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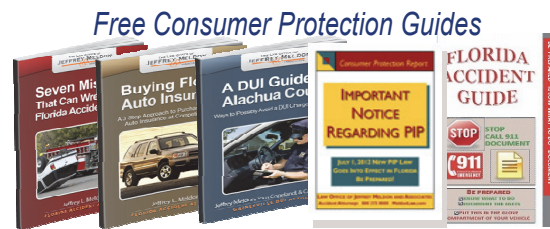
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February 2017 Issue

NEW Meldon Law FREE Accident Kit

We have a **NEW** Accident Kit that is available for **FREE!** Just visit MeldonLaw.com, complete the form at the bottom of the home page and click **SUBMIT!**

Then your **FREE** Accident Kit will be mailed directly to the address you provided within two weeks!

This is a great way to stay prepared for the event of an accident, while also having the latest Meldon Law Swag!



This month's "Trivial Pursuit" >>>

Questions:

1. Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?
2. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility?
3. What is someone who shoes horses called?
4. What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor?
5. What kind of weapon is a falchion?
6. Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet?
7. What is another word for lexicon?
8. What is the seventh planet from the sun?
9. Who invented the rabies vaccination?
10. Name the largest freshwater lake in the world?



Answers: 1. Dom Perignon 2. The Moon 3. A farrier 4. A Mackintosh 5. A sword 6. String 7. Dictionary 8. Uranus 9. Louis Pasteur 10. Lake Superior

Attorneys
Jeffrey L. Meldon
Carey W. Meldon
Dan Weisman



MELDONLAW
You Matter Most



Wrongful Death

Personal Injury

Criminal Defense



Inspirational and Funny Quotes of the Month

"Wouldn't exercise be more fun if calories screamed while you burned them?" -Bill Murray

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people." -Steve Jobs

"My fake plants died because I did not pretend to water them." -Mitch Hedberg

"I'm writing my book in the fifth person, so every sentence starts out with: 'I heard from this guy who told somebody...' -Demetri Martin

"My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned 60 and that's the law." -Jerry Seinfeld

Danger Everywhere for Pedestrians

A recent study by Smart Growth America concluded that the 7 most dangerous places in the United States for pedestrians all surround Gainesville and Ocala, FL. Wow! That sounds unbelievable but it's true. Orlando, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Lakeland, Tampa, Melbourne and Fort Myers are all on the top of the list. And Sarasota and South Florida are not far behind. The good news is that Gainesville and Ocala are among the safest walking cities in the country. I am not sure why our neighbors are so darn dangerous, but it has something to do with roads being built so cars can go faster. In fact, the Florida Department of Transportation adopted a Complete Streets policy which has as its goal to reduce pedestrian deaths in Florida. Every day there are 13 pedestrian deaths in the United States, and Florida has much more than its fair share. To protect yourself when visiting our neighboring cities remember the basics:

1. Walk facing traffic.
2. Wear clothing that is easily visible.
3. Avoid distractions.

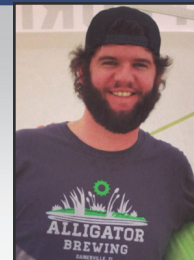
Distractions is a big one. I see everyone on their cell phones walking around oblivious to what is going on. It has become an epidemic. Also be careful when walking or jogging with headphones. You can't hear the ambient noise that alerts you to danger. So I guess walking now requires us to be just as watchful as when we are driving. We have represented a number of people and their families who have been injured or killed in pedestrian vs. motor vehicle accidents. The injuries are usually more serious because as a pedestrian you are not protected and receive the full force of being hit by the car or truck, and when you slam down on the pavement the outcome is usually bad. So just think about how you can be a safer pedestrian and don't count on the person in the car or truck to be looking out for you. And by all means take even greater care when you visit the more dangerous cities all around us.



Jeffrey Meldon

Thank You For Your Referral: Paul Evans

Paul Evans of Gainesville, FL, owner of Tall Paul's Brew House (Alligator Brewing), is one of our favorite clients. He recently referred a case to the Meldon Law team, knowing that it would be handled with the utmost professionalism. As a thank you for thinking of us when making this referral, we will be making a donation to a charity of his choice. Be sure to check out his website at www.alligatorbrewing.com!



