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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Those We Love Are Alive in Memory
- 2 A Tail That Inspired Thousands
- 2 Don't Let Inattentive Drivers Fool You
- 3 Avoid Costly April Fools' Day Jokes Like This One
- 3 Sheet Pan Chicken Dinner
- 4 Take Me Out to the Ballgame



The love for baseball in St. Louis is undeniable. Even The Wall Street Journal, not exactly known for its sports coverage, ran an article a few years ago called "Why St. Louis Is the Ultimate Baseball Town." In it, St. Louis is dubbed as "baseball-crazed" and home to "the most dedicated and supportive fans in the game." That pretty much sums it up.

But last year's pandemic restrictions threw a curveball into the local and major leagues, which was especially hard on area baseball fans. Taking a look back at baseball history, 2020 will no doubt be remembered as the year spring training was canceled and opening day was delayed, then postponed indefinitely, ultimately shortening the season for all teams. Last year's shortened season is extremely atypical, as pro games have continued even through wars abroad and upheaval at home. Here's a little history:

Did you know?

- The first pro games of America's national pastime were played during the Civil War "in the wake of a young nation's darkest days," according to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Play continued even during WWI and WWII, even as many players served their country abroad. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued the "Green Light Letter" during WWII, encouraging play to continue as a "morale booster during difficult times." (We know just what a morale booster a game can be now!)
- As fighting settled down abroad, the civil rights movement began at home and Jackie Robinson and other pro players became symbols of integration during the tumultuous struggle for equality in the 1960s.

As opening day approaches, we're looking forward to getting back at bat and in the stands to enjoy a beloved local tradition. If you're looking to enroll your child in an area baseball or T-ball program, visit Fun4STLKids.com. You can search by grade, area, and type of program (e.g., recreational, tournament).

Complete information about ticketing and attendance policies for the Cardinals hasn't yet been released, but you can view the full 2021 schedule at Cardinals.com/schedule. We hope this season will be a home run!



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Keeping Memories of Those We Love — Alive and Present —

A year ago, this month, my grandpa passed away. It was not from coronavirus. I was taking two of my boys on a walk, as had become the routine at the height of the lockdowns. I would make some phone calls and push the one boy in a stroller and carry another on my back. It was a good workout, and I was able to get a lot done.

On that morning, I had received a call from my uncle. I was amazed at his composure. He was very clinical, asking questions and giving information. My grandpa had passed quickly, not drawing the situation out. My mom was to get on a flight to Florida. I was about a mile or so from home, watching the boys tumble down a hill in Kirkwood Park. The sun was shining, and it was a beautiful day, but I scooped them up and ran home.

I told Christine, dropped the boys, and drove to my mom's. I found my mom at her house, holding her phone. She was listening to a voicemail from my grandpa that morning. He sounded great, strong, and clear. My mom was crying. One of my sisters, maybe two, showed up. The scene is kind of a blur, but I remember telling my mom she needed to pack to get on a plane to Florida, where my grandpa was. She needed to be with her siblings to bring him home.

I remember feeling overwhelmed and awkward. How does a child comfort a parent when that parent loses their parent? Especially this parent to this child? When someone so large is gone, how do you handle that? I don't know. I'm pretty certain no one does.

At that moment, by the grace of God I assume, one of my mom's best friends just happened to stop by. She was picking something up off the porch as no one was coming into homes at that time. I ran out to stop her, and she protested, saying she was just grabbing the item. I begged her to come inside as I told her my grandpa had just passed. To this day, I don't know how she was there at that moment. But I will always be thankful. Her presence was needed.

My grandpa was an incredible man. He has eight kids, 40-plus grandkids, and maybe a dozen or so great-grandkids (more like 15 when you read this). I can't even keep track myself. He had followed life's path with vigor and strength. His story took many twists and turns, but he always came out on top. Always.

Later in life, some older cousins would go out to dinner with him a few times a year, and I would join. He would travel back and forth from Florida, and we would get dinner when he was here. He didn't eat dinner at 4 p.m. He kept a later schedule than me. These were times and conversations that make for great memories, for sure. But they are not dead. I will still get dinner with cousins, we will still discuss the same stuff we did with my grandpa, and the tradition will live on, and so will he. That seems how it should work.

I was not the closest grandchild to my grandpa. It is probably impossible to tell who the closest was, but it was not me. But I never felt I was *not* close to him, and I will never know how much he did for me. I enjoyed my position and relationship with him, and it grew as I grew. I did not want any more from him. I do believe he was proud of me.

What strikes me the most about his loss is the thought that calling him was more present and comforting than I imagined. Since he passed, I've found myself thinking I can call him only to know that I can't, but I also know I probably wouldn't call him. It's made me realize that he truly was a part of my life. Just the thought of someone can bring immense comfort.

In this year of incredible loss, I hope we continue traditions to keep those we've lost alive and think of them often.

Ch.



Winter the Dolphin

A Tail That Inspired Thousands



Photo Credit: Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Winter the dolphin was only 2 years old when rescuers found her with a crab trap line wrapped so tightly around her tail it was cutting off the circulation to her flukes. Unfortunately, this led to the eventual loss of her tail. In most cases, dolphins can't survive without their flukes.

When Winter first arrived at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, her caregivers worried about her overall health. The infection that had taken over her tail due to loss of circulation was spreading, and if it reached her spinal cord, they knew she would die. Fortunately, her spinal cord remained untouched. Winter adapted to her situation, but then a new problem arose. Without flukes, Winter began moving her body side-to-side to swim, which caused scoliosis in her spine. However, an expert created a custom prosthetic tail for her, enabling her to swim normally again without impacting her spine. Since then, Winter has thrived!

