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Fourth of July Fun Facts:

10 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July: The day Americans celebrate their country's independence.

It's a day you probably know well, and one that you anticipate with pleasure; but there are probably a lot of fun facts about the nation's birthday that you aren't familiar with.

So, as you wait for Saturday's barbecues, fireworks and unabashed noshing on hot dogs, take a moment to catch up on your Fourth of July facts.

Who knows? You may even pick up a tidbit or two to share with your pals around the grill on the big day.

HAPPY 2ND OF JULY?!

Author Kenneth C. Davis has revealed that the 2nd of July may actually be the more appropriate date to mark the nation's special day.

"The fact is that John Adams wrote home to Abigail on the 3rd that this day, July 2nd will go down in history," Davis said during an appearance on "CBS This Morning." "We'll celebrate it with parades and pomp and bells ringing and fireworks, and it was because Congress actually ruled it in favor of independence on July 2. But it was two days later, of course, that Congress then accepted Jefferson's declaration, explaining the vote two days before that really got fixed in

the America's imagination as our birthday. July 2nd should be Independence Day."

R.I.P FOUNDING FATHERS

In a bizarre, though perhaps apt, twist of fate, both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826.

"The publication of the Declaration of Independence may have accidentally made the Fourth of July the official day of independence for America, but the deaths of two of its founders cemented its creation of the date's designation," wrote the FW's Danny Gallagher in a post commemorating Independence Day last year.

HAPPY FILIPINO, RWANDAN INDEPENDENCE DAY TOO!

July 4 marks a day of liberation in both the Philippines and Rwanda. In the Southeast Asian nation, July 4, known as "Republic Day," marks the date when the United States officially recognized the Philippines as an independent state in 1946. (However, though the day is still significant to Filipino history, June 12 has been the country's official Independence Day since 1962.)

Rwandans, on the other hand, celebrate "Liberation Day" on July 4. According to a 2008 post for the New York Times by blogger Josh Ruxin, the date marks the 1994 "end

of the Rwandan Genocide, and the birth of the new government that rose from the ashes."

HOLIDAY, SHMOLIDAY

"Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777, when the first-ever major celebration in Philadelphia included a parade, a thirteen-shot cannon salute and fireworks, but Congress didn't make it official until 1870, when it was part of a bill passed to recognize major state holidays at a federal level—like Independence Day, Christmas and New Year's Day," according to TIME magazine.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ABOUND!

Calvin Coolidge, the country's 30th president, was born on Independence Day. Others celebrating birthdays on July Fourth include, Nobel laureate and economist Gerard Debreu, Olympic gold medalist and tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver, "Ugly Betty" actress Becki Newton and current first daughter Malia Obama.

HOT DOGS GALORE

July Fourth is the "biggest hot dog holiday of the year," according to TIME magazine, with Americans reportedly consuming about 155 million of them on Independence Day alone.

Continued on page 2

Current Cases

Hheavy Truck Product Liability Claims—Tractor trailer and other heavy trucks are not required to contain many of the same protections for occupants as smaller passenger cars. They can contain dangerous defects putting the truck driver or passengers at risk of serious injury or death. These trucks many times have particularly weak roofs that crush in rollovers. The passenger compartments are often not protected by effective cab guards, and this allows loads to shift into the truck cab. We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

FRAUD

False Claims Act/Whistleblower— We are investigating whistleblower claims of government fraud ranging from Medicare/Medicaid to military contracts, and any other type of fraud involving a government contract. Under the False Claims Act (FCA) the whistleblower is entitled to a percentage of the recovery. Studies show that as much as 10 percent of Medicare/Medicaid charges are fraudulent. Common schemes involve double-billing for the same service, inaccurately coding services, and billing for services not performed. Additionally, the Commission on Wartime Contracting has warned that the lack of oversight of government contractors has led to massive fraud and waste.

Recent Settlements

Penn & Seaborn recently settled a car accident case that occurred on Highway 431 in Eufaula, Alabama. Our client was traveling in the inside lane of Highway 431 when the at fault driver struck our client's vehicle. The other driver crossed two lanes of 431 and the center turn lane, and caused this accident while attempting to merge with traffic.

This collision injured our client, and totaled out her vehicle, but fortunately, she was wearing her seat belt. Our client has recovered well and is back at work. The case was settled and a very good result was obtained. This case serves as a good reminder to always pay close attention to vehicles trying to merge into our lane. Many times merging drivers do not keep a proper lookout which is what happened in this case.

Penn & Seaborn recently settled a lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court of Macon County. Our client was a Jefferson County lady who had returned to her alma mater to enjoy Tuskegee University's homecoming celebration. While watching the parade from the side walk, our client was injured when a parade participant ran over her with a Segway Personal Transporter. Segway Personal Transporters are small two wheeled, electric vehicles for personal transportation.

Filed Cases

The firm recently filed a lawsuit in Dale County where a careless driver exited his driveway hitting our client and her two kids in the rear of the vehicle. One of the children was airlifted to UAB in Birmingham.

