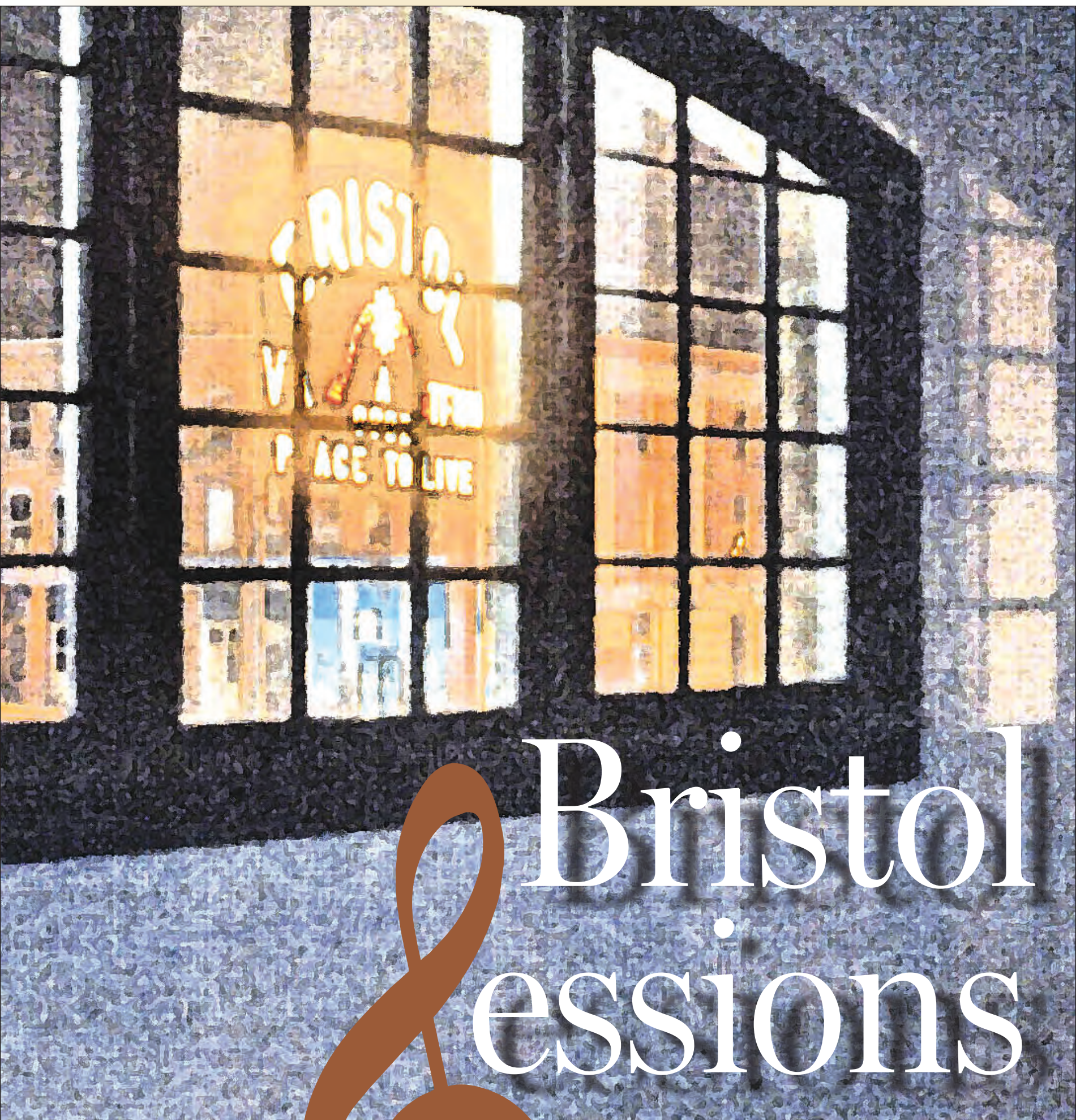


# A look inside ...



# Bristol Sessions

The 'Big Bang' continues to echo around the world

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

*Ralph S. Peer and two engineers of the recording department of the Victor Talking Machine Company arrived in Bristol the latter part of the week and are preparing to make a number of phonograph records in this city. Mountain singers will be the talent used for record making. The mountain "hillbilly" records of this type are in great demand at this time. — Bristol Herald Courier, July 24, 1927*

Those words, published by this newspaper 95 years ago today, signaled the beginning of a series of events that helped widen this nation's musical landscape and continue resonating today. Events that placed Bristol on the map of music history and are forever known as the Bristol Sessions, the so-called "Big Bang" of commercial country music.

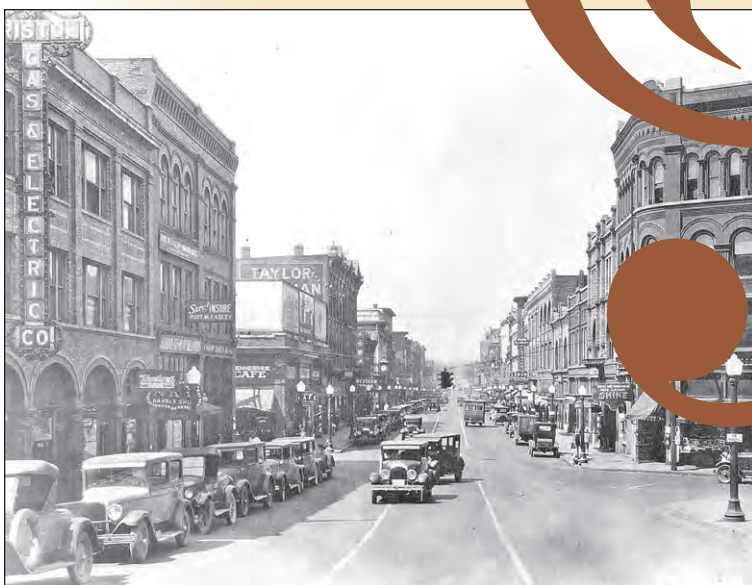
Ralph Peer II, now the head of worldwide Peer Music, was just 16 years old when his father died, so the two never really discussed the Bristol Sessions recordings, he said last week during a video chat hosted by the Birthplace of Country Music.

Known here for his role in recording groundbreaking country music, Ralph Peer's pre-Bristol legacy includes recording some of the earliest blues and jazz recordings

“What it was that made the sessions quite special — dare I say unique — was he found people who had unique abilities.”

— Ralph Peer II

See **SESSIONS**, Page D9



COURTESY NORFOLK SOUTHERN ARCHIVES AT VIRGINIA TECH

This is a 1920s-era photo showing the Taylor-Christian building where the Bristol Sessions took place.



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# Miniatures in a big way



A Sullivan County teacher's love of the little is remembered  
**REGION » A3**

# BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

TUESDAY, August 23, 2022

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## Bristol Virginia Landfill



EMILY BALL/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Bristol, Virginia, is asking a federal court to extend its deadline for covering parts of the landfill, citing rain and a COVID-19 outbreak among employees.

## City: No need for suit to go on

Bristol Virginia calls for end to complaint; asks for more time

BY DAVID McGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Va. — The city of Bristol Virginia is asking the court to dismiss a Bristol Tennessee complaint against the city, saying it has agreed to fix issues at its landfill and that the litigation serves no purpose.

In separate filings, the city is also asking the court to extend deadlines established by a June agreement between the two cities.

The documents were filed last Friday in U.S. District Court in Abingdon. Bristol Tennessee filed its complaint earlier this year, asking the court to force Bristol Virginia to follow a series of recommendations made by an expert panel to close the city landfill and address odor and other public health issues.

Bristol Virginia proposed a

See **LANDFILL**, Page A5

## US Sen. Mark Warner

# Cleanup, clinics, bills and ... biscuits

Senator's Southwest Virginia tour covers range of territory, topics



David Hobbs (left) scrolls through his phone showing U.S. Sen. Mark Warner photos from the flood that affected his home in Buchanan County this past July. Warner visited Buchanan County, toured areas hit by the flood and met with community members at Twin Valley High School, where they raised concerns about being denied money for repairs to their properties.

EMILY BALL/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

“You could have had the exact same number of homes in a wealthier area, and that would have qualified ...”

— U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.

### Richlands

## Senator cites medicine, black lung, building victories

formed a stalled Democratic agenda to a series of accomplishments the senator could tout to constituents.

“We put some points on the board,” Warner, D-Va., said of his efforts in the re-

See **VICTORIES**, Page A5

BY JIM TALBERT  
THE NEWS & PRESS

RICHLANDS, Va. — U.S. Sen. Mark Warner arrived in Richlands Monday on the heels of a string of legislative victories that trans-

### Wise

## Warner: Clinics show compassion, not a full solution

hectic times.

Warner, D-Va., returned to the fairgrounds — longtime host site of Remote Area Medical clinics — to formally present \$1.25 million to the Health Wagon for

BY DAVID McGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

WISE, Va. — U.S. Sen. Mark Warner looked around the most quiet Wise County Fairgrounds Monday and remembered more

See **CLINICS**, Page A5

### Lebanon

## Senator calls out FEMA flood aid: ‘It is not a fair process’

Lebanon, Virginia, Monday to meet and talk with elected officials and community leaders from Dickenson, Wise, and Russell counties.

At the start of the meeting, Warner ex-

BY JOAQUIN MANCERA  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

LEBANON, Va. — As part of an on-going three-day tour across Southwest Virginia, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) stopped by

See **FEMA**, Page A5

### Clintwood

# About those biscuits: Whole wheat spurs visit

BY ROGER WATSON  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

CLINTWOOD, Va. — It was complaints about bad biscuits that brought Senator Mark Warner (D-Va.) to Ridgeview Middle

School on Monday.

Last school year, Ridgeview seventh-grade teachers April Hay and Portia Fletcher noticed their teenage students were not eating breakfast.

“Especially boys, when they are not eating, something is wrong. I started questioning them about why they were not eating and they said, ‘Well, we don’t really like it,’” Hay said. “It

was whole wheat instead of the white wheat, and they were just not eating it.”

The director of food services

See **CLINTWOOD**, Page A5

Clouds breaking at times for some sunshine today. Expect 3-6 hours of sunshine.

**83/59**  
Weather » A8



INSIDE: CLASSIFIED B6-8 | COMICS B4 | DEATHS A4 | OPINION A8 | SCOREBOARD B2 | TELEVISION B5

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# So close ...

Concord hangs on to pin loss on E&H

**SPORTS » C1**



# No clues

Five years after a Tazewell County man disappeared, still no answers

**REGION » B1**



# BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

SUNDAY, September 4, 2022

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## States weigh alt-fuel mandate

Virginia GOP leaders: State won't follow Calif. bar on new gas vehicles

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Seventeen states with vehicle emission standards tied to rules established in California face weighty decisions on whether to follow that state's strictest-in-the-nation new rules that require all new cars, pickups and SUVs to be electric or hydrogen powered by 2035.

Under the Clean Air Act, states must abide by the federal government's standard vehicle emissions standards unless they at least partially opt to follow California's stricter requirements.

Republican leaders in Virginia have already said they want to change the law so the state no longer follows California's rules.

In late August, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said he was "already at work to prevent this ridiculous edict from being forced on Virginians."

Youngkin's comment came a day after California regulators approved the new rules.

Victoria LaCivita, a spokeswoman for Republican Attor-

See **MANDATE**, Page A7

## 21st RHYTHM & ROOTS REUNION



# Bristol's tuning up

A loaded lineup, nearly 200 shows ... and a Ferris wheel

## The music begins Friday in Rhythm & Roots Reunion reprise



BRISTOL HERALD COURIER  
Music fans fill Bristol's State Street and the surrounding downtown during the 2019 Rhythm & Roots Reunion.

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Downtown Bristol will be jamming, and likely jammed, when the 21st Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion unfolds this weekend.

Music begins Friday afternoon and continues through Sunday afternoon

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the music festival returned to downtown in 2021 with a modified lineup — after some artists canceled due to a lack of masking requirements — and attendance was about half the level of recent years..

Based on pre-event ticket sales and attendance at similar outdoor music festivals this year, attendance is expected to pick up, according to Leah Ross, executive director of advancement for the Birthplace of Country Music.

"We didn't know what to expect," Ross said when asked about attendance. "But ticket sales have already surpassed where we were last year. I don't think we'll be back at 2019 numbers, [when 45,000 attended] but I think we might be close."

Other festivals report slow initial ticket sales that increase closer to the event, Ross said.

"From what I hear from other festivals, a lot of people are making two-weeks-out or last-minute decisions. I think that is holding true for us, but we're doing OK," she said. "I

See **MUSIC**, Page A7

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
Acoustic Syndicate performs on the State Street Stage during the 2019 Rhythm & Roots Reunion.

### You should know

- » **What:** 21st Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion
- » **When:** Sept. 9-11, 2022
- » **Where:** Downtown Bristol, Tenn.-Va.
- » **Who:** More than 100 bands performing Americana, rock, country, bluegrass, blues and other musical genres. There will be more than 200 performances on 17 outdoor and indoor stages.
- » **Headliners:** Tanya Tucker, Rosanne Cash, Del McCoury Band, JJ Grey and Mofro, The Wood Brothers, 49 Winchester, Asleep at the Wheel, Jerry Douglas Band, The War and Treaty, Fantastic Negrito, Donna The Buffalo, Molly Tuttle and Golden Highway, Ralph Stanley II and Clinch Mountain Boys
- » **Admission:** Weekend tickets are \$125 in advance, \$150 at the gate. Friday (\$60), Saturday (\$75) and Sunday (\$50) available. Children 12 and under admitted free.
- » **Shuttle service:** \$15 for the weekend from a dozen Twin City hotels
- » **More information:** [birthplaceof-countrymusic.org/festival/](http://birthplaceof-countrymusic.org/festival/)

### Monday's edition

In order to provide a Labor Day holiday off for the production and circulation staffs, the Monday, Sept. 5 edition of the Herald Courier will be available by e-edition only.

The electronic edition can be accessed by subscribers at [www.heraldcourier.com](http://www.heraldcourier.com). To activate your print subscription online, create an account by visiting [www.heraldcourier.com/activate](http://www.heraldcourier.com/activate). The Monday comic and puzzle pages are included in the Sports section of today's print edition.

Mostly cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm. Expect less than 2 hours of sunshine.



81/68  
Weather » A12



7 65161 10012 8

INSIDE: CLASSIFIED E1-10 | COMICS INSERT | DEATHS B2-4 | OPINION A10 | SCOREBOARD C2 | TELEVISION B6





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