



Ned
Hickson

Just what we need: intoxicated cats

As if we didn't have enough to worry about with North Korea, ISIS and the very real threat of another Justin Bieber album, now we can add "drunken cats" to our terrorist watch list. That's right. Because it's not like cats didn't already have enough attitude, right?

Thanks to Japanese manufacturer B&H Lifes, cats can now get drunk and REALLY disagreeable while drinking a new wine developed specifically for the feline palette.

According to B&H Lifes,

the wine is made from a combination of Cabernet grapes and catnip, two flavors cats find irresistible — and the second of which manufacturers explain "helps cats release their inhibitions."

Apparently cat inhibition is a big problem in Japan.

I may be overstating this, but I have yet to meet a cat in the U.S. that has a problem releasing its inhibitions. Or anything else for that matter if the mood strikes. In fact, if anyone needs to be drinking catnip-laced wine to release their inhibitions it's American cat owners, many of whom spend more time picking out dinner for their cat than they do their family.

Why?

Because even though they may whine, complain and refuse to eat dinner, most children won't climb onto the back of the couch while you're watching TV and bite your head. I say "most children" because, hey — I don't want to seem unfair to cats.

The truth is, even the names of cat food demonstrate the level of servitude we have come to accept.

Fancy Feast: How DARE you offer a plain feast!

Tender Vittles: Sure, cats have razor-sharp teeth made specifically for chewing and grinding. But why should they have to make the effort?

Royal Feline: Just a

reminder that you are but a cat's handmaiden or squire.

Let's take a moment to compare this with the names of dog foods.

Science Diet: We're basically experimenting on you, buddy.

Old Yeller: Your dinner is named after a dog that was shot after contracting rabies. Eat up, boy!

Pedigree: We just don't want you to forget you're actually a mutt from the pound.

It's easy to see the hierarchy cats have already established while sober. Do we really want to add the unpredictability of cats with a drinking problem to the equa-

tion? We all know alcohol affects people differently. It stands to reason the same applies to cats.

That's why I'm not willing to roll the dice with my own cat, who I'm pretty sure would be an angry drunk. The last thing I want is for my children to see Mittens on a drunken tear, meowing about how we love the dog more, that birds constantly mock his failure as a hunter, and how being neutered has kept him from having a meaningful relationship.

While it's true manufacturers say there's no actual alcohol in its cat libation, called *Nyan Nyan Nouveau*, which is Japanese for "Meow Meow

Wine," it does contain catnip — which has the same intoxicating effect as "a feline slamming Jack and Cokes with Charlie Sheen," warns Animal Planet cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy. "Nothing good can come from making wine available to cats. Or Charlie Sheen."

My thoughts exactly. So thanks, Japan, but I'll stick to being a manservant to our cat while it's sober and indifferent.

I'm used to it. *Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com*

Public Safety Levy audit positive

EUGENE — Yesterday, Jan. 27, the Lane County Board of Commissioners heard from the external auditor hired to examine the funds from the Public Safety levy approved by voters in 2013. The results of the audit show that the funds have been used to fund the programs as required by the levy.

One of the provisions of the Public Safety Levy, Measure 20-213, passed in May of 2013, was an independent audit of how the money was spent.

"This audit has been completed and validates the trust and confidence the citizens of Lane County put in the

Sheriff's Office," said Lane County Sheriff Tom Turner. "The money was used exactly as the levy was written, providing jail and Department of Youth Services greater capacity to hold violent offenders, and allowed the first step in the repair of the most broken elements of our Public Safety system."

Lane County Health and Human Services Director Alicia Hays said, "With the support of the voters, we have doubled the number of youth services treatment beds. We are serving more youth during their time of need, and helping protect our community."

The audit, conducted by accounting firm Moss-Adams LLP, was a multi-month process to provide an independent perspective about how the funds collected were ultimately used. Moss-Adams is a leader in assurance, tax, consulting, risk management, transaction and wealth services, with a staff of more than 2,000.

