

# THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

PROUD MEMBER OF THE WEIRTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## From The President

Tickets are still available for our Brew, 'Que & Country on Friday, May 18th at the Serbian Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Thank you to our sponsors: James White Construction, United Bank, Convenient Food Mart, R.E. Saxon, Jeweler, Serra Village Retirement Community, Alexander Archery, Wine & Beverage Merchants, Steel City Distributors, and Waldorf Distributing.

The Dr. Barbara A. Matey High School Business Symposium was a huge success again this year. Our thanks go out to everyone who donated their time, talent, and/or financial support. There were over 100 juniors in attendance from our area high schools and this particular group of students were energetic and had a great time!

We have recently sent out letters to our area schools to recruit for next year's Youth Leadership Weirton class. We are looking forward to having another energetic group of high school sophomores to participate during the 2018-19 academic year.

The month of April also showcased our 20th Ladies Day at the Chamber with a "Fashion, Friends & Fascinators" theme. Over 30 businesses supported this event with vendor tables. Our sincere thanks go out to our sponsors for their continued support as well as those who attend each year. We could not have done it without you. We are looking forward to more fun next year.

On Friday, June 15th, we are bringing you a Chamber Kegler Night at Holiday Lanes. Come out and enjoy an evening of bowling, food, entertainment and craft brews.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Christmas in July Golf Scramble on July 25, 2018 at Mountaineer's Woodview Golf Course. This will be our 3rd year holding this event and once again, proceeds help benefit the Weirton Community Christmas Lights. This year, we've teamed up with the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center to bring you two sets of postcards showcasing Weirton's Christmas Celebrations both past and present. Postcards are available at the Chamber and the Museum for \$10 a set.

Our 2018 Leadership Weirton Class is busy attending sessions and working on their community project, helping to improve areas of the JC Williams Soccer Complex on Colliers Way.

We are already recruiting participants for the 2019 class. Please nominate someone from your business for Leadership Weirton 2019-this is a rewarding program we take pride in bringing back year after year.

Brenda

### Upcoming Committee Meetings

#### Committee Meetings

- June 4: Retail Merchants Committee, 9:00am
- June 6: Special Projects Committee, 9:00am
- June 12: Membership Committee, 9:00am
- June 11: Education Committee, 3:00pm

#### Upcoming Chamber Events

- May 18: Brew, Que & Country, Serbian Picnic Grounds
- June 7: Leads to Success Breakfast, Spicy Gringo's, 7:30am
- June 15: Chamber Kegler Night, Holiday Lanes, 6:30pm
- July 25: Christmas In July Golf Scramble, Woodview Golf Course

All meetings are held in the Chamber Conference Room.

### "Your Chamber and You"

Make-A-Wish® West Virginia is a nonprofit organization that creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish® is on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life, because a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness. The regional office in Morgantown, W.Va., opened in May of 1990, and last year it fulfilled 66 wishes throughout Northern West Virginia. The Morgantown Regional Office is especially thrilled to join the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce as one of its newest members.

During the year, there are many ways that local residents can help transform the lives of children in the Weirton area, including an upcoming event this month:

Make-A-Wish invites you to help during its Light Up A Child's Life Campaign with 106.3 The River on April 27, 2018. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 106.3 The River will be broadcasting live from the lobby of the Holiday Inn Weirton - all to help makes wishes come true for children with critical illnesses. The broadcast will include stories from wish kids, donors and other Make-A-Wish supporters. Donations can be made by stopping by the broadcast or by visiting [wv.wish.org](http://wv.wish.org). Make-A-Wish product, including golf balls, star magnets and lip balm, will also be available.

For more information or to make a pledge, please contact Make-A-Wish Regional Manager Jackie Heroman at 304.292.5600.

More Ways to Help:

Join the caring community of people who improve the lives of children battling critical illnesses by referring a child for a wish, becoming a volunteer, making a monetary donation or donating unused air miles. To learn more, visit [wv.wish.org](http://wv.wish.org).

### YOUR CHAMBER AND YOU

West Liberty University Continues its BLA Program in Weirton

West Liberty University is offering its Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Administration (BLA) on site at West Virginia Northern Community College (WVNCC), Weirton.

