



**Herrion finds silver lining**  
Despite losing at Memphis,  
MU coach pleased with effort  
Sports / 1B

Partly cloudy, warmer  
**45 30**  
Weather / 14A



**Invitational wraps up**  
Fairland tops Spring Valley  
to win St. Joe Invitational  
Sports / 1B



# The Herald-Dispatch

Huntington, W. Va.

www.herald-dispatch.com

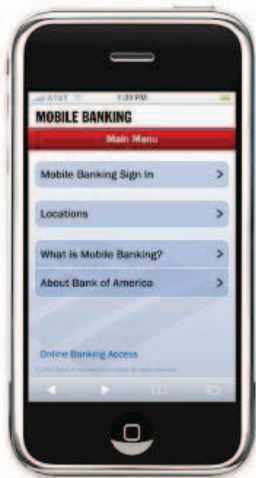
Home Edition \$1.50



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION: THE HERALD-DISPATCH 2013

## BRIDAL PLANNER

A SPECIAL 36-PAGE SUPPLEMENT TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO TIE THE KNOT



### Computers taking over human jobs

Meter readers for the utility companies. Factory workers. Office workers of all kinds. Cashiers. And so many more. All are jobs that have seen declines in numbers in recent years, and not from the slowed economy alone. They're being replaced by computers and automation — and many are jobs that have been the backbone of the middle class throughout the world.

Business / 9A

### Asner is FDR in upcoming one-man play

Now touring in his fourth season in the one-man play, "FDR," award-winning TV and film legend Ed Asner comes to Huntington to breathe life back into the former president in "Ed Asner starring as FDR" at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Life / 1D

#### Index

Business	9A	Jumble	2D
Calendar	6C	Life	1D
Classified	1F	Local	3A
Community	1C	Nation	11A
Dear Abby	2D	Obituaries	2C
Editorials	6A	Puzzle	2D
Horoscope	7F	Sports	1B

© The Herald-Dispatch  
Champion Publishing, Inc.  
www.herald-dispatch.com  
Huntington, West Virginia  
Vol. 113 No. 27



### SPOTLIGHT: SCOUTING

## SUPPORTING THE TROOPS



Photos by Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch

Mary Grace Bannon, 7, of Girl Scout Troop 1772 shows off a folded flag as scouts gathered Saturday at American Legion Post 16 in Huntington to fold 300 pocket-sized flags, which will be sent to soldiers.

### Scouts send pocket flags, support to deployed troops

By LACIE PIERSON  
The Herald-Dispatch  
lpierson@herald-dispatch.com

HUNTINGTON — The Scouting code of honoring God and country isn't lost on Melinda Wells.

Wells, who is the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout Troop 1772, also is the mother of a Boy Scout in Boy Scout Pack 25, and on Saturday, those two scouting groups got together for a project that perfectly fit within that code.

Approximately 38 Boy and Girl Scouts and their families spent Saturday afternoon folding 300 pocket flags at American Legion Post 16. Those flags will be sent to deployed soldiers through a program called the Pocket Flag Project.

True to scouting form, each participant received an "Americanism" patch from the

Please see **SCOUTS/4A**

**Photos Online**  
Check www.herald-dispatch.com for more photos.



Dagan Grieco, 9, of Cub Scout Pack 25 shows off one of the 300 pocket-sized folded flags, which will be sent to soldiers at American Legion Post 16 in Huntington.

### HUNTINGTON SANITARY BOARD OFFICIALS SAY:

## Critical sewer repairs needed

Urgent work could cost \$50 million, director says

By BRYAN CHAMBERS  
The Herald-Dispatch  
bchambers@herald-dispatch.com

HUNTINGTON — Huntington's wastewater treatment plant and its outlying system are suffering from years of neglect and facing critical upgrades that total more than \$50 million.

That's the message Huntington Sanitary Board officials sent to newly elected Mayor Steve Williams last week during his inaugural meeting as chairman of the agency's three-member board.

"Having served on City Council, I knew we had problems and work to do," Williams said. "But to hear from engineers that the plant is so antiquated that they consider it the worst in the state and the entire region is concerning."

Please see **SEWER/4A**



Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch

Ed Romans, chief operator for the Huntington Sanitary Board, shows areas in need of repair at the agency's wastewater treatment plant in Westmoreland.

### THOUSANDS MARCH FOR GUN CONTROL IN WASHINGTON

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, many holding signs with names of gun violence victims and messages such as "Ban Assault Weapons Now," joined a rally for gun control on Saturday, marching from the Capitol to the Washington Monument.



