

FLATTMANN FILES

September 2019

“Quality Is No Accident”

FROM THE DESK OF Grady Flattmann

This month marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of our law firm, Grady J. Flattmann, Attorneys at Law! To the hundreds of clients we have had the privilege of helping over the years, thank you for your trust and confidence in our firm.

We owe everything to you.

Now for the BIG NEWS! We are excited to announce that our office has moved to a new location at 213 W 21st Ave. in Covington, just a few blocks away from our former location.

Since its inception, our firm has been dedicated to providing the best client experience possible. Our new office will allow us to expand even more on that promise. In the years to come, we will continue to redefine the attorney-client relationship and exceed client expectations.

Thank you again to all of our clients, colleagues, friends, and family for all of your support throughout the years. Here's to the future of Flattmann Law!



Grady



LEAVING FOR THE LEAVES WHERE TO VACATION FOR PEAK FALL FOLIAGE

Humans have built some pretty spectacular things on this planet, but there's nothing quite as stunning as the simple perfection of a tree. They're beautiful year-round, but fall is the time when trees don their best dresses, lining the nation's highways and hills in eye-catching shades of red, orange, yellow, and gold.

If strolling through a grove of colorful trees is one of your favorite fall activities, then it might be time for a pilgrimage in search of the most colorful foliage America has to offer. Autumn is an underrated travel season, so airfare to the top leaf-lined places in the country is more affordable than you think. There are also plenty of prime destinations, so whether you'd like to trek far away or search out stunning fall colors close to home, there's sure to be something out there for you. Here are a few of the best spots to visit for postcard-quality views in each region.



**THE NORTHEAST:
THE KANCAMAGUS HIGHWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

New England is famous for its autumn leaves, but among its dozens of vacation-worthy destinations, a drive down Kancamagus Highway (which locals call “The Kanc”) should be at the top of your to-do list in the first few weeks of October. Dubbed “The Ultimate New Hampshire Fall Foliage Drive” by New England Foliage, the 30-mile journey offers gorgeous views of tree-lined rivers and ponds, a route through a mountain pass, and plenty of stop-offs for photography, hiking, and camping.

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**THE SOUTHEAST:
THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS, GEORGIA**

Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains cool down a bit in the fall, but the temperatures are far from the frosts of New England. Mixed with the gorgeous colors, that warmth is the perfect recipe for backpacking or hiking in short sleeves. Visit in mid- to late-October to go leaf-spotting on the Appalachian Trail, then stay to take in the majesty of Amicalola Falls and raise a glass around the campfire.



**THE MIDWEST:
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

This sleepy Wisconsin county is a true getaway in the fall, when summer activities give way to seasonal offerings, like farmers markets, fall festivals, birdwatching tours, and apple picking. Complementing the fun is autumn foliage so beautiful that the county offers a regularly updated Fall Color Report to help visitors time their vacations just right. Check it out at doorcounty.com before booking your trip.



**THE SOUTHWEST:
THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE SCENIC BYWAY, NEW MEXICO**

Though it is perhaps the last region you'd think to migrate for fall leaves, the Southwest is home to one of the most unique and colorful drives in the country: The Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway. The byway circles Wheeler Peak, New Mexico's tallest mountain, and its leafy vistas are home to 2-billion-year-old quartz and feldspar, an Old West melodrama theater, a fish hatchery, and an abundance of local art. Visit in late September or early October for the best colors.



**THE WEST:
ASPEN, COLORADO**

Here's a tip: If a town is named after a tree, it's a good bet the trees there are worth visiting. Aspen lives up to its moniker each autumn when its namesake trees blaze bright yellow against deep emerald evergreens. Mid- to late-September is the best time to visit for the full effect and is also the perfect time to bike, hike, golf, or fly fish before the Colorado winter sets in.



