



**Ned Hickson**

# Five days without teenagers at home (can I get a hallelujah?)

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder. With that in mind, the thought of our three teenagers being gone for most of spring break makes us love them beyond words. In fact, the only way we could love them more is if they each found jobs and an apartment while they were gone.

Don't get me wrong. It's not that we don't enjoy spending time with our kids. Of course we do! What kind

of parents would we be if we didn't enjoy the lighthearted banter we share each day, such as when I say:

"You need to wash your plate."

And without skipping a beat, they reply:

"You're ruining my entire life!"

Ha! Ha! That's why they are called "kids!" Not because they are like stubborn baby goats who, given the chance, will run horns-first into your knee caps. No! It's because they're kidders! So who are we, as parents, to selfishly keep them from spreading that kind of joy to others for five whole days

during spring break?

Needless to say, having the house to ourselves for a week is going to take some getting used to. For example, we'll have to get used to opening the refrigerator and finding more than just an empty carton of orange juice and some spilled ketchup that has dried into something resembling a fruit roll-up. Plus maybe someone's gym sock.

We'll also have to get used to taking warm showers since, without three teens using enough water to hose down the entire Budweiser Clydesdale team, we'll actually have more than 90 seconds before a lack of hot

water turns our morning shower into an audition for *So You Think You Can Dance?*

And I'm not sure how we'll get used to turning on the television and not having a minor heart attack because the volume was apparently set for someone who lands fighter planes on an aircraft carrier. That's assuming we can get used to finding the TV remote in the first place since those kidders won't be here to leave it somewhere — such as between the couch cushions, in a different room completely, or in the shower.

Actually, that might explain why the volume was so high.

Yes, not having our teens at home for a week will take some getting used to. In order to prepare ourselves for what we know will be a difficult transition, my wife and I have spent time talking together about our feelings.

This has been extremely helpful. Once the giddiness passes, anyway.

Which I blame on the wine. Not to mention that cartwheel I attempted.

But hey, we needed an excuse to get a new coffee table anyway.

I'm sure it will be different when, before long, they leave home to find their own way into the world. Suddenly, all

the things we've come to accept and experience on a daily basis as parents will end. Once again, not having them here will take some getting used to. Especially knowing it's for good.

When that day comes, there will be tears. There will be hugs.

And no, there won't be any cartwheels.

Not with what we just paid for that new coffee table.

*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*

## Peace Harbor to host benefit concert April 24

A free benefit concert to raise funds for the Peace Harbor Medical Center emergency department, "Leave A Legacy: Save a Life" campaign, will be held at the Florence Events Center on April 24, at 7 p.m.

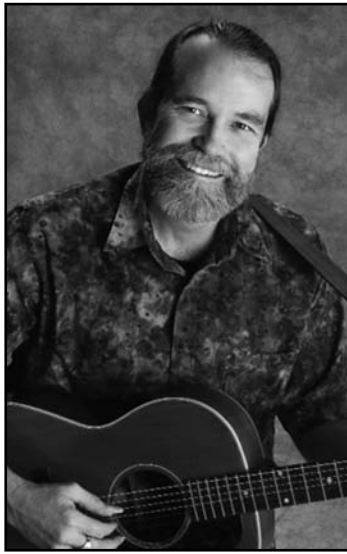
Suggested tax-deductible donation is \$25.

Tickets will be available at the door and performers will include:

• Larry Pattis, an accomplished guitarist named one of the "Top 10 Best Acoustic Music Artists of the Decade" by the International Acoustic Music Awards.

He has been a featured headline performer at such illustrious venues as the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C.

He also tours as part of the American Guitar Masters con-



COURTESY PHOTOS

**C. Daniel Boling and Larry Pattis will be among the musicians performing at the April 24 benefit concert.**

cert series.

• C. Daniel Boling is a Kerrville New Folk and Woody Guthrie Folk Festival award-winning singer-songwriter. From Albuquerque, N.M., Boling has performed at the

Florence Winter Folk Festival in previous years. Boling will perform original songs and guitar playing.

• Mike and Carleen McCormack have been wowing audiences for more than 40

years with an engaging musical style that blends clear, expressive, harmonious vocals with sparkling acoustic instrumental accompaniments.

They have been winners of the Winter Folk Festival People's Choice award, Parent's Choice Gold Award winners and Parent's Guide Honors.

• The New Folksters are a group of folk singers from Eugene, who combine strong harmony with instrumentals.

Their performances are fun and include '60s folk songs, contemporary tunes and rollicking ragtime ditties.

Some members have been part of the folk singing community since the '60s.

Band members include Hal Weiner (guitar, banjo, uke, vocals), Beverly Schriver (vocals, kazoo), Keith Barr (6- and 12-string guitar, vocals) and Ken Luse (bass).

