

# Family of Chatfield QB files suit against MSHSL 7



Victoria's 'little sister' coming to Rochester 4

Thanksgiving meal back at Salvation Army 14

# POSTBULLETIN

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## Federal teams relieve Minn. physicians

## Military personnel arrive as COVID surge continues

BY **DANA FERGUSON**  
Post Bulletin

MINNEAPOLIS — Gov. Tim Walz on Tuesday, Nov. 23, met with nearly two dozen Department of Defense doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists at Hennepin County Medical Center as they began their rotations relieving local medical staff.

The team of federal physicians stepped in to treat COVID-19 patients and take on other duties after medical staff in Minneapolis and at St. Cloud Hospital called for help to back up doctors and nurses that treat COVID-19 and have seen an influx of patients needing critical care.

As the state's new COVID-19 infection numbers peaked nationally, Minnesota hospitals strained to keep up with the demand for intensive care for the illness as well as critical injuries and sicknesses.

"Demand for emergency and life-saving care has exceeded our capacity," Hennepin Healthcare CEO Jennifer DeCubellis told reporters, noting the hospital had added 40 additional beds in an effort to meet the growing demand but still has roughly 20 calls it can't answer each day. "We've pushed ourselves as far as we can go."

The introduction of the team of Department of Defense medical team members will allow the Minneapolis hospital to add six step-down beds to relieve the intensive care unit and 10 beds that can be used after patients receive emergency care, DeCubellis said. Hennepin Healthcare doctors had previously struggled with enough staff to open up the beds.

Hennepin Healthcare and St. Cloud Hospital typically take on sicker patients from smaller hospitals but, in recent weeks, they turned away some because there

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Photos by **Brian Todd** / Post Bulletin

**Sharon Kerr, of Bellechester, holds up a sample of water taken from her tap in her home earlier this year. On Nov. 16, Kerr said the water has gotten better after maintenance done on the water lines earlier this summer, but she still feels the effects of the water contamination.**

## 'Full of rust'

### Water should at least be drinkable, resident says

BY **BRIAN TODD**  
Post Bulletin

#### BELLECHESTER

**S**haron Kerr won't drink her tap water. There's a good reason.

When she would drink the water — something she stopped doing a few years ago — she would break out in hives.

Wash her clothes? Hives. Bathe? Hives.

An allergy test at Mayo Clinic showed she can't tolerate metals. But there are metals in the water. So even if she doesn't drink the water any longer — "I drink bottled water," she said — the contaminants are in her clothes or they get on her when she showers.

Last summer, some maintenance on the water lines cleared things up somewhat, but still the problem continues, even if to a lesser degree.

"It's not as bad, except when I use hot water," she said, adding that her water heater is still filled with the



**Sharon Kerr, of Bellechester, said the discoloration of the water tank for her coffeemaker is indicative of the staining she sees on many of her household fixtures or appliances that use city water. Kerr said Nov. 16 the city's water has gotten better after maintenance done on the water lines earlier this summer, but she still feels the effects of the water contamination.**

contaminants even if the city water is somewhat cleaner.

She's on medication to clear up the problems on her skin and reduce the inflammation when it begins to itch, and despite the improvements, she doesn't

believe it's safe enough for her to consume. In fact, she still gets blisters from washing herself or her clothes.

#### WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

Kyle McKeown, the public

works employee for the city, said the city regularly tests for everything from fluoride and chloride to sodium and sulfates. The city's water test results show no violations of the federal standard for drinking water for those substances and others.

That said, McKeown added that "Bellechester's water has been rusty forever."

Eliminating the rust, he said, would likely cost much more than the city could afford.

To alleviate the problem, the city routinely flushes hydrants, which clears its water lines, twice a year — spring and fall.

For individuals who still have problems, McKeown said the solution is to let the water run for a few minutes to wash the sediment through the lines. This is especially true for homes at the end of a water line.

That, he said, is the problem faced by some residents who live in the city's mobile home court

See **WATER**, Page 12

## Family distraught after dog shot by hunter

BY **BRIAN TODD**  
Post Bulletin

PINE ISLAND — A New Haven Township family is reeling with the loss of their dog, which was shot Saturday by a hunter.

