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LIGHTS OUT

FLORIDA CITY BATTLES TO END 'EXTREME' LIGHTS DISPLAY

There's nothing quite like the magic of twinkling Christmas lights. But for city officials in Plantation, Florida, Christmas lights are a stark reminder of a prolonged fight, nearly \$500,000 in court fees, and continued drama.

In 2014, Plantation sued residents Mark and Kathy Hyatt for their "Hyatt Extreme Christmas" lights display, claiming it was a "public nuisance." Each year, the Hyatts decorated their yard with more than 200,000 lights, snow, a Christmas tree, a Nativity scene, a functioning Ferris wheel, and more. Their creation was featured on two nationally televised programs and attracted flocks of visitors.

But, for the Hyatt's neighbors, extreme didn't even begin to explain the chaos. Neighbors complained to the city about increased traffic, litter in their yards, and potential injury or death to pedestrians due to the traffic. Police officers in Plantation were dispatched to the light display multiple times each season for complaints by neighbors, accidents, and traffic control.



After a two-year battle in court, a judge ruled in favor of the Hyatts, claiming the city could not prove the display was dangerous or a nuisance. The city had spent nearly half a million dollars fighting their case.

For the Hyatts, Christmas 2016 was a celebration, though their display was restrained due to the timing of the court's decision. By 2017, "Hyatt Extreme Christmas" was in full swing again, much to their neighbors' chagrin. Mark Hyatt rode the wave of support for his display all the way to a vacant seat on the Plantation City Council in 2016, but the highs would soon stop there.

Plantation news outlets reported in 2018 that Mark Hyatt filed for divorce, effectively ending any hope of another "Hyatt Extreme Christmas."

As the snow has settled, an extravagant lights display has instead become a story of nasty court battles with a sad ending for the Hyatts and their "extreme" Christmas devotees.

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ROUNDING OUT A GREAT 2019

As 2019 comes to an end, I can look back on the year knowing we made a difference in many people's lives. From our clients to the community, everyone at Herrman & Herrman worked hard to make a difference. They poured their hearts into their work and ended the year on a high note.

As you may know, Herrman & Herrman sponsored many great events this year from El Mercado at Fiesta de la Flor in April to the Día de los Muertos Festival in November. Every year, more and more people join these community events. The Día de los Muertos Festival in Corpus Christi had a great turnout, and it was fun to spend time with everyone.

We also have received many great submissions for our annual college scholarship program. Now in its fifth year, we've had more entries than ever before, which means we have a lot of reading to do! While submissions closed on Dec. 1, we encourage current students to be on the lookout for next year's scholarship, which we'll be unveiling in the coming months.

For now, we're already hard at work reading through the essays. We'll be awarding scholarships to both local students as well as students around the U.S. We also have prizes specifically for teachers. We should have winners selected by the end of December, but you can watch our social media channels, including Facebook at [Facebook.com/HerrmanAndHerrmanPLLC](https://www.facebook.com/HerrmanAndHerrmanPLLC). We'll also include details of the winner in a future edition of the newsletter.

We also hit over 1,000 subscribers on our YouTube page — [YouTube.com/user/HerrmanAndHerrmanLaw](https://www.youtube.com/user/HerrmanAndHerrmanLaw). While that might not necessarily sound like a lot by YouTube standards, it's actually a great accomplishment. While many YouTube personalities have countless followers, when it comes to law firms, people don't



usually rush out to subscribe, believe it or not. It takes a lot of hard work on the part of our team to get these videos made and posted online. I'm proud of everyone who made our YouTube channel possible, and I thank all the viewers and subscribers.

If you haven't visited our YouTube page yet, I encourage you to check it out. We use our channel to share informative videos that answer many legal questions. If you have a legal question, there's a good chance we've touched on it on one of our 100-plus videos. Of course, a video can't substitute the knowledge and insight of an experienced attorney, but it's a great place to start.

As this year comes to an end, we look forward to celebrating the holidays with the community. We will be rounding out the year collecting toys for our Toys for Tots campaign. You can find more information about this on our Facebook page. It's another great way to give back to the community and ensure underprivileged kids get the gifts they truly do deserve.

From all of us at Herrman & Herrman, we wish you the best this holiday season, and here's to a happy New Year!

