



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log It's Scientific



Our marina in Portsmouth, NH is somewhat like the United Nations, many different countries have sent their emissaries. We have sailors from France, England, Turkey, Iran, it may be that the U.S. is underrepresented. During the weekends one or more boats raft up together at some anchorage and out comes the grills and beer. This past weekend the "Professor" came out as a guest on one of the boats and brought along some fine grass raised beef. The Professor is from Iran, has a doctorate in psychology, and is a practicing psychologist in Bedford NH. His English is pretty good, but with a definite Middle Eastern accent, so it is better to be face to face with him to not misinterpret what he is saying. He has a Middle Eastern name, but we call him Professor mostly.



The Professor is a zealous fisherman, but not necessarily a good one. He is constantly bringing new fishing poles, lures, bait, etc. as ... *it is not the fault of the fisherman but the fish....* But he always brings good food and this past weekend was no exception. While he cooked we got into a discussion about some new scientific research he had been reading which suggested that when you take pictures while on vacation you more easily forget most of the vacation and your mind later just fixates on the scene of the picture, forgetting all the other details. He went on at length to explain the mental science but to us non-psychologist all was lost, but that could have been the beers. But when he took one of the grass-fed steaks off the grill to show us, I took a picture, and believe me I will never forget the taste of that steak. The rest of the weekend, well, that could have been the beer's fault. ●

June 2021 News



Driver's License Suspensions by DMV

One way a driver can have his or her license suspended is to commit too many “moving violations” within a certain period of time—e.g., running a red light, speeding, and so forth. The Department of Safety will hold a hearing to determine if you meet the qualifying factors for license suspension and set the length of the suspension. It may be possible to make arguments at the hearing itself to minimize or avoid such a suspension. If you are under twenty and have just one moving violation, DMV will hold a hearing to determine if your license should be suspended.

Another way for DMV to suspend your driver's license is to get arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs. Of course, if you are convicted of DWI, the Court will suspend your license. However, your license can be suspended before you have even been convicted of a DWI offense—and it only takes one offense: no multiple violations over a period of time or accruing points. If you refuse post arrest physical or blood alcohol tests, or take a blood alcohol test which shows a result over the legal limit, DMV will seek to suspend your license. The police officer will seize your New Hampshire Driver's license, if you possess one, and issue you a temporary one with a future expiration date. Your license will be suspended on that date unless you request a hearing. It's incumbent upon you to request this hearing within the appropriate time frame.

Such a hearing is limited to a few narrow issues, unlike a trial at court. If the request by the State for an Administrative Loss of License is upheld at such a hearing, your driver's license will be suspended. (If you hold an out of state license, your operating privileges will be suspended). The length of the suspension will be six (6) months for a first offense and two (2) years if you have a prior refusal or DWI conviction.

DWI is a grave offense. The best way to avoid such an offense is do not get behind the wheel while impaired. Too many lives are at stake. •



Information Revolution

Johannes Gutenberg, a German inventor, was born in Mainz, Germany, somewhere between 1394 and 1404 A.D. His “official” birth date has been deemed June 24, 1400, but it's a bit murky how that date was arrived at.

Although details of his early life are sketchy, his primary gift to humanity is abundantly evident: the world's first mechanical moving-type printing press. Gutenberg's 1436 invention piggybacked off woodblock printing in China and moveable-type printing used in Korea a century prior to Gutenberg's improvements. These printing methods didn't quite take off in China and Korea due to the tens of thousands of characters comprising their languages. Gutenberg needed only a tiny fraction of that number.

Gutenberg's press could mass-produce books inexpensively and enabled quick information distribution on every topic imaginable. In 1400, the number of books in all of Europe totaled 30,000. By 1500, over 9 million.

Gutenberg's printing press vastly accelerated the pace of the Renaissance, which had begun in approximately 1350 with a mission of rediscovery and sharing of information. Books became affordable to commoners; literacy increased, breaking the stranglehold the rich had on education; scientific information could be shared more accurately; and religious authority could now be challenged more effectively — just ask Martin Luther.

