

The Road To Justice Starts Here

April 2019



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BICYCLE ACCIDENTS

soaring medical costs

According to a recent study conducted by UC San Francisco spanning the years 1997–2013, bicycling fatalities in the United States increased by an average of 19 each year (totaling over 9,800 during the study period); there were roughly 6,500 more adult bicycling injuries annually in 2013 than in 1997; and medical costs for nonfatal bike crashes ballooned 137 percent. It's also interesting that in 2013, men age 45 and older accounted for 54 percent of the costs of bicycle accidents, compared to only 26 percent in 1997.

Although it is inevitable that the figures for bicycle crashes, injuries, fatalities, and costs would rise with an increase in bicyclists, researchers say other factors are at work as well. In the years prior to the study, many bicycle accidents stemmed from non-street incidents. However, more bicyclists are now part of

the “regular” roadways. When bicyclists are involved in crashes with motor vehicles, the increased velocity and crash impact result in more severe injuries.

In more heavily populated areas of the United States, the surge in bicycling popularity has far outpaced preparedness. Many municipalities don't have the infrastructure in place for safe bicycling. In contrast, European cities have more riders but fewer accidents per rider. They invest heavily in bicycle infrastructure—bicycle lanes are just a small part of it—and have been doing it for a long time. Bicycling is ingrained in their culture.

Even with the uptick in negative statistics, bicycling benefits still far outweigh the risks. In the event you are involved in a bicycling accident, contact a bicycle accident attorney to protect your rights. ■

REFERRALS

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attention motorcyclists ...

HELP PREVENT COVERAGE TRAGEDIES



Warmer weather is around the corner, soon you will get your motorcycles out and hit the roads. Before you do, keep reading. Most Pennsylvania auto insurance companies structure their policies so as to force motorcyclists to insure their motorcycles separately from their other vehicles. This often results in low or limited coverage and causes what we call “insurance coverage tragedies.”

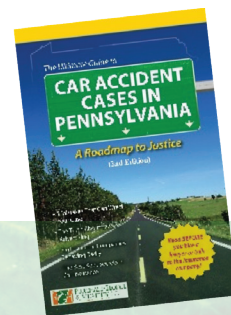
An insurance coverage tragedy results when the harms and losses caused by an accident exceed all available insurance coverage. This often leaves a seriously injured motorcyclist (or in the event of a wrongful death, his widow and children) with no ability to pay all of their medical bills (or satisfy the medical liens). The problem or “tragedy” is made even worse when the at-fault driver has minimum insurance or no insurance at all.

You can do something to protect yourself and your family from suffering an insurance coverage tragedy. Stop buying minimal coverage for your auto insurance. Get a one million dollar policy today!

This may sound impossible to some people, especially when you hear that you need only four times the minimum coverage (which is in fact often woefully inadequate when a motorcyclist is injured).

The good news is that for a relatively low price, motorcyclists can avoid becoming victims of insurance coverage tragedies. Buy the maximum amount of uninsured/underinsured (UM/UIM) benefits. Depending upon your driving record, an increase in your auto policy from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 will raise your yearly rate by only a few hundred dollars.

So, get the protection you and your family needs. Call your auto insurance agent today and add UM/UIM benefits to your policy. For more information about underinsurance and how to prevent coverage tragedies download our free book, *The Road to Justice: The Ultimate Guide to Car Accident Cases in Pennsylvania (2nd edition)* at www.YourErieLawyers.com or call for a free review of your auto insurance policy at 833-7100. ■



spinach and feta pita bake

This quick and easy dish can serve well as an appetizer at a party, or a meal around the table.

Ingredients

- 1 tub sun-dried tomato pesto, 6 oz.
- 6 whole wheat pita breads, 6-inch each
- 2 roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
- 1 bunch spinach, rinsed and chopped
- 4 fresh mushrooms, sliced
- ½ c. crumbled feta cheese
- 2 Tbsp. grated parmesan cheese
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- (optional) ground black pepper

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Spread tomato pesto onto one side of each pita bread and place on a baking sheet, pesto-side up.
- Top pitas with tomatoes, spinach, mushrooms, feta, and parmesan cheese. Drizzle with olive oil. Season with pepper (if desired).
- Bake for about 12 minutes, or until pitas are crisp. Cut into quarters before serving. ■



CELEBRITY BARTENDERS

win big for charity

Celebrity bartenders Eric Purchase and Craig Murphey won the “top donor” honors during the recent Battle of the Barristers fundraiser. The battle royale, held on February 21st, raised money for the Erie County Historical Society.

