



### Scholar-athlete

Sam Valor honored by football foundation.

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### Streak extended

Magic girls lacrosse improves to 4-0

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# MONTICELLO Times

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Covering the cities of Monticello and Big Lake, and Wright and Sherburne counties \$1

## CUTTING FOR A CAUSE

Friends, family and teammates support 12-year-old from Big Lake diagnosed with a rare form of cancer

By Jeffrey Hage | Monticello Times

**BIG LAKE** - When it comes to being among the most supportive friends in the world, a group of Big Lake kids have made the "cut."

On Monday, April 26, nearly three dozen friends of Colton Anderson shaved their heads to show they stand with their friend and teammate who is battling a rare form of cancer.

Colton, a 12-year-old who is a sixth grader at Big Lake Middle School, was recently diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a cancer that forms in the bones or soft tissue around the bones.

Most common in children and teenagers, Ewing Sarcoma most often begins in the leg bones and in the pelvis, but it can occur in any bone, according to the Mayo Clinic. Less often, it starts in the soft tissues of the chest, abdomen, limbs or other locations, the Mayo Clinic states.

In Colton's case, he recently noticed a bump on his arm. His parents Al and Melissa Anderson took Colton to the doctor after the boy stated that the bump was painful.

The doctor ordered an MRI, which revealed Colton had cancer. A biopsy confirmed that the cancer was malignant.

Next up is a bone biopsy and chemotherapy at the Masonic Children's Can-

cer Center Minnesota, located at the University of Minnesota.

Colton knows that he will more than likely lose his hair when he begins chemotherapy. So he decided to go under the clippers for a close cut to get a step ahead of the effects of the medicine.

When Colton's friends on his Hornets youth football team heard the news, they lined up to go under the clippers, too. Coaches, family friends, and other supports lined up, too.

Angie Spaeth, the mother of Colton's best friend since kindergarten, learned about Colton's diagnosis on Saturday, April 24.

She mentioned Colton's plans for a haircut to some of his football coaches- and they helped mobilize the teammates to turn out and support their friend.

"It just warped into this," Spaeth said as she looked at a fire station full of people.

"We're all here to support Colton," Spaeth said.

Lucas Evans of Clearwater has known the Anderson family for most of his life and considers them his extended family.



Colton Anderson, recently diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, cuts the hair of close family friend Lucas Evans on the night of Monday, April 26 at the Big Lake Fire Station. Dozens of friends and family members turned out to support Colton.

Photo by Jeffrey Hage / Monticello Times

Colton / See page 2

## Big Lake Police Chief tenders resignation

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

Big Lake Police Chief Joel Scharf is resigning after nearly 9 years as head of the Big Lake Police Department.

Scharf's last day as police chief will be May 27.

Scharf stated in a April 23 resignation letter that he is resigning to concentrate on his mental well-being. Scharf stated that in January he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He has been on medical leave since that diagnosis.

"Unfortunately, this diagnosis will keep me from returning to my position indefinitely," Scharf stated.

A native of Devil's Lake, North Dakota, Scharf has been involved in law enforcement his entire adult life, when he became a reserve officer with the Devil's Lake Police Department. Prior to that, he was a



Police Chief Joel Scharf

member of that police department's police explorer program.

Scharf would go on to become a member of the police departments in Grafton, North Dakota and Valley City, North Dakota before crossing the state line into Minnesota where, in 1995, he was hired as a police officer in Moorhead. Scharf would be promoted to the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant. He was also the assistant commander of the Red River Valley SWAT team.

In 2012, Scharf was hired as the chief of police in Big Lake.

Being the police chief of Big Lake has "hands down been the best part of my life," Scharf stated in his resignation letter.

He is grateful for the support he and his department have received from the Big Lake community, city administration and the city council. However, Scharf added that the greatest support he has received over the course of his career has come from his wife Sarah.

In giving a nod of support to the team comprising the Big Lake Police Department, the police chief

referred to his team as the very best officers and staff that his profession has to offer.

"It has been by sincere pleasure and honor to serve along each one of them," Scharf stated.

Scharf stated that he will always have a passion for law enforcement, calling the profession the most noble of callings.

But the profession also takes a toll on those who serve, he stated.

In his resignation letter Scharf asked city leaders to care for the city's officers and appreciate all that the profession is throwing at them in what he called these unprecedented times.

In closing, Scharf stated that it has been a pleasure to serve the City of Big Lake while adding that he is thankful for the friendships, partnerships, support, and collaboration that has continually made Big Lake one of the safest cities in Minnesota.

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## StorageLink expanding to two Monticello locations

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

The local demand for personal storage place took another turn Monday, April 26 when the Monticello City Council approved plans for an 11-building storage facility on Chelsea Road.

The City Council unanimously granted to StorageLink a development stage planned unit development and preliminary plat. Both were recommended by city staff. The council also approved rezoning to a planned unit development (PUD), a final stage PUD, a final plat and a development agreement. Those actions were not recommended by city staff, which suggested tabling those measures so more detailed plans could be received at city hall before approval.

The entire project got the green light, however, because the Council was confident proper plans and documents would be filed soon by StorageLink. By not waiting for final approval at the council's next meeting on May 10, StorageLink can also get a jump on working with contractors and such to get a valuable jump on the project.

With the city council action, StorageLink will ex-

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