

NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS

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March 2015 Newsletter

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The Daffodil Principle

The story is told of a woman who planted 50,000 daffodil bulbs. She lived in California and her beautiful daffodil garden extended over five acres of land. In season, daffodils stretched as far as the eye could see. Over 100 varieties of daffodils had been planted in this one valley high in the mountains. People drove from miles around to see this picturesque scene. On the land was a house, and beside the house was a sign, answering the questions in the minds of all who visited. The sign read, "50,000 bulbs. One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and a very little brain. Began in 1958." The woman who planted all of those daffodils adopted what has been termed "The Daffodil Principle": a lifelong commitment to a goal by taking one action every day.



We often hear amazing stories about people who have achieved an incredible goal, but we rarely hear the "how they got there." In the glorification of the accomplishment, storytellers omit the everyday details. They forget to share ordinary actions the person did every single day that helped them. We only hear the outcome. Without hearing the full stories, we begin to believe that amazing success stories are due to amazing actions. However, quite the opposite is true. Extraordinary successes are often due to doing ordinary things consistently (like planting daffodil bulbs one at a time) and regular feedback (see what's working, what's not, and re-aligning).

One woman's reaction to seeing the daffodil garden for the first time was this, "It makes me sad in a way, what might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' through all those years. Just think what I might have been able to achieve!" **So, what can you start planting today?**

Note: The Daffodil Garden was a real garden by Mrs. Gene Bauer of Running Spring, CA. She and her husband closed the garden in 2009 after over 50 years of providing free access to public to view their floral masterpiece.

sources: samuelthomasdaves.com, friendsacrossamerica.com photo:theguardian.com

**First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
And then I was dying to finish college and start working.
And then I was dying to marry and have children.
And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school
so I could return to work. And then I was dying to retire.
And now I am dying...and suddenly I realize I forgot to live. -anonymous**



What's David Doing?

Ever thought about dancing naked in front of 75 people? I have. And over the years, I've talked to my students about it. Maybe you should think about it, too. **GET REAL PEOPLE!** I'm talking about the first amendment to our Constitution. It allows us the right to voice our opinion through free speech, including conduct. And I teach my students about this wonderful freedom and how our individual rights are balanced with the rights of others.

We cannot just go dance naked in front of any crowd, nor do we want to either. Here's what we do want – people to understand our Constitution, be able to voice their opinion in a nice and civil manner, and quit hating because they don't always get their way. We should be able to talk about guns, race, and same sex marriage, as long as we do it in a nice and civil manner. Ever read the Constitution? Go do it.

Car Wreck Claim

The insurance adjuster wants to talk to me about my claim. What should I do?

Insurance adjusters who are assigned to your case may want to talk to you about your car wreck claim. While most will be very friendly and personable, you should know that ultimately, their goal is to get you to settle for a low amount and to settle as quickly as possible. This is why you should seek legal advice from a South Carolina car wreck lawyer. A lawyer understands the tactics that an insurance adjuster may use in order to work in his best interests rather than yours, including getting you to say something that could be used against you.

You do not have to avoid speaking with an insurance adjuster, just be cautious about what you share. Keep the conversations to a minimum, sticking only to the basic facts about your car wreck claim. Do not offer more information than is necessary.

If you have questions about your claim, we'd love to help. Give us a call 803.285.0225 or send us an email dana@davidblackwelllaw.com For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit our website www.davidblackwelllaw.com

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The Interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

Soccer Stars

We're super proud of the David Blackwell Law soccer team who finished their season number two in the state! After becoming regular season champions the team kept going and lost out in the state championship game. The head coach for the Lancaster All Star team was also the regular season champion coach Andre' Merritt SR, along with assistant coaches Jamie Hinson and Ken Bundy.

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and their families! We're proud of you!



People Matter

Imagine being a kid in a school where your principal is all-in. The guy is willing to dress up like Snow White, take a pie in the face, or even shave his head for fundraisers. He's the first face you see in the morning in the car line, and even jumps in to help serve you lunch sometimes. Your parents even think he's cool—he's got ideas for days about building a community of learning, and is willing to do what it takes to get there. That's the way kids and parents feel about Steven Puckett—principal at Harrisburg Elementary School.

Steven was the assistant principal at Indian Land Elementary for seven years before transitioning into a brand new school as principal. Mr. Puckett says the best thing about his job is being able to invest in so many lives and getting constant energy from the young people he works with everyday. That's energy he uses every day--Steven hit the ground running and has already laid a strong foundation for students and faculty.

The Puckett family includes Steven, his wife Jessica, and their two children Nathaniel and Emme. Steven and his wife have been married almost twelve years and are both preacher kids. Steven moved around a good bit growing up—he was born in Alabama, but soon moved to South Carolina where his dad served as pastor in various parts of the state. We are thankful to have Steven as a principal in Lancaster County and can't wait to hear about more wonderful things going on at his school.



The English Language

Seems like a retired English teacher spent a little time working on this list of heteronyms. Someone sent me this list via email last month. We have a pretty difficult language, but let's keep it!

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 12) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 13) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 14) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 15) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 16) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 17) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
- 18) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

source: unknown

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig..

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

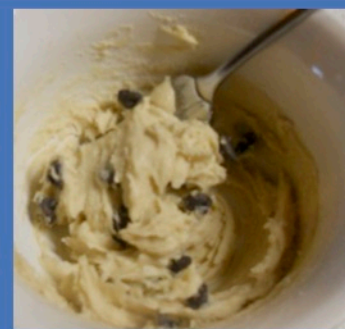
PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick' ?

Chocolate Chip Pound Cake

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 box Pillsbury yellow cake mix | 4 eggs |
| 1 sm. box instant chocolate pudding mix | 8 oz sour cream |
| 1/2 c sugar | 3/4 c vegetable oil |
| 6 oz Nestle milk chocolate morsels | 3/4 c water |

Mix together cake mix, pudding mix, sugar, oil, water, eggs, and sour cream. Add the chocolate chips last. Pour into a greased and floured bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Cool for ten minutes, and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Got a favorite recipe? Send it to us! linzie@davidblackwellllaw.com



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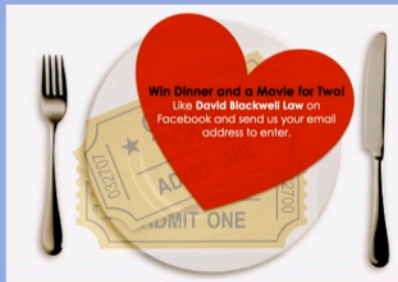
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Got a legal question?
We've got answers!
New video library coming
soon to our website and
social media pages!

Congratulations to
Cindy Lucas

We hope you had a great
Valentine's Date!



From Our Blog When Your Child Gets in a Wreck

It's 2:00 PM on a Wednesday, and you just got the phone call from your child that you never wanted to receive. "Mom, I've been in a wreck." You are at work, preparing for your next meeting, and your son is at the beach on spring break. No one really prepares you for times like these---what are the most important things you could tell your child right at this moment?



Do you know what to do if your son or daughter is in a wreck and you can't be there to help? Visit our blog for answers to this question and many more! www.davidblackwelllaw.com/blog

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