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My Fascination with Severe Weather, Where it Began, & Storm Spotting

By: Olivia Saltzmann

Let me take you back to the year 1999 when I was 9 years old. It was an ordinary August evening, partially humid, and my father accompanied me to baseball practice. I was sitting in the outfield fixated in on my customary daisy plucking when my young eyes took notice to a very serious shelf cloud was slanted toward us, and our open field position allowed us to see some very severe rain rapidly headed in our direction.

My nonchalant gait suddenly agressed into the fastest I've probably ever ran in baseball. I can remember jumping into the car, hearing car engines haphazardly start around me, when I looked at my dad noticing a panicked look of genuine concern. The convertible top was down, and it wouldn't go up. We were a good 1-2 miles away from home. It poured, it hailed, and



there were strong, violent, straight line winds. We were in the "home stretch" when a humungous old oak tree was struck by lightning right before our eyes. The tree began falling as if in slow motion. We were just in front of it when it started to make its descent. Rather than be stranded and face even more danger, my father took a chance and we made it safely home. From that moment on, any

time there was a severe weather warning on the television or radio, I hid in our basement flooded with fear.

As I approached adulthood, my fear of storms transformed into curiosity. After learning that Doppler radar can't always spot tornadoes, especially if rain wrapped, and base velocity maps don't always indicate prominent enough signatures to detect tornadoes, my research lead me to an interest in storm spotting.

The SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program was created by the National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS relies heavily on storm spotters to provide real-time reports of hail size, wind damage, flash flooding, tornadoes, rotating funnel clouds, blizzard conditions and waterspouts in order to effectively warn the public of inclement weather. Spotters are needed to verify what the NWS sees on their radar. They add credibility to warnings issued by NWS. When the general public hears "spotter saw tornado" action is much more likely. NWS Warnings + Ground Truth = Public Action. The composition of an effective storm spotter depends on the following aspects; safety preparedness, where to obtain the most accurate weather info, how to identify storm features, and how to submit effective reports. Becoming a storm spotter was definitely a rewarding experience. I highly recommend any and all to attend one of their weather spotter training classes. The upcoming class schedule can be found at www.skywarn.org. I can't wait to actively participate in the field this upcoming storm season!!

Until then...if thunder roars, go indoors!!!



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Spring 2018

Reinhardt's Wins Back To Back Erie Branch Elite Award!

For the second year in a row, Reinhardt's has been awarded the Erie Insurance Branch Elite Award. In 2017 Reinhardt's was presented with this honor for achieving growth and profitability goals. The Erie Insurance Branch Elite Award recognizes the top Agency in each Branch that excels in all three lines of business. Personal Insurance, Commercial Insurance, and Life Insurance through an accumulative score. With over 2,200 agencies across 18 branches, this award is one of the most coveted and accomplished at Erie Insurance. This is the third award in the last three years for Reinhardt's, the FW Hirt Agency of the Year Award followed by back to back Branch Elite Awards.



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Win a \$10 gift card to **Dunkin' Donuts** by sending your friends and family to Reinhardt's Insurance where they will find better protection and incredible savings! For every referral that obtains a quote, you receive a \$10 gift card!

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CONTEST ENDS MAY 5, 2018
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FACEBOOK! "LIKE" US TODAY!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE CHANCES OF WINNING. Contest open to everyone. Follow one of the procedures above to enter. Odds of winning depend on number of qualifying entries received. Void where prohibited.

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We will draw three winners from all correctly completed puzzles and give away Dunkin' Donuts gift cards!

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Kind Words...

"I was recommended to Reinhardt's by a friend. I was reluctant at first because it can be overwhelming to change insurance and decide on what coverage is best for you. It was the easiest process ever! I had an email response within an hour and within 24 hours I received a quote that fit my needs. I needed to adjust some deductibles. I was given a very easy-to-understand table of options. Within a few days, I was signed up with new insurance that saved me a lot of money!"

~ Stacey J., Customer since 2018

"Great customer service! Always get an answer when I have questions... easy to make changes when address changes come into play. Very friendly representatives."

