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IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED

ARE YOU READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

It seems that hurricane season came a little earlier than usual this year. For those of you who are like me and make sure to prepare as early as possible, you might be feeling as ready as you can for the storms that lie ahead. But for those of you who might be new to Florida and haven't experienced hurricanes or need reminders about the best ways to prep, I'm always eager to share knowledge that could potentially save you and your family from some of the hardships these storms can bring.

There's a lot of planning and prepping that goes into being ready for a hurricane, and even when you've checked everything off the list, sometimes, things happen that you just can't be prepared for. That's why when notice of an approaching hurricane comes, it's important for your family to first decide whether you will stay in your home and weather the storm or leave to find better protection.

If you decide to stay, there are many things you should do to make sure your family and your home are as protected as possible. Here are a few basics.

- **Stormproof your home. Shutters or plywood can reinforce doors and windows and prevent broken glass.**
- **Purchase a backup generator and make sure it's functioning properly and that you have a supply of gas.**
- **Stock up on enough food and water to last your family at least five days, and make sure at least half of it is**

non-perishable and doesn't need to be refrigerated or cooked.

- **Have cash on hand, as ATMs and banks could be closed for days.**
- **Your basic emergency supply kit should consist of batteries, flashlights, a toolkit and repair supplies, portable radios, and a first aid kit.**
- **Keep a supply of sandbags somewhere accessible so you can divert rushing water away from your house.**

The right supplies to weather a storm are key, but it's also important to make sure you have all your affairs in order. Whether you own or rent, make sure your insurance covers hurricane damage. Keep all of your important documents like birth certificates, passports, and Social Security cards in a safe and dry place. Although it can be difficult to think about, it's also important to make sure your estate plan is properly documented should something happen to you during the hurricane.

I've lived in Florida for a long time and have been through my share of hurricanes. The most important thing I've learned is that there's no such thing as overpreparing and no such thing as preparing too early. Every time I'm at a big-box store like Costco, I always buy an extra case of essential supplies, like bottled water or canned foods, to put in my family's designated hurricane closet. That way,



when the time comes, we don't have to worry about beating the rush of people trying to prepare last minute. Keeping everything in a closet dedicated solely to hurricane supplies makes it that much easier to find things when we need them most. When it comes to hurricanes, it pays to think far, far ahead.

The Whisler Law Firm's website is a great resource for all the things you need to know about how to prepare for a hurricane. If you visit WhislerLawFirm.com/hurricane-resource/ you'll find extended lists of recommended supplies, actionable checklists, financial and personal preparedness toolkits, advice gathered from longtime Florida residents, and even an entire **free eBook about hurricanes** and how to prepare for them. We're all about helping our community, and that means doing what we can to keep people safe. So make sure you visit our site and reach out if you have any questions. We're here to help.

-Josh Whisler

STUDENT TECH SUCCESS

EDUCATIONAL TOOLS TO IMPROVE DIGITAL LEARNING

Kids these days face so many more distractions from academics than their parents did. It's not as easy to focus on homework when TikTok, YouTube, and all sorts of video games beckon. Instead of trying to prevent screen time, why not allow students to engage with technology that will help promote their learning rather than distract from it? Here are three tools to help students at different age levels get the most from online learning.

Beanstalk

While Beanstalk is an online learning tool, the beauty of it is that the classes and videos aim to pull kids "out of the screen to do real-world physical activities." These include science experiments, building projects, and more. Experienced teachers provide engaging lessons and learning tools, and many of them are free.



EduHam

What better way to learn about the history of our nation than through one of the nation's most popular musicals? "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda launched this learning platform in 2016 along with the show's director and in partnership with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. EduHam is a free digital program for students and their families that provides history lessons on the Founding Era of the United States. It also brings art into the mix — Miranda shows students how to create

their own performance pieces based on primary source documents, which they can then share in the app. The program is geared toward students in sixth through 12th grade, though everyone is welcome to participate.

Fiveable

For high school students, the most looming challenges include the SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) exams that are so important for college. Enter Fiveable, the amazing free resource that houses thousands of livestreams, study guides, trivia games, and other resources for 15 AP subjects. Started by a former teacher, Fiveable is passionate about giving students the resources they'll need to be successful now and into the future.

With so many resources out there, students can use technology in plenty of ways to help them be successful. Here's to a fall season full of learning!



The Whisler Law Firm continues to expand its team of experts in an effort to keep serving those who come to us for help, and now, we're excited to welcome Andrea Franklin as the newest attorney to join our team!

Andrea started with our firm at the beginning of August and (like we knew she would) has already proven to be a valuable addition, thanks in part to her unique background. "For

MEET ANDREA FRANKLIN

THE NEWEST ATTORNEY TO JOIN OUR TEAM

the previous four years, I had been working on the other side of the table as an attorney for an insurance company to defend them against property claims," Andrea says. "Representing the insurance companies was never meant to be my endgame but instead gave me valuable insight and knowledge. I always knew I'd leave the bureaucracy to finally get my boots on the ground and represent the people."

As someone who was born and raised in South Florida and has never moved out of state, Andrea is all about doing good for the place she will always call home. "I want to represent my neighbors and help them through the tough pockets of their lives they can't navigate by themselves. That's what we're here to do, and I'm so excited to finally represent the community I grew up in and am a part of."

