



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

June 2012 Volume IV, Issue VI

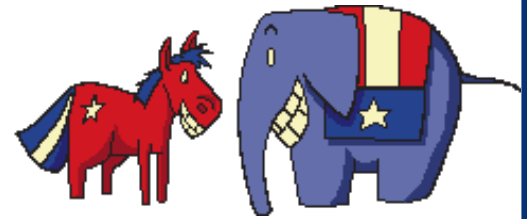
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## 'Tis The (Political) Season—Will Rogers's Quotes on Politics

Will Rogers was a famous humorist during the depression of the 1930's. Rogers thought all campaigning was bunk. To prove his point he mounted a mock campaign in 1928 for the presidency. Rogers ran as the "bunkless candidate" of the Anti-Bunk Party. His only campaign promise was that, if elected, he would resign. When asked about if there should be presidential debates, he responded, "Yes! Joint debates—in any joint you name."

Here are more of Will Rogers's humorous political quotes:

- "In America we have the best politicians money can buy."
- "We always want the best man to win an election. Unfortunately, he never runs."
- "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."
- "You can't say civilization isn't advancing; in every war they kill you in a new way."
- "Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for."
- "Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke."
- "A fool and his money are soon elected."
- "I could never understand why a man would spend \$50,000 to get elected to an office when the job only pays \$3,000 a year!"
- "There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you."
- "The taxpayers are sending congressmen on expensive trips abroad. It might be worth it except they keep coming back!"



## Scholar Athlete Banquet—Congratulations to all of the winners!



Carey Meldon, Jeffrey Meldon, Latroy Pittman, Niya Johnson, Angelo Caruso (TV20)

On May 21, Jeffrey Meldon hosted the 15th Annual Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Banquet at the Hilton UF Conference Center in Gainesville. The event was covered by TV 20 news.

At the banquet, each of the 37 Scholar Athletes of the Week were individually honored and received an engraved plaque and a \$100 scholarship.

The evening was highlighted by the announcement of the **male and female Scholar Athletes of the Year**, who were both awarded a glass trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship. **This years' Scholar Athletes of the Year are:**

- **Latroy Pittman from North Marion.** Latroy will play football for the Florida Gators in the fall—in fact he has already been in the Swamp as an early enrollee.
- **Niya Johnson from PK Younge.** Niya, ranked as the eighth-best point guard prospect in the country, will play basketball for Baylor, the reigning National Champions, in the fall.

*Congratulations to all of the Scholar Athletes and their families. Thank you TV20 for co-sponsoring this great program with us at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates.*

The Meldon Law Firm serves the "Heart of Florida" and the entire state for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and fall, DUI, and criminal defense. **We are available for you 24/7.**

**Consultations are always free, welcomed, and just a call away. 800 373 8000**

\* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney who does.

\* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! **Jeffrey Meldon**



*The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is dedicated to public safety & education. We are always on the look-out for timely safety news and reminders to pass on to our readers.*

**“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE!”** *Ben Franklin*

## Bicyclists—Know the Law and Stay Alive

Bicycles are vehicles under Florida law. Therefore, riders are accountable for traffic laws just like drivers of cars and trucks. **This means that bicyclists must:**



- Come to a complete stop at stop signs;
  - Obey traffic lights;
  - Ride with the flow of traffic; and
  - Comply with DUI laws—no drinking and riding.
- In addition:**
- Riders under 16 years of age must wear a helmet.
  - Cyclists may not wear headphones or other listening devices.
  - Cyclists must keep one hand on the handle bars at all times.
  - Bikes must be equipped with a bell, seat, brakes, and lights.
- Cyclists must yield to pedestrians, use proper hand signals, and may not ride “two abreast.”

## Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athlete of the Week Winners!

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program—celebrating its 15th year! Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Week” title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @ 6:00 pm and includes a video clip of the student and his or her achievement. The year ends with a sports banquet honoring each scholar athlete, at which a male and female “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year” are selected and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and trophy. In existence since 1997, this is one of Jeffrey’s favorite community services!

Here are the recent winners—*congratulations!*

April 12—**Andrew Jenkins** from Santa Fe for Track & Field—“**Andrew passed on football and jumped his way to records and a 4.0 GPA.**”

April 19—**Taylor Fuller** from Chiefland for Softball—“**Taylor works hard for everything she has gotten on and off the field.**”

April 26—**Max White** from Gainesville High for Baseball—“**Max has always wanted to play for UF, in the fall his dream will come true.**”

May 3—**Kadeidra Jackson** from Gainesville High for Track—“**Kadeidra is one of the fastest track and field athletes in the state.**”

May 10—**Justin Landers** from PK Young for Baseball—“**Justin is a lefty and used it to his advantage; his pitching stats are impressive.**”

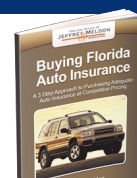
**Reminder: Drunk driving is not something to be taken lightly! A DUI conviction in Florida is a mandatory criminal conviction. This means if you are found guilty of the crime, then your DUI record cannot ever be erased, sealed, or expunged. A DUI conviction does not go away. **Do not drink and drive!****

**Please contact us with any questions at 373-8000.**

**Protect yourself and your family before and after an accident!**

Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five will be involved in a traffic crash. **How can you protect yourself and family?**

Be safe, educated, **adequately insured**, and prepared!



