



Just like an all-beef patty, age is relative

Ned Hickson

As I mentioned, I turned 50 several weeks ago. The good news is I have a friend who just turned 60. Relative to him, I'm a young man (Of

which I will keep reminding him until that sad day when, unexpectedly, he knocks out my front teeth with his walker).

My point is, when it comes to age, what seems relative can quickly change.

Yesterday, for example, I was eating at a fast-food

place when I noticed a pair of college-aged girls taking glances at me from another table. This has happened before, which is why I instinctively went through a series of mental checkpoints drawn from previous experience:

1) Is there condiment blowback in my hair, on my chin or around my nostril(s)?

2) What am I wearing today, and is there any part I forgot to snap closed, zip up or buckle down?

3) Did I unknowingly allow any part of my body's internal gastro process to be heard externally?

4) Am I slouching, hunched or otherwise postured in a manner that makes it appear I'm protecting my \$3.99 Value Meal, possibly to the death?

And lastly, 5) Is there someone much younger and better-looking sitting directly behind me?

After determining none of

these factors was responsible for the attention I was getting from the two co-eds, I continued my meal feeling like I was back in my late 20s, back when metabolism kept things like a small order of fries and an 8-ounce shake from turning into an extra chin roughly the size of a cow udder; back when "harmless flirtation" meant something other than spending an hour on roller skates without breaking a hip.

As I sat there eating, the two co-eds got up from their table and approached me, smiling nervously.

This was something I hadn't anticipated.

I know this because my throat, which had been in mid-swallow, suddenly forgot where my esophagus was. I took a sip of soda thinking it would jump-start the swallowing process. Instead, the soda backed up in my throat before exiting through my nasal cavity — which, thankfully, was too small to accom-

modate my all-beef patty.

Catching a glance at my reflection in the napkin dispenser, I saw what looked like a giant carp hacking up a fistful of Powerbait onto a plastic tray. Relatively speaking, I felt 15 again, back when nerves routinely seized my stomach into a walnut whenever I was around Sarah Getlost.

"Excuse me, are you OK?" I looked up to see both girls standing at my table.

"Yes," I wheezed, then patted my chest. "Something went down the wrong pipe. I think it might have been my esophagus."

After some nervous laughter, one of the girls said, "I'm sure you saw us looking at you. We didn't want you to think we were stalkers or something."

I nodded and took a sip of soda, trying to act cool; praying it wouldn't come out my nose.

"It's just that, from over

there, you looked exactly like my Dad," she explained, "and I'm not supposed to be here. If he knew I skipped classes today for a concert he'd kill me."

And just like that, I was 50 again, racing to catch up with my friend and his walker.

As they started to leave, her friend turned back to me and said, "Just so you know, I told her you looked too young to be her Dad."

In that moment, I was reminded that age is more about what's in your heart than on a calendar. And though that value meal may have something to say about what's in my heart, keeping a youthful sense of wonderment about life says something a lot more important.

Well, relatively speaking, anyway.

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

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PTA to host Color-a-Thon 5K in November

Get ready to get colorful as registration kicks off for the PTA's first-ever Color-a-Thon 5K fundraiser here in Florence.

Hosted by the Florence Community PTA, the Color-a-Thon 5K is a fundraising event taking place Saturday, Nov. 5, beginning at 9 a.m.

The event will begin and end at Siuslaw Middle School.

Participants will move through a 5K course while being engulfed in clouds of vibrant, non-toxic color, emerging looking as if you've

just burst through a rainbow.

The event is open to both students and community members and will be immediately followed by the Fit Fair, also at Siuslaw Middle School.

"Last year, one of our primary sources of funding through an e-scrip program was discontinued," said Tiffany Holdahl, president of the Florence Community PTA.

In an effort to replace that funding, the Color-a-Thon 5K was born out of the hopes to raise money and encourage

families to get out, get active and have a little fun while supporting the efforts of the PTA.

"We really hope Siuslaw school families and community members at-large will come join us for what is sure to be one bright and colorful morning," said Holdahl.

The Florence Community PTA supports all three schools in the Siuslaw district through funding and volunteers to support programs, equipment and supplies that students and teachers otherwise may not

have access to.

Discounted registration for the Color-a-Thon 5K is available through Oct. 17, with a \$25 registration fee that includes an event T-shirt (or \$20 without the T-shirt).

Registration packets are available at the Siuslaw Elementary School office or Coastal Fitness.

Registration and fundraising may also be completed online at www.shop.schoolathon.org/184253.

EMERGENCY SUTURING CLASS

to be held at the **Florence Events Center** during the **Be Ready Disaster Preparedness Expo on November 5, 2016!**

Please call the Siuslaw News at 541-902-3526 to sign up. You may pay by credit or debit card.

There are two classes being offered. Positions in the class are on a first paid for, first reserved basis and classes are limited to the first 25 paying participants in each class.

So don't delay, sign up for a place now!

The class is at **11:00 AM AND 2:00 PM Saturday November 5, 2016. Cost is only \$25.00 per participant!**

Sponsored by: **PeaceHealth**

Americana ice chest winner announced

The Americana-styled ice chest donated by Resto-Arts located on Bay Street in historic Old Town Florence went to a new home recently, following the drawing held Sept. 30.

Pat Wondra of Florence was the recipient of the red white and blue cooler.

Designed and built by Joanne and Frank Thomas of Terrebonne, Ore., the ice chest was donated by Tamara Pohlman, owner of Resto-Arts.

"Honoring our Veterans is important to me, and I really appreciate what the Oregon Coast Military Museum is doing to honor the veterans of our community," said Pohlman. "This was a way I could help them do so."

The proceeds of the raffle were donated to the local military museum.

The museum is located at 2145 Kingwood St. in



Tamara Pohlman, owner of Resto-Arts, with Wayne Sharpe of the Oregon Coast Military Museum

Florence, and open to the public Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information is available by visiting www.oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com.

2017 MEMBERSHIP WITH UNLIMITED PLAY SIGN UP NOW AND PLAY THE REST OF 2016 ON US!

	SIGN UP NOW!	After 10/30/16
Single	\$1,295.00	\$1,395.00
Spouse	\$395.00	\$495.00
Junior (18 and under)	\$395.00	\$395.00
Golf Cart	\$395.00	\$395.00
Cart Storage	\$200.00	\$250.00
Trail Fee	\$200.00	\$250.00

All single renewing members from 2016 will receive FOUR GUEST ROUNDS valid through 2017 when paying the above rate.

Membership is valid NOW through Dec 31, 2017.

THREE RIVERS CASINO RESORT

Call 541-997-3232 or visit www.OceanDunesGolf.com to sign up.

FLORENCE, OREGON 2017 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We are beginning the work on our beautiful **FLORENCE, OREGON 2016/17 Community Calendar!**

We'd like to ask your help in making the calendar more complete by emailing us your fundraising events for the 2017 calendar year.

There is no cost to non-profit organizations for the submission.

Note these are meant to be 'save the date' and memory ticklers.

Send your event/fundraiser information by October 31st to: jbartlett@thesiuslawnews.com
 In the subject line: 2017 calendar

SN Siuslaw News

We appreciate your help in making the upcoming calendar better than ever!

BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN