

# EDITORIAL

Jill M. Friesz

The word “election” is often met with a sigh and eyeroll.

I get it.

I’m not a fan of politics.

I don’t like all the back-handed “shmear campaign” tactics that go along with the national elections.

I want to know why you think you are the best person for the position. What ideas would you like to implement to make the country, county, city, or school board run more efficiently?

Are you passionate about making whatever office you are running for be the best and serve the people in the best possible fashion?

I am not seeing any national candidates take the high road and explain why they are the best person for the job.

That makes me dislike politics even more.

However, just because I dislike politics, doesn’t mean that gives me a free pass to not try to pay attention to what is going on in the world and do my civic duty as a citizen vote.

It is my responsibility to try to muddle through all the information that is funneled to me and do my best to make an educated decision.

It’s been happening for years, but this year in particular, I have noticed so many local county, city, school board, and park board positions without candidates.

I don’t know the reason, other than

people don’t want to get involved, because serving in that capacity is not always glamorous or fun... but it is very important.

Volunteering to serve on community boards is important because it empowers individuals to actively engage in community development, represent diverse voices, participate in decision-making, network with others, develop skills, find fulfillment, and continue learning and growing.

Our communities need passionate, energetic people to step up and take on these roles to ensure we continue to thrive and grow as communities.

Without passionate people filling these roles, we have nearly vacant boards who will struggle to make progress.

It’s a commonly heard phrase, “If you want something done, ask a busy person...” However, it’s not fair that these roles continue to be placed on the shoulders of those who already wear so many hats.

There are many people within our communities who may have specialized knowledge or expertise, or even an interest in a learning and growing on a board.

I encourage everyone to think about what expertise they could contribute and consider serving on a local board to help continue to make the community prosper.

## THE WORLD around us

### Man sets Himself on fire

A Florida man has died after setting himself on fire Friday outside the downtown Manhattan courthouse where Donald Trump is on trial on 34 counts of falsifying business records, according to officials. Officials said Maxwell Azzarello from St. Augustine, Florida, walked into the park across from the courthouse, threw the pamphlets down and set himself ablaze.

### World Chess Title

Teenage Indian chess prodigy Gukesh Dommaraju, better known as Gukesh D, became the youngest player to claim the men’s Candidates Tournament in Toronto, Canada Sunday. The 17-year-old grandmaster’s win sets up an opportunity

to dethrone reigning world champion Ding Liren of China at the 2024 World Chess Championship later this year.

### Mass Grave

A mass grave with more than 300 bodies has been uncovered at a hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Gaza Civil Defense workers said, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area earlier this month. Col. Yamen Abu Suleiman, Director of Civil Defense in Khan Younis told CNN that 35 bodies had been discovered at the Nasser Medical Complex on Tuesday, bringing the total to 310. Some 73 bodies had been discovered on Monday, Suleiman said.



## LITTLE PASTURE ON THE PRAIRIE

### The best laid plans....

It happens every spring. The best laid plans dashed by unpredictable weather, equipment malfunctions, illness, or most likely all three. But really, the truth behind why spring always gets crazy when you are working on a ranch or farm, is that there’s more to do than can be done. Every year, we must go through the charade that our chore list is doable, and every year we discover it is impossible, but that we must do it anyway.

This year has been no different.

Exhibit A: I was supposed to film a new episode of Perkins County Almanac last weekend, but instead I took care of two sick kids while also trying to take care of three orphan lambs while also checking the new little flock every few hours to see if anyone was ready to have a baby. Oh, and then there was the small matter of preparing for the baby chicks that were coming to us in the mail midweek. Needless to say by Monday I was exhausted and coming down with the same illness as everyone else in the house.

Now it’s Friday again. I couldn’t sleep last night because I couldn’t stop coughing. The kids are still coughing, too, and so is my husband. We’d all be easy to find in the dark. The chicks are here and peeping their fuzzy heads off. And the flock that I was worried would never start lambing (it was three days after their ‘due date’ before the first baby was born) ended up having six sets of twins in a

row. Waiting for overdue lambs to arrive was frustrating, but the subsequent abundance came with its own set of challenges.

The barn at our new place is small. We divided the space into three pens with a slightly larger area in the middle to give moms and brand new babies their own “rooms,” while the ewes that hadn’t lambed yet could also come in out of the elements if the weather turned treacherous. There are only nine ewes in this bunch (the rest of the flock is back at the ranch and doesn’t start lambing until May) so this set up seemed reasonable.

The fact that we had four ewes go into labor in less than 36 hours foiled this particular plan. The next 48 hours brought two more sets of twins. Suddenly there were babies everywhere. Fortunately, these ewes are very conscientious and have been keeping good track of their lambs despite being hustled out of the ‘maternity ward’ more quickly than I would have preferred.

Meanwhile, the seed potatoes are growing long tendrils in the closet, the tomato seedlings are so leggy they look like they are about to walk themselves into the next size of pots, and that episode still hasn’t been filmed. I won’t even list the other chores that have fallen

by the wayside because I have, thankfully, blocked them from my mind.

But, it is all worth it! More than worth it. I still can’t believe I get to be a sheep midwife. That I get to watch seeds spring forth from the soil—seeds I harvested myself

last fall. That we get to watch chicks sprout feathers and learn to fly.

One of my best friends just used up all her frequent flier miles

to take herself on a solo weekend trip to Dublin. “It’s crazy, I know,” she said. “But I feel like I have to do something like this to show myself it’s doable. It’s doable because I just did it.”

So, maybe I will get that episode filmed tomorrow. (I’d really like to get that episode filmed tomorrow!) Maybe we will get the potatoes in the ground. We will definitely be setting up some new fencing so we can move a few of the mamas and babies out onto fresh grass.

And, I really and truly will enjoy every minute of it. It’s the busiest time of year, but it is also the best time.



Eliza Blue

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
94% of North Dakotans say local newspapers are the **most trusted** source for news and Public Notices!

### Question of the Week

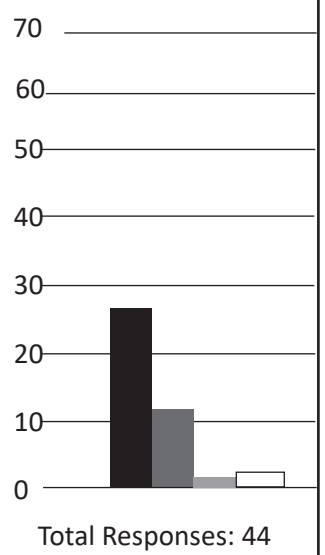
What is your favorite book genre?

- Romance - 27
- Thriller - 12
- Sci-Fi - 2
- Fantasy - 3

Next week’s question...

How often do you wash your bed sheets?

- A. Weekly
- B. Every other week
- C. Monthly
- D. They need to be washed?



Submit answer to:

jill@gspublishing.net or answer on our Facebook page.

This is a weekly feature seeking public opinion. It is not a scientific poll.