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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Visiting Dee's Lakeshore Farm
- 2 Streaming Services Change Entertainment
- 2 Know What Your Child's Day Care Should Look Like
- 3 3 Online Educational Resources for Kids or Teens
- 3 We Helped Rock the Vote!
- 4 Don't Forget to Vote!



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Election day is **Nov. 3, 2020**. It might feel far away right now, but the day will be here before you know it, and it's so important for every single person to exercise their right to vote for the leaders of our country.

Voting processes have looked a little different this year in light of COVID-19 and mandates for following proper health and safety guidelines, but there are still options for making sure your votes are counted.

In Missouri, for all 2020 elections, any registered Missouri voter can apply for a mail-in ballot and vote by mail. Generally, Missouri mail-in ballot voters are required to submit a notarized statement with their ballot, but in certain instances, including for voters who have contracted or are at-risk of contracting COVID-19, a voter may cast a mail-in ballot without notarization.

If you will be voting in person at your local polling place, please review the CDC's recommendations for protecting yourself and your family by visiting [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

For general voting information, visit [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org). For Missouri voting information, including registering to vote, finding



your polling place, signing up for vote by mail, and receiving election reminders, visit [Vote.org/state/missouri](https://www.vote.org/state/missouri).

To learn more about all the candidates and measures on the ballot this year, visit [ISideWith.com](https://www.isidewith.com).

Take all the right steps now so you're ready to vote come Nov. 3!



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MEMORIES THAT CONNECT US

MY GRANDMA AND DEE'S LAKESHORE FARM



I just returned from a summer vacation. It was incredible. We spent time right on Lake Michigan — saw sunsets every night, hit the beach each day, and made some great memories. As usual, I brought a load of books and work stuff to really get into. I didn't touch it. In fact, I was supposed to have this column done while on the trip. I didn't make the deadline.

I have been going to Michigan every summer for my entire life. It is a beautiful place to be in July. Every morning, I would find myself in the lake. It was quiet and calming. Several mornings, I was able to watch a bald eagle fly by. During those moments, it was tough to imagine a better place to be. In fact, my phone would not work so close to the lake and there was no landline. It was an adjustment.

I went to a farm up there that I had not been to in years. When I was young, my grandma would take me there. It is called Dee's Lakeshore Farm on Lakeshore Drive. Dee has been running a farm with tremendous fruits and vegetables for decades. We would get cherries, blueberries, peaches, corn, tomatoes, etc. Dee also has a constant garage sale. Occasionally, my grandma would let us get something.

I found myself staying very close to Dee's this summer. I told my wife

I wanted to go, so we all went one morning. She and the boys stayed in the car — coronavirus. It looked the exact same. Nothing had changed. I got a few tomatoes, potatoes, and some corn. I also got some peaches. I didn't see Dee as I was checking out — they take cash or check or you can "work it off." I was wondering what happened to her as I was checking out when I heard her voice. I recognized the Michigan accent right away. She wouldn't know me from the light post, but it felt familiar to me.

I was getting my change and produce when the debate in my head started — should I say something to Dee? Should I tell her who I am? Will she remember my grandma? Will I look like an idiot or worse? Will I be embarrassed? All these thoughts are going through my head within a 3-second span.

I finally resolved to say something. I said I used to come here as a kid with my grandma to the lady checking me out. I said it looks the same. Then I turned to Dee. The emotions tore through my body. Memories flooded my mind. She looked exactly as I remembered. I tried to compose myself and said, "Dee, my grandma was Susan Finney. She used to bring me here when I was young. I just wanted to say hi." I took my mask down so she could see my face (the market is outdoors and she was 20 feet away).

She looked at me and said, "Oh, yes!" and she pointed to a chair — and then said, "The last time I saw Susan, she sat in that chair and we talked for over an hour." Now my eyes were getting wet. Dee followed up with, "Is she still alive? How is she?"

I said, "No, she passed several years ago." Dee said she was sorry and asked about the cottage, which I told her my uncle now owns.

I left and headed back to my car. Sadness overwhelmed me. My wife could feel it. I didn't say much and drove back to our place, but I am glad I said something. The human connection during that moment was powerful — even though it was fleeting. It reminded me of who I am and where I come from. That brief interaction provided me with joy, happiness, and bittersweet memories. Those moments are what we work for at our office — moments when we recognize that our common humanity is unique and cannot be undervalued. I hope we all have many experiences like it throughout our lives.





ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE FILMS EARLIER

STREAMING SERVICES CHANGE THE FACE OF ENTERTAINMENT

The way we watch our favorite shows and movies has changed drastically in recent years and even more so this

year. With the pandemic impacting the world, people found themselves stuck inside their homes looking for new sources of entertainment, and many found exactly what they were looking for through the numerous streaming services available to us. The pandemic made time for people to watch their favorite shows again and again, and it also changed the way businesses, such as Disney and Universal Studios, release their movies.