JUST ONE MORE BITE *How the Clean Plate Phenomenon May Be Killing Your Diet*

As you celebrate your last backyard barbecue, consider this: If someone puts three helpings of potato salad on your plate, would you feel pressured to finish it? According to nutrition experts, this pressure to finish your plate is making people indulge a little too much.

Dubbed the "clean plate phenomenon," this overindulgence is troubling. Researchers have discovered that people feel pressured to clean their plates even when they feel satisfied or full. Even people who don't fill their plates all the way often reach for that last piece or second helping because "one more bite won't hurt." Experts speculate that this compulsion could have stemmed from habits passed down from World War II, when rationing food was required for most, or from a fear of wasting food. Most people have, at some point, heard an adult say to a child, "Eat up; there are starving children in the world."

But all those "one more bites" add up. Researchers from Vanderbilt University conducted a study in which participants were served individual plates with any number of cookies piled on top. They were instructed to

eat three cookies, and afterward, researchers asked each of them if they wanted more. Those who had only one or two cookies left on their plates were more likely to indulge in a fourth or fifth cookie, while those who had no cookies left or had too many cookies left said they were full.

Despite what you think about your own diet, this isn't a problem sequestered to certain parties. Studies have found that plates and portion sizes in the U.S. have increased by about 20% since the 1970s. The same psychology that propelled humans to eat just a little bit more to survive is now contributing to serious overeating and a staggering calorie intake.

There are a few simple tricks you can use to break this habit. Use smaller plates or measure out your food portions so you can clean your plate without guilt. You can also get into the habit of leaving a few bites on your plate to retrain your brain that it's okay to not finish your food. (You can use your leftover food for compost or save it for later!) With a little effort and intention, you *can* break free of the pressure to clean your plate.

What Happened in Reed Springs?

HOW A SMALL TOWN WENT BANKRUPT OVER A POTHOLE

In 2002, the quaint town of Reed Springs, Missouri, declared bankruptcy. The hard decision came after the town was forced to pay \$100,000 to Sally Stewart, a woman who sued Reed Springs after she tripped over a pothole during a shopping trip. News of a greedy woman ruining a small village to make a quick buck sparked outrage across the country. But Stewart wasn't the real villain of this story. A little digging into this case reveals a much deeper conspiracy.

Stewart had been visiting Reed Springs in 1998 when she tripped over a pothole hidden beneath some overgrown grass on the sidewalk. But this was no small stumble. Stewart tore two ligaments in her ankle and had to undergo surgery. To help pay for the medical bills, Stewart, who'd never sued anyone before, initially filed a personal injury lawsuit against the owners of the store in front of the pothole. However, the Missouri Court of Appeals determined the city of Reed Springs was liable for Stewart's injuries.

The court ordered Reed Springs to pay Stewart \$100,000, over half the city's annual budget. Despite the high price tag, in normal circumstances, this verdict wouldn't have forced Reed Springs to declare bankruptcy because the town's insurance would have covered the bill. Unfortunately, at the time of Stewart's accident, the mayor of Reed Springs was a corrupt man named Joe Dan Dwyer.



Dwyer left office while being investigated for insurance fraud, child pornography, statutory rape, witness bribery, and perjury, and he was later sentenced to seven years in federal prison. Among his many indiscretions, Dwyer also let the town's insurance policy lapse. Reed Springs didn't have insurance when Sally Stewart got hurt, which is why they had to write a check out of their own budget and ultimately declare bankruptcy.

In this case, what started as a simple pothole accident quickly unveiled the lasting damage of an unscrupulous politician. Perhaps this case serves as reminder about why it's important to vote in local elections.

Take a Break!

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Inspired by Food Network

Classic Apple Crisp

Ingredients

FILLING:

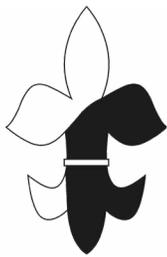
- 5 lbs Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and chopped
- 1/4 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

TOPPING:

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp chilled butter, cut into pieces
- 1/4 cup pecans, coarsely chopped

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 F.
2. In a mixing bowl, mix all filling ingredients together. Transfer to individual serving ramekins.
3. In a different mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt for the topping. Mix in butter until it forms lumps roughly the size of a pea, then stir in pecans. Sprinkle topping over filling.
4. Bake for 35–40 minutes, let stand for 10 minutes, and serve.



