



Ned Hickson

Ashes to ashes, dust to... Hey, not so fast!

I'm turning 50 this August.

There. I said it.

The truth is, I haven't given it much thought because I don't feel 50. Sure, there are some days I roll out of bed, walk to the bathroom and realize the creaking and popping sounds I hear aren't coming from the floorboards.

And yes, I've noticed when I'm cleaning out my razor it looks like someone used it to shave our neighbor's grey Schnauzer. But most days I throw on a rock-er T-shirt or slim-fit dress shirt, leave it untucked over my jeans, lace up my superhero Vans or hiking boots and am on my way.

Then I rush back in for a second trip to the rest room. But still... I'm technically on my way.

However, over the last several months I've started getting reminders from society's collective data bank that I am getting older. The first came in my email back in January, when I got one of those Singles Looking for Love In Your Area! messages.

I've received many of these over the years, and they always include the image of an attractive 30-something woman in a sun dress laughing with an equally attractive 30-something man as they sip wine on a beach at sunset.

Not anymore.

This time, the word "singles" had been replaced with "seniors," and the two 30-somethings apparently found

a hotel room, leaving behind a white-haired couple sipping on fruit smoothies and playing Canasta.

Soon after that, I received a free trial subscription to AARP magazine. I have to say, there's nothing like having an entire magazine full of people living it up on cruises, attending Broadway musicals and playing tennis to remind you that you're still another 15 years away from retirement.

I've also been receiving a lot more pharmaceutical spam. Mostly for reducing blood pressure.

And for increasing my, uh...

Longevity.

But it wasn't until yesterday, when I opened our mail box top find a letter addressed to "Mr. Ned Hickson" from Neptune Cremation Service, that I felt the buzzards beginning to circle. Death was not only coming for me — he knew my address!

I opened it and was a bit relieved it wasn't a coupon with an expiration date. At the same time, I was a little unnerved by a statement in the opening paragraph that read:

More and more people are

being cremated — and the numbers are increasing every year!

The numbers of what, dead people? Was this a veiled threat?

All of this made me come to the realization that, yes; I am getting older. At least on paper. However, the fact that society's collective data bank isn't aware that I'm ridiculously happily married, am in reasonably good health and am more than a decade away from qualifying for Social Security just shows they don't know everything.

Given the fact that I come from a long line of longevity and late bloomers, I think I'll keep the cremation plans on the back burner for now (although that pun might kill someone) and think of approaching 50 as the second act of my life as opposed to the final act.

Besides, I still need to find out who keeps using my razor on that Schnauzer...

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications in Florence, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com.

Siuslaw Riverside hosts artists reception

The Siuslaw Riverside Eat and Drink Restaurant will be hosting an artists reception Thursday, April 21, for featured photographers Stephen Jones and Patrice Lampton.

The Riverside, 1340 Bay St., will have a no-host bar as well as a selection of menu items available.

The event will take place from 5 to 8 p.m.

Jones and Lampton are an award-winning husband and wife documentary photography duo who moved to Florence three years ago.

Also featured will be the work of local fine-art photographer Rudy Gargioni.

Lampton is an accomplished nature and wedding

photographic storyteller, an internationally published author and the managing editor of Aaronstadt Studios.

Jones is a seasoned photo-journalist, educator, wedding, commercial and documentary photographer.

Their work showcases many of the well-known iconic features of the coast as well as some hidden gems and some imagined, "as I thought it should be" photographic art.

There will be framed wall art as well as loose prints and note cards available for purchase.

For more information, call Riverside Restaurant at 541-331-3663.

Homegrown features 7 Devils at beer tasting

The 7 Devils Brewery from Coos Bay will be the featured brewery at Homegrown Pub on Friday, April 22.

The 7 Devils Brewing Company is a small craft brewery on a mission to bring the inspiration of the coastal area to the tap. Owned by Annie Pollard and Carmen Mathews,

7 Devils Brewery strives to be a sustainable business that is socially, ethically and environmentally responsible and provides a place where passionate people converge to create a positive environment and inspired products.

Its goal is to enhance the community in which it lives and succeed financially so that it can provide family wage jobs for creative people in a progressive workplace. With core values of efficiency, ingenuity, pride in craftsmanship, environmental and social responsibility and superior customer service, the 7 Devils Brewing Company is crafting the change they wish to see in the world.

Come to Homegrown Pub, 294 Laurel St., from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. to meet the folks at 7 Devils Brewery and taste some of their beers.

For more information, call 541-997-4886.

FRESH CRAB

Fresh In The Case This Week: Salmon, Snapper, Perch, Oysters, Steamers, Shrimp, Mussels, Smoked Fish and more...

