

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

COME ONE, COME ALL!



With plenty of flu vaccine to go around, officials urge increased use **A4**



INSIDE

elecTriCity

'Portable Sounds:' Expect a party – a party with praise – to break out when former d.c. talk member TobyMac hits the stage at Freedom Hall on Sunday. **E10**

SPORTS

A new challenge: Erik

Ainge says you can't change the past, only the future. The UT signal-caller faces the task of leading a team whose preseason goals are on the ropes. **C1**

PAGE TWO



Under the sea, over the Net: A nine-day mission that began Monday in the world's only permanent working undersea laboratory is like living in a fishbowl in more ways than one: Anyone with an Internet connection can watch the researchers work and hang out 60 feet below the surface. **A2**

OUTSIDE

Mild
Mostly sunny and mild with a high today of 84. Mostly clear tonight with patchy fog late. Low tonight, 55.
Details on Page A8

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ON THE NET

Bristol Herald Courier News Channel 11
www.TriCities.com
Southwest Virginia weeklies
www.SWVAToday.com

NEWS PARTNER



Consumer Watch: Want to get the most mileage out of your new car? Many new models can go 200,000 miles with the right treatment. **News Channel 11** looks at how you can hit that mileage mark.
Tonight at 11
A Media General newspaper



Board votes to review book

AFTER A COMPLAINT, School Board members voted 6-1 to keep "Fair and Tender Ladies" on the high school reading list but to have a committee review it

BY DEBRA McCOWN
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
ABINGDON, Va. – Controversy may be brewing about a book School Board members say has been on the high school reading list for a decade. After someone whom school officials have so far not identified complained verbally about the book, "Fair and Tender Ladies," one School Board member wants it removed

WASHINGTON COUNTY
from the high school supplementary reading list. "I'm really sorry to hear it," said author Lee Smith. "It's my favorite book. Among the books that I've written, it's probably the one that I'm proudest of."



'It's my favorite book. Among the books that I've written, it's probably the one that I'm proudest of.'
Lee Smith
writer of "Fair and Tender Ladies"

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Passing muster

Revolutionary War life brought home to youngsters



BY DEBRA McCOWN
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
ABINGDON, Va. – With canvas tents, costumed interpreters and the occasional gunpowder blast, a group of High Point Elementary School fourth-graders reflect on life in the 18th century. "It's hard," Autumn Worley, 9, said after her unsuccessful attempts Wednesday to stab an apple hanging from a string. When asked if she would survive back then, she said, "probably not." Historical interpreter Mac Johnson, from the Washington County community of Kelly's Chapel, said the apple-stabbing drill was "bayonet training" of the sort soldiers would have received during the Revolutionary War. George Fuderer of Glade Spring, said boys as young as 13 served in the militia, which was simply a group of men who gathered to protect their homes. "It's all well and good to read about it," Fuderer said, "but when you actually get out and can see it and participate, it's a lot more meaningful." The bayonet drill was one of 16 activities Washington County fourth-graders experienced at the Overmountain Victory Celebration, which began Wednesday and runs through Saturday. The event celebrates the 400 Southwest Virginia militiamen who mustered on this piece of ground in 1780, during the American Revolution, in response to a British threat to destroy their homes. At Monday's county School Board meeting, when the event was briefly discussed, board member Curtis Burkett summed up Southwest



EARL NEIKIRK/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
Autumn Worley, 9, a fourth-grader at High Point Elementary School, tries to hit an apple with a bayonet during drills Wednesday. Keeping watch is historical interpreter Mac Johnson.

YOU SHOULD KNOW
Overmountain Victory Celebration
What: Living history demonstrations Wednesday through Saturday, and additional events Saturday.
When: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.
Where: Dunn's Meadow in the 700 block

of Colonial Road in Abingdon
Cost: free
There's more
Read more about celebrations in Abingdon and Elizabethton this month recognizing the Overmountain Victory Trail in today's **Empire** section, **Page E1.**

See **MUSTER**, Page A7

Longtime federal judge dies at Abingdon home

H. EMORY WIDENER practiced in Bristol before being appointed to the federal bench; he was named to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1972

BY BECKY CAMPBELL
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
Local lawyers and judges alike were shocked Wednesday to learn that a long-respected attorney whose career took him from the courthouses in Bristol Virginia and Abingdon to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond was dead. Judge H. Emory Widener, 83, died at his Abingdon home around 11 a.m. Wednesday, ac-

cording to court personnel in Bristol Virginia. Official confirmation of Widener's passing came from Tom Schrinel, deputy circuit executive for the 4th Circuit. "I did receive communication not too long ago that said he passed away this morning at his home," Schrinel said Wednesday afternoon. Widener began his law ca-

reer in the Navy, then opened a private practice in Bristol in 1953. Ten years later, he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia. President Richard Nixon appointed Widener to the 4th Circuit in 1972, and he reached senior status in July, Schrinel said. *'Judge Widener exemplified the very best the public can expect and/or demand from a judge.'*
Lynn Dougherty
Bristol attorney

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