

Come Here And Retire, Unless You're A Sea Mammal



By Ned Hickson

I'm sure many of you have heard that Florence, Ore., where we happen to live, has once again been named one of the best places to retire in the United States. I say "many of you" because, at this very moment, both roads leading into town are clogged with traffic, most of which consists of giant U-Hauls driven by white-knuckled retirees from Florida. My guess is that they were told to evacuate due to hurricane [insert most recent here], and just kept heading west until they (a) hit water again, or (b) found the-

brake.

An article about our ranking appeared in *USA Today*, and the Chamber of Commerce has been flooded with calls from news agencies wanting to know how it feels to be in the national spotlight, and if, due to the publicity, we expect Angelina Jolie anytime soon.

The truth is, we Florentines have earned ourselves national attention twice before. The first was in 1970 when, while attempting to dispose of a decomposing whale carcass by utilizing a well-thought-out plan involving a truckload of dynamite, several onlookers were slightly injured after being struck by a piece of flying blubber roughly the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.

Then in 1998, just as our tourism slogan "Stop Your Blubbering and Come To

Florence" was losing steam, we were back in the national spotlight after our city-wide search for a pet monkey named "Bo-Bo" was mentioned on Paul Harvey. This led to our next tourism slogan, which I can't repeat here since, nowadays, petting someone's "lucky monkey" can mean something entirely different.

As you can imagine, being crowned this year's Magic Kingdom of retirement is very exciting for everyone. Except, of course, for those of us who are not retired. That's because we Florentines must now live up to a national image that, for the first time, doesn't include a crisis involving some type of mammal. We once had the comfort of knowing that flying blubber, while helping boost tourism, isn't an

amenity most people look for in a retirement community. That has all changed. People now know we have a performing arts center, library, hospital, restaurants and, perhaps most importantly, a large supply of healthy sea mammals.

This has led to an unprecedented number of visitors, many of whom have already made arrangements to have their Lay-Z-Boy drop shipped by the end of the week. It's not that we don't welcome the boost to our local economy; we just want to make it to the bank without being struck by a Ryder truck.

So, to that end, we'd like to make two things clear in order to keep the situation under control.

#1: Running past a house and throwing a wad of cash in the yard does not constitute a purchase agreement.

#2: It's not okay to keep circling the city in your moving truck until someone moves out.

As a community, we realize the impact national exposure will have on our small town. Which is why, as a community, we're not above blowing up another dead whale or launching a

monkey attack in order to keep things from getting out of hand.

You can write to Ned Hickson at nhickson@oregonfast.net, or at the *Siuslaw News* at P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR. 97439, or visit his website at www.nedhickson.net/blog/

BANKRUPTCY

- REPOSSESSION
- GARNISHMENTS
- FORECLOSURES
- CREDITOR HARASSMENT

CHAPTERS 7 & 13

ROD MILLER, ATTORNEY AT LAW
473-7400 rodlaw@bellsouth.net
 Website: www.rodlaw.org

Federal law has designated us a debt relief agency. We help people file for relief under the bankruptcy code.

BURGESS ENTERPRISES
 4937 Hwy. 411 South of Benton, TN
 423-715-7616

Custom Built Portable Storage Buildings

All Wooden Buildings with Shingled Roofs

Will Build to Suit Your Needs

Doll Houses, Play Houses, Dog Houses, Bird Houses

Free Delivery up to 20 miles

12' x 14' models arriving soon

North Cleveland Towers

Retirement Apartments

62 Years And Over

- ◆ Apartments For Rent Based on Income
- ◆ Singles and Couples
- ◆ Pleasant Atmosphere
- ◆ Conveniently Located

Activities Provided

(423) 479-9639

1200 Magnolia Ave. NE • Cleveland, TN 37311

North Cleveland Towers does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Open House Every Sunday in August. 1pm-4pm (or by appointment).

3 BR. 2.5 bath, newly constructed ranch style home in a convenient location in Dogwood Place Subdivision in Cleveland, TN. Approx. 2,300 sq. ft. All new level landscaped yard. Living room, great room, and master BR all have 17 ft. vaulted ceilings. Master bathroom has jetted tub with separate standup shower. This new home is priced below appraised value. Seller may pay closing costs. Priced to sell at **\$269,900.** Call (423) 336-2500.

For Sale By Owner - Lots 47 & 48 combined. Located in N.W. Cleveland, TN off of Hwy. 60 in Westside Park subdivision on McClanahan Dr. Building area is already cleared of trees and is ready to build your home on. Fantastic views. Soil Test Available. Marked survey has been completed and platted & is available. Approx 200 ft. of road frontage. Approx. 3/4 acre lot. Priced to sell at **\$29,900.** Call (423) 336-2500.