

# OPINION



## PILOT EDITORIAL

### No editorial today, for none is needed

There will be no editorializing here today — no admonition, no word of warning, no message of caution.

What has happened speaks louder than any words that can be written on this page.

Best friends Wyatt Henkels and Mic Ostgaard both graduated from college in Jackson last Thursday evening. Less than 36 hours later, one was dead and the other was in jail, charged with causing it.

They were two young men with their lives in front of them. For one, that life has ended; for the other, it has changed forever.

One is gone, leaving a hole in the hearts of family and friends that can never be filled. One is left behind, forever to be tortured by what happened.

And all, apparently, because of drunk driving.

There will be no editorializing here today. None is needed.

### LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

**Q: What do you think of a proposed 20-cent-per-gallon statewide gas tax increase?**



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

### THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

**Q: When is the last time you went to the dentist for a checkup?**

Vote online at [jacksoncountypilot.com](http://jacksoncountypilot.com).

## 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](mailto: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.

## Let's be kind to the poor and brokenhearted

In the history of the church, God has used the poor, the downtrodden and the folks most would not like to associate with for His purposes.

And it is those people in need who give the rest of us an opportunity to give back for the many blessings God has so kindly provided us.

There is a lot of talk today about funding for mental health or the lack thereof, and there is a lot of talk about providing for the needy too.

We have a tendency to look to the government for help when it comes to such issues. But is it the government that should be doing that type of work? I would guess most likely not.

In the past, it was the church that stepped up and answered the needs of the people in direct response to the examples

Jesus gave while walking this earth and helping people, as recorded in the Bible.

There is a story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan that goes something like this: A man was walking along the road when he was jumped by some thugs who beat him, robbed him and left him for dead along the roadside. First, a Jewish priest walked by the wounded man, looking the other way as he passed. Then a Levite, or one well-versed in the Jewish law, came upon the beaten fellow and he crossed to the other side of the road, avoiding him. But then a Samaritan, one of those people despised by the Jews, saw the man, a Jew, stooped down and tended to his wounds and then helped him to an inn. He paid the innkeeper for a room for the man

and asked him to take care of the fellow's needs until his return when he said he would pay for any other expenses the injured Jew might incur.

Jesus defines the greatest commandment, saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," then adding, "This is the great commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

In short, the Good Samaritan story exemplifies what Jesus commands, which is basically this: Do for others what you would have them do for you.

Psalm 41:1-3 states, "Oh, the joy of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble. The Lord protects them and

keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health."

That is a blessing for the Good Samaritan, and doing likewise for others, He will do that for you too. It is God's promise when you are kind to the poor, the mentally ill and the brokenhearted — and your neighbor.



**OUT AND ABOUT**  
Mike Jordan

## Words of wisdom as you install that lift kit

**Question:** I want to install a lift kit and put bigger tires on my Jeep. I want to comply with all the state laws. What is the bumper-height law and the law about tires that extend out past the fenders?

**Answer:** Anytime you make any modification or alteration to a vehicle's stock suspension and tires/rims, it can change how that vehicle handles, steers and brakes and could affect its overall performance.

Below are a list equipment violations and safety issues I have seen over the years with modified trucks:

**• Bumper height violations:** The law in Minnesota states bumper height must be within 6 inches of the factory bumper height. The maximum bumper height for 4-by-4s is 25 inches. Bumpers must be at least 4.5 inches tall and must extend 10 inches outside of each frame rail. 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 that does not exceed a height of 30 inches may be modified by attaching a full-width bumper to the regular bumper to meet the height requirement.

**• Tires exceeding past the fenders:** Installing wheels that extend outside the fenders require a fender flare. They must be at least as wide as the tires and must have a clearance of not more than 9 inches from the ground when the vehicle is empty.

**• Speeding due to larger tires/rims:** The speedometer reads how many revolutions the tires are making, not how fast they are spinning. With larger tires, the circumference of the tires are larger, meaning the distance around the tire is longer, so with each revolution you are traveling farther than before. Now, the actual speed of the vehicle is higher than the speedometer reads. It will be lower if smaller tires/rims are installed. I recommend stopping at a local auto/tire shop

so professionals can advise on how much your speedometer would be off.

**• Higher risk for a rollover crash:** Increasing the vehicle's height will increase the vehicle's center of gravity, making it less balanced. This could be a problem when taking sharp turns, as a higher center of gravity gives the vehicle a tendency to lean more, increasing the chances of rolling over or losing control. Additional modifications may be needed to correct this. Make sure to read the lift kit manufacturer's instructions when installing it yourself, or have it professionally installed.

**• Braking, steering issues, reduced blind spots and overall safety of your vehicle:** By adding larger tires and rims, the stock brake system may need to be upgraded. The front suspension may need bigger and stronger parts. Taller vehicles may increase your blind spots, as smaller vehicles may be less visible. Adding larger mirrors, relocating the current mirrors or adding a blind-

spot mirror to help see vehicles in blind spots might be necessary. It is highly recommended you consult with a professional mechanic before modifying a vehicle to assure it is safe and complies with all state laws.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober.

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](mailto:Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us).



**ASK A TROOPER**  
Sgt. Troy Christianson

## READERS WRITE

### What don't they want to control?

**To the editor:**

I realize party games aren't as popular as they once were, but the next time you and your friends get together for some fun, you might want to try this: Split up into teams and see who can come up with the longest list of areas of your life liberals/Democrats don't want to control. You can eliminate the following choices right off the top, of course: What you eat, what you drink, what kind of vehicle you drive, where you live, your ability to defend yourself, your ability to express your opinions, how many children you have,

where you send them to school, how you practice your religion, your ability to participate in fair and honest elections, your right to peacefully assemble and make public displays of your opinions, your ability to express conservative political views on social media, your ability to wear "Make America Great Again" baseball caps and T-shirts in public and, if you happen to be a well-known conservative, the ability to enjoy a night out at a restaurant, movie or play without the potential of being harassed by screaming, threatening, abusive, Trump-hating social justice warriors.

Sam Smith  
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