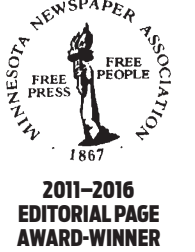


OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

New York Times did what it did; Pilot will do what it always has done

Since last week's publication by the New York Times of an anonymous opinion column allegedly written by some senior White House official, plenty of folks have wondered if they might submit such a piece to be printed in the Jackson County Pilot.

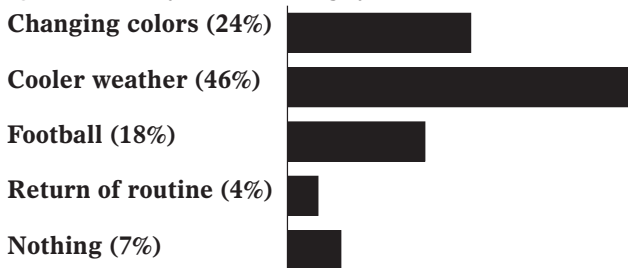
The short answer: No. The Jackson County Pilot does not accept and will not publish anonymously written letters or guest columns. Liability concerns aside, the philosophy behind this is simple: The reporters, photographers and columnists who contribute to the Jackson County Pilot put their names on their work and are accountable for it; it is expected readers interested in contributing to the marketplace of ideas via letter or guest column do the same.

Readers should not take this as a deterrent to write. Indeed, the Pilot earnestly welcomes letter-to-the-editor and guest column submissions that fit guidelines established to ensure honesty and fairness to all — among them, inclusion of name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers are never published; they are used only for author verification purposes.

The New York Times did what it did. Your Jackson County Pilot will continue to do what it does.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What do you most enjoy about fall?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: When will the fall's first frost come?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

READERS WRITE

Democrats certainly know what's happening — and just don't care

To the editor: The deaths of American citizens like Kate Steinle and Mollie Tibbetts at the hands of illegal aliens always brings out the following statistic from their Democratic defenders: Immigrants commit less crime than the general U.S. population. This sneaky attempt to change the subject does not address the fact that if the illegal aliens who committed these terrible crimes were not in the country to begin with, these women would still be alive.

The funniest part about the statistic the Democrats quote is that they undercut its believability themselves. Why do Democrats say we need sanctuary cities? Because illegal immigrants won't report crimes to the police because they are afraid of being deported. Immigrants to America traditionally settle together in groups, whether it be neighborhoods in big cities or in towns. So most of their interactions take place within their own immigrant group. Not every illegal immigrant settles in a sanctuary city. And in the case of rape, which is underreported to begin with, within some immigrant communities it is such a disgrace and cause of shame it may not get reported even if the victim does live within a sanctuary city. So, if illegal immigrants are not reporting a lot of the crimes committed within their immigrant community, how can anyone use those statistics to make them appear squeaky clean, since the Democrats themselves say their crime is underreported?

I'm not saying Democrats are in favor of Americans being crime victims of illegal aliens. I'm saying given the facts and cold, hard logic of letting anyone who wants to come into this country, they know this is going to happen, and they just don't care.

Sam Smith
Jackson

There are horrors in life, but also heroes

Members of every generation have one of those moments in history when they can pinpoint exactly where they were when it happened. For some, it was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. For others, it was the Challenger explosion. For me, it was the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. I was caught up in my own life, trying to sort out what to do next, and that day, those moments, changed life as we knew it.

In 2001, I was fresh out of high school, trying to figure out how to be an adult and failing miserably. I had just broken up with my first real boyfriend, and decided to fly to my sister's house just outside of Chicago to escape for a bit. My sister was older than I and had little ones, and I knew I'd be busy, so it seemed the perfect place to be.

But then things changed. I remember my sister telling me the news was reporting someone had bombed one of the Twin Towers. We turned on the TV and, along with the rest of the world, tried to make sense of what we were seeing. It was quickly determined a plane had actually flown into

the tower and, when the second plane hit, we were watching, tears streaming down our faces and in complete shock.

This couldn't be real, could it? The news continued all day with word of a plane hitting the Pentagon, and another plane crashing in a field in Pennsylvania. People were terrified and completely confused. What was happening? And where would something happen next?

It was surreal, watching and knowing this was not a movie; this was truly happening. I remember when the north tower collapsed and news crews were sent scrambling. Dust and debris coated everything, including the people who were running in fear for their lives. The rescue workers were racing to help those who were hurt, and suddenly there was a new horror added to the scene.

We saw something dropping from the higher windows of the building that was still standing. It wasn't — it couldn't be — but it was; it was people. I cannot even imagine being so horribly scared. That is one of the clearest memories I have — watching those people

jump. It was something so horrifying I will never be able to get out of my head.

