month of snowfall in much of Minnesota, the State Patrol says it's seeing an "alarming" number of squad cars hit by drivers. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety says 15 State Patrol squads were hit so far in February. That's the most in any month of any year on record.

With all the snow we've had, the snowmelt flood threat could be "higher than it has been in a few years," in parts of Minnesota, according to the National Weather service. The severity of floods will depend on how quickly the weather warms this spring and how much rain comes with it.

In sports, the Timberwolves lost to the Atlanta Hawks last night 131-123 in overtime. They're 11th in their conference with a record of 29-32.

3/1/19

Hard to believe with the snow expected today, but it's almost time to get those fish houses off

Minnesota's frozen lakes. The Minnesota DNR announced deadlines to remove fish houses. The first deadline is the end of the day on Monday, March 4th for lakes south of an east-west line formed by U.S. Highway 10. The deadline north of that line is the end of the day Monday, March 18. You can find more detailed information on the DNR's website

Now that February is officially over, we can officially say it was the snowiest February EVER recorded in St. Cloud, EASILY. Our final total was 27.6 inches, shattering the previous February high of 21.6 by 6 inches.

And in sports, the Wild beat the Rangers last night 4-1 for their 4th straight win. They're in 5th place in their division right now.

3/4/19

Please pray for Lee County Alabama, you may have heard they had a severe weather outbreak there...an F3 tornado swept through and took the lives of at least 23 people and caused catastrophic damage.

Stride Academy in St. Cloud is adding back middle school grades in the coming years...their board of directors voted to add 7th grade for the 2019-2020 school year, and then 8th grade the following year. Spots could be available for new students, but that will depend on how many current students re-enroll.

A St. Cloud company has invented a device called Badge Messenger to help keep schools safe. It's about the same size as a teacher's ID badge, and it has 4 buttons that can easily alert other teachers and administrative staff in events such as a medical situation, security issue, maintenance need. Badge Messenger is already being used by St. Francis Xavier school in Sartell.

3/5/19

Governor Tim Walz is making a trip to St. Cloud today. Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan will be speaking with both teachers and students at St. Cloud Technical college about their education proposal.

You may have heard the sad news that actor Luke Perry passed away yesterday after suffering a stroke last week. Strokes can hit people of any age, and the acronym BE FAST will help you remember the symptoms of a stroke. BE FAST stands for Balance, Eye movement (or vision loss), Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulties, and Time. Strokes can be reversed if medical care is given within the first few hours. Remember, it's not about pain with stroke, it's about a loss of function.

In sports, players and fans are gearing up for the 75th Minnesota State Boys hockey tournament at the Xcel Energy Center. St. Cloud Cathedral made it to State...they have their first game tomorrow, and they'll take on North Branch at 11 AM.

3/6/19

Nobody really wants to hear about it, but sounds like there could be more snow on the way this weekend...and St. Cloud is running out of space to put it. The snow dump on the east side is

2/3 covered and has piles 25 feet high, and the one on the west side is almost full. They're now looking at other sites that they wouldn't normally use, but could be forced to this year.

And you MIGHT be really happy about this if you drive on the interstate a lot...Minnesota lawmakers have revived bills that would increase penalties for people who drive too slowly in the passing lane. They call it, appropriately enough, a slowpoke violation, and the bill would raise the fine for driving too slowly in the left lane to \$100 from the current level of \$50. Once you tack on the \$75 standard surcharge for all moving violations, a slowpoke violation would total \$175.

In sports, the Wild lost in a shootout last night to the Nashville Predators...they're still in place for a playoff spot right now though. And a lot people excited today as the Boys State Hockey Tournament starts this morning. St. Cloud Cathedral takes on North Branch at 11 AM.

Today's music and programming on Spirit 92.9 is sponsored by Mike Trettel, in honor and memory of his wife Trudy. Mike writes: 4 years ago on March 7th, my wife Trudy went to be with our Heavenly Father. Trudy was one of the special gifts I received in my life. Sometimes I didn't always realize what a blessing she was, but as I continue living here, I can hardly wait to see her again, when I go home also. Trudy made lives better for everyone she met as a teacher, and with her friends. She blessed us with a son, Todd. She was a giver of love and encouragement. And although I miss her, this is all part of God's plan and it has helped me to be more like Trudy as I go through life.

