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'Fest, Forest' make for eventful Town weekend

(Right) Farragut High School Class of 2023 graduate William Wheelock portrayed Civil War soldier Robert Tate Gound (1832-1900) during Town of Farragut's Pleasant Forest Living History event in Pleasant Forest Cemetery near the intersection of North Campbell Station Road and Concord Road Sunday, April 28. Wheelock was one of 15 actors who portrayed people laid to rest in the cemetery.

(Below right) Frank Russell III (facing the camera) relates his family's history during Town of Farragut's Pleasant Forest Living History event in Pleasant Forest Cemetery. Russell's father, grandfather and great-grandfather are buried close together in the cemetery.

(Below) The Engels, (from left) Mike, Tara, Steven and Sonja, shared quality family time at the 9th Annual Southern Tequila & Taco Festival, which took place at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza along the intersection of Kingston Pike and North Campbell Station Road Friday, April 26. The all-day rain stopped shortly before the festival, offering an evening of music, food, tequila and mezcal and fun. See *West Side Faces*, page 5A, for more photos.



Living History and Festival photos by Tammy Cheek



KCSO tight with info on McFee shooting victim

Knox County Sheriff's Office currently is investigating a shooting in which a woman reportedly was struck in the foot while in McFee Park late Sunday morning, April 28.

The woman, no name released by KCSO, was reportedly transported to a hospital, where her injuries were reported as "non-life threatening."

On Monday, April 29, KCSO reportedly said the

incident was believed to be accidental.

Reports stated Sheriff's Office units were dispatched to McFee Park around 11:30 a.m. Sunday. KCSO reportedly stated it was unknown from where the bullet came, as the park is near a wooded area.

When contacting Town of Farragut for reaction, Wendy Smith, Communications manager, said, "I don't think David (Smoak, Town administrator) will

Cobb's professional pitch seeks to help Knoxville homeless

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Roughly 17 years after throwing his last pitch as a reliable four-year arm on the Tennessee Vols Baseball team from 2004 through 2007, this former All-state pitcher at Farragut High School — staff ace on the Admirals 2003 Class AAA state championship team — is making a quite different kind of pitch as vice president for affordable housing with DGA Residential Development Group in Knoxville.

"I've been doing work with housing development since 2010; doing it for a long time," Cobb said during his roughly four-minute address during Mayors' Leadership Summit on Homelessness" held recently in The Foundry in downtown Knoxville.

Praising the "collaboration that the city and county both had ... we leveraged \$2.5 million to break ground on 280 units here in the city at the end of last year," he added about new, more affordable housing. "Those funds were instrumental."

Cobb said he recently received information "that opened my eyes to some things about what you were just speaking on — the eviction process."

Beyond downtown Knoxville, "we were releasing up a property out in the county that we're really proud of," Cobb said, adding that he learned, "Hey, there's a lot of people out here ... that have this need or are living in cars and what-not that have been (evicted) for some reason or another."

"We've had several people live (at the county location) that have had evictions in their past," he added.

He reported news from another local homeless housing official that "they had just taken on some rental systems from THDA to help people stay in affordable housing and work out payment plans with their landlord," Cobb said.

"Just last week, we had several of our residents that were behind. Instead of trying to evict them and be the bad guy, we told them, 'Hey, the county has these funds for rental assistance. Please go seek them, and we'll work with you on these payment plans,'" he added. "We got a couple of checks just last week to help keep people in housing. I wouldn't have known about this otherwise; so communication with both county and city government has been, I think, a real positive here."

In fact, "I don't think anyone else in Tennessee is doing it as well as Knox County and the city of Knoxville are," Cobb said.

"Obviously, things are expensive — affordable housing has tons of barriers to entry," he told the gathering. "There's a long lead time to get projects from conception to funding to closing

See COBB on Page 2A



Alan Sloan

Craig Cobb, left, vice president of Affordable Housing with DGA Residential Development Group in Knoxville, speaks during Mayors' Leadership Summit on Homelessness recently in The Foundry in downtown Knoxville. Alongside Cobb is Ben Bentley, Knoxville Community Development Corporation president/CEO.

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Four positions to be added to Town workforce: Smoak

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen members expect to act on their FY 2025 budget when they meet 6 p.m., Thursday May 9, in Farragut Community Center.

They will have another workshop before they receive the final draft Friday, May 3, so they could mull over the numbers then have a final workshop before the May 9 meeting.

“We’ve been over-viewing the budget for the FY ’25 going all the way back to February of this year,” Town administrator David Smoak said during a workshop Thursday, April 25. “This is a final run-through of our program changes, any changes that we’re making that regard personnel, merit increases, (cost of living) increases, things like that ... will be proposed for next year.

Regarding personnel, he said there are four positions to be added to the budget: two Public Works technicians, information technology technician and a new administration position.

Along with some policy changes, “we are taking on additional responsibilities with McFee Park, with McFee property, with some property on Brooklawn right-of-way as well,” Smoak said. “We do need additional (Public Works) personnel to handle that.”

The total cost for the two PW positions is \$147,000.

Additionally, “(information technology) has been an area we’ve really been focusing on for the last couple years,” he said. While the Town has an IT manager, “What we’re looking for is to add an IT technician.”

He estimates the cost of adding an IT technician would be \$88,000.

“But the true hit to the budget is only about \$20,000 because of the savings that we’ve had in order to reduce costs,” Smoak said.

With assistant to the Town administrator Trevor Hobbs leaving the Town, the Administration department is eliminating the assistant to the Town administrator position and adding a new position.

“So the total cost of this will be \$54,000 in next year’s budget,” Smoak said. “This will help myself out with additional leadership, managerial and supervisory responsibilities for all departments.”

He noted the new administrative position would act as a second in command.

All personnel changes are estimated to cost about \$289,780.

Next year, a 3 percent increase in cost-of-living and merit is being proposed for all employees.

