

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Local youth boosters step up big with expo

Local youth boosters have done it again.

Not content to sit idly by while youth livestock exhibitors across the state mourn the loss of the opportunity to show at this year's Minnesota State Fair, they went out and created an alternative — the Minnesota Youth Livestock Expo.

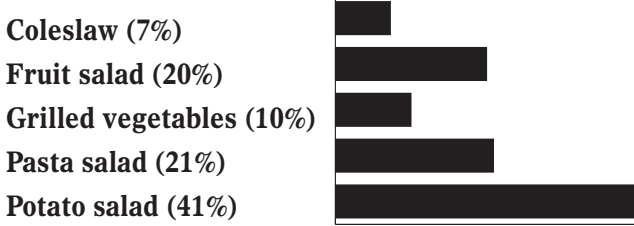
In many ways, the expo will trump the state fair — open to all Minnesota residents ages 8 to 21, no qualifying necessary, no club or chapter affiliation necessary, no need to drive livestock trailers into downtown St. Paul and no need to rent expensive hotel rooms or buy tickets to gain entry to the show.

An extraordinary amount of work has gone into planning the expo thus far, and even more will be required to pull it off.

The local youth boosters putting in all this work certainly didn't have to step forward and do any of it. But they did, and for the benefit of youth livestock exhibitors across the state.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What's your favorite summertime side dish?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What's your favorite sauce?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

READERS WRITE

We must acknowledge wrongs and be catalysts for the change we seek

To the editor:
Sam Smith's June 4 letter exemplifies the politics that divide large cities and rural communities.

Yes, there were many to blame for the rioting that occurred in Minneapolis in late May. The catalyst was the murder of an unarmed black man by a police officer. Yes, there was an angry response by protesters over the following week.

I live 13 blocks from Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue where the Third Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department was breached and burned. On the first night, the police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowds who vandalized some parked police cars. By the next night, people who do not live in our city arrived with bats and Molotov cocktails. One man handed out "bombs" to protesters to throw at the police. Another broke out all the windows in an auto store. Others started fires. These men were white and were not here to protest the death of George Floyd. They encouraged violence and then disappeared into the crowds. They terrorized our city for three more nights. Neighbors stayed up all night and guarded businesses because the police and fire department were overwhelmed. The decision was made to abandon the precinct rather than risk extensive loss of life. Many buildings were looted and burned.

These events affected the entire country. Racism in America is real. Police brutality in large cities is real.

One thing we all need to do is to listen — listen to the stories of police brutality, listen to the voices of people who live in cities and rural towns, listen to the protesters peacefully calling for change, listen to each other. Stop blaming victims of police brutality. Start acknowledging America has a long history of systemic racism and economic inequality. Stop listening to people who want to further divide our country.

Molly Wells
Minneapolis

When dust settles, what will we have learned?

It is safe to say 2020 will be a year highlighted in the history books. Young people today will raise their children with references to the pandemic and all that came with it. Households of differing political affiliations will have different stories about how and why the events of 2020 happened.

The year is not even half over, and we already have a global pandemic, widespread protests about police brutality, an election year and raging debates about race, globalization, economic systems and the path this country of ours will take.

I think we must always be careful when engaging in such debates. All too often, we focus on problems in faraway areas we cannot control

while letting problems closer to home fester. In the absence of an engaged citizenry and robust local institutions, communities will continue to suffer and decay regardless of what happens at the federal level.

We have seen the struggles of ordinary workers and small business owners. We have watched as many institutions whose presence we took for granted, such as our churches and nonprofits, buckled under the lockdowns. We have seen people lose confidence in local authorities when those authorities act heinously, as happened in Minneapolis.

For too long, a focus on the faraway has deprived us of awareness of the issues that lie in our own

backyards. That's true across the country, and it is likely true in Jackson as well.

It is important for us not to take our community and the institutions that sustain it for granted. The coronavirus and the lockdowns have shown how much we depend on others. They also showed how people can help one another in dire times, whether by delivering food to the elderly, making masks, volunteering at a charity or buying local to support businesses in the community.

Policy matters, of course, which is why everyone should vote in local, state and national elections. But civic engagement and self-government cannot be limited to that. We must also take care to support

organizations that foster togetherness, provide structure in our lives, maintain our economy and promote the values of family and community. Without these, public policy can neither achieve nor save anything, because there will be nothing to save.

This year's chaos will subside. When it does, what will we have learned?



JUST JOSHIN'
Joshua Schuetz

Look out for ticks this summer

This June, everything seems different. No summer sports or family reunions or summer festivals. But one thing is the same. When the weather warms up, the tick returns. There are many species — the wood tick, deer tick, to name two — but they all can carry the dangerous bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

This bacteria can quickly spread throughout the body, embedding itself in every organ and system. There are many symptoms of Lyme disease depending on where the bacteria strikes. In general, it first attacks the immune system, causing flu-like symptoms, and the joints, causing arthritis-like symptoms.

