



The Focus rocks on Saturdays
Nick Fry among bands slated for Christian concert venue, the Focus
Life / 4C

Nice and dry
80 60
Weather / 2A

High praise for Vinny Curry
MU defensive end ready for starting spot this season
Sports / 1B



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Oodles of books

The Hilltop Festival drew even more patrons today as the Huntington Museum of Art's book sale concluded. Director of Development Carolyn Bagby said more than 1,000 people probably stopped by.
Local / 3A

Herd women's soccer wins season opener

Erika Duncan and Kristen Berquist each scored a goal to lead Marshall to a 2-0 win over Cleveland State in women's soccer Sunday in front of 208 fans at Sam Hood Field.
Sports / 1B

Council could vote on land bank issue

A vote could come Monday night from Huntington City Council on the land bank program. The ordinance would allow the city to acquire properties with liens and begin development.
Local / 3A

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New questions arise in state bonus fight

By **LAWRENCE MESSINA and TOM BREEN**
The Associated Press
CHARLESTON — The average state worker would take home about \$375 if the Legislature ultimately decides to go along with Gov. Joe Manchin's plan to award state employees with a \$500 "bonus" this year. Deputy Revenue Secretary Mark Muchow says pension con-

tributions, Social Security and other payroll deductions would eat up about \$125 of that one-time payment. But whether that money reaches state employees, and who will benefit from the cash, is uncertain. Manchin and lawmakers say they're committed to rewarding workers with a share of last year's surplus, but those efforts

fell apart earlier this month over disagreement on which state workers would actually qualify. Manchin included about \$34.7 million in his proposal to pay the bonus to about 16,400 full-time state employees who are paid from general tax revenues and 5,000 or so Division of Highways workers who get their wages from the State Road Fund. Manchin spokesman Matt

WEB EXTRA
Do you think the Legislature should go ahead with the bonus? Tell us your thoughts by using our online comments feature at www.herald-dispatch.com.
Turner said the administration's proposal is no different than how other raises have been handled in the past. When general revenue-

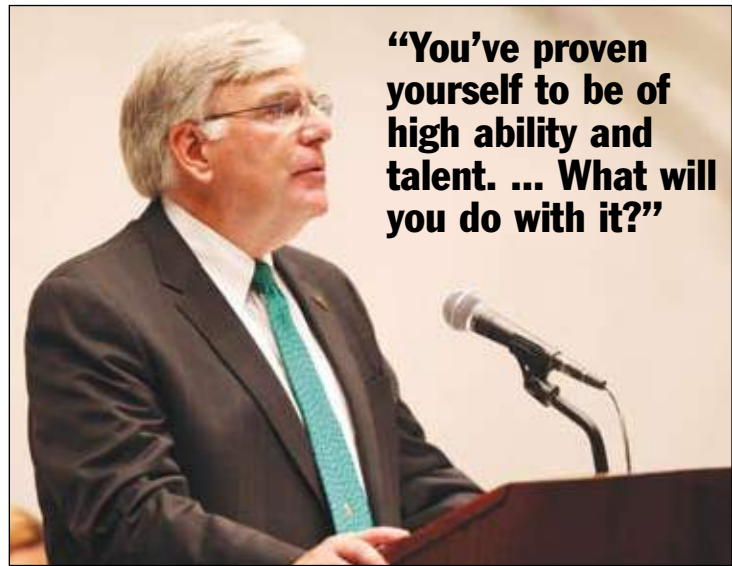
based increases have been paid, agencies that rely on other sources of funding — like fee-generated special revenues — must tap their own accounts for the money, Turner said. "They have generally stepped up to cover those differences, and that would be expected in this instance," Turner said.
Please see **BONUS/6A**

A FRESHMAN JOURNEY || MU students take a stroll down 4th Ave.



Photos by Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch

ABOVE: Students arrive at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Sunday for the Marshall University President's Freshman Convocation after walking down 4th Avenue from Marshall's campus. **BELOW:** MU President Stephen Kopp speaks during the convocation Sunday.



"You've proven yourself to be of high ability and talent. ... What will you do with it?"

By **JEAN TARBETT HARDIMAN**
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HUNTINGTON — In four or eight years, they might be wearing suits, lab coats, theatrical costumes or scrubs. But on Sunday, it was shorts, T-shirts and flip flops for the crowd of future bankers, engineers, doctors, performers and teachers who gathered in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, after a walk down 4th Avenue from Marshall University.

Sunday marked the 2009 Marshall University President's Freshman Convocation, and many of the 1,916 freshmen expected to attend Marshall this fall were there to hear from Marshall President Stephen Kopp,

Please see **FRESHMEN/2A**

Technology center gets high marks

School faces challenge of reaching plan goals

By **BILL ROSENBERGER**
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Rethinking HIGH SCHOOL
HUNTINGTON — The Cabell County Career Technology Center may have received the highest praise from senior consultants assessing the county's high schools, but administrators may have the hardest time reaching the goals set forth in an action plan for the school. That's because a large part of the plan calls for the addition of core academics — and teachers to instruct those courses — so that students can get their complete high school education there. In addition, much of the equipment at the school needs to be upgraded or replaced to best train students for current and future demands of industry.

Please see **TECHNOLOGY/6A**



Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch

Thomas Ward, 17, of Huntington, prepares to connect a scanner to a car July 28 during auto mechanics class at the Cabell County Technology Center.

Trial set to begin in McCalla case

By **CURTIS JOHNSON**
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WAYNE — U.S. Army Spc. Daniel Smith earned a badge and medal for service during 15 months in Iraq. Court documents allege he returned stateside, met up with a rookie soldier and deserted his post at Fort Drum, N.Y. The duo found their way to the Tri-State, developed a desire to steal guns and faced off against a beloved minister. They targeted the late Rev. Mark McCalla on June 19, 2008, at a secluded gun range in the Beech Fork Wildlife Management Area, according to the documents. They determined killing McCalla was the safest way to steal his guns. Their confessions indicate they worried that simply robbing the well-armed minister would place their own lives at risk. Prosecutors will use those confessions and other evidence this week in an effort to convict Smith of



Thomas Marsh/The Herald-Dispatch

ON 6A:
A map of the site of the shooting at Beech Fork

murder and first-degree robbery. The co-defendant, Pfc. Stephen Wilson, is scheduled to stand trial in December. Confessions from both men state Wilson pulled the trigger and Smith dragged the body. Wayne Circuit Judge Darrell Pratt will preside

Please see **MCCALLA/6A**

Millions face shrinking Social Security payments

WASHINGTON — Millions of older people face shrinking Social Security checks next year, the first time in a generation that payments would not rise. The trustees who oversee Social Security are projecting there won't be a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the next two years. That hasn't happened since automatic increases were adopted in 1975. By law, Social Security benefits cannot go down. Nevertheless, monthly payments would drop for millions of people in the Medicare prescription drug program.

Read the full story on 5A



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