Mike, thanks for sponsoring today in memory of Trudy, and we pray God brings you comfort and His peace today. To learn more about sponsoring a day, visit Spirit 92.9 dot com.

3/7/19

Tough news for longtime Jeopardy host Alex Trebek...he announced yesterday that he's been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He's promised he's going to fight it, and continue working. Support and prayer for Trebek has been pouring in from all over.

Just a reminder that this Sunday is Daylight Saving Time, so most of the country setting clocks one hour forward. Senator Marco Rubio is hoping to make the change stick. He reintroduced the Sunshine Protection Act, which would make Daylight Saving Time permanent for all of the United States, so we wouldn't "fall back" an hour in November. The bill was originally filed in 2018 but didn't advance.

And in Minnesota boys state hockey tournament action, St. Cloud Cathedral routed North Branch in the first round yesterday...they won 7 to nothing. Cathedral will take on East Grand Forks Friday morning in the semifinal game.

3/8/19

With so many school cancellations across the state this winter, The Minnesota Senate passed the "Snow Day Relief Bill" yesterday so kids don't have to spend an extra week or two in school this summer. Most districts won't be able to fit in all 165 instructional days required by state law, and so this bill would give local school boards the option of shortening their academic calendars this year only. The bill still has to go through the House.

The Minneapolis St. Paul Airport was named the best airport in North America for its size for the third year in a row by Airports Council International. The rankings are compiled based on customer surveys, with questions relating to check-in, security, restrooms, stores, restaurants and other facilities.

In sports, the Wild had a big win last night...3-0 over the best team in the league right now, the Tampa Bay Lightning. In the boys state hockey tournament, St. Cloud Cathedral takes on East Grand Forks this morning...that'll start at 11.

3/11/19

What a storm we had this weekend...the most snow across the state was in Herman and Pelican Rapids...they each got 15 inches! In St. Cloud, we only got half of that...7.5 inches.

And now that we made it through the snow, it looks like some rain is on the way this week, and the National Weather Service says it would be wise to clear out storm drains on your street. Otherwise the water won't have a place to go, and street flooding is a possibility.

And congratulations to a couple of St. Cloud teams. St. Cloud Cathedral boys hockey beat Greenwood 5-2 on Saturday to win their first EVER State Championship. And the St. Cloud State wrestling team won their second straight title over the weekend.

3/12/19

The University Crossing building on the corner of 9th Avenue North and University had its roof collapse over the weekend...the building housed a Subway and two other businesses. No one was hurt, but the city says the building is unsafe and it'll be demolished.

And on that note, experts say you should get the snow off your roof if you have huge drifts, not only because of the weight, but because clearing at least the bottom few feet allows water to get to your gutters more easily. They don't recommend climbing on your roof, but you can get a roof rake to help, or call in professionals.

Some of your kids might be excited about this...the St. Cloud city council voted last night to approve the construction contract for a new skate park after the old one was torn down to make way for Costco...they're well under budget, and they believe the park will be open this fall.

3/13/19

What a sweet scene at the St. Cloud armory yesterday as close to 160 members of the Minnesota National Guard returned from a 9 month deployment in Kuwait and got to see their loved ones again. One soldier even was able to surprise his son at St. Francis Xavier School in Sartell...and there's an amazing video of that on our Facebook page if you want to check it out.

Well if you live in St. Cloud, officials are asking for a little help in clearing off any fire hydrants near your house. Really, this goes for any city with all the snow we've gotten this year...if you see a hydrant that's covered, go ahead and clear it off...it saves firefighters valuable time in case of a fire since fires double in size every minute...they say a 3 foot by 3 foot space around the fire hydrant is what they need.

Well if you're looking ahead to warmer weather and fishing...the DNR has some good news...they say that on Mille Lacs, people will be allowed to keep some of the walleye they catch during the first three weeks of open water fishing in May. This is the first time that's been allowed since 2015.

3/14/19

Police are looking for a 2-year-old girl who could be in St. Cloud. Her name is Noelani Robinson.

The girl's father is accused of taking the life of her mother, and was arrested last night. Police are saying Noelani could be in St. Cloud or Ann Arbor Michigan...there's an Amber Alert out for her in Wisconsin, no word on whether that will be extended to Minnesota, but if you have any information, call 911.

