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Rep. Emmer speaks at New Flyer visit

Teagan King

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House Majority Whip Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., paid St. Cloud a visit Thursday morning to tour the New Flyer facility and promote President Donald Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill.”

Emmer toured the bus manufacturing facility alongside Federal Transit Administration Administra-

tor Marc Molinaro and local leaders like Metro Bus CEO Ryan Daniel and former Mayor Dave Kleis, chair of the Metro Bus Board of Commissioners.

The visit was part of efforts to promote the “One Big Beautiful Bill” and the American manufacturing industry, which Emmer and Molinaro discussed on the tour, as well as the future of the Northstar commuter

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New Flyer Vice President of Manufacturing Ben Wood gives Rep. Tom Emmer, Federal Transit Administration Administrator Marc Molinaro and others a tour of New Flyer’s St. Cloud facility.

TEAGAN KING/S. CLOUD TIMES

7 Brew reveals opening plans for first coffee shop



7 Brew will open its first St. Cloud location in September. PROVIDED BY 7 BREW

Shop set to open mid-to-late September

Teagan King

St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

The wait for St. Cloud’s newest coffee chain to open is almost over.

7 Brew, a popular coffee spot, originally from Arkansas, will be opening its first St. Cloud location in mid- to late-September, owner Max Wilson confirmed.

“We’re just so excited for St. Cloud,” he said. “It’s gonna be a fantastic place to be a part of.”

The new coffee spot began construction earlier this summer on its location at the southern portion of the Crossroads Center Mall’s parking lot, next to Caribou Coffee.

The 510-square-foot coffee shop will be drive-thru only with two lanes for taking orders. Wilson said 7 Brew plans to hire about 90 employees to staff the new shop.

St. Cloud’s 7 Brew will be the chain’s third location in Minnesota after Bemidji and Moorhead. The Moorhead location opened July 28 and has seen thousands of customers a day, Wilson said, pushing the coffee shop to hire two full-time traffic directors for the drive-thru lanes.

The Moorhead location saw the biggest opening day of any 7 Brew in the country, Wilson said, and he expects a similar response to the St. Cloud location.

“St. Cloud is one that we think the community and the location are so perfect that we’ve expected that where we’re building in St. Cloud (is) going to be like this (Moorhead) or bigger,” he said.

Once 7 Brew opens next month, it will host a series of giveaways. The weekend before it opens, 7 Brew will offer six hours of free drink giveaways each day to anyone who visits, which Wilson said is a useful way to train staff and introduce St. Cloud-area customers to the business.

Customers can also take advantage of drink giveaways for three hours each day during the first week 7 Brew is open. Closer in time to opening, 7 Brew will host a giveaway for local businesses to receive a portion of 10,000 free drinks that will be delivered during the week before it opens.

“There’s a million chances to try before you buy and find your flavor and find your drink,” Wilson said.

7 Brew currently operates 353 spots nationwide, with a vast menu of over 20,000 possible drink combinations. Some of its most popular items include its energy drinks and the “Blondie,” a caramel and vanilla breve.

Teagan King covers business and development for the St. Cloud Times. She can be reached at tek-ing@gannett.com.

St. Cloud law firm opens new downtown office space

Teagan King

St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Lathrop GPM has opened its newly renovated downtown St. Cloud office following a period of renovations earlier this year.

The law firm moved into the renovated office Aug. 4 after a series of updates on its 8,511-square-foot office space at 1010 W. St. Germain St. in St. Cloud.

The renovations were focused on updating the firm’s work spaces and modernizing the office, Ryan Gerads, a partner in charge of the St. Cloud office, said.

“I’m very happy that I can stand in one corner of the office and see out all four directions, and (it is) such a beautiful view on a tall building in St. Cloud,” he said. “We’re just happy to have so much light and such a flexible space to bring our attorneys in.”

Lathrop GPM worked with architecture firm DLR Group and Greiner Construction, both based in Minneapolis.

The firm has been located in the same building for several decades, and it has maintained a presence in the St. Cloud area since the 1930s.

The team is also involved in local initiatives like the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation and Downtown Alliance, Gerads said, which made them want to keep their office downtown.

“It’s important for the St. Cloud community to have a vibrant, thriving downtown ... it was important to us to continue to invest in downtown,” he said.

Lathrop GPM is a full-service law firm with over 360 attorneys and legal professionals across 14 offices. At the St. Cloud location, the team offers legal services in areas like bankruptcy, employment, real estate and tax law.

Its downtown office building, located at 1010 W. St. Germain St., also houses Falcon National Bank, investment firm Stifel and Hall Law, among other businesses.

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Lathrop GPM has renovated and reopened their downtown St. Cloud office. PROVIDED BY LATHROP GPM

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