

# Want to be a better father? You need a bigger grill

Sunday morning I will awaken to sizzle of bacon and eggs, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and shuffle of approaching feet as I lay in bed quietly thinking to myself, *My God, my wife is leaving me.*

Then I'll remember, *Wait — it's Father's Day!* A day when we fathers are revered for our wisdom, patience and, in a few rare instances, our neckwear. For one whole day I'll be the perfect father since my wife will be handling everything for me. She does this to help me relax and enjoy my special day.

The problem is, it's hard to relax when, by handling everything herself, my wife makes it clear I could be replaced by a dishwasher and a few extra power cords.

Okay, that's not entirely true.

But our son already takes out the trash, leaving me with "The Grilling of Food" as my main contribution to the daily operation of our family.

I have managed to keep this duty the way most men do, by making the task of grilling appear as complicated and miserable as possible, even if it means faking a heat stroke while grilling pre-cooked hot dogs.

I realize there are many new fathers who have made themselves indispensable during the diaper-changing phase. Just remember: your indispensability in this area — much like this morning's tightly-wrapped dooty — will eventually disappear into the Diaper Genie.

That's when grilling even

the simplest things, such as a bratwurst, should be made to look as difficult as possible.

To do this, you'll need a large grill. The bigger the better. In fact, if a hibachi is your main grilling source, go

size of an Oldsmobile.

Why?

You need a large cooking surface so that you can convincingly spray down flames and battle for control over a raging inferno that, if not

to produce this same effect on a hibachi is very difficult.

Once you have your giant grill, you'll need to keep a spray bottle handy. Your wife will assume it's to prevent charring. This is partially true.

But mostly you'll be using it to spray on your face and body to appear as though you are perspiring when, in fact, you are frequently supplementing any loss of body fluid with liberal amounts of ice cold beer hidden behind the grill.

Lastly, you should purchase a special, custom-made spatula that is so enormous and so heavy it can only be wielded with two hands. This will make the grilling process appear even more difficult by requiring a

"spotter" every time you flip someone's burger.

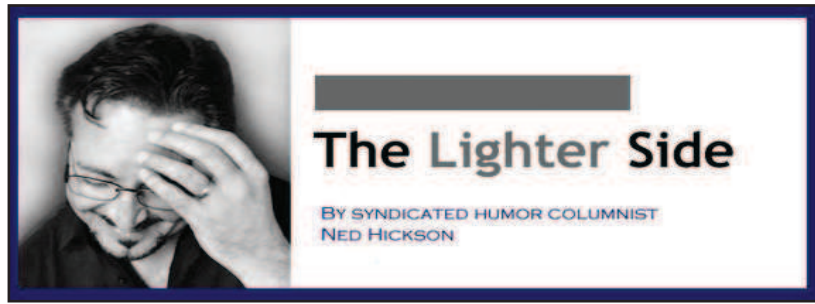
Put all of this together — spray bottle, giant grill, two-handed spatula — and you'll have the dramatic image you want, which is that of a sweat-stained father staggering in and out of the flames of his grill, both hands gripped tightly around the handle of his 50-pound spatula as he devoutly retrieves the evening meal.

Sure, this may sound like a lot of effort; you could fold clothes instead.

But the effort is worth it when it comes to family.

Besides, it's really hard to keep beer cold when it's hidden in the laundry.

*(Write to Ned Hickson at nhickson@cgsentinel.com)*



now, hop into your vehicle, and accidentally back over your hibachi several times and replace it with something more practical.

And, practically speaking, we're talking a grill roughly the

for your grilling skill, would quickly consume everyone's bratwurst — and quite possibly the county.

Unless you are highly experienced in pyrotechnics, or live near an open gas line, trying

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fourths of their lives left — statistically — and that memories, not mementos, were what mattered.

The class of 2018 added to the school's graduation rate that has routinely ranked in the top three in Lane County. The most

recent data from the Oregon Department of Education placed the district's graduation rate at just under 77 percent and Cottage Grove High School's graduation rate at 95.98 percent.

said, echoing his classmates who reminded their fellow graduates that they had three-

COUNCIL

from A1

city's proposal.

"On April 24, the buildings codes division sent us a letter that said we were part of a potential investigation regarding new emergency rules," Stewart told the board. According to Stewart, who had taken classes to be certified as a building inspector, the new regulations required a different certification for the position as well as an electricity inspector on staff for cities that manned their own inspection programs.

Due to the cost of hiring an inspector and electrician who

met the new requirements, Cottage Grove officials reached out to Veneta that indicated it was interested in sharing the cost of the two positions.

"On May 18, I got a late-night call, followed by an email," Stewart said. The building code division had revoked the new regulation, replacing it with the mandate that cities wanting to run an internal inspection program must have a building inspector—certified under the same standards Stewart had originally obtained—or contract with a municipality that employed a building inspector.

"So, we circled back around," Stewart said, noting that Vene-

ta still wanted to be part of the program and that under the guidelines from the state, three cities are permitted to partner together.

Councilor Mike Fleck made the motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement, citing the growing housing crisis and the city's inspection program's potential in streamlining the construction process. The motion passed unanimously.

City manager Richard Meyers reported last week that the city's new building inspection division issued 46 building permits and generated \$43,666 in permit fees.

"Fifteen of the permits required plan review and five of the permits were new single family homes," Meyers wrote in the Friday Update, a newsletter posted to the city's website every Friday. "In Creswell 45 building permits were issued, five of which required plan review and three were for new single family homes. The building inspection division performed 54 building inspections, three investigations, issued one stop-work order and had three pre-application submission meetings for Cottage Grove."

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## POP culture

From the time we are born, dads play an important role in our lives straight through adulthood. In addition to providing a sense of love and security, research shows that having an involved and supportive father correlates with fewer behavioral problems and higher rates of academic achievement in children. As we celebrate Father's Day on June 17, here's a look at some facts about fatherhood:

7 Hours a Week

The average amount of time fathers reported spending on child care in 2015, a number that has nearly tripled since 1965



72.2 Million

Estimated number of fathers in the United States

30.9 Years

The average age of an American father at the birth of his first biological child

1910

The first Father's Day celebration was proclaimed by the Mayor of Spokane, WA in honor of William Smart, Smart's daughter Sonora Dodd petitioned for a day to honor fathers like her own, an American Civil War veteran who, as a widower, raised six children.

1966

The year President Lyndon Johnson officially designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day by presidential proclamation

1972

The year President Nixon signed a measure making Father's Day a permanent holiday

\$12.7 Billion

Father's Day spending in the United States, with the average person spending \$115.57 on gifts

43.2%

The percentage of Americans purchasing clothing as a Father's Day gift

47.1%

The percentage of Americans purchasing a special outing or meal for Father's Day

72 Million

The number of Father's Day cards purchased each year

23%

The percentage of children in America who live with single mothers in homes without a father

4%

The percentage of children living with single fathers in homes without a mother

## Father's Day Weekend June 14 - 17, 2018

Gates open at 7:30 every morning



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