These sorts of events shake us to our very core. People forget the little things and suddenly everyone is praying.

I sat outside of my sister's house that night and stared at the sky. Her neighborhood was a direct path to O'Hare Airport, but there was only one light in the sky that was not a star or the moon, and that was the light on a circling fighter jet. Over and over I watched one light in the sky circle and circle. It was strange to see the lack of lights in the sky, and knowing the only one there was for our protection.

So where did we go from there? To say things went back to normal would be a lie. We found a new normal that included increased security, increased fear and, sadly, the increase in paranoia. People who are different than we are or someone we might expect to be a threat based on the stereotypes thrown at us are judged based on their appearance. Sept. 11 changed our country, and the world.

Out of this horror, though, heroes emerged. The rescue workers who raced in to save people's

lives, with no regard to their own safety were heroes, and many paid with their lives. The plane that crashed in Pennsylvania had its own batch of heroes aboard. Many of the passengers found out what was happening, and they took charge. They called loved ones when able and, after, they took their lives in their hands, and stopped the terrorists from seeking out another target, instead crashing and killing those aboard the plane, but not allowing them to hurt anyone else.

There are horrors in life, but there are also heroes. The things we saw on that day in September will never leave our memories, but the heroes will always be remembered as well.

Out of fear we can find hope, because where there is evil, there will always be those who fight it.



GONE COUNTRY
Laura DeKok

What you can do about that unsafe driver

Question: What is the process for reporting an unsafe driver if you don't have a particular incident to report? I'm concerned with a bunch of things I've been noticing getting worse over time.

Answer: There are several options for you to consider:

1. Write and sign a letter to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services outlining specific concerns. DVS will

contact the driver and request he or she come in for an interview. Based on the interview, he or she may be asked to take a written and road test, submit a vision report and/or submit a doctor's statement verifying he or she is physically qualified to drive. This must be submitted within 30 days of the interview.

2. Law enforcement officers can request a review from DVS if they identify a driver who they

believe should either re-test or be evaluated by a physician.

3. DVS may allow the person to continue driving with limitations such as roadway speed, time of day or a set limit of miles from his or her home. They can also require follow-up doctor's exams.

If you have any questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota

State Patrol, at 2900 48th St. NW; Rochester, MN 55901-5848. Or reach him at Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.



ASK A TROOPER
Sgt. Troy Christianson

FACEBOOK

BREAKING: SON ACCUSED OF MURDERING MOTHER

Nicholas S. Thompson, 28, of Jackson faces three charges of felony murder stemming from the July 4 death of Rebecca Garber Thompson, 51, who died as a result of injuries sustained in the Circle Drive residence she shared with her son and mother the night of July 1.

NIKKI SPANGLER Please people be considerate with your post if you have anything negative to say keep it to yourself the family has enough grieving to do the last thing they need is to come on here and see all these negative comments and Rumour! Beck was a sweet person and she will be dearly missed!

LAURA DEKOK Thank you for saying this. People need to realize that a life was lost, and quite frankly, their opinions don't matter. This family needs love and support, not negativity and gossip.

PEGGY SUE GARBER Thank you

SARA FAUST I grew up as the neighbor to Becky's grandparents - such wonderful people - and Becky and I played together as children when she would be at her grandparents. She was a wonderful person, and this is so horrific and unfair- I can't even begin to imagine what her final conscious moments were like- so horrific.

KIMBERLY KOLANDER Prayers to the family! She was a beautiful woman!!

MICHELLE MILLER Omg she was a good friend of mine I miss her so much

KELLY KRUSE I'm so sorry Michelle.

TONYA LING So sorry, didn't know about this. Worked with her years ago. She was so nice!

JAYNE KELLAM Prayers to the family such a horrible tragedy soo sorry for your loss

LINDA KUHNAU How very very sad. Prayers to the family through this difficult time

KAREN WASHAM She was my neighbor in Sunset Beach!!!! I just can't believe this!!!!

GAIL NORRIS Prayers to you and your family, love you!

PEGGY SUE GARBER Thank you

SHANNON SPANGLER EWART So sad - thoughts and prayers to her family.

SUE KOONS So sad.

CINDY MOSLEY So sad

CANDI RETHWILL wow crazy

KARLA ANGUS Prayers for all

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— OPINIONS —
The Jackson County Pilot welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, as well as address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters should be brief, up to 300 words. The editor reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and the right to edit as needed. Submit letters in person at the Jackson County Pilot office, mail them to 310 Second St. in Jackson or email them to editor@livewireprinting.com. The deadline for letters is Monday noon. All submissions become the property of the Jackson County Pilot and may be published or otherwise used in any medium.

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