

The **BOYK**
BULLETIN

Family of Man Killed in Tragic Junkyard Explosion Seeks Answers and Accountability



Jeffery Keehn with his daughter Emily

When the unthinkable happens, the team at Boyk Law stands ready to help people learn why a tragedy happened, and to pursue justice against the people who caused it. Right now, we are fortunate to represent the estate of 41-year-old Jeffery Keehn in its search for answers and accountability related to Jeffery's untimely death.

Jeffery Keehn could not have known that November 9, 2017 would be anything but an

ordinary day. An independent contractor, Jeffery went to work at Hogrefe Auto Parts in Napoleon, Ohio at about 10:00 that morning. He was using a torch to cut parts off a pickup truck so they could be recycled when gasoline vapors ignited, erupting into a blazing fire and an explosion that shook nearby businesses. Still underneath the vehicle, Jeffery was engulfed in thick black smoke and intense flames as the large fire quickly spread to other vehicles and equipment on the property. Jeffery Keehn was killed in the fire, dying within about an hour of arriving at the junkyard.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") investigated after Jeffery's death and fined Hogrefe Auto Parts more than \$75,000 for violations related to the explosion. Currently the junkyard is challenging

OSHA's citations in an attempt to avoid paying those fines. Many of the violations were directly related to failures to protect from fire hazards.

Jeffery's daughter Emily connected with Boyk Law after her father's death, and we recently filed suit in Henry County, Ohio on behalf of Jeffery's estate. The lawsuit asserts wrongful death claims and claims related to the pain and suffering Jeffery experienced in the time between the explosion and his death. We seek to hold the junkyard responsible for its failures, which the lawsuit contends directly caused Jeffery Keehn's death, and to send a message to other companies that they must take steps to keep this from happening to anyone else.

"The explosion and the tragedy that resulted from it were terrible," says Attorney Katie Harris, "and one of the heartbreaking things is that it could have been avoided." The case Boyk Law filed looks to learn how and why this happened, and to hold the parties that could have prevented Jeffery's death responsible for their failure to do that.

Nothing can take away what happened to Jeffery at that junkyard on November 9, 2017. Nothing will bring him back, erase the loss to his loved ones, or undo the horrors of the explosion and fire. What we can do in the face of this awful tragedy, though, is what Boyk Law does best – fighting for justice and accountability in the courts on behalf of Jeffery and his family.

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Fight Homelessness. Period.

Boyk Law Gives Back with Huge Response to Local Product Drive

Boyk Law closed out 2018 by participating in a product drive designed to help local women and girls. Fight Homelessness. Period. began as a grassroots product drive several years ago. It focuses on an issue that touches many lives, but that far too often falls under the radar: Homeless and low-income women and girls lack regular access to the feminine hygiene products they need.

For people who have never struggled with access to these necessities, it is easy to take their availability for granted. Sadly, this is not reality for many people living in Northwest Ohio. Every month there are women and girls in our community who wonder how they will cope without access to pads and tampons. The annual Fight Homelessness. Period. product drive brings attention to the issue and collects donations to do something about it. It got the attention of Attorney Katie Harris, who has donated in the past. This year she got the whole firm involved by volunteering to be a donation drop-off point.

True to our firm's commitment to give back to the Toledo area, the Boyk Law team came together in a huge way and donated thousands of products to the drive. Chuck immediately made sure there was a generous donation from the firm, and many of our team members dropped off bags or boxes of products. The generosity came from beyond our office, too,

as we had multiple donations from friends and even several large donations from out of state!

At the end of the drive, the products from our office were delivered to Leading Families Home: Beach House & FOCUS Partnership. Located in Toledo, Ohio since 1921, Beach House's emphasis has always been offering families a new lease on life. It recently merged with FOCUS, an organization founded in 1982 in response to growing community needs.

We were so happy participate in this event to help our friends and neighbors in need, and we can't wait to continue the tradition next year. This was an incredible way to show what a difference we can make for people by coming together for something positive, and the chance to do good like this is just one of many things that make us proud to work here at Boyk Law.



RECIPE: Outrageous Herbacious Mediterranean Chickpea Salad

(Prep to Plate in 10 minutes)

FOR THE SALAD

- 2 (15-oz.) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
 - 1 medium cucumber, chopped
 - 1 bell pepper, chopped
 - 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
 - 1/2 c. chopped kalamata olives
 - 1/2 c. crumbled feta
 - Kosher salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley
 - 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
 - Kosher salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

- In a large bowl toss together chickpeas, cucumber, bell pepper, red onion, olives, and feta. Season with salt and pepper.
- In a jar fitted with a lid, combine olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, parsley, and red pepper flakes. Shake until emulsified, then season with salt and pepper.
- Dress salad with vinaigrette and serve.

FOR THE LEMON PARSLEY VINAIGRETTE

- 1/2 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. white wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice



Healing Of Our Veterans Equine Service (H.O.O.V.E.S.)