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## It's time to "BE TIRE SMART"

It is that time of year—time to “be tire smart” before you hit the road. Improperly maintained tires can cause an accident any time of the year and in any weather. **Tires are especially vulnerable to summertime heat, vacation travel, and overloaded vehicles.** The Rubber Manufacturer's Association (RMA) urges all motorists to “**Be Tire Smart—Play Your PART.**” PART is RMA's acronym for: Pressure, Alignment, Rotation, and Tread. Here are four essential tire care tips:

**Pressure:** Check your tires' pressure monthly and before the start of a long driving trip by using a tire gauge on a cool tire. Under inflation is the leading cause of tire wear and failure.

**Alignment:** Wheel misalignment can cause uneven tread wear. Potholes and rough roads contribute to alignment problems.

**Rotation:** Each tire on your vehicle supports different amounts of weight. Rotating tires will achieve more uniform tire wear and extend their life. A general rotation guideline is every 5,000 miles.

**Tread:** Tread is your vehicle's connection to the road. Inadequate tread reduces the ability of your tire to grip the road, especially in adverse conditions and when taking corners. Check each of your tire's tread by inserting a penny head down into the tread. If you can see the top of Abe's head, it is time for a new tire.

**Note:** Not only do these tire care tips save money at the pump and prolong the life of your tires, they also save lives.



## June “Trivial Pursuit”—Honor Thy Flag—Flag Day, June 14th.



**Q:** The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset. In the morning one should raise it \_\_\_\_\_ and at sunset lower it \_\_\_\_\_ and always in a ceremonious fashion.

**Q:** The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it. True/False

**Q:** After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for \_\_\_ days. On a ship, “half staff” is called?

**Q:** If flying the American flag along with a state flag or other flags, the American flag is always at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the pole.

**Q:** When your flag is old and it is time to replace it, proper flag etiquette is to burn or bury it. True/False

**Q:** When displaying a flag on a car, the staff should be fixed to the chassis or clamped to the fender on the right or left?

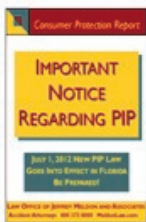
**Q:** When displaying a flag on a staff near a podium, the flag should stand to the speaker's right or left?

**Q:** The 13 horizontal stripes on the flag represent the \_\_\_\_\_ and the stars represent the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Q:** If you like to study flags, you are called a \_\_\_\_\_?

Answers: briskly, slowly, True, 30, half mast, top, true, right, right, right, original 13 colonies, 50 states, Vexillologist

## Important reminder regarding Florida PIP law



July 1, 2012 new PIP changes will go into effect. Failure to adhere to the law's details could result in denial of benefits and even criminal charges. Make sure you protect yourself and your family.

We have summarized the law and given recommendations on how to revise your Florida auto insurance policy in light of the new law in a Consumer Protection Report.

To request or download your free copy today, call 1 800 373 8000 or go on line at MeldonLaw.com.

**Note:** This publication is intended to *educate* the general public. **It is not intended to be legal advice.** *Every case is unique.*

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**JEFFREY MELDON**  
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE  
1-800-373-8000

703 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE A  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

**MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER**

Phone: (352) 373-8000  
Toll Free: (800) 373-8000  
Fax: (352) 373-8400  
Email:  
jmeldon@meldonlaw.com  
On the web:  
MeldonLaw.com

**JEFFREY MELDON/TV 20 SCHOLAR ATHELETE BANQUET**



Check out **Law Talk Live** 10:30 Saturday morning on The SKY/97.3 FM.  
Call in with your question. We want to hear from you! What are *you* wondering about?  
*The longest, continuous running legal affairs program in the southeast United States. (877) 975-9825*

**Can I get pulled over just for not wearing my seatbelt?**

We appreciate your referrals of family and friends. *Show them you care enough to help.*



Answer: **Yes!** Florida made not buckling up a "primary offense" three years ago in June 2009. This means that a police officer can pull you over based solely on not wearing your seatbelt. **Florida law requires front seat occupants of a vehicle (driver and passenger) to buckle up. All passengers and drivers under 18 years of age are required to wear a seatbelt or be in a child restraint system at all times.**

**More reasons to buckle up every time:**

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among people under 45 years old and the number one cause of head and spinal cord injury.
- Seatbelts, when used properly, reduce the number of serious traffic injuries by 50 percent and fatalities by 60—70 percent.
- A common cause of death and injury to children in motor vehicles is being crushed by adults who are not wearing safety belts.
- Of every 100 children who die in motor vehicle crash, at least 80 would have survived if they had been properly secured in an appropriate child safety seat or safety belt.
- An unrestrained child in a 30 mph crash is the equivalent of falling from a 3 story building.
- Young men between the ages of 18 to 34 are most at risk for being killed in a crash due to not buckling their seatbelt.
- In a 30 mph collision, an unbelted 160 lb person can strike another passenger with 4,800 lbs of force.
- Seatbelt use is one of the best defenses against a distracted or drunk driver.



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