

## YOUR VIEWS

### Perfect time to review driving laws

My challenge to the drivers in Mankato is: Can we become a city of courteous drivers?

The city is buzzing with college, high school and elementary students returning to class. Now is a perfect time for a refresher on Minnesota driving laws.

A stop sign/red light requires that you come to a complete stop. At a stop sign with a marked stop line, you must stop before the line. At a stop sign with a pedestrian crosswalk you must stop before entering the crosswalk. When you have stopped, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic before proceeding. If your view of the intersection is obstructed, prepare to stop again for traffic or pedestrians in your path.

You must also come to a complete stop in the following situations: before entering a road from an alley, a private driveway, a parking lot or a parking ramp; before crossing an adjoining sidewalk or crosswalk; at an intersection or crosswalk with a traffic signal displaying a red light (wait until the signal changes to green and your path is clear before proceeding); and when a flag person or traffic device directs you to stop.

Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely before doing so. If you cannot stop safely, proceed through the intersection with caution. If you are waiting in the intersection to make a turn, and the signal turns from yellow to red, complete the turn as soon as it is safely possible. Do not back up.

If you are interested in learning more, the laws were taken directly from <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/DLTraining/DLManual/DLManual.htm>.

*Joann Jaqua Mankato*

### We ask businesses to carry too large a load

Kudos for the Aug. 31 headline "Businesses pay dearly for layoffs." A splendid example of the legislation passed by our legislative bodies containing fine print almost completely clouded by the much ballyhooed and misleading title of said bills.

An employer paying into a so-called insurance program for 20 years, only to discover what he thought he was paying for was not, and he must foot the bill again.

Business becomes accustomed to this type of trust and one would expect our politicians to operate in a similar manner. Not so.

This is an example of, what I believe to be, a major cause of our current economic problems. Namely, politicians and we, as a people, are our own worst enemy by believing we can send money to our state or nation's capital and expect to get it back in the form of security.

We are asking business to carry too large a load to finance our "social programs." By necessity, business must pass added taxes, cost of manufacturing and cost of manufacturing restrictions on to us, the consumer, in the form of increased product prices in order to show a profit.

Profit, a word completely abhorred by our socialistic friends, is what makes the wheels go around.

Much of our manufacturing business has discovered they can profit by moving to foreign lands where environmental and other requirements are not as restrictive and expensive.

Have we reached the point, as has Greece, where we can become a so-called "Third World Country" caused by our own desires to "have it all" by driving business out of our country and spending future generations' money?

*Bill Cutts Sr. Mankato*

### Bush has been blamed for many things

It was reported in The Free Press Aug. 23 that the much-photographed arch at Minnesota's Tettegouche State Park has fallen into Lake Superior.

That's probably Bush's fault, too.

*Tom Zahn St. Peter*

## **Don't place young athletes on such high pedestals**

I agreed with Chad Courier's recent column, "Media helps feed egos for pro athletes," however, this phenomenon in our society starts at a much younger age than Courier writes about.

I understand the benefits of playing sports, such as learning sportsmanship and teamwork, keeping our bodies fit, etc., but I feel there is far too much attention and emphasis placed on the athletic prowess of young students.

Case in point: The newspaper has a daily section devoted entirely to sports. Where is the daily section that highlights all the great students who excel at speech, debate, science, art, theater, math and technology?

Also, when a student goes to state in a sport, the school prints giant posters and plasters them all over the halls of the school. When a student goes to state for being great at singing or playing an instrument or speaking or debating, no such poster can be found.

Yes, athletes can be enriching and rewarding, but placing young athletes on such high pedestals can do more harm in the long run.

*Rick Kramlinger North Mankato*

## **We have been blessed with good leadership in Mankato**

I do not know John Brady. Having never met him, I don't know what kind of person he is. I have always found myself thinking that he has done a good job as a mayor of Mankato.

I also feel that about the people who serve us on the City Council.

We have been blessed with good leadership in Mankato. I thank them.

As a pastor, I have been well acquainted with the "fallings" of a good many people. Those "fallings" have been painful and embarrassing for them and for others in their lives. However, for the most part, these people have been good fathers or mothers, good employers or employees and good citizens of our community in spite of their fallings.

I am sure that each of our council people and the other leaders of our community, as you and I, have fallen. Hopefully, that did not end our capability to be worthwhile and effective.

Once again, I am made aware of how blessed I am to have a Lord who picks me up, cleans me off and still involves me after I have fallen. I hope Brady knows Him too.

*Rev. Gene Glade Mankato*