



# Miley Legal News

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## Fatal Car Accidents in Mountain State Outpace National Average

Blame it on the mountainous terrain, or even the winding rural roads, but the fact is, West Virginia's number of fatalities is not only higher than the national average according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but it is also higher than the surrounding states, other than Kentucky. With the national average set at 11 fatalities per 100,000, West Virginia comes in at 14.7 per 100,000.

The causes are not just limited to the liable driver, but also to a number of other factors that may or may not be controllable, including the mountainous and winding roadways and the narrow rural roads that are in many counties across the state. One should also look at the way that roads are treated during inclement weather and repaired during warmer months. With most roadways under the jurisdiction of the state, which is vastly different in neighboring states, the responsibility lies with a state government that has limited resources.

The NHTSA also have stats to show that one in every four fatal car accidents involve a drunk driver with a BAC of higher than 0.08.

With the type of terrain West Virginia faces and the infrastructure itself, how do we decrease the number of fatalities and increase the safety of every driver or passenger on the road? Would improving the roads themselves cut down on the amount of fatalities? Stricter punishments for speeding or distracted driving? How about increasing penalties for drunken or drugged driving? Many of these ideas are currently being reviewed by state officials, but that does not change the current status of our roadways.

When driving in West Virginia it is important to understand the types of roads you are on and to pay close attention to other drivers and be prepared to react. It is very difficult when it comes to fatal accidents to review the situation and identify what could have been done differently, especially when it is your loved one that passed. However, reviewing the information and data can lead to improvement and that could lead to the reduction of these horrible statistics.

The aftermath of an accident leading to a death is devastating for the family and can lead to a huge amount of red tape that will need to be sorted through. When a loved one dies in an accident, you not only have to deal with law enforcement, but also with insurance companies, medical bills and even funeral expenses. It is important to not process through that alone, get the assistance and information you need to make the best decisions for you and your grieving family.



The Miley Legal Group would like to thank everyone that provided referrals to our office this past month:

**Thomas M.**  
**Tonya S.**  
**Erin P.**



## Making Saving Easier

Saving can be hard, especially for people with pressing needs or wants, which is why developing restraint is so very important along with making plans as to why they are saving in the first place.

Trying to control spending and cut down on the purchase of non-essential items can be easier said than done, but one way to achieve this is to ensure that your money is less convenient to get to.

One method to do this is to set up another bank account into which a stipulated amount of income is automatically delivered that needs more effort to access. You are less likely to submit to impulse spending if you do not have the necessary cash readily on hand. It is also important to have goals for your saving. Motivation is important for any kind of long-term plan, and saving is no exception. The most important factors are to learn to control your cash flow and come up with the best way to stick to a savings plan until you have realized your goal, whatever it may be.



# MLG and WBOY Celebrating Volunteers Roark Sizemore of Pantry Plus More, Morgantown



Child hunger is a serious issue across our state and nation. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, approximately 25% of children in West Virginia experience some sort of food insecurities at some point during the year. One of the most effective ways of combating this problem is bringing food directly to the affected children. You may be familiar with the multiple food nutrition programs that are available to those in need, but you might be surprised at the fact that even with those programs in place, there is still an issue. Not only are West Virginia's children going hungry during the summer months, when most school-based food programs have ended, but they also are going hungry during the school year. Every weekend and evening, there are a large number of children in our area that will not get enough to eat.

Roark Sizemore, a Morgantown High School grad and current WVU student, joined together with Tom Bloom, Monongalia County Commissioner, Madison Thompson and Josh Watson of the West Virginia University Student Government Association to create Pantry Plus More. Pantry Plus More is a food pantry program that brings food and hygiene products directly to the students through individual food pantries set up at each of the served schools in the district. The food pantries are a permanent fixture within the school and are a more accessible source of food for the students and their families.



"It is wonderful to see students such as Roark involved in a program like this," Tom Bloom states.

The hard work and dedication Roark has shown to not only Pantry Plus More, but to the community, in general, is why he was selected as this month's Celebrating Volunteer Award Winner.

"The hard work that Roark and the other volunteers at Pantry Plus More have put into this program is wonderful," Marisa Matyola of WBOY stated. "Students and their families all across Monongalia County feel the impact of their work and what they offer."

"Seeing the impact that Roark and Pantry Plus is having on the reduction in child poverty in our region is great," said Tim Miley, owner of The Miley Legal Group. "I am always impressed to see young people, especially college students, in our area that takes their community service to the next level and creates such a large impact on their environment."

