



6 THINGS TO KNOW THIS WEEK



TWO BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AUG. 6 IN BRISTOL

Two back-to-school events are being held Saturday, Aug. 6, in Bristol. The annual Back to School Bash will be held from 1-3 p.m. at Anderson Park. The free event, held by Covenant Fellowship, will offer food, giveaways and bounce houses. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., stop by Sam's Club at Exit 7 for the Stuff the Bus event that offers a bus full of school supplies event to help the Santa Pal program. Shoppers are asked to stop by and donate needed school supplies.

TEAMS CAN TEST THEIR TRIVIA WITH MOUNTAIN DEW & MORE ON AUG. 3

Trivia Night: Mountain Dew & More starts tonight, Aug. 3, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Michael Waltrip Brewing in downtown Bristol. There will be questions on history, moonshine, NASCAR, music, Mountain Dew soda and hillbilly lore. It's complementary to the museum's exhibit "It'll Tickle Yore Innards!": A (Hillbilly) History of Mountain Dew."

FORMER CREED LEAD SINGER PERFORMS AUG. 5 AT PARAMOUNT

Rock music lovers are in for a treat when Scott Stapp, former front man for the popular rock band Creed, performs Friday, Aug. 5, at 8 p.m. at



CONTRIBUTED

Paramount Bristol on State Street in downtown Bristol. The Grammy Award-winning songwriter is now a solo artist. Tickets range from \$48.54-\$109.

MARSHALL TUCKER BAND ENTERTAINS AUG. 6 AT THE CAMEO THEATER

In the mood for some southern rock? The Marshall Tucker Band will bring its 50th anniversary tour to The Cameo Theater in downtown Bristol on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 8 p.m. The band's biggest hits include "Heard It in a Love Song," "Can't You See," "Fire on the Mountain" and "Ramblin'." Tickets are \$69-\$79 with a \$5 increase the day of the show.

BIOGRAPHER TO DISCUSS BOOK ABOUT SOUTHWEST VA. FIDDLER ON AUG. 9

Learn about Southwest Virginia musician and instrument maker Albert Hash from the next Birthplace of Country Music Speaker Series on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Author Malcolm Smith will discuss his biography, "Appalachian Fiddler Albert Hash: The Last Leaf on the Tree," at 8 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

DOG DAYS RIVERFEST OFFERS FUN ON THE NOLICHUCKY

The dog days of summer bring Dog Days Riverfest 2022, set for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 5-6, at USA Raft Adventure Resort in Erwin, Tennessee. Entertainment will be provided over two days by seven bands. There will also be camping and river fun, vendors and food trucks, all on the banks of the Nolichucky River.

State reports reveal increase in drug activity in Bristol, Tenn., decrease in Bristol, Virginia

By ROBERT SORRELL FOR BRISTOL NOW

New state reports on local crime show fluctuating numbers when it comes to drug activity in the Twin City, such as a 25% increase in Bristol, Tennessee, and a 26% decrease in Bristol, Virginia, during 2021 compared to the previous year.

The reports also reveal that the number of drug incidents on the Virginia side of the city was significantly lower than the Tennessee side, although police officials say there are several factors involved.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Virginia State Police have each released annual crime reports for their respective states. The reports provide statistics from each municipality in Tennessee and

See CRIME, Page A3

CRIME IN 2021

BRISTOL, TENNESSEE



BRISTOL, VIRGINIA



CHELSEA GILLENWATER/BRISTOL NOW

Annual crime reports from Tennessee and Virginia indicate a sharp rise in drug activity on the Tennessee side of Bristol.

Birthplace of Country Music Museum honors past, educates present as it marks eight years

By TOM NETHERLAND FOR BRISTOL NOW

BRISTOL, Va. — Ralph Stanley stepped onstage and dropkicked the audience into reverent dead silence. No banjo. No band. Just the cotton white-haired legendary music man and the song that sent him to the Grammys, "O Death."

Stanley helped open the Birthplace of Country Music Museum on a hot August day in 2014.

Now the museum marks its eighth year. A splash of Moby Dick proportions later, visitors from around the corner and across the country have visited the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. Better still, people from all over the world have toured the Smithsonian-affiliated landmark.

"We've had visitors from all 50 states and 45 foreign countries," said Rene Rodgers, head curator of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. "Every week, we have people coming from other countries."

