



Lomax carries Union past John Battle

SPORTS » C1

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

SUNDAY, March 14, 2021

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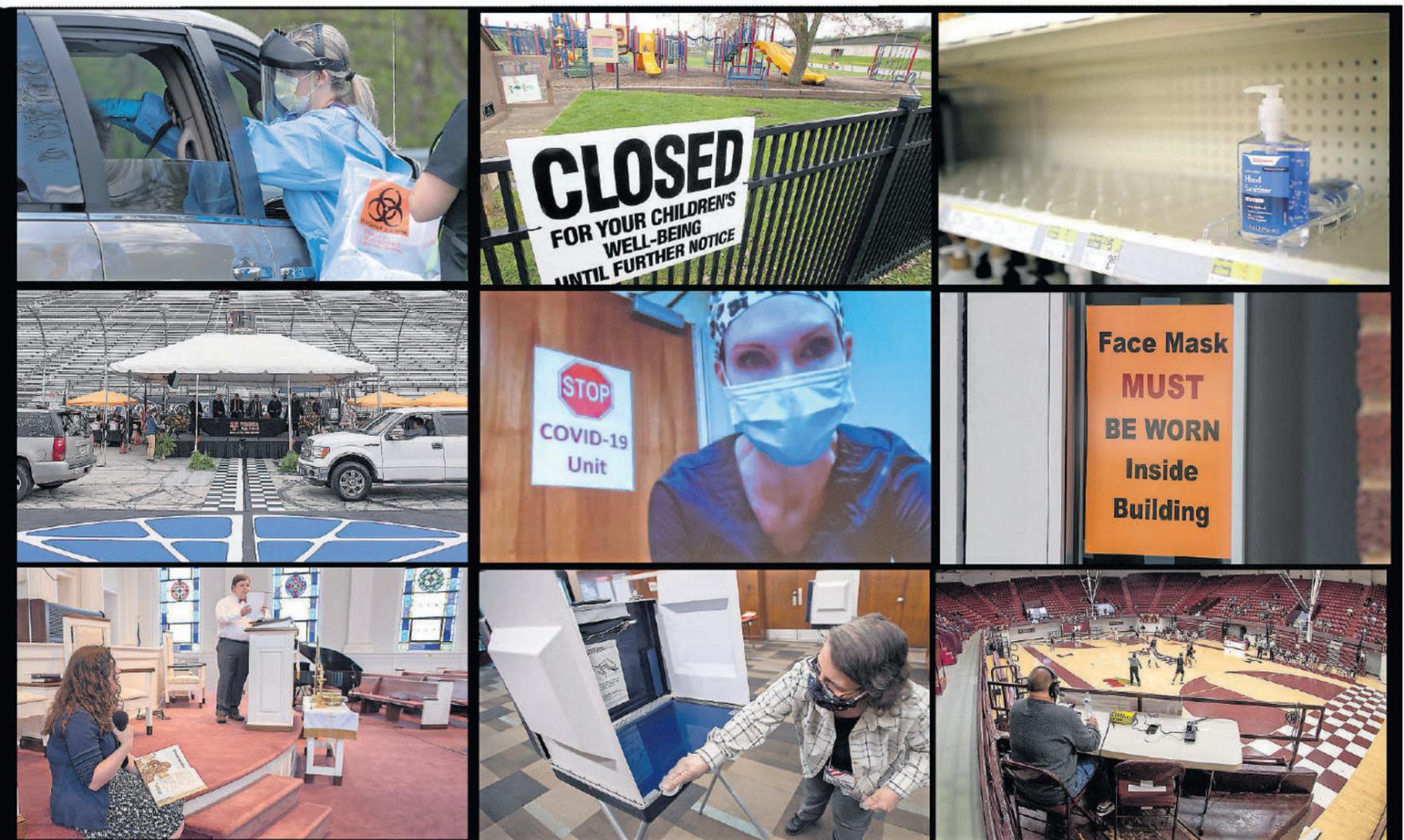
'The impact is immeasurable'

COVID-19



ONE YEAR

SPECIAL REPORT



BHC FILE PHOTOS; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID CRIGGER

The COVID-19 pandemic affected many aspects of our lives: (l-r, top): testing, recreation and shopping; (middle): school, health care and masks; and (bottom): church, voting and sports.



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- Updates**
heraldcourier.com/coronavirus
- » Read the latest news about COVID-19 in your community.

COVID-19 pandemic defined the past year for region, world

EDITOR'S NOTE

» This is the first story in a weeklong series examining COVID-19's effects on the region over the past year. **Coming Monday:** Ballad Health System officials reflect on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it had on the hospital system and health care workers.