But for some people, the first symptom is nothing. The Lyme bacteria can spread throughout the body, steadily destroying the immune system with no noticeable symptoms for weeks or months. That's what happened when our daughter, then 12, was bitten by a deer tick. She didn't display a bull's-eye rash, so we thought she was fine. Later

we found out the bull's-eye rash only occurs in about 30 percent of infections.

In retrospect, it is easy to see the progression of Lyme disease in our daughter. First, she became moody, which seemed normal for a teenager. Then, she started having short-term memory problems, followed by unexplained mucus in her throat. Finally, her hands hurt so bad she could no longer hold a pencil.

Doctors have a hard time pinpointing Lyme disease because there are a variety of symptoms, so it is often misdiagnosed as arthritis, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, thyroid disease and various mental illnesses. Furthermore, the Lyme bacteria is difficult to locate.

In our daughter's case, we had to send a blood sample overnight to a lab in California to obtain an accurate result. Then we drove five hours to Wichita, Kan., to see a Lyme-literate medical doctor who put our daughter on three antibiotics and probiotics.

Later, our daughter began seeing a natural doctor closer to our home in Nebraska, and he added herbal remedies, essential oils and Rife machine treatments to her total plan. After about six months of severe pain and mental anguish, our daughter slowly began to recover.

The most important thing we learned is if you're bitten by a tick, don't delay in getting treatment. Make an appointment with your doctor and ask for two weeks of the antibiotic doxycycline. If taken within the first 30 days, you have an excellent chance of killing the Lyme bacteria before it becomes embedded in your body's tissues.

There is a second option. You can send the tick away to be tested for Lyme bacteria. Our son found a tick stuck to him a few weeks ago. We sent the tick to a lab in Pennsylvania where they analyzed it for the top three diseases of its particular species. In exactly one week, the lab sent an email that all

three tests were negative. We were so relieved, and grateful for the speedy service.

So now we encourage everyone: Do your best to prevent tick bites. When you go outdoors, use insect spray with DEET or essential oils. When you come in, take a warm shower to wash away the ticks, and check yourself and your children for ticks before bedtime. Don't slack off, because the ticks are always looking for a new host.

Ten years after her deer tick bite, our daughter is back to normal health. Thankfully, with all the new treatments available, there is hope for recovery from Lyme disease. But if you can avoid being bitten by a tick, you could be spared a long and painful journey.

(About the author: Mary Thurston Hedstrom is a wife, mother and author from rural Lakefield.)

GUEST COLUMNIST
Mary Thurston Hedstrom

Seeking justice in an unjust world

The headlines continue — people supposedly killed unjustly. And in many recent cases, that appears to be the case when use of extreme force ends up in loss of life.

Thankfully, those cases are few and far between and in some situations are, I am sure of, a highly emotional overreaction by one party causing harm to the point of death for another.

It is very sad for the victim's family and friends, of course, but also hard for those who committed the act and their families and friends, as well.

So people seek their own form of justice in a highly emotional state with the results being more harm to others with little good to follow.

Now we have some finding fault not only with the recent crimes, but also with our history,

attempting to change it or at least remove the memory of parts of it from public view.

True, some folks have a long history of injustice in their past and are able to overcome it. Others seem to have a desire to want to change the way people think in hopes the injustice will go away or be forgotten by all.

But ultimately God gives justice. Isaiah 42:1-4 states, "Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or raise his voice in public. He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged. He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth."

So those rioting and retaliating for injustice today are obviously not responding in a way God does, given all the videos of death, fire and destruction that have made the news constantly of late.

Jesus is still the answer to all the world's problems, from the cruelty of how so many people are oppressed, hated, tormented and sometimes killed, to the way some nations constantly oppress or destroy their own people.

Jesus is the only viable answer for those seeking justice. There is no other good way or person who can promise real hope to those who have been deeply hurt, deeply wounded or put down by their culture.

Jesus not only dispenses justice, but also holds compassion, caring for people. He looks out over the world for people

who trust in him but are oppressed and gives those people help and comfort.

God promises no injustice in this world will be overlooked or forgotten by Him. All God's children will see justice done in His good timing.

The tendency may be to take the administering of justice into our own hands, but running ahead of God seldom — if ever — brings positive results or change.



OUT AND ABOUT
Mike Jordan

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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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— PILOT STAFF —

Justin R. Lessman	justin@livewireprinting.com	Publisher
Dan Condon	danc@livewireprinting.com	Sports Editor
Mike Jordan	mikej@livewireprinting.com	Staff Writer
Joshua Schuetz	joshuas@livewireprinting.com	Staff Writer

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Jackson County Pilot
P.O. Box 208
Jackson, MN 56143
Phone (507) 847-3771



310 Second Street • Jackson, MN
(507) 847-3771 • jacksoncountypilot.com

Published Weekly on Thursday
USPS 271880

Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, Minnesota

— SUBSCRIPTION RATES —

In Jackson County, \$59.00/Year. Elsewhere in the United States, \$69.00/Year. Nine-month students, \$49.00. ePilot, \$30.00/Year.



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