



Ned Hickson

There shall be no eye rolling from my teens on Father's Day

I am a father with three teens. As a result, if a priest were to visit my home and

witness the amount of eye rolling that occurs, he would schedule an exorcism faster than "The Conjuring."

I realize this is a teen thing, and that it's not easy going through physical and emotional changes generally reserved for a full moon.

I understand how the Molotov cocktail of hormones created during this time makes *everything* annoying, particularly when I say something insensitive such as, "Hi."

However, come Father's Day, I will remind them about the recently discovered 11th Commandment, in which God said unto the teenagers of the world: "Thou shalt not eye roll thine parents. 'Tis truly annoying."

They will immediately Google it and discover I'm making this Commandment up, at which point the whites of their eyes will begin that slow, exaggerated roll they

know drives me nuts... and then they'll remember:

Oh no, it's Father's Day. "Ahhh-HA!" I'll say.

"Today, the only whites I want to see will be on the eggs you're cooking me for breakfast!"

Ok, not really.

All eye rolling aside, my teenagers are good kids who, on Father's Day, honestly do their best to make it special.

While it's a day we show appreciation for fathers, I can tell you it's as much a day that we fathers quietly appreciate the gift of our children.

Sure, there are moments when it feels like a white elephant gift, but we wouldn't

exchange it for anything.

Especially since most white elephant gifts are limited to \$5 anyway.

When I look back over the years and how sharing the ups and downs, good and bad, joys and frustrations of our children have shaped our lives as a family, I'm reminded of how much it has shaped me as a father and a man.

And not just in terms of weight gain from bake sales and Girl Scout cookies.

I can honestly say my children have taught me as much about myself as I've tried to teach them about themselves.

Without them, and each other, I know my life would

never have become everything I hoped it would be.

Do I sometimes wish "everything I hoped it would be" didn't include those annoying eye rolls?

Sure.

But I've also come to understand that it's a small price to pay for fatherhood.

Together, it's just the way we roll.

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.

Come see Laurel Bay Gardens' new pottery store

Laurel Bay Gardens will celebrate the official grand opening of the new part of its garden center, Oregon Coast Pottery, on Thursday, June 16, from 5 to 7 p.m., and throughout the following weekend.

The event coincides with the 11th anniversary of its nursery and garden center, and the 27th anniversary of its landscaping business.

It will be held in conjunction with Thursday's Florence Area Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event, which is open to the public.

"Come enjoy a festive garden atmosphere with your friends. Check out the huge variety of colors and shapes of our new pottery, get free gardening and landscaping advice from our staff, enjoy food and

beverages, and help Laurel Bay Gardens celebrate our anniversary," says Laurel Bay owner Lisa Walter-Sedlacek.

"There will be grand opening sale prices and great sales throughout the nursery and gift shop."

The public is also invited to Laurel Bay's annual Father's Day Open House, Saturday, June 18, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be free hot dogs for nursery shoppers. Laurel Bay will also hold prize drawings all week for three \$25 gift certificates.

On Saturday and Sunday, as part of the ongoing celebration, the nursery will hold a special "It's Still Green" sale, featuring rock-bottom prices

on older plants that have overstayed their nursery welcome. All proceeds from the sale will benefit Florence Food Share.

There will also be a collection site at the nursery during the weekend for canned food donations.

"Come by and enjoy the flowers, get advice on Dad's outdoor projects, and take advantage of some great Father's Day sale prices too," said Walter-Sedlacek.

Laurel Bay Gardens is just three miles north of Florence.

It has the area's largest plant nursery and wide a variety of native trees and shrubs, along with plants that are great for growing in coastal climates.

Laurel Bay's licensed and trained staff provides landscaping solutions, and help

create yards and gardens that reflect each customer's sense of style. It installs flagstone and paver patios, fire pits, garden lighting, water features, and water-saving irrigation systems.

The nursery has a variety of bulk and bagged bark, soils, fertilizers, compost and eco-friendly soil amendments, including its custom-blended Royal Soil and GroMor soils.

The gift shop offers indoor and outdoor décor, and a variety of local jams, jellies, honey, and other organics.

Laurel Bay Gardens is open seven days a week at 88493 Highway 101, about two minutes north of Florence.

For more information, call 541-997-5973 or visit www.LaurelBayGardens.com.

Pharmacist to speak at next Herb Enthusiasts meeting

At the meeting of the Florence Herb Enthusiasts on Thursday, June 16, sit down with friendly and local pharmacist Jo Ann Whitney, Rph., for some timely information.

Whitney will be sharing

knowledge accumulated during her 18 years as a pharmacist to teach about some common herb and drug interactions.

This information could not only enhance, but perhaps even save a life.

The presentation will cover many favorite herbs, including the most current information available on cannabis.

Anyone who has a specific herb or drug interaction question can come to the meeting or

email Whitney at jawhitney@bimart.com.

As a pharmacist, Whitney said she is both required and happy to continue her education, keeping her up to date on popular trends as well.

Whitney will close her presentation with some invaluable tips on making trips to the pharmacy as quick, easy and helpful as possible.

Following the discussion, there will be an open and infor-

mal question and answer period.

Join in for tea, treats and information. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m., at New Life Lutheran Church, 2100 Spruce St.

Meetings are each third Thursday of the month, except for July, when the group has its annual Thyme Garden tour and luncheon.

Through monthly meetings and special events, the Florence Herb Enthusiasts explore, experience and learn about culinary, craft, folklore, and medicinal use of herbs.



COURTESY PHOTO
Jo Ann Whitney

Comedy continues at Three Rivers Casino

Three Rivers Casino Resort's Comedy Thursdays continues through the summer, with stand-up comedians from around the Northwest performing each Thursday in Blue Bills Sports Bar and Tap Room (located inside the casino at 5647 Highway 126) from 7 to 8 p.m.

On June 16, from 7 to 8 p.m., experience the mayhem

of hypno-comedian Ron Stubbs.

"He's the rock star of hypnosis," said Backstage Pass Magazine.

If you're looking for an old-fashioned, outdated boring show this isn't it. Anyone looking for a modern, fast-paced, laugh-a-minute, mind bending excursion through the inner mind, come see Stubbs.

Starting his show with a standup comedy routine and then exploring the infinite possibilities that the mind can create with an outrageous sense of humor,

Stubbs is a comedian and entertainer audiences will remember for years.



COURTESY PHOTO
Ron Stubbs

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