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- Car Wreck
- Wrongful Death
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Hang On to Your Seat

HOW SPORTS TEAMS ARE ENGAGING FANS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Despite COVID-19's continual presence in our country, many sports organizations are finding ways to adapt their seasons to the ever-changing circumstances.

As many teams try to play out their seasons as normally as they can, they are also adapting to not having their fans there to cheer them on. So, some team members, teams, and entire sports organizations are getting creative. Here's a look at some of the most noteworthy ways sports teams and players have connected with their fans so far.

CUT ME OUT FOR THE BALLGAME

When the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team learned their fans wouldn't be joining them at the stadium this year, they made sure fans wouldn't be cut out of the fun completely. For just \$50, Brewers fans could have a 2-foot-tall cardboard cutout of themselves placed in the Uecker "Last

Row" in the highest level of seating in Miller Park. It was a great way for fans to be with the team in spirit, and all the money from the cutouts went to the Brewers Community Foundation.

ESPORTS TAKE THE HOCKEY SEASON OFF ICE

When the National Hockey League's season was abruptly suspended, fans were left without any games to look forward to — at least, any live games. Soon after the season was suspended, the marketing staff of the New Jersey Devils came up with a plan. They prepared 20 simulations every game night against would-be opponents using EA Sports' NHL '20. They even got the Devils' radio announcer Matt Loughlin to voice the play-by-play for the simulations to give them an air of authenticity. It might not be as good as the real thing, but one game drew over 60,000 views.



TIKTOK TRICK SHOTS

Even in the midst of the pandemic, the social media following for some sports teams, such as the Philadelphia 76ers, has grown. This is due, in large part, to some players' abilities to meet their young fans where they are. While quarantined at home, 76ers star player Matisse Thybulle began posting trick shots with pingpong balls on TikTok — some of which garnered over a million views. This is just one example of how some players are continuing to foster a personal connection with their fans even off the court.

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THE TEXAS LAW DOG

I COME TO FIGHT. I DON'T BARK. I BITE!

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A New 'Law Dog' Joins the Pack!

MEET ATTORNEY KIM JONES PENEPACKER



I'm Kim Jones Penepacker, one of the latest attorneys to join the great (and growing) team at Aulsbrook Law! I'm a dog lover so it only made sense to join the law firm known as the Texas Law Dog.

In fact, I met my husband, Carson, while volunteering at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter. It was a match made in dog heaven. And, of course, we have two dogs of our own — Chloe and Remington, aka Remi. I adopted Chloe from the Humane Society of North Texas, and we got Remi together a few years later.

A shared interest in animal advocacy, especially for rescue animals, was something that drew me to Aulsbrook Law. Of course, my love of dogs and passion for animal advocacy are only a small part of why I joined the team. I also have a passion for connecting with and helping people. That's something shared by everyone on the Aulsbrook team.

I know how hard it can be when someone gets injured. When the bills start piling up and things start to feel uncertain, I am glad to step in and help. I like to think that I can bring some peace to one of the most chaotic times in a person's life. I also believe that personal injury lawyers have a unique role in society. We hold tortfeasors accountable for their actions, so we can get compensation for the people they have hurt and prevent future harm to others.

Outside of my legal work and animal advocacy, I volunteer with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and I am a champion for the Alliance for Proton Therapy, a group that helps cancer patients navigate wrongful insurance denials when seeking coverage for radiation treatment. My husband and I also support the Living for Zachary foundation, which raises awareness of the issue of sudden cardiac arrest in youths. The foundation also offers free heart screenings for youths and donates automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to youth-based organizations.

My husband and I are excited to move to Arlington for my work at Aulsbrook Law. We both grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, and we are also Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers fans, so I am looking forward to going to games again when everything reopens. I have no doubt many people feel this exact same way.

Here are a few fun facts about me:

- I am a PADI-certified open-water diver, and I enjoy scuba diving and traveling.
- I've been to seven countries and all 50 states — and I hope to travel more in the future.
- When I started college at Baylor University, I initially majored in music performance and aspired to be a classical flautist. Eventually, I changed my degree to political science, but I received a minor in music from Baylor.
- Today, I still play the flute and piano and enjoy attending performances by the Dallas and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras.

After college, I attended Baylor Law School and made the dean's list there. Since graduation, I have helped numerous plaintiffs get the compensation they deserve. I look forward to continuing that journey with the Aulsbrook Law Firm!

-Kim Jones Penepacker

The Spooky 'Star Wars' Shortage of 1977

A long time ago ... in October of 1977 to be exact, Halloween was fast approaching and many parents faced a major dilemma. That year, kids didn't want to go trick-or-treating dressed as vampires, witches, or ghosts. The classic costumes simply wouldn't do. That Halloween, almost every child in the United States wanted to dress as their favorite character from the new hit movie, "Star Wars."

Today, you can walk into a Halloween City on Oct. 30 and easily pick up a costume for Rey, Darth Vader, or Princess Leia. But in 1977, less than five months after the release of the first movie in the popular franchise, getting your hands on "Star Wars" merchandise was a bit more difficult. Ben Cooper, a costume company in Brooklyn, had the foresight to license "Star Wars" for costumes right after the movie came out. Unfortunately, they didn't foresee how great the demand for these costumes would be.

Retailers across the country were selling out of "Star Wars" costumes as fast as they came in. Some stores reported selling more "Star Wars" costumes than pumpkins. Kids who got their hands on an authentic Han Solo or C-3PO costume were considered lucky. But kids who arrived at the store to find the costume shelves empty didn't throw in the towel. Instead, they went and found some brown towels to make their own Chewbacca costumes.

