

EDITORIAL

Jill M. Friesz

It takes a village... Yes, it takes a village to help raise children, but that's not all. In my case, it takes a village to publish your local community weekly newspaper. I don't stop and thank the people who continually offer their assistance nearly enough. So, allow me to take this time to thank each one of you – you know who you are.... for everything you do.

In each of the communities we cover, we have people who send us story ideas, are always agreeable to help take photos, who submit articles or give us a heads up when a news-worthy event is taking place.

In my world, these people are worth their weight in gold. Even though I may not vocalize it nearly as much as I should, I appreciate everything they do. Since we have a small staff to cover a lot of ground, we appreciate those who act as our eyes and ears and contribute in different ways.

I also appreciate those who go out of their way to call in, email, or stop by the office to provide feedback. Sometimes I forget thousands of people read my Editorial... and it becomes a journal of my life in a sense. I always love to hear from our readers, especially when something I have written resonates with them. If you are ever in the neighborhood, I love

visitors. Last week I had a reader stop who wanted to visit about a past Editorial I had written about volunteering and being a part of our communities. I feel like volunteering and contributing to the local newspaper go together, so I wanted to share a cute story he told.

Years ago, he met a much older and likely at that time, a much wiser man. In their conversation, the man mentioned he and his wife had been married for many years and recalled their wedding day. The two were married by a judge and after the judge signed the papers, he told the newlyweds it was now their turn. Confused, they asked what he meant. The judge explained that in their youth there were always volunteer Sunday School teachers, leaders of organizations, and local government. Now that they were married, it was their turn to be serve in those capacities in their community.

It's a story that warrants repeating. As members of our respective communities, it is our job to volunteer our time, and talents to help our communities grow and thrive.

So, while it takes a village to raise a child and publish a community newspaper, it also takes the whole village to make our communities run. In what ways could you volunteer?

resentenced to a lesser term, which could potentially make them eligible for freedom. Erik and Lyle were convicted of killing their parents in their Beverly Hills mansion in 1989, a notorious case that still divides Americans. They are currently serving life in prison without the possibility of parole in California.

**Special Envoy** South Africa has appointed a special envoy to the US in an effort to ease tensions between the two countries, which have worsened since Donald Trump's return as president. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Mcebisi Jonas's selection, adding that he would be "entrusted with [advancing] South Africa's diplomatic, trade and bilateral priorities". Jonas, a former deputy finance minister, made headlines when he made corruption allegations against a wealthy family linked to former President Jacob Zuma. The US last month expelled South Africa's ambassador, Ebrahim Rasool, over remarks he had made about the Trump administration.



LITTLE PASTURE ON THE PRAIRIE  
So many babies!

When I put the ram in with the ewes last November, I calculated gestation, marked my calendar and planned for lambs in the middle of April. But, I recently discovered that Finnsheep, the breed newest to our flock, tend to have a shorter gestation. Suddenly, I was moving my first lambing date up five days and scrambling to change travel plans to accommodate the new schedule.

The new date arrived, and so did babies, but unexpectedly, the first ewe to lamb was not a Finn but a sweet little girl of eclectic origins we call 'Star Baby's Baby's Baby'--the great-granddaughter of one of my all-time favorite ewes. Star Baby's Baby's Baby had twin girls—one white with black spots, and one black with white spots. (We are tentatively calling them Dawn and Dusk, but as we've tried to name Star Baby's progeny over the years and obviously those names never stuck, we will have to see what happens...)

The second round of babies arrived just a few hours later. This time it WAS one of the Finns, a stout sweetheart named Chai, and I got to be present for her labor and delivery. It was absolutely magical in every way, fully affirming how much I love being a shepherd and how thankful I am to be the caretaker of these wonderful creatures. However, gestation length is not the only unusual thing about Finns. They are also famous for having 'litters' instead of the

more common single or twins. Chai lived up to that reputation, and to my amazement, birthed four perfect brown and white spotted lambs with grace and ease.

The third ewe to lamb was not so graceful. Whereas Chai and her Finn sisters always seem to appreciate my presence, the other breed in my flock, Clun Forest, have made it clear in the past that they prefer privacy while birthing. So I wasn't surprised when the first Clun appeared at dusk with a baby, already bouncing and running, belly full of milk, before I even realized she'd been in labor. The weather was warm and beautiful, and as the baby was doing great, and the mom clearly didn't want me harassing her, I saw no reason to move them to the barn. I left the pair with the rest of the flock in the little pasture, thinking all was well.

Imagine my surprise the next morning when I went out to make my rounds and discovered this same ewe now being trailed by TWO lambs. After walking through the flock it was evident that no one else had lambed, and the surprise baby was in fact a twin, but, judging by the mom's total disdain for the poor chap, had decided she only wanted a single. Where he had been the night before remains a mystery, but I now had a bottle baby to raise.

A few days passed with no new lambs. I kept checking around the clock, surprised every time I went to the barn or walked around

the pasture to find no one in labor, especially as the Finns in particular looked un-comfortably huge. I kept catching one or another of them lying alone with a far-away look in her eye—a sure sign of impending birth—but no babies.

Finally, yesterday, I went out to check and Emee, the Finn with the biggest belly, was in

labor. Sure enough, less than an hour later, she too had four beautiful lambs. One of the babies was having trouble getting started so I bought him inside to warm up. By the time I made it back to the barn, a Clun had already had a set of twins, and another Finn had two babies on the ground as well. She was a first-time lamber, and her belly was half the size Emee's had been so I assumed she was done.

Wrong! So, here we are, the day I originally thought I would start lambing and I already have 16 lambs out of 5 ewes. Phew! All I can say is that I am having so much fun, and gosh I need a nap!



Eliza Blue

THE WORLD  
around us

Trump Assassination Plan

A high school student from Wisconsin killed his parents as part of a larger plot to assassinate US President Donald Trump, the FBI has said. Nikita Casap, 17, has been charged with the killing of his mother, Tatiana Casap, 35, and his stepfather Donald Mayer, 51, who were found dead at their home on 28 February. A newly unsealed search warrant also alleges that the suspect's phone contained material relating to a neo-Nazi group called the Order of Nine Angles and praise for Adolf Hitler. Investigators also discovered antisemitic writings in which the accused allegedly detailed his plans to kill Trump as a part of a broader goal to overthrow the government, according to the court document.

Mendez Brothers

The resentencing hearing of Menendez brothers can move forward despite opposition from the district attorney, a Los Angeles court has ruled. The brothers' attorneys are attempting to have them

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Question of the Week