Also, “we do know we have a health insurance cost increase of around 4 percent,” Smoak said.

With that, the Town is changing the ratio of payments from 92 (Town part of cost) and employees pay 8 percent to 90 (Town) and 10 percent (employees).



Smoak

Cobb

From page 1A

to construction to actually getting people in the housing. The prices keep going up, the interest rates keep going up. So we’ll take as much money as we can get to ... build our housing. ... It’s a very clearly need to help with these issues.

“But again, I think what our community here is doing is above and beyond anywhere else,” he added. “So kudos to both (Knox County) Mayor (Glenn) Jacobs and (Knoxville) Mayor (Indya) Kincannon for everything. ... It’s really a help and I really appreciate it.”

KCSO reports

• At 12:32 p.m., Sunday, April 28, a complainant/victim called Knox County Sheriff’s Office Teleserve Unit to report her vehicle as stolen from a North Campbell Station Road sport bar. She advised an unknown suspect took her 2013 Chevrolet Camaro.

Complainant/victim said her sister saw the suspect get into the vehicle and drive off, but said “it happened so quickly she was unable to get any identifiers,” the report stated. “The complainant advised she believes she left the keys on the bar due to them no longer being in her possession.” Total value of loss was listed at \$5,000.

• At 12:13 p.m., Saturday, April 27, a KCSO unit responded to a Kingston Pike address in reference to a burglary. “Once on scene I made contact with (complainant), who (said) she works for Y-12 Credit Union, who also owns the property at the listed address.

Complainant said when she arrived at the property “she found two broken glass doors and a broken window,” the report further stated. Complainant said when she walked the property “she found seven broken TVs in the hallways. The building has been abandoned for several years, but was last seen undamaged sometime (the) week (before).” Complainant said the damage totaled to \$5,000 for the doors, \$1,000 for the window and \$700 for the TVs.

• At 5:44 p.m., Friday, April 26, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report theft from the parking lot of Aldi, 170 Brooklawn St. “Complainant advised he left his battery charger with two batteries sitting in the lower parking lot of Aldi after he finished filming with his drone,” the report stated. “The complainant stated when he realized, he went back to retrieve it but was unable to locate it. The complainant stated he posted a \$30 reward around the area for the return of the item. A week later his wife received a phone call from an unknown male (at an 865 area code number) who was asking questions about the item and (said) he had it, but would not give it back unless the complainant paid him \$60.”

• At 10:34 a.m., Monday, April 22, a complainant called the KCSO Teleserve Unit to report an impersonation at a Kingston Pike address. Complainant advised she discovered a known suspect, “her therapist of 10 years, had been practicing with an expired social worker license since 2004,” the report stated. Complainant said she last met with the listed suspect “for a session in October 2023, when she believed she was flirting with her husband and got weird vibes, which led her to confirm the license on TN.gov. Complainant advised she spoke with an official from the “state licensing department who advised her to file the report with the local agency.”

• At 10:03 a.m., April 22, a complainant called KCSO North Precinct to report a theft at Farragut Post Office, 111409 Municipal Center Drive. “Complainant advised an unknown suspect took a check from the listed address,” the report stated.

He said the check “was then altered and cashed at a Truist Bank in Chattanooga,” the report further stated. He said “the suspect name was blurry and the payee signature was also unclear. He (said) the whole check was altered, but the check number was left the same” He stated the amount he made the check for was \$429, but it was changed to \$6,760.

towncalendar

• **Dixie Lee Farmers Market, on The Renaissance Farragut grounds along Kingston Pike, opens for Saturday business May 4, and will remain available each Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon through Oct. 26.**

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See CALENDAR on Page 3A



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press talk

When I read that Farragut had been considered as a Tree City, I was pretty shocked.

In my years of walking through (Founders) Park at (Campbell Station at) the Farragut (Knox County branch) Library, I have been very sad at the state of the mature trees in that park, as well as other parks — but particularly in that park.

I myself have volunteered and removed vines and pulled up invasive species there. But what I can do is just a drop in the bucket.

Calendar

From page 1A

who grew it," a family press release stated. "In doing this, we hope to give an opportunity to our local farmers, gardeners and crafts persons to promote their products.

"It will strengthen our local commerce by buying from your neighbors, as well as offer our families a healthier lifestyle," the release further stated. "Providing this forum helps farmers and families from local communities to deal directly with each other rather than through third parties, and to get to know and learn from one another.

"Interacting in this environment will teach children to preserve the integrity of our agricultural heritage. This will not only strengthen our community physically and mentally but spiritually as well."

* **40th annual Bob Watt Youth Fishing Rodeo at Anchor Park** for children 12 and under again has two sessions Saturday, May 11: Session 1 from 8 to 9 a.m., and Session 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. Event is free, but registration is required and space may be limited.

Recognition will be given, per age category, for accomplishments at catching fish in Fort Loudoun Lake.

For more information, or to register, visit farragutparksandrec.org/fishingrodeo.

• **Parents' Night Out runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, in Farragut Community Center.** Cost is \$10 per child for ages 6 to 12. Register is required: visit farragutparksandrec.org

Parents can take the night off "while their children enjoy snacks, a movie, art and lots of games," a Town press release stated. Among refreshments, "pizza will be served."

Pre-amendments Knox GP a failure

Approving amendments to the Growth Policy Plan paved the way to reducing development densities in the Choto area, as well as placing the Choto area on the list for a small area study to take a deep dive into the transportation issues in Choto. A small area study is intended to identify tailored solutions to Choto's unique issues.

Advance Knox is Knox County's effort to replace the failed 2003 Knox County General Plan, which has guided growth and development in Knox County for the last 20 years. In addition, Advance Knox includes the development of a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which is an update to Knox County's antiquated zoning ordinances and other development related ordinances and regulations.

It is my opinion that the 2003 Knox County General Plan has been an abysmal failure in guiding appropriate growth and development for the Choto area for the last 20 years. Choto's constrained transportation network was never taken into consideration as development was approved.

