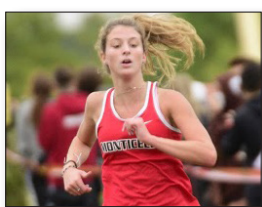




**Condo heaven**  
Your car can have its own space soon.  
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**Cool running**  
See how girls cross country fared.  
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# MONTICELLO Times

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020

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

## Leaving city job? Advance notice to be rewarded

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

*Monticello to pay those who offer advanced resignation notices*

Call it a case of helping those who help you.

The City of Monticello will be rewarding city employees who give their employer extended notice that they are leaving their jobs.

The measure has been approved by the Monticello City Council.

The idea behind the program is simple: It's often hard to find a replacement for many of the

skilled workers employed by the city. A standard two-week notice of job separation often leaves important jobs unfilled while the City seeks a replacement employee.

"It closes the gap between a resignation and new hire," Councilmember Jim Davidson said.

Davidson said he supported the program because it helps reduce the stress and overtime associated with filling a vacated

position. "We come out ahead with a program like this," Davidson said.

Under the new City of Monticello policy, an employee giving a 90 day notice would receive a one-time payment of \$1,000; \$1,500 for a 120 day notice; and \$2,000 for a 180 day notice.

There's one catch, however. The employee will have had to work for the City for five years in order to receive payment un-

der what's being called an advanced resignation notice program. The employee also has 10 days to rescind a separation agreement under the plan.

The original plan before the City Council called for 10 years of employment with the City to participate in the program. The length requirement was amended to five years.

Mayor Brian Stumpf supported the 10-year plan, noting that he believes longevity and

loyalty means something when rewarding an employee.

The measure passed 4-1 with Stumpf casting the dissenting vote.

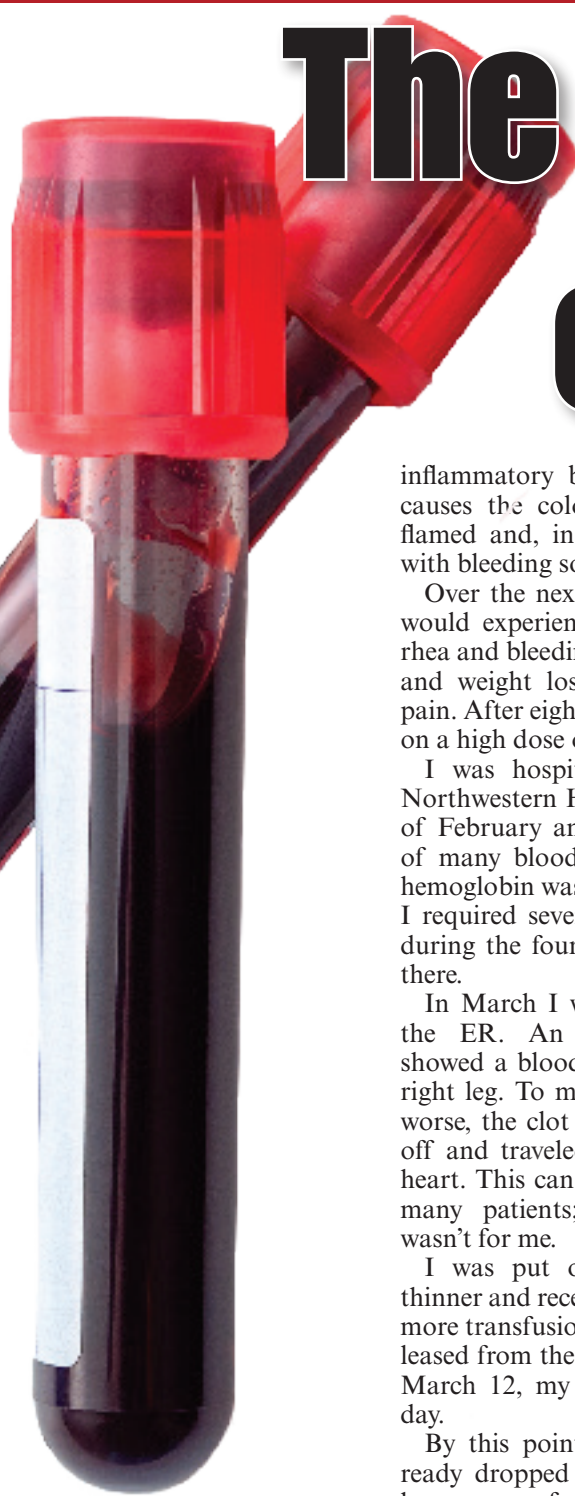
The idea for the advanced resignation notice program came earlier in the year when a retiring employee approached the city inquiring about an incentive for offering an advanced notice of his planned retirement.

