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Tailgating Season in Full Swing

Football and tailgating parties go hand in hand at many college and professional football stadiums across the country. Most tailgating parties feature camaraderie, appetizing gameday food and drink, and a festive atmosphere leading into the big game. Unfortunately, a number of circumstances occasionally conspire to spoil a good time and cause injury.

Not surprisingly, alcohol fuels a good portion of reckless actions while tailgating. Some tailgaters operate a motor vehicle while impaired and cause harm to others. Grilling while inebriated isn't exactly a stellar fire-prevention measure. Many physical altercations can be attributed to alcohol consumption as well.

Other causes of tailgating-related injuries include tailgaters who impede traffic flow or cut off pedestrian lanes. Broken glass that hasn't been cleaned up can be hazardous. Dehydration and fatigue can negatively affect an attendee's judgment and motor skills—some tailgaters commence festivities at the crack of dawn! Errant football tosses by careless revelers can inflict damage, too.

Responsibility for injuries or property damage may rest with an individual who was acting negligently, the stadium owner, a university, or a fraternity/sorority. Stadium owners and universities are responsible for adequate security/law enforcement, posted warnings or policies, proper lighting, etc. Universities also need to be vigilant in monitoring underage drinking. Some fraternities and sororities that host tailgate parties are subject to social liability laws, which come into play when the host of an event recognizes that a guest is intoxicated but allows them to continue drinking.

If you are injured while attending a tailgating party or simply passing through the area, establishing liability can sometimes be tricky. Contact an experienced personal injury attorney to protect your rights. •





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Colleges and Gamers Forging a New Relationship

“E-sports” are team video-game competitions played online. They have been around for a couple of decades, and in that time the industry has blossomed into a nearly \$1 billion-per-year venture garnering 400+ million viewers worldwide. Tournaments held in New York City’s Madison Square Garden and Los Angeles’ Staples Center have sold out in less than an hour. E-sports tournaments and leagues offer winners acclaim, trophies, and ... oh yeah, prize money.

In the past five years, over 100 colleges and universities have begun to offer their own gaming prizes: scholarships. Colleges gain new student recruits, while students receive a college education that can prepare them for jobs in the ever-growing gaming industry (or other field), such as game developers, software innovators, league staffers, and marketing professionals. Only cream-of-the-crop gamers will be able to earn a living simply by playing video games.

Recruits become part of an e-sports team that plays other schools. There are video-game practices, light fitness workouts—to keep core muscles, arms, shoulders, and wrists in top form—video sessions to assess past performances, team meetings, and team-building exercises. The “arenas” are typically cutting-edge computer labs with high-speed streaming capabilities. Some programs even have a psychologist and/or nutritionist on staff.

The NCAA does not regulate the e-sports program, but you can bet behind-the-scenes conversations are occurring. Currently, players on college e-sports teams are permitted to earn prize money through noncollegiate gaming, unlike other collegiate sports programs.

Organized gaming at the university level defies the stereotype of isolated, grumpy, caffeine-guzzling teens digging societal holes for themselves. For exasperated parents, e-sports scholarships may be one way to turn lemons into lemonade. •

Grandparents Rock!



In 1971, West Virginian Marian McQuade, a lifelong advocate for senior citizens, began her push for a day to honor grandparents. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation recognizing the first Sunday following Labor Day as Grandparents Day. Incidentally, McQuade ended up having 43 grandchildren. (She knew she would need a special day!)

There are over 70 million grandparents in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Roughly 2.7 million are the primary caregivers to one or more of their grandchildren, and approximately 7.2 million children under age 18 share a household with a grandparent.

Marketers also keep close tabs on grandparents. A recent AARP study estimates that grandparents spend \$179 billion on their grandkids each year, an average of over \$2,500 per child—birthday/holiday splurging and assisting with college tuition, vacations, and other expenses. Yes, a small percentage of exceedingly high spenders jack up the average, but grandparents spend across the board.

Today's grandparents are digitally engaged. According to the website Grandparents.com, over 75 percent of them are online, and in excess of 50 percent are on social media—hopefully not trolling. Staying connected with their grandchildren has never been easier.

“A Song for Grandma and Grandpa” is the official song of Grandparents Day. Johnny Prill wrote the song in 1982 from the perspective of a young grandchild extolling the virtues of his grandparents. It simply and beautifully sums up what many grandparents provide. We'll leave you with this verse:

*Spending time together, talking on the phone,
Happy birthday presents, chocolate ice cream cones.
Photographs and memories, picnics and parades,
Saying that you love me in so many ways. •*



September 2019 Notable Dates

September 4 – National Wildlife Day

September 7 – World Beard Day

September 9 – National Teddy Bear Day

September 13 – Day of the Programmer

September 16 – National Working Parents Day

September 19 – National Butterscotch Pudding Day

September 21 – Big Whopper Liar Day

September 26 – National Pancake Day



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pg 1

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

Nursing Home Falls Can Be Deadly



According to the National Council on Aging, falls are the leading cause of fatal injury among older Americans (age 65+), encompassing traumatic brain injuries and fractures, among other conditions. Fatalities might not be immediate but eventually result due to medical complications. Non-fatal falls can severely impact quality of life.

Falls are frequently a reason why family members make the difficult decision to place an elderly loved one in a nursing home or assisted-living facility. Skilled nursing facilities have a legal obligation to thoroughly assess the health and needs of each individual resident, develop an effective care plan, and bring staff members up to speed on the plan.

Some nursing home falls are accidental and unavoidable. Others, however, could have been prevented and may have occurred due to the following:

- **Understaffing.** Some facilities seek to reduce costs by cutting back on staff. Overworked employees get fatigued, lose focus, and make critical mistakes. Residents may tire of waiting for assistance and take on certain tasks themselves ... and fall.
- **Improper training.** Some staff do not know how to properly monitor high-risk residents, or are inadequately trained on how to safely transfer patients (e.g., from a bed to a wheelchair).
- **Medication errors.** The wrong medications or incorrect dosages may cause dizziness, weakness, confusion, etc.
- **Faulty medical equipment.** A defective walker, wheelchair, lift, or bed rails might cause harm.
- **Environmental hazards.** Poor lighting, wet floors, and hallway/room obstacles elevate the risk of falls.

Between one-half and three-quarters of all nursing home residents fall each year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics. If your loved one is injured in a fall due to negligence, contact a nursing home attorney to protect their rights. ●