Knox County plans to replace the failed 2003 General Plan with the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan (Comprehensive Plan). To adopt the Comprehensive Plan they had to amend the Growth Policy Plan because state law requires that all land use decisions be consistent with the Growth Policy Plan.

Voting no to the amendments to the Growth Policy Plan would have left the failed 2003 Knox County General Plan in place.

When Knox County released their initial draft of their Comprehensive Plan in October 2023, I studied it. Interestingly, Knox County's Comprehensive Plan has concepts that are similar to the Town of Farragut's Comprehensive Plan, including a future land use map.

Having served on Farragut's Municipal Planning Commission for the last 10 years, I was already comfortable with navigating such a plan.

Given my experience and knowledge and the long-standing relationships I have established with Knox County elected officials and staff during the last eight years, I was uniquely positioned to effectively advocate for the Choto and Concord areas. During the last several months, I was able to successfully advocate to reduce the

letterstotheeditor

density as initially proposed on the future land use map in the Choto and Concord areas and have Choto added to the list of small area studies to study the fragile Choto transportation network.

The Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan adopted by the Knox County Commission last week provides the County Commissioners with a tool to better guide growth. I hope that each County Commissioner digs into this plan and uses it to protect their respective districts.

The time and effort on my part that went into advocating for southwest Knox County was extensive. Although Concord and Choto are not in the corporate boundaries of the Town of Farragut, they are part of the Farragut community. Development outside our boundaries does impact Farragut and the Farragut area transportation network.

The Town values quality of life and tries to address safety and capacity issues in our transportation network. Addressing those concerns beyond our boundaries requires a collaborative and cooperative relationship with Knox County. Helping Knox County move beyond the failed 2003 Knox County General Plan was key in bringing the needed attention to the Choto area.

Vice Mayor Louise Povlin
Town of Farragut

'Appreciation' for local trio in 'Advance Knox kerfuffle'

I want to extend my appreciation to three key people who secured a better-than-expected conclusion to the Advance Knox kerfuffle:

1) Michael Wilson of FCRGD (Farragut Citizens for Responsible Growth and Development) discovered a loophole in the plan and spoke on this at the first BOMA (Board of Mayor and Aldermen) vote where the Advance Knox plan was initially voted down.

Mr. Wilson discovered that land designated as "rural" — and supposedly limited to two houses per acre — was impacted by a loophole to increase density up to 5 units per acre.

2) Mike Mitchell, also of FCRGD, (who) went on the George Corda Show along with Mr. Wilson to bring awareness of the loophole to all of Knox County.

3) At Large (Knox Coun-

ty) Commissioner Kim Frazier successfully pushed an amendment to the Comprehensive Use Plan to eliminate this loophole that would have impacted all of Knox County's designated "rural" areas.

Please note that while Ms. Frazier's amendment passed, there was opposition on the County Commission to fixing the loophole.

This is a pretty good indication that the loophole was not a mistake. Many thanks to the diligence of the FCRGD duo and the courage of Commissioner Frazier to ensure Knox County's rural areas are limited to two houses per acre.

By controlling growth around us, you've helped to keep Farragut's traffic from getting worse.

Lawrence Segrest,
Farragut

• **Editor's Notes:** All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication — not to exceed 600 words — and must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion. We also reserve the right to reject publication based on factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language.

• **Presstalk rules:** keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week); keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com); libelous and malicious comments will not be published; profanity will be edited out; comments will remain anonymous; names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published.



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New owner, new name Bombay Palace is now Taj Indian Bistro

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Bombay Palace in Turkey Creek has changed hands with a new owner and a new name, Taj Indian Bistro, at 10901 Parkside Drive, Suite 101, near Earth Fare.

“Great,” Tushar Kumar, manager of the new restaurant, said about being open in Turkey Creek. “We love Farragut.”

Taj Indian Bistro, owned by Tushar’s dad, Charan Jit Kumar, was remodeled and opened Tuesday, April 22.

However, the restaurant business is not the Kumars’ first rodeo. “We’ve been in this business a long time,” said Tushar a Farragut resident. “We’ve been cooking for over two decades.”

The Kumars decided to located in Turkey Creek because “we know the area and know all the people (and) a lot of the guests who come in,” Tushar said. “We

know we’ll be successful. People love our food.”

The restaurant serves North Indian fare with “a lot of vegan, lot of vegetarian options,” he said.

However, Tushar added customers will find curries, tandoori kabobs, chicken and lamb, rice varieties and masala.

“Any meal from no-spicy to however hot you want,” he said. “We have a full range. We have homemade spices that we grind here.

“Everything is made in-house, nothing frozen, nothing pre-cooked,” Tushar added. “We even make cheese here, like the paneer, in house.

“Come try it, once. ... Let us fix you a meal.”

Customers can start their dining experience with a samosa, a potato and pea puff pastry pocket appetizer, or one of the other appetizers, such as paneer pa-

kora/chicken, which is battered in special spices and fried.

Moving into the meal, Taj Indian Bistro offers a choice of proteins — vegetable, paneer, chicken, lamb, goat, shrimp or fish.

There are various curries: masala, korma, saag/pala, vindaloo, bhuna, mango and traditional. Or customers can try rogan josh, a protein marinated in herbs, spices and cooked with fresh tomatoes in a creamy sauce.

There are even desserts, such as kheer (rice pudding), gulab jamun (juicy deep-fried dumplings dipped in syrup) and rasmalai (soft cheesecake patties served over saffron milk).

Hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch, and from 5 to 10 p.m. for dinner, seven days a week. Dine in or order ahead by calling 865-671-6667, e-mailing to indiantajbistro@gmail.com or by using Door Dash or other delivery services.



Tammy Cheek

Tushar Kumar, manager of the new Taj Indian Bistro at 10901 Parkside Drive, Suite 101, is ready to serve customers. Tushar’s father, Charan Kumar, bought the former Bombay Palace, remodeled and renamed it.

