

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?

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

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.



MERRILY ALONG

A wish come true

I don't have a bucket list. The good Lord willing, I will do anything I don't see or do in this world when I get to heaven.

I don't want to win the lottery. I don't want that stress. My Catholic guilt would drive me crazy. Who do I give it to? Who needs it the most? Who needs that much money?

I do have a wish list of things I would like to happen.

One of my wishes came true.

My two grandsons, who rodeoed this past weekend, won first and second in the saddle bronc riding at the same rodeo.

I have wanted that to happen forever. I didn't care who won first or second; that wasn't important. What fun it would have been if they had tied.

I don't pray for them to win. I pray they don't get hurt, and they ride to the best of their ability.

They don't travel to rodeos together. One likes to travel alone, and the other most likely has a car full of people who need a ride or just go along for the laughter.

My brothers did the same thing.

One liked showing up early enough to get everything right before he rode. He would double-check his saddle and make sure the cinches weren't going to break.

He would check out the stock to see what horse he drew, talk to the secretary, say "hi" to the judges, visit with the announcer, and then before his ride, he would talk to his maker and ride his bronc in his mind over and over again. He is the brother who won championship buckles 30 years apart.

One would come racing into the rodeo with the CD blaring out Chris LeDoux songs, flying past the gatekeeper (with a weekend badge) flashing his membership card because his saddle bronc was already in the chute. It would be a photo finish.

Another would arrive on time at the rodeo with his traveling buddy.

He would tell his buddy (for the nth time) about the last bronc he rode or didn't ride. He was easygoing and deliberate.

My dad and Uncle Jim didn't always travel together. They had different priorities.

My grandsons don't like to have me post anything about them on Facebook or other social media.

Hey! I'm the grandmother.

I try to honor their wishes, but sometimes, I just can't help myself.

You must say something when they win because that doesn't always happen.

I will get calls from the rodeo announcers where the grandsons will compete at the next rodeo, trying to get information on them.

The announcer would tell me they had already called my grandsons, and they wouldn't tell him anything.

The reasoning is that they don't want to ride on anyone else's name. They want to do it on their own abilities.

If you follow rodeo, you will know that the bigger names competing and finishing in the top 10 in their event are given more coverage because their dad, grandpa, brother, sister, or some distant relative rodeoed.

I admire my grandsons for wanting to do it on their own.

I am not too sure it is a good business decision.

I will try to honor it, but sometimes, my heart gets in the way of my fingers.

I am proud of them and will continue to pray for them that they will add to my wish list as I go merrily along.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

LEARNING COACH

Home On The Range is looking for a full-time Learning Coach to work with our youth in a school and residential setting.

Starting pay is \$44,970 annual. Also includes top-shelf 100% paid family health insurance and dental, vision, life insurance and retirement.

Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and complete a background check.

To apply, or for more information, contact Jeff at 701-872-3745, ext. 7122, or email him at jeffb@hotrnd.com. EOE.

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.