



**Ned Hickson**

# Want to be a better father? Get a bigger grill

Sunday morning I will awaken to the sizzle of bacon and eggs, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the shuffle of approaching feet as I lay in bed quietly thinking to myself, *My God, my wife is leaving me.*

Then I'll remember: *Wait — It's Father's Day!*

It's a day when we fathers are revered for our wisdom, patience and, in a few rare instances, our neckwear.

For one whole day I'll be the perfect father since my wife will be handling everything for me. She does this to

help me relax and enjoy my special day. The problem is, it's hard to relax when, by handling everything herself, my wife makes it clear I could be replaced by a dishwasher and a few extra power cords.

Okay, that's not entirely true.

I can still claim "The Grilling of Food" as my main contribution to the daily operation of our family. I have managed to keep this duty the way most men do, by making the task of grilling appear as complicated and miserable as possible, even if it means faking a heat stroke while grilling pre-cooked hot dogs.

I realize there are many new fathers who have made

themselves indispensable during the diaper-changing phase. Just remember: your indispensability in this area — much like this morning's tightly-wrapped dooty — will eventually disappear into the Diaper Genie.

That's when grilling even the simplest things, such as a bratwurst, should be made to look as difficult as possible.

To do this, you'll need a large grill. The bigger the better. In fact, if a Hibachi is your main grilling source, go now, hop into your vehicle, and accidentally back over your Hibachi several times and replace it with something more practical.

And, practically speaking, we're talking a grill roughly

the size of a Humvee.

Why?

You need a large cooking surface so that you can convincingly spray down flames and battle for control over a raging inferno that, if not for your grilling skill, would quickly consume everyone's bratwurst — and quite possibly the world.

Unless you are highly experienced in pyrotechnics, or live near an open gas line, trying to produce this same effect on a Hibachi is very difficult.

Once you have your giant grill, you'll need to keep a spray bottle handy. Your wife will assume it's to prevent charring. This is partially true. But mostly you'll be

using it to spray on your face and body to appear as though you are perspiring when, in fact, you are frequently supplementing any loss of body fluid with liberal amounts of ice cold beer hidden behind the grill.

Lastly, you should purchase a special, custom-made spatula that is so enormous and so heavy it can only be wielded with two hands. This will make the grilling process appear even more difficult by requiring a "spotter" every time you flip someone's burger.

Put all of this together — spray bottle, giant grill, two-handed spatula — and you'll have the dramatic image you want, which is that of a

sweat-stained father staggering in and out of the flames of his grill, both hands gripped tightly around the handle of his 50-pound spatula as he devoutly retrieves the evening meal.

Sure, this may sound like a lot of effort; you could fold clothes instead.

But the effort is worth it when it comes to family.

Besides, it's really hard to keep beer cold when it's hidden in the laundry.

*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*

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## IN BRIEF

### Library board to discuss new budget today

Siuslaw Public Library District board of directors will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St., in Florence. There will be a public hearing on the proposed 2015-16 budget.

A complete agenda for this

meeting is available online at [www.siuslawlibrary.org](http://www.siuslawlibrary.org).

### AARP Senior driving class today

The AARP Driver Safety Program will be offered Wednesday, June 17. Class is held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Shorewood Retirement Apartments, 15th and Spruce streets.

Cost for AARP members is

\$15; non-members is \$20.

To register, call LCC Florence Center at 541-997-8444.

### Beekeepers to begin buzzing today

The Central Coast Beekeepers Association will begin holding monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

The meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the large meeting room in the Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye St. in Newport.

These meetings are open to everyone, especially those interested in learning more about how to keep bees in a coastal climate.

For more information, contact Florence member Becca Fain at 541-997-3792.

### Real Food Co-op call to artists

Art and craft donations for a fundraiser for the Real Food Co-op are needed by June 20.

The benefit will be held June 27 at Kenneth B. Gallery.

If you are interested in donating, would like to help with the event, or have questions, contact Christine at [delgadochristine1@gmail.com](mailto:delgadochristine1@gmail.com) or call 206-369-6825.

### Library Friends board meeting set

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library will hold its monthly board meeting Thursday, June 25, at 11 a.m., in the Bromley Room at the library.

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

For more information, contact [SiuslawLibraryFriends@gmail.com](mailto:SiuslawLibraryFriends@gmail.com).

### Summer hours begin at LCC

Lane Community College will close on Fridays for the summer beginning Friday, June 26, and continuing through Friday, Aug. 28.

No services will be available, and no classes or events will be held, unless otherwise scheduled by a department or program.

### Lutherans invite you to 'Come As You Are'

New Life Lutheran Church continues through the Summer with its "Come As You Are" Wednesday evening Worship Services at 6 p.m.

Come enjoy the more casual setting and fellowship including discussion and sharing life stories among the group.

For more information, contact Pastor Lori Blake at 541-997-8113.

New Life Lutheran is at 21st and Spruce streets, next to Florence Food Share.

All are welcomed to be part of this midweek worship service.



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