

Saturday

11AM - 3PM **Perenich The Law Firm** 

Outside our office

25749 U.S. Highway 19 N. Clearwater, FL 33763

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tampa bay personal injury attorneys

# **CLIENT** CONNECTION



# Drinking and Driving is Still a Hazard in Florida

**QUARTERLY** 

**NEWSLETTER** 

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a drunk driver recently caused a car crash on Interstate 95 inflicting serious injuries and death.

William "Jack" Adams, 50, was driving with his wife, Cathy, 43, and their two children who sat in the back of their Chevy Tahoe SUV. They were northbound returning home from the state championship football game between Mandarin High School and Miami Columbus. All four were wearing their seatbelts.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**02** Drinking and Driving

Perenich The Law Firm supports safety while driving.

Wheelchairs 4 Kids

Perenich The Law Firm was a proud sponsor of the Kimberly Knorr Celebrity Golf Tournament for Wheelchairs 4 Kids.

**04** Join Us For Our Family Fun Day

FREE Activities and refreshments and FREE Bike Giveaways!

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# DRINKING AND DRIVING IS STILL A HAZARD IN FLORIDA

CONTINUED

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Kim Johnston, 46, was drunk as she drove her vehicle, also heading north, around 1:15 that fateful Sunday morning and crashed into the Adams' vehicle. The impact caused Jack to lose control of the SUV which rolled over after crossing several lanes of traffic.

The family was taken to Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. Although the children sustained only minor injuries, both Jack and Cathy were in critical condition. Cathy was placed on life support. Tragically, she passed away later that night.

Cathy was a Court Bailiff with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Johnston was arrested on two counts of driving under the influence with serious bodily injury to another, according to the Highway Patrol. FHP further indicated that Johnston, who had been wearing her seat belt, wasn't injured in the crash. Ms. Johnston has been charged with "DUI Causing Serious Bodily Injury to Another" as well as "DUI Cause Death of Human Being."

Sadly, drunk driving continues to kill. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in the United States, almost 11,000 persons are killed each year in motor vehicle accidents as a result of drunk driving. That's almost 30 people every day.

Alcohol impairs cognition and muscle coordination, functions that are vital to safe driving. Similarly, marijuana and other illicit drugs also reduce a driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely. Incredibly, according to a recent survey, some think that laws in Florida against driving under the influence do not apply to marijuana. Not true. In Florida, driving under the influence covers impairment due to alcohol as well as a host of other substances, including illegal drugs.

The Tampa Bay area leads the state in the number of crashes caused by drivers on drugs, 465 since 2014. This number is up 47% over the last few years according to a recent report by ABC Action News.

This past fall, within a two week stretch, three fatal accidents resulted when suspected impaired drivers headed the wrong way into oncoming traffic.

These accidents are more frequent than you might think. Analyzing Florida Highway Patrol records in 2014, the Tampa Bay Times found 70 "wrong way" driving incidents over a period of eight years wrong in the Tampa Bay Area. The report also found almost 700 "wrong way" driving incidents on local roads in the year 2014.

When celebrating St. Patrick's Day, please plan your transportation to avoid impaired driving. If you drink or use drugs or marijuana, please do not get behind the wheel. Make sure you have a sober designated driver. Uber and Lyft are everywhere so be sure you have downloaded their apps to your phone. If all else fails, have someone call you a cab. If you have the slightest doubt that you may be impaired, please do not drive. Your life and the lives of others may depend on it.

At PERENICH The Law Firm, we have represented many injured persons, some of whom were hurt by a drunk driver or a drugged driver. The three of us partners have combined experience of over 85 years. If you, a friend or a member of your family has been injured by a driver under the influence of alcohol or any other mind-altering substance, give us a call.

# Kimberly Knorr Celebrity Golf Tournament for Wheelchairs 4 Kids



Perenich The Law Firm was a proud sponsor of the Kimberly Knorr Celebrity Golf Tournament for Wheelchairs 4 Kids. Wheelchairs 4 Kids is a non profit organization dedicated to improving lives of children with physical disabilities.





## **Homemade Shamrock Shake**

1 and ½ cups of vanilla ice cream ½ cup whole milk 10 drops of green food coloring 1 teaspoon of peppermint extract Whipped cream 1 maraschino cherry Chocolate sprinkles

In a blender, combine the vanilla ice cream, milk, green food coloring, and peppermint extract, and process until smooth, about 25 seconds. Pour the shake into a glass and top with whipped cream, chocolate sprinkles, and a maraschino cherry.

#### 2ND ANNUAL MITCHELL SWAYZE PAGE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Perenich The Law Firm was an honored sponsor for the 2nd Annual Mitchell Swayze Page Tennis Tournament. This tournament benefited the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention. The tournament raised over \$12,000!