Chase is 2nd biz to open in Town Center

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

The doors to Chase bank’s newest Town Center location are open, and the bank invites the community to its grand opening starting at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 9, at its new branch, 11242 Kingston Pike.

During that time, “our staff will gather with clients, prospects and community members for a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 10 a.m.,” said A.D. Lavalley, Chase’s market director of banking for East Tennessee.



Lavalley

“We’re thrilled to expand our network, lift up the local Knoxville community and invest in its people with the opening of Chase’s first East Tennessee branch,” he added. “Our branches are advice centers, where customers can get help making the most of their money — whether that’s managing investments, buying a house or running a small business.”

The Farragut branch is the first of three branches planned to open in the Knoxville area this year, according to Lavalley.

A second branch is planned in May for 503 N. Foothills Plaza Drive in Maryville.

“Chase is working toward opening five to six more branches in East Tennessee by the end of 2026,” a press release stated.

“The community has welcomed us with open arms,” Lavalley said.

“We have felt a real sense of hospitality and excitement from the people of Farragut.”

“As Chase enters East Tennessee, we’re eager to be the bank for all and actively partner with the local community,” said Deidre Vonderhaar, vice president and branch manager of Chase’s new Farragut branch. “Our bank believes people need people when it comes to making important financial decisions.

“We are excited to open our Knoxville-area branches, grow in this new market, listen to our customers’ needs and equip them with an exceptional team of experts,” Vonderhaar added.

Chase is hiring staff locally to support its new branches, including bankers, branch managers, business bankers and financial advisors.

“Entry-level employees in East Tennessee branches will be paid no less than \$20 an hour and will receive the firm’s full benefits package, which includes health care

coverage and retirement savings,” a press release stated.

The opening of Knoxville’s first Chase branch is part of the bank’s recent “multi-billion commitment to open more than 500 branches by 2027,” the press release stated. Chase also plans to renovate 1,700 additional locations across the country during the next three years.

“When we open a branch, we’re not only investing in the financial health of residents, we’re committed to the health and vitality of the entire community,” said Marianne Lake, JPMorgan Chase’s CEO of consumer and community banking. “We provide local expertise and support through our branches; we lend to local businesses of all sizes, create jobs and long-term careers and finance vital amenities that are the cornerstone of healthy neighborhoods.”

Lavalley said the bank looks for locations “where people live, work and shop.”

As such, “Farragut is a thriving community and is a perfect place to plant our flag in East Tennessee,” he added. “East Tennessee is vibrant and growing.

“Chase is eager to be the bank for all and actively partner with the local community. Our bank believes people need people when it comes to making important financial deci-



Tammy Cheek

Chase bank, which had a soft opening last week, plans a grand opening starting at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 9, at its new Town Center location, 11242 Kingston Pike.

sions. We are excited to open our Knoxville-area branches, grow in this new market, listen to our customers’ needs and equip them with an exceptional team of experts.

Chase has more than 4,800 branches in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

“We also serve our customers with 15,000 ATMs ...,” Lavalley said.

During the past five years, Chase has added more than 650 branches, including 400 locations in 25 new states, the press release stated.

“The bank has the largest branch network in the country and is the only bank to have branches in all lower

48 states,” the release added. “Chase launched two new branches in Memphis in August and will open five more by the end of 2025.

“The bank also opened 10 branches in Nashville in 2020.”

“Chase supports more than 1 million customers in Tennessee with mortgages, auto loans and savings, checking and credit card accounts,” Lavalley said.

Along with Chase bank’s full line of services, it merged with J.P. Morgan in 2000 to provide investment services as well.

For more information about Chase bank, call 865-672-5416 or visit online at chase.com

businessbriefs

• **After Magnum Venus Products**, a global manufacturer of fluid movement and production solutions with deep roots in Tennessee, moved its headquarters to Knoxville in 2015, MVP further expanded with the opening of its new manufacturing center in Knoxville in April.

“This expansion is the result of a consolidation of facilities previously located across the country and brings promising job opportunities for Tennessee residents, with MVP anticipating the creation of at least 30 positions this year,” a press release stated.



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Rotary Club of Farragut, Tellico Lake Rotary Club, Pellissippi State Community College Rotaract Club and Faith Lutheran Church

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

More than 70 volunteers from Rotary Club of Farragut, Tellico Lake Rotary Club, Pellissippi State Community College Rotaract Club and Faith Lutheran Church gathered in Faith Lutheran parking lot along Jamestowne Boulevard in Farragut Saturday, April 13, to build 51 beds for children through Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

SHP is a non-profit organization that builds beds for children who do not have beds. With guidance from SLP pros, volunteers cut, sanded and drilled to make the beds.



Candace Viox sanding



Walt Marshall



Richard Rinehart



Tom Jaynes from Faith Lutheran



Scott Shannon, TLRC



Darrell Shepherd, SHP



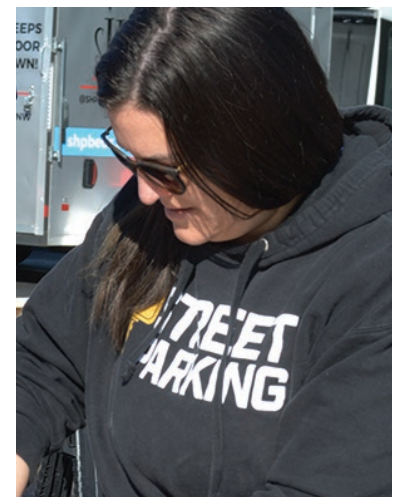
Evan Bridges, left, of Rotaract, and Howard Fass, RCF



Jeff Paynter of SHP



Teri Jo Fox and Huxley Otto



Kristen Otto

Pleasant Forest Cemetery Living History

Farragut residents and guests were transported back in time in Pleasant Forest Cemetery Sunday, April 28, as Town of Farragut volunteers portrayed those who were laid to rest in the cemetery as part of Pleasant Forest Cemetery Living History event.

