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September 2021

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A History of the Mystery Spot

The most famous mystery spot is in Santa Cruz, California, but it has cousins in Oregon, West Virginia, and Michigan. Each one is inexplicable — drawing thousands of people every year to come and spend their tourist dollars. And for many, the whole thing is just one big hoax, designed to take in suckers and generate cash.

Although Santa Cruz has the most visitors, it was “inspired” by the Oregon Vortex, which was a spot that had odd occurrences “documented” back to the early frontier days. From a mining office sliding off its foundation to the high presence of optical illusions, the Vortex was the home to some odd events. Naturally, the thing to do was build a structure there and start taking people’s money!

It’s not a coincidence that these locations began to pop up at the same time as the average American

got access to automobiles — “roadside attractions” of all kinds have been the rage since people began to tour America by car, and it’s pretty clear that, real or not, these mystery spots fall into that category. That’s why many of them have updated over the years to suit changing tastes — such as the Michigan St. Ignace Mystery Spot’s addition of zip lines and other attractions.

And unlike many other roadside attractions, mystery spots continue to draw attention. Something in the American psyche loves the idea of the paranormal; Google “Europe mystery spots” and you’re likely to discover lists of unique vacation destinations. Perhaps they recapture the “paradise is just over the hill” mystery that in part drove colonization of the American West.

Or perhaps it’s all a bunch of hooey. The best way to decide, of course, is to visit one of these mystery spots for yourself!



We're Walking to End Alzheimer's!
Will You Join Us?

Every fall, the Alzheimer’s Association holds a huge event in Brighton. It’s called the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, and whenever it pops up on the calendar, my team and I make a point to be there. We have all had family members and other loved ones who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or dementia themselves or have been impacted by the disease. What is the Association’s vision? *“A world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.”* What better way to show support than to gather with an amazing group of people committed to changing the world?

Alzheimer’s is complicated from both a legal and family perspective. Over the years, we have worked with countless families to help with elder law, estate planning, asset protection, and long-term care issues. This involves, among other things, options for home care, care outside of the home, financial planning, and steps necessary to avoid the devastating care costs that accompany any progressive disease. It’s tough to think about those steps, but it’s far better to plan ahead than to end up spending thousands of dollars like many people we have seen who ended up in a crisis situation with little or no upfront planning.

Joining the Walk to End Alzheimer’s every year is inspiring. For one thing, our effort raises money for a great cause. The Alzheimer’s Association uses it to fund awareness campaigns and research treatments. For another, the walk itself is beautiful. It’s a tradition for people to carry flowers



of different colors if they have been personally affected by Alzheimer’s, lost a loved one to the disease, or have a close friend or family member with the diagnosis. Each flower’s color signifies how Alzheimer’s impacted the person carrying it. Taken together, the thousands of flowers turn the walk into a living, moving rainbow.

This year’s walk is happening on Saturday, Oct. 2, and I can’t wait to be there in person again. Last year, because of COVID-19, we had to do a virtual walk, so everyone went outside and walked around their own neighborhoods. I was still happy to support the cause, but I definitely missed the flowers and the camaraderie.

Speaking of camaraderie, my team and I would love to see you at the walk this year! A handful of clients and friends always join us, and it’s great to get together outside of the office and do something positive for the community.

Whether or not Alzheimer’s has directly touched your life, we’d love to have you on our team. Of course, you can donate to the cause if you want, but that’s not necessary to walk with us. In fact, we have committed to making a donation for each additional friend and client who comes out and walks with us this year.

To learn more about the walk and how you can join us, call our office or email julie@mtolaw.com. More people, more fun, more support! Please come out and let’s walk together!

Want to join our fundraising team?
Call our office at 888.487.6150 or email Julie at julie@mtolaw.com!

—Glenn Matecun

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

Remembering the Heroes Amid the Tragedy

THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE WHO SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES ON 9/11

As we approach its 20th anniversary, Sept. 11, 2001, remains one of the darkest days in American history. Almost 3,000 people lost their lives when terrorists flew passenger airplanes into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. The infrastructural damage was severe, but the damage done to thousands of families across the country was even worse.

While 9/11 remains a day of remembrance of these tragic events, it should also be a day to remember the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to save others. These are just a few of their stories.

Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney

After five al-Qaida terrorists hijacked American Airlines Flight 11, Ong and Sweeney, two flight

attendants, used the crew phone to call their colleagues and give them information about their attackers, including what they looked like and what seats they had been sitting in. Both attendants perished, but the information they shared helped the FBI jump-start their investigation.

Rick Rescorla

A Vietnam veteran who had earned a silver star for his service, Rescorla was no stranger to stressful life and death situations. As the head of corporate security for Morgan Stanley in the South Tower, he defied orders from Port Authority to stay put and instead escorted 2,700 people out of the building before it collapsed. After that, he headed back in to look for stragglers. That was the last time anyone saw him.