Governor Tim Walz is in St. Cloud this morning. He's having a press conference, and also meeting with local leaders to have a roundtable discussion about his OneCare healthcare proposals.

In sports, Minnesota men's basketball starts postseason play with a Big Ten tournament game against Penn State...that's tonight at 6. They're hoping to make it to the NCAA tournament, which starts next week, and a win would certainly help their cause.

3/15/19

Waking up to some awful news out of New Zealand as 49 lives were taken there...we want to be sensitive with details since we know you may have little ones in the car with you, but praying for those who have lost loved ones, as well as first responders and law enforcement.

Well flooding has been a concern across much of the state with water pooling on roads and seeping into homes...down in Jordan Minnesota south of the Cities, hundreds of people had to be evacuated from a trailer park because of flash flooding in a nearby creek.

If you've had flooding in your home, the Better Business Bureau has some suggestions...they say while water is pretty easy to get rid of, you may want to find a pro who can detect mold in the walls or carpet. They also say see if your insurance policy covers flooding, if you're gonna hire a contractor get multiple estimates, and get a written contract from anyone you hire.

Well it's St. Patrick's day on Sunday, and for the first time in years, St. Cloud is hosting a St. Patrick's Day parade. It starts at the River's Edge Convention Center 2 PM Sunday and heads down West St. Germain Street. Sounds like there'll be bagpipers and other live music and even Irish Wolfhounds.

3/18/19

The St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown St. Cloud was a big success yesterday afternoon. A lot of people showed up and enjoyed the parade, and the nicer weather....there were bagpipers, Irish wolfhounds, and of course lots of candy for the kids.

March is colon cancer awareness month...it's a leading cause of death even though it's one of the most preventable forms of cancer...so the Coborn Healing Center has a free screening and prevention night tomorrow from 4 to 6...you can also get a free colon cancer screening test kit for all of March at the Coborn Healing Center, Coborn Cancer Center, or the Centracare Pharmacy at the St. Cloud hospital.

And this week it's March Madness...the NCAA tournament starts, and the Gophers men's basketball team made it this year...they'll play Louisville in the round of 64...that tips off Thursday morning.

3/19/19

Today is Pack the Porches food drive Friday to benefit Catholic Charities Emergency Services Food Shelf. They're collecting donations of food and cash at a number of locations in the area. We'll be talking with volunteers throughout the morning about how to get involved.

If you have Tyson frozen chicken in your freezer, there's been a recall on some of their products...they're recalling 69,000 pounds of chicken strips because they could be contaminated with metal pieces. There are some specific kinds of chicken strips that are on this recall...and you can find those on the Tyson website.

And in sports, the Gophers men's basketball team had a big win yesterday...they won their first NCAA tournament game over Louisville 86-76. They now advance to the round of 32 where they'll take on Michigan St. tomorrow.

3/25/19

It was quite the Saturday night at Anton's restaurant in Waite Park...Anton's is right along the Sauk River, and an ice dam caused a flash flood to fill the restaurant with about a foot of water in a half hour. Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Cloud fire teams joined together to ferry 44 people out of the restaurant. They say they'll open again as soon as possible.

The good news is, sounds like that was an isolated incident. Even though parts of the state may get hit hard with flooding, it looks like St. Cloud SHOULD avoid the worst of it. The Mississippi is expected to crest at 8.2 feet in the coming days, but flood stage isn't 'til 9 feet.

In sports, both the Gophers men's and women's basketball teams lost over the weekend, ending their seasons. Gophers women's hockey fell in the NCAA championship game to Wisconsin. But good news for St. Cloud St. Men's hockey...they earned the #1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament. They'll play American International in their first round game this Friday night.

3/26/19

Well they WERE saying the Mississippi in St. Cloud is not gonna reach flood stage...take THAT back...because now it's a flood warning for the Mississippi in Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne counties...that officially starts tomorrow morning. Sounds like it'll rise above flood stage, which is 9 feet, as of tomorrow, and in a few more days it'll be to 9 and a half feet. As of now though, they're saying that'll only be minor flooding.

A hands-free cell phone bill has now passed through the Minnesota senate. If it becomes law, it would ban Minnesotans from holding a phone while driving. Calls and other phone functions would have to be done in voice-activated mode only. A similar, but slightly different version of passed through the Minnesota House last week, so the House and Senate now have to reconcile their versions of the bill.

