

## Editorials

### It's Nurses Month

Salute a tough, demanding profession

We are going to go way out on a limb here and endorse May as Nurses Month. What the heck — this newspaper seldom stays away from controversy.

Of course, the really controversial position would have us opposing such a thing. Really, an entire month devoted to one profession? If it is so special, why is it routinely taken for granted — unless and until we or someone close to us is in need?

If nursing is so special and select a calling, why is it that it has so many good examples? Wouldn't you think that out of the innumerable nurses you have come in contact with that by the simple law of averages there would be more Nurse Ratched's?

It's not just by averages either. Consider that on a typical day or night, nurses are often dealing with

problems and situations that most of us won't see in a lifetime, on top of which they are exuding a calmness and sense of compassion to individuals who are at their most vulnerable.

It is a wonder that there are any people in this demanding, difficult profession, let alone the hundreds of thousands of capable women and men who are committed to it. And this is without taking into consideration the nightmarish challenge that the COVID-19 pandemic has thrust upon nurses.

Given the contagious level of this virus, to say that nurses are risking their lives every day is not an understatement.

Neither, we would argue, is it an understatement to say that a month set aside to recognize nurses doesn't do them justice. But we thank them just the same.

### Green Meadow going

Phil Friel left a mark on NH golf

The late Phil Friel's name was synonymous with golf in New Hampshire and golf was and is synonymous with the Green Meadow courses, driving range, and golf gear shop that Friel and his family established in Hudson.

The New Hampshire Sunday News this week brought word that nothing is forever and Green Meadow may soon give way to industrial warehouses. It would be hard to argue the location (on Route 3A) and size (370 acres) aren't well-suited for development, but generations of golfers are going to miss the place. (The courses are set to be open for just this year.

Other Friel courses remain in operation.)

Because of the size of the project, Hudson Town Planner Brian Groth is right to have scheduled a special meeting of the planning board for May 20 so that the developers can present their proposal. It will be held at the community center. Check with town offices for the time. The public may have some ideas as to what the new owners can do with the half of the acreage that won't go to buildings.

Patriarch Phil Friel was a great teacher of the game as well as a good businessman. He and his family have added much to New Hampshire. For that, we are grateful.



## Walking and people watching in a pandemic are revealing

I READ a news story about people who have spent their "stay at home" time on various projects around the house.

That just is not working for me. I started to weed out the excess from my photo albums. How many pictures from the top of Wildcat Trail or the Crawford Path do I really need? But I still have not gotten through the year 2000.

Then I planned to organize all that political memorabilia. Note the word "planned".

As for finishing that family tree on Ancestry.com? Later.

I have spent time every day thanking God for how lucky I am. So far (knock on wood) none of my family have gotten sick from COVID-19, and the handful of friends and acquaintances who have had it are recovering. Since my husband and I are both retired and over 65, we have not had to deal with the financial devastation that the virus has wreaked on so many through job loss. We have not had to risk our safety to provide health care or security or other



**Kathleen Sullivan**

essential services.

We have not had to try to educate young kids while working from home. We are not separated from loved ones who are alone in hospitals or nursing homes.

Yes, we are lucky. Despite my inability to take on any long-deferred projects, the days do go by.

My husband and I have succeeded in getting outside nearly every day, either walking or biking around Manchester, Auburn and Londonderry, keeping appropriate distances from others. Lately we have ventured further afield to the trail from Derry to Salem. It is long, paved and flat, ranging from wetlands to forest to Salem's commercial area.

I am a little surprised at how few people walking or riding are wearing face masks, especially given that the Route 93 corridor

is New Hampshire's virus hot spot.

This outside activity reveals a lot about litter. Based on my personal observations, Bud Light cans and Dunkin' coffee cups are the most popular form of litter (after the ubiquitous cigarette butts). Those two companies should send out crews to clean up after their customers in the Greater Manchester area. Seriously.

And what is with people throwing used face masks on the ground? Just stop it already.

But I also see people out in the neighborhoods picking up other people's garbage to make the community cleaner. Thank you for doing that. We should all try filling a garbage bag or two — just remember your gloves and a mask.

