



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Cursed?



The wife had been hinting that our 20th wedding anniversary was approaching and that “we better be doing something”. Therefore, I surprised her with a trip to New Orleans for a long weekend. Checking in online the day before our flight I can print TSA passes but no seat assignments, “your seats will be assigned at the counter”. No problem. Getting to our pre-paid parking site at Logan the lot attendant says “sorry, we are overbooked, you’ll need to find other arrangements.” Sure, our flight leaves in 2 hours, no problem. Scrambling, we drive around and find a Hampton Inn that will allow us to park there. Losing almost an hour in the process, we get to Logan and ticketing says: “your seats will be assigned at the gate”. No problem. At the gate, there is a crowd waiting for “seat assignments”. Our turn comes “sorry, the plane is full, we will have to re-accommodate you”. We are put on another airline, that leaves 2-hours later, with a layover in Newark, that gets us to New Orleans after midnight. No problem. Two hours later, we get on this flight, taxi to the runway, and streams of fire trucks and emergency vehicles approach the runway. Must be nighttime training? The captain comes on “Sorry, the airport has been shut down, a flight is trying to land and if it makes it, will have to be towed from the runway”. Towed from the runway. No problem. An hour later, we take off and get to Newark, and after another 2-hour layover we are off to New Orleans. Landing at 12:30

am, we walk to the rental car booth and after a 30-minute wait are told: “Your car is in space 210, keys on the dash”. No problem. We walk out to space 210 and another family is getting into that car and driving away. Back to the rental booth. “Sorry, we are overbooked; let us see if there is anything else available”. Finally, they upgrade us to a brand-new Chevy Suburban, wow nice big ride. “Hon, you know how tight the parking is in New Orleans”, “Yes dear, valet parking”. No problem. Traveling is always a chore this time a curse. ●

December 2019 News



Cauliflower Soup

Seeking a cozy, warm meal perfect for the holidays? This cauliflower soup can be made in a jiffy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 leek, chopped (the white and light green parts)
- 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small head of cauliflower, cored and sliced
- 4 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- ½ c. heavy cream
- 1 bunch of chives
- ½ c. canola or grapeseed oil

PREPARATION

- Heat butter and oil in a large pot on medium heat. Add onion, leek, and ½ tsp. salt. Cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until very tender (but not brown), 10-12 minutes.
- Stir in garlic and cook 1 minute. Add cauliflower, broth, and cream. Simmer 15-18 minutes, until cauliflower is tender.
- Puree until smooth. (A handheld blender is best, but you can use a standard blender in batches.)
- Separately, in a blender, puree chives and ½ c. oil until smooth. Transfer to small saucepan and cook on medium until mixture begins to simmer. Strain through a coffee filter set over a measuring cup.
- Drizzle the chive oil that was just made over the soup. Add cracked pepper, if you wish. •



December 2019 Notable Dates

December 2 – National Mutt Day

December 4 – National Dice Day

December 6 – National Gazpacho Day

December 11 – National App Day

December 14 – National Bouillabaisse Day

December 18 – Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day

December 21 – Crossword Puzzle Day

December 29 – Tick Tock Day

The Dangers of Recorded Statements



If you've been in an auto crash and the other party is at fault, expect their insurance company to contact you, quite possibly within 24 hours. High on their priority list will be to charm (or scare) you into giving a "short" recorded statement "to see what happened". **Do not agree to it—ever.**

Anything you say in a recorded statement can be used against you later. Your words can be twisted to completely change the story about what happened. You might say something that didn't come out right, and once uttered, it can't be taken back. If you change your answers later, it will look like you're the one who's changing the story. The insurance people calling you are trained, you are probably not.

Also, some injuries only manifest themselves days, weeks, and even months after an accident. If you speak on your injuries (or a suspected lack thereof) too quickly, you may look foolish later and end up hurting your case. "Sir, in your recorded statement you never mentioned....."

The adjuster might ask you to sign a medical authorization in order to get their hands on your medical records. Never sign off on this either (or any documents). Medical authorization gives them wide latitude to delve into far more information than is necessary. Obtain your own medical records and bills. Review them for accuracy and clear up any errors with your doctor. At that point you can select what is truly pertinent to send along to the other party's adjuster.