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THE KING OF STREAMS IS DEAD

With the conclusion of “Game of Thrones” earlier this year, the streaming industry looks eerily similar to the first season of HBO’s fantasy series. The king of binge-watching is dead. The once-proud house of HBO Now is trying desperately to maintain its dominance, but there’s plenty of streaming royalty vying for the crown. Most interesting of all are the different tactics these services are using to win over subscribers.

NETFLIX GETS IN THE ROBOT

The most venerable of the streaming houses, Netflix has spent the last two years courting a new ally: anime fans. This flirtation with Japanese animation reached a fever pitch in June with the re-release of 1995 cult classic “Neon Genesis Evangelion.” A heady psychological drama told with giant robots, religious iconography, and tormented



characters, “Evangelion” isn’t for everyone, but it’s still revered by many for its complex story. The fact that Netflix was willing to pay a king’s ransom to bring this hugely influential show back to the U.S. underscores their commitment to winning over anime lovers.

HULU’S OLD ENOUGH TO PARTY

Hulu may have looked like an upstart a decade ago, but the video-on-demand service has always had powerful friends. Thanks to early alliances with broadcasting giants like NBC and Fox, the service has always been defined by great, binge-worthy

Streaming in the Wake of ‘Game of Thrones’

shows. Riding the success of “Brooklyn 99” and “The Handmaid’s Tale,” Hulu has turned its attention to film, releasing several classics this summer including “Drop Dead Gorgeous” and “Superbad.” By finally beefing up its movie selection, the site feels like it’s come of age.

AMAZON EXPANDS ‘THE EXPANSE’

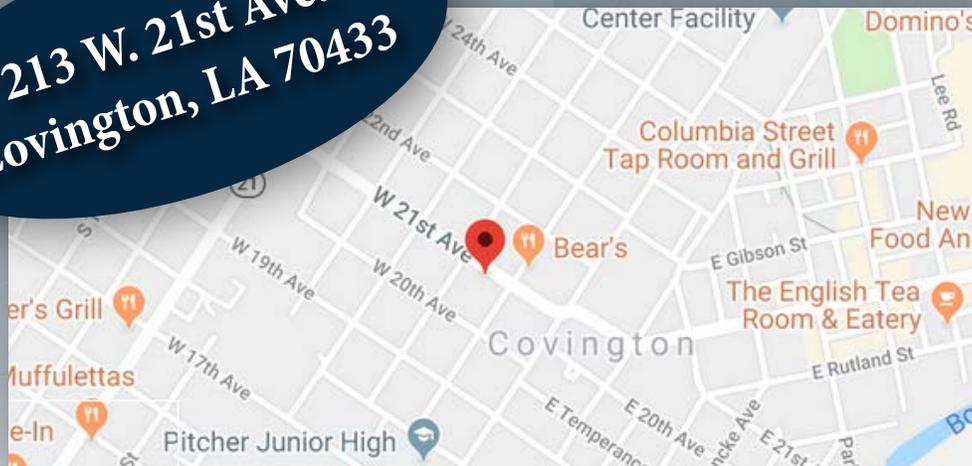
Like many wise rulers before it, Amazon has made a bid for the throne by giving the people what they want. The multimedia giant shrewdly picked up the rights to “The Expanse” after Syfy canceled it last year, delighting fans who petitioned for the show’s continuation. But Amazon’s likely trying to reach more than just science fiction lovers; the fact that “The Expanse” has widely been described as “Game of Thrones’ in space” suggests Amazon is hoping to convert HBO fans directly.

FLATTMANN LAW HAS MOVED!

Visit us at our new location:



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