



See What's New

Meet Belinda

The Case Manager Who's Making a Difference With Every Interaction

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, many Americans are starting to think about all the blessings in their lives. I have plenty to be thankful for this year, from my family to my career. However, gratitude isn't something we should reserve solely for Thanksgiving celebrations. We should make efforts to share and appreciate the good in our lives throughout the year. Whenever I think about what I'm grateful for, my team always is at the forefront of my mind. I couldn't do what I do without their efforts and knowledge. We recently added a new case manager to our team, Belinda, who has been a shining star in the office since her first day!

Like many people in the legal field, Belinda became interested in law at an early age after witnessing the legal problems her family faced. Growing up, she saw it was hard for her loved ones to find any help, especially because of a language barrier. They didn't know what was happening and feared nobody would help them. Belinda saw how rewarding it was for those who stepped in to help, which ignited her passion for the legal profession. She knew she could someday help others who face a similar position as her loved ones.

After graduating high school, Belinda attended the University of Texas at Dallas, where she studied criminology. Once she earned her bachelor's degree, she contemplated attending law school but wanted to first study for the LSAT and gain experience. Belinda worked as a legal assistant for a criminal law firm and interned with a personal injury law firm, which brought her attention to our office. She applied for a job with us, and from the first conversation, we knew she would be a perfect fit for the team.

Since her first day with us, Belinda has shown incredible compassion and care for our clients. Due to her family-oriented nature, she views her clients as family members and responds how she hopes others would treat her mom, brother, or sister in each situation. She tries to give our clients the best of the best and always keeps them as her top priority.

When you have a conversation with Belinda, you're not likely to forget it. She has a bubbly personality and is extremely outgoing. She never passes up an opportunity to strike up a conversation with



someone new and learn everything she can about them. Her curious nature also extends to her career, as she's been trying to learn everything she can about personal injury law.

Outside of work, Belinda recently discovered her love of water. She's started paddleboarding and would love to go surfing one day. She also enjoys reading, finding new coffee shops and restaurants, and baking delicious dishes like her amazing tres leches cake.

Since Thanksgiving is around the corner, I asked Belinda what she was most thankful for this year. She stated, "I'm really thankful for my mom as she's been there for me through a lot of things. I'm grateful for the support system I have with my family. I don't think I would be standing where I am today if it wasn't for them."

Know that when you work with Belinda, you're in good hands. She will take the utmost care of you and help with whatever you may need! I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by your loved ones.



Driven To Help

- Scott Snellings

THE \$93,750 SPUD

Uncover Fabergé's Unexpected Masterpiece

When you think of the name Fabergé, you probably imagine opulent, jewel-encrusted eggs that epitomize luxury and elegance. But did you know the famous Russian jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé, the mastermind behind the glittering eggs, also created a humble potato? And not just any potato, but one that fetched an astounding \$93,750 at a Christie's auction in 2016.

Fabergé's Glorious Spud

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Peter Carl Fabergé was the go-to jeweler for Russian royalty. His intricate and lavish creations, particularly the famous Fabergé eggs, were commissioned by Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II as Easter gifts for their wives and mothers. Each egg was a masterpiece, often containing hidden surprises like miniature portraits, mechanical wonders, expensive jewels, or even tiny replicas of royal palaces.

But amidst these exquisite creations, Fabergé had a sense of humor and a knack for the unexpected. Enter the Fabergé potato — a far cry from the shimmering eggs but equally fascinating in its own right. This potato, crafted from pink agate, was a whimsical departure from his usual opulent fare.

The Humble Potato's Journey

Fast-forward to 2016, and this extraordinary potato was again in the spotlight. When Christie's auction house announced the

sale of a Fabergé potato, the world did a collective double-take. After all, who would have thought a potato — albeit one crafted by a master jeweler — would garner such attention and a hefty price tag to match?

The bidding war was intense, with collectors and Fabergé enthusiasts eager to own this unique piece of history. When the gavel finally came down, the potato had sold for a staggering \$93,750. Not bad for a root vegetable!

Why a Potato?

You might wonder why Fabergé, a jeweler known for his elaborate and luxurious designs, chose to make a potato. Perhaps it was his way of showing artistry could be found in the simplest of things. Or maybe it was a playful nod to the significance of potatoes in Russian culture — a staple food that sustained many through tough times. Whatever the reason, Fabergé's potato reminds us that even the most mundane objects can be transformed into something extraordinary with a bit of creativity and a touch of humor.



ROMAN RULES

PECULIAR LAWS OF THE ANCIENT EMPIRE

While ancient Rome may be known for gladiators, grand conquests, and fashionable togas, a surprisingly intricate legal system kept their civilization in line. They had many laws — some familiar, others bizarre — that dictated the everyday lives of millions of Roman citizens, enslaved people, and soldiers across a vast empire. Here are three of the most outrageous and interesting laws Romans enacted as a republic and an empire.



Dress Codes and Party Fouls

Beginning in around 215 BC, the Roman Republic began instituting what was known as sumptuary laws, which restricted the clothes people could wear, foods they could eat, and the maximum number of attendees at parties. They created these, in part, to reduce the costs of banquets, festivals, and other Roman ragers. Some examples were enacted in 213 BC when it became illegal for women to wear colorful dresses — unless they were celebrating a ritual sacrifice — to wear more than a half ounce of gold or even to ride around in carriages. However, they soon repealed these laws because they considered them antiquated.

