

# EDITORIAL

## I call bologna

I'm not a conspiracy theorist, I generally don't spend that much time thinking or worrying about things like that, but this one is different.



Jill M. Friesz

I don't have an opinion or theory on whether Elvis is still alive or if a UFO and aliens are housed at Area 51. But I'll admit it, I'm just a little skeptical when it comes to the 1969 moon landing.

This is simply my observation and my opinion, but I struggle to believe we had the technological capability to send astronauts into space, land on the moon, walk around on its surface, plant a flag, and then somehow fire that spacecraft back up and guide it safely home.

Televisions weren't even common in homes until the mid-1950s and they certainly weren't the smart TVs we have today. They were bulky box sets with a handful of channels controlled by a dial. Microwave ovens didn't become widespread until the late '70s, and cell phones didn't really enter everyday life until the late

'90s and early 2000s.

We've made incredible strides in technology over the past 50-plus years.

Today, with the world at our fingertips on a handheld device, launching a spacecraft seems entirely plausible.

The question that sticks with me is this: if we really landed on the moon in 1969, why has it taken more than 50 years to return - and even now, we're just working toward going around it again?

Maybe it was real, and maybe I'm just underestimating what was possible at the time. I'll be the first to admit I could definitely be wrong. But with all the attention surrounding the recent NASA Artemis mission, it's hard not to wonder a little. If we accomplished something so extraordinary more than half a century ago, it seems fair to ask why it's taken so long to get back there in the same way. I'm not saying it didn't happen - I'm just saying I have questions. And maybe a little healthy skepticism isn't such a bad thing.

## THE WORLD around us

### NASA's Artemis II

NASA's Artemis II mission is making headlines as astronauts travel farther from Earth than any humans in decades, currently orbiting the Moon in a critical test for future deep-space exploration. The four-person crew is conducting experiments on radiation exposure, human health, and spacecraft systems, key steps toward a planned lunar landing later this decade. Despite its massive cost and political debate back on Earth, the mission is being seen as a major milestone that could pave the way for a sustained human presence on the Moon and eventually missions to Mars.

### Recovered Pilot

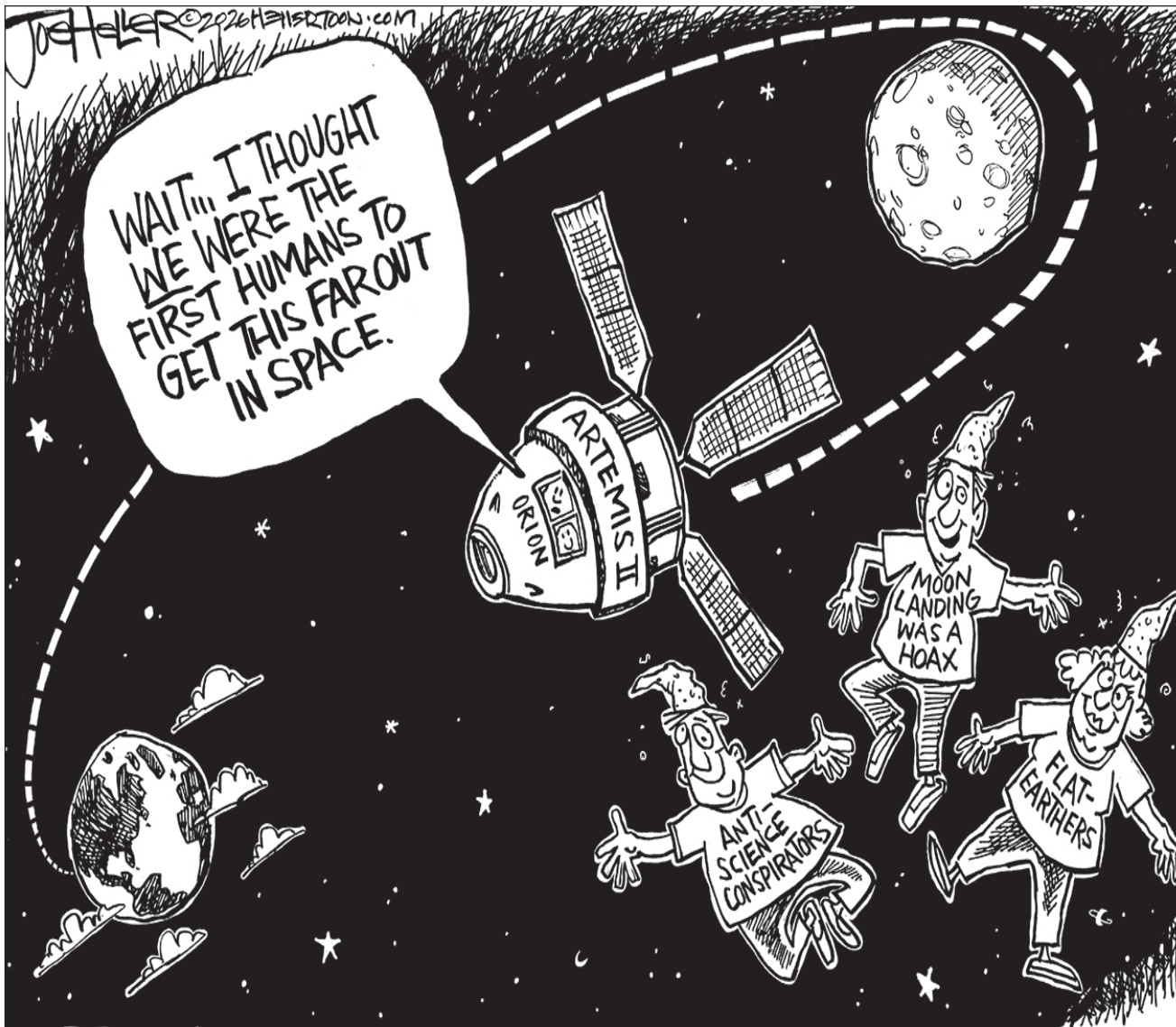
In a dramatic turn, U.S. forces carried out a complex rescue operation deep inside Iranian territory to retrieve a downed airman. The mission involved helicopters, special forces, and coordinated deception tactics to evade Iranian defenses. Despite mechanical failures and heavy risk, including aircraft being destroyed to prevent

