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Open It! Read It! Share It!

HOW TO REFER US A CASE

We love helping people, and most of our clients come to us because someone they trust sent them our way. Referrals mean the world to us. They're the biggest way we grow and keep doing good work for others. If you know someone who was hurt at work, it's super easy to connect them to us. Just give them our phone number, **614-334-4649**, or send them to our website, **MonastLaw.com**. You can even call us and we'll take care of the rest. Thank you for thinking of us. Your referrals help more than you know, and we **never take that for granted**.

WILD AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WHEN PRESIDENTIAL PETS WENT OFF-LEASH

Presidential pets are usually the picture of tradition, like all-American pups and Capitol-ready cats. But every so often in history, the White House menagerie takes a walk on the wild side. From a hippo too big to officially step foot in the Oval Office to Roosevelt's mini zoo, our commanders-in-chief have had a surprising cabinet of animal companions over the years.

BILLY THE HIPPO

President Calvin Coolidge was an avid animal lover, and his critters weren't your typical pets. Along with dogs and cats, he had two lion cubs named Tax Reduction and Budget Bureau, a raccoon he was gifted on Thanksgiving, and a black bear. But the real leader of the pack was a pygmy hippopotamus named Billy. The little giant was a gift from Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1927. Too big to stay at the White House, the family sent Billy to the National Zoo.

The hippo was a hit among visitors and lived out his days at the zoo until he passed in 1955.

ROOSEVELT'S PECULIAR PACK

Known as a dedicated naturalist and a lifelong hunter, President Theodore Roosevelt brought his passion for wildlife into the Executive Mansion. During his time in office, he cared for at least 40 animals. Among his strange pets were a couple of talkative parrots, a snake named Emily Spinach, Josiah the badger, a one-legged rooster, bears, a zebra, a pig, and many more. The family also owned five guinea pigs and multiple horses. Teddy's favorite of the bunch was his horse, Bleistein, whom he called courageous and good-natured.



SURPRISE ALLIGATOR

When the French revolutionary hero, the Marquis de La Fayette, visited the White House in 1825, he had a scaly surprise for the president. He bestowed an actual alligator on John Quincy Adams. The unusual pet lived in a bathtub of the then unfinished East Room for several months. As the legend goes, Adams got a kick out of shocking unsuspecting guests by leading them into the room with the alligator on tours.

Pets have kept presidents company since George Washington, with most of them bringing their four-legged friends to the White House. The most curious critters to call the Oval Office home seemed to be wildly unconcerned about party lines.



Workers' COMPanion

AUGUST 2026

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THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

How Reading Expands Our World One Chapter at a Time

I spend a lot of my day reading. Medical records, court decisions, deposition transcripts, insurance reports, you name it. By the time the workday ends, most people probably assume the last thing I'd want to do is open another book. But the truth is, some of my favorite moments happen when I do.

National Book Lovers Day on Aug. 9 is a good reminder that reading doesn't always have to be about gathering information. Sometimes it's about escaping for a while, understanding people better, or even rediscovering parts of ourselves that get buried under deadlines, responsibilities, and everyday stress.

Lately, I've been revisiting the "Harry Potter" series, a set of books I've read more times than I can count. I've listened to the audiobooks while driving between hearings and appointments, and I looked forward to them every time I'd get in the car. The productions are incredible, featuring talented voice actors, sound effects, and an energy that makes the story feel brand-new.

What surprises me most is how differently I experience those books now than I did years ago. When I was younger, I was captivated by the adventure. Today, I find myself drawn to deeper themes like friendship, sacrifice, courage, temptation, forgiveness, and the choices that define who we become. Every time I revisit the story, I notice something I missed before. It's almost as if the books grow alongside the reader.

Of course, not all of my reading is fiction, but they're not all about law either. Some of the books that have influenced me most explore faith, history, leadership, and the lives of extraordinary people. I've spent years reading theology and spiritual literature, particularly the work of Brennan Manning. His book "The Ragamuffin Gospel" remains one of those rare books that stay with you long after you've turned the final page. It challenges assumptions and offers a perspective on grace and humanity that feels both profound and practical.

