Over 600 people have taken advantage of Early Bird Registration for the West Virginia Chamber's 83rd Annual Meeting and Business Summit. This year's meeting will take place Wednesday, August 28 - Friday, August 30 at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. Early Bird Registration is available until Tuesday, July 16 and allows you to attend the largest event in West Virginia's business community at a reduced cost. Rooms at The Greenbrier are going fast, so if you have not yet done so, register today and make your hotel reservation for the business event of the year!
For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Pasdon at apasdon@wvchamber.com. We look forward to seeing you at The Greenbrier!

Register Now!

Registration for Sporting Clays Now Available

Registration is now open for the 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Invitational at the 83rd Annual Meeting and Business Summit. This annual event will take place on Thursday afternoon, August 29th. Compete and network with fellow business summit attendees. *Please note* You must be registered for the Business Summit to participate in this event, and you can register for both the Business Summit and the Sporting Clays Invitational by clicking here.

Register Now!
**CNBC 2019 Top States for Business Shows Improvement for W.Va.**

**West Virginia Chamber of Commerce** - Today CNBC released its annual "Top States for Business Rankings," and West Virginia saw improvement over the previous year, rising from 48th to 45th in the rankings. West Virginia Chamber President Steve Roberts stated, "the positive movement for West Virginia in these rankings is another indicator that policy changes implemented in the state are making a difference for West Virginia citizens. In fact, in 2017 West Virginia ranked 50th, so in two short years, our state has moved up five spots."  

**West Virginia News**

**Helicopter crash victims honored at Beckley vigil**

**WV MetroNews** - Several hundred people gathered for an evening vigil in Raleigh County Thursday to remember the victims of last week's helicopter crash in the Bahamas, which claimed the lives of coal industry executive Chris Cline, his daughter and five others. Among those who spoke at the event was Cline's cousin, Steve Dewese, who described Cline as determined and strong-willed at an early age, without being brash.

**FLOTUS impressed by work in Huntington area around opioid epidemic**

**WV MetroNews** - First Lady of the United State Melania Trump is admiring the progress being made when it comes to the fight against the opioid epidemic in Cabell County and surrounding areas. Trump met with federal, state and local leaders from all sections of the battle to discuss the current issues and solutions during a Monday visit in Huntington that started at the Cabell-Huntington Health Department. "I see the example here of what can be done all across the country," Trump said. "This is the state that has a big problem but we are making big progress.

**WV state superintendent admits complaining to ACT about lobbyist**
West Virginia Schools Superintendent Steve Paine and one of his assistant state superintendents have now admitted that they called the senior vice president for programs for ACT, the standardized testing group, in December to "share concerns" about one of its lobbyists' tweets. They both admit that they called this same person in early 2019 regarding lobbyist Jason Webb's tweets and his other "lobbying tactics." But the two state Department of Education officials deny Webb's allegation that they implied there would be "negative consequences" if ACT didn't rein Webb in.  

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Debate over housing need, use of federal dollars has gone on 3 years after flood

WV MetroNews - Getting a handle on West Virginia's housing need following the devastating 2016 flood hasn't been easy. Following one of the worst disasters in West Virginia history, nearly 3,500 homes were deemed structurally damaged by FEMA. At least 1,500 homes were destroyed, state officials said. But those bottom line numbers have not been so simple. The question has been not only how many homes need replacing but how much federal money is necessary to meet the need - and what is the best use of that money.  

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Hardy: The check's in the mail

Charleston Gazette-Mail - Some patient or not so patient West Virginians will be getting their state refund checks over the next few days. State Revenue Secretary Dave Hardy says a batch of refunds went out Monday. He said all that's left now are 8,500 paper returns that remain under review. "Those are still being held pending error review, potential fraud review or missing documents," Hardy said Monday on MetroNews "Talkline." The state Tax Department ran into a problem in early April when the new scanner machine it purchased to help process paper returns malfunctioned.  

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Editorials / Op-Eds

Hoppy's Commentary: The WVEA's long shot to kill the education reform law

WV MetroNews
Opponents of charter schools were unable to stop the proposal in the Legislature, so they are now going to court. The West Virginia Education Association teachers’ union announced plans to sue the State over the passage of HB 206, the omnibus education reform bill that includes a provision that allows for a limited number of charter schools. The WVEA will contend that because the legislation has many different provisions, it violates the state constitutional requirement that a bill address a "single object." This will be an uphill fight for the union because of legal precedent. The West Virginia Supreme Court ruled in the 1993 case Kincaid v. Mangum that "Grouping various matters in a legislative bill does not violate the State Constitution's one object provision if there is reasonable basis for grouping." Additionally, state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey issued an opinion earlier this year that a similar omnibus education bill (SB 451) met constitutional muster. The "single object" requirement is designed to prevent "logrolling," the practice of tucking a political favor or unrelated provision into a bill that's expected to pass. That's not what happened here. Every provision of HB 206 relates to education.

Hoppy's Commentary: Chris Cline's legacy: Success and contributions

WV MetroNews

Chris Cline had a way of staying one step ahead in the volatile coal business. According to a 2017 Forbes Magazine profile, when Cline was 22, his father, Paul, had heart surgery and was considering selling the family coal business in southern West Virginia to his partner for $50,000. His father was going to take the deal, but Cline figured he could work harder and smarter than the partner, so Cline bought him out. That was the beginning of Cline's driven approach to business; work harder than the next guy and double down with each success, even when those decisions were contrary to conventional wisdom.

Upcoming West Virginia Chamber Events

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Annual Meeting & Business Summit

August 28-30, 2019

Register Now!
West Virginia Chamber 2019 Women’s Leadership Summit

December 4-5, 2019