BY DAVID MCGEE | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

The COVID-19 global pandemic defined the past 12 months in this region and around the world.

Virtually every aspect of our lives was impacted, from schools, businesses and recreation to dining out, shopping, limitations on travel and requirements to wear face coverings

See **COVID**, Page A4

INSIDE

- » Nurses battle falsehoods. **A6**
- » The surreal numbers. **A6**
- » Opinion: The BHC has been with you through the pandemic. **A8**
- » BHC Facebook friends describe the past year. **A8**
- » How COVID reshuffled our finances. **B5**
- » Reporter shares his experience with COVID. **D1**

Sullivan hardest hit in COVID war

BY DAVID MCGEE
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Gary Mayes remembers being “almost distraught” one year ago over the local public health sector’s lack of preparedness when COVID-19 arrived in this region.

Mayes, director of the Sullivan County Regional Health Department and a 21-year veteran of public health, said this region was behind from the start — lacking necessary supplies and accurate information about how to cope with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

See **SULLIVAN**, Page A4



Thank you, Mildred Brown, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



INSIDE

HISTORY WITH HAYES: 'Bodie' led Lebanon to VHSL state basketball title in 1991 » C3



LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	119,471,500+	2,647,200+
United States	29,399,000+	534,200+
Virginia	593,562	9,985
Tennessee	789,652	11,639

#VACCINATED IN VIRGINIA: 1,710,145
#VACCINATED IN TENNESSEE: 1,854,473

SOURCES: Johns Hopkins, Virginia and Tennessee Departments of Health, AP

INSIDE: CLASSIFIED E1-8 | COMICS INSERT | DEATHS B2-4 | OPINION A8 | SCOREBOARD C2 | TELEVISION B6

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SPACE TOURISM
» A3

First private spaceflight ends with splashdown in the Atlantic



COLLEGE FOOTBALL » C3

Emory & Henry pummels Apprentice, 63-7

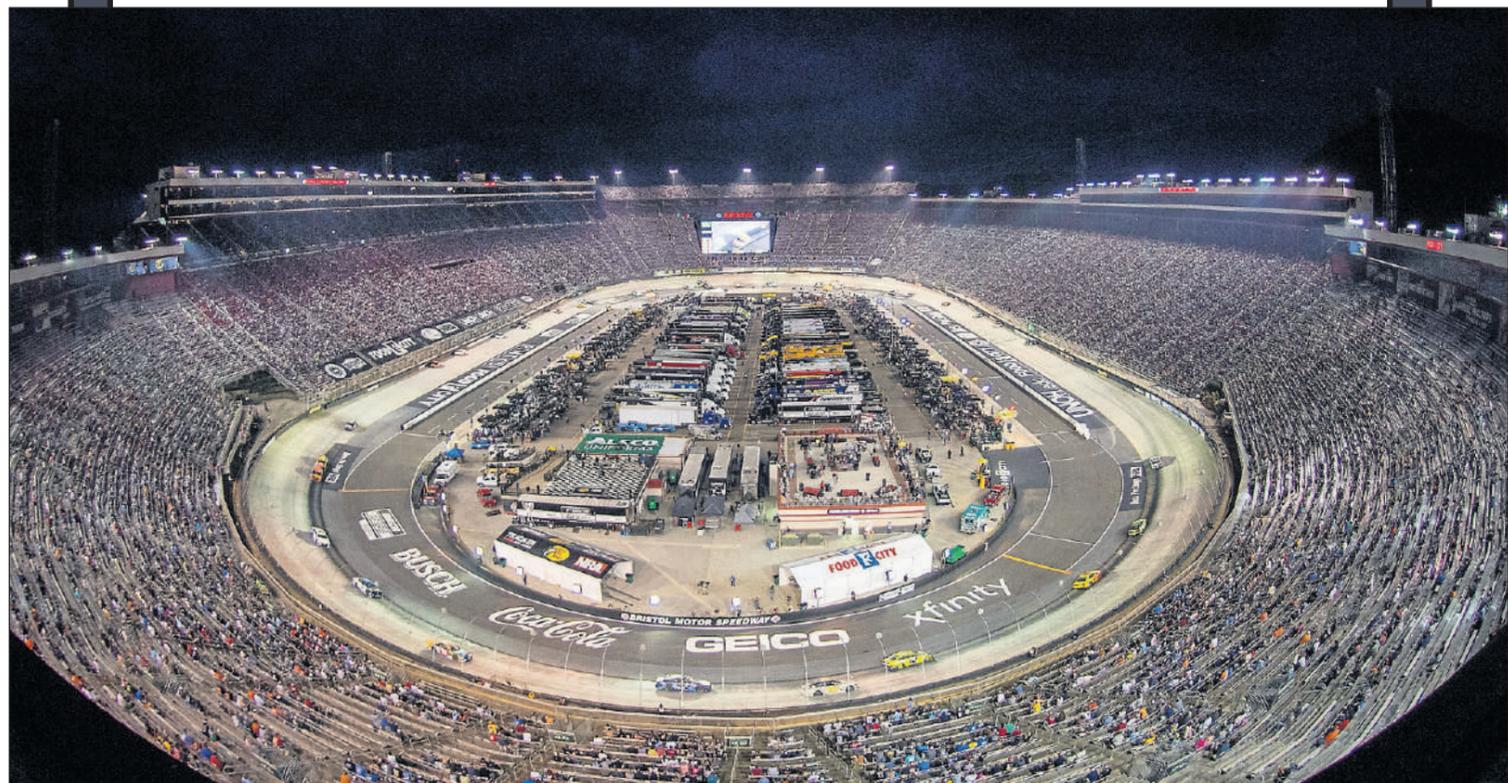


BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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FEUD AT BMS



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
NASCAR Cup drivers race around Bristol Motor Speedway during Stage 1 of Saturday night's Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race.

Larson wins at Bristol while Harvick and Elliott feud

An estimated crowd of 80,000, the largest for any NASCAR Cup race this season, attended Saturday's Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway. With the event serving as a cutoff for the playoffs and four drivers facing elimination from the original round of 16, the stakes were high. Kyle Larson, Denny Hamlin and Kevin Harvick were dominant over the first 400 laps, with Larson finishing on top for his sixth win of the season. Harvick, William Byron, Ryan Blaney and Alex Bowman rounded out the top 5. Aric Almirola, Kurt Busch, Michael McDowell and Tyler Reddick were eliminated from playoff contention. BMS will host two Cup Series night races in 2022, beginning on April 17, which is Easter Sunday, and Saturday, Sept. 17.



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
A C-130 from the 189th Air Wing flies over BMS prior to the start of Saturday's Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race.



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
Kyle Larson drives into turn three during the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race. Larson went on to win the race.

RACE COVERAGE ON PAGE C1

Thank you, **Lewis Lilly**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



83/66
Weather » A14

INSIDE

DC RALLY

» In edgy Washington, police outnumber Jan. 6 protesters. **A3**

FATALITY

» Pedestrian dies in crash in front of Bristol Motor Speedway. **B1**

FOOTBALL

» West Virginia stuns Va. Tech, while Vols win easily. **C3**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	228,113,500+	4,685,100+
United States	42,048,300+	673,400+
Virginia	827,197	12,242
Tennessee	1,178,168	14,341

% FULLY VACCINATED IN VA.: 58.6%
% FULLY VACCINATED IN TENN.: 43.9%
SOURCES: Johns Hopkins, Virginia and Tennessee Departments of Health, AP



INSIDE: CLASSIFIED E1-10 | COMICS INSERT | DEATHS B2-4 | OPINION A12 | SCOREBOARD C2 | TELEVISION B6



James Battle, MD | Amy Young, MD | Joshua F Busscher, MD | Michael Shahbazi, MD | Lauren C. Rushing, M.D. | Jeff Carlsen, MD | Peter Lemkin, OD | Jennifer Oakley, MD | John Johnson, MD | Alan McCartt, MD



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Tanya Tucker bows out of BR&RR lineup
REGION » A3



46 dead after Ida's remnants hit Northeast » A10

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

FRIDAY, September 3, 2021

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COVID-19 VACCINATION

'It's the right thing to do'



"It's the intelligent thing to do. It's the compassionate thing to do. It's the safe thing to do. It's the patriotic thing to do. It's the right thing to do. Not a hard decision at all."
— Ben Talley, retired Bristol teacher



"Natalie and I made the decision that we considered best for us. And so far, we are grateful for the protection the vaccine is providing us."
— Dave Dierks, chief meteorologist, WCYB



"Bristol Virginia Public Schools has worked very hard since the beginning of the pandemic to make sure our students can learn in person and participate in extracurricular activities. As I see more and more schools go virtual and sporting events being canceled, I worry about how the low rate of vaccinations in Southwest Virginia will affect our ability to continue to provide these opportunities. Please consider getting vaccinated so our kids don't miss out on these milestone memories."
— Keith Perrigan, Bristol Virginia Public Schools superintendent