Passengers of Flight 93

While two planes hit the World Trade Center towers and one plane hit the Pentagon, another plane that headed for the White House never reached its destination. That's because passengers aboard this flight, upon learning their plane had been hijacked, decided to rush the cockpit and overtake the terrorists. They caused the plane to crash in an empty field in Pennsylvania, saving the White House but killing everyone on board.

Sad though their deaths may be, these heroic men and women continue to inspire people even 20 years later. We should never forget the tragedy of 9/11, but we should also remember these regular people who decided to take extraordinary lengths to save others.



Prepping for an Empty Nest?

3 Things to Do Before Your Graduate Leaves

Congratulations to parents sending their children off to college or "the real world" this year! Parenthood is not for the faint of heart — from toddler meltdowns to angsty teenage years, you might be counting down the days to an empty nest.

Yet, that doesn't make your child moving off to college any easier.

Fear not, for you can help your child live more independently at college in many ways and give yourself peace of mind knowing that your baby is going to be fine.

Prepare Legal Documents

Once they turn 18, your child is no longer under your care — legally speaking. You can no longer make decisions for them, including medical decisions, should they become incapacitated and unable to make their own decisions. Connect with a trusted attorney to create medical and financial powers of attorney that give you these rights. (Just consult with your child first before doing so!)

Cover the Household Basics

If there's one thing to look forward to, it's all the laundry

you won't have to do anymore. And the fridge will be fully stocked without ravenous teens emptying it regularly! But before you drop your child off at college or their new home, make sure they can manage laundry, cook basic meals, and keep a tidy space. Some basics to cover include the difference between hot and cold wash and how to make scrambled eggs.

Make a Budget

Living as a broke young adult is almost like a rite of passage to "real" adulthood, but you can make this experience easier just by opening that often taboo door and talking about money. Explain the processes or budgeting systems that work for your family and guide your child through their potential living expenses. Try test runs so they understand how much they will have to spend on necessities, like groceries, hygiene items, and gas.

Pro Tip: Before your children take off, don't forget to schedule one more dental appointment! A dentist can set up recurring appointments during breaks to ensure their oral health is never compromised.

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Solution on Pg. 4

Helpful Resources

• Is your estate plan up to date?

Ask us about our **FREE** estate planning checklist. Call our office or email Julie@MTOLaw.com.

• Don't miss our upcoming estate planning and elder law workshops.

Our website has our entire educational calendar for the year.

• Learn about estate planning and elder law topics in plain English.

Check out our Elder Care Whiteboard Videos at MichiganEstatePlans.com.

• Let us be your trusted advisor for all your legal matters.

Do you need help with your financial goals, investment management, or retirement planning? Glenn has partnered with his personal financial advisor, Brad Jerome, to bring expert financial services to our clients. Brad meets with you right in our office — no cost, no obligation, and no pressure. Just an opportunity to discuss your goals with a top-notch financial advisor to see where your path might lead. You can reach Brad directly at 517.301.3070.



By Celebrating National Grandparents' Day!

You've probably celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day all your life, but what about National Grandparents Day? The holiday is coming up on Sunday, Sept. 12, and in our opinion, every family in Michigan should celebrate it. The bond between grandparents and grandchildren is special, and it deserves a day of its own!

Whether you're a grandparent yourself or have kids and parents to bring together, consider planning one of these fun family activities for National Grandparents Day.

Visit The Chelsea TreeHouse.

Younger, more nimble grandparents and little grandchildren will have a blast at The Chelsea TreeHouse, a 9,000-square-foot indoor play center in Chelsea. Kids of all ages are welcome to scramble around on the slides, brave the swinging bridges, and explore the treehouse. Adults can join the fun, too! (Visit TheChelseaTreehouse.com to hear more.) If you'd rather not monkey around that much, the **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum** is another fun, interactive spot to explore.

Catch a movie at Historic Howell Theater.

This local landmark has been in business since 1928, and as of June 22, it's back to operating at full capacity! Grandparents and grandkids of all ages can find hours of entertainment at the theater. Visit HistoricHowellTheater.com to find out what's playing and pick a movie for the whole family. Best of all, tickets for seniors cost just \$7 and kids age 3–12 can see a film for \$5. If live-action performances are more your speed, **Community Theatre of Howell** is another good choice for a get-together.

Explore Howell Nature Center.

Is your family full of animal lovers? Then a visit to Howell Nature Center will be perfect for you! The center offers a top-notch teaching zoo, hands-on Nature Zone activities, views of birds of prey at the **DTE and Bishop Raptor Centers**, a beautiful picnic area, hiking trails, a natural children's play area, and more. Head to HowellNatureCenter.org/Plan-Your-Visit to learn more.