Shocking Statute

Tough luck for those who like hanging out on tall metal poles — if a lightning strike killed someone in Rome, the law forbade families from burying them! This is because Romans believed lightning strikes were

divine retribution from the king of the Roman pantheon, Jupiter.

See Ya Later, Gladiator!

Romans "borrowed" the idea of gladiatorial games from their (conquered) neighbors, wherein people would fight — sometimes to the death — for the public's amusement and began holding them back in 264 BC. However, because only 3 of every 5 people made it to their 20s at the time, only about 10% of those bouts involved actual fatalities. Many slaves, prisoners of war, and Christian martyrs fought as gladiators in the arena, but if they were already sentenced to execution, they had no hope of survival. One peculiar law involving gladiators was that they would fight until an injured combatant put down his shield and lifted his index finger to ask for mercy. At that point, it would come to an abrupt halt — though the emperor, if in attendance, would make the final decision.

TAKE A **BREAK**



GREEK CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 (14-oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup uncooked long-grain white rice
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, add olive oil and sauté onion and garlic until softened.
2. Add chicken, oregano, and thyme and cook until the chicken is no longer pink, about 3–4 minutes.
3. Pour in chicken broth, diced tomatoes, and rice. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer for 15 minutes or until the rice is cooked through.
4. Stir in the lemon juice and feta cheese, then season with salt and pepper.

HELPING KIDS WITH ADHD THRIVE

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT

It's common for parents of children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to sometimes feel frustrated and overwhelmed — and more than a little guilty for having these emotions. First and foremost, it's perfectly understandable for any parent to experience hurdles as they work to help their child live a happy, healthy life. Although there are unique challenges to raising a youngster with ADHD, every day is an opportunity to take positive steps to help your child learn and grow. Here are four quick tips to help make the rough times a little smoother.

Build a balanced routine.

Helping your child stay on task with daily routines is critical to managing their ADHD journey. Are they hydrating regularly? Do they follow consistent meal and sleep schedules? Sometimes, staying consistent with the smallest things makes the biggest impact on your child's well-being.

Plan a digital detox.

With everything so tech-based these days, there's a good chance your child spends a lot of time in front of a screen. Set aside time throughout the week to interact with them in a digital-free environment — even if it's just to chat about their day. This time is meant to help you build a stronger relationship with your child, so try to avoid discussing anything that may cause conflict or a distraction.

Find a community of support.

Participating in a support group is a fantastic way to connect with other parents, share concerns, and learn new ways to encourage your child's growth and success. As a bonus, connecting with parents whose experiences are similar to yours could lead to their children interacting with yours — which may go a long way in helping your child relate to other people and develop their social skills.



Tailor your tools.

Every child with ADHD is a unique individual with specific needs. A specialized mental health professional can help you craft a solid framework to address obstacles as they arise. Whether you need guidance on stress management or tips on sharpening your communication skills, utilizing the services of an empathetic therapist could provide you with the fresh perspective and game plan you need to help your young one thrive.

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HOLLYWOOD ENDING

Alec Baldwin Walks Free After Case Dismissed

About three years ago, on Oct. 21, 2021, cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed by a live round fired by actor Alec Baldwin on the set of the movie “Rust.” You might believe this would be an open-and-shut manslaughter case. However, just like the scenes Hutchins brilliantly captured on film, this scene was more complex and layered than you may expect. Baldwin’s trial was dismissed just three days after it began, on July 13, 2024. Ironically, but perhaps fittingly, Baldwin’s criminal case came to a dramatic, Hollywood-esque conclusion.

Is the armorer to blame?

Previously, in May, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the armorer for the film, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter for her role in the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. The jury deliberated for just three hours before passing judgment; evidence revealing Gutierrez-Reed loaded the gun that killed Hutchins likely

contributed to the swift decision. She was sentenced to 18 months in prison but has appealed, and what happened in July in Alec Baldwin’s trial may affect the outcome of that appeal.

Hollywood Ending

When the third day of Alec Baldwin’s involuntary manslaughter trial in New Mexico began, it became apparent that something was amiss. The defense attorneys had something important to bring to the court’s attention. Assistant District Attorney Erlinda Johnson was absent. As it turned out, she had resigned from the case after allegations that Santa Fe police, in conjunction with Special Prosecutor Kari Morrisey, had conspired to hide evidence from the defense. The evidence in question was a case of ammunition matching those retrieved from the set of “Rust.” The ammunition was given to Santa Fe police before the trial, but it was filed under a separate case number — even though



Photo:
Abhi Suryawanshi

the witness who handed in the evidence claimed it was relevant to the “Rust” trial. In light of these revelations, Santa Fe County District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case with prejudice.

Throughout the day, as the camera centered on Hollywood star-turned-defendant Alec Baldwin, viewers were treated to his wide range of emotions: first, annoyance, then sadness, and, finally, tearful exultation. This was his Hollywood ending.