



Our brains are getting bigger? That's just, um... swell?

Ned Hickson

DO NOT PANIC! They may only be the side effects of your current FDA-approved medication for acid reflux.

Before we go on, I should, as a responsible journalist, take a moment and actually read the article. In the meantime, I'd suggest applying equal amounts of pressure to both sides of your head, just to be safe.

... Sorry, false alarm! After reading the article it has become clear the threat of spontaneous brain enlargement is actually very slim. In fact, the only documented case appeared in the National Enquirer, which reported that a young boy's head spontaneously grew three times its normal size during the

Arkansas State Spelling Bee. Amazingly, 9-year-old Reggie Sims survived the incident and now lives in Southern California, where his oversized head goes virtually unnoticed. But for those of us living outside the Los Angeles basin, spontaneous head swelling remains extremely rare.

However, researchers say the human brain is getting larger, albeit very slowly, through a process of evolution. At first, larger brains sounded like a good idea since bigger brains means a smarter gene pool, hence leading us toward a Utopian society.

The down side is that our great-great-grandchild-

dren could end up looking like one of those bigheaded aliens from a '50s science fiction movie. True, this could happen anyway — possibly even in my own lifetime — if I don't meticulously screen each one of my children's potential spouses. However, assuming neither my sons nor daughters marries anyone whose head fits snugly into a standard tractor inner tube, there's still the matter of future generations to worry about.

Biologists tell us that any "improvement" in the human anatomy is the direct result of evolution's attempt to meet the changing needs of mankind.

For example: Our oppos-

able thumbs. This uniquely human trait distinguishes us from other primates, most notably through our ability to go bowling.

Following that line of thought, larger brains are likely the result of our need as a species to absorb and process more information at a younger age. This was evident the other night, when a friend's 4-year-old son whipped my behind playing Madden NFL 17 on his Play Station 3.

He cannot read.

He cannot understand the tactical decision making required for offensive line formations.

He doesn't even know how many yards it takes for a first

down.

Yet he can complete a Hail Mary pass and run a bootleg while I — with my larger and ultimately superior opposable thumbs — push buttons and move toggles as my defensive line is left picking grass from its teeth.

I can't say for sure if this has any connection to the evolutionary process. But if his head gets any bigger, I swear:

He's moving to California. (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)

We offer Custom Engraving!
Jewelry, Name plates, ID bracelets, Pet tags and more.

- Cremation "Urn" Pendants
- Sterling Silver Jewelry • Totes • Bibs
- Collectible Hand Carved Eggs
- Gallery Pieces • Turquoise Jewelry
- Glass Art • Earrings • Pendants
- Gift items and MORE ON SALE!

Silver Sand Dollar
Gallery Jewelry and Gifts
 1499 Bay Street (Old Port Building)
541-997-0111

On-Site Parking

Oceanside Veterinary Hospital
 John C. Bachmann, DVM
 Lindsey A. Franz, DVM

Call Today to Schedule your appointment
 Open Monday through Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dr. John Bachmann and his certified Veterinary Technician Elizabeth

541-997-9300
 1739 West 22nd Street, Florence

Verizon backpack giveaway

Deserving young students in Florence will soon benefit from a national backpack giveaway campaign.

TCC, the largest Verizon Authorized Retailer in the U.S., has announced A Wireless is partnering with the company and its Culture of Good to donate 235,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through TCC's annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

Since 2013, TCC has donated

more than 360,000 backpacks filled with supplies to ensure children are well prepared for the start of the school year.

"Every year, TCC employees and communities around the country look forward to the backpack giveaway," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of TCC. "It brings our employees immense joy to give back to the young children in their communities, and we are proud to put so many smiles on the faces of the deserving families who have made this annual event such a success."

More than 1,300 participating TCC and A Wireless stores across the U.S. are inviting local families and their children to visit select locations on Saturday, July 30, between noon and 3 p.m., to pick up a backpack filled with various school supplies, including pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

The participating TCC store in Florence is at 2775 Highway 101, Suite D. Each participating TCC store will donate 250 backpacks and each A Wireless store will donate 125 backpacks. All leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

"When given the opportunity, doing good is important, and taking such opportunities to help lift up and encourage others is a privilege," said Bryan Bevin, president and CEO. "At A Wireless, we don't just want to be doers of good, we want to inspire a Culture of Good."

Relay For Life of Florence

"Lights! Camera! Cure!"



Here's your 2016 Theme Schedule:

- 1:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Purple Rain
What To Wear: Anything Purple
- 2:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Hawaii Five-O
What To Wear: Hawaiian attire
- 3:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Great Gatsby
What To Wear: 1920's attire
- 4:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Grease
What To Wear: 1950's attire
- 5:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: All Disney
What To Wear: Any Character from a Disney Movie
- 6:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Independence Day
What To Wear: Red, White, and Blue
- 7:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Pretty in Pink
What To Wear: anything pink or 80's
- 8:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Outlander
What To Wear: Scottish Highlander or British Soldiers Attire
- 11:00 PM
Themed Lap - Movie: Saturday Night Fever
What To Wear: 1970's Disco
- Midnight
Themed Lap - Movie: Pillow Talk (1959)
What To Wear: Walk with your Pillow
- 1:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Wizard of Oz
What To Wear: Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Munchkin, Glenda, etc.
- 2:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
What To Wear: Pirate Attire
- 3:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Lord of the Rings
What To Wear: Wizard, Elf, Hobbit, Dwarf, Orc, Troll, or Aragorn Attire
- 4:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Gone With The Wind
What To Wear: 1860's American South Attire
- 5:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Superman
What To Wear: Superhero Costumes
- 6:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Pajama Party (Doris Day)
What To Wear: Pajamas and Snuggles
- 7:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Cat In The Hat
What To Wear: Striped hats & bow tie
- 8:00 AM
Themed Lap - Movie: Bring it On
What To Wear: Cheerleader Outfits, Pom Poms, etc.



Relay For Life Celebrates its 17th Year in Florence

August 13th - Registration tent opens at 10:00 am
 Opening ceremonies begin at 11:00 am
 Survivor and Caregivers lap immediately after.
 Luminaria ceremony is at 9:00 pm
 August 14th, Closing ceremonies are 9:30 am.

Where: Miller Park, Florence

The Survivors Lap • Entertainment and Food Court
 Sunset Luminaria Ceremony • Relay Team Activities and Camping
 For more information on forming a Team or becoming an event

sponsor go to: www.RelayForLife.org/FlorenceOR

or contact John Bacon, John.Bacon@cancer.org, 541.361.9025

Available Now for inspection and abatement of:

- Asbestos
- LEAD Base Paint
- Mold

Residential & Commercial



Serving the Willamette Valley for 29 years.

- Asbestos • LEAD • Mold Abatement & Inspections
- (541) 995-6008 -- atez@atezinc.com

CCB#64090

Voice Your Opinion!
 EDITOR@
 THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

BLACK
 YELLOW
 MAGENTA
 CYAN