Presented by Farragut Arts and Beautification and Farragut Museum committees and Pleasant Forest Cemetery, 15 actors told the story of notable final residents of the cemetery, among them Mayor Robert and Marie Leonard; Mayor Ralph McGill; Limon Bacon Sr. (1905-1986) a school bus driver and cemetery grounds keeper; Nancy Galbreath, who

provided housing and nursing care during the Civil War; Margaret Maroney Bates, who was a child during the Civil War; and Thomas Boyd, a Revolutionary War veteran.

Others were John Steele Campbell, a Korean War veteran; Clabe Claiborne and Fritz Clayborne, two African-American World War I veterans; Joe Davis, a former stone carver and the first janitor at the first Farragut High School; J. Frank Russell, Korean War veteran who operated Russell's General Store; the Rev. Roy Stone, pastor of Concord Church of God; and Confederate soldier Robert Tate Gound.



Olivia Gnoth as Nancy Galbreath



Rafika Amlani as Margaret Maroney Bates



Nika Ray as Marie Leonard



Dallas Malone as Robert Leonard



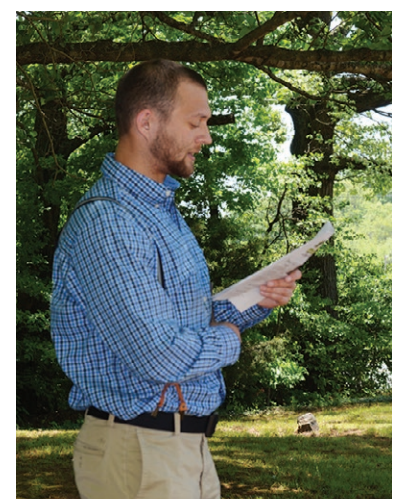
Kalei Fisher, left, and Lynette Stone Stephens



Colby Church as Joe Davis



Ellie Oestreich as Clabe Claiborne's neighbor



Jack Oestreich as Fritz Clayborne



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Ex-Ad Pease OVC 'Pitcher of the Week' at TTU

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

COOKEVILLE — Tennessee Tech sophomore pitcher Jaxson Pease, staff ace on the 2022 Division I Class 4A state champion Farragut Admirals, was recognized as Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week for the first time in his career, as announced by the league Monday afternoon, April 22.

"Pease was a game-changer for the Golden Eagles twice during the week, tossing 9.2 innings while securing a save and a win with 10 strikeouts and no walks," stated Mike Lehman of TTU Sports Information.

"He opened the week with a spotless frame in Tech's win at Middle Tennessee (State), striking out two batters to pick up his third save of the year," Lehman added. "The sophomore followed it up with a career-high 8.2 innings of work in just his second career start, facing Southeast Missouri in the rubber game of this huge OVC series."

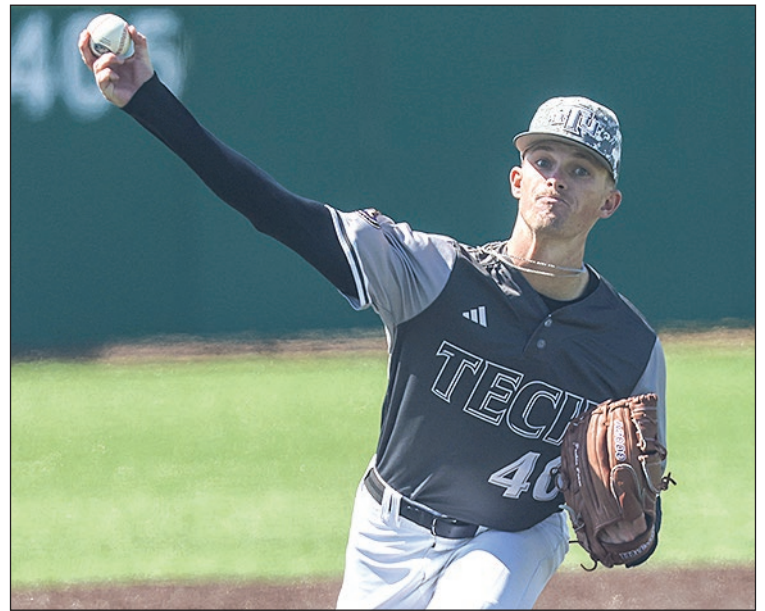
"He allowed just two earned runs in the contest, fanning a career-high eight batters while scattering six hits and holding one of the league's best offenses in check. He held batters to a .176 average and 0.62 WHIP for the week."

Pease will be remembered, among many stellar performances as an Admiral, for his gutsy complete game pitching gem in the 2022 Division I-4A state title game against West Tennessee power Houston at Murfreesboro Oakland High School — his final performance as an Admirals senior — holding the Mustangs to one run in a 4-1 Farragut victory.

The 2022 Admirals staff ace induced a game-ending grounder-turned-double play with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Photo courtesy of Jim Dillon

Jaxson Pease, Farragut Class of 2022 and Tennessee Tech sophomore pitcher, fires plateward.



Elsa out — still 3-0 for Lady Ads

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Though missing what many say is the best high school softball player in the state for its last three games of the regular season (junior shortstop Elsa Morrison), Farragut nonetheless won all three heading into this week's District 4-4A Tournament at FHS's Bellamy Field (see bracket on page 2B).

"But on the flip side, we've won three games without her in the lineup," FHS head coach Nick Green said.

Farragut (21-9) ended the regular season with a 3-0 home win versus Lakeway Christian Academy (five-inning game) in a rain-shortened Region II Challenge Saturday, April 29, while ending as No. 3 in 4-4A.

Winning pitcher Emma MacTavish went the distance, allowing no runs, two hits and no walks with 11 strikeouts. Hailey Nichols had two hits and one RBI, while catcher Rylee Raby added a pair of hits. Amelia Dorset singled.



