



APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH,  
PROMOTED BY THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL.  
Every year, 330,000 accidents are caused by texting while driving.



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## AN OCELOT, A DOE, AND A BADGER, TOO

### MEET HISTORY'S MOST UNUSUAL PETS

People love their pets. We stand in snow storms for hours when our dogs need to "do their business," and we fill social media with snapshots of our cat. But while many of us are content to live alongside dogs, cats, or the occasional ferret, others enjoy the companionship of more eccentric species. Here are a few examples of history's most outrageous pets.

#### SALVADOR DALI'S FAVORITE "OP ART"

Artist Salvador Dali is famous for both his surreal art and his surreal behavior, having once taken an anteater on a stroll through Paris. Dali kept many unusual pets, but his favorite was Babou, a Colombian ocelot. Adorned with a leash and studded collar, Babou accompanied Dali everywhere, even to high-end restaurants. Once, while dining in Manhattan, another restaurant guest was so distressed over the presence of the wildcat that Dali reassured the woman by claiming Babou was just an ordinary house cat he'd "painted over in an op art design."

#### AUDREY AND IP

When Audrey Hepburn starred in the 1959 film "Green Mansions," she fell completely in love with her co-star — a fawn named Pippin. The

fawn's trainer suggested Hepburn take the docile creature home for a few nights to build their bond, leading the actress to keep the fawn as a pet. Nicknamed "Ip," it wasn't long before the fawn was following Hepburn everywhere she went, happy to sleep on her couch, attend parties, and pose for pictures with famous celebrities of the day.

#### THE ROOSEVELT ZOO

No U.S. president, past or present, has had a greater love of animals than President Theodore Roosevelt. During Roosevelt's presidency, the White House was home to dogs, cats, lizards, pigs, snakes, rabbits, a one-legged rooster, a hyena, a badger, a small bear named Jonathan Edwards, and many others. Once, when Roosevelt's son, Archie, was sick in bed, two of his brothers smuggled a pony into the White House elevator to visit their brother's room.



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APRIL 2017

## MAKING MEDITERRANEAN MEMORIES

### OUR UPCOMING TRIP WILL FEATURE FAMILIAR SIGHTS AND UNSEEN VISTAS

People say Venice, Italy, has become a tourist town. But people who say that don't understand two important facts:

1. Venice has been a tourist town for over 900 years.
2. Yes, it's visited by a staggering 20 million people every year, and local commerce expertly capitalizes on that. But the narrow canals, grand palaces, quaint churches, and timeless piazzas weren't built for profit. Rather, they were built for real people, with real purposes. No amount of souvenir shops can diminish that.

"EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN TO VENICE AGREES — THERE'S A DEFINITE WOW FACTOR THAT STAYS WITH YOU."

Everyone who has been to Venice agrees — there's a definite WOW factor that stays with you. After my first visit, I hoped I would be back someday. This month, I have the opportunity to do just that.

My girlfriend and I will fly to Venice, spend a few days there, then take a cruise to Croatia and down to Sicily. The boat docks in a port near Rome, and we'll spend a few extra days in the capital before flying home.

One reason I'm so excited for this trip is that it's a blend of the familiar and the new. Having my beautiful girlfriend with me and seeing it through her eyes will almost make it feel new. No one forgets the first time they see the Colosseum or the Trevi Fountain. Although one can't relive their first visit, traveling with someone who is seeing it for the first time is the next best thing.

A new experience for me this time around will be discovering the treasures of the Mediterranean Sea. Many of these coastal attractions have been around for a thousand years. Our cruise ship, the Starbreeze, sails on a course they call Dalmatian Delights because it saunters through the part of the Adriatic Sea where the spotted dogs come from.



I've researched coastal Croatian towns, and they look beautiful. One town, Split, has a beautiful palace that was built by Roman emperor Diocletian in the 4th century A.D. It's so large it forms about half of the entire downtown area — some people consider it to be more of an ornate fortress than a palace.

Another beautiful town we'll dock in is Dubrovnik, with its old churches and cathedrals. The Church of St. Blaise, decorated richly in the baroque style, is supposed to be incredible. They also have a wall that was built around the city that's up to 20 feet thick in some places, which is wider than most of the Great Wall of China.

I love travel because it instills a healthy sense of discovery. I always try to bring that spirit home with me and keep it alive in other aspects of my life. Most of all, I'm excited to see sights both familiar and new with such lovely company.

Happy travels,

- Gregory Herrman

## SPRING SAVINGS

Every season comes with its own set of retail deals. One month, winter clothes are a steal. Another month, it's kitchen appliances. When you strategize your purchases throughout the year, you can save a ton of money — and spring is no exception. Here are a few items you can save on this April:

### SUMMER VACATIONS

April is a great time to book air travel for the summer months, especially for travel during the peak vacation months of July and August. To maximize your savings, select departure days for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. And for even more savings, book flights with evening departure times (generally after 4 p.m.). You can save hundreds of dollars per ticket — and this applies to domestic and international travel.