For several years, Steve Tauscher has greeted, spoken with and answered questions from the museum's visitors. He volunteers as a guide at the museum.

"This morning, there were people visiting from Nova Scotia, Canada," said Tauscher, a longtime resident of Bristol, last Tuesday. "They were waiting at the doors when the doors were opened."

They encountered such historical treasures on display as records from the 1927 Bristol Sessions. Not only that, the museum houses a sizable collection of historically relevant musical instruments. Primary among them, Jimmie Rodgers' prized Martin 000-45 guitar, temporarily on display at the museum through March 2023.

See MUSEUM, Page A2



TOM NETHERLAND/FOR BRISTOL NOW

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum opened in August 2014. Since then, its presence in Bristol has drawn business, such as The Bristol Hotel directly behind it.



TOM NETHERLAND/FOR BRISTOL NOW

A large guitar, emblazoned with the logo of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, is one of the museum's most popular attractions.

Visit the museum

Where: 101 Country Music Way, Bristol, Va.
Admission: \$11-\$13; children ages 5 and younger admitted free
For more information: (423) 573-1927

INSIDE

Best Bets A5
Bridge B5
Crossword B5
Horoscope B5
Jumble B5
Music A8

Pets B7
Region A4
Sports B1-B2
Sudoku B5
Tastes B8

WEATHER

High Low
92 69
Partly cloudy



Sports

Preview of Tennessee High's football season shows team dedicated to legacy. **B1**



Music

Fireside Collective showcases traditional and funky bluegrass in Bristol. **A8**



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CRIME IN 2021



CHELSEA GILLENWATER/BRISTOL NOW

Annual crime reports from Tennessee and Virginia indicate a sharp rise in drug activity on the Tennessee side of Bristol. Arrests lagged further behind reported offenses on the Tennessee side as well.

CRIME

From Page A1

Virginia, including the two cities of Bristol.

The Tennessee report shows the city of Bristol, Tennessee, saw a 25% increase in drug violations in 2021 compared to 2020. There were 540 reported drug violations in 2021, but there were 429 violations in 2020.

“Any increases in crime, especially spikes, concerns us,” said Bristol Tennessee Police Chief Matt Austin.

Why an increase in 2021? Austin said the city has seen a surge of methamphetamine and abuse of prescription medications. In addition, increased public awareness of drug activity and better detection training for officers has made it easier for police to locate offenders.

“We have been seeing a steady slow increase over the last several years with some spikes, then reductions, but overall slowly increasing,” Austin said.

Austin said the COVID-19 pandemic could have been a factor, but he can’t say that for certain.

“But the stresses of the pandemic are real,” the police chief said.

On the Virginia side, however, there was a 26% decrease in drug violations, the data shows. There were 140 drug violations in Bristol, Virginia, in 2020, compared to 191 in 2020.

“The drug trade is still high in Bristol, Virginia,” Lt. Steve Crawford said.

Crawford said some of the decrease may be related to changes in

More Information

Want to monitor crime in your neighborhood?
<https://va.beyond2020.com>
<https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/tops>
<http://crimemapping.com>

Virginia’s marijuana laws. Since July 1, 2020, the state decriminalized the possession of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, which may be why the state saw drug arrests decrease by nearly half.

Another factor could be the department’s lagging ability to keep up with cases. The detective said he believes the decrease in drug cases in the city is due to a “deep personnel shortage” in 2021, not a decline in drug violations.

“We have added several officers, so I expect the arrests to go back up,” Crawford said.

Austin, who regularly reviews and studies the annual report from the TBI, said the police department continues to work with enforcement and education programs.

“Drug abuse is concerning because it destroys lives, it destroys families that create such a drain on a community’s resources,” Austin said.

While drug violation numbers fluctuated in 2021, numbers for other crimes showed no significant changes.

Violent crimes, including aggravated assaults, simple assaults and murders, remain stable. There was one murder each in 2021 in Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, the same as in 2020.

Property crimes also

remain stable. In Bristol, Virginia, there were 54 burglaries each in both 2020 and 2021. There were 98 burglaries in Bristol, Tennessee, in 2021, but there were 77 in 2020. Five arson cases were reported in Bristol, Tennessee, in both 2020 and 2021. There were six in Bristol, Virginia, in 2021, but there were just two in 2020.

Austin said the police department uses the report as a benchmark and looks at crime trends across the state and locally.

“[It allows] us to better prepare for crime trends that may be coming our way,” Austin said.

