

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Need at local food shelf is all year long

For those who have never had to rely on the local food shelf, thoughts likely only turn that way once a year.

Right around the holidays, we are presented with many opportunities to donate to the local food shelf, and many of us do. But in the months preceding and following that time of year, thoughts often turn from the food shelf, and donations slide — all while demand remains very much stable.

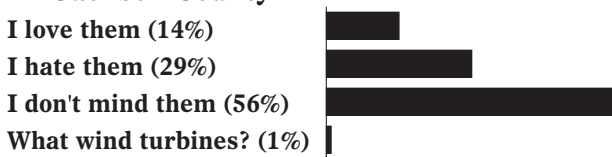
Last week was National Food Bank Week, a time aside to raise awareness of local food shelves — not only about how well they serve our community, but also what items may be needed at this time of the year.

Please continue to give around the holidays, but please also consider donating both items and time to the local food shelf other times of the year.

Maybe even this week.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What do you think of wind turbines in Jackson County?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: Who is your preferred candidate for Minnesota governor?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

The Democrats have a 'Frankenstein problem' and don't know what to do

To the editor:
In Mary Shelley's classic tale of horror, an arrogant scientist creates a monster that ultimately destroys him. I think that is a perfect analogy for what is happening now to the Democratic Party.

For two years, it has oozed hatred toward not only Donald Trump and Republicans, but also toward American values and standards that have widely guided this country for centuries. Who would ever believe the concepts of "innocent until proven guilty," "I disagree with what you say but will defend with my life your right to say it," "agreeing to disagree" and "A country without borders is not a country" would ever be challenged by any mainstream political party?

For generations, liberal professors have indoctrinated college students into the lies of socialism. After a few years in the real world — career, marriage, kids and a mortgage — most of these college students would grow up and realize what a line of bull they have been fed. Now, with more than a generation of "political correctness" being force fed to young people for their entire time in school and students living with their parents until they are almost 30, that "learning curve" has been extended. So the liberals have created a large number of young people who badly need a cranial-anal extraction as far as what life in the real world is all about.

The problem for Democrats now is the large pool of confused and angry young people isn't under their control. Do you think they are going to listen to a bunch of Democrat dinosaurs who are in their 80s? They act like a mob, breaking the law and violating all standards of civility and all Democrats can do is offer lame excuses.

Sam Smith
Jackson

How low will state law let my ride go anyway?

Question: The other night my coworker got pulled over and was given warning about ride height. It was not slammed to the ground, but the trooper said it was illegal. What is the Minnesota state law for ride height?

Answer: Minnesota law states if a vehicle's suspension has been altered by more than 6 inches either higher or lower, it is illegal, unless the bumper is modified to within the 6 inches of the original manufactured bumper height.

All passenger vehicles must be equipped

with front and rear bumpers that do not exceed a height of 20 inches on any passenger automobile or station wagon or 25 inches on any four-wheel drive multipurpose-type vehicle, van or pickup truck, when the vehicle is being operated on a public highway.

The height of the bumper shall be determined by measuring from the bottom of the bumper, excluding any vertical bumper attachments, to the ground.

A vehicle that has an original bumper and does not exceed a height

of 30 inches may be modified by attaching a full-width bumper to the original bumper to meet the height requirement. The attached bumper must be at least 4.5 inches vertically, be centered on the vehicle's centerline, extend at least 10 inches on either side of the frame and be attached to the frame in at least four places with angle braces at no less than 45 degrees so it effectively transfers impact to an extent equal to or greater than the original bumper.

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

READERS WRITE

Vote for candidates who believe health care is a basic human right

To the editor:

As registered nurses, we believe health care is a human right and we have an ethical responsibility to fight for it. We support Dan Feehan for the U.S. House of Representatives and Cheniqua Johnson and Heather Klassen for the Minnesota House of Representatives because they, too, believe accessible, affordable health care is a human right.

The gridlock in Washington is preventing any real progress on improving health care and health insurance systems. Feehan, Johnson and Klassen will make sure the challenges and opportunities of our rural communities are part of the discussion in Washington and St. Paul. Too many people in southern Minnesota don't have access to health care locally and must drive hours for the care they need. Many of our neighbors can't afford their insurance and out-of-pocket costs. The fear of "pre-existing conditions" returning is pervasive.

As registered nurses, we want to be part of a community that cares for its neighbors. Feehan, Johnson and Klassen want to expand coverage for those who still fall through the cracks in our health care system. They will fight for accessible, affordable health care for all.

