



Ned
Hickson

Only a REAL man can iron clothes at 3,000 feet

not before having their robes pressed by ironing enthusiasts...

It's easy to understand how extreme ironing evolved if you keep in mind this simple truth about the male species:

Given enough time, any man performing a mundane task will find a way to hurt himself.

And if you can hurt yourself doing it, then it's practically a sport already. Sure, bowling and golf may appear to be exceptions to this rule. But ask anyone who has ever jammed their finger in the ball return, or inadvertently left a tee in their back pocket,

and they'll tell you there is plenty of danger involved.

As a man who irons, I know, firsthand, the danger that comes with pressing my daughters' favorite clothes. Especially if I use the wrong setting and turn what was once her favorite band shirt into our newest hand towel. Until recently, men who ironed were looked upon as being wimpy.

This was a stigma left over from an earlier time when men brought home the bacon and women cooked it ...

... then cleaned the kitchen, vacuumed, washed the dishes, bathed the kids, and did all the laundry. Back then, men

who refused to perform domestic chores were still called masculine things such as "The Breadwinner," "King of the Castle," and "Man of the House."

Generally by other men.

Today, men who want to bring home the bacon — while avoiding any domestic chores — are called other things, such as "single" or "recently divorced."

As a result, we men have come up with a way to demonstrate our unquestionable maleness by 1) taking a simple task and 2) making it as difficult as humanly possible. This is the general idea behind "extreme" ironing,

which, according to its website (www.extremeironing.com) "combines the excitement of an 'extreme' sport with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt."

Being a man, I can appreciate that kind of logic.

Any woman can iron a pair of slacks; it takes a MAN to do it while jumping out of a plane.

Because of this, I have decided to train for the 2016 Extreme Ironing World Championships, which my daughters have pledged their support for by providing me with as much ironing to do as possible.

In fact, as a demonstration

of their unselfish commitment to my goal, they each recently purchased entire new wardrobes, none of which is "wrinkle free."

My hope is that the experience will draw us even closer together as a family.

At least, once I can find them on the other side of this pile of ironing.

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

IN BRIEF

Diabetes meeting for April canceled

The April Pre-diabetes/Diabetes Support Group has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, at 2 p.m., in the conference room at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month.

Friends of Library board meeting

The Friends of the Siuslaw

Public Library will hold its monthly board meeting Thursday, April 23, at 11 a.m., in the Bromley Room.

All members and anyone interested in supporting the library or learning more about the Friends is invited to attend. Refreshments are provided.

The purpose of the FOL is to support the Siuslaw Public Library.

For more information, contact SiuslawLibraryFriends@gmail.com.

SWIM, SRAC meeting set for Thursday

Siuslaw Wellness in Mapleton (SWIM)/Siuslaw Regional Aquatic Center (SRAC) invites the public to attend a meeting on Thursday, April 23, at the Siuslaw Public Library, in the Bromley Room, at 5:30 p.m.

Efforts to restore the competitive sized swimming pool at Mapleton Middle School will be discussed.

Fall 2015 SES registration for kindergarten

Kindergarten registration for fall 2015 within the Siuslaw School District will be April 20 to 30, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day at Siuslaw Elementary School.

Enrollees must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2015. Parents should bring proof of age and an immunization record.

No child will be admitted or

allowed to attend school in the fall without proof of age and immunizations.

Buy books, help the library April 25

The next Siuslaw Public Library Book Sale will be Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This sale will include only non-fiction books, such as cook books, how-to books, biographies and other subjects. The sale will be in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public

Library. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

All proceeds benefit the library. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library

Vote for Siuslaw School Garden once a day

The Siuslaw School Garden Program entered the Seeds of Change Grant Program for an opportunity to win a \$20,000 grant.

Through April 27, the community can support the garden program by visiting facebook.com/seedsofchange or seedsofchangegrant.com and vote each of those days.

Community Chorus to take stage May 3

May 3, at 2 p.m., the Community Chorus of Florence will present its Hooray for Hollywood at the Florence Event Center.

The Flotones are special guests and the Siuslaw Children's Choir will debut.

In addition, scholarships will be presented to deserving students.

Call the FEC at 541-997-1994 for tickets, or visit the chorus website at www.communitychorusflorenceor.org.

LCC to host program on sustainability

The LCC Florence Center (3149 Oak St.) invites the public to attend "Sustainability: Surviving and Thriving in a Changing World," presented by LCC faculty member Margaret Robertson, on Thursday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m.

Learn about the possibilities for a regenerative future in a healthy and sustainable world. Refreshments will be served.

Dunes City Triathlon run, ride, swim

The annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon will be held May 9. Interested athletes can register at www.oregondunestriathlon.com.

Anyone that is interested in volunteering for this one-day event can call Renee at Dunes City Hall 541-997-3338.

Pre-race announcements will begin at 7:45 a.m. The transition area will open at 6:30 a.m.

Toastmasters to host workshop May 9

The Toastmasters club in Florence, Siuslaw Tale Spinners, will hold the second in their series of free community workshops on Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., at the Siuslaw Public Library.

The workshop, Set Powerful Goals That Motivate You, will be held as part of the open-house program.

Boardwalk Market re-opens May 16

The Florence Boardwalk Market's 2015 season kickoff is Saturday, May 16.

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April 24, 25 & 26 in Florence



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