Bethany McCain said her husband, Jaimie McCain, found the dog, an Alaskan Malamute named Arie, Sunday morning after the dog had been let out about 7:30 Saturday morning. "She wandered into the woods like she usually does," Bethany McCain said. "We have 12 acres on a long, rectangular lot. He found her two properties down."

From how Arie was found, McCain said, it is clear she'd been dragged into a ravine from where she'd been shot nearby. About 15 yards from the spot where the blood trail started, McCain said, was a

hunting stand.

"The hunter saw her judging by where he shot her," McCain said.

Capt. James Schueller of the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office said investigators and Department of Natural Resources officers are working on the case.

Schueller said deputies were dispatched to the McCains' home in the 8700 block of 85th Street Northwest in New Haven Township for an animal complaint. There, deputies saw where the dog had been shot and then dragged to a ravine at a property two addresses down from where the dog's owners live.

"The DNR or the county will be following up on the case," Schueller said. "Not sure if it's a DNR, criminal or civil violation."

Schueller said a criminal violation would likely be a statute of cruelty to animals, a misdemeanor charge.

No charges have been filed, but Schueller said law enforcement knows who the shooter was.

McCain said she and her husband began to worry when Arie did not come home after being let out Saturday. Her husband called for the dog and eventually they began searching the area, even putting up posters and enlisting help from neighbors.

"Around here, everyone has dogs, and everyone knows Arie," McCain said. "We had everyone looking in blaze orange for her. We made fliers and posters."

Late Saturday, McCain said



Contributed / Bethany McCain

**Arie, a 4-year-old Alaskan Malamute, is shown with Aubrey McCain in this undated photo. The 4-year-old dog was shot and killed by a hunter Saturday.**

See **DOG**, Page 12

# Dog

From page 1

her husband spotted some blood in the field and hoped it was from a deer. The next morning, he returned and found Arie nearby, her bright blue collar pulled up around her head as if she'd been dragged.

"We brought her home and buried her," McCain said. "The sheriff's deputy agreed the hunter should have seen it was a dog."

In addition to the collar, Arie often wore an orange bandana, but wasn't wearing it that morning because it was dirty and being washed. "It's been a bit of a nightmare," McCain said. "It's been a living hell."

The family has had Arie, who was 4 years old, since she was a puppy. McCain said the dog was gentle and greeted everyone by looking for hugs and attention. As beautiful as the dog was, McCain said she had an even better personality. Now, she's concerned



**Bethany McCain and her daughter, Aubrey McCain, pose with Arie, their Alaskan Malamute. The 4-year-old dog was shot and killed by a hunter Saturday.**

for her children playing on their property. "We have kids, and our kids are always running around with their cousins, but we don't

let them in the woods during gun season," McCain said. "I'm so angry. She was the most loving and kind dog."

Contributed / Bethany McCain

# Military

From page 1

weren't spaces for them. And that has placed an additional burden on hospitals around the state as they experience longer waits prior to transfer.

"What helps Hennepin and what helps St. Cloud helps everybody from the standpoint of this constant level of illness going on," Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said. "There isn't anybody that isn't stressed right now so these first two teams will really help to balance geographic demand."

The group of federal workers is set to remain on the job in Minnesota as long as the COVID-19 emergency situation

requires their help. Malcolm said additional hospitals around the state also requested federal backup but the hospitals were selected because they were in areas where the sickest patients were looking for help.

A day earlier, Walz announced that he would activate the National Guard to send out response teams that could take pressure off of nursing homes around the state. Over the next week 400 National Guard members will train to become certified nursing assistants or temporary nursing aides and deploy to nursing homes around the state for up to three-week rotations.

The state also put up \$50 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds

to help long-term care facilities recruit and retain caregivers. Long-term care facilities for months have said they're short of employees and more recently have had to turn away new residents because they don't have enough caregivers.

That shortage has also caused a bottleneck for hospitals since they can't discharge to long-term care facilities the patients that no longer need acute medical care.

Malcolm and others on Tuesday also urged Minnesotans to test, get vaccinated and wear masks in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com

# Water

From page 1

neighborhood. That, and while the city water lines go directly to most homes in town, the city's lines go to the trailer court itself. The water lines to each home are a separate system not owned by the city.

