



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Over the River and thru the Ditch to Grammy's house we go



Most people do not know that you can sail from the east coast of FL to the west coast of FL - smack dab through the middle of the State. You start out in the ICW on the Atlantic side, then pass through Stuart FL into the Indian River, then onto the St Lucie River, then thru the South Fork into the St. Lucie Canal, when you hit Port Mayaca you cross Lake Okeechobee to the Clewiston Locks on the other side, then hard starboard and follow the rim canal northerly to Moore Haven where a hard to port puts you onto the Caloosahatchee Canal, then into the Caloosahatchee River towards Ft. Myers/Cape Coral and into the Gulf of **Mexico**.

Now that all this boring seamanship has been laid out, it is really an adventure like no other. On this trip we were bringing a newly purchased Defever '49 from its Ft. Lauderdale dock to its new dock at my mom's house in Cape Coral. It is a 4-day passage across what is called "the ditch". I pulled together a rag-tag crew of other boat captains that I call friends, and we filled the lockers with enough food (and alcohol) to last a week - just in case. While the boat was surveyed by supposed "professional surveyors" it turned out that most of the navigation electronics were inoperable, so we only had depth and compass. Not having a functioning chart plotter made navigating the shoals along the ICW and "the ditch" interesting, and we bounced the bottom a few times, fortunately it is only mud. We also had a "steering snafu" with a junior captain at the helm one day that took us into a mangrove swamp, we had a strict "no alcohol until the anchor drops" policy so the steering mishap was not attributable to drinking. Along the way we feasted like kings and saw some pretty amazing sights. There are (5) locks you must traverse, which brings you up to the level of Lake Okeechobee on the east and then drops you down to the level of the Caloosahatchee River to the west. Along the way, between somewhere and nowhere, we saw



mansions with helicopters in the backyard, full size bronze statues of racehorses in the front yard, and a few McLaren's and Porsche's to boot, the money in them parts is crazy. At the midway point we stopped in the sleepy town of Labelle FL and splurged on an overnight dock and went to the local grill for some tasty steaks and whiskey. We all arrived in Cape Coral no worse for wear and pulled up to my mom's dock with all her neighbors staring out their backyards, wondering who my mom's new very rich boyfriend was. We had to burst their bubble when she told him it was her son and crew. •

April 2025 News





Never Means Never

In healthcare settings, “never events” are egregious and shocking errors that take place which are clearly identifiable and entirely preventable — they should never happen.

Never events are considered rare, but they still occur far more frequently than most people realize. In a Johns Hopkins study spanning the years 1990–2010, approximately 80,000 never events occurred in U.S. hospitals (it’s likely many others went unreported).

In 2011, the National Quality Forum, an independent healthcare quality assurance organization, categorized never events that cause injury or death into seven classifications:

- **Surgical never events** include foreign objects left in patients; the wrong surgical procedure performed; and wrong-site surgeries.
- **Defective product never events** cover contaminated drugs or devices used during a procedure, and products being utilized incorrectly.
- **Care management never events** run the gamut from medication errors, failure to communicate lab results to a patient, and unsafe administration of blood products, to the wrong donor sperm or egg used in artificial insemination, and childbirth injuries in low-risk pregnancy situations.
- **Environmental never events** comprise unsafe healthcare settings and include patient injuries due to electric shock, burns, and other hazards.
- **Patient protection never events** encompass scenarios such as patients who are discharged who are unable to make their own decisions or a patient’s disappearance from a healthcare facility.
- **Radiological never events** are the most recent ones added to the list. One example is a metal object located within the area where an MRI is being performed.
- **Criminal never events** can include someone impersonating a medical professional, patient abuse, and patient abduction.

Facilities attempt to cover these events up or try to sweep them under the rug. If you or someone you know has been injured by medical malpractice, you need a skilled, thoughtful, and experienced attorney on your side to fight for you. Please contact our firm to discuss your case. •



‘A Tradition Unlike Any Other’ — Jim Nantz, CBS Sports

The Masters golf tournament, held the first full week of April at Georgia’s famed Augusta National Golf Club, is rich in history and quirkiness.

Prior to the first Masters in 1934, the grounds of Augusta National had been a plant nursery for 70+ years. As such, Augusta National names each hole after a tree, flower, or shrub. Azaleas get top billing.

To maintain a pristine look for television, patches of grass beginning to brown are painted green for the cameras. Cups, sandwich wrappers, trash bags, and trash cans are all green so as to hide any refuse from viewers at home.

The idyllic setting of Augusta National is accompanied by incessant songbird vocalizations. Sounds can be deceiving, though; CBS acknowledges that they pipe in the audio for an enhanced viewer experience (a common trick of the broadcasting industry).

Other illusions include the wondrous sheen of the course’s water hazards. In 1996, a player/journalist covertly collected a water sample and had it tested. The results showed a significant presence of blue food coloring. The bunker “sand” that pops brilliant white on television is in fact granulated quartz exclusive to a small region in North Carolina.

Augusta National has precise rules on language. There are no “fans,” only “patrons.” No “bleachers,” only “observation stands.” No “sand traps,” only “bunkers.” You won’t hear the word “championship” on air either. A stern reprimand, or firing, has greeted violators in the past.

During tournament week, cameras can be used during practice rounds only. Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are prohibited entirely. If you’re caught using one, a swift ejection is in your immediate future.

Me, not a fan – I’ll stick with the World Series or Super Bowl – thank you. •

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



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This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

Lithium Batteries: Impactful in Many Ways



Let's give lithium batteries their due. They store large amounts of energy in small, compact forms; provide power and hold a charge under storage for extended periods of time; have lengthy lifespans; can be quickly recharged; require no maintenance; and perform better at cold temperatures than lead-acid batteries.

They are prominent in many household items: laptops/tablets; power tools; digital cameras; game controllers; and electric cars, bikes, and scooters, to name a few.

Lithium batteries can also combust and explode, resulting in serious injury or death. Statistically speaking, this is a rarity, but news headlines over the past 20+ years are evidence that the problem can't be overlooked. A phenomenon called "thermal runaway" is at the heart of the matter. Thermal runaway occurs when a lithium battery's internal temperature and pressure rise more quickly than can be dissipated, eventually leading to combustion and possibly explosions.

Lithium battery fires burn intensely, sometimes reaching 1,500°F, and are difficult to extinguish — water and fire extinguishers are typically ineffective and might make things worse. Upon combustion, toxic gases are also released. Even when a fire appears to be extinguished, lithium batteries are notorious for reigniting. Explosions can cause devastating shrapnel injuries to anyone in the vicinity.

Physical damage to a battery (e.g., dropping, crushing, puncturing), using an incompatible charger, charging a battery too long, subjecting a battery to extreme temperatures, and design and manufacturing defects can trigger lithium battery fires, as can saltwater (corrosion and short-circuiting). In the wake of Hurricane Helene, Florida reported over 60 lithium battery-related fires caused by storm-surge flooding.

There is engineering underway to develop a new kind of lithium battery that avoids this hazard, but until that product is rolled out to the consumers, if you suffer harm due to a defective product, contact our firm to protect your rights. ●