

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Redistricting decision a loss for our county

The Minnesota judicial panel on redistricting recently released the maps for congressional and state legislative districts. Jackson County, which is currently split between House Districts 23A and 22B and Senate Districts 22 and 23 will be subsumed entirely into Senate District 21 and House District 21B.

The news Jackson County will be unified under a single House and Senate district may be welcomed by some who remember that being the case decades ago, but there's no question it is a loss for our county.

No single county should be too influential in state politics and perhaps this is better for the state as a whole. Even so, Jackson County will now only have two state legislators — one representative and one senator — representing its interests, as opposed to four. We'll lose Rep. Bjorn Olson and Sen. Julie Rosen, both of whom have been staunch advocates of our county's interests in the statehouse.

Our current representatives will still represent us for the rest of the year, but once 2023 rolls around, four will become two. With Rep. Rod Hamilton retiring, our House seat will be open for the November elections.

Minnesota's redistricting plan is neither partisan nor poorly conceived and there's little we as individual citizens can do about it now.

What we can do is keep in contact with our state legislators — now and when the change happens — to make sure we have a seat at the table in St. Paul. We should all vote according to our consciences for the candidate each of us feels is best for the position. That is our civil right and our civic duty.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: How much of the Super Bowl did you watch?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: Will March come in like a lion or a lamb?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

Where do you place your hope?

Have you misplaced your hope? And if so, in whom or what do you place your hope?

In the last presidential election, I had hoped the prosperity and peace this country had experienced over the previous four years would continue, as we had an inflation rate of just 1.4 percent, and we were not involved in any actual war anywhere as a country. I had hoped the people's choice would win that election. But with the new Biden administration, I then hoped when the president said he was after the soul of America, it was for a good reason.

I had hoped — like I am sure many of you folks hoped — the choices made to combat the COVID-19 pandemic would be the right choices so my children and

grandchildren would not have to fear our country's response to this evil pandemic. I had hoped the reason we even had this pandemic would be honestly explained.

I had hoped prosperity would continue here in America and that my children and grandchildren would have the opportunity to use their developed skills and talents as God intended to benefit others and possibly society as a whole.

I had hoped our Constitution and our Bill of Rights would be upheld and our government officials would do as they had sworn to do when promising to defend and support the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic thus protecting our nation and our people.

I had hoped our government would support and fund our law enforcement, not defund and degrade those who work so hard to protect and defend those being subjected to harm.

I had hoped our governmental leaders would choose to fund our military and defend our way of life and our freedoms.

I had hoped for a better America in this land of the free because of the brave who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

Was my hope misplaced?

It was because, in reality, I know in my heart of hearts my hope — as Edward Mole's hymn states it — "... is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest

frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name." For it is, "on Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

If you find yourself placing your hope in anything that disappoints or you have found harming you, step out of that sinking sand and on to the Solid Rock, for Jesus is the true hope for us all in this world and beyond.



Use reflective triangles properly

Question: Sometimes while traveling, I've noticed a set of reflective triangles out behind a semi. Can I use those on my personal passenger car if it were to break down?

Answer: The best thing to do is make sure your vehicle is off the traveled portion of the highway and onto the shoulder. Then turn on your emergency flashers so your vehicle is more visible to other motorists.

If you can safely display some type of emergency equipment, remember your personal safety. Other motorists might not be able to see you, so pay attention. High-visibility reflective gear would be beneficial. If the roads are slippery and visibility is limited, it's a very dangerous situation to be outside your vehicle.

If you drive a commercial vehicle, you're required to

carry three emergency triangles and place them in three locations during a stop. Emergency triangles must be placed within 10 minutes of stopping and should be kept in the passenger-side box so they can be safely accessed and keep the driver away from traffic. Triangle placement locations may vary based on where the driver stopped. They are spaced out to ensure other motorists can see the truck from a distance and change lanes or slow down.

On two-lane highways, one triangle must be placed 100 feet in front of the vehicle, centered in the lane the vehicle occupies; one triangle must be 10 feet behind the vehicle on the traffic side of the vehicle; and one triangle must be 100 feet behind the vehicle in the center of the lane the vehicle occupies.

On divided highways

and one-way roads, one triangle must be 10 feet behind the vehicle on the traffic side of the vehicle, one triangle must be 100 feet behind the vehicle in the center of the lane the vehicle occupies and one triangle must be 200 feet behind the vehicle in the center of the lane the vehicle occupies.

In the case of obstructed views, like a hill or curve, if stopped on a two-lane road, place one triangle at least 100 feet ahead of the vehicle, one triangle 10 feet behind the vehicle on the traffic side of the vehicle and move the rearmost triangle between 100 feet and 500 feet back down the road to provide ample warning, remembering the maximum distance from the vehicle shall not exceed 500 feet.

For the rest of the motoring public, if you see emergency triangles, flares, lights or other items, take note

immediately and slow down. Be prepared to stop and drive accordingly.

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.



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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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