Battle of the Barristers

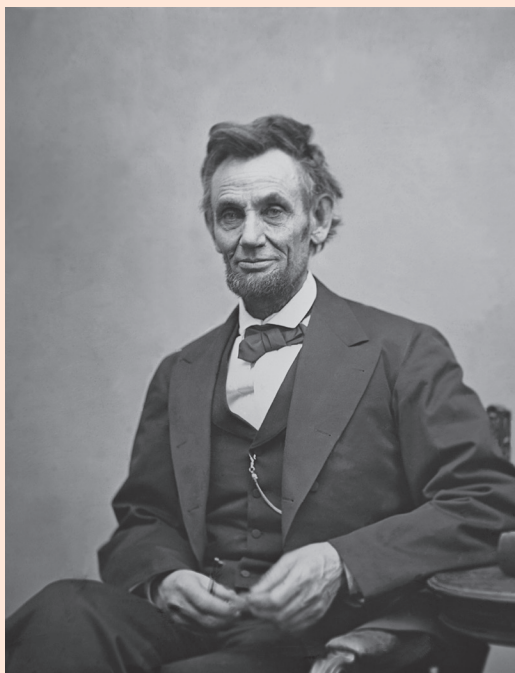
From 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., a friendly competition was held in Room 33. Throughout the night, different individuals took turns being the bartender. Patrons were asked to donate tips to their favorite bartender to help raise funds for the Erie County Historical Society. Eric Purchase and Craig Murphey were host bartenders from 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. As host bartenders, they raised over \$433.50 as a team, the largest combined team donation of the night!

What is the Erie County Historical Society?

The Erie County Historical Society is dedicated to exploring Erie County’s rich and vibrant history. The society has been in place since 1903, and they’ve erected the Hagen History Center to help preserve historical buildings, documents and other items. The former Watson-Curtze Mansion has been turned into the Regional History Museum. Overall, the society preserves a public archive of historical items including:

- Over 3,750 historic maps
- 5,500 historical books
- Over 4,850 architectural plans and drawings
- 312,750 photographs
- 800 separate collections

These incredible exhibits and historical archives are available to any of the public. The Historical Society also provides private or group tours including school field trips. The society regularly has educational speakers and lectures. They also have pre-prepared or customized programs for different groups that want a memorable experience. Kudos to Team Purchase, George & Murphey for their contribution to this worthy cause! ■



historical extras

ON LINCOLN’S ASSASSINATION

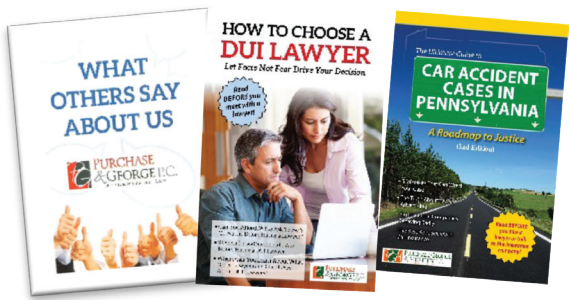
On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. A single shot from 26-year-old John Wilkes Booth punctuated the end of the Civil War.

While the above-cited facts may be widely known, others frequently fly under the radar. For instance, Lincoln was familiar with Booth, who came from a well-known theatrical family. In 1863, Lincoln had attended a performance at Ford’s Theatre in which Booth played one of the lead characters—fittingly, a villain. According to author Harold Holzer, who penned the book *President Lincoln Assassinated!*, Booth, who had already developed a seething hatred for the president, directed much of his dialogue toward the presidential box. ■



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WARM WEATHER ... with a twist of lyme



From spring through summer, Lyme disease can be a menace, spread primarily by the deer tick. The tick is not the source of Lyme disease; it is merely the carrier, feeding off animals that are host to the offending bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Ticks cannot jump or fly. They rest on low-lying vegetation and attach themselves to humans or animals who brush against them.

When a tick feeds on a victim, the transfer of Lyme disease—which takes at least 24 hours—is aided by immune suppressors contained in their saliva, which shield the bacteria as it invades the host’s bloodstream.

Lyme disease’s familiar bull’s-eye rash is evident in only 70 to 80 percent of cases. Early-stage Lyme disease is highly treatable. Untreated Lyme disease can lead to severe arthritis, neurological damage, and serious cardiac conditions.

The reason many early tests for Lyme disease turn up false-negative is that it takes the body four to five weeks to build up antibodies that show up in blood tests. Anyone tested sooner may get a false reading.

When spending time in wooded or grassy areas, protect yourself from ticks by wearing light-colored clothing (to more easily spot ticks). Cover up, use tick repellent as instructed, and conduct a thorough tick check following outdoor activities. ■