

EDITORIAL

Jill M. Friesz

Last weekend, I attended the North Dakota EMS convention in Bismarck where I was honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2025 Media Award. As NDEMSA board member Kyle Michels explained, the Media Award highlights those who positively impact EMS awareness.

I have the unique ability to help all our first responders spread their message and raise awareness through the newspaper. Because I know just how vital each of these services are to our communities, I am always willing to help where I can.

The people who answer the call to volunteer as first responders amaze me. I realize in small communities it isn't always easy to find volunteers, but those who do give their time and talents in this capacity deserve to be commended. Each one plays such an important role and truly makes a difference in their communities.

What they do isn't easy.... I know I would never be cut out for any type of emergency responder work. You don't want me helping in any emergency.

Take last week for example... As I was getting home from work, I drove very slowly into the garage because our

cats and dogs aren't always quick about getting out of the way.

Two of our dogs were having a full-blown brawl on the garage floor. I was halfway into the garage when I heard the commotion and then heard horrible screams coming from one of them. I jumped out of the car to see what was going on and found one of the dogs had the other pinned to the ground and the one on the ground had his paw pinned under my tire.

I tried to shoo one of the dogs away by screaming at them, then jumped back in my car - which has an automatic start and had shut off. In my state of panic, while the dog is yelping in pain, I slammed my hand on the horn several times, then fumbled to start the car again. I slowly inched forward and jumped out to make sure the dog was free.

Luckily, the dog bounced up without as much as a limp and went merrily on his way... as I stood next to my car clutching my pounding heart unable to form a coherent sentence to explain the situation or the extreme horn honking.

So, receiving the media award for the NDEMSA held a bit of irony for me. It's a good thing my contributions are purely in print.

THE WORLD around us

Emotional Support Tigers

A Nevada man who was arrested Wednesday after seven tigers were seized from his home said they were his "emotional support animals." Officials conducted a raid on 71-year-old Karl Mithcell's home Wednesday and arrested the man for resisting arrest. Mitchell did not have the proper permits to own the animals, and violated other rules over the years, officials said. "We have received information over the years that he has been seen walking the tigers loose around the property, off the property in the desert," Nye County Sheriff Joe McGill said in an interview with NBC affiliate KSNV. "There have been social media posts from him with people interacting with the cats which is also in violation."