Pantry Plus More operates out of a warehouse in Westover that feeds directly into multiple school-based food pantries. If you are interested in learning more or donating to the organization, you can visit their website at [PantryPlusMore.org](http://PantryPlusMore.org).

"We are always looking for food, hygiene products, and volunteers," states Sizemore. "The more people we get involved, the more kids we can serve."

If you have a volunteer that you would like to nominate to be recognized, you can do so by visiting [MileyLegal.com](http://MileyLegal.com) and clicking on the Celebrating Volunteers logo.

## Recent Victories

✓ After our client, a motorcycle rider discovered that they had additional injuries from what was originally thought, we made sure that all injuries related to the bike accident were taken care of by the insurance company.

✓ We assisted a client in getting their car properly fixed after having trouble with the insurance company of the driver that hit them.

### Google Review:

*"All of the staff are friendly and helpful. They care about you and what you are going through and they take time out to explain things to you..."*

*Thelma C. (January 2018)*

## FREE BOOK

Get back on your feet after an accident!

[WVAccidentBook.com](http://WVAccidentBook.com)



# Recipe of the Month: Beef Taco Noodle Casserole

## Ingredients:

6 oz. dry extra wide egg noodle, uncooked  
1 lb. ground beef  
2 cups frozen southwest mixed vegs. (corn, black beans, red peppers)  
1 10 oz. can diced tomatoes & green chiles, undrained  
1 10 oz. can red enchilada sauce  
1 1/4 cups water  
1 1/4 cups shredded Mexican blend cheese  
1/4 cup sliced green onion  
sour cream (optional)



## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Spray 13x9 inch glass baking dish with cooking spray. Place uncooked noodles in baking dish.
2. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef, cook until crumbled and no longer pink. Drain. Add vegetables, undrained tomatoes, enchilada sauce and water to skillet; stir. Bring to a boil. Pour mixture over noodles.
3. Cover dish tightly with foil; bake 15 minutes. Stir, sprinkle with cheese and cover with foil. Bake 10 minutes more or until noodles are tender. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve with sour cream, if desired.

Recipe & Picture Courtesy of Allrecipes.com. Submit recipes to [mlg@mileylegal.com](mailto:mlg@mileylegal.com)

## Words of Encouragement

"For each petal on the shamrock brings a wish your way; good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day."

- Anonymous

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

- Psalm 119:105

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

- Ephesians 4:32

## March's Cases of Interest

### Danger on Emily Drive:

Not every accident resulting in injuries occurs on the interstate. Some of our local roads with low speed limits can be just as dangerous. One of our most recent clients experience just that on a fateful day in December.



Him and his wife were traveling to do a bit of Christmas shopping, when he noticed an erratic driver in front of them on Emily Drive near Walmart. He slowed his speed to avoid the car when the driver suddenly switched lanes and plowed right into the passenger side of his car. The car was struck in such a manner that it spun

half way around and stopped sideways between both lanes. With his wife injured and his car damaged, he began to contact 911, when the other driver took off. A witness managed to chase down the at-fault driver and kept her occupied until the police arrived to handle the situation.

### Slipping and Falling on Ice:

With winter in full swing, we hear all the time about individuals slipping and falling on ice. Unlike car accidents, these cases are a little more difficult to prove fault. West Virginia law has changed over time to protect the property owner and not necessarily the potential victim of injury. However, there are instances that slipping and falling on ice can be caused by the failure of a business owner to adequately maintain their property. Dangers that are "open and obvious" generally will not result in a successful claim against the business owner. We recommend that you contact an attorney to review the circumstances under which the fall occurred.

"The greatest compliment we can receive is the referral of your family and friends."

### Young Family Hit by Drunk Driver:

Drunk driving is an all-to-common problem in our state. Hundreds of people are arrested and charged with DUI each year. Driving drunk has consequences as shown in one of our most recent cases. A family of four were on their way home from shopping when they were struck by a drunk driver. The parents and their two young children were all taken to receive medical attention and the other driver was arrested and taken into custody, charged with DUI. Each family member had a number of injuries including broken bones, bruising and other life altering issues. The wounds on them will heal, but the trauma of being struck by a drunk driver will remain with them forever.





Check out our blog at  
[MileyLegalBlog.com](http://MileyLegalBlog.com)



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Give this newsletter to a friend. They will thank you for it and so will I.

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## Miley Family Fun



**Congratulations to Amber Fitchpatrick who won a 55” 4k TV from MLG & WBOY-TV**



**Tim Miley files to run for House of Delegates**

**Happy 80th Birthday to Thelma Martin!**