More recently, I've been reading biographies by Walter Isaacson, including his books on Elon Musk and Steve Jobs. What fascinates me isn't simply their success but the adversity behind it. Reading about the struggles, failures,



hardships, and complicated lives behind world-changing achievements reminds me that every person carries a story far richer than what we see on the surface.

History offers similar lessons. Whether I'm reading about the Declaration of Independence or the 1929 stock market crash, I'm often struck by how many parallels exist between the challenges of the past and the questions we face today. Human nature hasn't changed nearly as much as we sometimes think.

Maybe that's why stories continue to endure. At their core, the best books follow a timeless pattern. A hero faces obstacles. A guide appears. Challenges are overcome. Growth happens along the way. Whether it's Harry Potter, a historical figure, or even the stories we live ourselves, we're drawn to those journeys because they reflect something true about being human.

That's the real gift of reading. It entertains us, certainly. But it also expands our perspective, deepens our empathy, and gives us a chance to step outside our own lives for a little while.

So, this National Book Lovers Day, pick up whatever calls to you. Read for the simple pleasure of turning the page. You may be surprised by where the journey takes you.

-Jim Monast

BAD DATA, BAD SCORE

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CREDIT REPORT IS WRONG

Our credit scores seem to follow us everywhere we go. Whenever we need to make a large purchase, apply for a credit card, or start utilities at a new property, someone will likely run your credit to make sure you're financially stable and trustworthy enough to receive the loan, credit, or services. If your credit score takes a dip, it can take years to recover lost points, but here are four tips to help remedy the situation sooner rather than later.



KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND YOUR SCORE. You probably have a pretty good idea of where your credit score sits, but have you ever explored your full credit report to understand where that number comes from? Too often, we just trust the number and take it at face value. Unfortunately, mistakes can end up on our credit report and be detrimental to our score. Without action, those inaccuracies will continue to affect and lower your score.

FIND AND RESOLVE CREDIT REPORT ERRORS. It's not always obvious what to do when you notice something wrong with your credit report. The first place you should start is with the credit bureaus responsible for investigating disputes. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion all have webpages and phone numbers specifically for reporting credit disputes. Understand that this is not always an immediate process. It could take 30 days to see a correction, but if you want the fastest, most accurate results possible, consider

submitting a dispute by certified mail. This requires a return receipt, which provides a paper trail if things go quiet or remain unresolved.

CONTACT THE CREDITOR. Another option is to file a dispute directly with the creditor or debt collector reporting the false incidents. Like the credit bureaus, these groups have an obligation to investigate and respond to any disputes. They could have inaccurate account balances, or it could be a creditor you've never even interacted with. You'll need to contact them to correct it, and, once again, the best way to do so is by certified mail.

GET EXTRA HELP. While we'd like to think filing a dispute is enough, sometimes you have to call in the big guns and get professional help to see results. If this is the route you need to take, don't delay. Your credit is tied to just about everything in your life.

A HAPPY ENDING 4 DAYS IN THE MAKING

WHEN A COMMUNITY REFUSED TO GIVE UP ON ONE MISSING DOG

For four long days, Dearah Jordan lived every pet owner's nightmare. After a devastating crash on a rural highway in British Columbia, she and her husband, Sharron, were fortunate to escape with relatively minor injuries. But as the wreckage settled and first responders rushed to help, one heartbreaking realization overshadowed everything else: Daisy, their beloved Australian shepherd, had disappeared.

Dearah barely had time to think about her own injuries before she began searching. Bruised, shaken, and desperate to find her dog, she wanted nothing more than to keep looking. The moment she was cleared by doctors, she returned to the search.

And so began an agonizing wait. Hour after hour turned into day after day. Anyone who has ever loved a pet understands the feeling. Pets aren't just animals. They're family. The thought of Daisy alone somewhere after such a frightening accident was almost unbearable.

But while Dearah and Sharron searched, something beautiful began to happen. The community rallied around them. Strangers who had never met the couple volunteered their time. People showed up with food and encouragement. Searchers combed the area surrounding the crash site. A thermal imaging drone was brought in to help. Complete strangers invested their hearts in bringing one lost dog home.

