



# Parties trade blame for shutdown

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# St. Cloud Times

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Cold Press Cafe brings its in-house roasting and locally-sourced ingredients to Cold Spring.

TEAGAN KING/ST. CLOUD TIMES

# Cold Press Cafe offers community hub

Teagan King

St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

COLD SPRING, Minn. — In a storefront along Highway 23, Cold Spring residents and visitors can find a hometown spot for caffeine and sweet treats. The bustling coffee shop Cold Press Cafe, complete with a handwritten menu, art from local artists and flyers for events and businesses decorating the walls, features a cozy atmosphere with a unique menu. Cold Press Cafe, which opened in 2019, has since become a go to spot for central Minnesotans looking

for locally made coffee and pastries. Owner Casey Dierkhising’s wife Nikki Dierkhising had a longtime dream about opening a coffee shop in the small town. The couple had a weekly tradition of visiting St. Joseph’s The Local Blend, which led to them wondering why no such spot existed in Cold Spring. When a former credit union left the building, Dierkhising said he knew it was time to take over the space and try something new.

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# Kwik Trip to open new stores in Stearns, Sherburne counties

Corey Schmidt

St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gas station chain Kwik Trip plans to expand its presence in St. Cloud’s tri-county area, with new locations expected to open in fall 2026. Kwik Trip recently purchased land in both Stearns and Sherburne counties. Company spokesperson Ben Leibl said new locations are expected in Sauk Centre and Elk River. The Wisconsin-based company on May 1 bought land at 541 12th St. S. in Sauk Centre for \$1.5 million, according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. On April 9, its proposed Elk River location, 13655 185th Ave. NW, was acquired for \$1.17 million. Leibl told the St. Cloud Times Kwik Trip picked Sauk Centre due to its proximity to Interstate 94. He said Kwik Trip wants to expand its presence along the interstate. The Sauk Centre Store is expected to be similar to the Melrose location. Both locations are expected to employ between 30 and 40 employees, according to Leibl. Neither location will have semi-truck amenities typically offered at a truck stop.



The Kwik Trip Store No. 202 at 5339 Harding Ave. in Plover is one of 33 stores that offer Kwik Trip merchandise. CAITLIN SHUDA/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Kwik Trip is also a convenience store, with grocery items from fresh produce to eggs. It also has a hot bar with food items, ranging from cheeseburgers to chicken tenders. Construction is expected to start in 2026 for both sites, according to Leibl. Corey Schmidt covers politics and courts for the St. Cloud Times. He can be reached at cschmidt@gannett.com.

# St. Cloud’s airport gets new name, new logo

Teagan King

St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

St. Cloud’s airport has rebranded with a new name and logo this week. The St. Cloud Regional Airport is now known as St. Cloud Sky Central Airport, it announced Sept. 30, though its “STC” code will stay the same. The name change came as the airport has been exploring ways to broaden its reach and represent the broad area it serves.

“For decades, the airport has served as a vital gateway for central Minnesota, connecting people, businesses and communities,” Saint Cloud Regional Airport Authority Chair Brian Myres said at a Tuesday event announcing the name change. “And think about all of the nasty winters that it has provided a respite from for our residents of not only the three counties but for the state of Minnesota.”

The “central” in the new name is meant to represent the airport’s location in the middle of Minnesota and the country.

The name was also designed with the idea of an airport nickname in mind, resembling “O’Hare” for Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport or “Dulles” for the Washington Dulles International Airport.

“We know our name change won’t be grasped overnight,” Myres said. “But the new name and the modern new logo position us well for the future ... it’s a renewed commitment to deliver exceptional service, to invest in infrastructure and innovation and to be a proud ambassador for our region.”

The airport became a regional authority in 2021, which the new Sky Central name also aims to capture, Airport Director Bill Towle said.

“As (Sky Central) becomes the name, it gets rid of the idea that it’s just a municipal airport,” he said.

The change comes as the airport has also been working on several other projects, including a \$7 million improvement to its runway, moving the runway’s lighting and landing systems to add 500 feet. The improvement, funded through state and federal grants, is expected to be completed in November 2027.

Earlier this year, the airport shared that it was facing a roughly 5% budget deficit, or \$100,000, and it is exploring new ways to increase its revenue, such as by possibly raising parking costs from \$9 to \$11 per day. The airport is also currently seeking to implement a future tax levy in St. Cloud to address budget struggles.

Currently, the airport carries Allegiant Airlines flights to Mesa, Arizona in Punta Gorda, Florida, as well as some flights for the military and local university sports teams. It sees about 100 takeoffs and landings per day, and in peak season during the winter, it offers five flights a day to its two destinations.

The airport has also seen growing demand, with this year’s operations about equal to last year’s, which broke a travel record. It saw the most operations since 2007, and its passenger numbers were up 19% in 2024 from the year prior. Passenger growth is expected to increase.

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Airport Director Bill Towle and Saint Cloud Regional Airport Authority Chair Brian Myres discuss the Sky Central name change Sept. 30.

TEAGAN KING/ST. CLOUD TIMES

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