The audit memo concluded that "In our opinion, the schedule and management's assertion that the County complied with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2014, is fairly stated, in all material respects."

SSWCD seeks contractor

The Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking licensed contractors to implement the riparian planting portion of the Fiddle and Morris creeks Riparian Restoration Project.

The deadline for bid sub-

missions is Saturday, Jan. 31.

Contact the District Watershed conservationist Seth Mead at 541-997-1272, or email him at ssiuswcd@qwestoffice.net for project details.

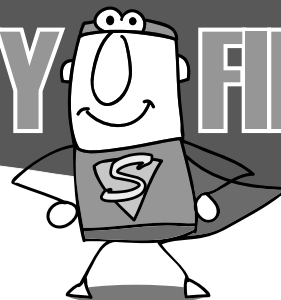
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2:00 PM

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of Diabetes**

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015, 2:00 PM

Managing Activities of Daily Living

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015, 2:00 PM

Surviving the Heat

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2015, 2:00 PM

Beyond Balance

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015, 2:00 PM

Falls Are Preventable

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2015, 2:00 PM

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015, 2:00 PM

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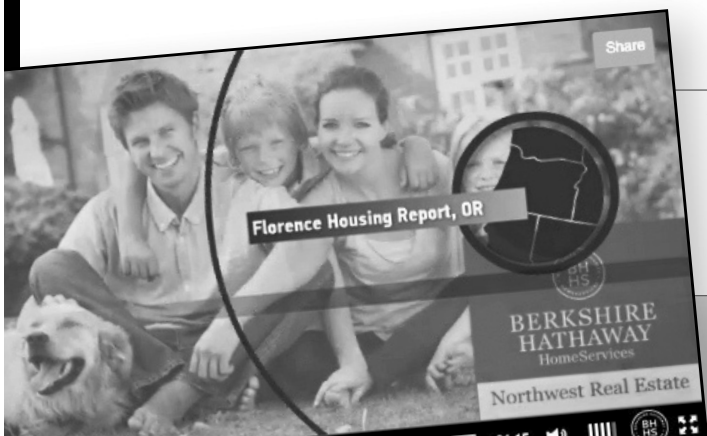


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1360 20th St
Great home for entertaining. Room
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3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1697 sq ft
\$205,500 BH6814 ML#14350375



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Goldenwest stunning home in gated
55+ 20x30 garage & workshop
area, low maintenance landscaping
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1782 sq ft
\$210,000 BH6902 ML#15231349



NEW LISTING

Neat, clean & move-in ready.
Enclosed 8x12 shop w/workbench
& storage. Two decks.
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 924 sq ft
\$79,900 BH6903 ML#15301608



NEW LISTING

Custom "Center" built home.
Artist studio w/great lighting.
Finished garage, epoxy floor,
sink & work area. Fenced
backyard
2 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 1623 sq ft
\$269,000 BH6900 ML#15329414



NEW LISTING

Stunning home in upscale
community of Willow Dunes. Open
kitchen, private fenced backyard,
circular drive. RV parking
2 Bdrm + den, 2 Ba 2088 sq ft
\$359,900 BH6897 ML#15527327



NEW LISTING

Coastal getaway, turn key for great
investment or 2nd home. Fully
furnished. Adjacent lot included w/
septic installed.
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1392 sq ft
\$215,333 BH6898 ML#15474395



FEATURED LISTING

Vacant camp lot close to dunes,
beach & lakes. Park RV & toys
\$33,000 BH6501 ML#13597998



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South Shore gated subdivision, 1
acre corner lot, cleared & ready to
build. Septic approved. Lake water
available.
\$119,000 BH6892 ML#14666443



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Beach lot! Heceta water, septic
approval, ocean view, 3 blocks to
beach. Priced to sell.
\$129,000 BH6363 ML#13329420

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