

The PACKARD PRESS

A collection of thoughts and stories to educate, entertain and inspire.

CASE DELAYED WAS NOT CASE DENIED

After six years and two COVID delays, Dan and Samuel Packard obtained a great victory at a jury trial.

Six years ago, Alice Griffiths approached Dan and Samuel about a doctor who left a foreign object inside her during surgery. She said that she was getting more and more infected, but the doctor was not doing anything about it. After months of a “wait and see” approach, the infection got worse. Alice finally went to BAMC, where she was admitted to the hospital and surgery was performed. After six more surgeries and months of rehab, she was sent home. However, she was never the same after the terrible ordeal.

Dan and Samuel took the case and filed suit against the doctor. However, the doctor claimed he was not at fault, that the foreign object was supposed to be left behind and that he had done a good job with Alice’s postoperative care. He retained experts to defend him and was completely unapologetic. As the litigation progressed, Ms. Griffiths continued to decline, and on her last night on this earth, the family called Dan to come to the hospital and perform her final blessing. Dan was humbled by the request, and he went to her bedside and gratefully bestowed the blessing as she passed into the next life. It was a tender and sacred moment for everyone who was there.

Alice had passed, but Dan and Samuel did not feel it was appropriate to let the lawsuit die with her. Thus, Ms. Griffiths’ daughter, Chrissie, represented her estate and continued the case. The doctor didn’t want to offer much money to settle the case — not even enough to pay for medical bills. Thus, we prepared for trial, but the case did not get called. We prepared again, but COVID prevented us from getting a jury.

A year later, we got called to trial, but yet again, COVID closed the courthouse down. Finally, after more than six years of waiting for a trial, Dan and Samuel were able to finally present the case to a jury. They were able to demonstrate through medical records, photos and expert testimony that the doctor had made multiple mistakes, that he should have taken out the foreign object when he had the chance, he ignored the obvious signs of infection, and he had botched the case in other ways. They also demonstrated to the jury how the ordeal impacted Alice’s life, caused multiple procedures and sapped her strength and vitality.

The jury verdict was unanimous — the doctor’s malpractice caused Ms. Griffiths’ harm. The jury then awarded \$600,000 to Ms. Griffiths’ estate as compensation for what she went through. It was a very



emotional day for Chrissie. She stood up for her mother, and in the end, she was fully vindicated by the jury.

Dan explained: “It takes experience and a lot of work to obtain a result like this, but in the end, a lawyer needs a great client and a just cause to win.

In this case, we were blessed to have both great clients and a great case.” Samuel said: “This was a story that needed to be told. We could not allow the case to die when Alice passed away. We had to keep going to make sure this did not happen to anyone else. The jury obviously agreed with us, and the community is a little safer now because of it.”

Congratulations to Dan, Samuel, and the whole team!

-Michael Packard

READY TO SUCCEED

3 Important Life Skills to Teach Your Teen

Leaving the nest can be tough for young adults. There are so many things to remember, like making sure they have all the right supplies and remembering to keep important paperwork. So, before your child heads off to college, help them strengthen these three skills.

How to Ask for Help

Being capable starts with understanding what you need and asking for it. By having your child order their own food at a restaurant, make medical and dental appointments for themselves, and check out at the supermarket alone, you'll be helping your child develop independence while encouraging them to take the lead.

How to Seamlessly Get From Point A to Point B

When your teen leaves the house, they'll be traveling on their own on a bus, on a plane, by car, and by foot, so they'll need to understand how to navigate airports, subway stations, bus hubs, and roads. Ask your child to give you directions when describing how to get to the mall or have them even drive you there if they are licensed. This will reduce stress during solo travels, and they're less likely to feel overwhelmed if plans unexpectedly change.

How to Handle Emergencies

When children are fairly young, they learn how to call 911 in the event of life-threatening and serious emergencies. But other emergencies tend to pop up in life that don't necessarily warrant a call to the police. Show your child how to put on a spare tire, turn off utilities, patch a hole in clothing, and other basic but necessary skills so they don't panic when something goes wrong in their dorm room or on the road.

As a parent, it's your job to teach your children the right skills to set them up for success and independence so they can take care of themselves when they finally go off on their own.



A ROUND OF A-PAWS

This Amazing Pup Saves the Day — Twice!

Heroes don't always wear capes or stand on two legs — and in a specific case with a German shepherd, this is exceptionally true! A dog noticed that one of his favorite tiny humans was in some serious danger, so he saved the day, two times!

A little boy and girl enjoyed the day, tossing a ball back and forth in their backyard. When the girl overthrew the ball, it unfortunately fell into a small pond behind the boy. The girl rushed inside the house to get help, but the boy stayed outside and even ended up leaning over the edge of the pond as he tried to retrieve the ball on his own. This is when a protective German shepherd, lying nearby in the grass, saw everything and immediately sprung into action.

The dog first looked into the pond to locate the ball. Then, knowing the boy was in danger as he teetered on the edge, the dog tugged on the little boy's vest with his teeth, pulling him backward to safety near the back patio of the home. Once the little boy was in a safe location, the dog located a pole net that had been leaning against the house and brought it over to the pond. While his tail wagged with pride, the dog fished the ball out of the pond.

