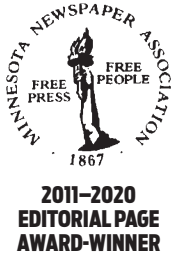


# OPINION



## PILOT EDITORIAL

### Local fair board members help make fun, memories and laurels all possible

Just how much do members of the local fair board contribute to the success of the Jackson County Fair?

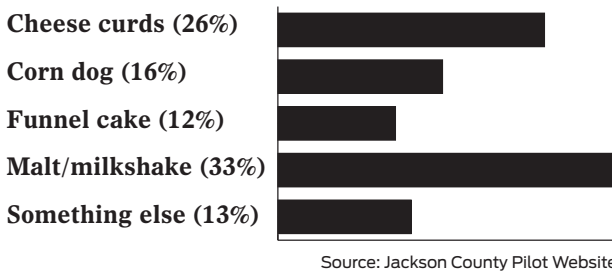
Well, without them, there wouldn't be a fair. All the fun we have, all the memories we make and all the laurels we receive at the Jackson County Fair each year are because of this group of people who dedicate countless hours of their time to making the fair what it is for no other reason than they love it.

To the officers and members of our local fair board — Rob Withers, president; Tom Holthe, vice president; Melanie Post, secretary; Terri Bargfrede, treasurer; and directors John Chonko, Adam Christoffers, Scott Christopher, Jason Diemer, Jeff Fiala, Kim Hohenstein, Jonathan Hussong, Landon Larsen, Dave Maschoff, Jessica Mulder, Sandy Phillips and county commission liaison Phil Nasby: Thank you.

We love the county fair. But we're all so grateful you love it even more.

## LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What's your favorite fair food?



## THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: How hot is too hot?

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

# How to rebuild trust in institutions

Last week, I laid out why Americans have come to distrust institutions and expertise. This week, I want to offer some ideas on how each of us can contribute to rebuilding that trust, which necessitates the repairing of our institutions from the bottom up.

The first thing to be done is to recognize this rot did not happen overnight and will not be fixed overnight. Too many Americans think of themselves as consumers rather than citizens and fixing our nation's problems does not come with two-day shipping.

Second, each of us has to focus on the things within our influence. Think of this as a bunch of circles, each larger than the last, emanating from each of us. Under our direct control are our thoughts and actions. Then, we have spheres of decreasing influence over the world around us. Each of us has a small amount of influence over national events — through voting and civic activism — but together, we can make a difference in many facets of life, whether political or not.

We can begin by being informed citizens and refraining from spreading lies and vitriol, while tending to our households and teaching the young how to think critically and act as good citizens. We may also donate our time and resources as we are able to address certain issues throughout our

communities, like hunger, poverty, family instability and so on. We may also run or serve on various boards or institutions that work to make a difference locally.

Through all of this, each of us must adhere to good conduct and honesty. Everyone has vices — myself included — but maintaining public integrity is essential, especially when one is in a position of leadership.

What about issues of a statewide or national interest? Here we have less direct influence, but, since we live in a country with freedom of speech and assembly, we are able to make our voices heard by calling and emailing our representatives at the state and national levels, joining issue advocacy organizations and participating in campaigns. We may also protest, should push come to shove.

What about the commanding heights of business? Here we are on shakier ground. We as a country should raise our youth, who will be tomorrow's leaders, to place integrity over short-term profits. Leaders in business should be held accountable as everyone else is, one standard for all. Individuals should look at their investment portfolios and steer money away from companies that have a history of corruption and unethical behavior.

A major problem in politics is we focus more

on party affiliation than on integrity. If a candidate or official has a record of poor conduct, extremism, dishonesty and corruption, he or she should be voted out in favor of someone whose qualities are better, even if we might disagree with that person on other issues. Party should matter less — far less — than integrity and moderation. Because politicians are always assumed to be corrupt and rarely face punishment for being so, they are more likely to behave badly. But if they are held — at all levels — to a high standard, then, regardless of party, they will behave better according to incentives.

In sum, what would I encourage you to do as a citizen?

First, resolve to do what you can to be a good citizen. Second, get involved in religious institutions, nonprofit groups, charities and other local organizations working to make the community better. Third, look at the concerns you have about local issues and bring them before officials. Fourth, hold politicians at all levels to a certain degree of moral responsibility, even if that means ticket-splitting from time to time. Fifth, regularly exercise your right to vote and your rights to free speech and assembly, but do not use the power of speech to spread falsehoods or rumors. Sixth, be prepared to organize with

other citizens to take appropriate actions on an issue of importance, so long as those actions fall within the scope of moral law. Seventh, boycott or disinvest in companies with a history of immoral behavior.

I will also add this: If you lead an institution, no matter how small or large, remember trust in that institution rests in part on your conduct. Recognize this and behave accordingly.

These ideas will not fix the problems in our community — or country — overnight. But they are practical steps each of us can take to make things around us a little better. And, since we are each a small part of this nation, we can, by practicing civic virtue together, help make positive changes in the world around us, bit by bit. Just as a building is repaired by numerous workers using numerous supplies, some old and some new, so also can trust in our institutions — and the country in general — be restored through the efforts of ordinary citizens.



## READERS WRITE

### Local senior citizens to be honored Friday at fair

To the editor:  
I have just reread the whole of the Jackson County Fair preview edition that inserted into the July 22 Jackson County Pilot. There are so many things for people of all different interests to enjoy. The fair board is to be complimented on its hard work to get this all organized.

There is one group that needs to be brought to the attention of everyone. Friday is designated "Senior Citizen Day" at the fair. These are the ones who have helped to build our county and who were more active in younger years. They still come to the fair. There is a place for them to gather and to rest every day of the fair, but especially on Friday. Jackson County's Outstanding Senior Citizen Awards will be awarded at about 11 a.m. on Friday, according to Nikki Copley, who hosts the Senior Citizen Building at the fair. Free horse and carriage rides will depart the Senior Citizen Building from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. The chosen Outstanding Senior Citizens will be given rides throughout the fairgrounds as a part of their honor. Others may ride during this time also. Our senior citizens are precious to us and are to be honored with the best.

Jerry and Gwen Fleace — with their horses, "Buddy," and "Suzy" — will be ready to honor all senior citizens, along with younger riders who accompany them, on Friday morning.

Gwen Fleace  
Round Lake

### There is no reason to die of preventable disease

To the editor:  
In response to Sam Smith's July 8 letter:  
Hydroxychloroquine is used to treat malaria and some autoimmune diseases. It's just not effective for treating COVID-19. It would be widely used in hospitals if it were.

In regard to Harvey A. Risch, who endorsed the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, the Yale School of Public Health issued a statement refuting the truth of his article published in Newsweek in July 2020.

I may be biased toward accepted medical science. My father, W.B. Wells, was a physician in the Jackson area for 40 years. He became a doctor in the 1930s. He had a lot of respect for the science of disease prevention and treatment. He treated a young boy in Sherburn who had diphtheria by quarantining him, obtaining an antitoxin and hiring a private nurse. The boy survived. I'm sure my dad was happy when a vaccine for that disease came along. When penicillin was developed and became available for use during World War II, he saw it save millions of lives. Before that, there was no treatment for pneumonia, tuberculosis and many other diseases.

When I was a kid, we were all vaccinated against smallpox (now totally eradicated), diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio. Later, vaccines for measles and chicken pox were available for our children. Now, after more than 700,000 Americans have died of COVID-19, we have vaccines to prevent this virus from spreading and taking more lives. Unfortunately, many Americans are refusing to admit the vaccines are safe and effective. As a result, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases and more people are dying of a disease that is now preventable.

All of us have a responsibility to protect ourselves and our families from this illness. Please talk to your doctors and public health professionals if you have questions.

Molly Wells  
Minneapolis

## FACEBOOK

**CREWS RESPOND TO TRUCK-VS.-SEMI COLLISION:** The crash happened at around 1:30 p.m. Monday at the intersection of County Roads 29 and 34 just north of Alpha.

- JASON CARTER** Overdue for a four way stop
- ANDREA SETHER** LONG overdue. 4 way stop with flashing lights. This is a major fail on MNDOT or County, whoever should make the call.
- PAM KEMP** Like years ago.
- ESTEE CREGEEN** Seems like most people know about the stop signs and choose to blow through them, so not even sure a 4 way stop would help.
- JILL SOENEN WINTER** PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO FIX THIS INTERSECTION!!!! PUT YOURSELF IN THESE FAMILIES SHOES!!!! What if it was you getting the call that they are getting today! THINK ABOUT THAT!!!! SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE!!!! NOW!!!! THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR ALL INVOLVED!!!!
- MICHELE ANDERSON** Jill I could not agree more!!! 4 way stop!
- KENDRA CHRISTIANS** Was the picture really necessary?? Have some respect, 2 people lost their lives. Do better.
- CATHERINE KOPPEN** My thoughts exactly.
- THOMAS KUEHL** Look at the headline.... I don't think they were going after empathy with this. The article was useless as well, seems written just to be the 1st to cover story...
- JEREMY SKOUGE** Yes the pic was necessary. If there was no picture I wouldn't have stopped to look at it.
- JENIFFER LARSON** And its bot that graphic so
- ANGIE QUAL** Prayers to those families. It's sad that this photo was posted only an hour after the accident happened, hopefully all family members and friends were notified before they saw it on Facebook.
- JESS SATHOFF-HAUKOOS** I agree. I went by this accident maybe 10 minutes before this article was posted and it was still a live accident scene. The pickup was just pulled from under the semi and it was a pretty graphic sight. You know every nosey person got in their vehicle after seeing this article and drove by to see. This stuff should not be posted until after the scene is cleared and all family members are notified. Jackson County Pilot needs to do better. Degrusting to say the least.
- CLELL MIKE WEINZEL** How many ppl have to die at that intersection before the county puts in a flashing light or something instead of those cheap spinning things?
- ANDREA SETHER** I would think the number of deaths at that corner should have been all the analysis they needed.
- BRADY JASS** The cheap spinny things aren't even there anymore.
- CHAD STREIFF** They had flashing lights there for awhile then took them down, but they are putting stuff up right now this morning
- CLELL MIKE WEINZEL** I emailed or called the county engineer the last time someone was killed at that intersection. I was told that a highway analysis of that intersection based on traffic did not warrant lit up, flashing stop signs. Tell that to the families of yesterday's accident. No reason a flashing lit up stop signs should not be put up there. It's the most dangerous intersection in the county... By far.
- JIM MELLEBERGER** Sadly, too many people don't respect intersections enough, even when they are marked.
- NICHOLE AYERS** They just put the stop sign back up that was knocked down during the accident.
- DIANNE RUSCHY SWANSON** Jackson County.....STEP UP AND DO MORE!!! This is getting to be ridiculous!!!
- CATHERINE OLSEM** I know one of the guys that died. He lives right by my parents and he graduated with my cousin

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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](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.

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