capture, the operation succeeded without American casualties. Officials described it as one of the most dangerous rescue missions in recent military history, highlighting both the sophistication and the risks of modern warfare as the broader conflict continues.

### Iranian Airstrikes

Tensions escalated further after reports that U.S. and Israeli airstrikes killed high-ranking Iranian military leaders in Tehran. Among those reportedly killed were key intelligence and operations figures tied to Iran's Revolutionary Guard. These targeted strikes are part of a broader strategy to weaken Iran's military leadership and capabilities. The developments have intensified fears of a wider regional war, with global leaders warning of humanitarian consequences and economic disruptions, especially as critical oil routes remain under threat.

*\*This column aims to document the world around us, preserving significant moments in history for future generations.*



## LITTLE PASTURE ON THE PRAIRIE

### Easter Snow

Growing up in Michigan, Easter almost always arrived during the first full blush of spring. Our side garden would be alive with daffodils and pastel tulips; our Easter outfits were worn with light jackets and dress shoes. That is decidedly not the case here on the Northern Plains. We've had multiple Easter blizzards during my decade on the ranch, and unless it's a drought year, no one is surprised when the big annual Easter egg hunt in town gets moved inside because there's too much snow on the ground. Here, if you want to show off your fancy dress shoes at Sunday services, you usually need to wear winter boots and change in the mudroom at church.

The connections between the suburban Easter traditions of my youth and the first weeks of warm weather were so obvious to my child self that I barely even noticed them. Of course, Easter decorations featured spring flowers, and Easter dresses were short-sleeved. Of course, the colored cellophane "grass" in our Easter baskets was a brilliant emerald green. In southern Michigan, outdoor Easter hunts were only canceled on account of rain.

It wasn't until I had chickens of my own that I began to understand some of the other, more agricultural, associations. Hens start laying more frequently with the return of longer days, so the spring equinox is when we usually expect our egg supply to shift from a trickle to a steady

stream. When the kids were smaller, they'd go out with a small wicker basket to collect eggs from the coop, and it never ceased to tickle me that it looked like they were carrying an Easter basket when they returned, right down to the multi-colored eggs nestled therein, as we selected our hens for color variety.

The themes of rebirth, renewal, and new life that are part of Easter traditions are even more relevant when you make your living working in agriculture, and they feel especially poignant after the kind of epically long, harsh winters we regularly experience here. However, the fact that spring may actually not have sprung when Easter arrives is, well, often a pretty big bummer. I'll admit, I miss the mild Easters of my childhood.

As I've mentioned in previous columns, this winter was eerily warm, but sure enough, this weekend, the aforementioned annual Easter egg hunt in town arrived the morning after an epic spring blizzard. The storm left behind a foot of sloppy, wet snow, and the roads weren't even fully plowed by the time the hunt was supposed to begin. The kids were sad, but as influenza had been marching through our ranks, they wouldn't have been able to go even if it

had been more appropriate Easter egg hunt weather. Meanwhile, as I also wrote a few weeks ago, we are thankful for any moisture after such a dry winter. So, it wasn't just

my kids who were fine with having a white Easter. Even my husband, who was battling influenza himself (while also calving in a storm), was thankful. As crazy as it might sound, that storm could mean the difference between having hay to cut in June and not having hay to cut at all. A well-timed precipitation event can make that big a difference for the whole year.

But, waking on Easter morning to a yard full of birds singing, the smell of wet mud from the snow melting, the whole prairie singing a hymn of thanksgiving, and everyone finally mostly healthy, was joyful indeed. The man of the ranch felt well enough to joke: "See, we do get April showers here; they are just the white kind." I could relax and rejoice as well. And looking out across the yard, as the snow began to melt back around the edges of the gravel road, a little Easter surprise appeared—the grass revealed was every bit as bright and green as the cellophane from my childhood Easter baskets, a funny little wink reminding me that I am not as far from where I started as I sometimes think...



Eliza Blue

### Question of the Week

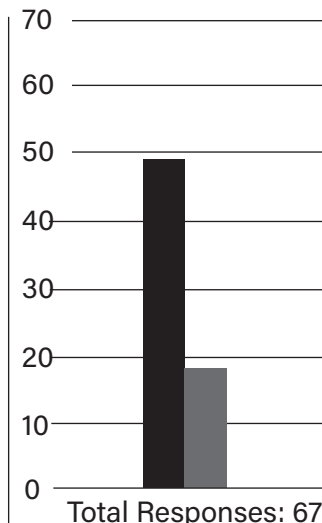
Does the Easter bunny stop at your house?

Yes - 48  
No - 19

Next week's question...

What's your take on the 1969 Moon Landing?

A. Yes - it definitely happened  
B. Not a chance  
C. Undecided



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.*