In The Community... SPARR BUILDING AND FARM SUPPLY

Locations: Sparr, FL: (352)-622-7063 Williston, FL: (352)-528-6177 Wildwood, FL: (352)-330-1718

Website: www.sparrbuilding.com

In 1947, Sparr Building and Farm Supply was established as a family-owned and operated local business. This year marks their 70th consecutive year of operation in North Central Florida. Much has changed over the decades, including the expansion from one small store to a total of three stores, located in Sparr, Williston, and Wildwood, Florida. What has always remained constant during the growth of the business is the overall philosophy the business owners and employees are proud of most – they believe in their communities and make it a priority to give back to the locals who have supported them all of these years. This is done through sponsorships with the local schools, donations for fundraisers, and support of local charities. They also realize that their customers are the backbone of their success and make it a priority to run the business with family values and traditions, just as it was done in 1947. With more than 400,000 items in their stores, Sparr Building and Farm Supply is considered a Farm Agricultural Home Center. The stores ser-

vice much of the large equine and cattle community in Marion County, while also selling products that everyday households need. From fencing and feed, to pet supplies and hardware, Sparr Building and Farm Supply has something for most shoppers. As a local independent business, Sparr Building and Farm Supply is part of the Williston Chamber of Commerce, the Marion County CEP, the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Farm Bureau.

Be sure to check out one of their three locations and visit the website at www.sparrbuilding.com to learn more about Sparr Building and Farm Supply.



Community Events

-Tuesday, February 21, 2017 5:00pm—8:00pm

King of The Wing

Where: ARC (Advocacy Resource Center) Marion Incorporated
2800 Southeast Maricamp Road, Ocala, FL 34471

It's KING OF WING time! Who will take home the crown this year? Be sure and be there to find out! This is a great fundraiser for ARC hosted by MCBIA! Tickets are \$20 in advance, please use link below or stop by ARC to get your tickets now. Meldon Law is a sponsor!

www.eventbrite.com/e/king-of-the-wing-tickets-29782240483



-Wednesday, February 8 – Sunday, February 12, 2017

7th Annual Florida Earthskills Gathering

Where: Little Orange Creek Nature Park

24115 SE Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne, FL 32640

Learn skills practiced by ancient and contemporary people living closely with the earth as you participate in village life! The village experience at the Florida Earthskills Gathering brings together skilled instructors, community elders, families, travelers, local farmers, musicians, and life-long students seeking to learn and share valuable skills.

Visit www.floridaeearthskills.org to learn more and register.



Recipe of the Month... Strawberry Confetti Pancakes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- 1 cup of whole milk
- 1 egg
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. butter, melted
- 5-6 medium-sized strawberries, sliced
- sprinkles of your choice



Instructions:

1. In a small bowl, mix together milk, egg, and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
2. Make a well in the flour mixture and pour in the milk mixture, mixing well and then adding in the melted butter and stirring until combined.
3. Heat a sauté pan over medium-low heat and butter or spray it with cooking spray. Once hot, scoop ½ cup of batter into the pan. Immediately lay 3-4 strawberry slices on each pancake, gently pressing each one in. Sprinkle with sprinkles and let it cook for about 2 mins or until golden brown, flip to the other side and cook for another 1-2 mins.
4. To serve, place strawberry side up and sprinkle with confectioners sugar, or whipping cream and more sprinkles if desired.

This month's topic of interest: February 2017

Each month our staff takes a number of calls from people within the North Central Florida Community. We use our clients' comments to come up with ideas for the topics of interest. Here's a topic worth discussing.

Golf Cart and ATV Laws in Gainesville and Ocala

Floridians are blessed with almost year-round warm weather and, many Floridians love to take advantage of golf carts, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other motorized vehicles. These vehicles are popular due to their simplicity and the ability of the driver to experience the warm, sunny day. However, because of their simple nature, many of these vehicles can be very dangerous and every year numerous Floridians are injured or killed using them. As such, the law limits where they can be used and who can use them.

Golf Cart Laws

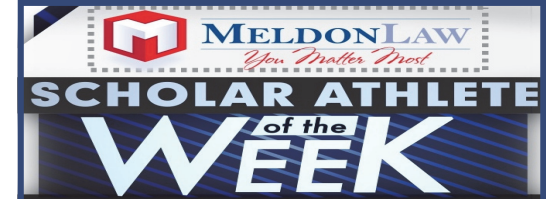
Although some counties in Florida have more specific regulations regarding golf carts, Florida state law on the matter is sparse. As far as safety, Florida's laws are limited to ensuring that the golf cart works, keeping golf carts off of roads not designated for use by golf carts, and limiting use of golf carts to only individuals over the age of 14. Importantly absent is the requirement of seatbelts. Although not having a seatbelt while riding around a golf course doesn't seem too dangerous, not having one when operating a golf cart near or on a road could prove considerably more dangerous. Alachua County has no regulations regarding the use of golf carts, meaning only the state laws apply and golf carts may not be used on public roadways. In Marion County, individuals within the unincorporated area known as The Villages are allowed to use golf carts on the roadways.

