



I'd even be willing to settle for a wallaby

Ned Hickson

I generally only watch nature shows on television when I want to appear as though I'm educating myself about something important, like the plight of the prematurely balding Rogainian monkey, when in fact I'm actually planning to do an independent study of the REM sleeping pattern on our couch.

However, while watching a documentary about the Kangaroo Sanctuary in Alice Springs, Australia, I discovered something I never knew:

I want my own kangaroo.

As I watched three babies snuggle together in a blanket and play with each other's big floppy ears, I inadvertently let out a sound that my wife mistakenly thought was a joyful whimper.

"Was that you?" she asked from the dining room. "What? No WAY! Ha Ha! It was the kangaroo babies."

"It sure sounded like it came from the couch."

"Must be the Surround Sound," I said.

Don't get me wrong. I love our two dogs. And we have a cat. But you can't have fun boxing with your dog or keep snacks in its handy built-in pouch.

And kangaroos even bury their own poop! Sure, our

cat will do that, but it's usually in one of my shoes.

The more I watched Chris Barnes, a.k.a. "Kangaroo Dundee," spend time with the kangaroos in his sanctuary, the more I thought to myself:

That could be me.

Of course, I'd first have to justify having a kangaroo in our home. This would mean convincing my wife of the benefits. It doesn't matter what our teenagers think because, in a few years, they'll be gone, leaving their mother and I to nurture our loving, unmoody kangaroo baby.

In fact, I'm going to list that as benefit number one! Having a kangaroo will fill the void left behind by our children!

Sure, this won't include filling the void of dirty dishes left in the sink, wet towels on the floor and no food in the refrigerator, but

thanks to the love of our kangaroo baby we'll adjust.

Another benefit is that kangaroos are very protective of family. While it's true that dogs are just as protective, there's no comparing it to the threat posed by a 6-foot-tall kangaroo boxing your face and then rabbit-kicking a would-be burglar through a window.

Kangaroos are also very quiet. They don't bark when they're mad or whine when they want something. Come to think of it, that's another void our kangaroo won't be able to fill once our teenagers leave home.

Still, I'm going to list it as a benefit since it means our home won't sound like a den of wild hyenas every time someone delivers a pizza.

Another benefit of having a kangaroo is that they aren't very good at climbing stairs. Given that our bed-

room is on the second floor, we'll never have an intimate moment interrupted because our kangaroo is staring at us from the foot of the bed, licking itself or barking to get in.

It also means I won't get squeezed out of bed in the middle of the night because, at some point, our kangaroo has wedged himself between me and the headboard.

Without question, the biggest obstacle in convincing my wife to get a kangaroo will be how big it could get.

Though it takes a few years before they reach adulthood, once they do, it can be like living with another full-sized person.

With a four-foot tail.

This has already got me thinking about an alternative; something kangaroo-like that my wife would be willing to compromise on.

As it turns out, wallabies

are members of the kangaroo family and much smaller. Naturally, the smaller size would mean little "Wally's" pouches won't be able to hold as many of my favorite snack foods. Plus, he probably won't be able to fend off an intruder more than three feet tall. But he'll be a "starter" kangaroo while I lay the groundwork for a full-sized kangaroo later.

I plan to talk with my wife about it tonight, right after I show her this photo of a wallaby holding a teddy bear

joyful whimper

Hey! That wasn't me!

I really need to turn down that Surround Sound...

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.



See Jim for your auto sales needs!

JOHNSTON
MOTOR COMPANY

2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
(541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

DENTURE SERVICES INC.

Here to serve your denture needs:

Dentures
Immediate Dentures
Implant Dentures
Relines and Repairs

FREE CONSULTATIONS
Monday-Thursday
10am - 2 pm
Or by special appointment

524 Laurel St.
541-997-6054

William Foster LD
Sherry, Office Manager

Relines and Repairs
Same Day

Financing: Citi Health Card
12 Month no Interest

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE SERIES | IMPROVEMENTS

It Changes Communities

The presidential election isn't the only one you should be fired up to influence at the ballot box. In fact, your local representatives, mayors and council members have more day-to-day impact on your life than the president.

Local elected officials make decisions on policies that directly affect your taxes, home value and professional life.