## WHO IS TO BLAME?

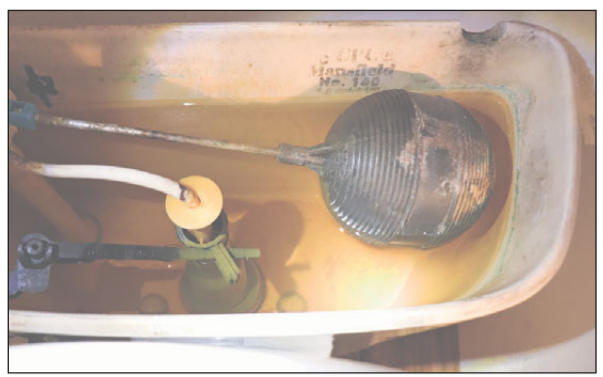
"It's always been this bad," said Keith Blattner, who has lived in the mobile home court for about 20 years.

Blattner, who is Kerr's son, said he can recall his wife complaining about the rusty water about two decades ago. "Our tanks are full of rust," Blattner said. "Our water heaters. I think the city should replace our water heaters. We didn't fill it up with rust, the pump house did that."

To combat the problem, Blattner said he's connected a water filter to where the water comes into the house. But the system, which costs nearly \$100 to install, goes through a filter every three months, and when the filter is changed, "it comes out orange."

"That's why I put in a filter," he said. "I don't care how much it costs me."

Kerr added her frustration.



Brian Todd / Post Bulletin

Sharon Kerr, of Bellechester, said the discoloration in her toilet tank is indicative of the staining she sees on many of her household fixtures or appliances that use city water. Kerr said Nov. 16 that the city's water has gotten better after maintenance done on the water lines earlier this summer, but she still feels the effects of the water contamination.

"Every time we complain, they say 'Flush it out. Flush it out,'" she said. "I'm losing appliances right and left, and I can't afford that."

## SMALL TOWN, BIG PROJECTS

It's not that the city hasn't heard the complaints. McKeown said he's been sent photos and videos of water that has rust, but to fix the issue for the whole city would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and not everyone in the city has a complaint.

Mayor Jody Gordon, who has been in her position for less than a year, said she has a business in town and lives in town, and she

drinks the water, cooks with it, washes with it, and has no problems.

The city is planning for a sewer project that will cost \$1.3 million to deal with infiltration into the sewer lines. But that's the water leaving the houses, not going to them.

Furthermore, it's hard to justify the cost when the city's water quality report shows no violations with regard to EPA standards.

Still, as the city's water rates increase, Kerr finds it troubling that she's asked to pay more for a utility she cannot use as others do.

"When I pay for water, it should at least be drinkable water," Kerr said.

# LOTTERY

- Minnesota Daily 3**  
Tuesday: 1-5-8
- Minnesota Northstar Cash**  
Tuesday: 3-17-23-24-30
- Wisconsin Supercash**  
Tuesday: 3-10-22-25-32-39  
Doublor: N
- All or Nothing**  
Tuesday: 3-4-7-8-10-11-14-15-17-20-22
- Wisconsin Badger 5**  
Tuesday: 13-18-23-30-31

- Wisconsin Pick 3**  
Tuesday: 6-0-5
- Wisconsin Pick 4**  
Tuesday: 2-6-6-7
- Mega Millions**  
Tuesday: 7-24-54-57-58  
Mega Ball: 6  
Megaplier: 3X
- Lucky for Life**  
Tuesday: 6-11-14-16-41

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**public notices**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Any charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceeding be given to the attorney general pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 501B.41, Subdivision 5.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice shall be given by:

- [x] publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper in the county where the hearing is to be held, the last publication of which is to be at least ten (10) days before the time set for hearing; and
- [x] mailing via U.S. Postal Service a copy of this Notice and Order at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date to all interested parties and parties who have filed a demand for notice.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

BY THE COURT  
/s/ Kathy M. Wallace  
Judge of District Court  
Hans Holland - Court Administrator  
Name: Dale L. Strasser  
Firm: Rodney D. Anderson Law Offices LLC  
Street: 206 S Broadway Suite 404  
City, State, ZIP: Rochester MN 55904  
Attorney License No. 0402063  
Telephone: (507) 529-2200  
FAX: (507) 288-6190  
Email: strasser.dale@rdalaw.net  
(Nov. 24 & 30, 2021) 2911749

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