STORY, PAGE 11A

## Report gives Tri-State good mark for growth within high-tech sector

By JEAN TARBETT HARDIMAN  
The Herald-Dispatch  
jeant@herald-dispatch.com

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington-Ashland Metropolitan area lost a little ground over the past year in a newly released economic development survey that ranks the nation's 200 largest metropolitan areas.

The Tri-State ranked 110th in the Milken Institute's 2012 Best-Performing Cities, a drop from 88th in 2011, but it was strong in one particular area — growth of high tech output. The Huntington-Ashland metro ranked second among 200 cities in the category of high-tech sector output growth, relative to the U.S. average from 2006 to 2011.

The local metropolitan statisti-



File photo/The Herald-Dispatch

The Huntington-Ashland Metropolitan area ranked 110th in the Milken Institute's 2012 Best-Performing Cities.

cal area (MSA) has a population of 287,599 and covers Cabell and Wayne counties in West Virginia, Lawrence County, Ohio, and

Boyd, Carter and Greenup counties in Kentucky.

Please see **REPORT/8A**



Thank You for Choosing St. Mary's Medical Center  
The Hands of Experience® in Advanced Health Care





# Report

■ Continued from 1A

The Morgantown metro area is lumped in with smaller cities and ranked second in the nation on the Milken report.

Considering that Huntington-Ashland is up against the largest metropolitan areas in the country and that it outranked the Charleston metro area, several metros in Ohio and even areas like Jacksonville, Fla., the 110th ranking is noteworthy, said Bill Hannah, president and CEO of the Ashland Alliance.

“That we’re 110th out of 200 of what they consider large MSAs is significant,” Hannah said.

Looking forward, Tri-State development organizations such as the Ashland Alliance, Huntington Area Development Council, the Huntington Regional Chamber and the Lawrence County Chamber and Development Corporation, should remember that collectively they have more to sell, Hannah added.

“People on the outside are looking at us as a region. We need to look at ourselves that way and consider ourselves that way,” he said.

Hannah said the region especially has more healthcare muscle than some might realize.

“In our region ... we’ve got Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary’s in Huntington, and (in Kentucky) King’s Daughters, Bellefonte and St. Claire Regional in Morehead,” Hannah said. “With a cluster of these facilities and their offerings and specialties that they each have, I’m sure as someone considers services or supplying those, we look pretty good. As a region, we offer more than what a lot of people consider that we have.”

In ranking metros for their high tech output, the Milken Institute looks at 19 high-tech sectors for the study. The Huntington-Ashland area stood out in three of them — medical devices, diagnostics and lab equipment, and telecom, said Armen Bedroussian, a senior economist with the Milken Institute’s Economic Research group.

The area’s healthcare facilities, serving not only the metro area but the rural outlying counties, play a key role in the strong ranking, Bedroussian said.

It’s the innovative part of the industry bringing on “the next wave of technology that comes in to treat patients,” Bedroussian said. “We know there’s an aging population in parts of the country, and Huntington is part of that, and we’ve seen companies invest in these innovative technologies.”

In Huntington, some of the growth in high tech output can be attributed to recent expansions. As an example, Alcon Inc. opened its second plant in Huntington in 2011. At the new Monarch plant, Alcon makes cartridges that help insert intraocular lenses into the eye during cataract surgeries worldwide.

“That success came about through the hard work of the local Alcon personnel and our economic development organizations in the area, such as

# Home in Lesage destroyed by fire

By LACIE PIERSON  
The Herald-Dispatch  
lpierson@heralddispatch.com

LESAGE — One family’s home was destroyed by a house fire Saturday night.

The fire was reported just before 8:30 p.m. at a home along Hobbs Drive, about half a mile north of Big Seven Mile Road off of W.Va 2.

First responders with the Ohio River Road and Barboursville volunteer fire departments responded to the scene.

The fire originated in the center of the home, which is where the fire was fully involved when crews arrived on the scene, said Lt. Charlie Fields with the Ohio River Road department.

A young couple with an infant resided at the residence, but they were not home when the fire started, Fields said. One of the homeowners told Fields there was a plug-in light in the area where the fire appeared to have originated, but the cause of the fire had not been determined Saturday night.

Fields described the home as a total loss, and he said someone with the state fire marshal’s office will visit the scene to investigate the incident.

