



Ned Hickson

This is why I always call for backup when talking turkey

Over the weekend, I was the victim of an unprovoked and extremely frightening turkey attack. In my defense, there were five of them (technically known as a “gang” of turkeys) involved in the assault, which started because of my proximity to a preening female turkey, which had apparently snubbed her suitors in favor of me.

Possibly because she was confused by my chicken legs. Whatever the reason, the male turkeys didn’t take well to this and decided the best

way to handle the situation was to join forces and, one by one, take turns flapping their giant wings at my [censored]. Before I knew it, I was being circled by an agitated turkey gang and wishing my editor had assigned me to something less dangerous, like covering a Blind Axe Throwers convention.

The reason I was in this situation was because I’m a journalist committed to getting the story. Even if it means risking my own safety by putting myself in harm’s way on the front lines.

OK, so it was a turkey farm.

And I was under the watchful eye of a highly capable

turkey wrangler named Dirk; a man confident in his ability to “throw down” against even the largest bird, including, once, a stray ostrich that had gotten confused and wandered over from a nearby farm.

As Dirk explained, he knew something was wrong almost immediately when he noticed, “One of the turkeys looked way too big.”

That’s when he swung into action and, drawing on years of wrangling experience, defused the situation by calmly approaching the bird, gaining its trust... and then suddenly throwing it into a headlock.

“When I woke up, the ostrich was gone,” said Dirk.

Secure in the knowledge that my back was covered by Dirk the Turkey Wrangler, I had entered the large pen of turkeys in hopes of getting firsthand experience, which I could use to enhance my story, or possibly my obituary, depending on how quickly things deteriorated.

I should mention that I had been made aware of the potential dangers that arise when turkeys adopt a mob mentality, then signed a waiver releasing the farm of any liability should I be: Injured or otherwise decapitated.

“Don’t you mean ‘incapacitated,’” I asked.

“Yeah — that, too,” said

Dirk.

Standing in the middle of the pen a short time later, the turkeys didn’t seem to be paying much attention to me.

This prompted me to engage them so I could get a better feel for their personalities. I crouched; bobbed my head; gobbled a little.

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” said Dirk.

At that very instant one turkey extended its head above the others.

Yirp. Yirp. Yirp.

As I discovered, this is turkey talk for, “Just because we are two completely different species doesn’t mean we can’t be lovers.”

I suddenly realized I had the attention of every turkey in the pen, particularly five who had been strutting around, chests puffed out, trying to win the affections of

“Lucy.”

“Uhhhm, too late,” Dirk said helpfully. “Cover your privates.”

“What..?”

Next thing I knew, I was surrounded, dust and feathers flying.

I obviously survived, thanks in part to Dirk’s quick thinking, which was to yell “Get out of there — but keep your privates covered!” over and over until I could get back to the gate.

Admittedly, the experience left me shaken but it won’t keep me from having turkey this Thanksgiving.

But I’ll be wearing an athletic cup...

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

Stocks. Bonds. CDs. IRAs. Mutual funds.

Andy Baber, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
1010 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439
541-997-8755
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

PRE-HOLIDAY COUNTRY STORE Saturday, November 7th 9 am - 2 pm

Baked goodies, Gift bags and Baskets
Crafts, Stitchery and Rada Cutlery

Luncheon Served 11 am - 1 pm
Homemade Soup, Bread & Pie

Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood, Florence

DENTURE SERVICES INC.

Here to serve
your denture needs:

Dentures
Immediate Dentures
Implant Dentures
Relines and Repairs

FREE CONSULTATIONS
Monday-Thursday
10am - 2 pm
Or by special appointment

524 Laurel St.
541-997-6054



William Foster LD
Sherry, Office Manager

Relines and Repairs
Same Day

Financing: Citi Health Card
12 Month no Interest



Saturday, Nov. 7 • 10am-3pm

ARTS and CRAFTS FESTIVAL

at Best Western Pier Point Inn
85625 HWY 101, Florence

PRESENTED BY: L.A.C.E.

Rathleen & Nina's

Now taking orders for Thanksgiving Pies.
Last day to order is Nov. 24.
Last pick-up is Nov. 25.

