



# OPINION

## PILOT EDITORIAL

### School officials working to get students back

Hats off to Jackson County Central school officials for sticking to their word and working to get our kids back in school where they belong as quickly — and safely — as possible.

When school officials last month announced plans for a blended model of instruction to start the new academic year, they pledged to re-evaluate the situation after three weeks and revise the plan as they were able. Sure enough, at the end of the third week of school, it was announced seventh-grade students would be allowed to return to school on a near full-time basis.

So far, the district's blended model of instruction seems to be working fairly well. But kids need to be in school, learning directly from teachers and interacting with fellow students in a focused and education-centered environment. It's good to see district officials realize this and are taking action to make that happen.

Here's hoping more students are brought back to school full time in the coming weeks.

The sooner the better.

*J. P. Larson*

## LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

**Q: What's your favorite season?**



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

## THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

**Q: Apple pie, or pumpkin pie?**

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

## READERS WRITE

### Use the upcoming election process to make hate, inequality disappear

To the editor:  
I am a privileged white person. The first time I saw an African-American person close to me was as a graduated senior from high school competing on a relay team at the state track meet in the Twin Cities. In the lane next to us were four black boys from Minneapolis Central who left the Jackson team and six other competing teams in the dust as they raced to a championship.

The days of my youth were filled with white people. I spent my school days, time at church, working and social time with family and neighbors in a strictly white environment. The only time I recall encountering someone a little different was when a group of gypsies stopped at the farm wanting to know if they could have a couple of chickens.

On a few occasions, I remember some of the adults I came into contact with using racial slurs as part of their conversation. As I got older, I'm sure I said some of the same things. I don't think we gave any thought to these casual statements as being racist. We were white Americans and the thought of racism was something we didn't acknowledge as a part of our lives. But it was.

A bit of racism is a part of our white heritage, whether we want to admit it or not. Being white has given me privileges some in the colored community do not have. Racism continues to be a daily problem for many and, for some, a life-changing injustice.

If I want racism to move in a positive direction, I need to speak out and use the election process to try and make the hate and inequality disappear.

I am a privileged white person.

Gary Natterstad  
Jackson

## Thoughts and fears of the present years

I can be accused of many things, but optimism, generally speaking, is not among them.

This has become a personal motto of mine for the past few years. Living in the era we do — one of decline, social dissolution and widespread anger at just about everything — will do that to a person.

I've never seen the American government function with anything resembling competence, nor do I remember an era when extreme partisanship didn't exist.

I'm worried for the country and its future. Yes, we are an incredibly wealthy and prosperous nation, as it's often said, but we seem to be doing everything possible to reverse the trends that enabled us to prosper.

Superpowers don't generally commit suicide. Some do collapse

into themselves, or split, as the Romans did. But rarely do powerful societies, facing no existential threats, voluntarily go belly up.

That's what it feels like we're doing. Our politics is increasingly a re-enactment of previous eras' greatest hits, but without any of their substance.

Take the riots. Sure, they're still ongoing, but appetite for police reform has largely faded. Workable solutions — like fixing qualified immunity, funding more social services, reducing the number of laws on the books and holding prosecutors accountable — are unlikely to pass at any level of government.

In the absence of such movement, extreme rhetoric and policies with no real chance of being implemented are winning the day, to the detriment of everyone

involved.

If the current trends continue, I expect we'll repeat this fiasco in a few months — or weeks.

As to the pandemic, our response to that has been such a disaster that everyone in our government wants to avoid responsibility for it. Another stimulus bill has failed in Congress, as each side is more interested in making the other look bad than addressing the issues at hand.

At some point our political institutions are going to have to at least attempt to solve the problems faced by the people of this country, or they will continue to be hammered by incensed voters, protestors and activists on all sides until they collapse. Nothing good comes from collapse.

Whatever our problems, we are, from

the perspective of resources and human capital, well-poised to fix them. What we lack is the will to act, to do what is necessary and, above all else, to accept compromise.

And compromise is not cowardice. It is the only way any social arrangement — from that of a family to that of a nation — can be sustained.



