



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- 1 To the Mountain Climbers in Our Lives
- 2 The Rookie: 3 Oldest Rookies in Sports History
- A \$900K Win for a Rear-End Accident
- 3 5 Necessary Concert Safety Tips
- Easy Foil-Grilled Sausage and Vegetables
- 4 Meet Odin, the Fireproof Dog

MEET ODIN, THE FIREPROOF DOG

In October 2017, California was in flames. One of those blazes was the Tubbs Fire, which charred its way through 36,800 miles of forests and vineyards in both Napa and Sonoma County. More than 5,600 buildings were destroyed, and 22 people were killed. But when the flames finally died, a four-legged hero emerged from the ashes: Odin, the Great Pyrenees dog.

Odin belonged to Ariel and Roland Hendel, two farmers in Sonoma County. When the Tubbs Fire threatened to char their home, they packed up as many of their animals and precious items as they could. Unfortunately, their flock of goats wouldn't fit in the getaway vehicle — and their goat-herding dog, Odin, refused to abandon them. Great Pyrenees are prized livestock guardian dogs that will do anything to protect their charges, and Odin lived up to his breed.

"I said, 'Okay, Odin, take care of the goats. You'll be fine,'" Roland Hendel told ABC News.

Both Hendels were sure they were seeing their dog for the last time. Their hearts sank even further when they heard their home had burned down completely. But on a trip back to examine the ashes, something amazing happened.

"In the distance, I saw Odin's tail," Roland told ABC. "Sure enough, there was Odin coming at the head of all his goats."

Not only did Odin survive the fire and run right up to the Hendels for belly rubs, but he also kept every single one of his goats safe! A few wild deer even joined the goats, and he shepherded them through unscathed. The incredible story made the news, and Odin became a local legend.

Unfortunately, even legends don't live forever. This April, Odin passed away after a long life of tail-wagging, treat-eating, and goat-saving. In his honor, Great Pyrenees Rescue of Missouri gifted the Hendels two new Great Pyrenees pups: Buddy and Snowflake. They're following in Odin's pawsteps, protecting the goats he loved so much.



To the Mountain Climbers in Our Lives *Including You, Our Clients*

The people who created National Mountain Climbing Day, which is celebrated on Aug. 1, believe that "everyone should climb a mountain at least once in their lives." Realistically, despite how awe-inspiring it is to reach a summit, most people will never literally climb a mountain. However, mountains provide inspiration that transcends the act of actually climbing one.

To climb a mountain, figuratively, is a metaphor for the greatest of human achievements, as well as for facing the daunting challenges of day-to-day life. From family life, academics, career, finances, and athletics to relationships with friends, coworkers, and customers, dealing with difficulties that arise and myriad other vicissitudes of life presents many such mountains.

Perhaps the most famous climb in history was the first summit of the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, in the Himalayan mountains between Nepal and Tibet, in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay. The New York Times obituary for Hillary stated: "In the annals of great heroic exploits, the conquest of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund and Norgay ranks with the first trek to the South Pole by Roald Amundsen in 1911 and the first nonstop trans-Atlantic flight by Charles A. Lindbergh in 1927."

Hillary himself stated, "Teamwork got Tenzing and me to the top of Everest ..." Part of that teamwork involved climbing over what became known as the "Hillary Step" on the way to the top. It has been reported that climbing the Hillary Step has the danger of a 10,000-foot (3,000 meter) drop on the right (when going up) and an 8,000-foot (2,400 meter) drop on the left." As someone who has never climbed an actual mountain, I find it hard to even imagine being a step away from a potential 10,000 foot drop.

While it is human nature to marvel at the accomplishments of people like Hillary and Norgay, it has always been my tendency to find inspiration from heroes who climb the metaphorical mountains.

Most often, these heroes have been clients whom we have had the great privilege of representing. A serious or catastrophic injury is, figuratively, a 10,000-foot drop. Our clients, because of the careless,



reckless, and negligent misconduct of some other party, have often had the direction of their lives painfully and dramatically changed in an instant. Their heroism and courage facing the resulting challenges still amazes me, even after my 35 years of practicing law.

I feel privileged to help these good people. I recognize that, just as Hillary and Norgay relied on their teamwork to reach the highest point on Earth, our team is here to support our clients as they face and overcome the challenges before them in their new post-accident life. I have told many clients that I see our role as helping to improve the quality of their life. Seeing National Mountain Climbing Day on the calendar made me smile. Though I'll never summit Everest, I do have the privilege of helping our clients summit their own personal mountains.

Thank you for reading, and I hope as the summer ends and the fall begins, you feel empowered to climb your mountains. Let us know if we can help.

-Ed Friedman



THE ROOKIE

3 Oldest Rookies
in Sports History



Have you ever felt that fate meant for you to take a different path than the one you took? In some fields, making that change is possible, or even common — as any law student can tell you, where the “average” age of students is in their 30s. But other worlds, like the world of professional sports, are less welcoming to those over 25.

Which only makes for a better story when it *does* happen, of course.

That’s what Jim Morris discovered when he signed with a Major League Baseball team in 1999 after his 35th birthday. Morris’ life became the subject of the Dennis Quaid movie “The Rookie,” filmed just after Morris’ major league career had ended. You might think that two years is a short time in the majors, but hey, *you* try throwing 98-mph fastballs for hours a week, 104 weeks in a row!

