

SKJ&H INSIDER



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Creative Solutions for Difficult Times

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FROM THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

Ask anyone what the buzz topics of the year are and they will definitely mention at least two of the following three: saving money, eco-consciousness and supporting local businesses. Stahancyk, Kent, Johnson and Hook, always anticipating the concerns and needs of its clients, is making efforts to address all of these.

One example of the firm's mission to support locally-run businesses was the recent transfer of all the firm's assets to The Bank of Oswego. With this new banking arrangement, the firm is assured it will receive personalized customer service and competitive rates; in uncertain financial times it's mandatory to be more discerning about who is managing your money. Knowing that its finances are in good hands, the firm can better focus on the needs of the clients. An added benefit of this change is that the firm now accepts Discover cards for payment, in addition to Visa and MasterCard.

There are many other developments in the works that will help clients handle their legal costs. As always, the Accounting department encourages clients to receive their bills via e-mail. Not only does this save paper and postage, it ensures clients receive their invoices the day they are generated, allowing more time to take care of their bill before the 1.63% per month interest begins to accrue. Currently, the IT department is working on an electronic bill pay site within the the firm's website, which will guarantee efficient and secure transactions.

By staying in touch with the issues of today and maintaining its personalized approach, Stahancyk, Kent, Johnson & Hook continues to put our clients first.

FUN FACT

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.



A JODYISM FOR JUNE

"Texting someone is not the same as talking to someone."



Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and Reconciliation

By Brian Kulhanjian
Attorney

A domestic violence restraining order has been issued, but now the parties are considering reconciliation. They wonder: is it wise? What will happen? Can it legally be done?

Few decisions could be more emotional. It must therefore be very thoroughly considered. Carl Sagan noted, "Where we have strong emotions, we're liable to fool ourselves." While this decision can't be made with scientific precision, it should be made with the most objective eye possible. Counselors, trusted friends and family should all be consulted.

If the parties decide to reconcile, the restraining order should be dismissed. If it's not dismissed, reconciling would likely lead to violations of the restraining order and, if a police officer has probable cause to believe a violation occurred, then the respondent to the restraining order will be arrested.

To dismiss the restraining order, the person who applied for it must file a dismissal request with the court. There are no definite standards regarding the court approving a dismissal. Consequently, different judges handle dismissal requests differently.

Please note that the parties' desire for dismissal doesn't necessarily translate into a dismissal occurring. Remember that the restraining order was issued because a judge believed it should have been. Judges see cases where one partner pressures another partner to dismiss the restraining order, and that dynamic calls into question any dismissal request. Until the dismissal is signed by a judge, the restraining order must be followed.

Legally, voluntary dismissals of restraining orders are allowed. The larger issue is whether one should be dismissed. Remember that only the person who applied for the restraining order can determine that and only a judge can dismiss it.

Many people are likely in a situation where they are falling behind on their mortgage payments due to a decrease in income or an increase in their mortgage payment. If you or someone you know is dealing with this issue, here is a good website to refer them to:
<http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/>
A loan modification may be an option.

Oven "Fried" Chicken

It's one of my favorites served cold at a spring afternoon picnic.



*Chef
Javier Canteras*

- 4 Chicken drumsticks
- 4 Chicken thighs
- 1 1/2 Cups flour
- 3 Tablespoons paprika
- 2 Tablespoons dried oregano
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Tablespoons milk
- 1 1/2 Cups cornflake crumbs
- 1 Cup seasoned Italian breadcrumbs
- 1/2 Cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Equipment

- 3 Medium sized bowls
- 1 Sheet pan

Preparation

Pre-heat your oven to 425 degrees. In a medium sized bowl mix the flour, paprika, oregano and a pinch each of salt and pepper. In another medium sized bowl, whisk together the eggs and milk with a pinch each of salt and pepper. In one more medium sized bowl, combine the cornflake crumbs and breadcrumbs with yet another pinch each of salt and pepper.

Dredge a piece of chicken in the flour mixture making sure to cover it completely. Shake off the excess flour and submerge it into the egg mixture. Let the excess egg drip of a bit and place it into the breadcrumb mix. Make sure you coat it thoroughly and evenly. No one wants a naked spot of chicken. Next, place the chicken on a sheet pan drizzled with a 1/4 cup of olive oil. You may do this with a few pieces of chicken at a time to speed up the process.

Try to align the pieces so that they are not touching too much. This will insure more crispiness. Drizzle the remaining 1/4 cup of olive oil evenly on the chicken and place in the oven.

Cook the chicken for 20 minutes, but check after 15 minutes making sure it is not getting too brown (all ovens cook differently). Turn each piece over and cook for an additional 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown and no longer pink inside.

Enjoy!

FRANK MANNERS You're Welcome

As the years pass, it seems that American's language, dress and actions have become more and more casual. This is not always to the benefit of our children. In order for them to grow up to understand that correct social graces can have a beneficial effect on how they are viewed, they must be taught. Here's something you can help them with: learning to say "you're welcome."

What do you say when someone says "thank you?" If you say anything other than "you're welcome," then you are practicing lazy language usage. Why can't "No problem," "No Biggie," or, even worse, the texting inspired "NP" be acceptable? Because no matter how you say it, it's not professional and it gives the wrong impression of you to the person with whom you are speaking. Let's say you go to open a savings account at your bank and have to spend time doing hours of paper work and making many decisions, you thank your banker and get the response of "No problem." Well, it may not have been a problem for them, but it sure was a hassle for you. "No problem," can also subtly imply that if the task was a problem there's a chance that the person would not provide help. By responding "You're welcome" when someone thanks you, you show that you have pride in what you say and do and that you appreciate the thanks. Remember that every relationship, no matter what, is reciprocal.

"You're welcome," may seem somewhat traditional to some of you, but most people will appreciate the sincerity of your response. Grandma is fond of telling young people in our family that "No Problem," is a poor man's response, but no matter how poor or rich you may be, "You're Welcome" will stick with people as genuine and therefore, so will you.



Twitter and You

By Jesse Corum
IT Assistant

By now you've probably heard of Twitter, and maybe you decided that "tweeting" sounded pretty silly. But underneath the cute terminology, Twitter is a pretty powerful service that might change the way a lot of people communicate.

So what exactly is Twitter? Twitter is a website and service that allows people to publish short messages (no more than 140 characters) and follow postings from other people. The short length is because Twitter lets its users post their "tweets" by sending messages with their cellphones. Their subscribers ("followers") can get the tweets sent to their phone as well. Users can use Twitter just as easily from the grocery store as from their home computer. Being tied to cellphones makes Twitter a more immersive, impulsive, and inescapable experience than traditional blogs.

Twitter users fall into two general categories that don't always get along. Conversationalists use Twitter within their social group and expect some replies and direct messages from their followers. Someone who tweets "What movie should we see tonight?" is clearly expecting responses.

The other group are "Broadcasters," who may have thousands of followers. Broadcasters include celebrities, businesses, and organizations who want a fast, direct connection to their fans, customers, or members. Broadcasters are much less likely to pay attention to replies or direct messages, so if a movie star tweets about their breakfast, don't assume they want to hear about your bagel.

The short length gives Twitter a unique style. While many users frown on common texting abbreviations like "OMG" or "LOL," it's quite acceptable to use symbols like "&." Numbers can always be written with numerals - "100" takes only three characters, "one-hundred" requires eleven.

If you set up a Twitter account, take some time to think about what you're using it for and which group you fall into. You may even want multiple accounts for different interests. It's also important to practice the same discipline you would with anything published on the web, even if your only followers are good friends. Don't use it to text each other dirty jokes- those posts will also go on the web and Google can find them. But if you're looking for a way to communicate with customers and friends quickly and from anywhere, Twitter may be ideal.

Stahancyk, Kent, Johnson & Hook P.C. is a leading Family Law and Estate Planning Law Firm in the Northwest. With over one hundred and fifty years of combined experience, our firm includes offices in Portland, Bend, Prineville, and Astoria, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington.

SKJ&H was the 2005 Better Business Bureau Large Business of the Year for Oregon and Southwest Washington.

SKJ&H was awarded the 2008 American Marketing Association of Oregon's MAX Award for creative superiority in the print marketing category.

SKJ&H was awarded the Association of Marketing & Communication Professional's Platinum Hermes Award for creative achievement in Magazine Placement.

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