And if you or someone you know might be interested, there's a health and fitness fair tomorrow at the Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud. You'll be able to get screened for memory loss, hearing, blood pressure, and visit over 20 vendors.

3/27/19

Benton County Sheriff Troy Heck says there's a new trend among teens of breaking into empty or abandoned buildings and then taking pictures to post on social media. Five teens were arrested over the weekend for doing this near Rice. Sheriff Heck says this is extremely dangerous since there could be unforeseen hazards, and of course it's also against the law.

Bernick's Arena in Sartell is a finalist in a contest that could win it up to 150 thousand dollars to make rink improvements, and maybe even host an NHL preseason game. It's called the Kraft Hockeyville competition, and they're trying to find the communities that best demonstrate their commitment to hockey. Bernick's Arena is the only one in all of Minnesota that's a finalist, and public voting will determine the winner. Voting opens Saturday at Kraft Hockeyville dot com.

Hard to believe but the Twins regular season opener is tomorrow. They'll host the Cleveland Indians at Target Field starting at 3:10 tomorrow afternoon.

3/28/19

The accused man in the Jayme Closs case pled guilty in a court appearance this week. There will be a sentencing hearing May 24th.

Local women's shelter Anna Marie's Alliance has been awarded a 25 thousand dollar grant from the Aura Cacia 2019 Positive Change Project. Anna Marie's was one of just 6 organizations nationwide to receive this...their mission is providing safe shelter, support, and referral services for battered women and their children

And let's play ball! the Twins start their season today...they'll get things going at 3:10 this afternoon at Target Field against the Cleveland Indians. They're hoping to get back to the playoffs with new manager Rocco Baldelli after finishing sub .500 last year.

And in today's good news story, it was the surprise of a lifetime for a couple kids down in Minneapolis. Tom had gone to the Timberwolves vs. Warriors game there earlier this month with his cousin as well as his son and nephew (who are both kids), and they were staying in a hotel there. Tom grabbed some pizzas after the game for them all to eat...and he happened to hold the elevator for a few guys coming around the corner. Well what do ya know...one of them happened to be NBA Super star Kevin Durant. And Tom was talking to him, he's like "Oh my son isn't gonna believe you were in the elevator with me." And then Kevin Durant...hey let me deliver the pizza. And so they got this on video...Kevin Durant took time out of his day, and surprised Tom's son, cousin and nephew...dropped off the pizza, shook hands. It's awesome. Somebody who's famous, who's super busy...took time out of his day to give a couple people a lifelong memory.

3/29/19

After a foot of water swept in less than a week ago, Anton's Restaurant in Waite Park is re-opening later on today. They'll do a soft-opening with a limited menu. This was the first time Anton's had flooded in a decade. Fortunately there was no damage to the structure of the building.

Well people say we only have two seasons in Minnesota, winter and road construction...and we're closing in on that second one. In St. Cloud this year, there'll be a major closure at the intersection of 33rd street south and Cooper Avenue as they're building a roundabout there. And starting in Mid-May, 33rd street will also be shut down between Stearns County Roads 174 and 36.

In sports, the Twins got the 2019 season off to a great start by winning their opener yesterday...they took down the Cleveland Indians 2-0. They'll play them again tomorrow.

4/1/19

The city of Waite Park is looking to start a volunteer reserve police unit. They're expecting large crowds when they open and start holding events at their new amphitheater next summer, so volunteer police would help with things like traffic direction and crowd control. You don't have to live in Waite Park to be a part of this, but you have to be at least 18 and pass a background check. Reserve officers will get some training in defense tactics and first aid, and they'll get a uniform too.

The Minnesota Legislature officially approved "snow day relief" legislation and sent it to Gov. Tim Walz for his signature. It was a bipartisan compromise approved by both the House and Senate that gives school districts more flexibility for making up all the days they canceled this winter due to weather. Minnesota normally requires public schools to hold 165 days of classes, but this bill lets them off the hook this year only.

In sports, the Twins won yesterday, they beat the Cleveland Indians 9-3. And the Final Four is set in men's college basketball...the games are in Minneapolis this year...Texas Tech will take on Michigan St, and Virginia will play Auburn.