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Newsletter: 1st Quarter 2015

The Schafer Law Office



Schafer Law News

Getting A Ride Home After Drinking Can Save Lives

App driven, ride-sharing services help reduce drunk driving incidents, according to a recent study conducted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber. Nearly four out of five respondents said that because of ride-sharing apps, they were less likely to drive themselves home after drinking. Also, 57% said that they would have ended up driving, even after they'd been drinking, if ride-sharing apps did not exist.

A total of 807 adults participated in this survey, and it was conducted in 19 Uber-operating cities last December. The study also emphasized the 6.5% decrease or 60 fewer drunk driving-related crashes in California after Uber began offering its service in 2012. Two-thirds of the respondents also said they wanted national leaders to exert more efforts weeding out drunk drivers.

Uber's Strategy Chief David Plouffe said this shows that people are changing their behavior, particularly when they're out having drinks. Plouffe also said that their partnership with MADD is not limited only on this poll, a statement backed by the president of MADD Colleen Sheehey-Church. Church said they're aiming for a future with no more victims.

Drunk and Distracted Driving Statistics

According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, one-third of the 30,000 driving-related deaths in the U.S. in 2013 involved drunk driving. This figure has remained stable since 2009.

According to the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes. Per the nationwide findings, almost 80% of all crashes and 65% of near-crashes involved driver inattention, to a certain extent, three seconds before the incident took place.

In Kentucky, over 163 fatalities and more than 9,000 injuries were recorded in the 52,500 collisions that involved driving distraction. These figures represent 43% of the total crashes and 25% of the total deadly crashes that occurred on Kentucky roads only last year.

It's not wrong to attend a party and enjoy a drink or two. However, it's extremely dangerous to insist on driving after doing so. It not only puts you in danger, but it also exposes others to harm. As a Kentucky Accident Attorney, I highly encourage you to have someone drive you home, hire a cab or use a ride-sharing service. The fare may be higher, but it's not as high as the risks that are involved in a drunk driving accident. I can't say this enough, please don't drink and drive.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Drunk Driving	1
Ski Trip	2
FAQs	2
Driving In Rain	2
Guacamole	3
Word Scramble	3
Fun Facts	3

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Ski Trip To Big Sky



Big Sky Ski Resort

I made my first trip to Big Sky Ski Resort in Montana this past February. When they say Montana is "big sky county," they are not kidding! Not only was the terrain knee knocking scary in places, it was one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. My brother and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary while we were there, and we all took a snowcat up the mountain for dinner one evening.

It was a great atmosphere, and dinner was amazing. The most amazing part of that evening was the trip back down the mountain on the snowcat. It was -7 degrees when we headed down, but my wife and I decided to ride down on the top of the snowcat. We climbed up to the top, got under blankets and sat facing up the mountain as we headed down the mountain. You have no idea how beautiful and big the sky is in Montana at night. The stars seemed brighter and more beautiful than anything I've ever seen. I also saw several stars make their way across the sky.

This will be a memory that will live with me forever. I'm a Big Sky fan. Not often does the skiing get trumped by another event, but the Big Sky definitely won this time.

FAQs

Q: Can I Get In Trouble If I Don't Have Insurance On My Car?

A: You may be charged with a criminal, no insurance offense if you do not have car insurance at the time of the accident. If this is your first offense, you can receive up to a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail. However, most of the District Courts in Kentucky have a diversion program that will allow you to provide proof of insurance and eventually have the case dismissed.

Tips For Driving In The Rain

Spring starts this month, and it couldn't have come at a better time, especially after the last two snow storms that hit Kentuckiana. Hopefully, the threat of snow is gone for this season, but now we are entering the rainy season. Here are a few helpful tips on how to drive safely in the rain:

- Allow more time to drive to your destination.
- Brake earlier and softer to avoid hydroplaning.
- Be aware of puddles. Puddles tend to accumulate on the sides of the road, so if you must drive through one, slow down and proceed with caution.
- Do not use cruise control. It lowers your reaction time and increases your chance of hydroplaning.
- Turn on your headlights. It makes it easier for oncoming traffic to see you.



"Hopefully, the threat of snow is gone for this season, but now we are entering the rainy season."

We may not know when a rain shower is coming, but hopefully with these tips, we can be more prepared for one.



Photo by: Dan Berns from allrecipe.com

How to make Guacamole

(Recipe by: Bob Cody from allrecipes.com)

What you'll need:

- 3 avocados - peeled, pitted and mashed
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 roma (plum) tomatoes, diced
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional)

Directions

- In a medium bowl, mash together the avocados, lime juice and salt. Mix in onion, cilantro, tomatoes and garlic. Stir in cayenne pepper. Refrigerate 1 hour for best flavor, or serve immediately.

Game

See if you can unscramble the words below.

1. Mhcar ssMedan _____
2. ksalablbt _____
3. beDry _____
4. erwosfl _____
5. rnpigS kaeBr _____
6. Tuhnrd eOvr sloieluvIL _____

Did you know...

Many people believe that you can stand an egg on end during the spring equinox? Experts say while this is true, if you are patient enough, you could stand an egg on end almost any day of the year.



Fun Facts

It's hard to believe that the Kentucky Derby is not that far away. In honor of it almost being Derby time, here are some fun Derby facts:

1. The Derby's 1¼ miles equals 79,200 inches.
2. A crowd of 151,616 attended the Derby in 2013. A total of 155,000 programs were printed.
3. About 12,000 tulips are planted at the track.
4. The winner's garland includes 400 "Freedom" roses from Kroger's master floral designers and is 2½ yards long, 14 inches wide and weighs 40 pounds.
5. The longest stretch of consecutive wet Kentucky Derby Days is seven (2007-13). The longest stretch of dry Derby Days is 12 (1875-86).



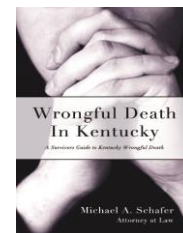
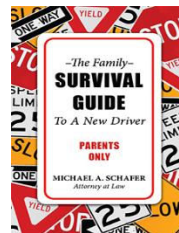
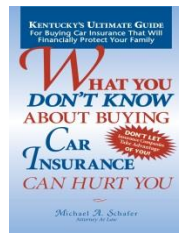
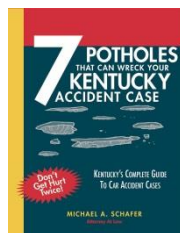
Source: Churchill Downs



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, premises liability, 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 your legal rights.

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