West Virginia Chamber 2019 Human Resources Conference

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce will host its 2019 Human Resources Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 & 10, 2019 at the Charleston Marriott. This annual event provides the most up-to-date information available for business professionals in West Virginia.

This year's HR Conference will start with our inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Symposium on Tuesday, April 9th. This symposium will discuss the changing world in which we live and how ensuring diversity and inclusion in your business will bring important perspectives and benefits that will help grow your company. Attendees will hear from
featured speaker, Dr. Steve L. Robbins, who uses a unique, science-based approach to inclusion and diversity.

Come join business executives, human resource professionals, government officials, small business owners and diversity practitioners to explore how we can promote best practices, diversity, inclusion and human resource trends to shape our workforce and serve our employees.

Who Should Attend?

- Business executives
- Emerging leaders
- Small business owners/operators
- Human resource professionals
- Marketing and business professionals
- Project managers and change agents
- Other industry professionals seeking to expand upon their knowledge of diversity and inclusion and change management leadership

Additionally, the 2019 Five-Diamond Employers will be recognized on Wednesday, April 10 during lunch at the HR Conference. If you would like to submit an application for your employer to be considered a Five-Diamond Employer, please click here and submit your application by Friday, March 29.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Pasdon at apasdon@wvchamber.com, (304) 989-0664.

Register Now!

After almost certain death, House passes campus carry bill
WV MetroNews - On Crossover Day at the West Virginia Legislature, some people called the campus carry bill a zombie bill.

What they meant was that the Campus Self Defense Act, House Bill 2519, died, died again, died again, then rose and came to life. Along the way, a long list of proposed amendments was swept aside.

Following an extensive amendment process and floor debate, the chamber passed the bill 59-41.

The fate of that bill came into question early Wednesday when the House Rules Committee met before the floor session to vote on moving some bills to the inactive calendar. Judiciary Chair John Shott, R-Mercer, who opposed the bill, acted to move the legislation to the inactive calendar. A voice vote showed an even split and Delegate Barbara Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, called for division, which leads to a vote by show of hands.

Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, called for that vote, was unsure of the count, called for it again, then once more. The vote was 10-8 to move it to the inactive calendar, killing the bill temporarily. Continue...
Circuit judge strikes down West Virginia right-to-work law

WV MetroNews - A circuit judge has struck down key components of West Virginia's 2016 right-to-work legislation. Kanawha Circuit Judge Jennifer Bailey issued the opinion Wednesday, three years after the Legislature first passed the law. "The new law will require unions and union officials to work, to supply their valuable expertise and to provide expensive services for nothing," Bailey wrote in her 46-page ruling. "That is, in a word, arbitrary." Continue...

Laurie Lin: It's a state, not a different planet

Daily Mail WV

Remember the great Uber debate? I'd forgotten about it, but it came back to mind the other night. My husband was travelling to Charleston. His flight was delayed and landed close to midnight, and he needed to get down the hill to the city. "At least there's Uber now," he texted me. For two consecutive years, bills to license ride-hailing companies met with significant opposition. Committee testimony was heard. Speeches were made. Editorials were written. In
In retrospect, it's almost hard to believe that there was controversy about it. "Maybe it works in other places," says the opposition, "but it wouldn't work here. It's not right for West Virginia." It's a theme that plays simultaneously on vanity ("We're different, special, unique") and inferiority ("We're too rural, too backward, too poor"). It's what I hear when people insist that charter schools, which exist in 44 states, many with long waiting lists and hundreds of satisfied families, "would never work" in West Virginia.

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**West Virginia News**

**House and Senate budgets part ways on teacher pay raises**

**WV MetroNews** - The budgets in the state Senate and House of Delegates are on a collision course, with the biggest difference - predictably - a pay raise for teachers. The House Finance Committee voted to approve its budget on Thursday afternoon, the 51st day of the legislative session. It includes the pay raise for teachers and school service personnel. The full House then took up the bill on first reading during a Thursday evening floor session, so the amendment stage will be Friday. The Senate Finance Committee also quickly approved a budget, but without the pay raise for teachers and school service personnel. Continue...

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**W.Va. foster care bill moves forward in the Senate**

**WV MetroNews** - After meeting for several hours, the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee passed a bill that will reshape important aspects of West Virginia's overloaded foster care system. "It's my opinion this may be the most important bill we have before us this session," said Senator Mike Maroney, R-Marshall, the committee chairman. The number of children in West Virginia's foster care system has grown in correlation with the opioid epidemic that has ravaged the state. The Department of Health and Human Resources has reported about 7,000 children are now in foster care, kinship care or custody of the state. Continue...

