Ray and Carol Steiner found Ringo, a red tabby Manx, living in a shed when he was 10 days old. Despite already having three cats, the couple decided to open their hearts to the friendly feline — a decision that would one day save their lives.

Years after adopting Ringo, Ray and Carol began to oversleep and experience high blood pressure, dizziness, and headaches. The couple attributed these troubling symptoms to their recent health problems — and water meters. Ringo started to dig in the jagged lava-rock landscaping, cutting his paws on the sharp stones. When Carol leaned over to get a better look, she was nearly overwhelmed by the smell of natural gas.

The gas company discovered an old steel coupler had broken open, leaking dangerous levels of gas into the Steiners’ house. A single spark outdoors could have set off an explosion that would outdoors could have set off an explosion that would have consumed six other houses, potentially killing 22 people. Ray and Carol’s doctor told them that even if they avoided an explosion, they would have died from methane poisoning if they’d been exposed much longer. The gas meter did not register the leak, but Ringo did.

Once they aired out their home, the Steiners’ health improved immensely. Because of his dedication to his family, Ringo became the 11th cat in houses, potentially killing 22 people. Ray and Carol’s doctor told them that even if they avoided an explosion, they would have died from methane poisoning if they’d been exposed much longer. The gas meter did not register the leak, but Ringo did.

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Ray and Carol realized something was amiss. They had just undergone heart surgery, and Carol was recovering from a car accident with her leg in a cast. But Ringo realized something was amiss.

One blistering day in August, the usually mellow cat caused a ruckus. He meowed loudly and banged his body against the front door. Carol let him dart outside, but the moment she closed the door, Ringo began to aggressively meow again. This was unusual behavior, and Carol realized them that even if they avoided an explosion, they would have died from methane poisoning if they’d been exposed much longer. The gas meter did not register the leak, but Ringo did.

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Another big part of my role within the firm centers on productivity. I’m here to make sure the office runs smoothly. If a department within the firm needs a little help, I make sure they get that help. When things run smoothly around the office, that often means things run smoothly for our attorneys, which is a big plus for our clients.

The work environment here at Herrman & Herman is fantastic. One of the great things about working in a bustling law firm is the challenge. Every day there is a new challenge to overcome. Not only does Greg challenge me, working in the legal field comes with challenges all its own. The way laws change or take effect can really keep you on your toes. We all have to stay up-to-date on our jobs, and that means a lot. That’s what trust looks like. Just as we appreciate each and every one of our clients, it’s a great feeling to know that our clients appreciate us right back. That’s the foundation of a meaningful, professional relationship.

On a more personal level, working at Herrman & Herman means one of my biggest priorities is ensuring our team is happy. When they’re happy, that translates to a positive workplace all around. And it all comes back to the work we do with clients.

I’ve been with Herrman & Herman for 24 years. In 1994, I started my career as a legal secretary, and since then, I’ve taken on a number of different roles. Today, I serve as the firm’s Business Operations Manager. It’s a role that tackles a lot of duties around the firm. In many respects, I’m Greg Herrman’s right hand. When he’s busy with a client or case, other members of our team can come to me with anything they might need, from questions to concerns. Then, I can take those questions to Greg, if need be, and have a sit-down.

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When we’re happy (and things are running smoothly), our clients are happy. When our clients are happy, they go out and tell everyone — their family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and on and on. The best referral you can make is through word of mouth.

That’s the circle of life for just about any kind of business. When we deliver for clients and they tell everyone about their experience, that means a lot. That’s what trust looks like. Just as we appreciate each and every one of our clients, it’s a great feeling to know that our clients appreciate us right back. That’s the foundation of a meaningful, professional relationship.

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I’m looking forward to taking a nice vacation this summer. I’ll be heading out to Las Vegas for a few days. While I may think about work while I’m away, I will be making plenty of time for myself!

— Debby Garcia
Superheroes, robots, and dinosaurs, oh my! The 2018 blockbuster season is in full swing, and chances are your kids don’t want to miss out on the action. But these days, going to the movies costs an arm and a leg — and that’s before you buy the popcorn.

If enough theaters in your area participate, your family enjoys one catch of Movie Pass is that it will only get one movie a month, you are saving money. This can be a great encouragement to see more films, whether as a family or individually. Is 3D a Must? The one catch of Movie Pass is that it will only get you into standard 2D movies. If you and the family want the 3D experience, you’ll have to pay for it separately.

Even if theaters in your area participate, your family enjoys going to the movies, and you’re not set on seeing 3D movies, Movie Pass can be a great investment. But if the answer is no to any of these questions, you’re probably better off just buying tickets at the box office.

As you may know, hurricane season is approaching. Last August, Hurricane Harvey hit the coast of Texas. During this catastrophe, no one was prepared for the destruction. However, this year the situation is quite different — people are more prepared than ever before.

Hurricane season begins June 1 in Texas and continues through November. According to the National Hurricane Center, the most vulnerable areas are the ones around the Gulf and Atlantic Coast due to their topographical makeup and heavy population.

This includes the major cities in Texas but also areas like McAllen, Brownsville, and the Rio Grande Valley. During the annual National Hurricane Preparedness Week, many officials urge individuals to get ready for the hurricane season. Some tips include:

- Create a plan for your family
- Have an emergency kit
- Prepare to evacuate (both your home and vehicle)
- Create evacuation routes

The biggest focus this year has been put on the healthcare facilities that are expected to work full-steam from June to November. The city of McAllen, as well as surrounding cities, are all gathering and organizing resources and creating plans that will help us all tackle what Mother Nature has in store for us this year.

According to Texas Governor Greg Abbott, early preparation is what makes the difference between life and death when hurricanes (like last year’s Harvey) occur. As he stated:

“The impending hurricane season presents the potential for powerful storms and dangerous conditions across the state that could endanger lives and cause extensive damage — something many Texans have already endured this year. I encourage all residents to be mindful of the dangers, closely monitor weather warnings in their areas, and always comply with evacuation orders issued by local officials.”

If you or someone you know needs assistance during a disaster this hurricane season, make sure to register for the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). To do that, contact 211 Texas, the state’s free helpline or dial 877.541.7905 for community resources no matter where you live in Texas.

**FATHER’S DAY CHILI LIME CHICKEN WINGS**

This Father’s Day, spice up your wings with this zesty recipe that’s sure to please the whole family.

**INGREDIENTS**
- 4 pounds chicken wings
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/4 tablespoons Thai red curry paste
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 lime, halved
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Chopped cilantro
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup cup soy sauce
- 1 lime, halved
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Chopped cilantro for garnish

**INSTRUCTIONS**
1. Heat oven to 425 F.
2. Rinse wings under cold water and pat dry. Season liberally with salt and pepper, and drizzle with olive oil. Roast on a baking sheet for 25 minutes or until skin becomes crisp and brown.
3. Blend butter, red curry paste, honey, and soy sauce in a large mixing bowl.
4. Toss wings in butter mixture. Squeeze lime juice on top, transfer to serving plate, and garnish with cilantro.

[inspired by foodnetwork.com]