

# OPINION

OUR VIEW

## Be vigilant in hot temps

Borderland summer has featured just a few hot days, but we know the dog days of summer will bring some heat.

But elsewhere, as temperatures climb children are dying in hot cars. And it doesn't take long for a child or pet to die or be irreversibly injured inside a car.

We are not a immune. It can happen here.

One state will now allow bystanders to break into a car if they see a kid inside who they believe is in danger. As of July 1, you can legally smash a window or otherwise forcibly enter a parked car in Tennessee without liability if you have "a good faith belief" the actions help a minor who will suffer "harm if not immediately removed from the vehicle."

Last year, 44 children in the U.S. died of heatstroke in cars. Already this year the tally has reached 16, including the high-profile case of Cooper Harris, the 22-month old found dead in the family SUV in suburban Atlanta last month. His father has been charged with murder.

And 19 states now have laws that specifically make it illegal to leave a child unattended in a vehicle. It is against the law in Rhode Island to leave a pet in a car during extreme heat or cold.

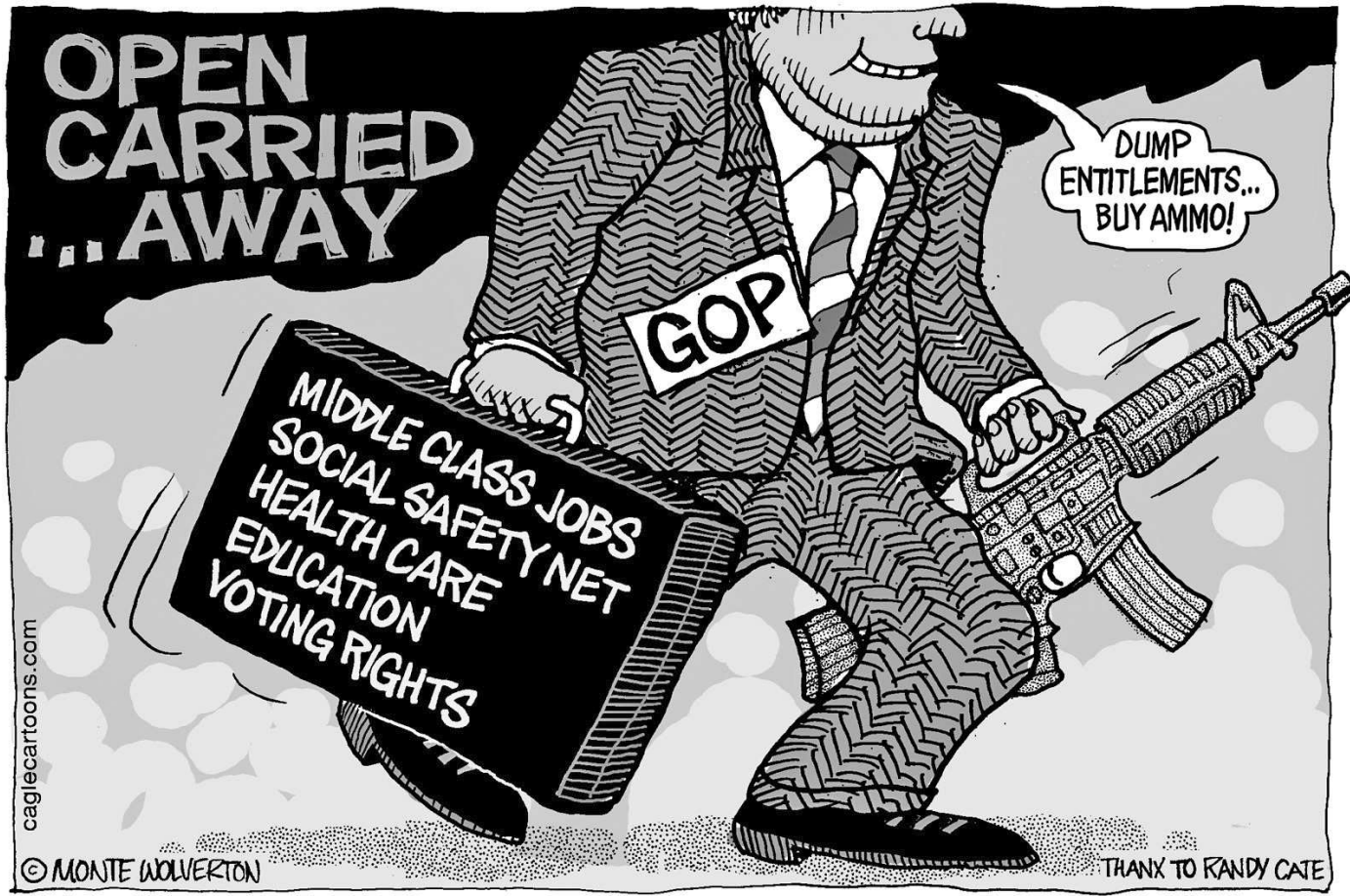
Clearly, most of these deaths are accidents: a hurried parent who has herded other kids out of the car, only to find they are missing one who was mistakenly left behind, or some other similar scenario. As for pets, people may run into the store "for just a minute" that easily can become longer. Experts warn that

children, and pets, can get dangerously hot quickly when left alone in a car. Heatstroke can happen to humans when the temperature is as low as 57 degrees outside and cracking a window does little to keep the car cool. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees.