Andrea's sense of community appreciation extends far beyond her work. In 2016, after

a close veteran friend of hers served two tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, he came to her with the idea of doing something more for his fellow veterans. His love of fishing coupled with Andrea's eager enthusiasm led to the creation of Overseas Fishing, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization that takes local veterans out on fishing trips as a means of building connections and participating in therapeutic activities. "I've always loved being out on the water, and it's incredible to witness how truly therapeutic the ocean and fishing can be for people who have been through life-altering situations," Andrea explains.

It may be Andrea's inside knowledge of the insurance world that first drew our attention to her, but it's her passion for our community and the desire to support its members that have truly made her a valuable member of our team already.

DON'T HURT YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKING WITH INSURANCE ADJUSTERS

If you're injured in an accident and file a personal injury claim, the responsible party's insurer will likely call you soon after the accident is reported. These first conversations can be critical to making your case and must be navigated with caution. Although insurance adjusters seem like they want to be your friend, their job is to diminish their client's liability and leave you with little to no compensation. That's why it's so important to follow these guiding principles.

Stay calm and polite.

You have every right to be angry about your accident and injuries, but taking your anger out on an insurance adjuster won't help you win compensation. Most personal injury cases settle out of court, so sooner or later, you'll be negotiating with the insurance company. Adjusters are humans too and don't respond kindly to abuse, so it's best to avoid losing your temper or placing blame on the adjuster. Your goodwill toward them could be returned to you and pay off.

Don't get into details.

Less is best. You don't need to share any personal information other than your name, address, and

telephone number. They may ask you to give a statement about how the accident happened, but politely decline discussion of facts and instead give them only the basics: where, when, the type of accident, and those involved. Tell them the accident is still being investigated and that detailed facts can be discussed at a later time.

Don't finalize your injuries.

The adjuster will want to know about your injuries, but you shouldn't give them a detailed description yet. You may discover a new injury later, or your injuries may worsen. Until you know more, give only a general description, for example, "My leg is broken and I have neck and back pain." You also don't have to tell them what doctors or other medical providers you're seeing.

The general rule of thumb when you speak to any insurance adjuster is to be polite but say little. A lawyer can also speak with adjusters on your behalf, so if you've suffered a personal injury, give our office a call, and we'll see how we can help.



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: SECURE YOUR KIDS' FUTURE

For most young parents, writing a will is less about leaving their assets than it is about naming guardians for the kids.

Please join us September 15 at 7:00 p.m. to learn the importance of having a will in place.

PLEASE REGISTER AT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.WHISLERLAWFIRM.COM



BALSAMIC MARINATED FLANK STEAK

The summer isn't over yet! Get out the grill for this delicious steak dinner.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 2 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for grilling
- 1 3-lb flank steak
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine garlic, rosemary, oregano, mustard, and vinegar in a blender. Purée until garlic is minced.
 2. Add oil and continue blending until creamy, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Reserve 1/4 cup.
 3. Place steak in a ceramic or glass baking dish and cover steak with the remaining marinade. Turn to coat the other side, cover, and let marinate in the fridge for at least 4 hours.
 4. Remove steak from marinade and let excess marinade drip off.
- Sprinkle the steak lightly with salt and pepper.
5. Light grill and oil grates with olive oil.
 6. Grill steak over moderate heat for 10–12 minutes, turning halfway through, until steak is lightly charred and the internal temperature reaches 125 F.
 7. Let the steak rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice, drizzle reserved sauce, and serve.

Inspired by FoodAndWine.com



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"We're so grateful for all the feedback on our newsletter! If you have anything you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you."

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BEAM ME UP, LUCY

HOW LUCILLE BALL SAVED 'STAR TREK' IN THE 1960S

Did you know that Lucille Ball — the iconic comedian best known for her 1950s show "I Love Lucy" — is the reason "Star Trek" exists today? Ball was a Hollywood force in the '50s and '60s, and she produced hit after hit with her production company.

In fact, Desilu, co-founded by Ball and her then-husband, Desi Arnaz, was responsible for hits like "The Andy Griffith Show" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show." The two were partners in the company until their divorce in 1960, and in 1962, Ball took over Arnaz's share.



In that moment, Ball became one of the most powerful women in Hollywood, and Desilu, one of the biggest independent production companies at the time, had a lot of pull in the industry. In 1963, one of Desilu's biggest hits was coming to an end. "The Untouchables" was a crime drama starring Robert Stack. Ball needed a replacement, and two potential shows hit Ball's desk: "Star Trek" and "Mission: Impossible."

In 1965, Ball took the pitches to her longtime network collaborator, CBS. They said no to "Star Trek" (but yes to "Mission: Impossible"), but Ball wasn't about to give up on this new science fiction show, so she took it to NBC. The network was skeptical at first but ordered a pilot.

The pilot starred Jeffrey Hunter as Captain Pike and Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock. There was no James T. Kirk to be found — not yet, anyway. The pilot, titled "The Cage," was a disappointment. NBC executives weren't about to put it on air, but they decided to order a second pilot after Ball agreed to help finance it.

The second pilot starred William Shatner as Captain Kirk, and he was joined again by Leonard Nimoy as Spock. NBC executives liked what they saw. The new pilot, titled "Where No Man Has Gone Before," was put on NBC's fall schedule, though it wasn't the first episode aired on NBC. That honor went to the episode titled "The Man Trap," which aired on Sept. 8, 1966.

While Gene Roddenberry's original "Star Trek" only lasted three seasons, it went on to become a major TV and film franchise. One of its recent iterations, "Star Trek: Discovery," is about to enter its third season on the streaming service CBS All Access — all because Lucille Ball saw potential in a little show back in 1965.