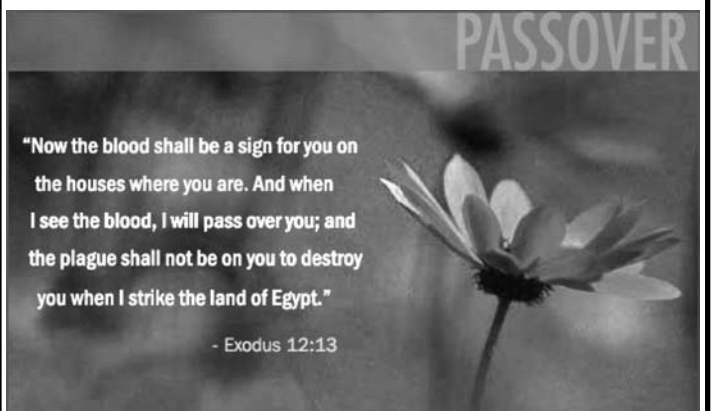
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Write a Letter to the Editor today. Email:  
[EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](mailto:EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM)

### The First Baptist Church Family

Invites you to join us on Sunday, March 29th at 11am

Presented by Chosen People Ministries

**"The Messiah in the Passover"**



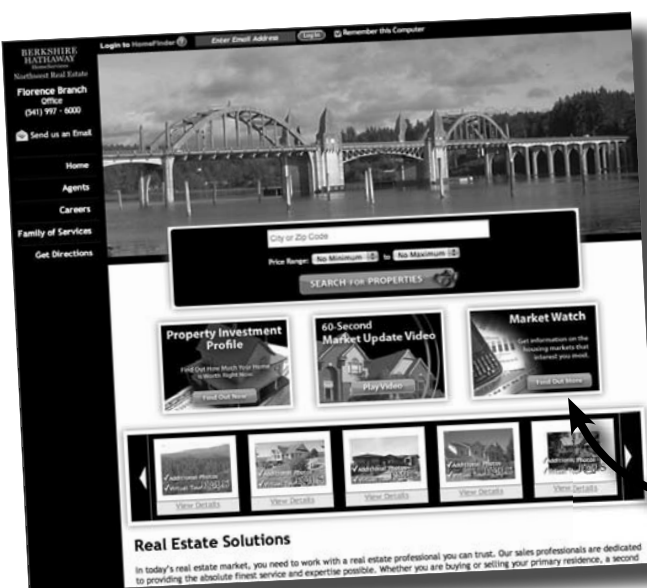
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**NEW LISTING**  
Quiet private location on .54 acre. Separate guest quarters, gourmet kitchen. Dbl garage plus single. RV/boat parking  
3 Bdrm + guest qtrs,  
3 Ba 1620 sq ft  
**\$289,000** BH6936 ML#15606358



**NEW LISTING**  
Paul Patrick's finest! Cul-de-Sac backs up to Ocean Dunes Golf Links. Dream kitchen. Masterpiece garage!  
3 Bdrm, 4 Ba 3453 sq ft  
**\$699,900** BH6935 ML#15501815



**NEW LISTING**  
Lake & mountain views from this brand new custom home. Great room, granite, stainless appliances, bamboo plank mahogany wood floors.  
3 Bdrm, 3 Ba 2024 sq ft  
**\$299,900** BH6928 ML#15684575



**NEW LISTING**  
Fleetwood Barrington on private Cul-de-Sac. Office/den with door to enclosed heated sunroom. 16' x 24' garage.  
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2199 sq ft  
**\$239,900** BH6925 ML#15606479



**NEW LISTING**  
BEAUTIFUL LOT! MFG home is fixer in need of TLC or remove home and put in a new one.  
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 924 sq ft  
**\$49,000** BH6939 ML#15491931



**NEW LISTING**  
JUST LISTED...Cute in-town home, adorable kitchen, fenced backyard. Double car garage.  
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1260 sq ft  
**\$159,900** BH6938 ML#15125076



**PRICE REDUCTION**  
JUST REDUCED! Highway 101 frontage, 11+ acres, well & septic approval  
11.57 acres  
**\$217,000** BH6721 ML#14559162



**FEATURED LISTING**  
Quintessential beach cabin 1.5 blocks to the beach. Private setting, kitchen completely remodeled.  
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 640 sq ft  
**\$200,000** BH6905 ML#15524052



**FEATURED LISTING**  
Wow! You don't want to miss this home! Open floor plan, RV carport, plenty of parking.  
2 Bdrm + den, 2 Ba 1404 sq ft  
**\$155,000** BH6914 ML#15433007