~ Customer since 2011

"I have always had such a good experience with my agents. They are very knowledgeable, take the time to answer my questions, and make me feel that they care about me as a customer."

~ Mark T., Customer since 2009

"I have been insured for property and auto coverage with Reinhardt's Agency for many years and I've always been pleased with their customer support and professionalism... Great service! Great Coverage!"

~ Marian G., Customer since 2005



INSURANCE TIP

In an accident where a vehicle is struck from the rear, generally, the driver that struck from the rear is at fault. Thus, drivers need to be vigilant when there is a vehicle ahead of them.

1. Follow at a safe distance.
2. Maintain control of your vehicle.
3. Pay attention to hazards.
4. Stop in a reasonable amount of time.
5. Drive at a prudent speed.



Ashlee's Life Tips

For the first time life insurance buyer, the amount of information available to you can be daunting. A quick search of the Internet can make your head spin. We want to make the process as easy as possible. Our staff is willing to take the time to explain different coverage options available. Please make an appointment to see us.

Term Insurance VS Permanent Insurance

Term Coverage lets you purchase higher amounts of coverage for a lower premium. The policy is only active for a set number of years (term). When the policy expires, you no longer have coverage. These policies are mostly purchased to cover a temporary need if an insured dies prematurely to cover mortgages, student loans, medical bills, etc.

Permanent Coverage is more expensive than term insurance. The policy lasts your lifetime and in most cases will accumulate cash value within the policy. This is typically used for an individual's final expenses such as funeral costs and charitable contributions.



9 THINGS TO NEVER DO TO YOUR CAR

1. **Put off the recommended maintenance.** There's a reason the car manufacturer gives you that little book when you buy a car. It contains important maintenance guidelines for the age and mileage of your car. By following what it says, you can keep your car running smoothly and safely—and save on having to pay for big repairs later on.
2. **Ignore any warning lights.** Most cars come with a check engine light and other warning lights. If any warning light goes off, it's time to take your car to a qualified mechanic ASAP.
3. **Never change the air filter.** A fresh air filter keeps your engine running smoothly and improves your car's fuel efficiency. Most manufacturers suggest you replace your filter every 12,000 to 15,000 miles. (Err on the lower side if you drive in dusty conditions or in stop-and-go circumstances.)
4. **Never check your tires' air levels.** Not having the right tire pressure makes for unsafe driving and reduced fuel efficiency. Most vehicles list tire pressure requirements on the driver side door post so you know how much air to give your tires.
5. **Have an unqualified person work on your car.** Take the time to find a qualified car mechanic. (Keep in mind that you could qualify as "unqualified" if a repair is beyond your skill level.)
6. **Rev the engine during the winter.** Doing this doesn't warm up the car—in fact, it can cause damage since the oil hasn't yet worked its way through the engine.
7. **Leave keys in the ignition of an unattended car.** This is one of the easiest ways to tempt car thieves.
8. **Run your gas tank down to empty.** Doing so cuts the life of the fuel pump—and puts you at risk of running out before you get to a station.
9. **Rarely wash your car.** A thorough wash helps preserve the exterior of your car. That can ultimately help your car retain its resale value. A good wash is especially important during winter, when road salt does a number on cars.

The Luck of Reinhardt's be with you!



Recipe: Pattry Bender's famous Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients	Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 C. Butter, Flavour Crisco 1 1/2 C. Brown Sugar 2 Tbsp. Milk 1 Tbsp. Vanilla 1 Egg 1 3/4 C. Flour 1 tsp. Salt 3/4 tsp. Baking Soda 1 C. Chocolate Chips 1 C. Chopped Walnuts 3/4 C. Coconut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combine first 4 ingredients - Add egg and mix well - Add next 3 dry ingredients and mix well - Stir in chocolate chips, nuts and coconut - Drop by heaping spoonfuls on ungreased cookie sheet - Bake at 375 for 10 minutes (Do not over bake) - Makes 20 large cookies