



Ned Hickson

Hey, snoring is the sign of a seasoned journalist...

Every journalist has a routine. For example, I always write my column early in the morning. The earlier the better. That's because, generally speaking, I'm not awake yet. Sure, I may be drinking coffee and typing, but if you were to monitor my brain activity, it would register somewhere between an earthworm and the average American watching "The Bachelorette" (and yes, I'm an average American). Admittedly, my brain doesn't open for business until about 10 a.m. By then, I've been at the keyboard for three

or four hours with no real memory of what I've been writing. I assure my editor this unique quirk is the sign of a seasoned professional. And he assures me the reason we need to keep replacing my keyboard is because, at least once a month, he finds me facedown drooling on the return key. That may be true, but I tend to do my best work under pressure. And there's nothing like the pressure of trying to finish a column before saliva short-circuits your keyboard. In addition to a lack of cognizance, I also prefer writing early in the morning because there aren't any distractions, like... oh, I don't know... say, being blinded by

a crazed fly? The truth is, this column was going to be a stunning piece of social commentary. I had planned to utilize all the tools I've acquired as a columnist (namely, spell-check and the "delete" button, assuming it hasn't been drooled on) to discuss a little-known but steadily growing segment of the voting population: Chihuahuas who have mistakenly been issued voter registration cards in Florida. Anyone who has written Pulitzer Prize-winning material will tell you it takes an incredible amount of concentration and skill to produce work of such significance. I know. As a recipient of the

Putziler Prize for "Most Consistent Use of Spelling Errors" in 1999, I was, quite literally, only a few scrambled letters away from a Pulitzer myself. In keeping with that standard, I should've been able to finish my Chihuahua column in spite of being the unwitting target of a psychopathic fly. I have no excuse other than to say, before this experience, I would've never considered sealing up my cubicle and installing an air-lock door complete with retinal scanner and emergency fly swatter. It actually started out like any other annoying man-Vs-fly situation. Fly lands on hand. Hand shoos fly away. Then, and without warning:

Fly attacks eyeball. Things immediately moved into the realm of Alfred Hitchcock Presents, complete with — I must admit — screaming that would've frightened Janet Leigh. In all fairness, I now had only ONE good eye, which limited my peripheral vision and put me at a distinct disadvantage to the fly which, as we all know, has enough eyes to see in all directions at once — including behind — which is the direction I happened to be running from. Yes, I probably should've stood my ground. And if he hadn't blinded my other eye, I probably would have. However, as I stood there swinging blindly at the fly with a rolled up

magazine, I realized two important things precisely in this order: 1) I looked like a Star Wars fanatic pretending to be in Jedi training. 2) Someone could walk through the door at any minute. Because of this, the Putziler Prize committee will have to wait. In the meantime, I still have a chance at another Putziler, depending on how I spelled "Chihuahua." 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

Local ham radio operators to have 'Field Day'

Florence ham radio operators will join thousands of amateur radio operators across the U.S. and Canada to demonstrate their effectiveness and proficiency in providing critical communications after a catastrophic event such as an earthquake or tsunami. On the weekend of June 27-28, members of the Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club (COCARC) will establish four amateur radio stations capable of communicating all over the world at Sutton Campground in group area A. Beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, local hams will operate these stations continuously for 24 hours until Sunday, June 28, at 11 a.m. During that time they will communicate with other stations in Canada, the United States and Oceania to test abil-

ities, equipment and practices. One station will be dedicated to public education and information, where members of the public are invited to "get on the air." This year the club will be assisting members of Troop 777 of the Boy Scouts of America to obtain their radio merit badges. This will be an exciting educational experience for the members, and for fire and police department staff, city staff and the community at large. Field Day is the largest amateur radio event in the world. Last year, more than 2,700 different groups and more than 40,000 licensed operators all across the US and Canada participated in this event. This year, ham operators will construct emergency radio

stations at fire stations, parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards all around the country. The Amateur Radio slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works" is more than just words. Hams will again demonstrate their ability to send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that may be compromised in a crisis. Over the past several years, the news of catastrophic events around the world and here at home have summoned ham operators to volunteer their skill and equipment to aid in saving lives and protecting property. There are more than 700,000 FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators in the U.S., and more

than 2.5 million around the world. Hams voluntarily, and at no charge, provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies. COCARC maintains and operates emergency communications stations at the Florence Justice Center and the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue hall, as well as adjunct equipment in other community facilities in town and a powerful 2-meter repeater on Herman Peak. Wildfires, blizzards, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis; all these and more are the events Hams endeavor to prepare for and Field Day is a valuable tool to exercise and cultivate readiness and capabilities. The Central Oregon Amateur Radio Club invites the public to participate in Field Day 2015.

I WORK WE SUCCEED
Vickie

"I like this job. They are nice and let me do my job."
- Vickie, employee, Eugene Water & Electric Board

Promoting community jobs for people with developmental disabilities

DHS
Oregon Department of Human Services
EMPLOYMENT FIRST

Read more about Vickie's success story:
IWorkWeSucceed.org

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Northwest Real Estate HomeServices

formerly Prudential Pacific Properties

Same great brokers... same excellent service.

What's happening where you live?

Watch our new online 60-second videos produced from the latest MLS data.

Get a quick snapshot of real estate activity and price trends in the Florence area.

- Automatically updated
- Clear & accurate information
- Localized market areas
- Information you want to know

Visit our website at RealEstateFlorence.com and click the 60-second Market Update Video!

NEW LISTING
Woahink lakefront contemporary home on 1.1 acre. With dock, boathouse with lift & 89.54' of lake frontage
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2283 sq ft
\$530,000 BH7019 ML#15160669

PRICE REDUCED
Siuslaw riverfront home on 5.76 acres, great fishing, 3 car garage, shop, garden garage, greenhouse, barn & more
3 Bdrm, 3 Ba 2675 sq ft
\$389,000 BH7001 ML#15108133

PRICE REDUCED
Enjoy country living! Beautiful & tranquil property nestled among native vegetation & trees w/clean singlewide.
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 924 sq ft
\$117,500 BH6927 ML#15031496

PRICE REDUCED
North lake area beautiful home, move in ready! Garage, patio, deck, fenced backyard.
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1512 sq ft
\$145,000 BH6965 ML#15574410

NEW LISTING
Beautiful Fuqua mfg home on nearly an acre near Heceta Beach
2 Bdrm + den, 2 Ba 1782 sq ft
\$265,000 BH7006 ML#15417235

NEW LISTING
Charming A-frame in private setting on .61 of an acre
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 1080 sq ft
\$194,900 BH7010 ML#15522960

NEW LISTING
Mercer Lake unobstructed views! Community dock across the street. Laron fish/ski boat w/130 outboard motor included
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 952 sq ft
\$249,900 BH7018 ML#15382306

NEW LISTING
JUST LISTED... WHAT A GREAT PROPERTY, large living room, spacious master, oversized garage, carport for boat/RV, shop
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1608 sq ft
\$289,000 BH7007 ML#15411148

NEW LISTING
Secluded lakefront custom home w/382' of Woahink lakefrontage w/ boat house
3 Bdrm, 2 Full/2 Half Ba 3536 sq ft
\$725,000 BH7009 ML#15113592

Florence Branch | 1875 Hwy 101 | Florence, OR | (541) 997-6000 | www.RealEstateFlorence.com

© 2014 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc. Equal Housing Opportunity.