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Newsletter: 3rd Quarter 2014


The Schafer Law Office

Schafer Law News

More Enforcement for Kentucky Texting While Driving Laws

Kentucky, are you ready for tougher texting laws?

A poll conducted by the National Safety Council, NSC, revealed that 73% of the respondents think there should be more enforcement on texting laws, while only 22% were fine with the current level of enforcement. In a report published March 31, 2014 on WVXU.org, Kentucky transportation officials said driving and texting had already reached epidemic levels and part of the cure is more enforcement. They added that people should know that police are serious about putting an end to this fatal behavior. In fact, Kentucky police are cracking down on motorists who are texting while driving. This is part of the nationwide **UDrive. UText. UPay.** campaign.

Our texting laws in Kentucky took effect on April 15, 2010. Texting is banned for drivers of all ages while the vehicle is in motion. However, drivers 18 years and older can use GPS devices and hands-free devices to make calls.

There are consequences for texting and driving. A first offense violation comes with a \$25 fine, then it's \$50 for each subsequent violation, as well as court costs. It's costly to be caught texting while driving. Along with fines, law enforcement has considered implementing a point system that could lead to a driver losing their license if they reach a certain amount of points. In my opinion, these penalties are a slap on the wrist and need to be more severe before they will stop texting while driving.

The result of the NSC survey is a positive one, because it shows people's willingness to join in the fight against cell phone use while driving. More than that, this shows that people are aware it takes more than commercials and campaign ads to get people to change. This serious event takes action because awareness is nothing without action. When you think about it, there is really nothing to fear about the stringent law enforcement if you're following the rules.

As a Kentucky Accident Attorney, I believe more enforcement on texting while driving is a great idea. If there are harsher punishments in place, then people are more likely to stop that action. This would help decrease auto accidents from distracted drivers. There is no better time to start implementing this than now. I hope Kentucky will take a look at passing a law with stricter penalties sooner rather than later.

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Meet Hazel the Hedgehog

Meet the newest member of the Schafer family, Hazel. How did we end up getting a hedgehog? Well, my daughter, Savannah has wanted a hedgehog for a while now. Savannah put together a PowerPoint presentation all about hedgehogs. She even included handouts! Savannah worked on that presentation for about a week, and it really showed Yulee and me that she did her research. So, Yulee and I agreed that we'd give Savannah a chance to prove to us that she could take care of a hedgehog.

After some negotiations (I had to use some legal language), we agreed that Savannah could buy a hedgehog, but she would have to pay for everything her hedgehog would need. She agreed. Savannah then looked into local hedgehog breeders and found one that she liked. She then contacted the breeder and set up a date at the end of May to go pick up her baby hedgehog. When that time finally came, she went to go get her hedgehog, Hazel. Ever since then, Savannah and Hazel have become good friends, and there are rumors going around that Hazel may do some traveling with Savannah. Have fun you two, and if you see them around town, let me know!

FAQs

Q: When does a teenage driver need to be listed on my car insurance policy?

A: In Kentucky, you do not need to obtain additional coverage when your high school student obtains their permit and starts driving under most insurance policies. You also do not have to list them as a driver on your policy while they have their permit. However, this all changes when they obtain their driver's license. At that time, you must call your insurance agent and add your child as a driver on your automobile insurance policy.

"The trip was simply amazing. Next year can't come soon enough!"

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

In July, my daughter, Savannah, and I spent eight days in Santiago, Dominican Republic for a mission trip with our church. We helped with the construction of a new medical center by tying rebar. A concrete floor was poured the week after we left. It was a pretty hot job, but we had a good time. We also spent time in the feeding center serving meals to the local kids. Our group also got to play with some of those kids. They had so much energy and just loved to play. They ran us until we dropped! Along with working on the building and hanging out with the kids, we also got to spend some time at the beach, cool off by some awesome waterfalls and enjoyed the company of some good friends. The trip was simply amazing. In fact, we liked it so much that we are going back next year. This mission trip was a wonderful experience. The only thing I won't miss is being woken up by the roosters that roamed in the yards around us. Roosters aside, next year can't come soon enough!