People have been so moved by these deaths, the Internet is full of ideas to prevent someone from leaving a child in the care. An Internet site suggest that parents place their own shoe in the backseat with their child who may be in a car seat, booster or buckled in with a seat belt. It's not likely, said the site, that you'll forget you shoe, or your child. And a man has taken to social media to try to prevent another child from dying in a hot car by sitting in the car with the windows rolled up to know how it feels to be left in the vehicle.

In Minnesota, people are urged to dial 911 if they suspect an unattended child left in a vehicle is in danger from excessive heat or cold and to remain with the vehicle, if possible, until authorities arrive. As for pets, people are urged to call the local police department or animal control unit if they feel an unattended pet inside a vehicle is at risk.

As temperatures rise, and you leave your vehicle, think about who or what you may have left inside. It may be a hassle, but bring the kids with you and and leave the pets at home when it's hot.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Water levels simplicity/duplicity

To the editor,

Water level guideline changes earlier mentioned by Carl Brown verified his scientific studies of climate change. Now we have an end run around the International Joint Commission on water levels directly to U.S. Senator Amy Kloubuchar by Tom Dougherty. Last but not least our park

superintendent, Mike Ward, is back.

Basic to most Rainy Lake viewers all water is controlled by the outgo at International Falls and the input at Kettle Falls. One button should be installed to raise/lower accordingly.

As Tom has noted there has been weather every year since the new rule curves were

initiated. Back to back years of past drought and flooding would not have happened under the old rule curve. There are some people, businesses and wildlife affected in this watershed above and below Rainy Lake but that is inconsequential.

Last but also least is Mike Ward's admittance that he is back. He left when the water levels

were locked in by ice and came back to a flood. By his leave he allowed the global summer warming to melt Rainy Lake Basin Watershed ice, then ignored the extra snow melt and rain water from Canada that infiltrated without legal passports all through his legal domain.

Alan Burchell  
Kabetogama, MN

## World Cup wows viewers worldwide

I'm here with some bad news, and I'm afraid I'm the one who has to break it to you.

The American fight against the cultural intrusion of soccer is dead. Soccer has won, it's here to stay, it's not going away, and you should probably start adjusting to this new reality.

Germany and Argentina are facing off in the 2014 FIFA World Cup final Sunday, in the famed Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As for my prediction for the final, I think Germany wins 4-1, with German wunderkind Thomas Muller scoring two goals, earning him the Golden Boot award as the tournament's top goal scorer.

According to FIFA, over 900 million people tuned into the 2010 FIFA World Cup final between Spain and the Netherlands, and I wouldn't be surprised if the tally for this year's final reached into the 1.2 billion-1.5 billion range. Even if those numbers are admittedly inflated, that's a lot of people, like, one-seventh of the world's population a lot.

In America, more than 16 million people watched the U.S. take on Belgium in the first round of the knockout stage of the tournament. Before you dismiss that as less than an average Monday Night Football game, remember, this match took place on a Tuesday afternoon, in the middle of the workday for most of the U.S.



Spenser  
BICKETT

STAFF WRITER

After observing the reactions on social media, and following the viewership numbers for this year's World Cup, I think it's safe to say that soccer is here to stay. It's not going to go away and come back in 2018 for the World Cup in Russia, but it's going to maintain the foothold it's created in the past month, and it's going to stick around.

Fortunately for you, I'm here to help ease you into this transition to this new sporting landscape. I'll start with some basics about the game, and try to dispel some myths.

For comparison's sake, in an area where hockey sticks outnumber people three to one, I'll compare soccer to hockey. Soccer is actually a lot like hockey, except it's played with more people on grass, in a larger area. The goal is the same, to work together to get a puck or ball into a goal, guarded by a player.

People often argue that nothing happens in soccer, and that it's boring. To that, I'd say

a whole lot of nothing happens in baseball and football, where breaks in the action happen constantly. In soccer, the players are constantly moving and working to get into a position to score. Goals are hard to come by, but that just makes it all the more rewarding and exciting when they do happen.

Probably the biggest argument lodged against soccer is the habit some players have of diving, or embellishing contact with another player in order to draw a foul. Anti-soccer arguers say players fall to the ground in anguish at the slightest contact, and decry the players as soft or weak.

While I'll admit there are some players who dive frequently, they are in the minority, and many players stay on their feet when they collide with another player. Also, if you watch an entire soccer match, you will be surprised at the amount of full-speed contact that goes on, and how much grappling and jockeying for position that goes on. It's not as full-contact as football or hockey, but the contact level is close to the amount that goes on in an NBA basketball game.

Another issue some seem to have with soccer is that the game can end in a tie. Americans have an obsession with winning, and a tie seems like a concession to many. In their defense,

they often say sports like football, hockey, baseball, and basketball don't end in ties. But, in football, regular season games in the NFL can end in ties, just ask the 2013 Minnesota Vikings. Also, soccer games that require a winner, like in tournaments, don't end in ties, and extra time is played to determine a winner.

As I've started following soccer more in the past year, I've noticed one aspect of the game stands out most for me as a positive. The length of the game is fixed, and doesn't change much. Teams play two 45-minute halves, with a few minutes of stoppage time at the end of each half to supplement stops in play. With a halftime of about 20 minutes, that means a soccer games is over in two hours.

When football and baseball games consistently stretch over the three-hour mark, this turns into a huge positive for soccer. Yes, it's weird that the clock counts up and doesn't stop, but in the long run, it's nice to know just how much time left you have when you're watching a game.

Hopefully you've been paying some attention to the World Cup in the past month. If not, I hope you tune in to Sunday's final with an open mind about soccer. Besides, how often do you get to see something a billion other people around the world are watching too?

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### Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter. Letters may be emailed to laurel@ifallsjournal.com. The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.