Among them were Forrest and Tracey Kellerman. The couple couldn't stop thinking about Daisy. Maybe it was because they owned Australian shepherds themselves. Maybe it was simply compassion. Either way, they spent days searching alongside everyone else.

As the fourth day arrived, hope was beginning to fade. Then Tracey noticed something. Near the crash site sat the pickup truck involved in the collision, still resting in the brush. As she approached, she spotted movement inside.

There, peeking out with wide eyes from the passenger seat, was Daisy.

Moments later came the reunion everyone had been hoping for. As Daisy saw her family, she whimpered with excitement. Dearah burst into tears. Four days of fear, worry, and sleepless nights melted away in an instant. Miraculously, Daisy was completely unharmed.

It's easy to think stories like this are only about a lost dog being found. But they're also about something bigger. They're about the extraordinary kindness that can emerge when people choose to care.

When Dearah and Sharron needed help most, strangers became neighbors, volunteers became friends, and an entire community came together for one simple goal: bringing a beloved family member home.

Back-to-School Safety Isn't Just for Students

THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP SCHOOLS RUNNING DESERVE PROTECTION, TOO

As students head back to the classroom, teachers, aides, bus drivers, and other school employees are focused on helping children have a successful year. Unfortunately, the start of a new school year can also increase the risk of workplace injuries for the adults responsible for keeping students safe.

Many people picture school-related injuries as simple slip-and-fall accidents. While those incidents still happen, the types of injuries affecting school staff have changed in recent years, and some have become far more serious.

TODAY'S RISKS GO BEYOND SLIPS AND FALLS. School employees still face common workplace hazards. A teacher may slip on an icy sidewalk, a playground monitor could trip while supervising students, or a bus driver might suffer a strain while assisting children during an emergency. However, one of the most concerning trends involves injuries caused by student interactions.

According to data from SFM Mutual Insurance Company, **40% of school workers' compensation claims involve students.** In fact, nearly **64% of student-related injuries occur when students are acting out.**

We've seen cases where educators were injured while trying to break up fights between students. What starts as an attempt to protect children can quickly result in a teacher or staff member being shoved, struck, knocked to the ground, or seriously injured in the chaos.

PREVENTION STARTS WITH SAFETY AWARENESS. Schools increasingly encourage staff to **use de-escalation techniques and maintain a safe distance** when dealing with disruptive students. A hands-off approach can help reduce the risk of injury while still protecting everyone involved. Even so, not every situation can be controlled. School employees may still suffer

fractures, sprains, strains, contusions, and other injuries while responding to student outbursts, supervising playground activities, or performing physically demanding duties.

DON'T WAIT TO REPORT AN INJURY. If you're injured while working at a school, **seek medical attention as soon as possible**, even if the injury initially seems minor. Prompt medical treatment not only protects your health but also creates important documentation that may be needed for a workers' compensation claim.

Unfortunately, obtaining benefits is not always as straightforward as it should be. If your claim is denied, delayed, or disputed, our experienced team can help you file a formal claim and pursue the benefits you need to recover and move forward.

School employees dedicate themselves to protecting and educating others. If you're hurt while doing your job, you deserve protection too.

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ANSWER



EATS WITH ELLIE DRUMSTICK PIE

- INGREDIENTS**
- 1/2 cup salted butter, melted
 - 3 cups graham crackers, crushed
 - 6 sugar cones, finely crushed
 - 5 cups vanilla ice cream, softened
 - 2 cups chocolate chips
 - 1/4 cup heavy cream
 - 1/4 cup peanuts, chopped (optional)
 - 1/4 cup sugar cone pieces (optional)
- DIRECTIONS**
- In a medium bowl, stir together melted butter, crushed graham crackers, and crushed sugar cones.
 - Press the crust mixture into a 10-inch springform pan.
 - Smooth the ice cream over the crust, then chill in the freezer while you prepare the chocolate ganache.
 - In a medium bowl, add chocolate chips. Microwave cream for 45 seconds or until hot, then pour over the chocolate chips.
 - Stir chocolate and cream together until the chocolate is completely melted.
 - Pour chocolate ganache over the top of the pie, and sprinkle with crushed cone pieces and chopped peanuts as desired.
 - Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 3 hours before slicing and serving.