Alan Sloan

Eli Evans, Farragut senior third baseman/first baseman, connects for a two-RBI double versus Baylor in the third inning at FHS Saturday, April 27. Evans also smacked a two-run home to lead the Ads past the Division II-AA power Red Raiders 5-1.

Evans fuels FHS win vs. Div. II-AA power Baylor 5-1

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

On a high school baseball team loaded with talent — especially its seniors — Eli Evans has been the most productive bat in the Farragut line-up, so says the stats, helping the Admirals post a 29-5 regular season finish while perfect against in-state competition.

Evans, a senior first baseman/third base ball who is the team's clean-up (No. 4) hitter, leads Farragut in five offensive categories entering District 4-4A Tournament action this week (see schedule on Page 2B): batting average (.443), home runs (eight-tied), RBI (43), walks (35) and on-base percentage (.591).

Fortifying those numbers Saturday in a battle of the top-ranked public school in Tennessee (FHS) and the highest ranking private school in the Volunteer State (Chattanooga Baylor), Evans provided four of the Admirals' five RBI in a 5-1 home victory in The Ballpark at Farragut/John Heatherly Field Saturday afternoon, April 27.

"I trust my teammates to get on before me, and they trust me," said Evans, whose two-out, two-RBI double to deep right field broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the third. "I try and do whatever I can just to help us win."

With the Ads clinging to a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the sixth, Evans smacked a two-run homer over the left field fence to make it 4-1 Farragut. He also singled in the second inning.

"He's been locked in here recently; he's a special player," Ads

See FARRAGUT-BAYLOR on Page 2B

State tournament quarterfinal showdown for 11-3 Farragut girls lacrosse

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Tuning up in a big way for its state tournament quarterfinal match at home against Ravenwood Friday, May 3, Farragut girls lacrosse dominated Kingport Dobyns-Bennett at FHS Thursday, April 25, building an 11-0 halftime lead before winning in a breeze 15-3.

Finishing the regular season with an 11-3 overall record, the Lady Admirals were led offensively by junior Greer Butler with four goals, followed by seniors Berylnn Elliott and Seneca Hill with three each. Senior Mackenna Hill and sophomore Sirilla Cretton-Gilbert scored two apiece, with sophomore Jane Davanzo netting one goal.

"I'm very proud of this team. This has probably been one of the best teams overall that we've had," FHS head coach Pam Hill said. "They're an excellent group of girls, and they all really work well as a team."

Seneca Hill was among four FHS girls with one assists, joining Taryn Jackson, Maddy Andrews and Maisie Hagen.

"Honestly, these girls are not selfish. If somebody scores, they're happy for that

person," Hill added about her team. "There's no 'me, me' on the team."

As for opening face-off time against Ravenwood, "I'm probably going to try to schedule it at 6 or 6:30 (p.m.)," Hill said.





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Senior Night excitement for Prichard's Bulldogs vs. McMinn

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

BEARDEN — A string of free passes, key errors, a misjudged fly ball and bad base running all came into play as Bearden High School baseball celebrated its Senior Night at Phil Garner Ballpark Monday, April 29, versus McMinn County.

In the end it was a 1-run Bulldogs loss. Four walks and two hit batters by BHS pitching in the top of the fourth inning allowed the visitors to increase a 4-3 lead to 7-3 without putting a ball in play that didn't result in an out.

However, the Cherokees proved generous in the

bottom of the fifth, as a pair of two-out infield errors and a misjudged fly ball in center field — along with singles by seniors Brody Benko and Riley Mahan and sophomore Gavin Bergeron — allowed Bearden (21-12) to tie the score 7-7.

McMinn strung together a double and three singles in the top of the sixth inning to score the go-ahead run — a base running mistake combined with a strong throw from senior right fielder Mahan to senior catcher Brooks Wright to nail a Cherokee at home plate limited the damage.

However, that was enough for the Black and Gold visitors (17-12), winning 8-7.

"We struggled offensively the last week-and-a-half,

so it's good to see us come back and put seven runs on the board," said BHS head coach Dave Prichard, whose team is No. 2 seed in the District 4-4A Tournament starting this week (see below).

However, "Too many mistakes to get a win, especially on the mound," he added.

McMinn lefty reliever Ty Barnett, a Cincinnati Bearcats signee, closed down the Bulldogs in order in the seventh, striking out the side. "I think he's at about 90-plus strikeouts through about 48 innings or so," McMinn head coach Matt Ray said.

Other BHS top hitters were Matt Schroeffel (double and single), Cameron Cooper (two singles) and singles from seniors Rhys Thomas and Jonah Kohring.

Farragut-Baylor

From page 1B

skipper Matt Buckner said.

Charlie Bozeman, Farragut senior left fielder, added a solo home run in the sixth (tying Evans with a team co-leading eight). "He's had a phenomenal year," Buckner said. "I'm really proud of him."

Farragut senior starter Cade O'Leary pitched the first three innings while recording eight strikeouts with no runs or walks and one hit allowed.

The key? "Just attacking with the fastball and then working the off-speed off of it," he said.

Other big bats Saturday were seniors Lukas Buckner (two singles), Jake Merrick (double, two runs scored), Landis Davila (single) and Brennon Seigler (single).

Ads senior relievers Ryan Wallace, Braylon Hall and Braxton Lewis combined to allow one earned run, three hits and two walks with seven strikeouts in four innings.

District 4-4A Baseball Tournament Schedule

Wednesday, May 1: GAME 1- No. 5 seed West at No. 4 HVA, 6:30 p.m. GAME 2- No. 6 seed W-Blount at No. 3 Maryville, 6 p.m.

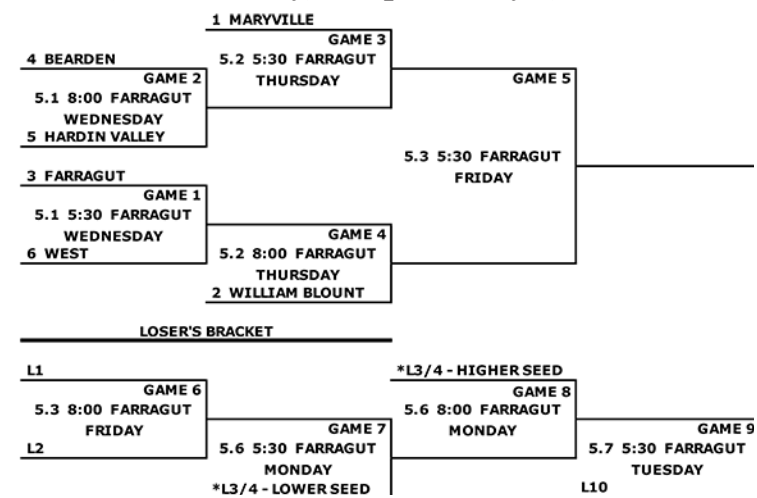
Thursday, May 2: GAME 3- Winner of Game 1 at No. 1 seed Farragut, 4:30 p.m. GAME 4- Winner of Game 2 at No. 2 seed Bearden, 6:30 p.m. GAME 5- Loser of Game 1 vs loser of Game 2 (at FHS), 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3 (both games at Farragut): GAME 6- Winner of Game 3 vs winner of Game 4, 4:30 p.m. GAME 7- Winner of Game 5 vs lowest seeded loser from Games 3 and 4, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 4 (both games at Farragut): GAME 8- Winner of Game 7 vs highest seeded loser from Games 3 and 4, 10 a.m. GAME 9- Winner of Game 8 vs loser of Game 6, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, May 6 (both games at Farragut): GAME 10- Winner of Game 6 vs Winner of Game 9, 4:30 (district championship). GAME 11- (If necessary) Winner of Game 10 vs loser of Game 10, 7 p.m.. (All-District and Superlative honorees will be recognized immediately after Game 10)

4-4A Softball Bracket: title game 8 p.m., May 7, at FHS; if necessary, 5:30 p.m., May 8, at FHS



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Three of Choi's FMS students get worldwide pub

Works by students from Russia, Honduras, South Korea published by famed international author

ROSARIA CARLSON
Correspondent

Three students from Farragut Middle School and their teacher, Elizabeth Choi, have been featured in the latest textbook by Andrea Honigsfeld, an esteemed contributor to the field of multilingual education recognized worldwide.

The book, "Growing Language and Literacy; Strategies for Secondary Multilingual Learners," includes examples from 60 educators around the world and is published globally.

In her books, Honigsfeld focuses on current teaching strategies with an emphasis on what actually works in practice. "She knows that the good work is happening inside the four walls of the classroom," Choi said when asked what she likes about the author's work. "She wants to see what teachers are doing. She wants to see what's really working, not just a theory."

To that end, when gathering examples for her latest text, Honigsfeld sourced work done by students in the classroom from educators across the globe. Of the submissions sent in to her, six from Farragut Middle School were chosen to be published: four from

the students in Choi's English Language Development class and two from Choi. According to Choi, Honigsfeld's books help her to see into other classrooms and share strategies and insights with fellow educators.

When asked how they felt about having their work published, the students expressed pride toward both themselves and their teacher. Dahyun Ahn, an eighth-grader from South Korea, said, "I'm glad that my work was recognized ... I'm also proud of Mrs. Choi and myself."

Maria Romanova, a seventh-grader from Russia, expressed a similar sentiment of pride for her teacher. "I'm really proud of Mrs. Choi for helping me learn English ... because when I came here, I couldn't speak any English, and I couldn't understand anyone," Maria said. "I think she helped me a lot."

"I think the cool thing about this is that the students didn't create these for the book. This is their everyday, high quality work," Choi said. "I think it's very affirming that the good work they do every day ... was worthy of being recognized and shown as exemplary work in the field of multilingual education."

Allan Dubon Lopez, an

eighth-grader from Honduras, had a little bit more to add. "I feel a sense of pride. For me, her class is pretty hard, because we have to learn words (of which) we don't know the definition," he said.

Choi went on to explain that the students in the English Language Development program have to learn not only English listening, reading, speaking, writing and vocabulary, but also the language of science, social studies, math and language arts.

"So really, they are doing the most work in the school because they're carrying that double load," the teacher said.

Brimming with pride, she went on to add the students are intrinsically motivated to put forth their best effort because they know that if they do their best, they will get the best results. In reference to their recent publication, she said, "This is proof of that."

The understanding and mastery of the language these three students already show is both impressive and a testament to Choi's passion for teaching.

While Dahyun began learning English in the third grade, she only moved to the United States two years ago and feels that since starting the English



Photo submitted

Farragut Middle School students with Elizabeth Choi, their English Language Development class teacher, represent three nations. From left are Maria Romanova, a seventh-grader from Russia; Allan Dubon Lopez, an eighth-grader from Honduras; and Dahyun Ahn, an eighth-grader from South Korea.

Language Development program at FMS, the learning process has sped up significantly. Before moving to the United States, neither Dahyun, Allan (six years ago) nor Maria (a year-and-a-half ago) spoke the language at all.

All three students expressed feelings of positivity toward Choi's class, both about the content they are learning and the way that it is presented to them. The students learn through a variety of meth-

ods, including games aimed at strengthening what they've learned.

The students also emphasize how much they enjoy learning about different cultures around the world.

They aren't the only ones learning from this experience, however.

When asked what she enjoys most about teaching English Language Development,

See **WORLDWIDE** on Page 6B

School of Rock Concert, sponsored by RCF May 4, to benefit Ridgedale

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Rotary Club of Farragut welcomes the community to a spring concert fundraiser featuring School of Rock Knoxville from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 4, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

The event, which benefits Knox County's Ridgedale Alternative School, also will feature Smith's Endzone BBQ and West Knoxville's Smiley Swirl food trucks and beverages offered by Water Into Wine bistro & lounge. A general admission ticket is \$25 at the door.

