



Hoopsters visit Tri-State
Globetrotters to grin and spin into town Saturday
Life / 3C

Mostly sunny
42/29
Weather / 6A



Tough enough?
Toughman event starts this weekend
Entertainment Tri-State / 2E



Huntington, West Virginia

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Home Edition 50¢



THURSDAY
January 14, 2010



Herd knocks off Central Florida, 81-75
Hassan Whiteside contributed his second triple-double of the season and The Thundering Herd men's basketball team improved its Conference USA record to 3-0 with an 81-75 win over Central Florida. Marshall is now 14-2 overall.
Sports / 1B

School buses involved in morning crash
A Wednesday morning vehicle accident involved three cars and two school buses about 9:30 a.m. on Interstate 64 near the Cabell-Putnam county line.
Local / 3A

Coal venture could create 500 WV jobs
Mine operator Massey Energy Co. plans to develop a mining complex that could employ 500 people in southern West Virginia.
Business / 5B

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STATE OF THE STATE

Gov. Manchin unveils array of legislation

State weathered recession, but challenges ahead

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CHARLESTON — Gov. Joe Manchin said he has plans to combat the effects of the economic recession during his sixth State of the State address in Charleston on Wednesday night.

WEB EXTRA

To read the entire text of Gov. Manchin's State of the State address, go to www.herald-dispatch.com.

But also he urged residents to prepare for challenges.

Manchin spoke to a packed crowd of legislators and supporters in the House of Delegates chambers, saying he would improve education, public safety and the business climate in West Virginia while keeping government finances stable. He also packed in lowering business property taxes and offering public funds to 2012's state Supreme Court candidates and renewed the call for changes to the public school calendar. He asked lawmakers to help him centralize the state's vehicle fleet, and for all West Virginians to take part in this year's Census.

The governor's speech came on the first day of the 60-day session, one expected to deal with budget shortcomings due to the recession. To make up those shortcomings, Manchin recently required state agencies to reduce their current general revenue budgets by 3.4 percent.

And as 26 states have laid off or furloughed workers, Manchin said West Virginia has not.

"While we cannot afford to add any base-building salary increases in Fiscal Year 2011, we are still able to provide annual employee increments and we are fully funding teacher and service personnel step increases," Manchin said.

Though the state is tightening its belt, Manchin said there are a number of projects that will continue to be funded.

Please see **ADDRESS/2A**



The Associated Press

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin delivers his State of the State address in the House Chambers of the State Capitol in Charleston on Wednesday.

W.Va. gov's State of the State address highlights

TAXES

■ Seek to amend West Virginia's Constitution to provide greater flexibility in lowering taxes on commercial and industrial property.

JUDICIARY

■ Create public campaign financing pilot projects for primary and general election candidates for the two state Supreme Court seats on the ballot in 2012.

■ Create a judicial advisory committee to help the governor select appointees for circuit court vacancies.

STATE VEHICLES

■ Eliminate administrative exemptions to managing state vehicles and consolidate management of all vehicles under new Fleet Management Office.

EDUCATION

■ Re-introduce measure to reform calendar so public school students attend

school for 180 days a year.

■ Ask colleges, universities and technical schools to freeze tuition rates for the coming school year.

PROPERTY

■ Allow cities to collect fees from absentee landowners for the maintenance of vacant property.

■ Allow cities to place liens on fire insurance policies on buildings damaged by fire.

CORRECTIONS and LAW ENFORCEMENT

■ Streamline the state's parole system for nonviolent offenders and those convicted of crimes that did not involve children.

■ Request additional funding to add six additional state troopers and support staff to the state's Crimes Against Children Unit.

Rockefeller says health reform bill a good step

Senator outlines changes he'd like to see in future

By **JEAN TARBETT HARDIMAN**
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HUNTINGTON — The current health care reform legislation that's in Congress won't be perfect and remedy every problem with the nation's health care system, U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., told a group of local nursing and medical students, doctors and faculty on Wednesday.

But it marks more progress in reforming health care than he's seen in 40 years in public policy work, he said.

Rockefeller visited Marshall University Wednesday to share his thoughts on the current health care bill and his hopes for change. One change he'd like to see is a shift from a fee-for-service system to a system based on evidence-based outcomes. He also looks forward to a change that will require insurance companies to put at least 80 percent of their revenue toward actual health care, rather than their own salaries.

The health care system also should stress primary care, he said.

"Over the last year, I have worked with my fellow colleagues to craft a health care reform bill that will truly deliver for West Virginians, and I believe that the final bill

Please see **ROCKEFELLER/2A**



Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., speaks during a meeting on health care reform Wednesday at Marshall University.

HAITI: A NATION IN RUIN

THE TINY BODIES of children lay in piles next to the ruins of their collapsed school. Survivors wandered the streets, their stunned faces covered by white dust and the blood of open wounds. Frantic doctors wrapped bleeding heads and stitched up sliced limbs.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, still struggling to recover from four catastrophic storms in 2008, was a picture of heartbreaking devastation Wednesday after a magnitude 7 earthquake.

There was no reliable count, but officials feared thousands, maybe tens of thousands, had died in the quake. Some Haitian leaders suggested the figure could be higher than 100,000.



The Associated Press

A U.N. car is covered in rubble the day after an earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on Tuesday flattened the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods.

Related stories, 5A, 6A

Two innovation plans OK'd for local schools

By **BILL ROSENBERGER**
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CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Board of Education approved the state's first School Innovation Zones at its meeting Wednesday, with \$95,000 awarded to two proposals submitted by Cabell County groups.

Eight elementary schools in one Cabell consortium will get a \$50,000 grant — the largest possible and the only plan to receive it — while Cabell Midland and Huntington high schools and the Cabell County Career Technology Center will receive a \$45,000 grant to develop its plans.

The School Innovations Zones Act, adopted last year, encourages pilot projects at schools around the state. The law allows for waivers to certain state laws, rules and policies to give teachers and principals greater local control over the curriculum, schedule and

To learn more

A total of 19 School Innovation Zone plans from 16 counties were approved by the West Virginia Board of Education, including two in Cabell County.

To view the applications submitted by the 19 awardees, visit the Web site: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/innovationzones/awards-map.html>.

staffing in their schools.

The Cabell County elementary plan includes Martha, Altizer, Southside, Cox Landing, Salt Rock, Peyton, Central City and Davis Creek schools. Its goals are improving student achievement in math and reading, providing regular time for "professional learning communities" and providing flexible delivery of instruction to

Please see **INNOVATION/2A**

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