

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Bad times bring out much good

Stories of good often bubble to the top of bad situations — especially in our community.

It's refreshing to see that remains the case, even in the midst of a situation as bad as many of us have ever witnessed.

Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic has closed many local businesses and hurt countless others, but folks continue to support these businesses in a host of creative ways while local units of government and business associations hash out ways to provide meaningful financial assistance.

Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered schools and forced kids indoors, but faculty members continue to teach and engage via thoughtfully crafted distance-learning plans made possible in some cases by the generosity of local businesses, and outside groups have even arranged fun activities for kids to do while maintaining proper social distancing.

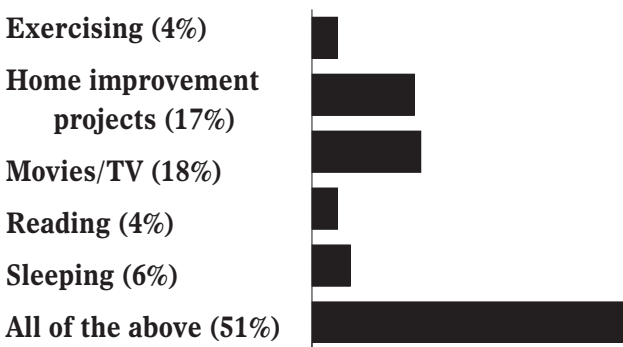
Yes, our local health care providers are operating on limited supplies of personal protective gear, but folks are responding to pleas for homemade cloth masks and one local man is even using his 3-D printer to make splatter shields for health care professionals.

Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent statewide "stay-at-home" order have spoiled many a party plan for birthday boys and girls, but local emergency responders are traveling around the county putting on birthday parades for delighted — and oftentimes surprised — celebrants.

No doubt there are other good stories out there, and no doubt others are being written right now, and will be written in the near future. Here's to those writing them, for it is that good that will help us all make it through this bad.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: How are you keeping busy while under "stay-at-home" orders?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: Will you now be wearing a mask in public?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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When we give, we receive — even when giving is difficult

It is one of the guiding principles laid out in God's word. No matter the situation we find ourselves in, when we give — never mind the size of our giving — we receive. However, the more we give, the greater we are blessed in return.

In fact, in 2 Corinthians 9:6, God says through his disciple Paul, "Remember this, a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop."

Small or generous giving still results in receiving, and that goes for everything we have, including our money, our time, our talents and abilities, our possessions and our very lives, especially when the giving benefits others in need. Today there are

hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people worldwide stepping up to help those who have contracted COVID-19 and their caregivers.

From the highest levels of government to the local medical professionals to the folks donating money to help to those at home creating masks, everyone who can is stepping up to help during this pandemic.

But with the virus seemingly far away in some areas, a few people wonder why they should bother concerning themselves about this disaster and those folks appear to be returning to live their lives as normal for now.

However, in Malakai 3:8-11, in Eugene Peterson's modern translation of the Bible,

"The Message," God, encouraging His people to return to Him, says, "You ask, but how do we return? Begin by being honest. Do honest people rob God? But you rob me day after day so you ask how have we robbed you? The tithe and the offering ... that's how! And now you are under a curse ... the whole lot of you ... because you are robbing me. Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in My Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams."

We all need to do what we can to help in this time of trouble, no matter how small, and by giving we will receive God's "blessings beyond our

wildest dreams." It is a promise from our Father in Heaven that goes even beyond Temple provisions to all of His creation as we give, we receive — even in these very troubling times that are so difficult, and so much more difficult for those suffering.

So, give as you can, in any way you can and get ready for blessings from God.



OUT AND ABOUT
Mike Jordan

A Minnesota State Patrol car of a different color

I was recently approached at a gas station and asked several questions about the state patrol squads.

I was recently issued a 2019 Dodge Charger and he noticed the color was a brighter maroon. The state patrol has a distinctive maroon paint color through Ford. The maroon paint Ford uses is custom — we are the only agency in the country using it, but with an added cost per vehicle. The color on the Dodge — Red Octane Pearl — is a factory color at no extra cost to us. The Dodge maroon is the closest color match available.

The state patrol currently has

approximately 770 marked squads and 24 specially marked squads. These squads are operated by troopers whose primary job function is road patrol. Troopers are able to choose from the Dodge Charger or the Ford Explorer, depending on what is available when a replacement is required. Both vehicles are all-wheel drive, which is necessary for Minnesota winters.

The state patrol issues new squads to troopers when the vehicle reaches approximately 120,000 miles. The retired squads are then auctioned off online to the highest bidder.

