

# Church volunteers spruce up the old ball yard

Living Faith Assembly leads effort to improve Kelly Field



Kelly Field gets makeover with help of local church. It's a whole new ball game at Kelly Field, home diamond for the Cottage Grove High School Lions baseball team on Quincy Street. Members of Living Faith Assembly of God took on the ball field improvement as a community project in an effort to make the athletic facility a place the community can be proud of. The church members spent a few weekends putting fresh coats of paint on dugouts, the grandstand and other community areas of the complex as well as constructing and hoisting a new sign to spur on the Lions. The sign says, "100 percent Hard

Work." Lead Pastor Rulon Combs said the community project is all part of the church's mission of passionate life change. "This includes connecting people to Christ, connecting people to community and connecting people to purpose," said Combs. "The ball field project helps our church to be more aware of community needs and to let the community know that as a church we stand ready to help to bring Cottage Grove to its full potential," Combs continued. Living Faith Assembly is located at 467 S. 10th Street. More information can be had concerning the church and its projects by calling 541-942-2612.

# Loaders celebrate 60 years together

Hank and Pat Loader celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2015. The couple was married in Norristown, Penn. on June 18, 1955.

Their three children and their spouses are Cheryl and Dave Laughley of La Quinta, Calif., Kim and John Hazleton of Cottage Grove and Lori and Ron McGowen of Creswell. The couple has nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, plus two more on the way.

Hank worked in Orange County, Calif. for 30 years in construction, mostly as a superintendent on jobs. Pat is a homemaker and previously did childcare. After retiring, the couple moved to Or-



egon. Their family celebrated with them at their home in Dorena on June 28.

# Turning 49 doesn't matter much when you don't act your age anyway

BY NED HICKSON  
News Media Corporation

Last night, a good friend suddenly — and without warning — offered a pre-emptive toast to my turning 49 next week. I call him a "good" friend because, until as recently as last night, I considered him a "great" friend. But I honestly can't remember his name now.

Haha! Just kidding! We were actually never very close.

Ok, in all seriousness, until his good-natured ribbing about turning 49 (I still can't stop laughing!), I hadn't given it much thought. That's because I don't really think about myself relative to age.

Relative to the nearest strip of bacon, coffee shop and my wife? Sure.

But age? Not really. I still wear band shirts from Hot Topic; I have eight pairs of Marvel superhero Vans shoes; sometimes when I'm at a drive-thru, I'll order my food while talking like Elmer Fudd.

I'd wike your deee-wishess ba-weeto su-pweem, pweez...

I still get excited when, like at dinner last night, I found a Star Wars poster in my box of Reese's peanut butter cereal! And yes, I had peanut butter cereal for dinner.

On the rare occasion I'm asked for my age, like when it's Senior Tuesday at Fred Meyer I order a glass of wine, I have to think about it and then count

forward from 1977. I was 11 years old then. I remember that because "Star Wars" came out that year.

I realize a person could suggest the inability to remember my age is, in itself, a sign of my aging. However, as I've mentioned, that person's name escapes me.

It's no small irony that over the years some people have remarked, "You don't look your age!" while others have suggested "You need to start ACTING your age!" I don't think this is a coincidence. In fact, I'd say one is the direct result of the other. Keeping a lighthearted perspective on the world and maintaining a sense of wonderment about its possibilities — whether plausible or fanciful — helps avoid that downward spiral into living life in an uninspired rut. Kids instinctively avoid this rut because they know their mission is to explore, push the boundaries and question the rules — of the house, the laws of physics, human anatomy, the proper use of utensils — in order to define themselves.

They approach life with their eyes wide open because they haven't started second-guessing the world yet.

Then somewhere along the way we're told being an adult means having all the answers. So we stop questioning. Stop wondering. Stop trying to move objects with our mind while sitting in traffic. And stop believing in the possibility, however

remote, that we might be the vessel of an undiscovered super power.

I've worked hard to keep my youthful perspective.

Does that mean I spend every moment being a goofball trying to shoot lasers out of my eyes or throw a stapler at my editor using my mind?

Ok, fine. But how about when I'm not at work?

No. I recognize when it's time take things seriously and the responsibilities I have as a father, husband and human being. I'm reminded of this whenever my fire department pager goes off — and how knowing when to embrace rational understanding over youthful wonderment can mean the difference between life and death.

Yet the same can be said about everyday life: knowing when to embrace wonderment over rationality can also mean the difference between life and death, albeit a slow one from the inside.

So as I approach 49, I plan on keeping a balance between the two. For example, when I responded to this morning's tap-out for a car accident I put youthful wonderment aside and dialed-in my serious mode.

I also wore Marvel superhero underwear from my kids.

Because constantly living your life "age-appropriately" can be like Kryptonite.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation.

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