"It's very important to not die. For me, personally, I have a son who's not old enough to be vaccinated. I have family members whose immune systems are compromised. Personally, I can't afford to miss work. You won't get plugged into a ventilator from taking a vaccination."
— J.P. Parsons, musician from Bristol, Virginia



"Being able to welcome guests from all around the country to Bristol Motor Speedway, I am grateful to have received a vaccination against COVID so we can get back together and do the things we love to do. We are blessed to live in the Appalachian Highlands region where our freedoms are vast thanks to our veterans and those who serve and defend our nation. If you are in a position to accept a vaccination and help protect our front-line workers and those at risk, please contact your local health department to get a shot today for free."
— Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway



"I was willing to do anything it took to get back to normal. Not having sports for eight months in 2020 made me realize how important it is for young people to be involved with something they are accountable to. Sports are great, but the things they provide to athletes go way beyond wins and championships. If getting a vaccine helps keep sports going, it was a no-brainer. If I knew how COVID would continue to impact this football season, I would have highly recommended that my players [had] gotten vaccinated this summer."
— Jeff Robinson, teacher, football and baseball coach at Chilhowie High School



"Growing up we had to get the polio vaccine, we had the diphtheria vaccine, the smallpox vaccine. I grew up in an age when you got whatever vaccine was there. What if people reacted to them like they've reacted to COVID? We eradicated those diseases. I'm very much for vaccines. I signed up for the Pfizer tests and was proud to be a part of that. I think we have to believe in medical science — that they have our best interests and they're trying to make sure that this (virus) doesn't consume us."
— Leah Ross, executive director of the Birthplace of Country Music



"There are two main reasons I want our students, staff and community members to be vaccinated. Those who are vaccinated, even if they become infected, are much less likely to become seriously ill. Also, vaccines are the fastest way for us to get everyone back to school and to be able to return to normal activities. I just want our kids to have the education and high school experience they deserve without COVID-19 being a constant concern."
— Kim Kirk, principal of Tennessee High School



"In March 2020, both of my parents were diagnosed with COVID-19. My mom survived. My dad died. We are vaccinated so that we don't spread this insidious disease and contribute others feeling the pain our family experienced when someone we loved so very much was taken from us. If you truly care for the welfare of others, you will get vaccinated too."
— Jim Maxwell, publisher of the Bristol Herald Courier (with wife Laura)

Where to Get Vaccinated

In all cases, please call or log on to schedule an appointment.

- » Online: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>
- » Sullivan County Health Department: Blountville and Kingsport; 423-279-2777
- » Ballad Health Ask-a-Nurse: 833-822-5523
- » Ballad Health Vaccination Center: Johnson City Mall; Mon-Wed-Fri; 2-7 p.m.
- » Bristol Virginia Health Department: 205 Piedmont Ave.; 276-642-7335
- » Washington County Health Department: 15068 Lee Highway, No. 200; 276-676-5604
- » Area locations of: CVS, Food City, Ingles, Kroger, Sam's Club, Walgreens, Walmart pharmacies

INSIDE

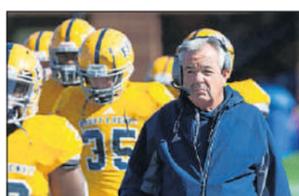
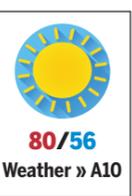
» Opinion: It's time to reconsider. Get vaccinated for COVID-19. **A8**



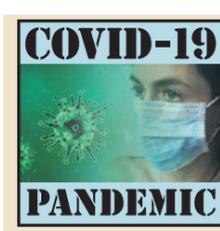
"It was important to me to get the COVID-19 vaccine to help protect my family members who have struggled with health issues, and to be able to travel again. Thanks to the vaccine, I will get to finally take my honeymoon later this year."
— Maggie Elliott, executive director of Believe in Bristol



Thank you, **Gilbert Roberts**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



INSIDE
Emory & Henry prepares to open a new era of Wasps football » B1



LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	218,969,200+	4,550,900+
United States	39,544,200+	643,500+
Virginia	774,097	11,879
Tennessee	1,064,427	13,554

% FULLY VACCINATED IN VA.: 56.9%
 % FULLY VACCINATED IN TENN.: 42%
 SOURCES: Johns Hopkins, Virginia and Tennessee Departments of Health, AP

INSIDE: CLASSIFIED B7-10 | COMICS B6 | DEATHS A4, A7 | OPINION A8 | SCOREBOARD B2 | TELEVISION B5

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