



Trump Mobile plans to offer other products

INSIDE, 4A

St. Cloud Times

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 | SCTIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Report: CentraCare-St. Cloud among state’s top hospitals

Corey Schmidt
St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. News and World Report released its rankings of best hospitals, and one Minnesota hospital made the “best of the best” list nationwide. CentraCare-St. Cloud Hospital also was recognized.

Twenty hospitals made the “best of the best hospitals list” compiled by U.S. News and World Report. Minnesota’s Mayo Clinic in Rochester was one of the hospitals making the cut.

The U.S. News and World Report nationwide list

Here’s the top 20 hospitals nationwide in alphabetical order, according to U.S. News and World Report:

- AdventHealth, Orlando
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles
- Cleveland Clinic

See **HOSPITAL**, Page 2A

FATHER project aids 30 at-risk families

Kevin Allenspach
Special to the St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

A recent award from the state Legislature will ensure the continuance of a program that for the past two years has made inroads in helping fathers in Central Minnesota overcome barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally.

The FATHER Project, an acronym for Fostering Actions To Help Earnings and Responsibility, received \$1.5 million for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years via an award to Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (GESMN), which administers the program in St. Cloud as well as Rochester, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The funding is down from \$2 million that the FATHER Project received from the state in 2024 and 2025. But, in an era when many government programs are being eliminated or are polarized, the legislative support showed significant bipartisan support. Senators Bobby Joe Champion, District 59 - DFL, and Mark Koran, District 28 - R, joined representatives Max Rymmer, District 28B - R, and Wayne Johnson, District 41A - R, as the chief authors of a bill. It passed during the special session by votes of 40-27 in the Senate and 96-37 in the House.

In more than two decades, the FATHER Project has served thousands of men, and a return-on-investment study by the Wilder Foundation has demonstrated that for every \$1 of investment in the program, \$3.41 is returned to the community through jobs, increased wages and child support.

“This is one of the longest running and most successful programs like this in the country,” said Andrew Freeberg, director of stability programs for GESMN, who has worked for the organization since 2001. “We realize funding can be a challenge, and we try to be creative with how we might have to expand or contract our efforts, but the main thing is that this continues to be available, to be a service for our dads who need it, and we couldn’t do it without them and the partnerships we have with employers and child support workers and other county services.”

The program, which is voluntary, was founded in 1999 by the city of Minneapolis. GESMN became involved in 2004, expanded the FATHER Project in the Twin Cities and in 2023 based additional services in Rochester and St. Cloud. The idea is to provide job search support and career development, case management, parent support groups, child support services and family activities for fathers so they can provide economic and emotional support for their children. Children without a father involved in their lives are five times more likely to experience poverty than children with two parents.

“We want to put the kids at the heart of it,” Freeberg said. “We’ve got dad’s coming to us facing a variety of issues. They may be having a problem getting or keeping a job. Perhaps they need to finish high school or overcome a criminal background. Then there are issues with family stability. Whether the fathers are married or divorced or just were in a relationship, in some manner they’re not on the same page with mom, and we try to address that in a way that’s positive and not punitive.”

Support for the FATHER Project also comes from shopping and donating items at Goodwill stores, including the one at 50 Second Ave. South in Waite Park. It’s open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10-7 on Saturday and 11-6 on Sunday.

Freeberg estimates 30 fathers are currently involved in the program in St. Cloud, among 350 across the state.

“The need for this is universal, which is why we wanted to go into places like Rochester and St. Cloud, and we hope to add virtual capacity someday,” he added. “The numbers speak for themselves as to economic impact. But the emotional impact on the fathers and their children is just as significant. That’s tougher to quantify, but we think it’s going to pay big dividends in the years to come.”



The property at 28894 Woodbrook Court in Cold Spring has been listed for nearly \$1.5 million.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY VOIGT JOHNSON

Inside Cold Spring’s new \$1.5M listing

Teagan King
St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

A unique Cold Spring home has hit the market for nearly \$1.5 million, offering a scenic and secluded getaway in central Minnesota.

The property, located at 28894 Woodbrook Court in Cold Spring, was first listed in March, taken off the market, and then returned to the market shortly after, offering a price cut for a listing price of \$1,425,000.

The 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom home is 5,932 square feet and sits on a 1-acre lot just outside of Cold Spring and St. Joseph. It was built in 2008 by Sartell custom builder Infinity Homes.

“It’s got the rustic ski chalet feel, and these current owners have updated quite a few things in the home as well,” real estate agent Tina Scepianiak of Voigt Johnson said.

The house features many renovated details, Scepianiak said. It has refinished wood floors, an updated home automation system and blackout curtains in multiple rooms, among other new additions.

On the first floor, the house’s primary bedroom overlooks the private backyard, it is attached to a large primary bathroom, has dual closets and its own sitting room. The kitchen includes custom dark-stained cabinets and granite countertops with a built-in refrigerator and walk-in pantry.

The living room features unique wood details, with a vaulted tongue and groove pine ceiling, Douglas fir beams and a stone gas fireplace with a timber mantel.

See **LISTING**, Page 2A



The living room has wood details like a vaulted tongue and groove pine ceiling.



The Woodbrook Court home has a gourmet kitchen with a built-in refrigerator and walk-in pantry.

Get the latest news, sports and more

See today’s top headlines, local breaking news, area scores, things to do and subscriber exclusives at sctimes.com.



Volume 165 | No. 44
Subscribe 877-424-4921
©2025 \$3.00