The public in Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, have several resources to monitor crime in their communities. The TBI derives its annual report based on data from local police departments, which are submitted on a weekly basis to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System database. The public can review the database on the TBI’s website. The VSP has similar programs on its website.

In addition, the public has the option to look at Bristol, Tennessee’s CrimeMapping.com website, which visually represents incidents in the city geographically for up to the previous six months.

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Pound officials and volunteers assess impact of flooding

POUND, Va. — As the sun came out over Wise County on Saturday, Pound residents were still cleaning up after Thursday's flash flooding.

Approximately 6 inches of rainfall fell Wednesday night into Thursday morning in some parts of Wise County, according to the National Weather Service office in Morristown.

By 8:30 a.m. Thursday, deputies and residents were reporting water as deep as 3 feet along parts of Pound's downtown Main Street. Coeburn and Wise also saw waters sweep down main roads, flooding intersections and cutting residents off from escape routes.

Fourteen residents were rescued in the Pound area and another two in the Guest River section of Norton, Wise County Emergency Services Coordinator Jessica Swiney said.

Twelve of those rescued were stranded staff members and residents from the Rachel's Haven group home in Pound. Sheriff's deputies, boat crews from the Appalachia and Coeburn fire departments and firefighters from Wise worked in a joint effort to rescue them after floodwaters from Indian Creek and the Pound River sealed all major road entrances into the town.

Leah Kennedy of the Rachel's Haven staff was

among the 12 brought from a dry patch near the IGA supermarket in Pound. She said she and staffers saw water rising around the group home at about 2 a.m. on Thursday. By 7 a.m., floodwaters had submerged the bridge between the site and Business U.S. 23 leading into town.

Kennedy said she and house staff and residents were able to cross an unflooded yard and reach the IGA, where they awaited rescue and evacuation by Mountain Empire Transit bus.

Most of the roadways began to clear by Thursday, and Saturday further helped dry the area with sunny skies and high temperatures.

"We've been lucky with the sun coming out and helping to dry out things today," Swiney said.

PUBLIC EMERGENCY

Wise County officials declared a local state of emergency at 7 a.m. Thursday. The local declaration was followed by another on Thursday from Virginia Gov. Glenn

Youngkin, allowing up to \$1 million in state aid — half of that for state military efforts — for the affected areas.

Youngkin's declaration also allows for National Guard deployment as part of the state response.

Wise County has seen no injuries or deaths from Thursday's flash flooding, Swiney said on Friday.

"We do not anticipate requesting National Guard help at this time because of the local and state agencies that have been able to come together to respond," said Swiney.

On Saturday, Swiney said a clearer picture had emerged about the flooding's impact. About 10

See **FLOOD**, Page B10



An Appalachia Fire and Rescue boat team brings residents of a Pound group home to safety after flash flooding struck parts of Wise County on Thursday.

MIKE STILL/BRISTOL NOW

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Times News

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FLOOD

From Page B4

homes in the Pound, Coeburn and Wise areas suffered from basement or lower-floor flooding, with about 100 Old Dominion Power customers and 250 Appalachian Power customers without power on Thursday.

The power outage caused problems for some residents trying to contact emergency services Thursday, Swiney said, but most customers had power restored by Saturday.

CONTACTING RESIDENTS

On Saturday, Pound Vice Mayor Leabern Kennedy, Town Council member Doris Mullins and volunteers were marking town maps to plan how to contact more than 100 households in the area over the weekend.

Kennedy said officials and volunteers were visiting neighborhoods and businesses to assess damage and needs from water to power and cleanup supplies as the sun raised the heat and humidity.

As teams reported back to Town Hall, Kennedy said they were forwarding information about flood-impacted residents to the Wise County Office of Emergency Management to evaluate where resources should go.

Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith made a brief visit to Pound on Friday to see how federal resources could be used in flood recovery. Democratic congressional contender Taysha DeVaughan arrived Saturday with 10 volunteers from Wise, Dickenson and Russell counties and Norton to visit residents and find out what they needed as they cleaned debris and waterlogged belongings.

"We had volunteers from Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid in town Friday to survey residents about what they need and how to contact them," DeVaughan said as she checked a map with Kennedy. "Today, we have volunteers from several organizations or just individuals wanting to help."

About half of the team left later Saturday to help with recovery efforts in nearby Letcher County, Kentucky.

