

Ned Hickson

If you want to golf with me, bring your hardhat

Though I've only been golfing a few times in my life, it was clear that my reputation had preceded me at the course last weekend. I know this because golfers immediately traded ball caps for hard hats, then scurried down into the sand bunkers like allied forces preparing for heavy fire.

As I took a practice swing, the surrounding trees emptied of all bird species — not in a smooth, organized pattern, but in a frenzied explosion of flapping and panicked bird-song that left three Canada geese lying unconscious in the rough.

(Speaking of which, I'd

like to take this opportunity to apologize once again for the tragic death of that swan near the putting green. Had I known the difference between a putter and a pitching wedge, things might've turned out differently for that majestic creature.)

Because of my past experiences, I was determined to make things different this time.

How?

By becoming more comfortable with the game. I immediately went online for help and, thanks to the power of the Internet, found myself on a pornography website after typing in the first term on my list:

MIXED FOURSOME.

For anyone else who might be looking to the Internet for golf-term clarifications, I'd

also suggest avoiding SCOTCH FOURSOME, SHAG BAG, HOODED CLUB, LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS, and (this really goes without saying) WOODIE.

While these are all legitimate golfing terms, try explaining that to your editor after he finds you on a web page linked to the golf term DOUBLE-D.

(Which, by the way, means when a driver is used on the fairway after it has also been used to tee off — so THERE, Mr. Smarty Pants.)

After getting a handle on the game's terminology, the next thing on my list was golf etiquette. For a lot of people, one of the things that keeps them from actually trying golf is the fear of unintentionally doing something that, as a result of not knowing the proper etiquette, gets them

clubbed to death by someone with a 9-iron.

That's because, to the outside observer, things that seem to warrant a good clubbing are actually no big deal. You want to swing your club and take a six-inch gouge out of an otherwise perfect lawn?

Fine.

Want to drink a beer AND drive an electric go-cart through the woods?

Perfectly acceptable.

However, walk between someone's ball and a small hole in the ground, and there's a good chance you'll be found floating in a water hazard.

The thing to remember is that you will undoubtedly make some mistakes your first time on the course, and that's to be expected.

What won't be expected is

a hollowed-out golf club that can be loaded with tees and used as a blow gun should you need to defend yourself.

But you didn't hear that from me.

This brings us to the actual fundamentals of playing golf — which begins with finding your "natural swing." Ask any golfer the secret to doing this, and they'll tell you its all about having the proper grip.

To achieve this, make sure the back of your left hand and the palm of your right hand are both facing your target. Then, in a smooth arc, bring them up to your mouth while making sure not to spill your beer.

After a couple of practice swigs, place your beer back in the cooler and you're ready to tee-off.

This may not improve your swing much, but it will provide you with a legitimate excuse as to why you shot a 167 on a par 72 course.

And if that isn't enough, you can always claim that playing in a mixed foursome was just too darned distracting.

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

Wyatt Cleary to receive Peace Scholarship

Truth In Recruiting, a program of Community Alliance of Lane County, is pleased to announce that Wyatt Cleary, a senior at Mapleton High School, is the winner of a \$500 Peace Scholarship.

He will receive this award at the graduation ceremony at Mapleton High School

on June 6.

These Peace Scholarships are supported by donations from individuals and organizations as a way to promote alternatives to military enlistment and support youth who have a commitment to peace and social justice.

FRAA to host Business After Hours, open house tomorrow

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) invites members, friends and art lovers to a picnic as it hosts Chamber of Commerce members for the FRAA's first Chamber Business after Hours tomorrow, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Art Center.

Come tour the Art Center,

enjoy the work displayed by its members and view the work spaces of the FRAA's Artists in Residence.

There will be live music, barbecue, refreshments and a raffle of some of our members' work.

The FRAA Art Center is located at 4969 Highway 101.



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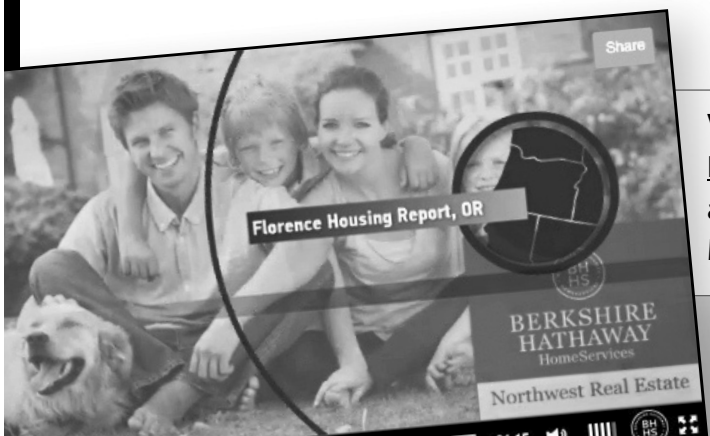


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Bay Bridge condo riverview unit in Old Town Florence. Upstairs unit with open floor plan.
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1003 sq ft
\$224,900 BH6982 ML#15517029



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Nestled among 1.96 acres of privacy just south of town. RV parking with water, electric & dumpsite
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1650 sq ft
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NEW LISTING
Goldenwest clean & ready to move in! 26 x 44 RV garage w/13' & 9' doors, dumpsite, 50 amp, water, storage, loft & workshop
2 + den/office, 2 Ba 1826 sq ft
\$264,900 BH6987 ML#15210680



NEW LISTING
Sounds of the ocean! Gourmet kitchen, Granite, hardwood floors, Oversized 2 car garage & 2nd 90' driveway with 30 amp/water, fenced yard
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1999 sq ft
\$364,000 BH6974 ML#15265375



NEW LISTING
Spectacular! Bright open living room & kitchen. Gorgeous backyard. Great shop.
2 Bdrm + den w/closet, 2 Ba 1334 sq ft
\$225,000 BH6988 ML#15625606



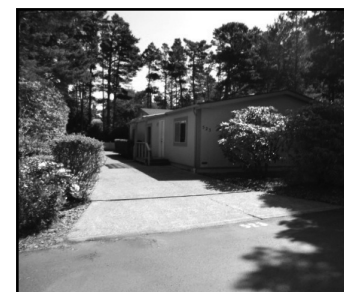
PRICE REDUCED
North lakes area, beautiful home, move in ready! Garage, patio, deck & fenced backyard.
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\$159,000 BH6965 ML#15574410



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3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1440 sq ft
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NEW LISTING
Custom home designed for those who want more. Formal living area w/tray ceiling & marble fireplace. Beautiful kitchen.
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1888 sq ft
\$339,000 BH6984 ML#15119446



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