Besides, the careers of pro athletes aren’t nearly as long as icons like Tom Brady or Peyton Manning would have you believe. The average MLB career may be a few years longer than Morris stuck it out, but in the NFL? Most players make it less than three years and quit, depending on the position. While you’re meditating on the ethics of chewing up football players for three years and spitting them out, all in the name of entertainment, consider the case of another similar story that was turned into a movie, that of Vince Papale — played by Mark Wahlberg in “Invincible.”

Of course, Papale — whose flag football prowess in his late 20s overrode his lack of college ball experience — signed with the Philadelphia Eagles in the 1970s. Modern football has come a long way, critics will argue. But there’s no denying the old-school toughness and tenacity Papale showed in making it to the NFL.

NBA player Pablo Prigioni’s career was twice as long as either Morris’ or Papale’s was, with four years in the big leagues starting in 2012 at age 35. But basketball is arguably less demanding on the body than football and even baseball if we look at the potential damage major league pitchers can do to their throwing arm.

Their careers may not have been the stuff of dreams, but these three men showed something we all like to see: tough players hanging on long past their “prime.” And they lived the dream — if only for a while. We all love that!

REJECT THE
SETTLEMENT OFFER?!

DEFENDENT OFFERED \$40,000
F&S WON \$900,000

One of the most common car accident types is the “hit in the rear.” Imagine that you are driving and you see a car approaching from behind you. If you, driving the forward car, were in the lane for a long enough period of time that the driver behind you cannot honestly state that they were cut off without time to avoid an impact, you have a very strong argument that the accident was entirely the fault of the driver who rear-ended you.

In such a circumstance, we can ask the court for “summary judgment,” meaning that a jury would only need to determine the dollar value of the harm suffered, as fault has already been determined “as a matter of law,” by the judge’s decision if our motion (i.e., request to the court,) has been granted.

Recently, a client of ours was badly hurt when her car was hit in the rear while stopped at a light. We won summary judgment on her behalf. She underwent a number of surgeries to treat her injuries. The insurance carrier for the car in the rear offered \$40,000 to settle the case, which we felt was inadequate and advised her not to accept this offer.

Due to COVID-19 and the closing of the New York courts, interest at 9% was running from the date that summary judgment was given and would be applied on any award we might eventually win.

Even though the insurance carrier was aware of this potential additional interest cost to them, they refused to increase their low settlement offer. In one of the early post-COVID-19 trials, our firm was able to win a verdict against the defendant for more than \$650,000. With the accumulated interest, the ultimate judgment added up to more than \$900,000.

If you have a question about any type of car accident case, we invite you to call us for a free case review and no obligation consultation. Thanks for reading and stay safe out there.



GOING OUT DANCING?

Don’t Forget These 5 Concert Safety Tips!

You’re probably as excited as we are that we’re now free to enjoy and support our local music venues! Now that there’s far fewer restrictions to worry about, however, we must keep in mind other safety precautions that can sometimes be forgotten in our rush to have a good time. Keep your upcoming concerts feeling fun and light all night long by remembering these five safety tips!

No. 1: Drink plenty of water!

Drinking water when you’re thirsty is perfectly healthy, but you might want to drink extra water before and after the show. With concerts lasting an average of 2–3 hours, you may lose a lot of fluid from sweating and panting as you dance. Having a little extra water in your system may prevent you from being dehydrated and feeling lightheaded.

No. 2: Protect your money.

It’s very easy to pickpocket from a distracted dancer or listener during a concert. During a great show, the last thing people think about is checking their wallet. Keep your money in a concealed pocket or even your shoe (so long as it doesn’t make it loose).

No. 3: Keep an eye on your surroundings.

Know the layout of the venue beforehand. It is a good idea to know where the exits are and where the security guards are located. Also, dangerous individuals can be a little careless about the things they say. Pay attention and listen to the people around you once in a while to get a sense of who to avoid. Knowing where to go in a sketchy



situation just might prevent something bad from happening to you, or even save your life.

No. 4: Bring a portable charger.

If you like recording the show on your cellphone, don’t risk your potential lifeline by running out of battery power — get a portable charger and keep your battery over 25% as much as you can.

No. 5: Have a meet-up spot and be prepared to call your friends’ numbers.

If you’re attending the concert with at least one friend (always safer than going alone), then make sure you have at least one of your friends’ numbers memorized. This will make it much easier to find them in case you’ve lost your phone for any reason. Worst case, make sure you have a meet-up spot agreed upon in case your group gets separated.

We hope these tips help you out. Enjoy some amazing live music this summer!

Easy Foil-Grilled Sausage and Vegetables



Inspired by NutmegNanny.com

Ingredients

- 4 sausage links of your choice
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb green beans
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp thyme
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp thyme
- 1 red onion, diced
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 zucchini, diced
- 1 tsp basil
- 1 yellow summer squash, diced
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp crushed red pepper (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat your grill to medium heat or your oven to 425 F.
2. In a large bowl, add all of the ingredients and mix well. Divide into four equal portions.
3. Prepare four 16-inch pieces of foil and place a portion in the middle of each section. Wrap each foil piece tightly and avoid holes.
4. Grill each foil packet for 20 minutes, flipping halfway through. You can also bake each packet for 20 minutes at 425 F.