



# Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

## From the Captain's Log From Coconuts to Nuts



During May we made our last trip to FL for the winter (you don't want to go to FL during the heat of the summers unless there is a real good reason). Having been multiple times this winter, as round trip flights were as low as \$50, the kids were getting a bit of been there - done that attitude so were looking for new things to do. One morning they saw some coconuts floating in the canal by their grandmother's dock and decided it would be fun to just break them open. After trying to bust them open by throwing them down on the cement dock, with no success, they figured more drastic

measures were in order so out came hammers, chisels, and saws. After an hour of the hardest work I have ever seen them do for quite some time they were finally able to break one open and then had no use for the end product so looking for something else to do.



After this we headed for Matlacha, FL, an artist community on Pine Island, a 30-minute drive from my Mom's. It is a laid back place reminiscent of Key West, just without all the tinsel and high rise hype. Matlacha likes this vibe and resists all efforts to modernize. While not much more than a wide spot in the road, it hosts a few dozen converted fishing shacks that are now art studios and gift shops of mostly locally produced art works. One of the art studios is Leoma Loveplace, housing a local artist who has a Beatles mania slant. In the backyard of her studio is a treasure trove of her art work, including a travel trailer that has a little bit of her hand painted art work, I'd call this piece of work a bit nuts in my humble opinion. •

May 2021 News



# No Tolerance for Underage Drinking and Driving

The legal minimum drinking age in New Hampshire is twenty-one. Many states had lowered the drinking age in the late 1960s and early 1970s to age 18. The results were disturbing, as the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities rose precipitously.

For those under age twenty-one who drink and drive, it's not about driving under the influence—it's about any drinking and driving, period. Every state, including New Hampshire has a "zero tolerance" statute of some kind. In New Hampshire the legal limit is 0.02; any reading equal to or higher than that is a violation of the law—as opposed to the 0.08 cutoff for drivers age twenty-one and over. To provide some context, a blood-alcohol level of 0.02 can be achieved with one beer.

In New Hampshire the penalties incurred for a DWI conviction are both administrative, driver's license suspension at DMV, as well as the penalties imposed by the court, including fines, loss of license and alcohol education classes. There is a mandatory twelve month loss of license for those convicted of DWI under the age of twenty-one. Subsequent offenses will be met with more severe punishment, including jail time.

Underage drinking and driving statistics are alarming. Nearly a third of all deaths of fifteen to twenty year olds are the result of motor vehicle crashes and approximately thirty-five percent of those involve alcohol. Alcohol as a factor in auto accidents is twice as high percentage-wise for underage drivers as it is for those ages twenty-one and over.

The "zero tolerance" law was passed in an attempt to help curb this problem. ●



## Cinco de Mayo's Got a History

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for May 5) has evolved into a popular holiday that celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, and a good excuse for a party, but many remain unaware of its true origins.

For starters, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's Independence Day. That holiday is celebrated on September 16. Cinco de Mayo marks the day a small, underdog army triumphed over a world power, at least for a day.

In 1861, Mexico was in dire financial straits due to internal strife, and debt payments were overdue to France, Great Britain, and Spain. Each country sent military forces to collect. Britain and Spain negotiated agreements with Mexico and departed. France took a different tack.

Emperor Napoleon III (nephew of you-know-who) thought carving out a new empire on Mexican soil would be a nice replacement for territory lost in the Louisiana Purchase over a half-century prior. He also had ideas of possibly intervening in the U.S. Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.

On May 5, 1862, he green-lighted an attack on the small town of Puebla de los Angeles with his 6,000 highly trained, well-armed soldiers, believing it would be a romp. Mexico's government rounded up 2,000 ragtag, but loyal, troops and achieved a stunning upset victory in the Battle of Puebla.

Although France eventually won the war, Mexican resistance was bolstered, and pride was restored. Once the U.S. Civil War came to a close, military support and political pressure from the United States convinced the French it was time to say au revoir.

Ironically, Cinco de Mayo is not widely celebrated today in Mexico. It's much more popular in the United States and is gaining footholds globally, though the events behind the celebration are frequently overlooked. ●



## ‘100 Deadliest Days’ for Teen Drivers

For teen drivers, the time span between Memorial Day and Labor Day is known as the “100 deadliest days.” Nationwide, an average of 260 teens are killed each month in auto crashes during this stretch — over 25 percent higher than other months of the year. They’re also most likely to be involved in crashes resulting in the deaths of passengers, pedestrians, and occupants/riders of other vehicles.

Various factors account for this tragic pattern of events. With high school and college classes in the rearview mirror until fall, many more teen drivers hit the roadways. A surge of teen drivers means a surge of inexperienced drivers. Many simply lack practice behind the wheel to avoid costly miscalculations.

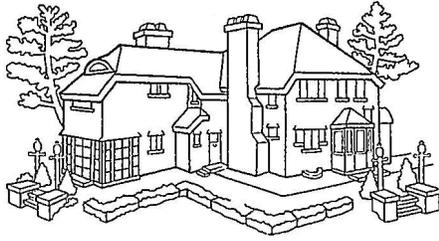
Immaturity plays a role, too. The rules of the road might be ditched — 35 percent of teen crashes involve speeding — and distracted driving is a plague. Other age groups are guilty of these offenses as well, but not at the disproportionately high levels of teen drivers. Underage drinking and driving is always a concern, as summer parties, cookouts, etc., take center stage.

Parents can help their child:

- Set a good example. Follow the rules of the road, buckle up, turn off the cell phone, and display patience.
- Talk to your teen about the risks of driving. Apparent disinterest doesn’t necessarily mean they’re not listening.
- Never condone underage drinking, even at home.
- Encourage your child to avoid riding with a friend who’s been drinking or using drugs.

If you or a family member is injured by a negligent driver, contact our office to protect your rights. ●

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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



From Coconuts  
to Nuts  
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## Just Along for the Ride

Riding a motorcycle can be invigorating, but the adventures shouldn't be taken for granted. Riders are on less stable footing — two wheels, not four — are frequently less visible, and are extremely vulnerable in a crash.

The same circumstances obviously apply to motorcycle passengers, who are rarely at fault for crashes and have less control over their circumstances than operators. Potential sources of passenger compensation for injuries may include the motorcycle operator, and/or the driver of the other vehicle involved in a crash.

Some people may be hesitant to file an injury claim against a family member or friend who may have been driving the motorcycle, but remember, the claim is actually filed against their insurance company. Another concern is that a family member's or friend's insurance rates will go up. If they're deemed at fault by the investigating police department, their rates are destined to jump anyway.

In some cases, an injured motorcycle passenger might have additional coverage under their own auto insurance — including uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, which comes in handy when an at-fault driver's insurance is nonexistent or has a low cap — and/or their health insurance.

Before you hop a ride on a motorcycle, it's critical to know the operator's insurance situation, your own insurance coverage, and to always wear a helmet and proper riding gear.

If you are injured in a motorcycle crash due to someone's negligence, contact our office to protect your rights. ●