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**Senate passes bill raising age to purchase tobacco in WV**
**Charleston Gazette-Mail** - Aiming to prevent young West Virginians from smoking, the Senate passed a comprehensive tobacco bill that includes increasing the age to purchase tobacco products to 21 and making it a crime to smoke in a vehicle with a child present. "This is probably the biggest public health bill that has come out of the Senate in my time," said Sen. Ron Stollings, D-Boone and a physician. "It's a good day for public health in West Virginia."  

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**House approves lowering steam coal tax**

**WV MetroNews** - The West Virginia House of Delegates voted Wednesday to lower the severance tax on steam coal over the next two years. House Bill 3142 would reduce the severance tax on steam coal from 5 percent to 3 percent. The total estimated cost is $30 million per year, totaling $60 million. State revenue officials said the measure could save 500 jobs. With a gallery full of blue-shirted miners, Delegate Larry Rowe, D-Kanawha, argued against the bill, saying it only helps northern West Virginia, not struggling southern counties, which has metallurgical coal.  

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**Marshall excited after agreement with Southern Utah on aviation school**

**WV MetroNews** - Marshall University is another step closer to a breakthrough aviation school. The university announced on Thursday in a release that it and Southern Utah University (SUU) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to cooperate in exploring options to jointly offer a four-year bachelor's degree in aviation to teach students to fly helicopters. "We are excited to be exploring this," Dr. Jerome Gilbert, the President of Marshall University told MetroNews. "We still have some due diligence to do to make sure we can pull this off and make it a success. We are working on that rapidly and hope to make progress every week as we move forward and communicate with Southern Utah."  

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**Loughry to appeal federal conviction**

**West Virginia Record** - Former state Supreme Court Justice Allen Loughry plans to appeal his federal conviction and sentence. Loughry's attorney John Carr filed a one-sentence Notice of Appeal filed Feb. 26 in federal court. "The defendant, Allen H. Loughry II, hereby gives
notice of his intent to appeal his conviction and sentence," the notice states. Loughry was been sentenced to two years in prison Feb. 13 in U.S. District Court on 10 federal counts after being found guilty on 11 during his trial in the fall before Judge John Copenhaver.  

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**National News**

**Manchin, Capito split on EPA confirmation vote, citing C8**

(Charleston Gazette-Mail) - West Virginia's U.S. senators diverged in their votes to confirm EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler on Thursday, but both cited C8 as their reason for doing so. The Senate voted 52-47 to confirm Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., voted against him; Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., voted for him. Each said they did so because of his stance on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs), or C8 - a chemical made and used at DuPont's Washington Works plant, south of Parkersburg, for years.

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**Editorials / Op-Eds**

**Editorial: WV's own border wall needs to tumble down**

(Daily Mail WV)

Only hours after the state's teachers and school service personnel unions called a strike last week, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten flew in to rally striking teachers and preach the evils of school choice and charter schools. Why would the state's three school worker unions listen to her? She is from out of state. That's a ridiculous argument, but from listening to the strikers chants, comments in the news media and on social media, it appears powerful out-of-state groups are trying to ruin West Virginia's monopolistic and bureaucratic education system with student-hurting ideas like school choice, charter schools and every other evil idea the state Senate concocted in Senate Bill 451. But doesn't Randi Weingarten represent a powerful monied out-of-state interest? Why didn't the strikers run her out on a rail?
Other

U.S. Small Business Administration to hold executive-level business course at University of Charleston - Apply by TODAY!

The Small Business Administration seeks entrepreneurs throughout West Virginia to participate in a free, executive-level business course starting in April.

SBA’s Emerging Leaders program is for established business owners poised for growth. Over the course of seven months at the University of Charleston's Innovation Center, each participating entrepreneur will learn immediate ways to improve their business and create a three-year strategic growth plan to build a sustainable business of size and scale.

A limited number of slots are open for established businesses that meet the following criteria:

- Annual sales of $250,000 or more
- In business three years or more
- Staff of at least one employee in addition to owner
- Commit one evening every other week from March thru September for approximately 1000 hours of combined classroom, homework, and peer-to-peer mentoring
- Participation is extended to the owner, president, CEO, COO, CFO, or other key decision-maker

For more information, visit [www.sba.gov/emergingleaders](http://www.sba.gov/emergingleaders), email [melissa.loder@sba.gov](mailto:melissa.loder@sba.gov) or call [304-623-7448](tel:304-623-7448).

Upcoming West Virginia Chamber Events
West Virginia Chamber 2019 Human Resources Conference

April 9-10, 2019

Register Now!

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Environmental & Energy Conference

May 15, 2019