Voted Best Pie in Readers Choice 6 years!

Pumpkin pie...\$10.95 • Fruit pie....\$16.95
Cream pie.....\$14.94 • Pecan pie..\$16.95

Open 7 days • Daily Specials • Closed Thanksgiving
3611 Highway 101 N • Florence • 541-997-7004

GET YOURSELF READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
HAIRCUTS
STILL ONLY \$22
COLOR, PERMS, BARBER CUTS ALSO
FAMILY HAIR STYLING
1525 12th Street, #8, Florence
please call for appointment
541-999-4215 • Judy Roth

U.S. Coast Guard gives Spirit of Excellence Award

The U.S. Coast Guard Station (USCG) Siuslaw River awarded Boatswains Mate Second Class (BM2) David Contreras as the “Sailor of the Quarter” for the 2015 third quarter, July to September.

Contreras, 29, was selected by his crew, superiors and station command as Sailor of the Quarter based upon his sustained superior performance of duty while being assigned to Station Siuslaw River.

The Sailor of the Quarter award is part of the USCG Spirit of Excellence Program at the station.

The honor was presented by Senior Chief Tim Tregoning, Officer in Charge, at a recognition ceremony with an all-hands muster.

Contreras is a native of El Paso, Texas.

He enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 2008 and served at Station Marblehead, Ohio, before arriving in Florence in 2012.

Contreras is a coxswain on all station boat platforms, and serves as the Rescue and Survival Systems Petty Officer at Station Siuslaw



BM2 David Contreras

River.

As a coxswain, Contreras is responsible for several rescues on the Siuslaw River and local Pacific Ocean.

His duties as the Rescue and Survival Systems Petty Officer include ensuring that all members of the crew are outfitted with proper survival equipment.

“Petty Officer Contreras displays outstanding proficiency as a boat operator, and impeccable attention to detail in the Survival Shop. His leadership within this crew is invaluable and he is very deserving of this honor,” said BMC Ben Snider, Executive Petty Officer.

Season of Caring reception set for FEC Nov. 14

On Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the public is invited to attend an artist reception that will benefit

nonprofit organizations Food Share and Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS).

There will be a bin for food donations, and one for donations of warm coats/blankets to help those in need in the community.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visitors are invited to a soup-kitchen style lunch with live music hosted by the Friends of FEC Gallery Committee.

For \$1, patrons will be served soup and bread, coffee and water. There will also be an art raffle to benefit Food Share and SOS, with local artists donating art works and jewelry for the raffle.

All proceeds will be donated to Food Share and SOS.

You’ve got it coming.

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

Winner of:
6 - Tonys
6 - Academy
Awards
and a Grammy

DIRECTOR
DAVID LAURIA

LAST RESORT PLAYERS
Florence Events Center
November 6 - 8 & 13 - 15
Fri & Sat: 7:00 Sun: 2:00

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
JASON WOOD

Tickets at eventcenter.org, 541-997-1994, or at box office
Show info at www.lrpproductions.org

BOOK BY
FRED EBB and BOB FOSSE

MUSIC BY
JOHN KANDER

LYRICS BY
FRED EBB

based on the play “Chicago” by **MAURINE DALLAS WATKINS**

“Chicago” is presented by special arrangement with **SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.**

Deborah Grigsby
Counselor (LPCi, R3216)
Life, Health & Wellness
Coach

185 Nopal Street
PO Box 2566 ~ Florence, OR
541-999-1913 best or 997-1234
Dgrigsby61@hotmail.com

by Appointment only

*“A Holistic Approach to Counseling through
Mindfulness and Meditation”*



Siuslaw Valley Counseling
Holistic Counseling & Coaching Services
www.siuslawvalleycounseling.com



Let Paul show you a new car or truck.
Stop by today!

JOHNSTON
MOTOR COMPANY



2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
(541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475



It's not like her.

Mom has always
been so patient,
but now when I
ask her questions
she gets angry.

We can help.

Call us with questions
about aging
and Alzheimers.

1-855-ORE-ADRC
HelpForAlz.org

ADRC
Aging and Disability
Resource Connection
— of OREGON —



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM