

Congress opens new session as virus, Biden's win dominate

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Henry, Titans run to AFC South title with 41-38 win

SPORTS » B1

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

MONDAY, January 4, 2021

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Biker killed, 2 kids injured in crash

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Tenn. — A motorcyclist is dead and two children are in the hospital following a two-vehicle accident Saturday afternoon in Bristol, Tennessee.

Bristol Tennessee Police responded to an accident on state Route 394 at 4:05 p.m. at the Whitetop Road intersection.

The wreck involved a motorcycle and a 2007 Jeep Cherokee SUV.

According to involved parties and witnesses, the motorcycle was traveling east on Route 394, and the SUV was attempting to cross Route 394 on Whitetop Road, police said.

The motorcycle collided with the passenger side of the SUV, police said, and the driver of the 2020 Kawasaki motorcycle, William Pedziwol, 27, of Bristol, Tennessee, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 2-year-old passenger in the SUV, who suffered life-threatening injuries, was transported by helicopter to Niswonger Children's Hospital in Johnson City, Tennessee, according to police, while a 7-year-old passenger in the SUV, who suffered critical injuries, was transported by ambulance to Bristol Regional Medical Center and later transferred to the hospital in Johnson City by helicopter.

The adult occupants of the SUV, who were the parents of the two children, were uninjured, according to police.

The Bristol Tennessee Police Department's Fatal Incident Response Support Team (FIRST) and the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office responded to the scene.

The accident is still under investigation.

Trump, on tape, presses Ga. official to 'find' votes

BY JEFF AMY, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and KATE BRUMBACK
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — President Donald Trump pressured Georgia's Republican secretary of state to "find" enough votes to overturn

Joe Biden's win in the state's presidential election, repeatedly citing disproven claims of fraud and raising the prospect of "criminal offense" if officials did not change the vote count, according to a recording of the conversation.

The phone call with Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Saturday was the latest step in an unprecedented effort by a sitting president to pressure a state official to reverse the outcome of a free and fair election that he lost.

The president, who has refused to accept his loss to Democratic President-elect Biden, repeatedly argued that Raffensperger could change the certified results.

See **TRUMP**, Page A2

Hometown Stories



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN WILSON / SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

Author Jerry Jones stands in front of his homeplace in Glade Spring, a house that was built by his great-grandfather, a former slave, in 1870. His book "Go and Come Again" was recently featured in the New York Times Sunday Book Review. LEFT: Jones points to a photograph of his great-grandmother, great-grandfather and grandmother in the 1880s featured in his book.

Back again

Local author's book on Black struggles gets strong reviews

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER
LADE SPRING, Va. — A small-town author is getting a big-time notice, nearly a decade after publishing a book on the struggles Black people faced a generation ago.

See **AUTHOR**, Page A2



Thank you, **Earl Smith**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	85,968,700+	1,542,000+
United States	29,614,100+	351,400+
Virginia	263,765	5,124
Tennessee	698,297	7,625
#VACCINATED IN VIRGINIA:	87,618	
#VACCINATED IN TENNESSEE:	126,887	
SOURCES:	Johns Hopkins, Virginia and Tennessee Departments of Health, AP	

Fauci: Vaccinations are ramping up

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
The Associated Press

The U.S. ramped up COVID-19 vaccinations in the past few days after a slower-than-expected start, bringing the number of shots dispensed to about 4 million, government health officials said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, also said on ABC's "This Week" that President-elect Joe Biden's pledge

to administer 100 million shots of the vaccine within his first 100 days in office is achievable.

And he rejected President Donald Trump's false claim on Twitter that coronavirus deaths and cases in the U.S. have been greatly exaggerated.

"All you need to do ... is go into the trenches, go into the hospitals, go into the intensive care units and see what is happening. Those are real numbers, real people

and real deaths," Fauci said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The U.S. death toll has climbed past 350,000, the most of any country, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, while more than 20 million people nationwide have been infected. States have reported record numbers of cases over the past few days, and funeral homes in Southern California are being inundated with bodies.

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LOTTERY RESULTS

Here are the winning numbers picked Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in the Tennessee and Virginia lotteries:

TENNESSEE
(evening drawings)
Cash 3: **0-2-1**
Cash 4: **4-4-0-4**
VIRGINIA
(day drawings)
Pick 3: **6-0-6**
Pick 4: **5-9-6-9**
Cash 4 Life: **10-35-21-25-30 (4)**
(night drawings)
The night drawings were not available at press time.

All lottery numbers are subject to verification.

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Trump

From Page A1

"All I want to do is this. I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have," Trump said. "Because we won the state."
Georgia counted its votes three times before certifying Biden's win by a 11,779 margin, Raffensperger noted. "President Trump, we've had several lawsuits, and we've had to respond in court to the lawsuits and the contentions. We don't agree that you have won."

Audio snippets of the conversation were first posted online by The Washington Post. The Associated Press obtained the full audio of Trump's conversation with Georgia officials from a person on the call. The AP has a policy of not amplifying disinformation and unproven allegations. The AP will be posting the full audio as it annotates a transcript with fact check material.

Trump's renewed intervention and the persistent and unfounded claims of fraud come nearly two weeks before he leaves office and two days before twin runoff elections in Georgia that will determine political control of the U.S. Senate.

The president used the hourlong conversation to tick through a list of claims about the election in Georgia, including that hundreds of thousands of ballots mysteriously appeared in Fulton County, which includes Atlanta. Officials have said there is no evidence of that happening.

The Georgia officials on the call are heard repeatedly pushing back against the president's assertions, telling him that he's relying on debunked theories and, in one case, selectively edited video.

At another point in the conversation, Trump appeared to threaten Raffensperger and Ryan Germany, the secretary of state's legal counsel, by suggesting both could be criminally liable if they failed to find that thousands of ballots in Fulton County had been illegally destroyed. There is no evidence to support Trump's claim.

"That's a criminal offense," Trump says. "And you can't let that happen."

Others on the call included Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, and attorneys assisting Trump, including Washington lawyer Cleta Mitchell.

Democrats and a few Republicans condemned Trump's actions, while at least one Democrat urged a criminal investigation. Legal experts said Trump's behavior raised questions about possible election law violations.

Biden senior adviser Bob Bauer called the recording "irrefutable proof" of Trump pressuring and threatening an official in his own party to "rescind a state's lawful, certified vote count and fabricate another in its place."
"It captures the whole, disgraceful story about Donald Trump's assault on American democracy," Bauer said.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in that chamber, said Trump's conduct "merits nothing less than a criminal investigation."

Trump confirmed in a tweet Sunday that he had spoken with Raffensperger. The White House referred questions to Trump's reelection campaign, which did not respond Sunday to an emailed request for comment. Raffensperger's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump has repeatedly attacked how Raffensperger conducted Georgia's elections, claiming without evidence that the state's 16 electoral votes were wrongly given to Biden.

"He has no clue!" Trump tweeted of Raffensperger, saying the state official "was unwilling, or unable" to answer questions.

Raffensperger's Twitter response: "Respectfully, President Trump: What you're saying is not true. The truth will come out."

Various election officials across the country and Trump's former attorney general, William Barr, have said there was no widespread fraud in the election. Republican governors in Arizona and Georgia, key battleground states crucial to Biden's victory, have also vouched for the integrity of their state elections. Nearly all the legal challenges from Trump and his allies have been dismissed by judges, including two tossed by the Supreme Court, which includes three Trump-nominated justices.

In Georgia, the ballots were counted three times, including a mandatory hand count and a Trump-restricted recount.

Still, Trump has publicly disparaged the election, worrying Republicans that it may discourage GOP voters from participating in Tuesday's runoff pitting Sen. Kelly Loeffler against Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican David Perdue against Democrat Jon Ossoff.

Rebecca Green, who helps direct the election law program at William and Mary Law School, said that while it is appropriate for a candidate to question the outcome of an election, the processes for doing so for the presidential election have run their course. States have certified their votes.

Green said Trump had raised "lots of questions" about whether he violated any election laws.

Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond, said Trump is guilty of "reprehensible and, possibly illegal, conduct."

Trump noted on the call that he intended to repeat his claims about fraud at a Monday night rally in Dalton, a heavily Republican area in north Georgia.

"The people of Georgia are angry, the people of the country are angry," he says on the recording.

Biden is also due to campaign in Georgia on Monday, and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris stumped in Garden City, Georgia, on Sunday, slamming Trump for the call.

"It was a bald, bald-faced, bold abuse of power by the president of the United States," she said.

Author

From Page A1

Glade Spring native Jerry Jones never dreamed his book — an autobiography, of sorts — would be brought back to life for people in distant towns and cities to read.

Jones, 73, who has been a teacher for more than 50 years in Baltimore, Maryland, Richmond, Virginia, and finally Emory, Virginia, now lives at the same residence where he was born, a house that was built by his great-grandfather, a former slave, in 1870.

His book "Go and Come Again" was recently featured in the New York Times Sunday Book Review, a weekly insert that is "considered the nation's most credible review of good literature," according to the daily newspaper.

The advertising insert contained the book cover, book details and a 30-word description. His book was featured a week ago in the Dec. 27 edition of the newspaper.

"It's an once-in-a-lifetime offer," said Dean Manson, senior book representative for Authors Press, an online self-publishing company that has helped Jones develop a new webpage and advance his writing career.

"The book comes highly recommended and is a very good book."
More events highlighting the book will be planned in the future, said the book representative.

The New York Times has a circulation of 1.1 million and a readership of 4.6 million.

"The fact that someone in New York might read about Glade Spring is earth-shattering to me," said Jones.

But Jones has more good news.

His book also will be featured at the Los Angeles Festival of Books during a two-day gallery exhibit at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on April 17 and 18, 2021. During the event, Jones' book will be available for display and sale.

Although professional representatives will be present on his behalf, the Glade Spring author hopes he can attend the event.

Jones explained how a series of serendipitous events led his book to a new fame, turning the heads of book reviewers.

While preparing to teach a racial identity course last fall at Emory & Henry College, Jones discovered there were no remaining copies of his book for sale in the college's bookstore for his students to use as resources. That led him to contact the self-publishing company to request extra copies.

When he learned the company was out of business, Jones found a new publisher, Outskirts Press, a Colorado-based book publisher that caters to self-publishing authors. Jones said that contact eventually opened the door to Authors Press.

"Go and Come Again" highlights the history and culture

of Jones' Southwest Virginia home, focusing on the various struggles of the author's family, selected teachers and students, and the transitions of the early 1960s. The author details his experiences at a historically Black college and his work experiences as a high school teacher, a professor at a community college and later as a professor at Emory & Henry College, which is near his home.

"Every story in my book is unique," he said. "I grew up in a place where at one time if you were Black your education stopped at the seventh grade. I am a representative of more than one person. I represent a generation, an attitude."
Jones already is working on his next book. It will detail his 50-year experiences as an educator.

Born in 1947, Jones attended public schools in the era of segregation. He holds bachelor and master degrees from Virginia State University and a doctoral degree from Virginia Tech. With many decades spent in education, both as a student and a teacher, Jones provides a unique perspective about society, education and minority status in America — past and present.

Check out Jones' website at www.jonesgladespring.com, where his book is available for purchase. "Go and Come Again" also is available online at Amazon and other major booksellers.

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2021. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 4, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

On this date:

» In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

» In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gonzalez v. Williams*, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

» In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

» In 1944, Ralph Bunche became the first African American officer at the State Department as he was appointed to a post in the Near East and African Section.

» In 1964, Pope Paul VI began a visit to the Holy Land, the first papal pilgrimage of its kind.

» In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

» In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

» In 1999, Euro's new currency, the euro, got off to a strong start on its first trading day, rising against the dollar on world currency markets. Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura took the oath of office as Minnesota's governor.

» In 2002, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, a U.S. Army Special Forces soldier, was killed by small-arms fire during an ambush in eastern Afghanistan; he was the first American military death from enemy fire in the war against terrorism.

» In 2006, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a significant stroke; his official powers were transferred to his deputy, Ehud Olmert. (Sharon remained in a coma until his death in January 2014.)

» In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

» In 2010, Dubai opened the world's tallest skyscraper, and in a surprise move renamed the 2,717-foot gleaming glass-and-metal tower Burj Khalifa in a nod to the leader of neighboring Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich sheikhdom that had come to its financial rescue.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a \$1.4 billion overhaul of the nation's food safety system. The Navy fired the commander of the USS Enterprise, Capt. Owen Honors, more than three years after he'd made lewd videos to boost morale for his crew. (Honors was later reprimanded but allowed to remain in the Navy; he retired in 2012.) The Mega Millions lottery drew two winning tickets for a jackpot totaling \$380 million. (In a strange coincidence, four of the six winning numbers matched those used by a lottery-winning character on the TV show "Lost.")

Five years ago: Workers returned to their offices at the San Bernardino, California, campus where 14 people were killed the previous month in a terror attack carried out by a county restaurant inspector and his wife. The Justice Department sued Volkswagen over emissions-cheating software found in nearly 600,000 vehicles sold in the United States.

One year ago: Thousands of militiamen and other supporters marched across Iraq's capital in a funeral procession for Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike. President Donald Trump threatened to hit dozens of targets in Iran "very fast and very hard," including sites "important to Iran & the Iranian culture," if Iran retaliated for the killing. Australia's prime minister said the death toll in the worst wildfire season in Australian history had climbed to 23, including a father and son who had been battling flames for two days.

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To submit calendar entries or report cancellations or postponements, email citydesk@bristolnews.com.



Beekkeeping helps stroke survivor with recovery
REGION » A3



Former ETSU star Clint Freeman is two-day Duck
SPORTS » B1

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Benefits expire for jobless

BY KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK — Millions of jobless Americans lost their unemployment benefits on Monday, leaving only a handful of economic support programs for those who are still being hit financially by the year-and-a-half-old coronavirus pandemic.

Two critical programs expired on Monday. One provided jobless aid to self-employed and gig workers, and another provided benefits to those who have been unemployed more than six months. Further, the Biden administration's \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit also ran out on Monday.

It's estimated that roughly 8.9 million Americans will lose all or some of these benefits. While the White House has encouraged states to keep paying the \$300 weekly benefit by using money from the stimulus bills, no states have opted to do so. Many states even opted out of the federal program early after some businesses complained that they couldn't find enough people to hire.

The amount of money injected by the federal government into jobless benefits since the pandemic began is nothing short of astronomical. The roughly \$650 billion, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, kept millions of Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their

See **BENEFITS**, Page A2

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	221,046,900+	4,574,300+
United States	49,216,400+	649,300+
Virginia	786,516	11,529
Tennessee	1,071,125	13,638

% FULLY VACCINATED IN VA: 57.3%
% FULLY VACCINATED IN TENN.: 42.4%
SOURCES: Johns Hopkins, Virginia and Tennessee Departments of Health, AP

Thank you, **Gertrud Hutton**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.

83/65
Weather » A8



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



Quilt of Valor

World War II vet honored with handmade quilt

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER
ABINGDON, Va. — A 95-year-old World War II veteran has been honored with a Quilt of Valor, a handmade quilt designed to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comfort and healing.

With his wife, Mary, by his side, Doyle Boothroy was wrapped in the quilt — stitched by the hands of local volunteers — during a ceremony last week at the VFW Post 1994 in Abingdon.

"We plan to use the quilt as a coverlet or display," said Mary. "It's a beautiful quilt."

A label attached to each quilt shows the date, the quilt's maker and the name of the recipient.

Dawn Kuhn, Department of Virginia VFW Auxiliary chaplain, presented the quilt to Boothroy on behalf of Karen Northrup, the group leader of the Virginia Highlands Quilts of Valor, a nonprofit organization in Abingdon that makes quilts for service members and veterans of war.

Northrup participated in the ceremony via a Zoom presentation. Other representatives attending the ceremony via



Dawn Kuhn (left) wraps the quilt around Doyle Boothroy as his wife, Mary, watches during a ceremony at the VFW Post 1994 in Abingdon last week.

Zoom included Butch Schup-ska, the Department of Virginia VFW commander, and Carol Vangi, Department of Virginia VFW president.

During the ceremony, members of the audience were given the opportunity to address Boothroy.

Jessica Edwards, a teacher at Cornerstone Christian Academy, said, "I thank you for living a life in front of us and in front of our young people that we can look up to. You're

a blessing to everyone who knows you." The teacher said Boothroy is like a "resident grandpa" to the students at the academy who hear about his war stories when he volunteers at the school.

The 76th anniversary
The ceremony, sponsored by the Virginia Highlands Quilts of Valor Group, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1994 and Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign

Wars Post 1994, was appropriately held Sept. 2, marking the 76th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of the formal surrender of the Japanese forces to the Allied Powers. Boothroy was there to see it all happen 76 years ago. The veteran, who served as an aerographer's mate second class, witnessed the signing of the peace treaty in 1945 aboard the USS Missouri that formally

See **QUILT**, Page A2

Shortages of supplies, workers delay Gulf rebuilding

BY PAUL WISEMAN and ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

Joe Sobol, owner of Big Easy Construction in New Orleans, has bad news for homeowners who've been calling about roofs damaged by Hurricane Ida or to get an update on renovations that were scheduled before the storm ripped through the area. The job will cost a lot more than usual — and take much longer, too.

Ida slammed into the Gulf Coast — then took its destruction to the Northeast — at a time when building contractors were already grappling with severe shortages of workers and depleted supply chains. The damage inflicted by Ida has magni-



Nathan Fabre checks on his home and boat destroyed by Hurricane Ida, Sunday in Lafitte, Louisiana. "We lost everything," said Fabre about the destruction of his home.

fied those challenges. The struggle to find enough skilled workers and materials will likely drive up costs, complicate planning and delay reconstruction for months. "My expectation," said Ali Wolf, chief economist at the real estate research firm Zonda, "is that it only gets worse from here." Consider that Lake Charles, Louisiana, 200 miles west of New Orleans, still hasn't recovered from the damage left when Hurricane Laura tore through the area a year ago. The challenges facing construction companies stem from

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LOTTERY RESULTS

Here are the winning numbers picked Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, in the Tennessee and Virginia lotteries:

TENNESSEE
 (morning drawings)
 Cash 3: **2-5-4 (12)**
 Cash 4: **6-7-8-4 (25)**
 (midday drawings)
 Cash 3: **5-7-3 (15)**
 Cash 4: **0-3-0-1 (4)**
 (evening drawings)
 Cash 3: **5-7-2 (14)**
 Cash 4: **2-6-4-6 (18)**

VIRGINIA
 (day drawings)
 Pick 3: **2-2-2 (3)**
 Pick 4: **13-9-8 (7)**
 Cash 4 Life: **11-31-39-42-46 (3)**
 (night drawings)
 The night drawings were not available at press time.

All lottery numbers are subject to verification.

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Quilt

From Page A1

ended World War II. "I didn't realize the importance historically until 20 years later," said Boothroy, who was only 19 at the time.

World War II veterans Henry Hooker and Jack Booher, both also of Abingdon, attended the ceremony to see their war buddy receive the honor. Hooker served in the infantry during the Battle of the Bulge. Booher was a belly gunner in a B-17 flying fortress, flying 25 bombing missions over Europe.

At times choking back tears, Boothroy delivered his presentation remarks and transported audience members back to the day when the Japanese surrendered on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

"How many in here are 76 or older?" the veteran asked the crowd.

"I'm sure many of you watched the Olympics in Tokyo last month. If you noticed the aerial views of the coliseum, believe me, it didn't look like that 76 years ago," Boothroy said. "There was a lot of war damage to the city of Tokyo."

At age 17, in September 1943, Boothroy enlisted in the Navy. He was actually turned down the first time he tried to enlist because he was considered underweight for his height of 6 feet.

He was first assigned to a blimp base in Texas to hunt for German submarines in the Gulf.

Boothroy later served as a weather observer on the USS Missouri, the flagship of Fleet Admiral William Halsey, consisting of five battleships, six aircraft carriers and 30 destroyers.

He was one of six weather observers on the battleship who rotated working around the clock.

"The reason weather was so important was Admiral Halsey liked to hide his fleet in the edge of hurricanes — in the Pacific they were called typhoons — so the Japanese couldn't find us easily," explained Boothroy.

The first release of an atomic bomb occurred on Aug. 6, with 140,000 killed in Hiroshima, followed by another bomb over Nagasaki that ended the war.

Aboard the USS Missouri, four decks above the main deck, Boothroy watched as the peace treaty was signed between the Allied and Japanese forces.

"We could look right down four decks and see what was going on. The atmosphere during the signing was solemn. There was no 'whoopie, we won.' The attitude was 'the damn war is over, let's go home.'"

After the fleet disbanded, Boothroy went home to Goodland, Kansas, for a 30-day leave. With more than a year left to serve in the Navy, he was assigned to Kodiak, Alaska. He was later transferred to a weather station above the Arctic Circle.

His service in the Navy was completed in 1947. Boothroy took advantage of

the GI Bill and went to college at Iowa State to pursue civil engineering. After graduating, he worked for a steel company for 40 years before retiring to Abingdon.

Quilts of Valor Foundation

The quilt received by Boothroy was made by members of the Virginia Highlands Quilts of Valor, headquartered in Abingdon. The local group of approximately 10 members is part of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts.

Each quilt is made by volunteer members who contribute various parts to the production. Serving Southwest Virginia from Smyth to Lee counties, the Virginia Highlands group has made and awarded as many as 135 quilts.

With hundreds of groups organized across the country, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has awarded as many as 279,000 quilts worldwide.

According to Northup, the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit awards quilts to people who have been nominated through a national process. Once the information is entered, they are assigned to different geographic areas.

The movement was founded by Catherine Roberts in Seaford, Delaware, in 2003. Roberts was a "Blue Star" mom at the time her son served in Iraq.

Carolyn R. Wilson is a freelance writer in Glade Spring, Virginia. Contact her at citydesk@bristolnews.com.

Benefits

From Page A1

own in their apartments, paying for food and gasoline and keeping up with their bills. The banking industry has largely attributed the few defaults on loans this past 18 months to the government relief efforts.

"The end of the pandemic unemployment benefits will be an abrupt jolt to millions of Americans who won't find a job in time for this arbitrary end to assistance," Andrew Stettner with the Century Foundation said in a report.

The ending of these programs comes as the U.S. economy has recovered from the pandemic but with substantial gaps in the recovery. The Labor Depart-

ment says there are still 5.7 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic.

These benefits are also ending sooner than during the previous crisis, the Great Recession. In that downturn, jobless benefits in various forms were extended from the start of the recession in 2008-2009 all the way until 2013. When those benefits finally ended, just 1.3 million people were still receiving aid.

Americans still financially struggling in the pandemic will find a smaller patchwork of social support programs, both at the state level and through the federal government.

The White House approved last month a 25% increase in food stamp assistance, also known as SNAP benefits. That

increase will continue indefinitely for those 42.7 million Americans who receive those payments.

While the federal eviction moratorium has expired, roughly a dozen states — all controlled by Democrats — have extended their moratoriums, including California, New York, Washington, Illinois and Minnesota. New York's eviction moratorium was extended until Jan. 15.

Those unemployed less than six months will still be able to collect their benefits, but the amount will fall back to the level that each state pays. The average weekly check is roughly \$387, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, but varies greatly state by state.

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2021. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 7, 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

On this date:

» In 1812, the Battle of Borodino took place as French troops clashed with Russian forces outside Moscow. (The battle, ultimately won by Russia, was commemorated by composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky with his "1812 Overture.")

» In 1936, rock-and-roll legend Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas.

» In 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

» In 1972, the International Olympic Committee banned Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett of the U.S. from further competition for talking to each other on the victory stand in Munich during the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" after winning the gold and silver medals in the 400-meter run.

» In 1986, Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

» In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

» In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax the last stubborn holdouts into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina.

» In 2007, Osama bin Laden appeared in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they wanted the war in Iraq to end.

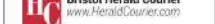
» In 2008, troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in government conservatorship.

» In 2015, Hillary Clinton, interviewed by The Associated Press during a campaign swing through Iowa, said she did not need to apologize for using a private email account and server while at the State Department because "what I did was allowed."

» In 2017, one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in Mexico struck off the country's southern coast, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing at least 90 people. (A deadlier quake would strike central Mexico nearly two weeks later.)

» In 2019, President Donald Trump said he had canceled a secret weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban and Afghan leaders, just days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, after a bombing in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

Ten years ago: The last in a series of Republican presidential debates brought together Mitt Romney, Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, and Rick Santorum in Simi Valley, California. A private Russian jet carrying a top ice hockey team slammed into a riverbank moments after takeoff from the airport near the western city of Yaroslavl, killing 44 people. (Investigators blamed pilot error.)



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TRENDING

- Top trending stories:
1. Watch this Ukrainian bear go from captivity to sanctuary
 2. HOLLAND: God is near, and he is listening
 3. Despite late lineup changes, next weekend's BR&RR still promises to be music to our ears
 4. Supervisor proposes outdoor recreation authority to oversee county's rail trails
 5. PREP FOOTBALL: Abingdon players, colleagues mourn loss of Abingdon assistant coach Robb Ratcliff

THE MONK AT MOJO'S

Eatery owner returning to Thailand **REGION » A3**



DAYTONA 500

Race resumes after long rain delay **SPORTS » B1**

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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Support grows for Jan. 6 riot inquiry

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day after former President Donald Trump won his second Senate impeachment trial, bipartisan support appeared to be growing for an independent Sept. 11-style commission into the deadly insurrection that took place at the U.S. Capitol.

Investigations into the riot were already planned, with Senate hearings scheduled later this month in the Senate Rules Committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has asked retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré to lead an immediate review of the Capitol's security process.

Lawmakers from both parties, speaking on Sunday's news shows, signaled that even more inquiries were likely. The Senate verdict Saturday, with its 57-43 majority falling 10 votes short of the two-thirds needed to convict Trump, hardly put to rest the debate about the former president's culpability for the Jan. 6 assault.

"There should be a complete investigation about what happened," said Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, one of seven Republicans who voted to convict Trump. "What was known, who knew it and when they knew, all that, because that builds the ba-

sis so this never happens again."

Cassidy said he was "attempting to hold President Trump accountable" and added that, as Americans hear all the facts, "more folks will move to where I was." He was censured by his state's party after the vote.

An independent commission along the lines of the one that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks would probably require legislation to create. That would elevate the investigation a step higher, offering a definitive government-backed accounting of events. Pelosi has expressed support for such a commission while stressing that the members who sit on it would be key. Still, such a panel would pose risks of sharpening partisan divisions or overshadowing President Joe Biden's legislative agenda.

"There's still more evidence that the American people need and deserve to hear, and a 9/11 commission is a way to make sure that we secure the Capitol going forward," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a Biden ally. "And that we lay bare the record of just how responsible and how abjectly violating of his constitutional oath President Trump really was."

Hometown Stories



Chandler Foster, a student at Virginia Highlands Community College, tests out the airways at WXBQ radio, where he is an intern.

Using his voice



Chandler Foster, blind since birth, is learning to play the piano, one of many challenges he welcomes in his life.

Despite being blind from birth, VHCC student can do just about anything he sets his mind to

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

LADE SPRING, Va. — A local college student is proving you don't have to have sight to have a vision.

Chandler Foster, 21, can do just about anything he sets his mind to — even if it means stepping outside his comfort zone.

When he's not engaged in virtual learning or practicing the piano, Foster can sometimes be heard on the airwaves as a guest announcer on 96.9 WXBQ radio in Bristol, Virginia.

The student at Virginia Highlands Community

College is completing an internship with Bristol Broadcasting, a radio chain that operates 29 stations in four southern United States markets, including the Tri-Cities area of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

The only thing that sets him apart from other interns is that Foster has been totally blind since birth.

It's not a disability, he insists. His lack of sight has strengthened him and led him on a journey to a fuller life.

See **VISION**, Page A2

Thank you, Ronald Harr, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.

44/33
Weather » A8

7 65161 10005 0

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LOCATION	#CASES	#DEATHS
Worldwide	106,782,600+	2,396,000+
United States	27,636,700+	485,300+
Virginia	548,009	7,812
Tennessee	797,418	10,933

#VACCINATED IN VIRGINIA: 1,005,922
#VACCINATED IN TENNESSEE: 1,020,841

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

Hc Stay up to date with local and national coronavirus coverage

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Updates
heraldcourier.com/coronavirus

Read the latest news about COVID-19 in your community.

Virus may never go away but could transform into mild annoyance

BY ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and CHRISTINA LARSON
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — What if COVID-19 never goes away?

Experts say it's likely that some version of the disease will linger for years. But what it will look like in the future is less clear.

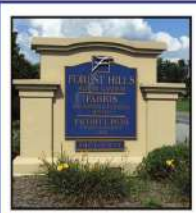
Will the coronavirus, which has already killed more than 2 million people worldwide, eventually be eliminated by a global vaccination campaign, like

smallpox? Will dangerous new variants evade vaccines? Or will the virus stick around for a long time, transforming into a mild annoyance, like the common cold?

Eventually, the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 will become yet "another animal in the zoo," joining the many other infectious diseases that humanity has learned to live with, predicted Dr. T. Jacob John, who studies viruses and was

See **VIRUS**, Page A5

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LOTTERY RESULTS

Here are the winning numbers picked Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, in the Tennessee and Virginia lotteries.

TENNESSEE
(evening drawings)
Cash 3: **5-2-8**
Cash 4: **9-0-8-7**

VIRGINIA
(day drawings)
Pick 3: **8-7-7**
Pick 4: **3-9-9-1**
Cash 4 Life: **16-22-50-52-57 (4)**
(night drawings)

The night drawings were not available at press time.

All lottery numbers are subject to verification.

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Duchess of Sussex expecting 2nd child, a sibling for Archie

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are expecting their second child, their office confirmed Sunday.

A spokesperson for Prince Harry, 36, and Meghan, 39, said in a statement: “We can confirm that Archie is going to be a big brother. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are overjoyed to be expecting their second child.”

In a black-and-white photo of themselves, the couple sat near a tree with Harry’s hand placed under Meghan’s head as she lies on his lap with her hand resting on her bump.

The baby will be eighth in line to the British throne.

Harry and American actor Meghan Markle married at Windsor Castle in May 2018. Their son Archie was born a year later.

In early 2020, Meghan and Harry announced they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. They recently bought a house in Santa Barbara, California.

In November, Meghan revealed that she had a miscarriage in July 2020, giving a personal account of the traumatic experience in hope of helping others.

Vision

From Page A1

Foster has not only accepted being blind, he actually likes it.

“I love a challenge. If there are no challenges, life is too easy,” he said.

‘A positive light’
Foster’s story is one of inspiration and determination.

The Glade Spring resident was born with conditions called anophthalmia, a birth defect where a baby is born without one or both eyes, and microphthalmia, a birth defect in which one or both eyes did not develop fully.

“It’s pretty simple. I’ve never been able to see anything,” said the student who shuns any kind of pity or sympathy.

“I’m fine with not being able to see because it’s all I’ve ever known. I just live my life a little differently than everyone else. I don’t have a disability — I just can’t see.”

Marcus Brooks, on-air personality for WXQB, is impressed with Foster’s eagerness to learn in an environment that is mostly foreign to him.

“Chandler is very interested in learning how everything works here at the station — the software that controls the music, the microphone setup and how the music is selected,” Brooks said.

“And he has a good sense of humor about his visual impairment. He’s not ashamed of it. In fact, he’s proud of it and likes to joke about it. He’s always very positive about it.”

Foster has been on air a few times during programming and talked about the Super Bowl, his classes at college and even his lack of sight.

“He’s very smart and wants to learn. It’s very inspirational. He’s a positive light, that’s for sure.”

Blind at birth

People often are curious about his condition, and that’s understandable, Foster said.

“They ask questions not because they are scared — they ask questions because they want to know more. I don’t mind telling them my story.”

His story of learning to overcome the obstacles in his life actually began at age 2 months, when he began receiving assistance from Kate Jacob, a teacher of the visually impaired for Washington County and Bristol Virginia Public Schools.

Early on, Jacob offered advice to help Foster’s mother feel more comfortable caring for her new baby. As Foster grew older, Jacob helped to strengthen his fine motor skills that eventu-



Britain’s Prince Harry and Meghan arrive at the annual Endeavour Fund Awards in London on March 5, 2020. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are expecting their second child, their office confirmed Sunday.

ally would help him write and read Braille.

She introduced him to tactile books that taught him to identify raised pictures.

Foster’s mother, Teresa Gilmer, said her son has always been outgoing even since he was a small child. At age 3, Foster rode a bus to Greendale Elementary to attend preschool. He was reading and writing Braille by age 2.

“He’s always been upbeat and positive. I wanted my child to be the best he can be, and he has proven that over and over again. He truly is a blessing,” said the mother.

Jacob worked with Foster throughout his secondary education, sitting with him in high school math and science classes, where he needed additional help with materials. She continues to assist Foster with coursework at Virginia Highlands Community College, where he is receiving a career studies certificate in applied music and an associate of arts and sciences degree in general studies.

He overcomes many challenges with the help of sophisticated technology.

He listens to Zoom class lectures, and he can type using a screen-reading software called Jaws.

He uses an app called Voice Over on his smartphone to access the internet, school coursework and Facebook, where he keeps up with school buddies.

“He’s got a memory like a steel trap,” said Jacob. “He’s gifted with a terrific memory, and that has helped him along the way.”

Blessed by God
Foster will graduate from the community college in December, a few months later than expected due to schedule changes during the pandemic.

After graduation, he wants to transfer to Emory & Henry College to pursue a music degree. Eventually, he hopes to be a music director for a choir or choral group.

“Music is very comforting for me. When you can’t find the words, music always has the answers,” said Foster, who especially loves the older tunes of jazz and country music.

Foster’s advice for anyone who is facing challenges is to stay positive as life unfolds.

He rides roller coasters at Dollywood. He loves to swim and roller skate. He’s even ridden a tandem bike during an excursion from Whitetop to Damascus.

“God has blessed me in so many other ways. He’s given me many other gifts. And, I think I give back to others by demonstrating a positive attitude,” he said.

Every day he exhibits the joy and happiness of a person who just happens to be blind.

“I wouldn’t change my life for the world.”

Carolyn R. Wilson is a freelance writer in Glade Spring, Virginia. Contact her at citydesk@bristolnews.com.

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2021. There are 319 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today’s Highlight in History:
On Feb. 15, 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

On this date:

» In 1564, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.

» In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau.

» In 1798, a feud between two members of the U.S. House of Representatives (meeting in Philadelphia) boiled over as Roger Griswold of Connecticut used a cane to attack Vermont’s Matthew Lyon, who defended himself with a set of tongs. (Griswold was enraged over the House’s refusal to expel Lyon for spitting tobacco juice in his face two weeks earlier; after the two men were separated, a motion to expel them both was defeated.)

» In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

» In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

» In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

» In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino in Italy.

» In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

» In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

» In 2004, Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Daytona 500 on the same track where his father was killed three years earlier.

» In 2005, defrocked priest Paul Shanley was sentenced in Boston to 12 to 15 years in prison on child rape charges.

» In 2018, the last of the bodies of the 17 victims of a school shooting in Florida were removed from the building after authorities analyzed the crime scene; 13 wounded survivors were still hospitalized. In response to the Florida school shooting, President Donald Trump, in an address to the nation, promised to “tackle the difficult issue of mental health,” but avoided any mention of guns.

Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the shooting, was ordered held without bond at a brief court hearing.)

Ten years ago: Protesters swarmed Wisconsin’s capitol after Gov. Scott Walker proposed cutbacks in benefits and abolishing bargaining rights for most public employees. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was ordered to stand trial on charges he’d paid a 17-year-old Moroccan girl for sex and then used his influence to cover it up. (Berlusconi was found guilty but had his conviction overturned.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama opened a meeting in Rancho Mirage, California, of leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, calling the landmark gathering on U.S. soil a reflection of his personal commitment to an enduring partnership with the diverse group of countries.

One year ago: The U.S. government said Americans who were on board a cruise ship under quarantine in Japan because of the coronavirus would be flown back home on a chartered flight, but that they would face another two-week quarantine; about 380 Americans were aboard the Diamond Princess. China reported 143 new coronavirus deaths, but a dip in the number of new cases; the World Health Organization praised China’s efforts to contain the new disease.

CALENDAR INFO

To submit calendar entries or report cancellations or postponements, email citydesk@bristolnews.com.