There have been a lot more people wearing masks to the grocery store. On our Hannaford's run, all the workers and about 80% of the shoppers were masked.

Most of the shoppers who do not mask are men. There was one woman, however, who not only did

not wear a mask, she also ignored the one way signs and did not do social distance very well. I wanted to ask her if she was a Donald Trump supporter, but why pick a fight in the canned vegetable aisle?

Another activity I do manage is reading a lot of newspapers, print and online. Trump and his administration never fail to be in the news for something ridiculous.

Last week he again failed to criticize armed protesters in Michigan, even though this time they stormed the state capital building.

Instead, he said the Michigan governor should try to negotiate a deal with them. Negotiate with armed thugs who stormed a government building? Not a lot to negotiate there, unless it is the terms of a guilty plea.

It is almost enough to make me put down the papers and finish that photo album project.

Stay safe out there.

Manchester's Kathy Sullivan is the former chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

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### A dentist's view on delaying elective care

To the Editor: As a dentist who specializes in oral and maxillofacial surgery, I understand the risks involved in dealing with dental patients. It's similar to what an ear, nose and throat surgeon faces, a specialty that will be free to perform elective procedures.

As clinicians, we are constantly evaluating the challenge of risk vs. uncertainty, both of which exist with COVID-19. Risk is quantifiable while uncertainty is qualitative. With the universal precautions and the additional PPE preparedness, the risk has been minimized and short of a vaccine, will not change much by May 31.

But in the meantime, oral conditions that are mild

now will only get worse; dental pathology can only wait so long.

In my opinion, it is vital that we start treating our elective cases, before they become urgent or emergent cases. The benefit we derive from our intervention will far outweigh the risk.

**SALMAN MALIK**  
Londonderry

### Automated registration does not equal voting

To the Editor: Kevin Avard's op-ed "The twisted logic of the Democrat's voter laws" is nothing but logical fallacy and an attack on a political opponent. Automatic voter registration is not a guarantee that a voter will vote here, it does however create a streamlined system for new residents or

young people to become registered to vote in New Hampshire. A process that can be confusing, daunting, and for some would otherwise not happen.

Being registered to vote in New Hampshire does not stop someone from voting in another state if they meet voting and domicile regulations there. Being registered in a state other than New Hampshire similarly does not stop people from voting here if they meet voting and domicile regulations. Again, registration in New Hampshire does not equal voting in New Hampshire.

Making the registration process easier only emboldens our citizens to be more politically active and involved. On the issue of domicile raised by Mr. Avard's op-ed, why should those who claim and see

the political structure around them (praises and failures) not vote for what they live in?

Coming from the south I am not a stranger to voter disenfranchisement, and I worry that as New Hampshire continues to make this a heated issue (when our regulations already work well) we continue down a path that will create unnecessary barriers for our young and/or new residents.

**MARK RYAN**  
Silver Street, Manchester

### China isn't to blame, President Trump is

To the Editor: China has more than 4 times our population, yet less than 5,000 deaths due to the COVID-19 virus. When

their country realized how deadly the virus was, they closed off a city of 11 million to keep it from spreading. They later brought the country to a standstill and forced anyone entering the country to quarantine for two weeks. They began testing and tracking anyone who came in contact with an infected person. They alerted the world to its danger. President Trump says China should have got it under control. They did.

South Korea saw infections before the United States. It listened to China and the World Health Organization (WHO.) It tested everyone who came in contact with an infected person, isolated those infected and stopped the infection. It did all this without shutting down the country. Its leaders trusted

scientists and acted on their recommendations.

President Trump was told several times in January by the U.S. Health and Human Services secretary and in intelligence briefings that the virus was a major threat. He ignored them. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama left a playbook on how to deal with epidemics. He ignored that too.

Trump gave the virus free reign to spread throughout the country before declaring it a national emergency in March. He blames China, the WHO and anyone but himself for the pandemic he let happen. The 30 million jobs lost, 66,000 deaths, and trillions of dollars spent thus far are his responsibility, not theirs.

**WALTER HAMILTON**  
Portsmouth

"There Is Nothing So Powerful As Truth" — Daniel Webster

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MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley



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