The dog then put the net down on the ground near the pond and brought the ball over to the boy, who petted him with appreciation. This German shepherd saved the day for this little boy and girl — and also saved the boy from injury and needing a dry set of clothes! What an amazing canine. He deserves a treat and a round of a-paws!

10 MOVIES FOR YOUR SUMMER WATCH LIST

You'll Love These Old and New Flicks

Patriotic Movies for the Fourth

After you're finished with your family's pool party, barbecue, and fireworks, keep the Fourth of July going with one of these movies.

- *"Independence Day"* — In this flick, Will Smith's character, Captain Steven Hiller, has to fight to save the world from an alien invasion during the Fourth of July weekend.
- *"The Patriot"* — This movie takes place during the American Revolution, and follows a soldier-turned-farmer named Benjamin (played by Mel Gibson) who goes up against the British to rescue his son.
- *"Captain America: The First Avenger"* — You don't need to be into Marvel to enjoy this movie about the comic book superhero Captain America.
- *"Hidden Figures"* — One of America's proudest moments was landing on the moon, and in this movie, you can see how three brilliant women at NASA helped make it happen.

Feel-Good Summer Flicks

- *"Sandlot"* — This funny coming-of-age story about a baseball team's adventures is a quintessential summer movie.
- *"E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"* — In this 1982 classic, a boy named Elliott spends his summer befriendng an alien — and has to help him get home before the government steps in.

- *"Mamma Mia!"* — This summer rom-com/musical takes place on a beautiful Greek island and follows the character of Sophie, who tries to figure out which of her mom's flings is her father in the days leading up to her wedding!
- *"The Goonies"* — Childhood friends. Mysterious maps. Pirate treasure. This 1985 movie has it all.

The Latest From Marvel

You know Michael and his family love Marvel movies — so we couldn't leave these two off the list!

- *"Dr. Strange and the Multiverse of Madness"* — The second movie in the Dr. Strange series just came out in May. If you like movies about magic and missed this one in theaters, definitely try to see it this summer.
- *"Thor: Love and Thunder"* — This is the fourth movie in the Thor series (following "Thor," "Thor: The Dark World" and "Thor: Ragnarok.") It comes out on July 8, and it's sure to be hilarious!



TAKE A BREAK



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Airplane | Fourth | Ruby |
| Beachball | Grill | Scoops |
| Bonfire | Hiking | Sparkler |
| Festival | Revolution | Tubing |

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE TIRAMISU



Inspired by TasteOfHome.com

Ingredients

- 3 cups raspberries
- 3 cups blackberries
- 2 cups blueberries
- 2 cups strawberries, sliced
- 1 1/3 cups sugar, divided
- 4 tsp orange zest
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 8-oz cartons mascarpone cheese
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 7-oz packages crisp ladyfinger cookies

Directions

1. In a large bowl, gently mix all berries with 1/3 cup sugar, orange zest, and orange juice. Cover and refrigerate for 45 minutes.
2. In a medium bowl, beat the cream until soft peaks form.
3. In another medium bowl, mix mascarpone cheese, vanilla, and 1 cup sugar. Gradually fold in whipped cream.
4. Over a shallow bowl, drain the berries. Dip the ladyfingers in the leftover juice and allow the excess to drip off.
5. In a 13x9-inch dish, place half the ladyfingers in a single layer. Add a layer with half of the berries and then half the mascarpone mixture. Repeat layers, starting with ladyfingers.
6. Cover and refrigerate overnight before serving.

The Packard Family Is Here to Help Your Family

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A True Canine Hero
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HOW TO TROUBLESHOOT A MALFUNCTIONING A/C

Take These Steps Before Calling the Pros

It's 100 degrees F outside. The sun is pounding relentlessly on the sidewalk. Vegetation is wilting. Meanwhile, you're huddled indoors, basking in the A/C ... until it rattles to a stop.

This stomach-dropping scenario happens to hundreds of people every summer. A/C units across America are overstressed right now, and when you run your unit at full blast, it's more prone to malfunctioning. Fortunately, you don't have to call in the pros for every little issue. Here are a few DIY ways to fix an A/C problem.

1. **Replace your air filter.** The experts recommend changing the filter in your A/C system every month. If you don't do this, it can get clogged and cause your A/C to turn off! Replacing the filter could kick start a nonfunctioning A/C.
2. **Double-check your thermostat.** We know it sounds basic, but your A/C might have turned off because your spouse reset the temperature, the kids flipped the thermostat from "heat" to "cool," or the device's batteries died. Don't rule these silly problems out without checking them!
3. **Clean your condenser coils.** Dust, dirt, and pet hair can clog your A/C's condenser coils and limit the unit's function. If you're careful and handy, you can use compressed air or a shop vacuum to clean the copper tubing and aluminum fins composing the coils, which typically form the side walls of your outdoor A/C unit.

4. **Test your circuit breaker.** It's possible that the entire circuit covering your A/C has been tripped, turning the A/C off with it. To test this, turn your thermostat off and head to your breaker box and look for any switch in the neutral position. If you find one, push it to off (right) then on (left). Wait 30 minutes, then turn your thermostat back on and set it to cool.

These four steps may be the only ones you need to fix your A/C problem! If you try them with no success, then it's time to call in the experts. Of course, you can also make that call from the get-go if you're not comfortable DIYing your household systems. We promise they won't judge you! It's always better to be cautious than accidentally worsen the problem.