'I HAVE TO CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY'

Karen Taylor, her husband, Jimmy, and their daughters were hauling plastic tubs full of books and mementos from the flooded basement of their Pound Bottom home when DeVaughan and volunteers arrived with a case of water and asked what they needed.

Karen Taylor said the Pound River rose to about knee height in their basement. The water did not get into two freezers of food or into the first floor, she said, although the river rose an estimated 8-9 feet at their home.

The Taylors' three dogs barked from the front

porch as the family worked to clean up the property Saturday.

"We parked our vehicles at the (Pound) Post Office parking lot," said Karen, "and we were lucky that we had our camper so we could take it there and keep the dogs safe."

"I have to consider myself lucky, but this was bad," she added. "It was horrible hearing about those four kids in Kentucky who were swept away."

Karen and volunteers encouraged Jimmy, who has a heart condition, to sit and let others handle the heavy work.

"This was a bad time for me to have this happen," he said. "Since they built a sidewalk across the road from here, there's only a single drainpipe, and we knew water would come off the mountain and run right through here."

Many Pound residents, including Russell and Brenda Branham, could be seen shoveling mud and rocks from driveways and gutters on Friday. While uphill from Main Street, Russell Branham said he watched water flow by his house and garden on Thursday, washing ruts into the driveway and into a storm drain already clogged by overflow from the Pound River across the street.

"We've been through this before," he said, "but the strange thing was corn inside the garden was flattened. The corn around the sides was untouched."

"It was like a crop circle," Brenda Branham said.

"My son, his wife and my three grandchildren live in Pound Bottom, and their basement's flooded," Russell Branham said. "They're still pumping water."

Pound resident Savannah Foster was at Duke University's Cancer Center on Thursday, preparing for a bone marrow transplant Aug. 2, but she said family members told her that her home saw flooding from a nearby creek.

Foster said that, from photos she got from family members, the living room and some of the bedroom floor appeared to be ruined.

"My family is going over there to see what they can do and clean," said Foster in an email Friday, "but it's so stressful not actually being there yourself. Not to mention that after a bone marrow transplant your home needs to be the cleanest it's ever been. I'm talking no signs of mold or mildew anywhere and air purifiers running."

Residents and landowners along Route 630 in the Almira community near Pound were having their own problems Friday, as VDOT crews made temporary repairs to a washed-out section of road near Lone Pine Chapel.

Danny and Cameron Adams said the flash flood washed out a small bridge leading to property they own in the area.

While the Route 630

repairs were progressing, Danny Adams said he had to access his property by ATV through nearby woods and a logging trail.

"Luckily, our farm animals are OK, and no one was injured around there," Cameron Adams said.

"The state needs to help the small landowners and residents along there," Danny Adams said.

The Adamases said they have relatives in the nearby Bee Bottom area who saw their driveway washed out by Thursday's rains.

"From the look of it, I don't know how they got out of there," Cameron Adams said. "They drove their truck out, but it was nothing but rocks and ruts from the rain."

The Adamases said they heard of campers stranded in the U.S. Forest Service's Cane Patch Campground near Bee Bottom.

"They said one man woke up about 5 in the morning and saw water coming into his camper before he swam out," Cameron Adams said.

MORE AID

"Folks have started their cleanup and are showing resilience," House of Delegates Majority Leader Terry Kilgore said after touring affected Wise County areas with Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith on Friday. "VDOT is on the job today trying to clear and repair roads."

Asked about requests for aid under Youngkin's emergency declaration, Kilgore said the state needs to deal with flood-damaged roads and to find ways to help homeowners with their damaged private bridges to access public roadways.

Pound Mayor Brittany Carter and Vice Mayor Kennedy said Griffith did not meet with them during his Friday tour.

"I'm honestly speechless," Carter said of the flood damage.

"We've been fielding calls from people needing help," Kennedy added.

Kennedy and Carter said they have announced on the town's Facebook page offers to help bring emergency supplies to residents in and near Pound. The Virginia Department of Health offered free tetanus shots at Town Hall on Monday.

Food City had donated cases of water for distribution by Pound officials, Swiney added, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief has parked a supply trailer at Pound Town Hall.

With more rainfall forecast through Aug. 7 in parts of the region, Swiney, for emergency services, asked county residents to be aware of potential flooding conditions and report flooding to emergency services. She also urged anyone traveling after dark in the coming days to take care on local roads in case of fallen trees, rocks and possible mudslides.

Assistance resources:
• Dustin Keith with the

Southwest Virginia Association of Realtors has opened a disaster relief fund for homeowners. The fund can help with flood insurance deductibles and general damage relief. For more information on the fund, call (276) 623-1252, or visit online: virginiarealtors.org.

• Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid has an online survey for people needing food,

temporary lodging or other assistance in the wake of the flood. The survey is at: <https://m.facebook.com/lonesomepinemutualaid>.

• Residents seeking flood relief help and volunteer organizations offering services can call the county's crisis hotline at (276) 258-0029. Callers can receive free help with cutting fallen trees; removing soaked drywall, flooring or

appliances; tarping damaged roofs; and mold mitigation. Swiney said the hotline will serve as a clearinghouse to link residents with available services.

Anyone needing to report hazardous material situations can call the Wise County Hazmat team and the state Department of Emergency Management at (276) 328-3756.

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2022 TimesNews KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE READERS CHOICE

Take in all the Christmas events happening in the region at a glance with the 'Sights & Sounds of the Season' guide.

— Page D8



6 THINGS TO KNOW THIS WEEK



CONTRIBUTED

CHRISTMAS PARADE SET FOR DEC. 1

Christmas will come alive downtown with the Bristol Christmas Parade on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. The parade will start on Bob Morrison Boulevard and make its way through the center of town before finishing up at the Bristol Train Station. As always, Jolly Ole Saint Nick will make his presence known, riding in the final float.

CHRIS ISAAK TO PLAY AT PARAMOUNT

The singer, songwriter and actor Chris Isaak will take to the



CONTRIBUTED

Paramount Theatre stage on Sunday, Dec. 4. In the course of Chris Isaak's career, he has released nine albums and 12 singles, been nominated for two Grammy awards, acted in several motion pictures and starred in his own critically acclaimed TV series. For more information, go to <https://paramountbristol.org/event/chris-isaak/>.

BCM RINGS IN CHRISTMAS WITH RIDERS IN THE SKY

Riders in the Sky will rope in Christmas cheer at the Birthplace of Country Music's "A BCM Christmas." The Grammy Award-winning Western band will perform at the museum on Dec. 2 starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and include a sit-down dinner in the special exhibits gallery. Tickets to "A BCM Christmas" are currently on sale through the events page at BirthplaceOfCountryMusic.org.



CONTRIBUTED

ANDY SANFORD'S ATLANTA INVASION ARRIVES IN BRISTOL

Andy Sanford invaded Atlanta, and now he's headed to Bristol, Tennessee's Blue Ridge Comedy Club on Dec. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. His hourlong special, "Shameful Information," is currently featured on Amazon Prime. He will also bring Gabbie Watts and Gilbert Lawand along for the ride. For more information, go to <https://www.blueridgecomedy.com/events/>.

STICKLEY FARM TO HOST BRUNCH WITH THE GRINCH

Brunch with the Grinch? You can't cancel that again! Stickley Farm will host its Brunch with the Grinch on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is \$15 per person and will include brunch and a movie with the Grinch. Limited seats are available. Reserve your spot today by texting (423) 444-3494.

BLOUNTVILLE TREE LIGHTING SET FOR DEC. 8

Blountville will continue the tradition of "One Special Town ... Two Special Trees," which includes the lighting of the 30-foot Douglas fir on the courthouse lawn at 6 p.m. and a second tree lighting by the Hope for Victims Support and Advocacy Group in remembrance of victims of violence. The Appalachian Express Chorus will also perform.

Riders' Roundup: Cowboy group set for BCM performance

BRISTOL NOW

BRISTOL, Va. — Not every vocal group earns multiple Grammy Awards, becomes members of the Western Music Hall of Fame and touts a song in a Pixar classic over a 40-year span. And very few do so in cowboy garb with gallon hats to match — yet Riders in the Sky keeps trucking after decades of music.

The band will play its country and western music with a hint of humor at "A BCM Christmas" with Riders in the Sky at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum on Dec. 2.

"Radio Bristol is proud to bring Riders in the Sky to the museum for this very special holiday celebration," said WBCM Program Director and host Kris Truelsen in a press release from the Birthplace of Country Music. "The evening will be filled with lots of laughs and the very best in classic western music."