Classes begin: August 23, 2018 (Thursday evening meetings, 6pm)

"This successful program has been offered in Weirton since 2012 and we are pleased to announce the start of a new group. It is tailored for adult students who want to finish their bachelor's degree to become a better leader or supervisor, gain employment or get promoted," said Dr. Thomas Michaud, Dean of WLU's School of Professional Studies.

At a time when the cost of higher education is under constant scrutiny, Michaud believes that the BLA is a perfect choice for many adults.

"Our BLA is very popular with working adult students and we are grateful to West Virginia Northern for helping us reach those who want to enroll right here in Weirton. We are also grateful to the Weirton Chamber of Commerce for helping us promote this program," Michaud added.

Larry Tackett, WVNCC Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development, says that, "Our students will find that the BLA degree is both economical and empowering. It is a boost to careers and makes a degree attainable. We are pleased to have the BLA and its professors on our Weirton campus."

Students must be at least 23 years old with more than 60 credit hours to enroll. Qualified students are also able to receive substantial credit for work experience.

The 36-credit hour BLA program can be completed within 17 months. Its affordable tuition is one rate for all students, regardless if they live in WV, OH or PA, and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For more information contact Mary Lou Conley at 304-217-2800, ext. 4. Find our website at: <http://westliberty.edu/bl/>

### Weirton County

Chamber of Commerce

Thanks WV Central Newspaper

for providing **NEW**

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### Our Newest Members:

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Upland South Candles

Rose Minch

PO Box 213

New Cumberland, WV 26047

740-275-2689

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

[uplandsouthcandles@hotmail.com](mailto:uplandsouthcandles@hotmail.com)

PeppeBroni's Pizza

Dave Yignovic

3323 Pennsylvania Ave.

Weirton, WV 26062

681-328-3938

[dave@peppebronis.com](mailto:dave@peppebronis.com)

Tony Ruszkowski Memorial Golf Tournament

Walter Ruszkowski

200 St. John's Road

Weirton, WV 26062

304-797-7289

[wruszkowski@hotmail.com](mailto:wruszkowski@hotmail.com)

*Proud Past...*

*Weirton Area*  
Chamber of Commerce

*...Vibrant Future*

### Business Spotlight

On Sunday August 5, 2018 the 8th Annual Tony Ruszkowski/Never Alone Golf Event will be held at Mountaineer's Woodview Golf Course. Thanks to your generous support we have been able to grow from a small event to an event that draws well over 120 golfers each year. With business and community support, we have been able to give 33 students scholarships totaling over \$39,000. We have also been able to donate over \$25,000 to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The tournament is held in memory of 22 year old Tony Ruszkowski. He was killed in an automobile accident on July 3, 2011. Tony left behind loving parents, a sister, and most importantly a fiancée with a baby on the way. He had recently begun working at a gas station and was looking forward to learning the gender of their baby.

However, Tony struggled with substance abuse. A struggle that ended his life. Tragically, he made several attempts to get treatment for his addiction only to find out there were no spots available, waiting lists of 6 months or longer, or up front payments for as much as \$20,000. Americans are in need of treatment for addiction. Over 100,000 of them die each year making it the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Tony's family and friends find these statistics and barriers to treatment unacceptable.

Our scholarships are used to help students whose lives have been affected by addiction. It may be either their own or that of someone in their lives. The first 2 scholarships that we provided went to Tony's fiancée so that she would be better prepared to take care of her children, and the second went to a young man whose mother passed away after years of addiction. He is graduating this year with a 3.9 grade average in bio-chemistry. Our scholarship is presented annually to one student from Weir High, one from Madonna, one from Brooke, and one from Oak Glen. We also select one at large scholarship based on need.

Please consider joining us in making a difference in the lives of these young men and women. By sponsoring a hole, donating a prize, or registering a foursome, you will continue to make a difference for all of us. For information: [wruszkowski@hotmail.com](mailto:wruszkowski@hotmail.com) or 304-797-7289.

Any Chamber member interested in having your business spotlighted in The Town Crier and WV Central Newspaper should write a short article in Word format and call the Chamber at 304.748.7212 or e-mail [services@weirtonchamber.com](mailto:services@weirtonchamber.com) to be scheduled.