Reach Jeff Hage at [jeff.hage@ecm-inc.com](mailto:jeff.hage@ecm-inc.com)

### Eli Flicker:

Blood transfusions saved my life

*Blood drive will be held Oct. 9 at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Monticello*



# The miracle of blood

inflammatory bowel disease that causes the colon to become inflamed and, in my case, covered with bleeding sores.

Over the next several months I would experience continual diarrhea and bleeding, extreme fatigue and weight loss, and abdominal pain. After eight days I went home on a high dose of steroids.

I was hospitalized at Abbott Northwestern Hospital at the end of February and needed the first of many blood transfusions. My hemoglobin was critically low, and I required several units of blood during the four days spent there.

In March I was back in the ER. An ultrasound showed a blood clot in my right leg. To make matters worse, the clot had broken off and traveled up to my heart. This can be fatal for many patients; luckily it wasn't for me.

I was put on a blood thinner and received several more transfusions. I was released from the hospital on March 12, my 19th birthday.

By this point, I had already dropped all my college courses for the semester. A few days later, schools began to shut down due to the coronavirus. Because I was immuno-suppressed, I only left the house for doctor's appointments. Along with a traditional treatment protocol, I was working with two holistic doctors trying supplements and a complete diet change. I took a turn for the worse in early April, and by the end of the month I was back in the hospital and needing more blood transfusions.

At this point, the doctors were really pressuring me to have surgery to remove my colon because none of the medications were

working. At 19, I wasn't yet emotionally ready for such a life-changing surgery, so I returned home again.

Things didn't get much better in May. I was on an extremely restricted diet, lost even more weight, and was exhausted all the time. I had more blood transfusions and another blood clot developed in my leg.

By the beginning of June, I knew my options were running out. I couldn't eat, couldn't get out of bed by myself, and weighed no more than a hundred pounds.



Eli Flicker spent 56 days in a hospital and had 25 blood transfusions. That blood saved his life. He ultimately had his whole colon removed.

I continued having diarrhea and losing more blood. On June 7th I was admitted to North Memorial Hospital, where it was determined that surgery was my only option.

Surgery to remove my whole

Blood / See page 3

Big Lake makes summer hours permanent at city hall

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

Summer is never going to end—at least at Big Lake City Hall.

The Big Lake City Council agreed to recognize summer business hours all year long in a move to better match the hours of city hall with the schedules of Big Lake residents.

Under the new hours, Big Lake City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m.

In August, the Big Lake City Council directed city staff to explore different scenarios related to hours of operation at city hall.

Utilizing an online poll on the City's Facebook page, 45 percent of respondents were in favor of the "Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m." operating hours. A static schedule of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday garnered 22 percent of the vote. Nine percent had no preference, while five percent of respondents offered an idea of their own.

"There was overwhelming support for consistent hours year-round," City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt said.

In a recommendation to the City Council, Wilfahrt stated that given the fact that in general the public and

Big Lake / See page 3

CLAYTONS APPLIANCE REPAIR  
CLAYTON'S HEATING & AIR  
1072404  
5 x 2 in

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