



Ned Hickson

Insurance premium up? You can thank my clumsy dog

Each year, we gather as a family to have our pets blessed on St. Francis Day. We do this because we want to give our pets every advantage, particularly if there's a chance — through divine intervention — that our Chocolate Labrador's IQ could be raised above that of a standard carrot.

I know this is supposed to be a general blessing situation, but I think God would agree there was a serious oversight during Stanley's

creation process.

I know He is very busy. I know He sees all.

But maybe He was also trying to catch the season finale of "Survivor."

Whatever the reason, somewhere in the world there's a dog with two brains. Undoubtedly, its owners are very happy. They don't care that their dog's enormous cranium causes people and other dogs to stare. That's because their dog is smart.

Their dog has an instinctive understanding of things like gravity. These owners give thanks to St. Francis each day because their dog, in spite of its bulbous cranium, would

never high-center itself on a coffee table in front of company.

Stanley's problem is that he tries to move like a gazelle when, in fact, he has the dexterity of a bull moose. He may THINK he can leap over the back of the couch from a seated position, but repeated attempts have proven otherwise.

I've given up trying to explain this to people; I simply tell them he must be choking on something and trying to give himself the Heimlich maneuver. It's less embarrassing than the truth, which, more often than not, prompts people to react as if their very life depended on not upsetting the lunatic dog before Animal Control arrives.

However, Stanley does come in handy when trying to get rid of pushy sales people. All I have to do is open the door wide enough for them to glimpse a 60-pound dog repeatedly leaping chest-first onto the couch and then falling to the floor. On the rare occasion a sales person makes it through their entire spiel, I've yet to have one come inside even when invited.

I should mention that Stanley is more than a year old. The fact he is still doing things like this concerns me. So much so that I began looking for a treatment. After hours of research and a lengthy discussion with my vet, we reached a disturbing prognosis for Stanley: There is no treatment.

At least, not for him.

But I did find out that Stanley is not alone. According to a study conducted by Tesco Pet Insurance in England, Chocolate Labs are officially the clumsiest breed of dog on the planet. Tesco's study showed that Labs are twice as likely to hurt themselves while attempting something that researchers agreed, "Requires a crash helmet."

In addition, 55 percent of Chocolate Lab owners filed a claim in the last year for damages to their home under the category "Act of Dog."

Unfortunately, this behavior is present in Labradors here in the U.S. as well. One example is a three-month-old Lab puppy in Oklahoma who recently blew the roof off his owner's house.

As it turns out, "Jake" was fine and the family had left for the day. Firefighters speculate that the dog had chewed a hole in the gas line when a nearby water heater clicked on, causing a blast powerful enough to level the house.

This incident really put things into perspective for me. Come next year, when we gather our pets for St. Francis Day, I'll just pray for Stanley's continued good health and happiness.

That's assuming we still have a roof over our heads.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. This has been an excerpt from 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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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

All About Olives – David R. and Lynne Twombly
1411 Bay Street – 541-997-3174 – Open seven days, 10-5 – www.allaboutolives.us

Gourmet goodies await at the corner of Bay and Maple streets, with every kind of olive imaginable, plus a vast selection of infused oils and balsamic vinegars to make any palate salivate.

Owner Lynne Twombly manages the store along with another family business, Central Coast Disposal, with her husband Dave and daughter Clarita Thrall. The Twomblys moved to Florence in 1991 and opened the doors — and olive jars — of their second enterprise in April 2011.

"We love olives and thought it would be a fun shop for locals and tourists alike that reflects the small-town flavor of Bay Street," Lynne said.

Clarita serves as co-buyer while handling the bookkeeping and accounts receivable. Lynne, a mother of four with two grandchildren, attributes her success to staff and family teamwork.

"My employees really care about our customers," she said. "Being one big family really helps. We believe in big smiles and friendly service."

All About Olives carries a delicious array of treats for upcoming holiday feasts: pickled vegetables, balsamic vinegars, stuffed olives, dips, jams, oils, garlic, tapenades, bruschettas and hot sauces.

All the extra virgin olive oils are cold-pressed from the orchard to the bottle in fewer than 48 hours. Natural flavors range from garlic, rosemary and basil infusions to buttery, fruity and peppery finishes. Balsamic vinegars include Blackberry Pearl, Mandarin Orange and even Milk Chocolate for baking.

Pit Stop
by Catherine J. Rourke

"Anything edible is available for tasting," Lynne said. "It's not just a store but a warm, interactive family experience."

Garlic lovers will go bananas over the Jalapeno, Habanero and Mustard Dill flavors. But like the store's namesake, olives predominate,

with over 20 varieties stuffed with cheese, hot peppers, pimentos and more. Try the Happy Hour Almond or Hickory Smoked.

The store also carries unique housewares, kitchen gadgets and tableware. Select your favorite gourmet items to create a beautiful customized gift basket for holidays and special occasions.

Olives rank high among the healthiest foods for preventing heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke. So stuff yourself silly with some Sicilian Double-Stuffed and don't forget the Dirty Martini Mix on the way out.



ALL ABOUT OLIVES

New oils, balsamics, and olives, but we now also have virgin olive oil skin care products, kitchenware, coasters, placemats, table runners, aprons, knives and more!

541-997-3174
1141 Bay St. (Formerly Balcony Gourmet) • Old Town Florence

POLICE LOG

Florence Police

Nov. 1
Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 1400 block of Ninth Street.

Accident, with injury, was reported at milepost 24 on Highway 126.

Alarm was reported in the first block of Sea Watch Place. Trespass was reported in the Glenada area.

Theft was reported in the 4700 block of Highway 101.

Burglary was reported in the 1600 block of fourth Street.

Nov. 2
Criminal mischief was reported in the Florence area.

Theft from vehicle was reported in the 400 block of Ivy Street.

Theft was reported in the 3200 block of Munsel Lake Road.

Water rescue was reported in the first block of Shoreline Drive.

Dispute was reported in the

1600 block of 22nd Street.

Trespass was reported in the 1500 block of 10th Street.

Alarm was reported in the 900 block of Jasper Lane.

Assault was reported in the 1500 block of Ninth Street.

Nov. 3
Alarm was reported in the 83200 block of Kendall Lane.

Child neglect was reported in the 1300 block of 12th Street.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Ninth Street.

Alarm was reported in the 2500 block of Highway 101.

Assault was reported in the 5400 block of Leavitt Loop.

Nuisance was reported in the 1200 block of Ninth Street.

Accident, without injury, was reported at Rhododendron Drive and Shelter Cove Way.

Loud noise was reported in the 4300 block of Spruce Street.

Fire was reported on Glenada Road.

Forgery was reported in the 1500 block of Ninth Street.

Child neglect was reported in the 1600 block of 16th Street.

Disorderly subject was reported in the 100 block of Florentine Avenue.

Accident, without injury, was reported in the 4700 block of Highway 101.

Disorderly subject was reported in the 400 block of Kingwood Street.

Disorderly subject was reported at Highway 101 and Ninth Street.

Nov. 4
Theft of services was reported in the 900 block of Highway 101.

Assault was reported in the 1300 block of Bay Street.

Child neglect was reported in the 1500 block of Airport Road.

Death investigation was conducted in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive.

Burglary was reported in the 1700 block of Pine Court.

Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 1600 block of 17th Street.

Nov. 5
Illegal camping, lodging was reported in the 700 block of Quince Street.

Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 2100 block of Highway 126.

Theft from vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of 17th Street.

Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 101.

Loud noise was reported in the 1600 block of 27th Street.

Harassment was reported in the 300 block of Ninth Street.

Illegal camping, lodging was reported in the 700 block of Quince Street.

Death investigation was conducted in the 3700 block of Highway 101.

Theft was reported in the 1500 block of 10th Street.

DUII was reported in the first block of Wild Winds Street.

Dispute was reported in the 2100 block of 24th Street.

Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 5600 block of Highway 101.

Disorderly subject was reported in the 100 block of Florentine Avenue.

Nov. 6
Animal abuse was reported in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Maple Street.

Theft was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 101.

Alarm was reported in the 800 block of N. Marsh Lane.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2000 block of Willow Street.

Theft was reported in the 1600 block of Pine Court.

Animal abuse was reported in the first block of Harbor Street.

Dispute was reported in the 2400 block of Highway 101.

Nov. 7
Fraud was reported in the 1700 block of Willow Loop.

Dispute was reported in the 800 block of Highway 101.

Fire was reported in the 87500 block of Tiernan Road.

Dispute was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 126.

Arrest, with warrant, was reported in the 1600 block of Pine Court.

Illegal camping, lodging was reported in the 1400 block of Ninth Street.

Nov. 8
Dispute was reported in the 1100 block of Hemlock Street.

Unlawful vehicle entry was reported at 29th and Spruce streets.

Alarm was reported in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive.

Alarm was reported in the 83000 block of Siltcoos Station Road.

Harassment was reported in the 1300 block of Bay Street.

Illegal camping, lodging was reported in the 1500 block of Highway 101.

Burglary was reported in the 100 block of Florentine Avenue.

Harassment was reported in the 1300 block of 11th Street.

Disorderly subject was reported in the Florence Area.

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