



**Ned Hickson**

# Motherly skills include controlling children with a single jalapeno

This year perhaps more than any other, my wife deserves something special for Mother's Day. That's because in spite of our youngest daughter's many teenaged mood swings, my wife has somehow managed to avoid what I'm sure has been a strong (some might even say natural) urge to eat her young.

This hasn't been easy. As I mentioned, our daughter is experiencing the physical and emotional challenges that accompany adolescence. One minute she is merrily talking about her favorite kind of cheese; the next minute, she is blaming cheese for ruining her life. As a father, my instinct is to fix the problem by addressing the root of the issue by going directly to the refrigerator and throwing out everything that is — or has the potential of becoming — a

cheese-like substance. My wife, on the other hand, understands there are complex emotional issues at work, and that, in spite of my good intentions, the likelihood of me being able to resolve such issues is akin to having a bomb successfully de-activated by a goat. Thanks to her motherly intuition, my wife was able to explain to me that what our daughter says, and what she really means, are two completely different things. As I understand it, this is

the first step to becoming a woman. Being a man, I am no stranger to this concept. It's clear that my wife's insightfulness is something that only comes with motherhood. It's a bond that starts during that first nine months, when mother and child reach a special understanding that if baby doesn't stop using mommy's bladder for step aerobics, mommy will eat a raw jalapeno. In this way, even before birth, a child learns Mom will endure physical or emotional discomfort if it means providing a valuable life lesson — because that's what Moms do best. Endure.

If you don't believe me, then I have two words for you: Breast Pump. True, not every mother utilized this torture device, but the mere thought that she could have is reason enough for a child to be respectful. If it were up to fathers to provide breast milk to the human species, we'd all be nursed by monkeys. But Mom endured, in spite of the fact that as you were developing and shaping, so was she: Developing swollen feet the size of couch cushions, and taking the shape of a giant Weeble capable of destroying Tokyo. Keep in mind that during this process, she was still merrily prepar-

ing for your arrival by hanging borders, assembling mobiles, making trips to the doctor — all while visiting the bathroom once every three minutes. So be sure to give a big "Thank You" to all the wonderful mothers out there, especially those who are celebrating their very first Mother's Day this year! You know who you are. If you don't, you might try turning down that breast pump a notch or two...

*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*

## All She Wants for Mother's Day

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## IN BRIEF

### Dan Clements speaks to Van Fans today

On May 6, Dan Clements will speak at the Van Fans meeting, beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the Shorewood. Everyone is welcome and lunch is served at noon for \$8.50. For more information, call Karen Lee at 541-997-9669.

### LCC to host program on sustainability

Lane Community College 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.

### Coastal Women Vets luncheon Friday

The Coastal Woman Veterans monthly luncheon will be held at Jerry's Place, 88274 Rhododendron Drive, on Friday, May 8, at 11:30 a.m. All women veterans are welcome and encouraged to

attend and can RSVP by calling 541-952-4951 or emailing judithturk@kickmetopaul.com.

### Dunes City Triathlon Saturday

The annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon will be held May 9. 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.

### Pitch, Hit and Run Saturday

The Siuslaw Baseball Association is hosting the annual Pitch, Hit and Run event this Saturday, May 9, for the following times:

Boys and girls: ages 13 and 14 at 9 a.m.; ages 11 and 12 at 9:30 a.m.; ages 9 and 10 at 10 a.m. and ages 7 and 8 at 11 a.m.

This is a free event for area children. Top finishers in each division will advance to regionals.

### Toastmasters hold open house Saturday

The Toastmasters club in Florence, Siuslaw Tale Spinners, will hold an open house with refreshments on Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library.

The workshop "Set Powerful Goals That Motivate You" will be held as part of the Open House program.

The community is invited to attend and discover what the Florence Toastmasters is all about.

### Elks to host Mother's Day ceremony

The Florence area community is invited to attend the annual Mother's Day ceremony on Sunday, May 10, at 1 p.m., at the Florence Elks Lodge #1858, 1686 12th St. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

### Get support for substance abuse

The Siuslaw Area Partnership to Prevent Substance Abuse will meet Monday, May 11, at 3:30 p.m., in the Siuslaw Public Library. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### Get prostate cancer info at Us TOO

The next evening meeting of the Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Education/Support Group will be Tuesday, May 12, at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw from 5 to 7 p.m. Call Bob Horney at 541-999-4239 for more information.

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# OUR TOWN

A News Magazine for Florence

## The \$6,000,000 upgrade

Changes to the Central Lincoln PUD electrical distribution system in the Florence area.

Featuring:  
CLPUD GM Debra Smith, Chief Engineer  
Bruce Lovelin, and Communications Mgr. Chris Chandler

Sponsored by:  
Edward Jones Investments  
Holloway and Associates, CPAs  
PeaceHealth  
The Archives, Photo Restoration Specialists

Wednesday May 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm KCST FM 106.9

With Host Bob Sneddon

**Yes or No on 20-231?**  
The Lane County Vehicle Registration Fee  
Jay Bozievich and Ed Scarberry

**100 years of libraries in Florence**  
The Siuslaw Public Library celebrates a century of service.

**SWIM**  
Siuslaw Wellness in Mapleton  
an effort to reopen the pool in Mapleton  
Lauren Hess  
Siuslaw Regional Aquatics Center

**Memorial Day in Reedsport**  
Jim Wells talks about a parade, memorial service and patriotic concert.

**FLORENCE FOOD SHARE**  
Sharing Is Caring

Compartiendo Alimentos (Food Share) de Florence es una despensa de alimentos que sirve a personas necesitadas con cajas de comida de emergencia en el área del Oeste del Condado de Lane. Nosotros distribuimos un suministro de 3 a 5 días de alimentos para nuestros clientes, sin costo alguno, hasta 16 veces al año, y estamos disponibles para todas las personas que califiquen por bajos ingresos. Nuestra misión es aliviar el hambre en el Oeste del Condado de Lane y creemos que nadie debe sentir hambre, sin importar su raza o grupo étnico. Compartiendo Alimentos (Food Share) recientemente recibió dos becas específicamente para ayudar a nuestra comunidad Latina, así que por favor visite nuestra despensa y disfrute de nuestra "Área de Comida Internacional", que ahora provee harina de maíz, o masa, tortillas de maíz, salsa mole, hojas de maíz para tamales, salsa para enchiladas, jalapeños, y mucho más. Nos encontramos en 2190 Spruce Street, Florence, Oregon, en el mismo estacionamiento que la Iglesia New Life Lutheran. ¡Gracias!