## 2012 Best-Performing Cities

The Milken Institute puts together an annual Best-Performing Cities index to serve as a data-driven, comprehensive measure of economic strength across U.S. metropolitan areas. It includes job, wage and technology metrics over a five-year period. Here’s a look at how the Huntington-Ashland and Charleston metropolitan areas fared.

	Huntington-Ashland	Charleston
Overall Rank	110	143
Rank Change	-22	-95
Metro Area Population	287,599	303,674
5-yr Job Growth (2006-11)	Rank 125	Rank 64
1-yr Job Growth (2010-11)	185	169
5-yr Wages/Salaries Growth (2005-10)	41	44
1-yr Wages/Salaries Growth (2009-10)	103	168
Job Growth (May 2011– May 2012)	50	161
5-yr Relative High-Tech Gross Domestic Product Growth (2006-11)	2	73
1-yr Relative High-Tech Gross Domestic Product (2010-11)	150	119
Concentration of High Tech Gross Domestic Product in the metro area - 2011	191	141
Number of high tech industries in the metro area that have an Gross Domestic Product concentration higher than the national average - 2011	131	131

Source: Milken Institute

Thomas Marsh/The Herald-Dispatch

HADCO,” said John Maher, vice president for research at Marshall University. “The university plays a role in assuring that employers like Alcon will have an educated local workforce ready to step in to high-skill, high-tech jobs. This investment is an affirmation that we are on the right path.”

In terms of the telecom indus-

try, DirecTV took over a call center in 2008, saving about 500 jobs and has added at least a couple hundred more since it moved into a new facility in 2011. Amazon also has moved into a new facility and expanded.

It’s not the increase in jobs in which the metro ranked so well, but the output of these sec-

tors, Bedroussian said. Other stronger numbers for the Huntington-Ashland metro were its rank of 41st in “Wages & Salaries Growth” from 2005 to 2010, and “Job Growth” from May 2011 to May 2012.

In terms of the high-tech GDP concentration in the metropolitan area, Huntington-Ashland still has a long way to go, according to the study. It ranked 191st in that category. All other of the Huntington-Ashland area’s rankings were in the bottom half of the 200 metros as well.

All the areas that saw the most gains in the past year — San Jose, Austin, Dallas, Raleigh — were those that had a high concentration of high tech jobs, Bedroussian said.

“Tech is back,” he said. “A lot of companies that deferred purchases during the recession started making those investments as the recession started fading away. As a result, metros with a higher share of technology relative to their overall economy are starting to see some of those gains.”

Marshall, with help from the economic development com-

munity, “is working to broaden and diversify the economy in the region through promoting the development of high-tech startup businesses based on university-owned technology,” Maher said. “These startup companies — like Progenesis Technologies and Vandalia Research — are located in Huntington and are growing and prospering, as evidenced by Vandalia’s recent spin-off of its educational subsidiary Cross-Cutting Technologies,” Maher said. “With the state’s Bucks for Brains research trust fund program enabling significant new investments in research at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, The College of Information Technology and Engineering, and the College of Science, we expect to see considerable positive developments in the local high tech economy as these investments come to fruition.”

Recent growth in high tech and research activity gives them confidence in the future, he said. Challenges in the region include the availability of capital and attracting and developing entre-

preneurs and business leaders in the sector.

Marshall continues to partner in initiatives such as TechConnectWV and development of resources such as the EDA University Center, Innovate WV and Startup WV in partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Manufacturing to aid entrepreneurs and small businesses in growing the high-tech economy, Maher said.

In the meantime, many industries are getting more high tech. Manufacturing jobs are generally good-paying jobs that are becoming more and more high-tech, Sprouse of HADCO said.

“A lot of the manufacturing processes are automated now. You go to any place around here, any size in terms of the company and you’ll see lots of technology being employed in the manufacturing process,” he said. “Most is done by something that is computer-operated.”

Where it used to be the strongest guy who had the advantage in manufacturing, today it’s the employee whose best trained in the newest technology, he said.



# ST. MARY'S REGIONAL HEART INSTITUTE

cordially invites you to the annual

## Go Red for Women Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 1 • Noon

St. Mary’s Conference Center  
Corner of 29th St. and Fifth Ave.  
Huntington

The event is open to the public and will include a Macy’s fashion show and giveaways.

Tickets are \$35 each.

To reserve your seat, call (304) 526-6029

All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.



American Heart Association®

nationally sponsored by



Be well

locally sponsored by  
Mug and Pia



WSAZ News Anchor

Amanda Barren

to Emcee the Event

