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Solution

8	7	1	3	6	5	9	4	2
3	5	2	1	9	4	6	7	8
6	9	4	8	7	2	3	5	1
7	1	5	6	8	9	4	2	3
2	4	8	5	3	7	1	6	9
9	3	6	4	2	1	7	8	5
5	2	7	9	4	3	8	1	6
1	6	3	7	5	8	2	9	4
4	8	9	2	1	6	5	3	7



Italy has much to offer visitors, from the art and architecture of Rome to the vineyards of Tuscany. Tucked away in the country's northeast corner, however, is a unique cultural and geological wonder that many tourists miss.

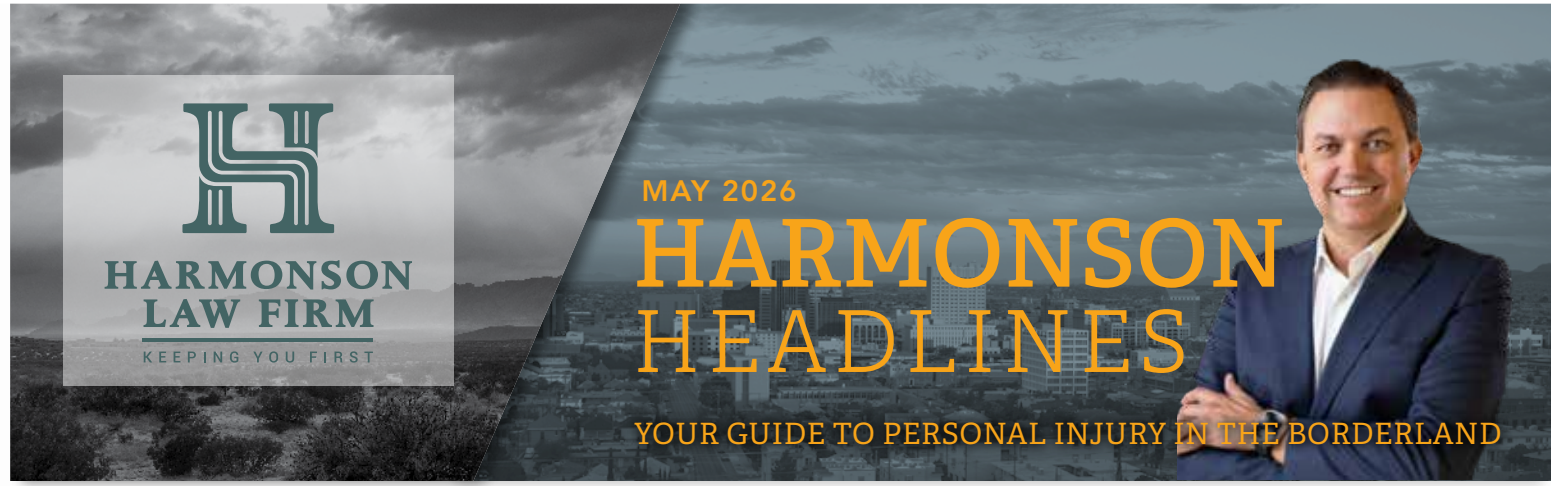
The Dolomites, a section of the Italian Alps known as "the pale mountains" for their light-colored rock, have much to offer. The region is home to three cultures, three languages, a melange of culinary traditions, and some of the world's best hiking trails. When naming the mountains a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2009, officials called them "some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes anywhere, with vertical walls, sheer cliffs, and a high density of narrow, deep, and long valleys."

A popular setting for winter sports events, the region encompasses three native cultures and a variety of ethnic cuisines. A traditional favorite among visitors is *canederli*, hearty bread dumplings served with a variety of meats and tomato, mushroom, or spinach sauces. *Speck* is a dry-cured, lightly smoked ham made in the area, and hearty mountain breads from local bakeries can sustain a hiker for a day.

The Dolomites are rich in cultural contrasts. The three languages spoken in the region have coequal status: Italian, German, and Ladin, an ancient form of Latin. Signs are written in both Italian and German. Visitors should also be prepared to adhere to strict mealtime and bus schedules, unlike the relaxed, more easygoing pace of southern Italy.

