

## Living With Children

By John Rosemond

Copyright 2019, John K. Rosemond

When children were raised, reared, or simply brought up, they emancipated "on time." Upon high school graduation, children went to college, into the military, or became employed. Some, like my wife and myself, got married before they could vote. Those were the days when young people still wanted to leave home and strike out on their own, something their parents celebrated. Empty-nest syndrome was a rarity. Since "parenting" has replaced child rearing, the average age of emancipation, especially for males, has soared. Older parents all over the country are asking me what to do about children who won't leave home or leave home only to come back again, and again, and again. The breakdowns involve drugs, alcohol, video games, employment issues, criminality, and emotional

collapses of one sort or another.

"When are you going to write a book on adult children who won't leave the nest?" they ask.

I answer that the "book" will consist of one page on which will be printed two words: Stop enabling! It's glib, I know, and I really need to stop making light of what is a serious problem for these folks. Nonetheless, it's almost always the case that the parents in question are, in fact, enabling. They throw money at problems that aren't caused by a lack of money and money isn't going to solve.

I have children. I can't think of anything harder than putting a child out on the street, telling him that the ride is over and he's going to have to learn to solve his own problems. For one thing, the possibil-

ity is very real that the kid won't solve his problems, that he'll sink ever deeper into dissolution.

It's one thing to tell parents that their enabling has become one of their child's handicaps; it's quite another to answer the question, "But what if he just keeps getting worse?" with something other than banalities. There must be no guilt quite as overwhelming, as paralyzing, as the guilt that comes from knowing you could have done something to prevent your child's personal apocalypse, even if the something would have been nothing more than the same-old, same-old.

Some parents have told me they've tried emancipation counseling. It's certainly worth a try, but the all-too-typical story has everyone agreeing on the plan in front of the counselor and signing the contract only to have the whole thing blow up when push comes to shove.

Other parents have told me they finally decided to let the child keep living at home but stop giving him money. That's a fine idea, except a good number of those same parents report that their kids began stealing from them. What do you do then? Swear out a criminal complaint and have your child thrown in jail? Again, easier said than done.

The good news is that some of the freeloaders in question suddenly pack their bags, leave, and figure out how to make it on their own (albeit often with an ongoing allowance). In the meantime, however, they've wreaked emotional and financial havoc on their parents. I recently talked with the single mom of a 44-year-old who has done and is continuing to do just that. She's forced, at age seventy, to keep working.

Which brings me back to kicking the slacker out, which sometimes (the

and treasured memories. It seemed the girls were always hungry, and brownies always seemed to be a favorite. This is my recipe

### BROWNIES

- 2 sticks melted butter,
- 2 ¼ cups sugar
- 4 eggs,
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 1/3 cups unsweet cocoa powder
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 2 cups mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350\*. Mix dry ingredients first and then add remaining ingredients, chocolate chips being last added. Spread mix in a sprayed pan, 9 x 13, and bake 30-40 minutes. Be sure and do not overbake.

\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

## Pratt - Trehern to wed June 15 in Winona



ANDREW THOMAS TREHERN AND JORDAN HOPE PRATT

The wedding of Jordan Hope Pratt and Andrew Thomas Trehern will take place on June 15, 2019, at five o'clock in the evening at First Baptist Church in Winona.

The bride-elect is the daughter of David and Cindy Pratt of Winona. She is the granddaughter of Colon and Betty Woods of Duck Hill and Shirley Pratt and

the late Reverend David L. Pratt, Sr. of Winona.

The prospective groom is the son of Jeff and Joy Trehern of Sallis. He is the grandson of Janie Buford and the late Thomas Owen Buford, Jr. of Sallis and Darrrell and Carolyn Trehern of Ethel.

Miss Pratt is a 2013 graduate of Winona High School.

She graduated from Holmes Community College and University of Mississippi Medical Center with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She is currently employed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Grenada as a Registered Nurse.

Mr. Trehern is a 2012 graduate of Kosciusko High School. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 2017 with a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science. He is currently employed at Mississippi AG in Lexington, MS.

Laura Beth Kolb will serve as the Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids are Ana Pratt, Ashley Trehern, Audra Chesteen, Kayla McCormick, Kelsey Woods, Micah Brooke Woods, and Rachel Latham. Brooklynn Pratt will serve as the flower girl.

Jeff Trehern, father of the groom will serve as the Best Man. Groomsmen will be Taylor Burrell, Cole McBride, Cole Pratt, Taylor Bishop, Connor Hill, Spencer Rutledge and Jason Roberts. Sam McClellan will serve as the ring bearer.

Brother Gene Richardson will officiate the ceremony.

A reception will follow at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Cravens in Winona, MS.

No local invitations are being sent, but all family and friends are invited to attend the ceremony and the reception.

## Memories of a house full

With summer in full swing, even though it's somewhat earlier than it should be. I remember summers when our last child was in school. Her brothers were eight and eleven years older, so I had one at home many years after the boys were in college. Our house was "the designated house"! All the kids gathered here to hang out, swim, and especially eat. I never had to worry or wonder about her activities. She was content to just be home and have an "open house" policy. We had

she loves it! I realize some of you are wondering how in the world anybody would take on more children than your own to take care of and feed on a day to day basis. Well, I believe now days we, parents

fail to get very involved with our children's activities. Sometimes our jobs take so much of our time the kids are left to maneuver through life on their own. As our children become young adults we sometimes expect them

not to need us as much. I can tell you from experience, this is the time they need us the most. This is the time and place we need to be helping to mold them into the forever adults they will become in such a short time. And yes, it at times seems to be too much hullabaloo going on in our homes with all the extras, these are times you will treasure, just like me in the "grown-up years" ahead. Every so often I wish I could hear all the splashing, laughing, and hijinks in our pool the way I did so many years ago.

Be that house. Be the place your kids want to hang out with their buddies and play Fortnight, jump in the pool, and eat you out of house and home. I promise you someday these will be your best



Peggy's Take

wet swim suits, wet towels, and little girls underfoot most of the years she was home. I loved it! I always cooked more than we needed because I never knew who or how many would be sitting around our supper table.

Now her house is exactly the same except "more". Her two boys seem to have overnight company nearly every night of the week with their being no school. Sometimes they come and dig in for several days. On top of all the little boys, she has five canine babies and one of them Maple, the English bulldog is a toe nipper. Some of the lodgers fear her nibbles but not enough to stay away. I have known her to feed four or five overnights in addition to her own boys. And,

reader should know) involves police. Parents who've done that tell me that the first six months is the hardest because things get worse before they start getting better. And some parents have told me (the

reader should know) that the child in question simply disappeared.

So, when all is said and done, my answer to these questions is one that I have not fallen back on in forty years of writing this col-

umn: I don't know. Life can be very messy at times. Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

# SALE

**June 10 to June 15**

**20% OFF**

- Menswear and Apparel
- All Boots
- Wallets, Knives, Caps, Belts and Accessories

447 Hwy 12E • Kosciusko • 662-289-3741