

OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Sometimes even heroes need a hero

Sometimes even heroes need a hero. That's where the local Disabled American Veterans chapter comes in. This under-the-radar organization plays an essential behind-the-scenes role in making sure our veterans — our real-life American heroes — are never left behind and are never forgotten. The chapter provides all manner of assistance to local veterans and their families when they are in need. From something as simple as a gas card or food voucher to help bridge the gap to paying for a needed car repair or several months' worth of rent, the chapter — under the award-winning leadership of Mike Chepa — has been and continues to be an important safety net for those who sacrificed so much for all of us.

Hats off to Chepa and his DAV volunteers. Hats off to those who support the local DAV chapter with donations of time, money or clothing. And hats off those veterans Chepa and his DAV volunteers are helping.

Because sometimes even heroes need a hero.

City should get off residents' lawns

Leaving Jackson for two weeks to tend to a family matter left me split away from the city I've called home for 15 years. Thankfully, the Internet allows us to connect instantly to those in distant places, so I was able to follow goings on in town from the mountains of upstate New York and the traffic-clogged streets of eastern Pennsylvania.

A little kerfuffle arose that, while not a big deal in and of itself, is illustrative of government excess, even at the local level. The city of Jackson reminded the public of a lawn ordinance on its Facebook page, stating grass must not exceed 6 inches in height. Failure to comply will result in a mowing notice, with the possibility of a \$145 fee to have the city cut one's grass.

Whatever you think of a person's motivations in mowing his or her lawn

or not, the simple fact is the city has no place in regulating how high a lawn's grass can be.

When someone purchases a house — or any piece of property — he or she is taking a significant financial risk and should be able to enjoy the rewards of that risk, so long as he or she does not directly harm others. If I decide not to mow my lawn, I'm not harming anyone — my neighbor can mow his lawn as he wishes. Sure, my neighbor might not like how my yard looks, but he might not like any number of things about me — how I dress, whether I have a beard or not, the color of my house and so on. Should I let him determine these things also?

The reason why these ordinances exist is plainly obvious; they make money for the city and mollify busybodies.

When can one be rightly compelled to mow one's lawn? Two scenarios come to mind. First, a person may enter into contract with his or her neighbors regarding grass length, signing an agreement among them to keep grass cut and, second, a tenant may be required to keep grass cut as part of a rental arrangement. But if such terms are not explicitly agreed to by the homeowners or tenants in question, there is no reason for compulsion in the area of cutting grass.

People dislike government — at all levels — when it asks for too much and delivers too little. So many areas of life — even how long your grass can be — are regulated unnecessarily. The city should abolish its lawn ordinance and any similar ordinances on the books. They serve no purpose except to harass residents, shovel

undeserved money to the city and create unnecessary work for everyone.

An ordinance that violates personal liberty and private property rights and harms the environment at the same time is not worth keeping. The city should focus on getting its construction projects done in a timely manner and trying to attract more young people to Jackson rather than bothering people over grass length.



Tell me who is cheating whom

We have a representative form of government in which "we the people" elect people to represent us in government, which is supposedly "by and for the people."

So, who is serving whom these days? From a spectator's viewpoint, one would think "we the people" are here to serve the elected officials, given the actions and lack of action of those we supposedly elected, save for a few real fighters for the people's cares and concerns.

Isn't that why we elected these public servants in the first place?

We are the ones our public servants are supposed to be working for, not some corporation, special interest group or foreign entity. It is our interests as citizens of these United States, not those of other countries overseas.

And it is not for illegal immigrants, not Marxists, not socialists, not those in our current federal administration and bureaucracy trying to do everything they can to overthrow our form of government, nor is it any global elitists and their plans for world dominance either.

Think the global elites' plans are a conspiracy theory? Think again. It is a conspiracy all right, with a plan they are attempting to put into full motion very soon.

Let me explain. In April

of this year, President Joe Biden's representatives introduced amendments to what they call a treaty, or agreement, we have with the World Health Organization to basically give the director of the WHO total control over our health care decisions in the United States and dictate how our country would respond to a global health emergency.

That same director would be the one to determine how our country would react to any emergency he deemed and defined as a medical emergency, such as a pandemic or beyond.

That same director would be making those determinations for all 194 members of the WHO if they signed on to the plan and its amendments.

Sounds reasonable and almost good on the surface.

The problem is we as a country would be giving up any authority in the cases deemed emergencies by the WHO, most likely leading to the issuance of medical passports or IDs, massive mask mandates, inoculations and — for those who fail to comply — punishments in the form of garnishing of bank accounts and permissions to purchase necessities like food and medicine.

But even more problematic is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, along with the Chinese Communist

Party, who are major funders of the World Health Organization. They are pushing for this move to gain control of the world's health systems as a first step toward global control of everything else by the likes of Bill Gates and Klaus Schwab and their global elite buddies.

If they are successful in getting our country to approve these amendments, our Constitution and Bill of Rights would be usurped.

This group of self-proclaimed global elitists have been trying to use climate change as an excuse to eliminate fossil fuels. That ploy is facing headwinds, so they are trying worldwide dominance via a medical dictator through the WHO.

Bruce Davis of Abilene, Texas, commenting on the methodology of these would-be world dominators and their partners, wrote in The Buffalo Gap newspaper in March stating, "If you have to be persuaded and reminded and pressured, and lied to, and incentivized, and coerced, and bullied and socially shamed, and guilt tripped and threatened, punished and criminalized — if all of this is considered necessary to gain your compliance — you can be absolutely certain what is being promoted is not in your best interest."

And I say Amen to that. The membership

of the World Health Organization is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, May 22-28 to vote on these amendments, but it is my understanding our U.S. Senate members have to vote in favor of these amendments for our country to have to abide by those amendments as presented.

I implore you and your friends and family to contact your U.S. senators and ask them to vote no on these amendments for the sake of our country's sovereignty and our freedoms.

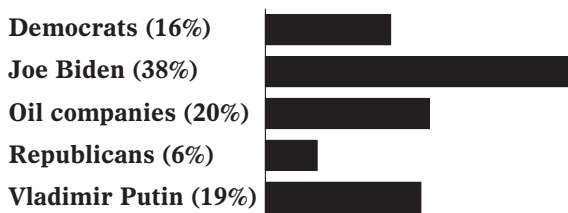
Blessedly, in 1 Peter 5:5, the Bible states, "... God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Unlike these proud global elitists, our present governmental leadership and the Chinese Communist Party, we as citizens of this country need to humble ourselves, give our God the glory and remember it is God who will stop evil from defeating the United States of America.



LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: Who is mostly to blame for the recent increases in gas prices?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: Do you plan to attend a Memorial Day program/service this year?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

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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CONTACT YOUR COMMISSIONERS

A new three-digit phone number

Question: I recently heard something about a new phone number — 988 — for people dealing with a mental health crisis. With all these three-digit numbers — 911, 411, 511 — can you provide some insight?

Answer: The number 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States

starting on July 16.

When people call, text or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support and connect them to resources if necessary.

The current Lifeline phone number — 1-800-273-8255 — will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis, even after 988 is launched nationally.

The Lifeline's network of more than 180 crisis centers has been in operation since 2005 and has been proven to be effective. It's the counselors at these local crisis centers who answer the contacts the Lifeline receives every day. Numerous studies have shown callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed and more hopeful after speaking with a Lifeline counselor.

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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