

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Challenge facing local businesses

We talk a lot in Jackson County about economic development, and rightly so. We have a lot of projects going on to help boost housing supply and stimulate entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, we're also fighting an uphill battle against Father Time.

As local business owners age, they need someone to sell or leave their businesses to. Right now, finding those people is getting increasingly difficult. We've lost a number of local businesses due to a lack of succession, and we're poised to lose even more.

Maintaining a focus on getting new businesses started is important, but we also have to think about what to do with the businesses we already have here. If businesses that are economically viable are closing due to a lack of people to take them over rather than a lack of customers, it means locals are losing access to goods and services they value.

More needs to be done to keep businesses like these here. We've got to help local business owners create plans for succession so we can minimize the losses. That means entrepreneurial people with the capital to purchase these businesses should step up and explore their options and economic development organizations should keep it on their radar.

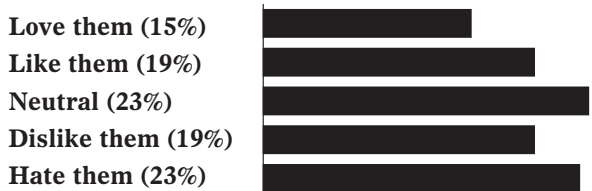
We know it's possible to run a successful business in Jackson County. We need to make sure it's possible to pass the reins successfully as well.

One way to start might be building bridges between young and middle-aged people interested in starting or taking over a business and older people who are considering selling theirs. Running a small business is, in many ways, the ultimate community commitment, since it requires long-term investment and work in a given place.

Finding people willing to make that commitment is a challenge, but it's one we need to meet if we want to preserve a thriving county.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: How do you feel about wind turbines?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

I just released my endorphins

Having a deep affinity toward science and all the terminology that goes with scientific thought, I have decided to share with you where I am at when it comes to dealing with stress while in Texas.

Texans, I have found, are pretty laid back most of the time; but don't let that fool you, for I've been told when it comes to land, water and cattle, they are quite protective (not to mention borders).

So recently, while I was reading one of those pop-up articles on the Internet related to an article I had been reading regarding the so-called "new fatigue," I found myself fatigued about things I didn't realize I was supposed to be fatigued about. But I also was reminded of the things I already was fatigued about, such as climate change, then inflation, both of which seem to be overshadowing the pandemic now, as well as political instability, fuel prices and trips to the grocery store, where the conversation in the aisles is about constantly rising food prices and shortages of some food items.

Now we have the Russian-Ukraine war,

which, in this pop-up article, brought me to the scientific remedies for all these "new fatigue" feelings — remedies for dealing with stress, anxiety, fear and, for some, the feeling of impending doom.

The article stated that for some folks the feeling was as if they were witnessing a train wreck from which they could not turn away, overshadowing all their other feelings.

But taking the scientific route I, too, remembered meditation. I remember that, but couldn't remember the mantra.

Then some advice in this article ran along the lines that if you get some sun in your face, your "new fatigue" will diminish. Now that isn't much of a challenge in Texas, as it is sunny here most of the time. But again, I prefer the scientific term "solar exposure" more than "some sun in your face" or "catch more rays."

Another bit of advice from the article was to spend time in nature as a remedy for the "new fatigue," or blues. However, others might refer to what they are experiencing these days as the black-and-blues;

they feel all beat up.

The article stated one new term for the "out-in-nature" experience is "forest bathing." Some folks here in Texas might misinterpret this term to mean their trees need a bath. Then again, as one Texan friend said, there are many trees, shrubs and plants in Texas a person could hug, but cactus should be off limits when "forest bathing."

My favorite advice from this article regarding fatigue was exercise: You know, that heart-pumping kind that releases natural endorphins.

Matter of fact, I nearly ran over a couple of endorphins riding my bike around the lake here. I figure they had to have been released by someone. Fortunately, they jumped into the bushes and made a clean escape even though their mood seemed to change as they struggled to fight off the stress.

Another anti-new fatigue remedy from the article suggested putting your cellphone away for a while. And I have to admit, I often want to put my cellphone away and have even considered putting it away out into the lake here.

And finally, the article suggested spending more time with family and friends. However, I have decided to spend less time with many of my family members and friends, as we don't see eye to eye — another scientific term — and I have found that is a good way to relieve my own new fatigue.

In so doing, I have found isolation a bit of a solace too. And to reduce my mountains — another scientific term for very high hills — and make them more of mole hills, scientifically speaking, I have spent more time hanging around with moles, too, which has really released nearly all of my endorphins and most of my new fatigue. Whew!



OUT AND ABOUT
Mike Jordan

Teslas need two plates too

Question: Why do all of the Teslas I see in Minnesota lack the required front license plate? I see lots of other all-electric vehicles from other manufacturers, and they all have a front plate. I know several people who have collector cars, and they all complain they have to use a front plate, but I have yet to see a Tesla with one.

Answer: Teslas are required to have a front license plate in Minnesota; this is a common equipment violation. Minnesota State Statute 169.79 states, "No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any roadway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the license plates or permit confirming that valid registration or operating authority has been obtained."

Vehicles that are

allowed to display only one license plate include motorcycles, a dealer's vehicle or vehicle in-transit, classic car, collector car or a vehicle that is of model year 1972 or earlier that is not registered as a collector vehicle and is used for general transportation purpose.

License plates must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. They cannot be displayed in the front windshield or rear window. The plates must be securely mounted and displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters visible. License plates issued to vehicles must also display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of each plate.

The plate must be unobstructed and free from grease, dust or other blurring material — dirt, mud, snow, etc. — so the

lettering is visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin with any material, including any clear or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity. This also includes license plate brackets that block the state of issuance and tabs.

Why do we have two license plates? First and foremost, it is the law in Minnesota. From a law enforcement perspective, it is safer to have two plates. For instance:

- If an officer needs to run vehicle information, he or she can get the plate information from the front or rear of the vehicle.
- It makes a suspect vehicle easier to identify if it is encountered from the front or the rear.
- If a suspect vehicle is backed into a parking spot, it is more easily identified.
- Identifying a suspect

in a crime — from surveillance images — is easier with front and back plates.

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.



ASK A TROOPER
Sgt. Troy Christianson

READERS WRITE

How united is the United Nations?

To the editor:

We are all watching the destruction unfolding in Ukraine, with individuals of all ages being maimed, killed and driven from their homes with no concern whatsoever by a dictator who rivals Adolph Hitler.

A majority of countries denounce Vladimir Putin's actions but are unwilling to stop him. How many people must die to equal one barrel of oil flowing out of Russia? China will not even do anything to oppose Russia because it is dependent on it also, and because its leaders are looking to take over Taiwan.

This is what happens when you have weak or nonrepresentative governments — the United States included.

The United Nations needs to come together to do what it takes to stop this. Otherwise, it just as well be dissolved.

Mike Handzus
Lakefield

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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