

Dusty Miller Graduated From Drug Court Last Week

By Todd Marver
tmarver@nashnews.net

Dusty Miller graduated from the Washington/Perry County Pathway to Recovery drug court program on Thursday, April 6 at the Washington County Judicial Center.

Miller entered into drug court in December 2021.

Washington County Resident Circuit Judge Dan Emge said Miller pleasantly surprised him on how well he has done and family and friends have seen Miller at his worst. He said they stuck by Miller because they saw his potential.

"They knew the real Dusty could be better than that. You proved them right by all you've done in drug court. You've been absolutely phenomenal for over a year. You were involved with getting a meeting started on helping others out in their recovery. Through all this, you've worked full time. You're doing great and I'm so proud of you," he said.

Emge said his hope is that Miller keeps it up.

"Now is just the beginning. Keep your meetings up, keep your support of others up and keep your relationships up with family and friends. If you do those things, you'll be successful in the long term," he said.

Heather Beninati, program officer, started in her position in November. She said she is proud of Miller.

"You are so welcoming to me and help others and you're an inspiration and someone to look up to," she said.

Washington County State's Attorney Dan Janowski said Miller referred himself to the program and that was a good sign of things to come.

"Out of all the participants, you might know me a little better than others. You've done a phenomenal job and I'm glad to see your progress and best of luck in the future," he said.

Public Defender Dennis Hatch said Miller is probably one of the fastest people to get through the program.

"When we first met, he had issues. I just can't believe the change that he has made. He has done really well in a very quick period of time. That's because of his attitude towards it and the support you have given. He's a total

change around from when we first met and talked and some of the issues he had. I want to commend him for that," he said.

ComWell Counselor Chris Mathis said Miller has been very easy to deal with. He said if all his clients were like Miller, this would be the easiest job he has ever had in his life.

"There'd be no downside to it whatsoever at all if all my clients were like Dusty. He has not caused me one minute in about the year I've been with the agency working with him where I've wanted to beat my head against the wall. He has been nothing but good. He always shows up. He's fully engaged. He's enthusiastic. He usually has a smile on his face and something pleasant to say. He's ready to go in. If I've given any kind of homework, he has it. It has been a pleasure," he said.

Jessica Eldridge, former drug court specialist at Perry and Washington County Probation, said she was happy that she could come and see Miller graduate.

"This is a huge accomplishment for you. Thank you for always being respectful to all of the staff. That's huge to have. Congratulations and best of luck," she said.

Miller said his "giving back" project in the program was to help suffering addicts. He said he wanted to do something that's going to keep giving, so he took up doing Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

"Even after drug court, anybody who is a suffering addict can attend," he said.

Miller said he went to Okaville to see what else he could do for his project.

"A meeting is a meeting. Anybody can go to a meeting. I went over to the senior citizen home and asked if there were any people in dire need of food," he said.



Dusty Miller, RIGHT, receives his graduation certificate from Judge Dan Emge on Thursday, April 6.

Miller said he was introduced to a man in need and gave the man \$120 for food.

"He called me back and was super thankful. That made me feel good," he said.

Miller said he joined the Moose Lodge and Masons in Nashville.

"I learned a lot of tools with the Masons. I like that organization and what they stand for. It made me a better person. It really brings out the real good inner you, instead of always being down in the dumps," he said.

Hatch said other counties don't believe in drug court and not every judge would do what Emge is doing.

"You really have to give a lot of support to Judge Emge. He has volunteered for it. He's doing two counties. That means twice a week he's got to go through that. There are other counties that don't even want to mess with it. Based upon my experience, I see that this works," he said.

Miller said he appreciates the program and wishes all the counties had a judge like Emge that would give people a second chance.

Emge replied, "We just gave you a chance and an opportunity. You did the rest. Good job."

Miller said that following graduation, he's going to continue to do the same things by going to the Narcotics Anonymous meetings and continue being a good person for his family.

MAT

115 East Main Street

Legal T

TH

The "discovery" stage of a lawsuit After a case asset with filed side is entitled to know all the the other side. The plaintiff, to submit questions to the defendant answered with written replies or side may subpoena any and all a potential witness. A request to see documents that may be pertinent. All such requests, in their own weight of the court. If can discovery can bring all facts to light. This may set the stage for out-when the probably outcome of

Personal Injury, Work i

NOTICE TO VILLAGE OF HOYLETON/ NEW MINDEN WATER CUSTOMERS SUBJECT: FLUSHING OF FIRE HYDRANTS

The Village of Hoyleton and New Minden will be doing its semi-annual flushing of fire hydrants beginning on Thursday, April 13, 2023. We will continue flushing hydrants until Friday, April 14, 2023.

Some residents may experience discolored or cloudy water or low pressure, but the water is safe to drink.