

# Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

## From the Captain's Log Hello Outer Banks



I had to go to the Federal Court in NC last month to be sworn in for representation of my numerous US Marine veterans in their Camp Lejeune Water Contamination cases. The Camp Lejeune Act was passed to allow those veterans to have access to a little justice for the cancer-causing contaminated water that was pumped into their barracks by the US Government for decades. The US Government had been studying the effects of this toxic water for years, but did not tell the US Marines about the contaminated until after the regular Statute of Limitations had passed. Congress then passed the Camp Lejeune Justice Act to extend that Statute of Limitations, but all cases had to have Administrative Notices filed with Navy-JAG by 8/10/24, and then

court filings by 2025. To file those cases I had to physically go to NC to be sworn in the Federal Court in NC, so on the plane I went. By happenstance, my youngest son and his family were vacationing on the Outer Banks, so I spent a few days on my Camp Lejeune mission, and then stayed with his family at his beach rental. Having owned some land on the Outer Banks, we took the ferry to visit the property and the kids (and now grandchildren) enjoyed the ferry. After that I spent some time with the family of a dear NC friend who died unexpectedly in 2022, leaving a widow and (2) young boys. Our respectful families have spent considerable time together over the years playing in the sand and waves off the wonderful beaches of the Outer Banks so taking a few days to visit and reminisce was great, even got in some mini golf and fierce competition among the children. This traveling stuff can be exhausting. ●

### August 2024 News





# Gender Breakdown on Car Crashes

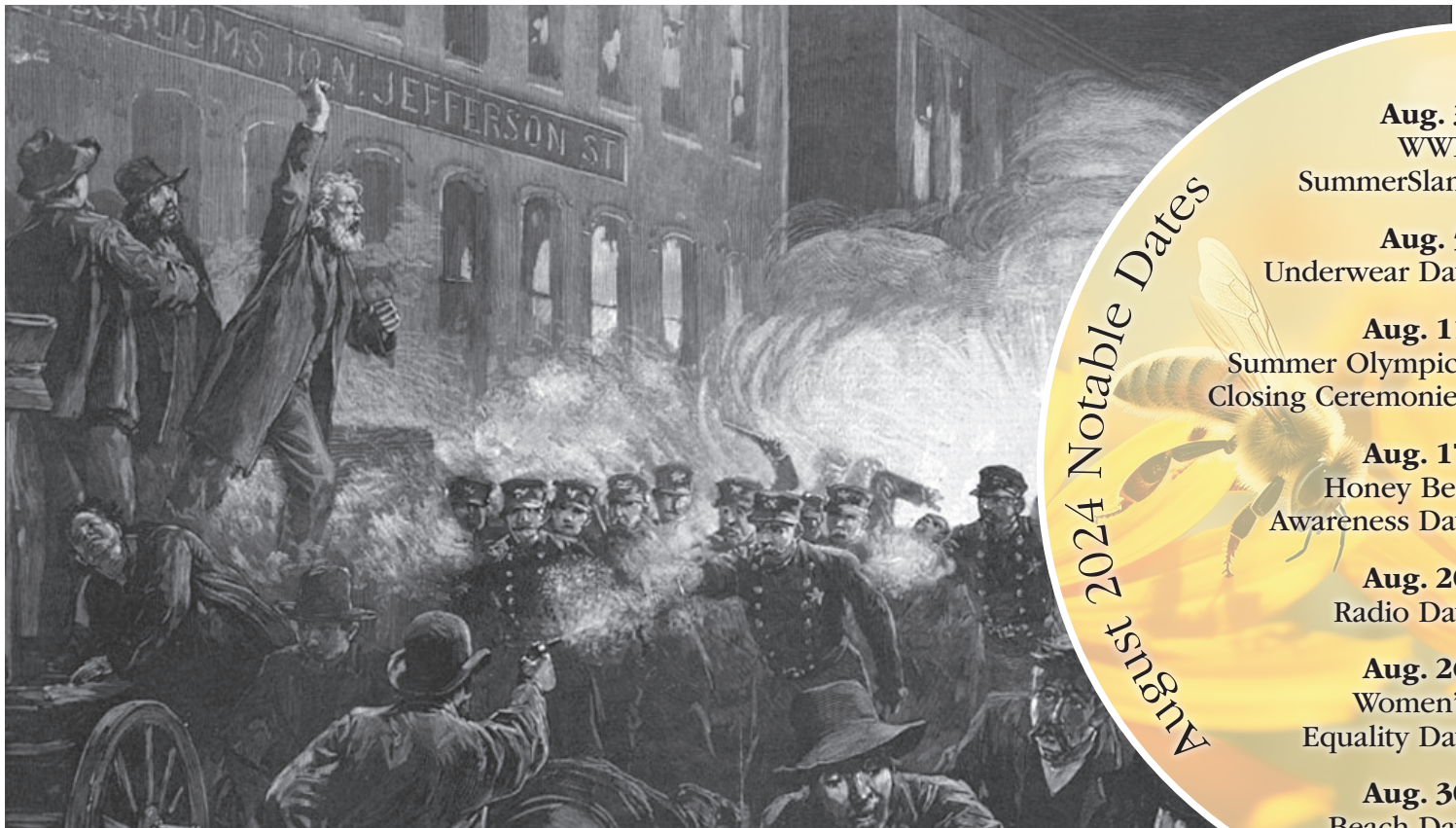
In 2021, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released a study of thousands of car accidents spanning 1998–2015 to determine the effect gender has on car accident injury rates. Here are some highlights.

