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OPENING

STATEMENTS

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FROM THE DESKS OF RAZUMICH + DELAMATER

It's hard to believe that it's now been a full year since we first started putting out this newsletter. When we first started publishing, our goal was to reconnect with the people that we've helped over the years, mostly because we rarely hear back from the people whose lives and freedoms we've protected. On one hand, that's a good thing; it means that the people we helped truly were having a bump in their road, and after we helped them correct their course, they were able to move on just like we promised. On the other hand, it's nice to hear the success stories from people we've helped along the way.

The newsletter has had an unexpected side-effect, though, in that in addition to reconnecting with people we've helped, those people have referred their friends and others needing our help to our doors. Whether it was expunging a criminal history, becoming a Platinum Defense Member so you always have legal advice available to you, or even new cases, this newsletter has helped us to reach even more people and to continue our goal of providing help to the hopeless.

Thank you to everyone who's trusted us in the past year.



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 KANCMAGUS 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.



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 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.

ROOTS OF OKTOBERFEST

OKTOBERFEST OUTSIDE MUNICH

With Oktoberfest right around the corner, you may start hearing some of these fun sayings: "I don't give a Schnitzel," "Keep calm, and Prost on," or "You can't buy happiness, but you can buy beer." But what exactly is Oktoberfest, and why do so many people celebrate it? Here are some fun facts about it.

ROYAL BEGINNINGS

Oktoberfest is deeply rooted in Munich culture. It all started with the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen on Oct. 12, 1810, and the citizens of Munich were invited to attend the celebration just outside the gates of the city. The celebration's main attraction was horse racing, which was also a staple event for the next year but has since been removed from the current celebrations.

In 1811, a large agricultural fair was mixed into the event, and in 1817, beer pubs and performers were added. Perhaps one of the most famous events during Oktoberfest is the costume parade, where men and women alike dress in old-fashioned garb and march through the streets in honor of Ludwig and Therese's marriage. The rest you could say is history, or *geschichte!*

OKTOBERFEST IN ... CANADA?

While Oktoberfest in Munich traditionally starts on Sept. 22, the Canadians celebrate during the week of Oct. 6–14. The twin cities



Kitchener-Waterloo host the largest Oktoberfest outside of Munich, boasting more than 700,000 people in attendance each year. The event has a musical concert dubbed "Rocktober" and a dog parade known as "Dogtober." Even though the Ontario area is becoming more and more popular, you can still enjoy Oktoberfest on a budget. You can find hotels in the area and surrounding cities for well under \$100 per night.

Not everyone can make their way to Munich or even Canada to celebrate the fantastical event, but most areas will have something going on. If you love German culture, do a little bit of digging, and you're sure to find an Oktoberfest event near you

TAKE A BREAK!

J	V	X	V	W	F	M	M	C	A	N	R	T	V	R
C	S	S	D	T	X	L	O	E	F	S	D	S	A	E
S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	E	A	W	E	P	T
G	Y	P	L	Y	D	O	L	A	P	F	W	V	P	A
N	H	S	S	A	T	V	K	E	V	R	E	R	L	E
A	Y	K	Z	D	S	F	T	G	Q	E	X	A	E	W
A	F	B	T	R	E	D	I	C	V	J	S	H	S	S
Q	G	Q	O	O	Z	C	A	U	T	U	M	N	Z	R
J	T	F	U	B	Z	E	M	Y	V	L	D	L	P	W
D	M	K	C	A	B	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	B	H
C	H	Y	H	L	Y	Y	B	F	Z	J	K	R	I	L
C	L	W	D	Z	G	N	I	M	O	C	E	M	O	H
X	Q	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	L	U	I	R	B
W	M	A	W	U	R	U	Q	L	O	X	I	D	F	B
J	S	X	N	F	Y	L	L	Z	A	I	W	W	P	R

AUTUMN
APPLE
SEPTEMBER
LABORDAY

FOOTBALL
QUARTERBACK
TOUCHDOWN
HOMECOMING

HARVEST
CIDER
LEAVES
SWEATER

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.



**RAZUMICH &
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WHAT HAPPENED IN REED SPRINGS? HOW A SMALL TOWN WENT BANKRUPT ...

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 on 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. Unfortu-



nately, 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.