Riders in the Sky has tallied over 7,200 appearances, 35 years on the Grand Ole Opry, 40 albums and tours in each of the



CONTRIBUTED/RIDERS IN THE SKY

Riders in the Sky will bring its cowboy and western charm to Bristol on Dec. 2.

50 states in the U.S. and all over the world, the release said. In addition to two Grammy Awards, the band has received numerous awards from the Western Music Association and Wrangler Awards from the

Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum. The group has also earned awards from the Academy of Western Artists and is enshrined in the

See **RIDERS**, Page A3

Status hearing set next month for 'Killer Clown' case

By **ROBERT SORRELL**
FOR BRISTOL NOW

ABINGDON, Va. — An Abingdon, Virginia, woman accused of



Keen-Warren

dressing up as a clown and fatally shooting the wife of a man she later married is expected to return to court before Christmas in Florida.

Shelia Keen-Warren, who was arrested near her home in Southwest Virginia in 2017 — 27 years after Marlene Warren, 40, was shot at her home in Florida — remains incarcerated.

Recently, Keen-Warren's attorneys asked prosecutors to release a "clown sighting file." After learning about the file, defense attorneys in a motion asked for a delay in the first-degree murder trial, which was scheduled to start this fall. The jury trial was canceled, and a status hearing is scheduled for Dec. 22.

The "clown sighting file" contains information about other clown sightings leads at the time in 1990, the year Marlene Warren was gunned down at her front door in Palm Beach County. The file consists of names, addresses or phone numbers of 40 leads, according to the motion.

"Needless to say, this will take the defense considerable time and resources to investigate," the defense attorneys said.

Due to her extended stay in a Florida jail, which has resulted from numerous delays since her arrest, defense attorneys also asked the judge for a pre-trial release. The judge ultimately denied that request.

Back in May 1990, Marlene Warren was shot in the face by someone wearing an orange wig, red nose and white face paint, who handed her carnations and foil balloons after she answered the door.

Keen-Warren, an employee of Marlene Warren's husband, Michael, was considered a person of interest early on, authorities said. The two later married in Las Vegas, police said.

In 2017, detectives said advances in DNA technology, combined with evidence gathered in 1990, showed Keen-Warren was the killer in what has been

See **CLOWN**, Page A2

The sauce is boss Burg'N Yolk food truck spices up breakfast

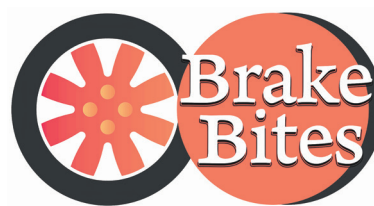
By **CAROLYN R. WILSON**
FOR BRISTOL NOW

BRISTOL, Va. — It's all about the sauces at one of Bristol's newest food truck businesses.

Customers are raving about the burgers and breakfast sandwiches at Burg'N Yolk, all topped with homemade sauces that can transform any meal into an explosion of flavors.

You can thank Jocelynn Gingrich, manager of the operation, for that.

She's always enjoyed cooking and experimenting with flavors.



This series spotlights the region's unique food trucks.

Now that she's manager of the business, she's using her culinary skills to attract customers.

"We opened in October. We've been killing it ever since. People love the food, especially

the breakfasts," said Gingrich.

The food truck business, located at Bristol's Food Truck Park at 21484 Travalite Drive, is branching out to offer their Brekky Sandwiches, Brunch Burgs and tots at other local businesses, such as Rural King in Bristol, Virginia. Gingrich said to watch for them to eventually sell their food in the parking lots of Bristol Regional Medical Center and the Amazon distribution center in town.

See **FOOD**, Page A2



CONTRIBUTED

Jocelynn Gingrich, manager of Burg'N Yolk, and Brayden Alexander, in window, serve as many as 30 customers each day at Bristol's Food Truck Park.



CONTRIBUTED

This smash burger is topped with cheese, bacon and egg.



CONTRIBUTED

Burg'N Yolk food truck operates from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bristol's Food Truck Park at 21484 Travalite Drive in Bristol, Virginia. Check their Facebook and Instagram pages for additional scheduled locations.

INSIDE

Best BetsA4
BridgeA9
ClassifiedsA8
CrosswordA9
HoroscopeA9
JumbleA9

MusicB4
OutdoorsC9
PetsA7
RegionB5
SportsB1-B2
SudokuA9

WEATHER

High Low
61 25
Mostly cloudy, 85% of showers, clear skies overnight



Sports

Creed Musick reunites with Michael McMeans, his previous coach at Sullivan South, at Tennessee High. Both are ready for another shot at the state basketball tournament after COVID-19 interfered two seasons ago. **B1**



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Christmas at The Cameo: Pair of musicians set for holiday show

“Christmas music feels warm. It feels like home.”