Men are much more likely than women to be involved in vehicular accidents — they drive approximately 60% more miles per year than women (16,500 to 10,100) and suffer more overall injuries. In addition, men also generally have a more aggressive driving style and account for nearly 70% of driver crash involvements, a shade over 70% of driver fatalities, and 79% of all of drunk-driving and speeding-related fatalities. Men also, on average, drive larger vehicles such as SUVs and pickup trucks, which, although offering additional protection, also have more blind spots and are less maneuverable, leading to more accidents.

Women, on a per-accident basis, are 20%–28% more likely to die in a crash than men and 37%–73% more likely to be seriously injured. Women drive smaller, lighter cars than men — which is how marketing efforts are oriented — and are more likely to be occupying a vehicle that is struck by another driver. In smaller cars, they are more prone to taking a direct hit rather than their car absorbing the blow.

Overall, biological differences between men and women seemingly have little influence on injury rates, with one major exception: elevated whiplash injuries to women due to improper seatbelt positioning. Many car manufacturers don't account for women's different neck ligament structures or chest shapes during seatbelt testing/design. Instead, they simply tend to treat women like smaller men.

If you are injured due to another driver's negligence, contact our firm to safeguard your rights. •



August 2024 Notable Dates

**Aug. 3**  
WWE  
SummerSlam

**Aug. 5**  
Underwear Day

**Aug. 11**  
Summer Olympics  
Closing Ceremonies

**Aug. 17**  
Honey Bee  
Awareness Day

**Aug. 20**  
Radio Day

**Aug. 26**  
Women's  
Equality Day

**Aug. 30**  
Beach Day

## Working Toward Labor Day

In the late 19th century, U.S. industry was booming. Millions left their farms and moved to the cities to work in factories, mills, stockyards, shipping centers, mines, and railroads. However, 80-hour workweeks, low wages, few days off, and dangerous work environments eventually became a pressure cooker. Labor unions formed to improve workers' lots.

Two strains of pushback developed, and Chicago was a flash point. Some were content to fight for worker unionization and improved pay and working conditions. Others advanced a more radical agenda: toppling the government and instituting a new economic order to replace capitalism.

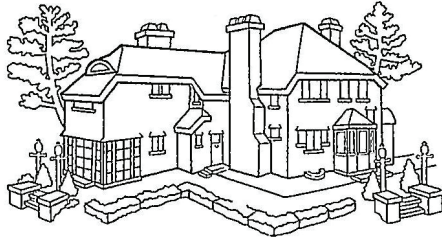
On May 4, radicals held a protest rally in Haymarket Square in response to a picket-line skirmish three days earlier in which two lives were lost upon police intervention. A homemade bomb was hurled at police, killing one officer; fellow officers responded by firing wildly into the crowd. Over a dozen people lost their lives.

Internationally, protesters killed in the "Haymarket Affair" became martyrs. Primarily socialists, communists, and trade unionists around the world established International Workers' Day in their honor, celebrated on May 1 (a.k.a. May Day).

The Pullman Strike of 1894, also in Chicago, spurred Congress and President Cleveland to act. Strikers from the Pullman Palace Car Company (a manufacturer of railway cars) were supported by the American Railway Union, who refused to utilize Pullman cars. Rail travel ground to a near halt and caused widespread shipping delays and lost business revenue. Federal troops were summoned, violence erupted, and a public relations nightmare ensued.

Out of the chaos emerged Labor Day, an ode to American workers celebrated on the first Monday in September to distinguish it from May Day and its radical underpinnings. It's a nice day off, but there's a lot more to it than a burger and beer. ●

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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



Hello Outer  
Banks

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## Probate Fraud

There are a number of shenanigans that can go on with wills and estates, and the administration thereof. Prior to the death of the testator (the person who made the will), there are instances of undue influence—when someone manipulates, coerces, or intimidates the testator to craft their will a certain way to reap the financial benefits.

But fraud can rear its ugly head after the passing of the testator and at the beginning stages of probate—the method by which an estate is administered and processed through the legal system. It may go unnoticed since the rightful heirs have a lot on their minds surrounding the emotional loss of a loved one. Here are a few examples:

A child written out of a will may try to obtain a copy of an old will in which he/she was still a beneficiary and submit it to probate in an attempt to receive property they're not entitled to.

Some people aren't above drafting a fake will or codicil (an addition to a will) and entering it into probate.

An executor is instructed to leave an estate to charity. However, the wayward executor may substitute cheap imitations of property and make off with the authentic items (e.g., antique furniture).

A child of the deceased may enter the deceased's home without permission and remove valuable items before the probate process has officially begun.

If the deceased did not have a will, some rightful heirs may intentionally omit other legitimate heirs on the probate petition to inflate their share of the estate.

If you suspect probate fraud, contact an experienced probate attorney to protect your rights. ●