Traditional dress resembles Swiss, Austrian, or German styles, reflecting the region's history. For 550 years, a large part of the Dolomites was under Austro-Hungarian rule. During World War I, high-altitude "iron roads," or *via ferrata*, were built to help soldiers cross the rugged terrain. The entire region became part of Italy after World War I, but today, rusty remnants of the *via ferrata* remain, serving as ladders and guides for hikers traversing the high country.

The best hiking season in the region runs from June to October. And if you love awe-inspiring floral displays, arrive in July, the Dolomites' peak wildflower season.



Standing Up for Regular People

THE TRUTH ABOUT PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

I was helping with my Rotary Club not long ago when an older guy asked what I do for a living. I told him I was an injury lawyer, and he said, "Well, aren't you the one out chasing the ambulances?" I laughed because I don't think he was trying to be mean, but it's the kind of thing injury lawyers hear from time to time.

And look, I get where that comes from. I'm not naive about what's out there. You can't watch the evening news without seeing lawyers on TV, and you can't drive very far without passing billboards screaming about million-dollar injury cases. Some of that advertising gives us a bad reputation. It makes it look like this work is all about chasing the next buck.

What we really do is a lot different. Trial law gives regular people a voice when they are up against somebody bigger than they are. The right to a trial by jury in a civil case is in the Seventh Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That's not some minor technical detail. It's a uniquely American idea that if you have been wronged, you get to stand in front of a jury of your peers and ask to be heard.

Without that right, corporate interests, insurance companies, and big businesses would be free to run roughshod over people. For a lot of my clients, the courtroom is the one place where they actually have the right to hold those companies accountable. In some ways, trial lawyers are the last line of defense, or at least the best line of defense, for people who do not have much power on their own.

Most of my clients aren't wealthy people, and none of them is looking for a windfall. They are regular folks who got hurt and didn't deserve what happened to them. A lot of them don't have the kind of money or health insurance it takes to get the right medical care after a serious injury. A good trial lawyer can help with that. We can help people get treatment and then fight to get them the money they need to make things right in their lives.

That money isn't the Texas lottery either. Nobody is getting rich off being hurt, and nobody would trade places with a person who can't work, sleep, or go back to the life they had before. When a jury or insurance company pays a person money on a case, it's because something real was taken from them.



There's also a bigger aspect to injury law that goes beyond one person or one lawsuit. These cases can bring about change that benefits everyone. They push for safer products, safer hospitals, and safer roads. Ultimately, they force powerful institutions to follow the rules instead of cutting corners and hoping no one notices.

So, when somebody makes an "ambulance chaser" joke, I try not to take offense. I understand where the image comes from, but the truth about personal injury law is much different from what some people might think. At its best, this work is about standing up for everyday people and making sure the powerful don't get to write their own rules.



SCAN TO SHARE
YOUR CASE — WE'RE
HERE TO HELP!

— Clark Harmonson

TURNING ORDINARY DAYS INTO PHOTO ADVENTURES

Is your family stuck in a rut of doing the same activities over and over? If you're looking for something new and fun, try a family photo challenge. Instead of everyone staring at different screens, you pick a theme, grab whatever cameras you have, and go hunting for pictures together.

The idea is simple. For a set amount of time, everyone takes photos that match the theme. When time is up, you sit down, share your shots, and talk about what you saw. Kids get to explore, notice small details, and feel proud when it is their turn to show a favorite picture.

A good theme keeps things fun without being overwhelming. Look for one color around the house, take pictures of circles or stripes, or focus on the family pet for the day. You can try "tiny things," "funny faces," or "things that make you happy." Change the theme each weekend, and you have a ready-made activity you can keep coming back to.

To keep things on track, pick a time limit. Around 20-30 minutes is usually enough, but you can also go for an hour or even an entire afternoon. Everyone uses whatever camera they have. For many families, that means a phone or tablet. If younger kids are involved, they can pair up with an adult or older sibling to help take the photos when it's their turn.

After the set time limit is up, gather everyone together and share what you captured. You can turn it into a gallery show by plugging the device into the TV, or simply pass the devices around and take turns sharing 2-3 favorite photos. The mood should stay light and fun so everyone feels comfortable sharing and explaining what made them focus on a particular object.

Along with being a great way to spend time together, a family photo challenge can also help you create lasting memories. You can save the photos online in a shared album or even print your favorites and add them to a bulletin board. Over time, you'll end up with a visual record of the fun little adventures and inside jokes your family created together.