The first book mass-produced on Gutenberg's press was the Bible. Roughly 200 complete copies were printed, 49 of which are still in existence today at universities, libraries, and museums, although fewer than half are still wholly intact. Today's value of a complete Gutenberg Bible? Upwards of \$35 million.

The printing press is widely regarded as the most important invention of the second millennium. Scribes in the 15th century may have begged to differ. So next time you open your computer to 100+ new emails, blame Gutenberg. •



June 2021 Notable Dates

June 4
Doughnut Day

June 5
National Trails Day

June 7
Chocolate Ice Cream Day

June 10
Ballpoint Pen Day

June 13
Weed Your Garden Day

June 19
National Kissing Day

June 30
Meteor Watch Day

Proactive Bicyclists Are Safer Bicyclists

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 846 bicyclists perished in crashes with motor vehicles on U.S. roadways in 2019. Another 4,900 were injured, some catastrophically — former NBA player Shawn Bradley was struck by a motorist earlier this year while bicycling and has been rendered paraplegic.

Drivers and bicyclists are required to share the roadways and follow all rules of the road. Common causes of bicycle-car crashes include the following:

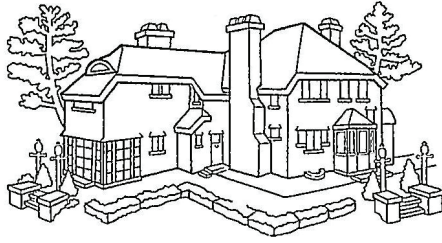
- The “left cross.” A driver makes a left-hand turn into the path of an oncoming bicyclist. The driver typically doesn’t notice the bicyclist or misjudges their speed.
- The “right hook.” A driver making a right-hand turn doesn’t detect a bicyclist who pulls up on their right in a bike lane or on the shoulder, and cuts them off or strikes them.
- Under NH law, bicyclists must never ride against traffic. It’s unlawful, it’s disconcerting to drivers, and it jeopardizes other bicyclists riding on the correct side of the road.
- A driver exiting a parked car opens their door into the path of a passing bicyclist.
- A driver or bicyclist runs a red light.
- A driver does not allow enough room for a bicyclist when passing.

Bicyclists should be proactive to improve their riding safety:

- Always wear a properly fitted helmet, which can reduce the risk of head injury by 50 percent, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- Get noticed! Lights in the front and back; reflectors on the frame, tires, and pedals; and wear bright, reflective clothes while riding ... especially at night.
- Ride defensively; always assume the motorist doesn’t see you.

If you sustain a bicycling injury due to someone’s negligence, contact our office to protect your rights. •

Seufert Law Offices, PA
Attorneys At Law



59 Central Street, Franklin, NH 03235
(603) 934-9837
www.seufertlaw.com

Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



It's Scientific
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This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

Be Extra Careful Signing That Settlement Release

If you've negotiated with the insurance company on your own, agreed on a settlement amount, and are about to sign a settlement release, there are some key things you need to be aware of:

First, there are certain rights you are likely giving up. For instance, let's say that in a few months you discover that you need further legal action to help pay for injuries from your accident, and you decide that you need to hire an attorney. Odds are, because of the signed settlement release that's in place, there will be little, if anything, that can be done—even with an attorney on your side.

The reason for that is because a settlement release is a document that finalizes your accident claim. Essentially, you agree to terminate your claim, and in exchange, the insurance company agrees to pay the settlement amount.

Problem is, most settlement releases are written in a way that precludes you from reopening the case or filing an additional lawsuit for your injuries. You may be able to obtain an open-ended settlement release that would enable you to file for compensation for future medical expenses, but those types of releases are rarer than a hen's tooth.

So, what's the big takeaway here? If you're about to sign a settlement release, you must read every word of the document and clearly understand exactly what your rights are moving forward and what you're agreeing to. And, you have to be sure that the settlement amount covers not only your current medical expenses, but also any potential future expenses. ●