In the current age of cosplay, homemade costumes based on movie characters are commonplace, but in 1977, this was uncharted territory. Kids searched for white dresses to be Princess Leia and bathrobes they could cut short to mimic Luke Skywalker. Moms everywhere broke out their sewing machines and created costumes using only action figures for reference. It was grueling work, but it showed how much kids wanted to spend Halloween in a galaxy far, far away.

The "Star Wars" costume shortage marked a new era for Halloween — one where making your own costume was just as cool, if not better, than buying it.



A long time ago in a

BE SPOOKY AND STAY SAFE



HALLOWEEN IN THE YEAR OF COVID-19

Is it possible to trick-or-treat while social distancing? This is a question on the mind of just about every kid and adult in Texas and throughout the country. This year, Halloween lands on a Saturday. If this were any other year, people would be planning all kinds of ghoulish things. Kids would be looking forward to trick-or-treating well into the night, and the grown-ups would be planning spooky parties.

But this year is different. People have questions about safety. Is it possible to participate in Halloween revelry during a pandemic? Or is Halloween canceled? These are tough questions to answer, but every parent (or anyone who wants to have a gathering) must consider them. However, as we get closer to Oct. 31, people are coming up with creative ways to both stay safe and have fun. Here are a few of those ideas.

Trick-or-Treat in Pods The idea is to keep groups of kids limited to about four people. Large groups should be discouraged. At the same time, kids should not gather with other groups of kids. Once your kids have their trick-or-treating group figured out, help them develop a plan for exactly where they are going. Stick to the plan! Adult supervision is recommended.

Hand Out Treats Safely It's safe to say that many homeowners aren't interested in swaths of kids coming to their door this year. While many people may leave a bucket of candy on the doorstep, that isn't without risk either. Instead, place candy in individual snack bags and spread them out on a table near the front door. Another solution: candy catapults!

Wear a Mask What is Halloween without masks? Of course, most Halloween masks aren't medical devices and will not prevent the transmission of germs. However, why not consider incorporating a mask into your costume this year? Many popular characters wear masks, from superheroes to ninjas. Get creative while also placing an emphasis on safety.

Sanitize Everything Before the kids head out to trick-or-treat, make sure they have a travel-size bottle of hand sanitizer with them. Disinfectant wipes are also a good option. Later in the evening, make sure everything gets wiped down — including the candy — before it's brought into the home. Costumes should also be removed immediately so they can be washed or sanitized.

3 AUTO ACCIDENT MYTHS DEBUNKED

When you or a loved one is involved in a car accident, there is a very good chance you will have many questions, including *What should I expect?* You are simply trying to figure out what to do next. However, there are many misconceptions about what happens after a car accident, especially when it comes to dealing with insurance companies. You may have heard one thing, but the reality may be very different. Here are three common misconceptions or myths about car accident claims and the truth behind them.

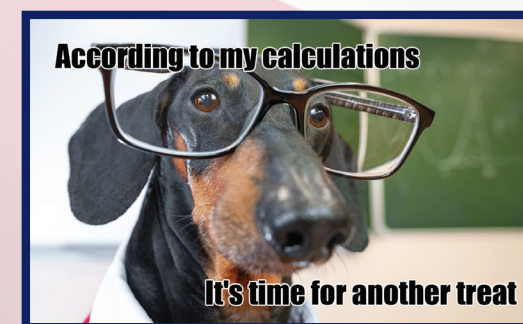
Myth: The insurance company (either yours or the at-fault driver's) will take care of all your medical bills. The truth is that insurers are unlikely to pay your medical bills in a quick, efficient manner. You may submit bills to the insurer, but that doesn't mean anything will happen. If you reach a settlement with the insurer, and you have signed their release, they will only pay you once. If you incur any medical bills related to your accident after the settlement, those bills are your responsibility.

Myth: You must give a statement (written or recorded) to the insurance company regarding your accident. You are under no obligation to give any sort of statement to the at-fault driver's insurer. They may ask for one, but it has the potential to harm your case. They are looking for the chance to poke holes in your statement so they can find ways to reduce or deny your claim.

Myth: Your insurance company will cancel your auto policy if you make a claim. There are many stories about this. In the past, insurers have acted against the best interest of their customers far more than they do now (if you can believe it). Fortunately, the truth is that Texas law prevents insurers from canceling your insurance just because you file a claim. However, they can cancel your insurance (or refuse your renewal) if you have two or more no-fault claims within a single year.



Texas-Sized LAUGHS



HOME COOKIN'

WARM SPINACH AND SUNCHOKE SALAD

Inspired by FoodAndWine.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 lb sunchokes, scrubbed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 15 garlic cloves, peeled
- Pinch of crushed red pepper
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 lb leaf or curly spinach, stemmed and large leaves torn
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 Honeycrisp apple, sliced
- 4 oz clothbound cheddar, crumbled (1 cup), divided

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. In a large cast-iron skillet, heat 2 tbsp olive oil until nearly smoking.
3. Add sunchokes, garlic, and crushed red pepper. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Move skillet into the oven and roast for 25–30 minutes, until sunchokes are just tender.
5. In a large bowl, add the prepared spinach.
6. Remove skillet from the oven and add vinegar and remaining 2 tbsp olive oil, then pour mixture over the spinach.
7. Toss gently until spinach is wilted.
8. Add apple and half of the cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste.
9. Transfer to a serving bowl, toss, top with remaining cheese, and serve.