



It's beginning to look like ski season
See what Timberline Resort has on tap for its special ski weekends
Life / 3C

Cooling off
45/32
Weather / 5A

Bowl bid up in the air
After the devastating loss to UTEP, Herd must await its bowl fate
Sports / 1B



The Herald-Dispatch

Huntington, West Virginia

www.herald-dispatch.com

First Edition 50¢



MONDAY
November 30, 2009



New Flashback Mondays ready to roll

The Cinema Theatre in Huntington is kicking off a new, classic movie series called Flashback Mondays by blowing the dust off of 10 great American films. First up is "The Wizard of Oz."

Life / 3C

Celebrating 20 years of service

In August, David Wucher celebrated 20 years as a rabbi at Huntington's only Jewish synagogue, and to say congrats, about 80 people recently threw him a Yankees party.

Community / 1C

Trains take over Veterans Field House

As if the Festival of Trees and Trains in Ashland weren't enough, the Appalachian Model Railroad Society rounded the bend of its three-day, 52nd annual model railroad show at the field house.

Local / 3A

Index

Classified **1D** B. Lucas **3C**
Comics **6B** Movies **6C**
Crossword **3D** Nation **7A**
Editorials **6A** Obituaries **2C**
Horoscope **2D** Sports **1B**
Life **3C** Scoreboard **2B**
Local **3A** Television **6C**

© The Herald-Dispatch
Champion Publishing, Inc.

www.herald-dispatch.com
Huntington, West Virginia
Vol. 109 No. 334



THE FINAL DEFEAT SNYDER RESIGNS

Photos by Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch

Former Marshall coach Mark Snyder watches an instant replay during the East Carolina C-USA matchup in this file photo at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Snyder resigned from his position as head football coach on Sunday.

Mark Snyder ends coaching career at Marshall University

By **ANTHONY HANSHEW**
The Herald-Dispatch
hanshew@herald-dispatch.com

HUNTINGTON — A lone lopsided loss didn't result in Marshall University football's head coaching change Sunday. Instead, numerous factors figured into Mark Snyder's resignation.

Snyder, a 44-year-old former Thundering Herd player and graduate assistant coach, had a 22-37 overall record in five consecutive non-winning seasons. His teams were 17-23 in Conference USA games.

Marshall ended its regular season with a defeat Saturday at UTEP (52-21) at 6-6 overall and 4-4 in C-USA.

With six victories, Marshall is conditionally eligible to receive a bowl game bid. Defensive coordinator Rick Minter will serve as the interim head coach if the Thundering Herd goes to a bowl, athletic director Mike Hamrick said.

"Mark and I met and had a long meeting," Hamrick said. "He thought it was in his best interests to resign."

Hamrick and Snyder had another meeting with Marshall players Sunday afternoon.

A search for a new head coach begins immediately. To protect the integrity of the search, Hamrick said he will not comment on any aspect of it during the process.

Saturday evening, minutes following the UTEP game, Snyder spoke of returning to work Sunday. Less than 24 hours later, Snyder resigned.

"I met with Mike Hamrick extensively today, and we discussed our football program," Snyder said in a Marshall news release. "I feel that it was in the best interest of our program



Former Coach Mark Snyder looks up at the scoreboard during the first half of the C-USA football game against Memphis at Joan C. Edwards Stadium in this file photo. Snyder resigned on Sunday, less than 24 hours after talking about returning to work following Marshall's 52-21 loss at UTEP.

MORE INSIDE AND ONLINE

- Past Marshall football coaching records, **4A**
- Chuck Landon agrees with Snyder's decision, **1B**
- Fans look toward Herd's future, **1B**
- Mark Snyder timeline, **1B**
- Players shocked by resignation, **1B**
- Attendance during Snyder's coaching years, **3B**
- Snyder's win/loss record, **3B**
- Snyder through the years, **Online** at www.herald-dispatch.com

for me to announce my intent to resign my position. It has been an honor to be the coach here, and I will always be appreciative of the opportunity my university gave me.

"I want to thank all of the fans for

their support and all of my players and assistant coaches for their hard work and dedication. I wish the program nothing but the best."

Please see **SNYDER/4A**

Christmas tree sales start early

Unseasonably warm temps bring crowds

By **DAVE LAVENDER**
The Herald-Dispatch
lavender@herald-dispatch.com

HUNTINGTON — It was beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. OK, at least in Palm Beach.

With Sunday's sunny skies and unseasonably warm temperatures that almost reached 70 degrees, folks began the hunt for a green December.

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror and December arriving on Tuesday, Christmas tree retailers saw the first weekend rush to find that perfect live Christmas tree for the living room.

Sunday afternoon, Cub Scout and Boy Scout volunteers from Pack and Troop 21 (based out of First United Methodist Church) were out at the Big Brothers, Big Sisters lot at BB&T Bank, 6th Avenue and 1st Street in Huntington.

Cub Scouts were waving pine boughs with the group chant, "Buy a tree, help a kid."

Paul Russell, one of the adult leaders who was there along with Grace Gooding and Chuck Hanshaw, said volunteering to help out the organization has been a tradition for more than a decade with the troop.

Russell said Sunday's warm weather brought out good crowds with 11 trees sold in a two-hour span before the Scouts arrived and then five sold in the first 45 minutes when they took over the lot for a three-hour shift.

Please see **TREES/4A**



Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch

Big Brothers Big Sisters continue their 29th annual Christmas tree sale in Huntington. The Boy Scouts helped sell trees on Sunday at the BB&T Bank location on 6th Avenue and 1st Street.

W.Va. lawmakers interested in court study report

West Virginia's top lawmakers see value in changing the state's court system as recently recommended by the governor's Independent Commission on Judicial Reform. Whether they pursue any of its key suggestions during the upcoming session remains to be seen.

A publicly financed Supreme Court election, an intermediate appeals bench, and special committees advising on filling judicial vacancies were among the Nov. 16 findings.

More on **2A**



Cabell County school board to vote on early summer release for new schools

The Herald-Dispatch
HUNTINGTON — The Cabell County Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the early release of students at Southside Elementary and Huntington Middle schools at its 5:30 p.m. meet-

ing Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Both will be moving into new facilities at the old Cammack schools site on 10th Avenue between 2nd and 3rd streets.

The request is for students to finish the year on May 26, while teachers and staff would remain through June 7 to finish packing and complete the move.

Early releases also were approved for Martha Elementary in 2008 and Milton Middle School in 2009.

There also are three change orders coming before the school board, two for a combined \$22,700 for auditorium

work. The third is a credit of nearly \$9,000 for work that was not performed in replacing loose steel lintels.

The board also plans to recognize Geneva Kent Elementary for being named the county's only Exemplary School and the winners of the Young Illustrator's Contest.

Board meetings are conducted in the board room at 2850 5th Ave., Huntington.

The Wayne County Board of Education also is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 212 North Court St., Wayne.

The agenda includes a vote on a districtwide parental approval policy and land acquisition of Lick Creek Baptist Church property.

Need a job? We can help!

WV 304-525-5151
KY 606-329-8057

