

InComplete THOUGHTS

A Newsletter
about life, death,
and things
in between...



IN CONTEMPLATION

The staff at Complete Estate & Probate Law contribute and discuss what's on their mind..

THINGS TO KNOW

We share updated information about estate planning, and things in the news that might affect or interest you.

RECOMMENDATIONS

What we're reading, watching, cooking, celebrating or otherwise doing outside of work.

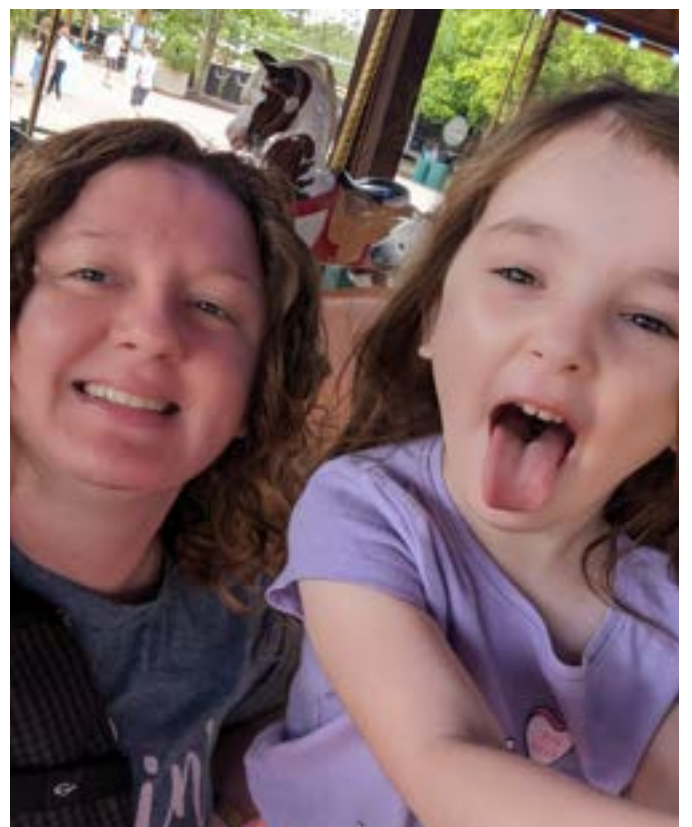
Also included: Legacy Corner

IN CONTEMPLATION...

by Rachel Jewett

This Back-to-School season is proving particularly emotional for me considering the ages of my nieces and nephews. I have had the joy of being an aunt since I was 16 years old. I distinctly remember finding out that I was going to be an aunt for the first time and have become slightly more obsessed as each kid joins the ranks. When I lived out of state, I sent letters and subscription boxes. I tried to think of out of the box gifts and random facts to sprinkle in those letters. Even when I couldn't be there physically, I wanted each one to know that I loved them and thought of them often.

I moved back to the area in 2021 and a big part of that dealt with the fact that my oldest "kids" were going to be finishing high school and the youngest are just starting kindergarten. This year, my nephew, Jacob, and niece, Taylor, graduated high school.



THINGS TO KNOW

By Polly Bartle Blomquist

What happens to social media after someone dies? The social media company won't automatically know that the person is deceased, so to do anything to the account, someone must take action.

Facebook

The only people that will be given access, according to Facebook, is an immediate family member (they don't define this...) or the executor of the account holder. (An executor is appointed by a court.) To allow this person to act they must provide a death certificate, if one isn't available, Facebook also states that it will take the other following documents, power of attorney, which I find amusing because they expire at death, a birth certificate if the deceased is a minor, Last Will and Testament, Estate Letter, an obituary or memorial card.

They can request one of two actions:

1. That the account be memorialized.

- The word "Remembering" will be shown next to the person's name on their profile.
- Depending on the privacy settings of the profile, friends can share memories on the memorialized timeline.
- Content the person shared stays on Facebook and is visible on Facebook to the designated audience.
- Memorialized profiles won't appear in suggestions for People You May Know, ads or birthday reminders.
- No one can log into the account of a memorialized profile.
- Memorialized profiles that don't have a legacy contact can't be changed.
- Pages with a sole admin whose profile was memorialized will be removed from Facebook if they receive a valid memorialization request.

2. You can choose to have your account permanently deleted should you pass away. This means that when someone lets Facebook know that you've passed away, all of your messages, photos, posts, comments, reactions and info will be immediately and permanently removed from Facebook.

Facebook will allow you to appoint a legacy contact who can access your account if you pass away, Instagram does not have that feature.

Twitter:

They will work with the executor of your estate to have the account deactivated and they can request the removal of the deceased user's account. They will require the death certificate, a copy of the requesting person's identification.

TikTok:

In the event of a user's death, TikTok does not provide a memorialization feature like Facebook. Instead, loved ones can contact TikTok support to request the deactivation of the deceased user's account. This process requires proof of death, such as a death certificate, and once completed, the account and its content will no longer be accessible.

— coming soon —

We have some very exciting news on the horizon! We are expanding our firm in the very near future.

Be sure to be on the lookout for more information by following us on social media and staying tuned to our newsletter updates.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Reading is not everyone's favorite pastime, but it is something that we've all experienced during school. In honor of the back-to-school season, each member of our firm looked back to high school to select a piece of literature which resonated with them. Have you read any of the below?

Karen: Hamlet by William Shakespeare. Some people did not enjoy it because it was challenging to read but I actually liked that about it. I also liked it because it dealt with conflicting human emotions and has a great tragic ending. To me, the most powerful quote from it is "to thine own self be true" because we should all strive to be true to our principles, beliefs, and morals which can often be a struggle, especially in our teenage years.

Polly: Grapes of Wrath and Catcher in the Rye. I don't think I had the maturity at the time to appreciate either. I remember thinking they were depressing. Perhaps I need to take another look at them to see what I'd think as an adult. Would I recommend them? High school Polly says no, Polly today? I'm not so sure.

Rachel: The Crucible by Arthur Miller. I really enjoyed the fear which runs through this. This hysteria that can't be contained only worsens the longer the story goes on. It's an evaluation of how the voice of an individual is lost under the pressure of a crowd. By the way, this was in reaction to McCarthyism.

Amanda S: Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck but I can't think of why I would've liked it other than it was entertaining and a quick read!

Anne: Diary of Anne Frank, by Anne Frank. A must read for any age. A poignant and heartbreaking account which led me to read other memoirs from this time period.

Amanda D: Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte, I remember reading Jane Eyre in high school and I had a sense of connectivity to her character. I realized that as a woman, I would face many obstacles and the way to handle those situations will guide me to who I am and how I would see myself or others. I would definitely give this book another read and compare how it made me feel as a high school student to who I am today as an adult.

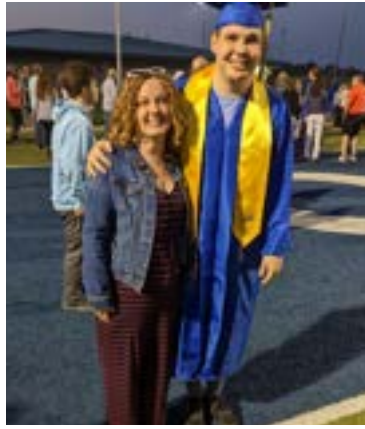


Rachel's Birthday - August 3

Polly's Birthday - August 8

Nat. Estate Planning Awareness Week - Oct. 16-20

Annual Shred Event - October 21, 2023



Legacy Corner

*Where we share our family traditions,
recipes, and other ways, we are passing
on our legacy...*

IN CONTEMPLATION...

continued

They are officially adults and spent the last couple of months deciding what the future outside of high school was going to look like. I've been lucky enough to provide guidance on financial aid, meal plans and roommate drama. It can be much easier to express nerves to another family member rather than a parent. Jacob asked me during lunch if I had been scared to move out and live on my own while Taylor and I discussed roommate boundaries. It is a giant step to leave home for the first time, even when it's only a couple months at a time.

On the opposite end of things, Taylor's younger sister, Ella Rae, will be starting kindergarten this fall. Her mom has already begun purchasing school supplies, starting with a unicorn backpack. Ella Rae eagerly demonstrated taking it off and on. She is excited to be going to school instead of daycare. This transition makes me incredibly emotional since before we realize it, she'll be asking me the same questions her big sister did before heading to college. It seems so scary to me and I'm just their aunt! I'm comforted by the little flashes of their parents' personality that I see in them. They're going to do just fine despite the bumps that adolescence brings.

I'm spending more and more time reflecting back on my own experiences. I've tried to remember the things that I wanted to be told before starting a new school, whether that was elementary, middle, high school or college. I want each of the kids in my life to remember a couple things as they head back to school and face the obstacles it brings.

- Love yourself: Try not to waste time disliking yourself. You are the only person you're with for your entire life. As the saying goes, confidence is your most attractive feature.
- Peer Pressure goes both ways: Be respectful of your friends' choices, they don't have to always match yours. Boundaries are important for a reason.
- Enjoy the little things: We don't always know when we're stressed so try to keep doing things you love.

The Back-to-School season encompasses so much more than school supplies. Children are learning how to interact in a social setting. They will learn the skills which will prepare them for adulthood. Take a moment to give them a little bit of grace when they come home moody and unwilling to talk. Give yourself a little bit of grace as well. It's not easy raising human beings! They talk back and I only like sarcasm when it comes from me!

My children are all grown up now and some even have children of their own, yet I still remember all the excitement and anticipation mixed with anxiety that came along with the first day of school. We documented the first day of school with a picture of the girls in the chosen new outfit. What joy it brings me to look back at those pictures, especially in succession and see how they changed over the years!

However, it was something I started on the first day of school with my youngest daughter that had more of an impact than I realized it would. Sending your first child off to school can be emotional for parents too. As I was thinking about her, missing her, and wondering how her first day was going, I decided to surprise her with a special treat when she got home. I baked her favorite chocolate chip cookies.

As the years followed, sometimes I baked one of their favorite treats and sometimes I bought a special treat for us to share together. We would sit together and talk about their first day. Naturally some first days were better than others over the years. But it was an opportunity for us to celebrate the new friends made, getting "the best teacher", or the prize of a desk next to a best friend. But it was also a time to get in the weeds together if there were any difficulties they were experiencing. It brought me such pride when one of the older girls would dispense their advice and reassure little sister that they were there for her. Of course, there was the feisty middle daughter always ready to come to the rescue!

I could share a favorite recipe here, but it isn't about the cookies. It is about the moments we share with our kiddos... so here are a couple of my grandkiddos back to school photos!