**JUST JOSHIN'**  
Joshua Schuetz

## He promised to bless the work of our hands

When my son, Robert, went off to his first job after graduating college, he was a little nervous and rightly so. He was heading to Oregon, a place he had never been, working in a field he had no experience in and was going to live in a place where he didn't know anyone.

We had a conversation about this as I had been to Portland, Ore., more than once and knew many of the people there had Midwestern backgrounds and held to our Midwestern values, including our work ethic.

So, I suggested Robert show up each day way before anyone else at his workplace and be the last to leave. He did just that and got a jumpstart on his work for the day and, at day's end, took time to plan his next day.

I told him not only would his boss be impressed, but he would avoid the crazy traffic among those hurrying to work and, by being the last to leave, he would avoid those rushing home in the evening as well.

That advice turned out to be good advice and helped my son adjust to

his new way of life and an eventual advancement in his career.

I recently read a story titled, "Hard Work-The Price of Success," from "God's Little Devotional Book," which is about a grandfather talking with his grandchildren about how he came to America. And I am sure you have relatives who came — or perhaps even you yourself have come — to America as this old gentleman had.

The story goes, "He told his grandchildren about the trains and ship that brought him from his home in Eastern Europe and how he was processed along with other immigrants at Ellis Island. He told of his being hungry and, searching for a place to eat, entering a cafeteria. There he sat down at an empty table and waited ... and waited, a long time for someone to take his order ... nobody came. But a woman with a tray filled with food stopped to chat with him.

She explained how a cafeteria works, saying, 'You start at one end and take a tray then you go along the line and pick

out what you want. At the other end they'll tell you how much you have to pay.'

The grandfather then said, 'I soon learned that's how everything works in America. Life is a cafeteria here. You can get anything you want — even very great success — if you're willing to pay the price. But you'll never get what you want if you wait for someone to bring it to you. You have to get up and get it yourself.'

And that is one of the major differences we are staring at in this election: Some politicians and those who follow them like blind sheep think open borders and free everything is the answer. And then there are those who know what this grandfather learned — where you are and where you want to be can be summed up in two words: hard work.

God has promised to bless all the work of your hands and, as it says in Proverbs 14:23, "Hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

We have some politicians seeking our

highest offices thinking they can talk their way into office and claim they will give this nation's people everything they need while the people need do nothing and will get it all at no cost.

That is the pretext under which socialism is sold, and it is costly.

Don't believe them, and don't believe they are giving you anything without a cost — even the cost of your freedoms.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said, "The problem with socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people's money."

Note this: That "other people's money" would be yours.



**OUT AND ABOUT**  
Mike Jordan

## Motorcycle training a good way to develop, improve safe riding skills

**Question:** It seems like I am seeing more motorcycles than ever. Can you talk about their safety going into fall riding?

**Answer:** Preliminary reports show 46 riders have lost their lives in crashes this year, compared to 37 riders at this time last year.

With everything going on in the world today, a motorcycle ride can be the perfect escape. Leave your worries behind, put that helmet on and head for the open road.

Here are steps you can take to reduce your risk of crashing:

- Ride sober.
- Wear highly visible protective gear, including a brightly colored helmet.
- Have a good riding strategy for every ride. Wearing proper

protective gear can help keep you safe in case of a crash, but having good riding skills can prevent a crash from happening in the first place.

Motorcycle training is a great way to develop and improve safe riding skills, but time is running out to register for the Basic Rider Course to earn your endorsement. More than 1,300 riders took the BRC in the first two months of the training season, which started the first week of June, and nearly 300 more riders took other MMSC training courses. Register now for one of the 22 locations throughout Minnesota.

There are a limited number of intermediate courses still available too. This course is a great way to practice riding a new motorcycle or riding

with a passenger. You can take the intermediate course with a passenger for no additional charge.

MMSC offers advanced and expert training courses too, but those have wrapped up for the season. Challenge yourself to take a training course every year or two to keep your riding skills sharp — after all, training can make a huge difference in avoiding crashes. You can find details about all the training courses on the MMSC's website, including eligibility requirements for each level.

Additional information can be found on the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's blog.

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

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