



Ned Hickson

Men, show your love this Valentine's Day by looking foolish

Since the dawn of time, man has feared Valentine's Day. I'm a journalist, so you can trust my facts on this. And because I'm a *man*, you can also trust me when I tell you our fear isn't because we don't want to express feelings of love and romance; it's because we are afraid of looking stupid while doing so.

This fear has been documented as far back as prehistoric times, in a pair of cave drawings paleontologists say depicts a caveman named "Glork" trying to court a cave-woman.

Image one: To demonstrate his masculinity and win a cavewoman's affections, Glork fights a saber-toothed lion

Image two: Glork is eaten

Millions of years later, though the risk of being eaten by a large predator is relatively low (not counting cougar attacks), men still fear that their attempt to express love could lead to a fate worse than death: Embarrassment.

That's because many men instinctively think of expressing love the same way they do everything else — as a competition. And as with any competition, there is a winner and a loser.

Lose a basketball or card game? You can still look manly doing it. But lose your dignity by coming up with a really lame poem...

*Without you,
I am but a wingless bee
Fat and buzzless
For all eternit-yy*

...and most men would rather cover themselves in A1 Steak Sauce and jump into a lion's cage at the zoo. As a

result, men everywhere are panicking because we know that impressing the women in our lives isn't easy. We realize that you are complicated creatures who need more than a physical connection when it comes to romance; you also need an emotional outlet.

Men, on the other hand, just need an outlet located near a television.

It's not that we don't want to be romantic. We just have a hard time allowing ourselves to become THAT vulnerable again so soon after the Super Bowl.

Ironically — and what most men fail to realize — is that oftentimes a man's willingness to look foolish for the sake of love IS the gesture women find most romantic. In fact, the more foolish your attempt, the greater the romantic impact. It took me a long time to figure out this love/foolishness equation which, mathematically speak-

ing, makes me the most romantic man on the planet.

So when it comes to Valentine's Day, go ahead and write that terrible love haiku:

*When I see your face
I really want to kiss it
And I like pasta*

Or plan a Flash Mob for your secret crush at her work place, even though you can't dance and having your fellow inmates suddenly start twerking in the prison yard could get someone shot.

(Disclaimer: The same goes for twerking anywhere, actually.)

Men, the bottom line is that however you decide to express it, say "I Love You" this Valentine's Day by facing your fear and showing your willingness to look foolish for love.

Let's be honest, it's not like acting foolish is something we don't normally do anyway

when there isn't romance involved.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of

Life," is available at Port Hole Books and Amazon Books. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

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IN BRIEF

Kiwanis selling candy

Kiwanis is now selling now through Valentine's Day, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m., in the Sears showroom at Sixth Street and Highway 101.

Proceeds go to the Kiwanis programs like Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Florence Food Share, Boys and Girls Club, scholarships, and more.

LCC seeks volunteers for ESL program

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Lane Community College Florence Center is in need of volunteers.

On Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ESL needs one volunteer to help a student study for the citizenship test.

Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to noon, a volunteer is needed to help mid-level ESL students with English conversation.

For more information, call the LCC Florence Center at 541-997-8444, ext. 4835.

Poetry Group meets Wednesdays

Friemds of Poetry meets every Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m., in the activity room at Shorewood Retirement Center, 1451 Spruce St.

All are welcome.

For more information, call 541-991-7556.

Garden Club to hear from beekeepers

The Florence Garden Club will meet today, Feb. 11, when John and Ann Evanson, beekeepers for five years, will talk about keeping bees on the

Oregon Coast.

Garden Club meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 North.

Social time starts at 12:30 p.m., followed by the speaker at 1 p.m., and the business meeting at 2 p.m.

The public is welcome.

Humane Society hosts dinner Friday

The Florence Area Humane Society will be celebrating February holidays on Friday, Feb. 13.

There will be dancing and a raffle for prizes.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at The FAHS Thrift Shop, FAHS Shelter, Three Rivers Casino, Raining Cats and Dogs, Mary Ann's Natural Pet, and On Your Feet with a Splash, as well as other places.

Women Vets to meet Friday

The Coastal Women Veterans will hold its monthly luncheon at Homegrown Public House, 294 Laurel Street in Old Town, on Feb. 13, at 11:30 a.m.

Email Rita Cadagin at fish-travel@hotmail.com if you plan on attending.

All women veterans are invited and encouraged to attend.

Celebrate civil, equal rights Friday

On Friday, Feb. 13, in the Siuslaw Public Library's Bromley Room, on Ninth St, in Florence, from 3.30 to 5 p.m., there will be a program called Images of Indigenous Inhabitants.

It will include an audio/visual presentation of worldwide migration and rock art images;

history of Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; 2015 American Indian children with narration, singing, drumming and dancing.

The program is free and open to all ages. It will include snacks and drinks.

The event is sponsored by KXCR, 90.7 FM, educational community radio in Florence.

Us TOO prostate cancer support

The next meeting of the Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Education/Support Lunch Bunch is Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Kozy Kitchen Restaurant, from noon to 1 p.m.

This is an excellent source of prostate cancer information with Urologist Dr. Doug Hoff and prostate cancer survivors in attendance. Bring questions and get answers, or just come to enjoy lunch, listen and learn.

For more information, call Bob Horney at 541-999-4239.

Rhododendron Society to meet

The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6.30 p.m.

Guest speaker Dave Eckerdt will discuss North American native plants from the Himalayas.

The public is invited to come to the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 in Florence.

For more information, call 541-997-3082 or visit www.siuslawars.org.

Port of Siuslaw to discuss moorage fees

The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners will hold its February regular meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., at the port office, located at 100 Harbor Street in Florence.

Bowl for the Cure at Holiday Bowl Feb. 21

Bowl at Holiday Bowl on Saturday Feb. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m... and play three games for \$10 — with \$5 going to cancer research for a cure. Get friends together for a fun time and help the American Cancer Society.

The event is sponsored by Holiday Bowl and the Central Oregon Coast Bowling Assoc.

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Everything *Sweetheart* is Happening at Spruce Point in February

Spruce Point Assisted Living & Memory Care invites you to our **Sweetheart's Social** Wednesday, February 18th 3pm

Join us for Live Country Music with Russ and Ron.

Stay for a tour and dinner afterwards. Be sure to inquire about our Move-in Specials.

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