THE KIDS

Children cannot vote, but our community's laws and policies still impact them, especially when it comes to education. Our children are depending on us to represent their voices at the voting booth, and we must work to make sure we don't let them down.

And speaking of children, one of the best ways to ensure a bright horizon for our democracy is instilling a voter's mindset at an early age. Talk to your children or students about why voting is so important to America and how it can impact things that are important to them - like school, playgrounds and public parks.

THE IMPACT

Your local representatives fight hard for your personal rights at the highest levels. Wages, pay equity, fairness in hiring, pension security, taxes and health insurance issues are a few of



the most important aspects of your life that can be influenced by your local officials.

When you vote you are telling elected officials how you feel about these issues. Your vote can influence decisions on funding for schools or roads that you or family members may use every day.

LOCAL CREDIBILITY

Citizens who vote hold more credibility over their non-voting counterparts when talking about

issues in their communities. Around the water cooler at work or in the bleachers at the high school football game, politics are likely to pop into the conversation.

When you place your vote, your voice becomes more powerful and justified to publicly convey your feelings on specific issues. Whether you agree or disagree with a certain policy or legislative item, your thoughts will be considered more vital in the political arena if you vote.

Berlin Wall art photos on exhibit at library

This year marks the 55th year since the Berlin Wall was built in August 1961 and the "cold war" entered a new dimension.

The photographs of the Berlin Wall art taken by Birgitt Lyon during the summer of 1991 while visiting Berlin, are currently on display at the Siuslaw Public Library.

The unification of East and West Germany had become official 10 months earlier in October 1990.

Lyon's 26 photos show paintings done by an international group of artists on a remnant of the Berlin Wall left

standing in the former DDR (east Berlin) after the Wall came down.

Several of the artists who had lived under that communist regime freely expressed their feelings through paintings - art which had been heavily censored in communist East Germany. Until the wall came down, only state-approved paintings depicting their "happy" life were allowed.

The paintings express the anguish of having lived under that oppression and then the joy of finally having been set free.

The exhibit will remain on display through Sept. 30.

Shorewood features cars, Elvis and root beer floats

The annual Shorewood Car Show will be held Friday, Sept. 23, at The Shorewood, 1451 Spruce St., in Florence, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This year, Shorewood Senior Living is adding some flair to the annual car show, with Elvis on stage. The public is invited to come enjoy finger foods and refreshments while

taking in the beauty of the vintage vehicles.

At 11 a.m., Elvis will take the stage to put on a hip-shaking good time.

To bring the whole show to a close, enjoy a refreshing root beer float.

For more information, contact Belinda Shores at 541-997-8202.

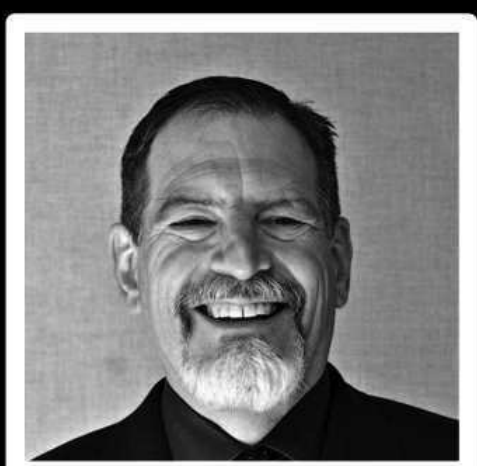
HABITAT BeachWalk 2016
Saturday, Sept. 10th, 9am-1pm

Be at North Jetty and walk to Driftwood Shores, have a ton of fun, and help a family build an affordable home.

ENTERTAINMENT and REFRESHMENTS at Driftwood Shores

This Habitat BeachWalk announcement is sponsored by:

Siuslaw News
US Too Group



VOTE BRISSENDEN

Get Informed and Get in Your Vote!

Lane County government is important. Experienced people working within their field of knowledge build a stronger community. Learn more about the Lane County Justice of the Peace position, advocate for beneficial change within Lane County and retain Judge Rick Brissenden for Justice of the Peace.

NOVEMBER 8th, 2016

<http://www.rbrissendenjustice.net> <https://www.facebook.com/RickBrissenden>

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Paid for by Citizens of Lane County Justice of the Peace Rick Brissenden