Throughout the spring, many movies were released early and some skipped theater showings all together. "Trolls: World Tour" was released through video-on-demand and earned nearly \$100 million in rental fees on its April 10 debut, grossing far more than the first "Trolls" movie debut in 2016. Other movies, such as "Onward" and "Frozen II," were released early on different digital platforms for purchase or rent.

One of the most anticipated early releases under this new system is "Hamilton." This hit Broadway show has drawn thousands of people to the theater since its debut in 2015. A stage performance of "Hamilton" was filmed in 2016 in just over three days. The resulting movie creates an opportunity for everyone to see the show, whether or not they were able to catch it live on stage. Disney bought the rights to the film last year and announced this February that it would be released on Oct. 15, 2021, in theaters.

However, due to the pandemic, Disney decided that what people needed most was something they could enjoy, even if they couldn't leave their homes. On May 12, the studio announced the film would be available to stream on Disney+ starting on the July Fourth holiday. "Hamilton" fans and those who've never seen the play are thrilled to watch the film 16 months in advance of the originally scheduled release.

Streaming services have changed how people consume their entertainment, and the pandemic has changed how streaming services offer it. Both changes are helping people get through these difficult times.

KEEP THE LEARNING COMING WITH ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Education is always an important topic, but it's especially prevalent right now as school districts across the country work to implement safety practices that allow students to continue getting an education. Whether you're a parent keeping your child's education inside your own home, or you're looking to supplement the learning they're doing in school, consider the following online resources to get your kids the learning they need.

EVERFI

If you need some great general education courses for elementary, middle, and high school students, EVERFI has something useful for everyone. Their variety of online curriculum strives to create real-life scenarios in an educational context that keep students engaged and allows them to learn at their own pace. They even offer courses you won't find in a normal school setting — like financial education

for the future. Visit [Get.Everfi.com/k12-remote-learning](https://www.geteverfi.com/k12-remote-learning) to see if your child's school qualifies for free lessons.

Duolingo

Studies have proven the benefits of learning a second language, especially during younger developmental years. If your child wants to explore an array of worldwide languages like Spanish, Italian, Japanese, or Portuguese, then Duolingo is a great resource. It takes a game-like approach to make learning language fun and even addicting, and there are nearly endless levels of challenge. It's also one of the only online resources that promises to make everything available entirely for free. Visit [Duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com) to get started.

GED.com

High school isn't always the right fit for everyone, but the knowledge and recognition that come with completing it is necessary for many opportunities



later in life. Luckily, earning a GED, or high school equivalency certification, is a great alternative for those who are unable to attend or graduate high school. If your teenager, or anyone in your life without a high school diploma, is eager to start preparation for getting a GED, then the official GED website is a great resource for free study guides, practice tests, and any other information about the process.

Education can come from a variety of unique and useful resources. No matter what your child's learning looks like these days, explore these and other online options to enhance their education now and in the future.

PUT YOUR KID'S CARE FIRST

NEW REGULATIONS DAY CARE FACILITIES MUST FOLLOW

At Finney Injury Law, one of our specialized areas of practice is child care and day care injury. These facilities can be wonderful places for your child to learn and grow before entering a regular school setting, so long as they adhere to specific regulations laid down by the state in order to keep the children under their care safe. As regular schools head back into session, many day care centers will likely be reopening, too, so if you're a parent with a child enrolling in day care, be sure you're aware of all the guidelines they now have to follow.

As of late May, the state of Missouri has implemented specific regulations that are largely still intact for most counties across the state, and day care facilities must adhere to them. The health department has updated its "Childcare Reopening Guidance" to include the following:

- Intensifying cleaning and disinfection efforts
- Modifying child drop-off and pick-up procedures
- Providing an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety
- Recruiting those with child care experience to fill out a roster of substitute caregivers who can fill space left by sick staff members or those staying home to care for sick family
- Wearing proper personal protective equipment, including cloth or surgical face masks
- Screening children upon arrival at the facility for any signs of illness
- Developing and maintaining social distancing strategies

The plans and instructions for implementing the above regulations include many suggestions and details you can learn more about by visiting [STLCorona.com](https://www.stlcorona.com). If you notice anything unusual at your child's day care facility, or if your child has suffered an injury during their time spent there, call our office to see how we can help.

PLAYING OUR PART

VOTING IS IMPORTANT!

Voting is so important to everyone here at Finney Injury Law that in late July we rallied together as a firm to volunteer our time at an event hosted by The Bar Association of St. Louis. Working for hours in 95-degree heat, we helped to notarize mail-in ballots for the Missouri primary election that took place on Aug. 4. It was a long day, but well worth it.

The back of this newsletter talks about the importance of voting and provides resources so you can prepare for the Nov. 3 election, but don't forget how important it is to be an active voting member of your local community too. Every vote makes an impact!

So how are you rocking your right to vote today?

