

THE DAILY TIMES PRESENTS THE 2020-21
Newcomers Guide

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FIND OUT ABOUT BLOUNT IN OUR NEWCOMERS GUIDE. INSIDE

SPRY HAS YOUR TIPS FOR SUMMER WELLNESS. INSIDE

Drinks are on them



SCOTT KELLER | THE DAILY TIMES

VISITORS FROM OHIO ISAAC Green (from left), Lauren Kimmel, Brandon Jones, Scott George and Jonathan Green look over the menu Monday evening at Bluetick Tavern.

Commission to let voters decide alcohol at county restaurants

BY SHELBY HARRIS
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Come November, Blount Countians may be able to choose whether they can order liquor by the drink at restaurants.

Currently, only restaurants within Maryville, Alcoa and Townsend city limits have the option to sell liquor. County restaurants can sell beer and wine with appropriate permits.

That soon could change, but first, the Blount County Commission must approve a resolution to add a referendum to the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

"We're not voting whether we're going to have it or not," Blount County Commissioner Nick Bright



SEE SALE, 5A **DRINKS SIT AT THE** bar at Bluetick Tavern.

BCS investigates HMS teacher's Facebook posts about masks

BY AMY BETH MILLER
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Blount County Schools investigated but declined to say whether it took any other action over an allegation that a Heritage Middle School teacher's Facebook posts suggested wearing face masks is about government control, not safety from COVID-19.

The account with the name Susan Whitson Aliff had been deleted by late Saturday afternoon the day three screen shots attributed to that account were posted on the Facebook page The Tennessee Holler.

One features a quote saying the best way to control people is to take their freedoms a little bit at a time, with attribution to Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and an image of a man who looks similar to the Nazi leader. The image has been widely shared on social media by others, while fact-checking sites, including Reuters, have said the quote is not from Hitler and the picture is an altered image of former British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Another post with a drawing of a person wearing a

face mask says in part, "It's not about safety; it's about compliance." The third says, "Since when did our government start caring about us???" There is something very dark about this whole Covid virus thing."

BCS confirmed that Aliff is an HMS special education teacher and has worked for the district since 2011. The Daily Times attempted to reach Aliff but received no response.

The district's Employee Internet Postings and Social Media policy states in part, "BCS Employees shall treat social media as a professional workplace. The same standards expected in BCS professional settings are expected in social media engagement."

The policy discourages employees from identifying themselves as BCS employees but states, "If an employee's Internet Postings or profiles identify him/her as a representative of the Blount County School System, employees must make it clear that any views expressed are the employee's alone, and do not necessarily reflect those of the District."

SEE POSTS, 5A

CORRECTION

A July 14 article "Maryville to convene task force on Rebel nickname" should have said the school board moved to remove the Confederate battle flag from school items in 1999 and banned all flags at school-sponsored activities in 2005, although the administration may grant exceptions for some flags.

Governor Lee: 'Good news if you want to play football'

BY COREY ROEPKEN
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High school football and soccer fans got a big boost this week when Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee updated his stance on whether those sports will be allowed to compete in the coming months.

"It's pretty clear that football and soccer are going to be part of the landscape this fall," Lee said during a teleconference with the media late Monday.

The audio of the call was provided to The Daily Times by the LaFollette Press.

Lee's comments came five days after the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

abruptly delayed a board of control vote on how it would proceed with adjusting regular season and playoff schedules of both sports.

At the time, TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress cited ongoing discussions with Lee's office about how contact sports could continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also at the time, no date was given for when a decision would be made.

High school sports reached this state of uncertainty on June 30 when the TSSAA announced that football and girls soccer seasons would not begin on time during the 2020 season because Lee extended the state's COVID-19 state of emergency until at least



Bill Lee

Tenn. Gov. Lee has updated his stance on the possibility of sports returning for the 2020 fall season.

Aug. 29 — preventing practice or games when both sports were scheduled to start their prep seasons. The order had specific exemptions for college and pro sports.

The emergency order appeared to include high school contact sports, but on Monday, Lee clarified that thought.

"We do that (extension) in order to allow for certain regulations to be extended like not hav-

ing to get your driver's license or your carry permit," Lee said. "Or it loosens restrictions on health care providers so they can operate. It allows us to continue with the telemedicine approach — all things that allow us to operate in COVID."

"It doesn't mean that everything that is included in the previous executive order is extended to Aug. 31."

Lee said his office has been working "aggressively" with the TSSAA to iron out details of how a season would work. As of Monday, Lee said, the TSSAA was working on authoring a report with what it believes is safe guidance to practice and play football and soccer.

Adding to that, Lee said he wants to be sure those recommendations fit within his broad guidelines.

"The short answer is I expect we'll have those suggestions shortly from the TSSAA," Lee said. "They are working with our administration because we both would like to have football and soccer. We just want to make sure it's very clear to all the schools out there — all the parents out there — what it's going to look like."

"I think there's good news if you want to play football."

FOLLOW @RIPSPORTS on Twitter to get more from sports editor Corey Roepken.



Blount Records.....4A	Crossword.....7B	Horoscope.....7B	Sports.....4B
Bridge.....5B	Daily Calendar.....3B	Money & Markets.....7A	Sudoku.....7B
Classified.....4B	Dear Abby.....2B	Nation & World.....8A	Taste.....1B
Comics.....6B	Deaths.....4A	Opinion.....6A	Weather.....7B

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