Here are the features of

the 2019 Dodge Charger Pursuit AWD:

- 5.7-liter WT V8 Hemi engine with 370 horsepower
- Variable valve timing, which helps increase fuel economy
- Specially designed and equipped for demands of law enforcement
- 18-inch steel rims
- Equipped with hands-free Uconnect Bluetooth
- Back-up camera and sensors
- Officer protection package
- 0 to 60 in 5.87 seconds
- Top speed 130-plus miles per hour
- Top speed of 800 MHZ police radio, the equivalent of 186,000 miles per second

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

Remember basic trail etiquette as spring reappears in Jackson County

To the editor:

As spring reappears with warmer temps, we would like to remind trail users about basic trail etiquette. It is great to see so many using the trails for recreational purposes, healthy goals or just as an opportunity to be outside. Please be aware of winter debris on the trails.

Basic trail etiquette:

1. Travel in the righthand lane. Be courteous if using the trail as a group. Move to the right to accommodate trail users meeting you or coming up behind you.
2. Pass on left. Be aware of your surroundings prior to passing.
3. Announce your passing to other path users.
4. Bikers and walkers should move off the path when stopping. Fixing your bike, adjusting your footwear or

visiting should be done off the trail.

5. Travel at speeds that are safe and appropriate.
6. Be courteous to other path users.
7. Keep pets under control, on a leash and clean up after them. Your pet may be friendly to you but not a stranger. Carry a disposal bag for pet droppings and dispose of properly — don't put used bags along the trail.
8. Do not litter. You can report litter/debris concerns to the city of Jackson as part of the Adopt-A-Trail Program.
9. Respect private property.
10. Do not disturb vegetation or wildlife.

We have a wonderful trail system in Jackson County. These trails are for your use. Please help us in keeping our trails usable for all.

Jeremy Bartosh
Jackson County parks/recreation supervisor
On behalf of the
Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee

Current toilet paper crisis trivial when one considers the issues we are facing

To the editor:

Perhaps I am too old or not smart enough to understand the current toilet paper pandemic. Today's toilet paper scene takes me back to the days of my youth and the building on the farm that ranked in importance with the house and the barn — the outdoor toilet. It was known by many other names, some not printable in a family newspaper. We never ran out of toilet paper products. Old catalogs and periodicals supplied reading material and toilet paper substitutes. During the summer months, the wrappers from Mother's canning peaches were folded and taken to the outhouse for use. Nothing was wasted.

For young boys growing up on the farm, the outhouse served more than its basic purpose. It was a gathering place at which to make farm boy plans, a hideout during

our cops-and-robbers shootouts, a place to eat green apples with salt and, at times, a hiding place when Mom and Dad were looking for us.

As a boy of 12, we moved to a farm that had indoor plumbing. My brothers and I thought the days of the outhouse were gone. But Mother had different ideas. The new farm had an outdoor toilet and the indoor toilet was to be used only in emergencies and the coldest of weather.

The little building is a still a part of the farm I have been blessed to live on for many years. There is no need for air fresheners, water-economy flushes or modern plumbing.

In our coronavirus lives of today, toilet paper is a trivial matter. Looking at the words from Psalm 121 help me focus better on the crisis in our country: "I lift my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Gary Natterstad
Jackson

Dems' attacks don't hold water

To the editor

Watching Democrats during this crisis has been illuminating — and scary! It's easy to call them useless in a crisis, but that isn't the half of it; they are worse than useless! "Useless" would be standing around doing nothing. "Worse than useless" would be trying to delay or prevent the people who are actually trying to fight the crisis from doing their jobs.

One of the charges against Donald Trump was "he didn't act fast enough and downplayed the severity of the virus." There is a tweet from the World Health Organization dated Jan. 14, which downplays the possibility of human-to-human transmission, yet if you go to the WHO website, it doesn't begin the timeline of COVID-19 until Jan 30. Interesting. Almost like it wants people to forget that earlier tweet.

Donald Trump issued his China travel ban on Jan 31, to begin Feb 2. He was called a racist and xenophobe for doing that by Democrats and the media. Nancy Pelosi urged people to flock to Chinatown, a wonderful way to increase the spread of the virus. We now know that travel ban saved many American lives. So, if Trump were slow to react in the beginning, it was because he did the very thing everyone in the media is screaming at him to do — follow the advice of the scientists and medical professionals! The fact there are drugs that have been in use for decades that seem to be effective in treating this disease but were being slow-walked to the frontlines until Trump applied a long-overdue boot to the collective rear ends of some of those same "experts" is something to be cheered!

Sam Smith
Jackson

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