— Hannah Voudrie

By TOM NETHERLAND
FOR BRISTOL NOW

BRISTOL, Va. — Hannah Voudrie sings like Christmas feels.

She’s fun and serious and wrapped up with brilliant lyrical bows made for a day of majesty.

Hannah Voudrie helms Christmas at The Cameo on Sunday, Dec. 4, at The Cameo Theater in Bristol, Virginia. World-renowned cellist Dave Eggar will accompany her during an evening of Christmas music.

“It’s a Christmas show with everyone’s favorites,” said Voudrie, 26. “We’re putting some jazzy twists to some of them. There will be some traditional arrangements, too.”

Cup of coffee in hand, Voudrie (pronounced VOO-DRAY) strode to the back of Blackbird Bakery on a recent Friday afternoon. Original artwork, some with images of Santa Claus, adorned the neighboring walls.

She sat down, put her phone aside and spoke of music for the next hour. She noted that, in addition to her 20-some song concert with Eggar, the 17-member strong Dobyns-Bennett Overtone A Capella group will appear onstage too.

“They will do one song with me and two by themselves,” Voudrie, of Kingsport, said. “There’s also going to be a Ukrainian war refugee who will sing a song with me. It’s very moving.”

I was given a chance to hear snippets of their rehearsals, and Voudrie’s concert with Eggar definitely counts as moving. Audiences can anticipate reason-for-the-season fare like “O Holy Night” and



CONTRIBUTED/BENJAMIN TAYLOR

Hannah Voudrie and Dave Eggar will lead Christmas at The Cameo, a holiday music concert set for Sunday, Dec. 4, at The Cameo Theater in Bristol.

“Silent Night.”

“I will be doing two originals, but they’re not Christmas songs,” Voudrie said. “They’re titled ‘Always Faithful’ and ‘Beautiful Tension.’”

Voudrie’s voluminous voice emphasizes each song’s meaning. She’s not a country singer, but as with such country singers of yore as George Jones and Hank Williams, when Voudrie sings, she typically elongates the vowels.

Then, as if on a sled barreling down hills into valleys and then up again, her voice undulates and twists to take listeners on a new journey — translated, Voudrie’s voice is a gift of beauty to behold.

The show, like her voice,

can be heard as a lifetime in the works.

“It’s been a childhood dream of mine to do a Christmas show onstage,” she said. “You know, Christmas dress, piano, cello.”

Last summer, Voudrie brought Eggar on board. Then she booked the night at The Cameo.

“It started in August, the work on the show,” Voudrie said. “The Cameo, it’s excellent. Then (we) worked on getting the band together. We’ve had three rehearsals so far.”

Voudrie touts considerable vocal credentials. She sang in her church choir from ages 13 to 18. She performed in plays staged at Celebration Church in

If You Go

What: Christmas at The Cameo
Who: Hannah Voudrie with Dave Eggar
When: Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m.
Where: The Cameo Theater, 703 State St., Bristol, Va.
Admission: \$15 general admission, \$30 VIP ticket includes early entrance at 5:45 p.m., first choice of seating, a 15-minute preshow performance by Dave Eggar and a commemorative Christmas ornament
Info: (276) 296-1234
Web: <https://thecameo-theater.com>

Blountville, including “The Victory Stone: Marking a Hero’s Journey” in 2019. For “The Victory Stone,” Voudrie co-recorded the soundtrack, which was available on iTunes and Spotify.

“I really didn’t step out as a singer until ‘The Victory Stone,’” Voudrie said. “I did a tour of South Africa with Louis (Brittz, worship pastor at Celebration Church) in May. We did 17 shows in three weeks.”

Excited then and excited now, Voudrie all but leapt from her chair when speaking of her first-ever Christmas concert. For those who embrace the art and essence of memorable and meaningful Christmas music, flawlessly performed, this show is for you.

“It’s timeless music,” Voudrie said. “Christmas music feels warm. It feels like home.”

CLOWN

From Page A1

dubbed the Killer Clown case.

