

SATURDAY
JUNE 13,
2009 K



Times of clouds
and sun

High 77 | Low 52

Complete
forecast 2A

ST. CLOUD Times



HEALING PETS

**MORE AREA VETS OFFER
HOLISTIC TREATMENTS**

**BRIDGE WORK
NEW SPAN GOES
ACROSS RIVER**

75 cents daily • \$1.50 Sunday

SCSU gets \$299K to help combat drinking

Funds will help expand the UChoose program

By David Urzua
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The U.S. Department of Education has awarded St. Cloud State University \$299,173 to expand its efforts to combat high-risk and underage drinking, the university announced Friday.

The grant, which St. Cloud State will get over the next two

years, will be used to expand and strengthen community coalitions and environmental approaches to reducing underage drinking, said Robert Reff, interim assistant dean of students for chemical health and outreach programming.

Reff runs the university's alcohol education program, UChoose. The grant will allow that program to expand to include St. Cloud Technical College students, he said. The grant also will foster the

expansion of community partnerships with the goal of engaging St. Cloud State's neighbors and students who live in off-campus housing in alcohol education efforts.

"It's really about the community and enhancing that relationship," Reff said Friday. "That's what we're excited about."

The grant would provide incentives for students to take the UChoose program. It also will be used to pay stipends to sit-

udents to act as liaisons to the community and neighborhoods around the campus, Reff said. National experts also will come to campus to teach best practices about community coalitions, he said.

His goal is to work with landlords to offer the UChoose program to students in off-campus residences. The program educates students on high-risk drinking and other dangerous behaviors.



AP photo
A customer at the Red Key Tavern in Lansing-
golis lights a cigarette.

Bill