"We really are excited about our partnership (with RCF)," Ridgedale principal Rebecca Bitner said. "I can't say enough about the quality of your members."

Rotary Club of Farragut, which has adopted Ridgedale School as a Partner in Education School, learned more about the school during a re-

cent Wednesday club meeting in Farragut Community Center.

Ridgedale serves students who have had from 10 to 180 days' school suspension with "an intensive learning environment," its principal said. Also, the staff has trauma infrared training to help students with such risk factors as abuse, neglect, household deficiencies or family mental illness, domestic violence or divorce.

Since Ridgedale, located at 4600 Ridgedale Road off Western Ave., is not considered a "base school," Bitner said the school does not receive the same funding or budget as other Knox County schools.

Club members followed the RCF meeting by observing World Rotary Day Saturday, March 23, when about 70 members worked at the school to help improve school grounds.

Members painted lockers and doors, built an outdoor classroom sitting area, re-

freshed the front entrance and pressure washed both levels of the building.

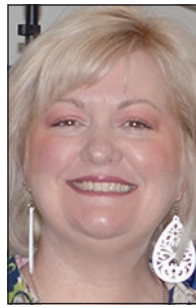
"We are excited about our partnership," Bitner said during the RCF meeting.

She said the classes they offer, such as culinary or sewing, are all funded from donations. Additionally, the school does not have a Parent Teacher Organization to raise money to support the school.

"Ridgedale is the only school in Knox County that teaches both alternative education and special education and serves students from 52 elementary schools, 17 middle schools and 17 high schools," Bitner said.

"We try to be a support in our students' lives," she added. "We try to build choices to build control over their lives."

See **CONCERT** on Page 6B



Bitner

AMBC-led volunteers to complete 6 new multi-use trails at May 4 'Mega Work Party,' all are invited

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Appalachian Mountain Bike Club is hosting its annual "Mega Work Party at the Concord ballfield property off NorthShore Drive," 11719 S, Northshore Drive just across from The Cove at Concord Park, from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 4, an AMBC press release stated. "The event, which expects over 125 volunteers, will be completing six new multi-use trails, which were funded in partnership with the Knox County Parks and Recreation."

"This year's work party will put the finishing touches on an area master plan developed by AMBC and built by some of the best trail designers in the country," AMBC executive director Matthew Kellogg said. "Anyone who wants to roll up his or her sleeves and help is welcome. Projects include

helping build ride features, setting signs and managing invasive plants. All tools and expertise are provided and lunch is sponsored by Harpers Bike Shop and Creature Comforts. Participants should come with water, gloves and sturdy footwear."

"I know for every dollar we invest with AMBC the results returned to the community are tenfold," said Larsen Jay, Knox County Commissioner At Large Seat 10 rep. "... It was clear we had a lot of opportunities to improve this important and busy corridor."

"With the completion of this last phase, Knox County will connect over 20,000 residents' frequent use of the green space. Expect the popularity to grow," he added.

Park, AMBC facts

- Concord park features

See **MEGA WORK** on Page 6B



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• **Annual Farragut High School “Old Timers” Reunion, which traditionally welcomes alumni who graduated from, or at least went to school at, the former FHS location** near the corner of Concord Road and Kingston Pike, begins at 8 a.m. and runs until noon, Saturday, May 4, in the Fellowship Hall of Virtue Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 725 Virtue Road. Cost is \$5 at the door.

All attendees must be FHS graduates or be identified with a given class, along with their immediate family members. Although the event focuses on those having attended at the Concord Road location, also welcome are members from the Class of 1980 forward who never attended at the former location. Event organizers especially welcome FHS graduates whose mother and/or father, or grandmother and/or grandfather, attended at the Concord Road location.

• **MEDIC has teamed up**

with Soaky Mountain Waterpark in Sevierville, which opens Saturday, May 11, to provide donors with one admission ticket, for a successful donation, to this amusement attraction. This promotion will run through Friday, May 10, or while supplies last, at all locations, including the 11000 Kingston Pike location in Farragut.

“Additionally, platelet donors receive a \$25 e-gift card and are automatically part of the platelet recognition punch card program anytime they donate,” a MEDIC press release stated.

Appointments can be made online at www.medicblood.org, via the MEDIC app or by calling 865-524-3074.

• **Amadeus Chamber Ensemble continues its unique, free-admission concert series with ¡FIESTA ESPAÑOLA!** at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 711 S. Northshore Drive in Knoxville, beginning at 5:30

p.m., Sunday, May 26.

“The festive one-hour program under the baton of Maestro Brian Salesky features soprano Maria Brea and is devoted to beloved favorites and intriguing rarities by Spanish composers Falla, Obradors, Torroba, Turina and Chapí, along with riveting zarzuela arias,” an ACE press release stated. “Concertmaster Miroslav Hristov will be spotlighted in the bravura ‘A Night in Seville’ by Albéniz.”

Free parking surrounds the Cathedral. Complimentary required online reservations are available at www.shcathedral.org. Further information is available at bachdouble56@gmail.com.

• **Jubilee Community Arts presents Missy Raines and Allegheny at Laurel Theater**, 1538 Laurel Ave. in Knoxville, beginning at 8 p.m., Friday, May 3.

GRAMMY-nominated Missy Raines was named 2021 International Bluegrass Music As-

sociation Bass Player of the Year, for the 10th time, more than any other bass player in the history of the organization. “Missy Raines has proven herself without doubt as an iconic bluegrass instrumentalist,” a Laurel Theater press release stated.

With the success of her latest release, Royal Traveller, Raines has stepped into the spotlight as a songwriter and singer as well.

Royal Traveller was nomi-

nated for a GRAMMY in 2020.

Currently, