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Donald Ray Miller

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021



MILLER

Donald Ray Miller, 60, of Wardensville, WV passed away Monday, May 10, 2021 at his home.

Born July 24, 1960 in Clifton Forge, VA, he was the son of Margaret Lavon Godby Miller and the late Charles Melvin Miller.

Donnie worked as a purchaser for LSC Printing. He was an avid history buff. He loved antiques and had developed a passion for clock repair and restoration. He enjoyed mountain biking, hiking, and taking random road trips through the mountains. Donnie loved God, his mom and dad, his country, and his family.

In addition to his dad, he was preceded in death by his infant twin brother, Ronald Lynn Miller, and his beloved K9, Max.

Including his mom, survivors are his brothers, Eddie Miller (Sherri) of Renick, WV and Kenny Miller of Frankford, WV; sister, Susan Bagford (Michael Vasapoli) of Fairfax, VA; nieces and nephews, Christi Bagford, C.J. Miller (Jennifer), Kathy Bagford, Jack Gordon Miller, and Reese Henry Miller; and a great-niece, Maggie Miller.

A memorial service will be held at 12 noon, Friday, May 28, 2021 at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel - 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, WV with Pastor Youel Altizer officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service, Friday at the funeral home. Interment will follow in the End of the Trail Cemetery, Clintonville, WV.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Welton Darl “Pop” Shipe Sr.

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021



SHIPE

Welton Darl “Pop” Shipe Sr., 87, of Renick, WV passed away Monday, May 24, 2021 at his home.

Born June 4, 1933 in Mathias, WV, he was the son of the late Benjamin Calvin and Pearl Gertie Ritchie Shipe.

Darl was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran and had retired from Lever Brothers Company. He was a member of the Mt. Herman United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the NRA and loved hunting and bowling.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by thirteen brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his loving wife of forty-eight years, Lois Roberts Shipe; sons, Darl Shipe Jr. (Beth) of Charleroi, PA, Wayne Shipe of Baker, WV, and Jeffrey Herndon (Karen) of Bradenton, FL; daughters, Sandy Swain of Baltimore, MD, Darlene Shipe of Baker, WV, Katherine Sorrells (Bobby) of Stuarts Draft, VA, and Sandra Lowe (James) of Dayton, OH; fourteen grandchildren; thirty-seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be 1 p.m., Saturday, May 29, 2021 at the Mt. Herman United Methodist Church, Renick, WV with Pastor Pete Scott officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service, Saturday at the church. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 30, 2021 at the Cullers-Shipe Cemetery, Mathias, WV.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

John Michael Feury

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021



FEURY

John Michael Feury, 75, of White Sulphur Springs passed away May 25, 2021 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Mike was born April 25, 1946 in Low Moor, VA and was the son of the late Harry Russell and Matilda E. McCreery Feury.

He was a truck driver for various construction and logging businesses, a member of the Church of God, a

former member of the White Sulphur Springs Fire and Rescue Squad. Mike loved fooling with cars, hunting and fishing, but most importantly, being with his grandkids.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Michael Feury, and a brother, Harry G. "Skeets" Feury.

Surviving are his loving wife, Helen Crowder Feury; daughters, Sara Frazier (Shawn) of White Sulphur Springs, Julie Brewster of Georgia, and Stephanie Bridges (Scottie) of Ballard, WV; grandchildren, Leslie, Michael, Aaron, Hannah (Demetrius), Lacie, Cameron, Brooklyn, and Bryson; great-grandchildren; Cayden, Jake, Nick, Kynsleigh, Leilah, Easton, Phoenix, Indie, Jaden, Melanie, and Jaxson; sister, Gail Raines of Pulaski, TN; and his dog, Shadow.

The family would like to invite family and friends to a memorial gathering on Friday, May 28, 2021 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs.

Out of respect for the family, it is suggested that masks and social distancing be adhered to.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.

Educators accused of mistreating special-needs students

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Three West Virginia educators accused of mistreating two special-needs students are facing criminal charges and civil lawsuits, according to published reports.

The lawsuits were filed Wednesday, the same day a teacher and two aides at Horace Mann Middle School in Charleston were arraigned in Kanawha County Magistrate Court on misdemeanor battery charges, news outlets reported. The lawsuits accuse the school system of failing to properly screen, train and supervise employees.

Teacher Anthony Wilson, 45, and aides Lillian Branham, 65, and Walter Pannell, 71, were accused of harming two nonverbal students earlier this month, the lawsuit and police reports said. None of those accused has returned requests from the Charleston Gazette-Mail for comment.

The lawsuits filed in Kanawha Circuit Court accuse the employees of striking both children in the face "numerous times," and "screaming and shouting" in their faces.

The incidents are from about 20 minutes of video from two days in May, Charleston-based attorney Ben Salango said. He said the school system has more video that will be reviewed.

According to criminal complaints, video shows Pannell pushing and dragging a male student, spanking him and threatening to punch him. Another video shows Pannell grabbing a female student by the back of her neck and shaking her and later spanking her.

Another complaint said video shows Branham grabbing a student by the chin and later slapping the child "multiple times."

Another complaint said Wilson held a female student in place while an aide shook her.

An investigation began due to "a diligent administrator's suspicion of something going on in the classroom,"

which led the school to review video, Kanawha County Schools spokeswoman Briana Warner said in an email. "KCS also wants to hold everyone in this situation accountable," she wrote, "and that's why we are the ones that reported the incident and are cooperating to the fullest extent with law enforcement and CPS (Child Protective Services) investigations."

Salango was the lead counsel in a similar case in Berkeley County alleging school employees abused students. Those allegations contributed to the passage of a state law in 2019 that requires video cameras in public school special education classrooms.

East Softball Big Win Over GW

By brandon baker wvdn | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

The Greenbrier East Lady Spartans got out to a five-run lead in the fourth inning and held on for a 5-3 victory over the George Washington Patriots on Wednesday, May 26.

East opened up the scoring in the first inning. After Josi Ervin walked, Annabelle Honaker hit a double. Then Taylor Graham drove in both when she homered to center field and gave the Spartans a 3-0 lead after one inning. It was Graham's first homer of the season.

East put up two more runs in the fourth when Ervin singled home Ella Asbury, and then Ervin came around to score when Honaker reached on an error for a 5-1 Spartan lead.

GW put together a small rally in the last inning and brought two runs across home plate. But the freshman Ervin settled herself on the mound and struck out Savannah Graley to seal the big win for East.

Ervin was credited with the victory on the hill. The left-hander allowed five hits and three runs over seven innings, and struck out eight.

And Jimenez took the loss for George Washington. She surrendered five runs on seven hits over three frames of work.

East saw the ball well and racked up nine hits in the game. Graham and Josie Patterson both had multiple hits.

Passion Holley led George Washington with two hits in four at bats.

With the victory, East moves to 13-6 with home games against Princeton and George Washington (rematch) coming up.

US jobless claims fall to 406,000, a new pandemic low

By christopher rugaber ap economics writer | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits dropped last week to 406,000, a new pandemic low and more evidence that the job market is strengthening as the virus wanes and economy further reopens.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department showed that applications declined 38,000 from 444,000 a week earlier. The number of weekly applications for jobless aid — a rough measure of the pace of layoffs — has fallen by more than half since January.

The decline in applications reflects a swift rebound in economic growth. The government separately estimated Thursday that the economy expanded at a strong annual pace of 6.4% in the first three months of this year, unchanged from its initial estimate. More Americans are venturing out to shop, travel, dine out and congregate at entertainment venues. All that renewed spending has led companies to seek new workers, which helps explain why a record number of jobs is now being advertised.

Yet many businesses complain that they can't find enough applicants for all those open jobs, even though the unemployment rate remains 6.1%, well above the 3.5% rate that prevailed before the pandemic struck in March of last year. Job growth slowed sharply last month compared with March, a surprise pullback that was largely ascribed to a labor shortage in some industries.

Economists blame a range of factors for the shortfall of workers, including an extra \$300-a-week payment that people receiving jobless aid have been able to get, on top of their state unemployment check, since March. The federal benefit was included in President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion rescue package. With many people able to earn more from their combined federal and state jobless aid than from their former jobs, the extra income has likely discouraged some of the unemployed from seeking work, some analysts say.

Other people remain reluctant to take jobs in restaurants, hotels and other service industries for fear of contracting COVID-19. And some women can't return to work without adequate child care, though recent research by two economists found the impact of this factor to be relatively small.

Complaints from businesses that they can't find enough workers have led most Republican governors to curtail unemployment aid. Twenty-four states, including such populous ones as Texas, Florida, Georgia and Arizona, have said they will stop paying out the supplemental \$300-a-week federal jobless payment beginning in June.

Twenty of those states also say they will stop participating in two emergency programs. One of those programs covers self-employed and gig workers. The other provides aid to people who have been unemployed for more than six months. The cutoffs of those two programs could cost at least 2.5 million people all their jobless aid.

Concert to mark West Virginia's annual Vandalia Gathering

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia is holding a condensed version of its annual Vandalia Gathering this weekend in Charleston.

A two-hour free outdoor concert will be held Saturday at the state Culture Center, the Department of Arts, Culture and History said in a news release. Available seating will be limited and concertgoers are being encouraged to bring their own chairs. The concert will be broadcast online.

It also will include the presentation of the 2020 and 2021 Vandalia Awards, the state's highest folk-life honor. Last year's festival was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The festival is typically a three-day celebration of traditional arts, crafts, music, dance and food during

Memorial Day weekend. No food or vendors will be on the grounds this year. The concert will follow pandemic health guidelines. Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a face covering or observe social distancing.

West Virginia's Jackson Wolf strikes out 7 in complete game

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jackson Wolf struck out seven in his first career complete game and No. 8 seed West Virginia beat top-seeded Texas 5-1 on Wednesday in the Big 12 Tournament.

West Virginia (25-25) had just eight conference wins this season — with two coming against Texas to close the regular season.

Wolf got out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh and struck out three straight batters in the eighth. Kevin Brophy highlighted West Virginia's two-run ninth with an RBI triple, and he later scored on a wild pitch.

Wolf (6-5) threw 138 pitches, the last ending in a double play. He allowed just five hits.

Hudson Byorick gave West Virginia a 1-0 lead with a home run in the second inning. A Tyler Doanes sacrifice fly started a two-run fifth and Brophy scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-0.

Ty Madden allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings for Texas (40-14), which dropped to 0-12 this season when trailing after eight innings. Eric Kennedy homered in the sixth to pull within 3-1.

West Virginia transgender athlete law challenged in court

By by john rabyassociated press | WVDN MAY 27, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A federal lawsuit was filed Wednesday challenging West Virginia's new ban on transgender athletes from competing in female sports in middle and high schools and colleges.

The American Civil Liberties Union and its West Virginia chapter filed the lawsuit on behalf of an 11-year-old transgender girl who had hoped to compete in cross country in middle school in Harrison County. The lawsuit names the state and Harrison County boards of education and their superintendents as defendants.

"I just want to run. I come from a family of runners," the student, Becky Pepper-Jackson, said in a statement released by the ACLU. "I know how hurtful a law like this is to all kids like me who just want to play sports with their classmates, and I'm doing this for them. Trans kids deserve better."

Bills over school sports participation bans also have been enacted this year in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Montana. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem implemented the move by executive order. Other states, including Kansas and North Dakota, passed bans only to have them vetoed by the governor.

A 2017 study by the Williams Institute at the UCLA law school used state-level, population-based surveys to estimate that West Virginia had the highest percentage (1.04%) of residents ages 13 to 17 among all states who identified as transgender. That equated to about 1,150 teens.

The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, which oversees scholastic sports, said earlier this

year that it had not received any complaints about transgender athletes on girls teams.

“Transgender youth in West Virginia who want to be on a team and challenge themselves should have the opportunity to do so, just like any other student,” ACLU attorney Joshua Block said in a statement.

The state Department of Education declined comment on the lawsuit. The Harrison County superintendent did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The bill had narrowly passed the state Senate, which had added the college component, before being overwhelmingly approved in the House of Delegates.

Several Democrats said the bill was discriminatory, while some Republicans said the bill was about ensuring an equal playing field for biologically female athletes. Supporters have argued that transgender athletes would have physical advantages in female sports.

Republican Gov. Jim Justice signed the bill despite warnings from some lawmakers that the NCAA could retaliate and decide not to hold college tournaments in the state. Justice had said that while it concerned him that the state could miss out on a sporting event, he believed the benefits of the law “way outweigh the bad part of it.”

In March, hundreds of college athletes signed a letter to the NCAA Board of Governors asking the organization to refuse to schedule championships in states that have banned transgender athlete participation in sports. The NCAA in 2016 moved championships out of North Carolina in response to a bill legislating transgender people’s use of public restrooms.