Photo By: cookin'mama

How to make Juicy Peach Crisp

(Recipe from allrecipes.com)

What you'll need:

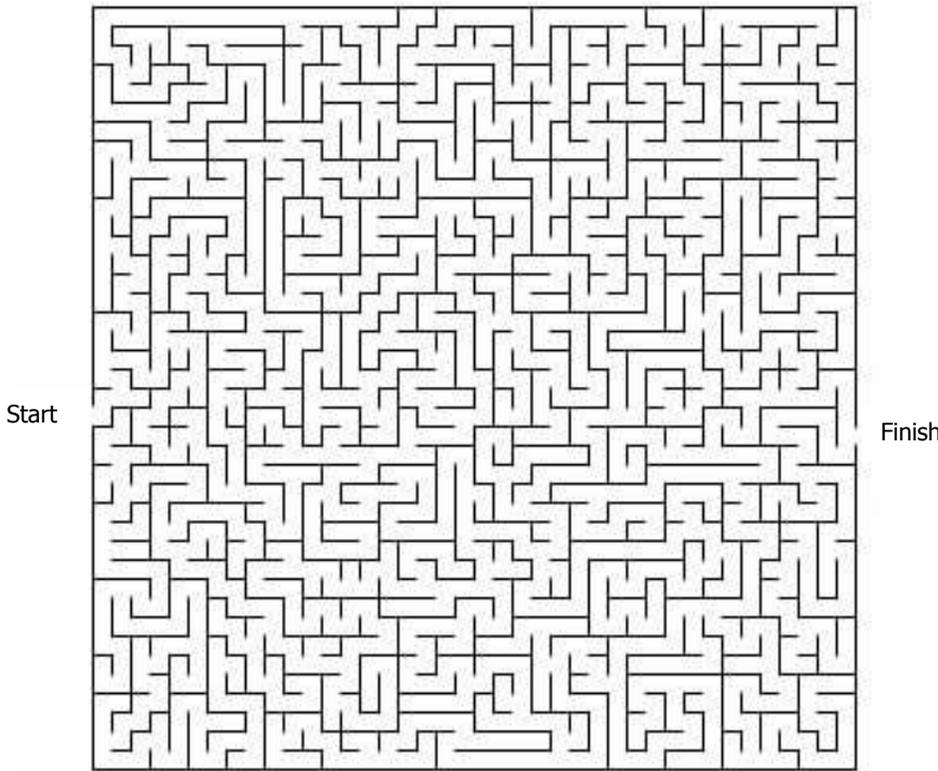
- 6 fresh peaches - peeled, pitted and sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter

Directions

- Preheat an oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C), and grease an 8 inch square baking dish.
- Place the peaches in the bottom of the baking dish and sprinkle them with almond extract.
- In a bowl, combine the flour, sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Cut the butter into the flour mixture with a pastry cutter until the mixture resembles crumbs.
- Sprinkle the flour mixture in an even layer over the top of the peaches and bake in the preheated oven for about 45 minutes, or until the peaches are bubbling and the topping is browned.

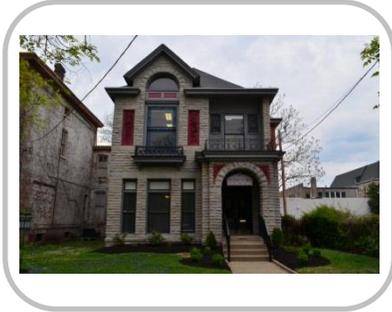
Game

Can you find your way through the maze?



Did you know, the Pineapple Garden Maze at Dole Plantation in Hawaii is the world's largest maze?





About The Schafer Law Office

The Schafer Law Office has been serving Louisville, Kentucky and the surrounding counties for more than 20 years. The Schafer Law Office concentrates in personal injury cases including: automobile, fatal, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, dog bite, pedestrian and child accident cases. If you've been hurt through no fault of your own, contact The Schafer Law Office. Our office number is (502) 584-9511. We will guide you through your case and help you know what your legal rights are.

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