ATV Laws

ATVs are defined by Florida Statute §317.0003(1) as any motorized off-highway or all-terrain vehicle 50 inches or less in width, weighing less than 1,200 pounds, designed to travel on three or more tires, with a seat designed to be straddled, and handlebars for steering. The laws regarding ATVs are fairly similar to those of golf carts. First and foremost, Florida Statute §316.2123 directs that ATVs cannot be operated on a public road with the sole exception of being allowed to drive on unpaved public roads with speed limits less than 35 miles per hour and this can only be done during the daytime. Next, Florida Statute §251.20(3) states that any ATV rider under 16 must be supervised by a licensed driver and must wear a helmet, over-the-ankle boots, and eye protection. Further, any rider under 16 that wishes to ride on public land must pass a safety course. In addition, ATVs cannot have more than one person on them unless they are specifically designed to be two-rider ATVs. It is important to note that Alachua County has passed an ordinance that prohibits the use of ATVs on any public roadways, regardless of whether it is paved or not. In Marion County, the law is the same as the state law. According to Florida Statute §261.20(6), violating any of these laws related to ATVs is a noncriminal offense that will result in a fine of not less than \$100. If you violate any of these laws, you may also be prohibited from operating an ATV on public land. Golf carts, ATVs, and other motorized vehicles can be great fun on a nice day. It is important to remember the laws controlling their use and even more important to remember to be safe since these vehicles do not have the same safety features designed to protect you as cars. Two of the best ways to protect yourself in golf carts and ATVs is to avoid high speeds and sharp turns since both will increase the risk of rolling over. If you or a loved one is injured in any type of accident, be sure to get the legal help you deserve by hiring an experienced attorney. The attorneys at Meldon Law have been serving the Gainesville/Ocala area for decades to give our clients the help they need. **Contact us today at 800-373-8000 or MeldonLaw.com.** Jeffrey Meldon has written a book "7 Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Florida Accident." Based on Jeffrey's 40 plus years of experience, this consumer guide will help you get a fair shake from the insurance companies! **You can download it for free at MeldonLaw.com or call us at 800-373-8000 and we will send you a free copy!**



Carey Meldon



Welcoming Back our Meldon Law / WCJB TV20 Scholar Athletes of the Week!

Meldon Law has sponsored the Scholar Athlete Program since 1997. Every week of the school year a high school senior in the North Central Florida area is chosen as the Scholar-Athlete of the Week and given a \$100 scholarship and a plaque.

At the end of the school year we hold a banquet for all the winners and their families. Last year nearly 200 people attended the Scholar Athlete Banquet where one male and one female are chosen as **The Scholar Athletes of the Year**.

The winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship plus a beautiful glass trophy commemorating their achievement. Starting in 2003 the Meldon Law Firm teamed up with WCJB TV20 to promote the event widely on TV 20.

Our Most Recent Scholar Athletes!

December 21th, 2016: Alisha Clayton is a Forward for **P.K. Yonge High School's** basketball team. Alisha started playing at a young age, participating in the city leagues and is now going to continue her career at St. Thomas University in Miami, FL. She maintained a 3.7 GPA throughout high school and has spent time volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club.

January 12th, 2017: Annie Wanzenberg is a Center Midfielder/Center Back for **Santa Fe High School's** Varsity Girls Soccer Team. She has been on varsity since her freshman year and started playing the sport at four years old. Annie is not only a leader on the field but also in the classroom, maintaining a 4.7 GPA.

January 18th, 2017: Robbie Hebert is a Center Midfielder/Center Back for **Trinity Catholic High School's** Varsity Boys Soccer Team. He has been on the Varsity Squad at TC for four years, earning the respect of his teammates, and growing into his current role as Team Captain. He is a strong leader on the field and in the classroom, maintaining a 4.7 GPA.

To nominate someone for Scholar Athlete of the Week, make sure he or she has at least a 3.0 GPA, is a major contributor in his or her sport, and a high school senior. Please send your nominations to Brandan McCalla via email at BMcCalla@divcom.com, or you can call Brandan at (352) 416-0646.