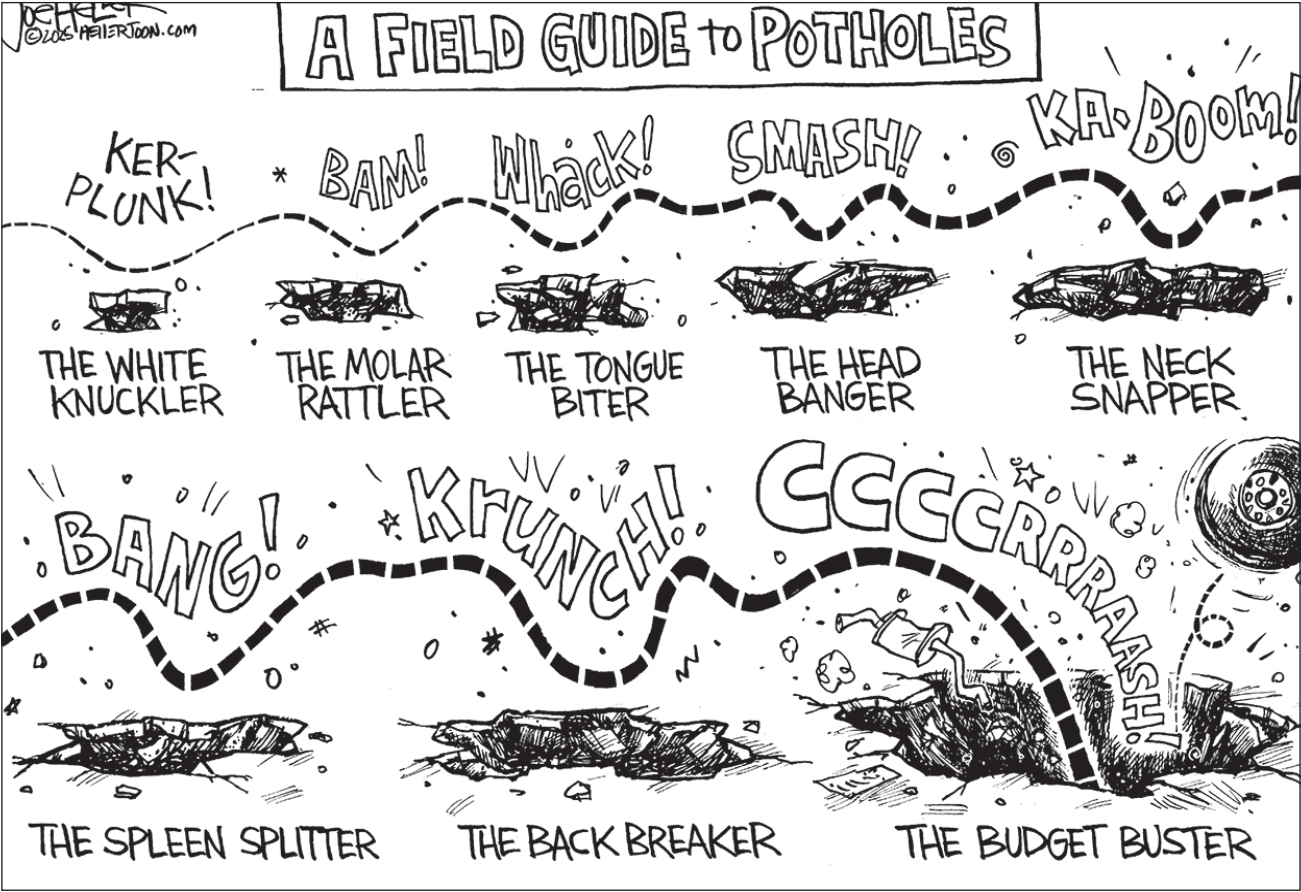
Stock Market

U.S. stocks struggled Monday as President Donald Trump doubled down on an aggressive, sweeping tariff plan and threatened to slam China with an additional 50% levy. The blue-chip Dow, the broad S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq were all lower but had gained back some ground after a

steep fall at the opening bell. Trump, in a post on Truth Social, slammed China for hitting the U.S. with 34% retaliatory tariffs in response to Trump's steep tariffs last week. "If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Trump said.

Weekend Storms

At least 20 people have died from flash flooding and tornado damage that swept across multiple states in the the midwestern and southern parts of the US over the weekend. Half of the reported deaths, which included children and elderly people were in Tennessee, and three were in Missouri. Two people died in Kentucky while Indiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Arkansas have also reported deaths from the storm. The fierce weather has caused rivers to swell and on Sunday, the National Weather Service warned that dozens of locations would reach "major flood stage" even as the rain slow.



MERRILY ALONG

I am not a yo-yo

We've all had bosses and managers who haven't been fun or easy to work for and co-workers who have tested our patience.

I lucked out at my job this time.

Those I work for are great. (Not looking for a raise.)

I think I have been trying their patience since I had knee surgery.

My mom told me it takes a good year for a body and mind to get back to normal from the drugs used during surgery.

I'm not used to brain fog. (I heard that.)

I am getting better, right Gary?

Also, as I said in my last column, I am learning to walk normally again.

To let you know how much I appreciate my co-workers and boss, I'll tell you about a few instances that happened to me that I will never tolerate again.

I hope this helps someone else not to put up with what I put up with at my jobs.

In one of my first jobs, I went to work in the morning, not knowing if my bipolar boss would say good morning. It took me a while to realize that it wasn't me who caused them to be that way.

I'm not a yo-yo. My moods don't bounce.

I didn't realize I didn't have to put up with that kind of behavior and that I should have said something. It was harassment and abuse.

I quit a different boss when they had one of their tantrums. They threw a scissor, and it stuck into the wall.

One was narcissistic,

and they were always right, and I couldn't even fry an egg the right way.

I've had co-workers who wouldn't talk to me. Later, I learned I was setting the bar too high for them, and they didn't want to work as hard as I was. They thought I was trying to make them look bad.

I only work one way. Get 'er done.

Number one, you might be the leader of the pack, but it is not about having power. It is about making things run smoothly.

It is about complimenting a job well done and sincerely helping a co-worker do their best.

I am kind of backing into what I really want to say because this guy doesn't want or like any recognition.

Working with someone who cares as much about the job as I do is wonderful.

My co-worker, Gary, has picked up the slack. He fills in the voids in my mind and recuperating knee.

Before my surgery, I showed him how I did everything that needed to be done.

He quickly picked it up, and he very seldom had any questions.

Gary works beyond what he needs to do.

Not only does he cover several government entities, but he also follows and writes about high school sports, as well as local happenings and special interest articles.

He did tell me the other day that I could cover the prom. He said, "It really isn't up my alley."

Since I returned after surgery, he has been there to make sure I pace myself.

I went to do something, and he had already done it.

When I took time off for my brother's funeral, I knew I would come back to work and not have a million things to do. It was done with very few questions or work to finish.

The articles he writes

are interesting and factual.

He double-checks names and doesn't like to make a mistake, but he will make sure he writes a correction.

Gary is quiet and unassuming.

I hear so many great compliments about his writings in our community.

When he hears a compliment, he ducks his head, moves his cap up and down, and smiles.

You are a good man, Gary Howard.

When I think about the ones I work with and for, I feel very blessed as I go merrily along.

DID YOU KNOW...

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

Question of the Week

Spring is in the air... how do you feel about spring cleaning?

I love it! - 21

I could do without- 11

I dread it -7

I skip it - 15

Next week's question...

What is your favorite flower that blooms in the spring?

A. Crocus

B. Tulips

C. Daffodils

D. Daisies

Total Responses: 54

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.