



Ned Hickson

For flu sufferers, things are about to get messy

Today, in an unprecedented move, I am joining hundreds of other columnists around the nation who will be addressing the nationwide flu crisis while simultaneously wiping "Influenza blowback" from their computer monitors. For those unfamiliar with this term, here's how it might be used on an episode of *CSI*: "Well, judging from the chew marks on this Robitussin safety cap, and the

presence of oozing and gelatinous *Influenza blowback* on his computer monitor, I'd say our suspect has the flu. [Cut to lightning-quick journey through mucus-filled nasal cavity]. Chances are, he's still in the area. He might even be in this very room."
"Ahhh-CHOO!"
"You should probably get a tissue for that..."

While national attention remains on flu vaccinations, health department officials say, as a result of the flu crisis, we are now facing what was once unthinkable.
"The nation's supply of facial tissue has become dan-

gerously low," warned Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. "If we're not careful, many Americans will be left using standard bathroom tissue during the peak of flu season."

According to health officials, the tissue crisis is linked to Chinese regulators who unexpectedly shut down tissue manufacturer Bung Corp. last Tuesday, after it was discovered that millions of boxes bound for the U.S. had been printed without the necessary safety instructions required by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Leonard Woodcock, the current nominee for America's ambassador to China, immediately flew to the factory to demonstrate, before a panel of regulators, that he was capable of using the instructionless tissue without injury. In spite of multiple demonstrations, including one in which Woodcock was bound by Chinese finger cuffs and forced to blow his nose without while blindfolded, Chinese regulators remained unconvinced.

As a result, 43 million boxes of tissue once bound for the U.S. has instead been shipped to France where,

according to one French official, "We need more tissue than Americans because we have bidets."

Faced with the impending shortage, the CDC introduced a nationwide "voluntary rationing" system yesterday to ensure that supplies of tissue would meet the needs of high-risk users in the months ahead.

"The bottom line is, don't blow your nose until absolutely necessary," advised Dr. Gerberding. "This is a time of crisis. I think, as Americans, we should all be willing to overlook a few snot bubbles."

As a responsible member of the media, I plan to do my part by blowing my nose as little as possible until this crisis passes.

For those of you planning to attend any of my speaking engagements in the near future, let me apologize in advance to anyone seated in the front row.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

LCC to offer new class on saving family histories

Lane Community College Florence Center will offer a new five-week course on preserving family and friends' personal histories starting Feb. 15.

The Continuing Education course, "Capturing History: How to Create Oral and Video Histories," is taught by Jared Anderson, and will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 15 to March 15 at LCC Florence Center.

"The core of the class will be teaching students the importance of and the techniques of gathering oral and video histories," Anderson said, "From a genealogical standpoint, having professional quality inter-

views is vital for future generations to understand what makes up a life. Gathering and presenting a life story, either your own or that of a loved one, can be a tricky process. What questions do you ask? What topics do you cover? How do you edit it, package it and present it? All of these will be covered in the class."

While the class will cover simple technologies that can be used to capture and edit audio and video interviews, Anderson said prior experience with technology or recording equipment is not necessary.

"We'll explore ways that students can capture meaningful

stories with what they have — a recorder on their phone, a voice recorder or even a tape deck recorder," Anderson said. "The majority of the class will focus on the art of the interview: the ethics surrounding it, the pitfalls, but most importantly, how to get a good one."

Part of the class will also explore what constitutes personal and family histories and help students look past a photograph to connect memories to them and create a story.

"Recording history isn't just about making a record for future generations. It's about proving to yourself and others that you actually existed in

this world, and having the opportunity to say, clearly, what you truly believe," Anderson said.

The class is a new addition to the Continuing Education program and students are encouraged to register early. Anderson currently teaches cinema studies classes for the program and has a reputation among students as an interactive and engaging instructor. This course will help students chronicle what matters to them."

For more information or to register for this class, visit lanecc.edu/ce or call 541-997-8444.

British Car enthusiasts to meet today

The Central Oregon Coast British Car Club will be holding its first monthly club meeting for 2017 on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Driftwood Shores Resort in Florence.

The meeting will include conducting board elections

for 2017.

The club will meet in the conference room next to the swimming pool, beginning at 10 a.m.

Anyone who owns, drives or has an interest in British automobiles is welcome to attend.

Mayor Henry to speak at next City Club meeting

On Feb. 3, the City Club of Florence will hold its regular meeting, with Florence Mayor Joe Henry giving a city update titled: "The Year in Review and the Year to Come."

Henry will discuss the accomplishments of the City of Florence over the last year and what is next for 2017.

Henry was recently sworn in for his second term as Mayor of the City of Florence.

During his first term in office, he was able to lead the city in building a foundation for a change in leadership and

culture, allowing Florence to form a 'can-do' attitude that has permeated through the organization.

The talk will discuss how these changes came about, and what is next in keeping the City moving forward.

City Club meets at the Ocean Dunes Golf Links Club House, off Munsel Lake Road.

Lunch orders are taken after 11 a.m. and served from 11:30 to noon.

The program will be from noon to 1 p.m. with a short period for questions at the end.

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Siuslaw Riverside Restaurant to hold benefit spelling bee

Siuslaw Riverside Restaurant will hold another in its series of fund raisers for local charities on Feb. 3.

Siuslaw Riverside is located at 1340 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence. The restaurant will be charging \$10 for contestants to enter a spelling bee that begins at 6 p.m.

The winner of the spelling bee will receive a \$25 gift cer-

tificate to the restaurant.

For more information, contact Melonie at 541-991-3663.

Deadlines for press releases and news items are Mondays and Thursdays at noon.
pressreleases@thesiuslawnews.com

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