The story of what Winter went through, her struggle to recover, and how she fought to live has inspired thousands of people. Children and adults who have lost their limbs or were born with disabilities travel from around the world to meet her. She encourages people to keep fighting, and

many feel that if Winter could overcome her obstacles, they can, too. There was even a film made about her called "Dolphin Tale." In fact, many of the scenes from the movie were shot at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and Winter starred as herself. The film captures her triumphant story and chronicles how she inspires people around the world.

To learn more about Winter, read inspirational stories, or donate to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, visit CMAAquarium.org. And, of course, "Dolphin Tale" is a great film for your next movie night!

KEEP THE FUN IN APRIL FOOLS' AND STAY SAFE WHEN YOU'RE ON FOOT

April kicks off with a trickster's favorite holiday — April Fools' Day — and it brings warmer weather, beckoning people outdoors to stretch their legs and shake off winter. When it comes to your friends, family, or coworkers, a playful prank can be good fun, but you never want to play the fool in some areas of life!

If you find yourself venturing outside more, running errands on foot to enjoy the fresh air while avoiding traffic, or just getting some exercise on a pleasant neighborhood walk, don't be fooled into thinking you always have the right-of-way or that all drivers see you. As a pedestrian, you're much more likely to sustain severe injuries if you're involved in a collision with a vehicle. Luckily, you can take many precautions to avoid this situation.

Cross at intersections. Most pedestrian-vehicle collisions happen on the open road. It can be tempting to take a shortcut on your route, or jaywalk, but it's not worth the risk!

Stay visible at night. Fatal collisions are much more likely to occur at night. If you're going to be on foot when darkness descends, make sure to wear visible clothing and never assume a driver can see you.

Be more vigilant in urban areas. In cities like St. Louis, pedestrians can cover a lot of ground on foot while avoiding traffic. But knowing that 80% of pedestrian deaths occur in urban areas can help you stay vigilant while you're out on foot enjoying this wonderful city.

If the worst should happen and a vehicle strikes you as a pedestrian, remember you have recourse to get compensation and hold the inattentive driver liable. These cases can be more complicated than collisions involving two vehicles, so don't be fooled into thinking it's best to go it alone. Hiring a skilled injury attorney can help ensure you get the compensation you deserve and that the accident doesn't devastate you financially.

After calling 911, gather as much information as possible from the driver and any witness, get medical treatment, and then reach out to the team at Finney Injury Law. We know how devastating these accidents can be, and we don't want you to deal with the consequences of a negligent driver's actions alone.

THIS PRANK WENT UP IN FLAMES

Most April Fools' Day jokes are harmless. Making caramel onions (instead of apples) for your family or setting a spider next to your coworkers' mouse is sure to elicit a few laughs from everyone watching, and only egos are hurt. It's when the jokes end in ambulance rides, hospital visits, and lawsuits that the situation is no longer a laughing matter.

Furthermore, it can complicate who's liable.

Take the case of *Graham vs. Commercial Bodyworks Ltd.* In 2015, two employees of Commercial Bodyworks were having some fun when their joke went up in flames — literally. One of the employees set their coworker on fire using a cigarette lighter and a flammable liquid. The person set on fire sustained serious injuries as a result and rightfully sought compensation for their medical bills and pain.

However, who was at fault wasn't clear. The plaintiff sued their employer, Commercial Bodyworks Ltd., for workers' compensation, claiming that since their injuries occurred on the company's property, the business was liable. However, the court of appeals didn't agree. In fact, the court found that the

company cannot be held liable for "frolicsome but reckless conduct" that occurs between employees during employment.

In other words, an employer is not responsible for your injuries if one employee sets you on fire during the course of a prank that isn't related to your work.

However, that doesn't eliminate the employer's responsibility should a coworker injure you. Every situation and interpretation of that moment is different. So, if a coworker injures you while doing work-related tasks, your employer is likely going to be liable. They may also be the responsible party if, during the course of your employment, they tolerated or encouraged reckless behavior that could have resulted in an injury. Your employer cannot condone dangerous behavior in one instance and shrug off responsibility later.

The interpretation by the courts can be vague, but the lesson here is simple: You have a right to compensation when you're injured, but perhaps it's best if you keep your workplace pranks to a minimum — and stay away from fire.



SHEET PAN CHICKEN DINNER

Inspired by TheSpruceEats.com

You've probably heard of a one-pot meal, but how about a one-pan meal? This easy sheet pan dinner comes together in just 30 minutes without dirtying many dishes.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 large head of broccoli, cut into florets

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. On a large baking sheet, combine chicken, sweet potatoes, salt, and pepper. Drizzle with oil and toss to coat.
3. Bake for 15 minutes. In the meantime, make the sauce by combining the soy sauce, lemon juice, honey, and cayenne pepper.
4. Remove pan from oven and use a spatula to flip the chicken and potatoes, then add broccoli florets.
5. Drizzle sauce evenly over top and return to the oven to bake for an additional 15 minutes or until chicken has an internal temperature of 165 F and vegetables are fork-tender.

YOUR REFERRALS MEAN THE WORLD TO US

There is no greater compliment we can receive than a client telling a friend or loved one about us. If you know somebody who has been injured and needs an attorney who will fight on their behalf and give their case the attention it deserves, please pass along this newsletter and have them give us a call at 314-293-4222. Thank you for spreading the word about Finney Injury Law.