The other guy's insurance adjuster is not your friend. Everything they do is designed to keep from paying you what you deserve. You will need to be more forthcoming with your own insurance company...but exercise caution. Contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. •

Tidbits of Christmas Song History

Whether at the mall, church services, family Christmas gatherings, or on the radio, Christmas music contributes to the mood of the season—and some songs come with interesting backstories.

“Deck the Halls,” written in 16th-century Wales, was originally a downright bawdy tune intended for New Year’s Eve. Lyrics such as “Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel” and “Oh how soft my fair one’s bosom” were cleaned up in the 1860s with the lyrics we know today.

“Jingle Bells” was originally a Thanksgiving ditty entitled “One Horse Open Sleigh.” James Lord Pierpont of Medford, Massachusetts, wrote the song for the children in his father’s Sunday school class. They loved it, wanted to sing it again at Christmas, and the rest is history. Thanksgiving gets short-shifted again.

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” was published in England in 1780 but is thought to have originated in France. The “partridge in a pear tree” line is challenging. Partridges are ground nesters, lousy fliers, and don’t frequent trees. However, the French word for partridge is “perdrix,” pronounced “pehr-dree.” Side by side: “pehr-dree” and “pear tree.” Linguistic malfeasance, perhaps?

Nat King Cole recorded “The Christmas Song” in 1946 with his band, the Nat King Cole Trio; it is one of the top 20 Christmas songs of all time. In his first recording, he mistakenly added an “s” to “reindeer”: “... to see if reindeers really know how to fly.” Problem was, no one caught the error before the song’s release. Cole was mortified, but the song was so wildly popular, he waited a few years before making another recording. The original take is now a collector’s item. •



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Make Winter Driving Less of an Adventure

According to the Federal Highway Administration, weather conditions play a role in 1/4 of all auto crashes on U.S. roadways each year. Prominent among them are winter’s snow, sleet, and ice.

Drivers should allow greater following distances and drive more slowly in wintry conditions, but often do not. Some people are overconfident because they have all-wheel- or four-wheel-drive vehicle. These vehicles improve acceleration in snow, but they do not shorten stopping distance or help with ice. Also, be mindful that a driver can be traveling under the speed limit but still be driving too fast for conditions.

Beware of black ice, which blends in with the roadway. It might also be hiding beneath a coating of snow or in the shade. Ice forms more quickly on bridges and overpasses because they lose heat from both sides, top and bottom.

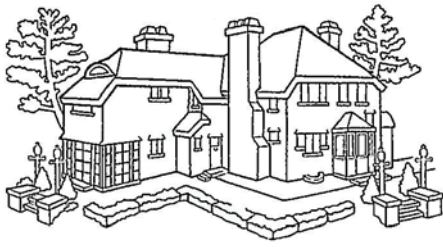
If venturing out into the snow, clear your entire windshield and side and back windows to improve visibility—not just a few small patches—and turn on your lights. Remove snow accumulation from the roof, hood, and trunk, it’s the law in NH. Flying snow can obscure the vision of a driver behind you or become a deadly projectile.

If you fishtail, don’t panic. Steer toward the direction you want to go. Apply steady pressure to antilock brakes. If you don’t have antilock brakes, lightly pump your brakes.

Remember, winter weather does not absolve drivers of fault in auto accidents. Drivers have a duty to drive responsibly and safely, no matter what the conditions.

If you are injured as a result of another driver’s negligence, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. •

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Cursed?
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Cathy's Corner

Athletics And Life

My daughter is a cheerleading coach for a New Hampshire high school team. She also coaches gymnastics at a gym in New Hampshire. She was a competitive gymnast until high school and then switched to cheerleading. She continued her cheerleading career in college, competing for a school at which cheerleading was a varsity sport. (So, for those of you with children who are involved in cheerleading, there are colleges that offer it as a sport). The interesting thing for me is to listen to her talk about practices and competitions as a coach. It's a little different than when she was a member of the team.



My daughter's gymnastics and cheerleading coaches were wonderful, caring and tough. They expected a lot of the girls: practice was a time to work hard; disrespect was not tolerated; rules were rules. In other words, they taught the girls about the real world. I loved having other adults in her life telling her exactly the same things my husband and I did. My daughter did not appreciate it as much as I did. She complained to me. Often.

But now I listen to her talk about how she coaches the girls in the same manner and with the same expectations that she was coached. Maybe more so. She is a caring but tough task master. The lessons that those coaches taught my daughter are being passed down to another generation of athletes. Those lessons are a pathway to success in any walk of life. ●