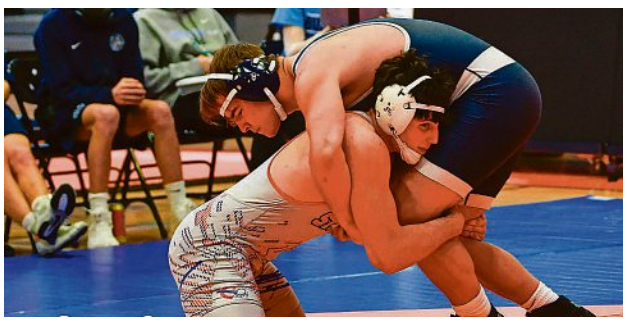

Crush captain Kenning eyes state championship

SPORTS, 1B

St. Cloud Times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 | SCTIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Robotics competition asking for volunteers

Corey Schmidt
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A robotics competition is coming to St. Cloud, and it needs volunteers.

The FIRST Robotics Competition's Granite City Regional will take place April 8 through April 11 at the River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave. S., according to Visit Greater St. Cloud. FIRST, also known as For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a nonprofit organization that aims to prepare the next generation through mentor-based robotics programing.

The FIRST Robotics Competition gives teams of high school students a kit of parts, which the teams use to design, program and build industrial-sized robots, according to the competition's website. The students' robots will play games at the competition.

Volunteers are needed to serve as

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 3A

The FIRST Robotics Competition needs volunteers April 8 through April 11 in St. Cloud. PROVIDED BY VISIT GREATER ST. CLOUD

Solus, Chris Harris, left, and A$H WAV, Ashton Petschen, will appear as a duo, Cold Blooded, at 9 p.m. on Jan. 24, at the Red Carpet's Keller Bar, 11 Fifth Ave. S., in St. Cloud. PROVIDED BY ASHTON PETSCHEN (A$H WAV)

From local schools to the Red Carpet, rappers perform

Corey Schmidt
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

St. Cloud rapper A$H WAV prepares for a high-energy show at the Red Carpet's Keller Bar Saturday, Jan. 24.

The 22-year-old headliner, whose name is Ashton Petschen, will also highlight his duo, Cold Blooded, bringing on fellow rapper Chris Harris, whose stage name is solus.

Both artists have deep ties to central Minnesota, as they reside in St. Cloud. Harris, 22, attended Sauk Rapids-Rice High School while Petschen went to Sartell High School. They've both made appearances at the Red Carpet before.

How did rappers in Cold Blooded meet?

The duo met roughly three years ago. Harris worked with Petschen's brother and got close to the family, even dating Petschen's sister at one time. The two bonded in part over music, as Petschen urged Harris to take the craft more seriously, showing him a few tricks along the way.

Petschen started his musical journey shortly before high school. He said he created a diss track, a song used to speak negatively about someone, to address bullying. Although he got in some trouble, he said, the song was a hit and became popular at school. He continued to create music since.

Harris told the St. Cloud Times he started creating music roughly a year before he met Petschen; however, his duo partner helped bring him to where he is today.

"He's brought me along under his wing, and he showed me a lot of stuff that I've never really realized or knew I could do myself," Harris said.

Even though Petschen influenced Harris' upbringing to hip-hop rap, the two have slightly different styles. Harris enjoys trap music that focuses on the beat, similar to Lil Uzi Vert, while Petschen prefers melodic music, such as Post Malone.

In a St. Cloud Times interview, the duo said the different styles create a unique high-energy mix. They said it's hard to describe but easy to see in performance, saying the melodic hits and trap beats make a high-energy performance when combined.

"You can feel the actual music instead of just hearing it," Petschen said.

That lead the duo to their favorite song, "$our M!lk," which they describe as a high-energy party anthem. "$our M!lk" was created on April 16 of last year.

"It can get the whole energy of the building up in ants (amps), and everybody is looking up at the stage wondering, 'What are these two dudes screaming about?'" Harris said.

However, "$our M!lk" isn't just about amping up the group. A youthful rage element plays a role, as Petschen

See RAPPERS, Page 3A

'Dangerously cold' temps expected in Minnesota

Chris Mueller
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The National Weather Service is predicting "dangerously cold temperatures" later this week in Minnesota, with wind chills forecast to drop to 40 below zero or colder in some areas.

The frigid temperatures – and what forecasters called the "coldest air we've seen since 2019" – are expected to arrive by the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 22 and last until the morning of Jan. 24. In St. Cloud, the 6 a.m. wind chill for Jan. 23 is forecast at 38 below zero, the weather service said.

An extreme cold warning will be in effect starting at 9 p.m. Jan. 22, with the National Weather Service warning that the dangerously cold wind

See COLD, Page 3A

Anti-ICE protest scheduled for Saturday

Corey Schmidt
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

St. Cloud residents are expected to gather Saturday to protest the surge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents deployed to Minnesota.

The protest is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, outside the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, according to Americans for Democracy founder Jill Kelly.

Saturday's protest comes after a clash took place between ICE agents and civilians on Monday, Jan. 12, at the Star City Mall, near the intersection of Third Street North and 33rd Avenue North in St. Cloud.

Roughly an hour-drive south of St. Cloud, an ICE agent shot Renee Good,

See PROTEST, Page 3A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper.
Enjoy every page by going to sctimes.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device.
You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 165 | No. 188
Subscribe 877-424-4921
©2026 $3.00