Cathy Buxengard, Worthington
Kathleen Haberman, Heron Lake
Jan Jeppesen, Worthington
Deb Meyer, Worthington
Theane Pagel, Fulda
Janet Slater, Worthington
Jo Strube, Jackson

Lunch and Listen program dazzles

To the editor:

We packed a lunch and enjoyed the Jackson Center for the Arts' first Lunch and Listen program last week, with Justin Lessman at the keys of the center's newly donated piano. The piano's vintage is said to be from the late 1800s or early 1900s. There is artwork to behold on the piano's interior!

Speaking of beholding, Lessman played his guitar, as well, filling a wonderful hour with his comedy, music and sing-alongs for everyone present to enjoy. The audience was a mix of genders and ages, including a young man of 11 years or so, tapping his feet to the beat, along with all of us.

The Lunch and Listen programs will continue the third Monday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. I'm pretty sure we'll be there as often as we can.

Thank you, Jackson Center for the Arts!
Lynnda and John McNelly
Jackson

Let's prove to the rest of the nation we in Minnesota are not totally nuts

To the editor:

Holy smokes, Minnesotans; are we nuts or what? Keith Ellison is running for attorney general of our state. If elected, he will become the chief law enforcement official of Minnesota.

Is this the same Ellison who supports no borders, cop killers and the racist, anti-Semitic Louis Farrakan?

Is this the same Ellison who is accused of the sexual assault of Amy Alexander, a lady who has the 911 call to verify the incident?

Is this the same Ellison who is accused of domestic abuse by his ex-girlfriend, Karen Monahan?

If he is the same guy who did all of the misdeeds mentioned above, he is not fit to be elected to the office of attorney general of Minnesota, and his past actions prove it. Do we really want him in a statewide office overseeing law enforcement? Talk about hiring the fox to watch the hen house.

Vote for Doug Wardlow for attorney general and prove to the rest of the nation we in Minnesota are not nuts.

Mike Roberts
St. Cloud

Keep current Jackson County sheriff our sheriff for the next four years

To the editor:

After serving as a voting member on the Association of Minnesota Counties' Public Safety Policy Committee from southwest Minnesota for eight years and attending conferences with many county sheriffs as attendees and presenters, I can say with confidence Jackson County has one of the very best sheriffs in the state.

Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken is a man with an outstanding personality, which allows him to communicate with anyone at all levels. His past two years as our county sheriff and deep family ties to law enforcement uniquely qualify him to serve Jackson County as our sheriff, keeping our children, youth and all citizens safe no matter what the threat.

Haken has demonstrated the character and leadership ability to carry out with integrity the many functions related to the office of sheriff, including interaction with state agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Department of Natural Resources, along with other counties, to bring about cost-effective law enforcement and public safety to the citizens of Jackson County.

Haken's cooperation with Jackson County Emergency Management in the implementation of the Civic Ready mass notification system allows all citizens immediate notice of any crisis event.

Please join me on Election Day in supporting our incumbent sheriff.

Bill Tusa
Jackson

Forget the failed policies tried; we need proven changes implemented

To the editor:

It has been great having Bob Gunther represent us in the Legislature. He had been a state representative for many years and, as of the last redistricting, now represents half of Jackson County. Once he knew he would represent us, he immediately started meeting with those he would represent. He continues to make countless trips to the county and attends endless events. He is always available and will get back to you on any concern you have. He has helped numerous businesses with challenges of state bureaucracies. He is a champion of economic development and educating all ages for the current economy.

He has helped in Jackson to rehabilitate our library and has given a boost to Memorial Park. His accomplishments are well documented and his seniority and leadership positions have enabled him to get many bills introduced and passed.

Gunther has an opponent. She wonders why there are Democrats and Republicans, as she indicates we are all the same. She is running as a Democrat and is endorsed by the Democratic Party. Does she not know her party is running on resisting those who were elected? Individuals in this state running for office are being physically attacked because they are Republican. I was at a parade this year where a person wearing a T-shirt bearing the name of a candidate from her party was saying over and over, "Black lives matter," and "All police are racist." Do not all people's lives matter? I bet you all know police officers or deputy sheriffs who serve all, no matter their backgrounds.

Gunther has helped with legislation that helps people get health care, as that is needed because of legislation passed at a national level by people from her party.

We do not need failed policies tried. We need proven changes implemented.

Richard Koch
Jackson

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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