### VACUUM CLEANERS

Thanks to the timeless tradition known as spring cleaning, many retailers are slashing prices on vacuums and other cleaning tools. Just like other gadgets, retailers need to make room for this year's models, which typically debut in the months following April. Sure, you'll be buying last year's model, but the savings makes it totally worth it. (Plus, it's a vacuum, not a car, so who cares?)

### ATHLETIC SHOES

Most of us don't buy athletic shoes during the winter months. That means many shoe manufacturers are in the middle of a sales

slump. To kick off spring, shoe makers and retailers run a lot of sales to get you in their doors. Be on the lookout for promotions, coupons, and other deals at your favorite shoe stores and on your favorite brands.

### TVS & ELECTRONICS

New TVs and electronics hit store shelves in March and April. And it's all thanks to CES, the Consumer Electronics Show, which happens every January in Las Vegas. There, the year's latest and greatest in tech make their debut. Then, once retailers get the new batch of gadgets, they need to unload last year's inventory. This equals huge savings for you. Whether you're in the market for a TV, a Blu-ray player, or a sound system, you'll find deals throughout the electronics department. One word of caution: Skip the PCs and laptops — the best prices on those come later in the year!



The loss of a loved one can be a tough subject to talk about. When it comes to wrongful death, you add another layer of complexity to that loss. Every year, thousands of families across the state, and across the country, experience a wrongful death, and, in every case, it doesn't get easier.

Emotions run high, and there can be many legal issues to sort through. As a family, the last thing you want to do is deal with the stress of this unfortunate situation. This is why it is important to work with a compassionate, capable, and aggressive attorney who has the skills and resources to see your case through to the end.

In Texas, wrongful death is a statutory cause of action. This means the legislature passed a law allowing you to sue and file claim under this statute. Under common law, you

couldn't recover damages if a loved one died. The wrongful death statute states that you *can* recover damages. The law also lays out guidelines for those who can recover, which includes the surviving spouse, the children, and the parents of the person who died.

Through a wrongful death claim, your attorney focuses on telling the story of your loss, as well as the pain and suffering you've had to experience as a result of your loss. Through this story, your attorney takes legal steps to get you the damages you deserve, so you can, in your own way, continue with your life in the best way possible.

In wrongful death cases, damages can include past medical expenses, funeral expenses, loss of companionship, pain and suffering, and any loss of future earning capacity. While no amount of money will bring back a loved one, we've made it our duty to explore all avenues to ensure justice is served and your financial future has stability — giving you less to worry about and allowing to focus on what matters most.



## THE WRONGFUL DEATH MAKING IT THROUGH THE TOUGHEST OF TIMES

## THE THIRD FATAL MISTAKE DON'T RUIN YOUR TEXAS AUTO ACCIDENT CASE

Over the past two months, we've covered the first two mistakes you can make that will hurt your auto accident case. The first was failing to call the police and not getting enough information at the scene; the second was waiting several days or weeks to get medical care, and failing to follow up with appointments or having gaps in treatment.

This month, we're looking at the third fatal mistake: giving too much information to the at-fault driver's insurance company. After your accident, you'll get a call from the negligent driver's insurance adjuster. You'll be asked questions about the accident, including how the accident happened and the details of your injuries.

Remember that the insurance adjuster is not a neutral party and not calling for your benefit. Their goal is to pay you as little as possible, if not flat out deny your claim. The insurance company is driven by profit, pure and simple.

When the adjuster calls, they listen closely to how you answer their questions. They're waiting for the slightest admission of fault so they can deduct a percentage from your claim. If they can get you to admit up to 50 percent fault, according to Texas law, they owe you nothing.

The adjuster will walk you through the accident and your medical treatment and history. They are looking for holes in your story, as well as hints that suggest your injuries (and any aches and pains) predate the accident.

After the conversation, the adjuster may say, "I'm glad you weren't more seriously injured." They may offer to pay some cash upfront — if you waive any future claims on your injuries. The insurance company may also offer to pay the bills you've incurred so far in an effort to "put this whole thing behind us."

Additionally, they may ask for a recorded statement, asking you the same questions without a lawyer present. They may even go so far as asking for medical authorization allowing them to access your medical records. This can give them all the information they need to shut the door on you and your case.



### COURTROOM CURRY ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

#### INGREDIENTS

1 head cauliflower, chopped into florets	1 teaspoon turmeric
1 fennel bulb, fronds removed, thinly sliced	½ teaspoon garlic powder
3 tablespoons ghee, melted	½ teaspoon coriander
2 tablespoons nutritional yeast*	½ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon curry powder	½ teaspoon white pepper
	Chopped parsley, to garnish

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a bowl, add florets and fennel along with ghee and toss to coat. Then add the other ingredients and toss again.
3. Place in the oven to bake for 35 minutes or until slightly browned.
4. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley on top!

\*Nutritional yeast is not required, but it gives the dish a cheesy flavor, so is recommended.

Recipe inspired by PaleOMG.com.

## MEMES

