



# Dirt flies at annual Clearwater Rodeo

Cowboys and cowgirls were on center stage once again for the 42nd annual Silver Bullet Saddle Club Rodeo this weekend in Clearwater. • After a day of intermittent rain showers, the skies cleared for the first night of rodeo events Friday. • The featured act this year for all three days is trick rider/trick shooter Sophie Duch. • The band Bourbon Creek performed after Friday's rodeo. Hitchville was scheduled to play following Saturday's event, which also featured a barbecue supper before the start of the rodeo. A cowboy church service and kid's day events are planned for Sunday before the final rodeo competition at 2 p.m.



Morgan Dalchow competes in the breakaway roping event during the Silver Bullet Saddle Club's Clearwater Rodeo on Friday.



Young rodeo fans sprint during calf ribbon race during the Silver Bullet Saddle Club's Clearwater Rodeo on Friday.

Top: Mitch Muelken hits the ground during his turn at saddle bronc competition during the Silver Bullet Saddle Club's Clearwater Rodeo on Friday in Clearwater. PHOTOS BY DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

## Fighting the invasive spotted lanternfly

Michael Hill  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Stephen Nixon recently noticed a “beautiful” spotted lanternfly by his bag as he skateboarded in Brooklyn, he heeded the request of city officials.

He stomped on it. “I don’t like killing things. Not many people do. I’ll catch and release cockroaches if I find them in my apartment,” Nixon said. But he said it “seems like something worse” if the insect’s population explodes.

Kill-on-sight requests in New York City and elsewhere are a part of public campaigns to fight an invasive insect now massing and feeding on plants around much of the Eastern United States. Pretty with red wing markings, the spotted lanternfly is nonetheless a nuisance and a threat – the sort of insect that inspires people to post about squishing and stomping them on social media.



A native of Asia, the spotted lanternfly was first identified in the United States in 2014, northwest of Philadelphia. It’s likely that insect eggs came over with a load of landscaping stones. HEIDE ESTES VIA AP

### IN BRIEF

#### St. Cloud man charged with meth, cocaine possession

ST. CLOUD — A St. Cloud man is charged with three felonies after investigators with the Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force uncovered methamphetamine and cocaine at his residence Thursday, according to criminal complaints filed in Stearns County court.

James Michael Latzke, 41, faces first-degree, second-degree and third-degree felony drug charges.

According to police, Latzke sold an undercover investigator a total of 23.3 grams of meth on July 25 and Aug. 12.

On Thursday, investigators executed a search warrant at Latzke's residence as part of an ongoing investigation into his sale of controlled substances and recovered 25 grams of meth, 12 grams of cocaine, an action rifle, THC cartridges, THC gummies, marijuana and other drug paraphernalia.

Latzke was booked in the Stearns County Jail and had a court appearance Friday morning.

*Times staff report*

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