



Ned Hickson

Airlines asked to crash planes to reduce passenger stress

Recently, a federal jury in Billings, Mont., awarded \$1 million to a woman who said she suffers from post-traumatic stress after her Delta Airlines jet made an emergency landing in November of 2011.

The case gained attention because it opens the floodgate for other post-traumatic stress lawsuits, which includes anyone who has ever ridden in a taxi in downtown New York.

Though I never suffered anything as severe as post-traumatic stress from my own NYC taxi experience, it was many weeks before I could free my mind from the terrifying image of my driver giving other drivers the bird with both hands as he navigated through Madison Avenue traffic using only his knees.

Even today, I'm sure that his back seat still has a perfect impression of my hands — in the form of a death grip — which he can use as a nice conversation piece.

If you think about it, most of us deal with potential post-

traumatic situations on a daily basis without giving much thought to lawsuits.

Just this morning, for example, I filled the gas tank.

It's a situation rife with post-traumatic stress potential, especially when you consider I'll be reminded of that horrific experience in three weeks when my statement arrives.

Ever find yourself in a hurry opening a can of soup, then a can of dog food, spoon both of them out, heat the soup, then realize as you're eating that you don't remember which of the two cans you

measured the water with?

Though it's the kind of thing that lingers on your mind, I have no plans to appear on the witness stand in the case of Ned vs Alpo.

It's not that I'm trying to belittle how frightening the experience of an emergency landing must have been for the woman who sued Delta Airlines. I just happen to think the alternative — actually plummeting to the ground at 800 mph — would be much more stressful.

In fact, polls show that four out of five travelers actually prefer landing safely during

an emergency than to crash landing in a nonemergency situation (It's important to note that the fifth traveler who was asked happened to be a retired Kamikaze pilot.)

The truth is, depending on your frame of mind, there are lots of things that we face every day that could be the catalyst for post-traumatic stress: the ingredients label on a package of hot dogs; that funny sound your car only makes on long trips; your teenagers; a carton full of eggs with rippled shells; your teenagers; beer caps that look like the twist-off kind but

aren't; your teenagers; having a surgeon whose last name is Thrasher, Flatline or Firstpatient — all of these are legitimate stress inducers.

If you have found any of this to be traumatic, I apologize.

If you're still thinking about it tomorrow, that would be post-traumatic — and lawyers in Billings, Mont., would like to hear from you.

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

Florence police, National Child Safety Council seek donations

Florence Police Department (FPD) and the National Child Safety Council (NCSC) are asking for donations to create safety education materials for children. The deadline for donations is Friday, Aug. 7.

The NCSC is a nonprofit organization that gathers community donations to fund professional educational resources on child safety and police appreciation.

"I worked with NCSC a couple times before," said Florence Police Chief Tom Turner about his experiences as Lane County Sheriff.

"I've been really impressed with the program and with the materials," he added.

According to 2014 statistics, NCSC produces more than 300 pieces of educational material. Each city or service working with NCSC can tailor the materials to fit certain age groups and topics.

The materials range from bicycle safety and bullying awareness to drug prevention, Internet safety and other important issues.

The NCSC also provides materials that can help prevent seniors from being victimized, with topics on driver safety, drug trends, domestic violence and identity theft.

The NCSC also provides crafts, coloring pages and activities to make the learning more accessible.

On average, NCSC materials cost \$1.90 per child. Commonly donated amounts benefit groups from 30 to 200 students, with donations from \$57 to \$380.

The NCSC can send safety materials for 30 to 5,000 children at a time.

Turner said, "We get to use the materials wherever we want. In our schools, community, events ... It winds up being a very cost-effective activity for us in the police department."

For more information, go to www.nationalchildsafetycouncil.org.

If you would like to donate, contact the Florence Police Department at 900 Greenwood St. or call 541-997-3515.

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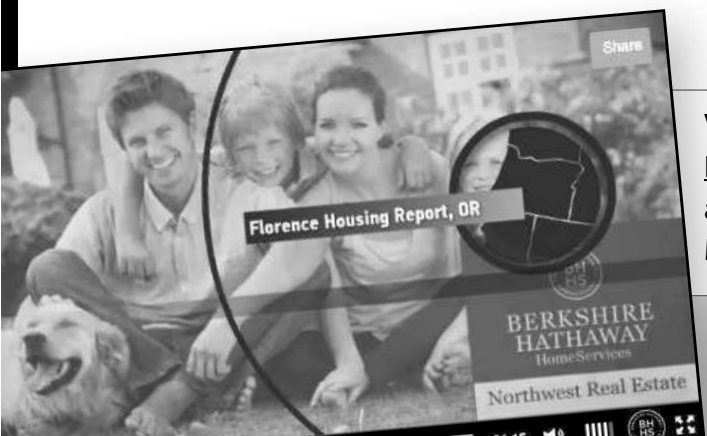


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2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2344 sq ft
\$525,000 BH7037 ML#15323553



NEW LISTING
Lovely in-town home, light & bright living room, formal dining nook in kitchen, family room. Fenced, move in ready!
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 1609 sq ft
\$219,900 BH7048 ML#15474649



NEW LISTING
Great buy-in town, wood fireplace, living room, slider in dining to covered patio. New carpet, blinds, interior paint & bark
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1498 sq ft
\$164,900 BH7047 ML#15031055



NEW LISTING
Looking for vintage? This home is a charmer with arched entries, garden area, fruit trees & fenced packyard.
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 1998 sq ft
\$139,900 BH7044 ML#15693001



FEATURED LISTING
Amazing historic home blocks from Old Town, updated regularly to keep up with the times, large corner fenced lot.
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1886 sq ft
\$329,000 BH6885 ML#14032069



FEATURED LISTING
Sunny, open floor plan with large craft/hobby room, green area surrounds home, oversized garage. Laminate floors
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 2554 sq ft
\$289,000 BH6821 ML#14575519



PRICE REDUCTION
What a combo! Great home, oversized garage with lots of cabinets, large 2 car carport for boat/RV plus big shop
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1608 sq ft
\$269,000 BH7007 ML#15411148



PRICE REDUCED
Siuslaw riverfront home on 5.76 acres. Great fishing, 3 car garage, shop, barn, greenhouse & garden garage.
3 Bdrm, 3 Ba 2675 sq ft
\$369,000 BH7001 ML#15108133



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2 Bdrm, 1 1/2 Ba 1004 sq ft
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