PROFIT OVER PATIENTS

THE HUMAN COST OF UNDERSTAFFING

Some of the most serious hospital mistakes start with something simple being missed, and the cause is often a staffing issue. Large hospital systems like HCA and Tenet make a lot of money by valuing profit over people. One way they can maximize those profits is by cutting staffing. And this isn't just my impression. Staffing shortages are a major problem in Texas.

A recent Texas Hospital Association survey found that 64% of hospitals in the state were operating with fewer beds and reduced services because of nurse staffing shortages. When hospitals get stretched too thin, the first thing that suffers is basic patient care. People don't get watched closely enough, and safety steps get skipped. In plain terms, patients don't get the kind of attention they need.

One place I see this issue is in cases involving bedsores. We've had a rash of them, and they often come down to the same problem. A patient is bed-bound, staff is stretched thin, and the routine repositioning that's required under federal regulations doesn't happen enough. I also had a recent case involving a 30-year-old woman whose life was forever



changed after what was alleged to be a simple mistake with an IV line. She ended up having a major stroke.

Situations like these are a reminder that even ordinary safety steps matter. I know most nurses and hospital staff are trying to do right by their patients, but when a facility asks too few people to do too much, care suffers and the margin for error gets a lot bigger.

Of course, short staffing isn't the main factor behind every bad outcome in a health care setting. Still, it is a major problem that can lead to serious mistakes. And when a patient is neglected or suffers a preventable injury because a hospital did not provide the staffing needed for safe care, that shouldn't be brushed off as just an unfortunate outcome. Families deserve answers, and hospitals ought to be held accountable when cutting corners puts patients in danger.



Sizzling Chinese Pepper Steak With Onions

INGREDIENTS

Steak

- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp oyster sauce
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 lb beef strips (sirloin or rib eye)
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil, separated

- 1 large onion, sliced
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Steamed rice or noodles

Sauce

- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 2 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp cornstarch

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together soy sauce, oyster sauce, ginger, garlic, and sesame oil.
2. Toss beef strips in marinade; let sit 10-15 minutes.
3. In a skillet over medium heat, heat 1 tbsp vegetable oil, then add sliced onions.
4. Sauté until soft, slightly caramelized; season with salt and pepper, remove from pan, and set aside.
5. In the same skillet, heat 2 tbsp vegetable oil over high heat.
6. Add marinated beef strips; stir-fry for 2-3 minutes until browned.
7. In a small bowl, whisk together soy sauce, hoisin sauce, rice vinegar, and cornstarch.
8. Pour sauce over beef and simmer until thickened.
9. Add sautéed onions back into pan; stir to combine.
10. Serve hot over steamed rice or noodles.

SUDOKU

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SOLUTION ON PG. 4

SLOW DOWN AND STAY ALERT

A Timely Reminder for Texas Drivers

May is a happy time for families. School is wrapping up, summer is getting close, and everybody is a little more distracted than usual. That's exactly why drivers need to slow down and pay attention. Routines start to loosen up, but kids are still walking through school zones, crossing parking lots, and stepping off curbs.

This isn't just a general safety reminder. In 2024, Texas had 781 traffic crashes in school zones, which led to two deaths and 17 serious injuries. Driver inattention, speed, and failure to yield were the top causes. Texas also had 2,480 crashes involving school buses that year. Those resulted in 11 deaths and 93 serious injuries. Again, inattention and speed were leading factors.

Those numbers stand out to me because I have seen what these cases look like up close. I've represented families where children were struck outside schools, and I've represented a family where a mother was killed in a parking lot. These aren't freak accidents. Many of them are avoidable.

A lot of danger shows up in places people think of as low speed and low risk. But anyone who's been around them knows that school parking lots, pickup lanes, crosswalks, and the areas just outside campus can get chaotic fast. A driver might be looking for a parking spot, watching for their own child, checking a phone, or trying to beat the line, and that's all it takes.

The good news is that these types of accidents are easy to prevent. First, slow down inside school zones. Speeds are reduced in those areas for a reason. Also, don't assume you have a clear path ahead of you just because traffic is moving. Be particularly careful near buses, crosswalks, and parking lots where kids and parents may step out quickly.

These precautions are just as important as we head into summer. We might not have to watch for buses and students on the way to school, but more kids will be out riding bikes, crossing streets, and playing outside during the day. Practicing a little patience and staying attentive behind the wheel will go a long way toward keeping the season fun and safe for everyone.

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