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office detectives, with help from deputies with the Washington County Virginia Sheriff’s Office, arrested Keen-Warren on Sept. 26, 2017. Keen-Warren was arrested during a traffic stop on Good Hope Road, not far from her home in an upscale neighborhood at South Holston Lake.

Keen-Warren, who once operated the Purple Cow restaurant in Kingsport, Tennessee, has pleaded not guilty, and her attorneys have repeatedly said she is innocent.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

NOTE TO READERS

We want to hear from you. Send us story ideas based on what you see in and around Bristol, and share photos with us of your favorite restaurants, scenic views, activities and people. Send your contributions to mwaters@bristolnow.news. Your photos and comments may be used in the next edition of Bristol Now.

Sullivan County property taxes mailed out

BRISTOL NOW

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — County tax bills for the more than 94,000 property parcels in Sullivan County have been mailed and are payable on receipt. County property taxes are not late, however, until March 1, 2023.

Sullivan County Trustee Angela Taylor also announced the reopening of satellite offices in Kingsport and Bristol, with limited hours, beginning this week.

The offices were closed by Taylor’s predecessor. Taylor said her plan to reopen the offices, with limited hours and dates during this busiest time of the tax payment season, offers a return to in-person service and assistance while continuing cost-saving efficiencies for county taxpayers.

The satellite office inside the Bristol Justice Center, 801 Anderson St., will be open Thursdays and Fridays beginning Dec. 1. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 to 5 p.m.

The satellite office inside Kingsport’s old city hall, 225 W. Center St., will be open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, beginning Dec. 5. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The trustee’s office in

Blountville, 3411 Highway 126, inside the historic courthouse, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for in-person payment of county property taxes. There’s also a dropbox for payments outside the courthouse.

“We appreciate our taxpayers and want to make it as easy as possible for property owners to pay their tax bills,” Taylor said. “We’re happy we’ve been able to offer online payments and appreciate our ongoing partnership with Bank of Tennessee that allows payment of taxes at some branches. But I and my staff understand many of our customers prefer paying in person and being able to talk directly to a person if they have questions or need help.”

One group that often needs personal assistance is elderly or disabled property owners who qualify for the state’s property tax relief program. About 3,400 property owners currently participate in the program in Sullivan County, Taylor said, and it also serves disabled veteran homeowners and their surviving spouses.

To be eligible for tax relief for the elderly, you must be 65 by Dec. 31, 2022, must own your home and use it as your primary residence and have had a maximum 2021 income of \$31,600

(including any and all income of the applicant, spouse, co-owner and resident remainder). The maximum market value on which tax relief is calculated is the first \$30,000.

To be eligible for tax relief for the disabled, you must be declared disabled as defined by the Social Security Administration by Dec. 31, 2022, must own your home and use it as your primary residence and have had a maximum 2021 income of \$31,600 (including any and all income of the applicant, spouse, co-owner and resident remainder). The maximum market value on which tax relief is calculated is the first \$30,000.

Disabled veterans must be rated permanently and totally disabled on or before Dec. 31, 2022, own their home and use it as their primary residence and complete a 2022 F-16 form, giving consent for release of disability and income information from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The maximum market value on which tax relief is calculated is the first \$175,000.

For more information about Tennessee’s property tax relief program, visit tncot.cc/taxrelief or call the trustee’s office at (423) 323-6470.

Here are other ways to pay Sullivan County property taxes.

By mail: Make checks payable to Sullivan County Trustee and mail with tax notice to Sullivan County Trustee, P.O. Box 550, Blountville, TN 37617.

Online: www.TennesseeTrustee.org. Payable by credit card, debit card or electronic check with a convenience fee of 2.5% for credit and debit cards and \$1 for electronic checks. The same fees apply if paying by phone (credit or debit cards only), plus an additional 25 cents. The number to call is 1-877-768-5048. All fees are collected by a third party for processing the payments.

Bank of Tennessee: In person or drive-thru at these branches: 1917 Highway 394, Blountville; 1223 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol; 4214 Ft. Henry Drive, Kingsport; 1708 N. Eastman Road, Kingsport; and 301 E. Center St., Kingsport (no drive-thru). Taxpayers must bring their tax notice(s), and Bank of Tennessee does not process payments of those on tax relief, any delinquent tax payments or any partial payments.

Tax bills also are available to review online through the TennesseeTrustee.org website, whether or not you want to pay online.

For any questions, contact the Sullivan County Trustee’s Office at (423) 323-6464.

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