Fourth of July Fun Facts | CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

But despite a nationwide love for the salty snack, no one really knows where the hot dog came from. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, it is "likely that the North American hot dog comes from a widespread common European sausage brought here by butchers of several nationalities." The meaty treat's origin story remains murky, however.

TURTLE SOUP, ANYONE?

Though hot dogs, french fries and barbecued treats are typical Fourth of July fare nowadays, our Founding Fathers feasted on some pretty different foods to celebrate the country's independence back in the day.

"According to legend, on July 4, 1776, John Adams...and his wife, Abigail, sat down for a celebratory meal of turtle soup, New England poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas and boiled new potatoes in jackets. They followed the meal with Indian pudding or Apple Pandowdy," wrote Justine Sterling for Delish.com in 2011.

THE "STATE OF INDEPENDENCE"

Is Pennsylvania the country's most patriotic state?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the so-called "State of Independence," where the Declaration of Independence was debated and signed, is home to 11 places with the word "liberty" in their name and 33 with the word "union" in them, leading the country for the number of places with such names.

(Only one place in the nation has "patriot" in its name, according to the bureau. Patriot, Ind., is said to have an estimated population of 209.)

AMERICAN BALD... TURKEY?

In a letter to his daughter Sarah Bache in 1784, Benjamin Franklin wrote that he was displeased that the bald eagle had been chosen as the symbol for the nation.

"He is a Bird of bad moral character. He does not get his Living honestly," he wrote. "You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk."

A turkey, Franklin went on to argue, is a far "more respectable" bird. "Turk'y... [is a] true original Native of America," Franklin wrote. "He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."

TAP, TAP, TAP

Due to concerns about cracking the iconic instrument, the Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846. Instead, every year, to mark the Fourth of July, the 2,000-pound bell is tapped 13 times to signal for bells across the country to start ringing.

Penn and Seaborn filed a lawsuit in Lee County on behalf of a student who was injured by a drunk driver in a hit-and-run.

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Personal Injury/Products Liability



18-WHEELER ACCIDENTS

There are significant differences between handling an interstate trucking case and other car wreck cases. It is imperative to have knowledge of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, technology,

business practices, insurance coverage's, and to have the ability to discover written and electronic records. Expert testimony is of utmost importance. Accidents involving semi-trucks and passenger vehicles often result in serious injuries and wrongful

death. Trucking companies and their insurance companies almost always quickly send accident investigators to the scene of a truck accident to begin working to limit their liability in these situations. Our lawyers, staff and accident investigators immediately begin the important task of documenting and preserving the evidence. We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

We continue to focus on accident cases involving automobiles, heavy equipment and consumer products. Some of these auto cases involve single-vehicle crashes, while others involve multiple-vehicle accidents. We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

Pharma and Devices

XARELTO

Lawsuits filed against Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Bayer Corp. over the blood thinner Xarelto have been consolidated in Louisiana federal court. Xarelto has been linked to serious side effects including internal bleeding, gastrointestinal bleeding, brain bleed and death. The Xarelto lawsuits come on the heels of the recent \$650 million Pradaxa settlement. Researchers linked Pradaxa, also a blood thinning medication, to more than 500 deaths. Xarelto blood thinner litigation has been consolidated before U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon in the Eastern District of Louisiana, who presided over suits against Merck & Co. over its medication Vioxx. The Vioxx litigation resulted in a \$4.85 billion settlement in 2007.

RISPERDAL

A drug used to treat adults, adolescents, and children with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Studies show Risperdal puts patients at risk of hyperglycemia, dyslipidemia and weight gain, which can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes. The most troubling side effect is gynecomastia in young boys. Gynecomastia can result in boys growing female breast. Not only does Risperdal have dangerous health consequences, the side effects can cause embarrassment, emotional, and psychological problems.

LIPITOR

A statin drug to treat high cholesterol, Lipitor was approved by the FDA in 1996 and is one of the best-selling prescription medications in the world. Recent studies have found a possible link between Lipitor

and the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. The study found a potential link in postmenopausal women, particularly those who had a Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 30. Of the 153,840 women evaluated, more than 10,000 had developed Type 2 diabetes by the end of the study.

TESTOSTERONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

These products for men have been linked to an increased risk of death, heart attack and stroke. In one study, researchers found men who used testosterone replacement therapy were 30 percent more likely to have a heart attack, stroke or die after three years of use. A second study found that men had a significant increase in risk of heart attack or stroke in just the first 90 days of testosterone therapy.

Student Spotlight



Nasasha T. Davis is the daughter of Michael & Tia Boykins and a 2015 Graduate of Barbour County High School. Nasasha has been very active her senior year with activities such as: Senior Class Vice President, Student Government Association President, National Honor Society member, Future Business Leaders of America Recording Secretary, BCHS Gospel Choir, Barbour County Advisory

Committee Chairperson, a member BCHS Volleyball Team, and BCHS Basketball Team statistician. She is very active in her church on many levels as well. Sasha will be attending Alabama A&M University in the Fall, majoring in Social Work. She has also been accepted into the Alabama A&M University Choir. Sasha's Mom, Tia, has been working for the firm for the past 15 years.

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