After serving our country, many veterans have undergone mental trauma which makes transitioning to a civilian lifestyle very challenging. The local pro-

gram, Healing Of Our Veterans Equine Service (H.O.O.V.E.S.), was officially established in 2011 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The organization's foundation was built by Amanda Held. Amanda is a United States Air Force veteran who has personally overcome PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other transitional challenges faced by many veterans.

H.O.O.V.E.S. believes that experiential training makes a difference for veterans and that Equine Assisted Learning can have a life changing impact on our service men and women. Through transformational workshops, their team works tirelessly to provide this much needed support.

H.O.O.V.E.S. is driven by a single goal: to do their part in rescuing horses and enlisting them to help service men and women heal, regain control and return to the life they fought to protect. Their decision-making process is informed by comprehensive empirical studies and high-quality data evaluation. They strive to build productive relationships and make a positive impact with all of their pursuits.

For more information, please visit www.booves.us

Government Contactor Knowingly Sold US Troops Defective Earplugs for Years



The 3M Company has agreed to pay \$9.1 million to settle claims that it fraudulently furnished U.S. service members with earplugs that it knew were defective. The company designed and sold the military its Dual-Ended Combat Arms Earplugs despite knowing the earplugs failed to effectively protect the user from hearing damage.

The earplugs were issued to service members who deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq between 2003 and 2015. This is pure example of a company seeking profit at the expense of the men and women who serve our country.

Now, because of 3M's misconduct, thousands of military members who used these defective earplugs are suffering from hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and other hearing-related problems.

The \$9.1 million that 3M has agreed to pay the U.S. military for its misconduct in providing the defective earplugs does not go to veterans and soldiers. However, military service personnel who used these earplugs may be able to pursue independent claims to obtain compensation for their injuries. If you are a veteran or active service member who was harmed by 3M's defective earplugs, please contact our firm for help pursuing a claim.

CASES OF INTEREST: FEBRUARY 2019

Sylvania Man Struck by Car While Using Leaf Blower

Our firm is representing a 65-year-old man who was struck and seriously injured while standing in front of his home using a leaf blower. The man, who lives in a quiet residential neighborhood, was hit by the driver of a vehicle who saw the man but was admittedly traveling too fast to stop. Our client was transported by EMS to Flower Hospital. He was diagnosed with four fractures to his nasal bones, a torn rotator cuff, broken teeth, several lacerations and cervical pain.

Hit-and-Run Driver Leaves Toledo Man with Brain Injury

Authorities are searching for the driver involved in a hit-and-run crash that left a 47-year-old Toledo man seriously injured. In the early evening hours on November 22, 2018, an unidentified driver ran a stop sign and struck our client's vehicle – rendering him unconscious and leaving him with serious injuries. The driver left the vehicle and fled the scene on foot. The owner of the vehicle is claiming she recently sold the vehicle. Our firm is actively investigating the case.

Liberty Center Man Goes Missing, Family Finds Tragedy

Two days after a 44-year-old man was reported missing by his family, his body was found in the passenger seat of an overturned car that was partially submerged in Turkeyfoot Creek in Henry County, Ohio. Preliminary police reports indicate the driver of the vehicle, who was also killed, lost control, left the roadway, went airborne and landed upside down in the creek. An investigation by our firm is ongoing.



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February's Raving Fan of the Month

"If you don't call them you're a fool." – Paul Thompson

Paul Thompson came to us after being t-boned when someone ran a red light. The other driver's insurance company denied liability, but Boyk Law aggressively pursued Paul's case by tracking down a witness, getting a statement from her, and filing suit. The extra effort proved well worth it when the insurance company went from denying liability to making a policy limits offer. Then we went the extra mile by negotiating with some lienholders to maximize the dollar amount in Paul's pocket.

New address or phone number?

Help us stay current by letting us know!

Call Sarah Sharpe at (419) 241-1395

or e-mail her at

marketing@charlesboyk-law.com

Boyk's Featured Pups!

Our office loves visiting the Lucas County Canine Care and Control Shelter. During our most recent visit we got to meet a couple special canines, and now we get to introduce them to you! Meet Oreo and Dan the Man. To help these pups find homes, Boyk Law will pay the adoption fees associated with adopting Oreo or Dan the Man. Check out what LC4 has to say about them and please go meet them! Don't forget to check our Newsletter every month for our next featured dogs! We are so excited for this new partnership.

Sweet Oreo, America's favorite dog! Oreo came into LC4 as a stray the first week of October and is one of our longest residents. She is only about 2-years-old and is a young girl with a lot to learn still about the world. She has done well with other dogs is super playful and snuggly! She currently is on a doggy sleepover with one of our volunteers and she's enjoying some rest and relaxation while she continues to look for her forever home!

To meet these pups please contact:
Lucas County Canine Care & Control
410 S Erie St, Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 213-2800
lucascountydogs.com



Oreo



Dan the Man