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LAW FIRM

The Road to Justice Starts Here



‘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 per 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. However, more drunk-driving fatalities are attributed to the 21–24 and 25–34 age groups.

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. ●



May 2021 News



Mother's Day Frittata

Servings: 6; prep time: 15 min.; total time: 40 min.

Get Mom's special day off to a fabulous start with this delicious, adaptable frittata. For those so inclined, plenty of veggies and meats can be substituted (including leftovers!). However, it's best to keep the egg/heavy cream/cheese ratio consistent. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 8 large eggs
- 1/3 c. heavy cream
- 3/4 c. shredded mozzarella
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 shallot, minced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 8 oz. baby bella mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 c. ricotta
- 3 c. baby spinach

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, heavy cream, and mozzarella. Season with salt, pepper, and a pinch of red pepper flakes.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add shallot and garlic and cook until soft, 5 minutes, then add mushrooms and cook until soft, another 5 minutes. Add spinach and cook until wilted, 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Pour egg mixture into skillet, then dollop with ricotta and transfer skillet to oven.
4. Bake until eggs are just set, 12 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of the Delish website: www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas. •



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, 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. •



No Mulligans for Golf Course Injuries

Golf is a popular sport in the United States. It's tough to beat fresh air, beautiful scenery, exercise, socialization, and the challenges of the sport.

However, according to Golf Digest, over 40,000 golfers visit the ER each year for golf course-related injuries. Some can be chalked up to negligence or fall under "assumption of risk" — anyone who knowingly engages in a potentially dangerous activity assumes responsibility for its inherent risks.

For example, errant shots are a part of golf. If you are struck and injured, it's likely a personal injury claim wouldn't fly. Exceptions include someone who deliberately aims a ball at other players; possibly a golfer who tees off before the group ahead of him/her clears the fairway; or a course-design flaw that raises the risk of injury.

A club that slips out of a golfer's hands and strikes and injures someone might be deemed an inherent risk of golf in some states, not so in others.

Players who drive a golf cart while impaired (or otherwise recklessly) and injure someone are subject to claims of negligence. The golf course could be held liable if they served the golfer enough alcohol to impair their judgment. Poorly maintained golf carts that lead to injury are a course owner's responsibility.

Landscaping and course maintenance issues sometimes come into play. A blocked cart pathway could lead to a hazardous detour. Pooling water on pathways or greens might result in slip-and-fall injuries. Dead tree branches could fall on golfers.

Most golf outings are enjoyable experiences (slices, hooks, and blown putts aside), but if you are injured due to negligence, contact our office for expert guidance. ●

MAY 2021 Notable Dates

May 1
Mother's Day

May 15
Chocolate Chip Day

May 15
Armed Forces Day

May 31
Memorial Day

June 30
Father's Day



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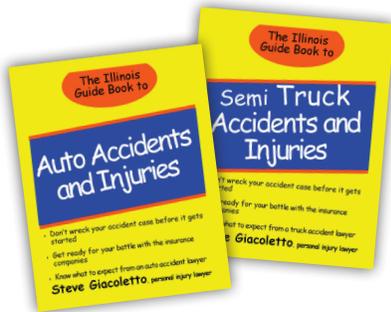


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Just Along for the Ride

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 in "fault" states include the motorcycle operator, the driver of another vehicle involved in a crash, or the motorcycle/parts manufacturer. (In "no-fault" states — nine full-fledged, three combo — the potential sources for recovery of damages are limited, and the ability to bring a lawsuit is restricted.)

Some people may be hesitant to file an injury claim against a family member or friend. 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, their rates are destined to jump anyway.

In some cases, an injured motorcycle passenger might be covered under the operator's insurance policy. Other coverage possibilities include the passenger's own motorcycle insurance, their 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.

Defective parts or design flaws can also lead to motorcycle accidents and injuries. An injury claim would be directed at the manufacturer.

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. ●

