



Ned Hickson

Parents, it's time we rally for having spring break too

Some of you may already be participating in the annual celebration of spring break. And by "participating" I mean coming home from

work at lunch to find your teen still in pajamas eating Pop-Tarts straight out of the box while playing "Call of Duty" or streaming "Supernatural" reruns on Netflix.

Being a parent, you will smile and playfully tousle their hair. You'll ask them if

they're enjoying their much-needed vacation from another hard month of schooling. They will grunt in response, causing you to chuckle as you walk to the kitchen, open the refrigerator, and find nothing left but a chilled cantaloupe rind.

"You must've worked up an appetite," you'll say, though what you're really thinking is:

Between early-release days, in-service days and holidays, my kids spent a total of nine days in actual SCHOOL last month! How is this even FAIR! I hate you! I hate everyone!

Oops, sorry. That last part was my teenagers.

My point is, the time has come to expand spring break to include EVERYONE so we can all enjoy a week of unfettered fun. And naturally, when I say "everyone," I realize there are certain positions

so important to the country's infrastructure they can't shut down without causing our great nation to crumble. So I'm sorry: cooks, servers and bartenders, you'll have to draw straws for President's Day instead.

For the rest of us, however, a week of relaxation during the nicest time of year is going to be fantastic! No longer will Cancun, Panama City and South Padre Island be the exclusive destinations for drunken college students and creepy professors offering extra credit assignments.

No way! From now on, they'll have to share those warm beaches with parents inflating 8-foot plastic sea mammals for their young children or, in some cases, their horrified teenagers.

"We're TOO OLD to ride a plastic Shamu!" they'll protest.

But Dad will continue

undeterred, blowing into an air nodule located in a highly questionable area of plastic whale anatomy. This will of course be embarrassing to his teens, who are already mortified by the fact that Dad wore his swim fins to the beach and sand-whipped 30 sun-bathers en route to a relatively quiet spot near a keg draped with bikini tops.

That's when Mom and Dad will begin spreading suntan lotion on themselves as if creating a protective layer against the Ebola virus, slathering every crevice before putting on matching Panama Jack sun hats.

They will then hand the lotion to their sobbing teens, assuming they haven't already run off to drown themselves in the surf.

What if your kids are already in college with spring break plans of their own? No problem! Surprise them at the

beach! Chances are they used your credit card to secure their travel plans anyway; how hard can it be to get a room at the same hotel?

Imagine the laughs you'll share when they realize the person yelling at everyone to stop staring at his daughter in the bikini contest is DAD! Or the reason that group of girls keeps giggling every time you get near them is because Mom is showing pictures of you pointing to your very first chest hair!

Yes, I think the need to implement a National Spring Break Week is something we can all agree is long overdue.

For those who don't, I have two words for you:

Summer school.

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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Annual 'Shred Day,' car wash at Oregon Pacific Bank

Oregon Pacific Bank will be holding its ninth annual Shred Day on Saturday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until the truck is full.

Trucks will be set up to accept confidential paper materials to be shredded onsite in the Florence Branch parking lot, 1355 Highway 101.

The event is free and open to everyone in the Florence community. Businesses may bring confidential materials for shredding during the last hour of the event.

Remember that once the shred truck is full, Oregon Pacific Bank will be unable to accept any more confidential documents.

The public is encouraged to take advantage of Shred Day as a way to protect themselves from identity theft by correctly disposing of paper waste.

After all paper documents have been shredded they are taken to be recycled, allowing for a safe and responsible way to dispose of confidential paper materials.

The Shred Day event will be staffed by Oregon Pacific Bank employee volunteers, friends, and family members. Many of these volunteers are also part of Oregon Pacific Bank's Relay For Life team, "Banking on Life," and will be helping out with a car wash held onsite during the Shred Day event to raise money for Relay For Life and support the American Cancer Society's efforts in cancer research, advocacy and support services.

For more information about the upcoming Shred Day event, call Oregon Pacific Bank at 541-997-7121 or visit www.opbc.com.

FRAA to host artists booth at Indoor Yard Sale April 2

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will have a booth at the upcoming Indoor Yard Sale, set for April 2, at the Florence Events Center.

FRAA will have art supplies as well as home decor

items for sale. Members are encouraged to donate items and bring them in on Friday, April 1, between 9 a.m. and noon.

The yard sale will be on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community Easter Egg Hunt
at Miller Park Field Area
18th and Oak Streets

Saturday March 26 10:00 A.M.
Ages 1-10

Come and enjoy the fun!

Co-hosted by
Siuslaw High School Interact Club, & The Rotary Club of Florence.