LIME MARINATED GRILLED SALMON

INGREDIENTS:
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
1 TBS olive oil
2 tsp dijon mustard
1/4 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
1/8 tsp black pepper
4 Salmon Steaks

PREPARATION:
Whisk together the lime juice, olive oil, mustard, ginger, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, and black pepper in a bowl. Pour into a resealable plastic bag. Add the Salmon Steaks, coat with the marinade, squeeze out excess air and seal bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour.
Preheat outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil grate. Remove the Salmon from the marinade and shake off excess. Discard remaining marinade.
Grill until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 5-10 mins per side depending on thickness.

Serves 4

Recipe from Allrecipes

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Adapted by Wendy Kesselman

THE DIARY OF

Anne Frank

By Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett

The production of The Diary of Anne Frank is just around the corner!

You do not want to miss this heartwarming play that brings history to life. Written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and now newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman. Directed by Jennifer Conner and Cathy Dupont. This adaptation gives us a powerful new look into the daily lives of eight people hiding in the Annexe. Through Anne's diary we experience historic honesty during World War II for the Jewish people.

The Diary of Anne Frank allows us an opportunity to see what life would have been like in the Annexe. First there was Mr. Kraler, played by Paul Deemer. He was a soft spoken businessman that was hired on by Mr. Frank to help run his Opekta business.

During the invasion of the Annexe, Kraler himself was arrested for harboring Jews and was sent to a work camp in Amersfoort, but he was able to escape while being transported to Germany. Kraler was one of 4 individuals that helped hide the Frank family.

Another individual that helped the Frank family was Miep, played by Trudie Cahoon, she became a close, trusted friend to Anne and her family during her employment by Mr. Frank. While the Frank family was in hiding she would bring food, books and anything that was needed to help make life in the Annexe a little

easier. It was Miep who found Anne's diary after the Nazis burst into the Annexe.

During the time the families were in hiding they had to find ways to compromise with each other so that everyone would be more comfortable.

One of those compromises was Anne rooming with Jan Dussel, played by Grant Harmond. Mr. Dussel was the neighborhood Dentist and friend to Mr. Frank. Although he was not easy to live with, his medical knowledge swiftly became a great blessing to those in the Annexe.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan, played by Jim Wellington and Jackie Crave could have truly used a space of their own. Those two were like two sticks of dynamite always ready to ignite due to their "hot" tempers.

At their worst, they were loud, petulant, rude, and selfish but, at their best, Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan showed love, humor, and compassion toward each other and those around them. Mrs. Van Daan was the cook in the Annexe and was happiest when serving up the meals she had prepared with limited ingredients.

Mr. Van Daan was a friend to Mr. Frank and business partner. He and Mr. Frank worked together to plan the family's disappearance and prepared the annex as a hiding place.

Peter Van Daan, played by Kyle Hight, was Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan's teenage son who in all understanding was just trying to just get through each day they were in hiding. Anne and Peter became great friends during their time together. He became Anne's first love.

Margot Frank, played by Brooklyn Cahoon, was the oldest Frank daughter. She was given a work order by the Gestapo causing the hastening of the family to go into hiding early. Anne and Margot were as different as night and day, but that did not stop them from being closer than two sisters could possibly be. Margot kept a diary as well of the accounts in the Annex, but sadly it was never found.

Otto and Edith Frank, played by Dana Rodet and Kate Gibson, were model parents. Mr. Frank, with his even temper and eagerness to keep peace with in the walls of the hiding place was regarded as the leader in the Annexe. Otto Frank made sure that the children stayed educated just as if they were still in school and he encouraged Anne to write in her diary.

Mrs. Frank was soft spoken and tried to keep her thoughts to herself, but in doing so she began to close off from her family and spend many hours with her own darkening fears. Edith would confide in Miep whenever she could. When mending needed to be done or cleaning, Edith and Margot worked together to achieve the task. Anne was far too busy writing in her diary to help with the mending.

Anne Frank, played by Memphis Gkiewe, was an energetic young girl that spoke her thoughts freely. On her 13th birthday Anne received an autograph book from her father, which she used as a diary. She named her diary Kitty. When her family went into hiding in 1942, Anne made sure she had Kitty with her. Anne was the shining light during the darkest times in the Annexe for the others. She helped bring laughter and hope for the unsure future. Her honesty and energy at times, however, was not always well



timed or received. Young Anne tried to be calm and collected like her sister Margot, but that was just not what her soul longed to be. She would write in her diary for hours, capturing day to day life in the Annexe.

Last Resort Payers invite you to experience this powerful production. This is a limited seating event, so get your tickets before it is too late.

Florence Events Center is hosting performances on
April 22, 23, 28, 29 at 7:00pm and
April 24, and 30 at 2:00pm.
Get your tickets at the
Florence Events Center box office.
Hours are Monday through Friday
9:00am to 4:30pm.

Or go on line at www.eventcenter.org.
Any questions call 541-997-1994.