-Greg Herrman

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COMING TO A STORE NEAR YOU

HOLISTIC HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR ALL

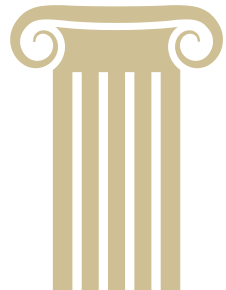
Holistic wellness is sometimes seen as an inaccessible form of care. Holistic treatments and products can be hard to find, but access to them should never be restricted based on location, demographics, or affluence. Thankfully, this problem is becoming less relevant as more stores begin stocking holistic products.

Holistic health products, which were often reserved for expensive online shopping or limited boutique releases in the past, are becoming more accessible as drugstores and big-box stores around the country jump on the holistic health train. Chains like Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, and Target have started stocking their shelves with notable holistic staples, especially those related to digestive and immune health. You can even find cleaner beauty and cosmetic products from



brands like Burt's Bees and Tom's of Maine in many of these stores. Safer baby products, like cough syrup made with all-natural ingredients and diapers from brands like The Honest Company, are being placed in the eyesight of more people everywhere. With this shift in availability, customers have more options than ever before when shopping for holistic care.

These stores have an incredible opportunity to bring alternative wellness to areas that haven't experienced it. Citizens in small, rural, or distressed communities where specialty stores and holistic medical practices are scarce can now explore more options. And if more options at reasonable prices result in healthier and happier people, then that's great for us all.



TESTIMONIALS

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT



"Mr. Johnson's team was so helpful in getting my medical bills reduced, so I could get more money in my pocket. His team is exceptional! Demi was always in direct contact with me regarding my case. I highly recommend Herrman & Herrman and would use them again!"

-Kristina Johns

"Team Johnson has helped me through a lot and been there for me, and I'm really happy with everything they've done!"

-Greg Rossignol

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The Terms of the Trade
8 Legal Words to Know

If ever you find yourself in the unfortunate situation of needing a personal injury lawyer, there are probably many terms that will be unfamiliar to you. Most of these will come up during your case, which is why it is good to brush up on your legal lexicon! Here are a few common terms.

Affidavit: A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court.

Complaint: The first document filed with a court by a person or entity claiming legal rights against another. States the factual and legal basis for a claim.

Damages: What a plaintiff is seeking to recover in a lawsuit. There are two categories: economic, such as medical expenses, wage loss, replacement services, and auto repair bills. The other is noneconomic damages, such as pain and suffering.

Deposition: Involves a witness being asked questions about the case. To find out what the witness knows and to preserve that witness's testimony. To learn all facts before going to trial.

Negligence: A failure to exercise the care that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in like circumstances.

Plaintiff: The party or group of parties bringing the lawsuit.

Power of attorney: The authority to act for another person in specified or all legal or financial matters.

Statute of limitations: A statute prescribing a period of limitation for the bringing of certain kinds of legal action. In other words, the time allowed to pass between the arising of a legal claim and the filing of a suit.



This list is just a small sample of some of the terms used in personal injury law. But by knowing the above terms and phrases, you can at least feel more comfortable when speaking with an attorney and have the confidence to proceed with your case. Next month, we'll go over a few more terms to help you better immerse yourself in your case or the case of a loved one.



BACON-WRAPPED CHESTNUTS

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" is an iconic image of Christmas, but we're willing to bet most people reading this have never eaten a chestnut. Change that this year with this awesome paleo-friendly appetizer.

INGREDIENTS

- * 2 8-oz cans water chestnuts
- * Tamari (wheat-free soy sauce), but can substitute with coconut aminos
- * 1/4 cup coconut sugar
- * 1 lb sliced bacon, quartered

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat an oven to 400 F.
2. Place a wire rack on a baking sheet lined with parchment and set aside.
3. Drain liquid from canned water chestnuts, add tamari to cover, and let soak for 15 minutes in the cans.
4. Drain tamari, roll each chestnut in coconut sugar, wrap with bacon, and spear on toothpick.
5. Place chestnuts on prepared rack. Bake for 30-35 minutes.
6. Plate and serve.

Inspired by "Paleo Happy Hour" by Kelly Milton

MEMES

