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Too Cool Not To Share

Ratified in 1870, the 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote in the U.S. Through the 1880's Black men exercised the right to vote and many held public office in Southern states. However, in the early 1890's problems began. "White supremacy' began to be threatened. Roadblocks were established to prevent Black men from voting.

Literacy tests (requirement to read and write), grandfather clauses (you could only vote if your grandfather could vote prior to the Civil War), poll taxes (a fee required in order to vote) and other intentional hinderances were enacted to circumvent the right to vote. These methods of disenfranchisement were written into the state laws of many states. These new rules were enacted to prevent the newly freed Blacks from voting, but did not infringe upon the rights of poor whites who could not meet the same requirements.

These conditions would remain legal in many states until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (nearly 100 years after the right to vote was extended to Black men. Even today new obstacles are being utilized to hinder this right for certain U.S. citizens.

Off The Press

What To Do After A Car Accident

by: J. Renee Boston, Esq.

This month's legal tidbit is a little bit different than what you may be used to from BLG.

What to do after a car accident?

1. Remain calm and check for serious injury from anyone in your vehicle first then other involved vehicles.
2. Do not move anyone injured! You may be injured too and could potentially cause more harm than good or hurt yourself worse.
3. Call 911! In some jurisdictions officers do not come out unless there is bodily injury to a person. If you do not know what the law is where the accident has occurred, err on the side of caution and call either 911 or non-emergency police line.
4. Document the damage. If you are not injured or you are not rendering aid to others, be sure to take pictures of EVERYTHING! All cars involved, prior damage to vehicles, skid marks, lighting conditions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.
5. Exchange information with all parties involved. Use your phone and take a picture of their license and insurance card. Also get a phone number, license plate and car's make and model.
6. If any witnesses stopped, be sure to get their contact information (name, number, email address).
7. Notify your insurance carrier ASAP!

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Sat. Aug. 19th
12pm-2pm

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Off The Press

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KEEP COOL AND KEEP THE ELECTRIC BILL IN CHECK

This summer is already shaping up to be historically hot, increasing the chances this year will be one of the warmest on record. The extreme weather is raising concerns about power grid failures and exposure to dangerous heat.

Here's how to set your thermostat to stay safe and save energy during hot days. Adjusting the temperature one degree warmer, for example, can typically yield energy savings of 1 percent, experts say. "Particularly, in the middle of a hot day it can really help avoid reliability issues on the grid," said Jennifer Amann, senior fellow in the buildings program at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a nonprofit group.

"When the indoor temperature is warmer than what your thermostat is set to, your system turns on," said Shichao Liu, an architectural engineering professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts he said. But setting the thermostat really low doesn't increase your air conditioner's cooling capacity."

"People think, 'If I make the thermostat set point 60, I'll get more cooling than a set point at 70,' but that's not correct," he said. "You get the same amount of the cooling."

If you set your thermostat to a temperature that exceeds your air conditioner's capacity, the system will keep running as it tries to cool your home to that point, he said. And continuously running your air conditioner guzzles energy and can shorten the life span of your system. Experts also suggested setting the thermostat 5-10 degrees warmer than what you typically have to when you are out during the day.

Slap Yo' Momma Ribs

Ingredients

1/4 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons chili powder
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/2 tsp smoked paprika
2 racks baby back ribs
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 cup barbecue sauce

Directions

1. Pull membrane off the back of the ribs and trim if too fatty (leave some fat)
2. Combine the brown sugar and seasonings in a small bowl and rub the mixture on both sides of the ribs. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour or overnight.
3. Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F. In a roasting pan, combine the broth and vinegar. Add the ribs to the pan. Cover with foil and tightly seal. Bake 2 hours. Remove the ribs from the pan and place them on a platter. Pour the liquid from the pan into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer and cook until reduced by half. Add the barbecue sauce.
4. Preheat an outdoor grill to medium high. Put the ribs on the grill and cook about 5 minutes on each side, until browned and slightly charred. Add sauce during last minute on each side.
5. Or, if you do not want to use an outdoor grill, set your oven's broiler to high and broil each sauced side for about a minute (be sure to watch it carefully so it won't burn or set off your smoke detector).

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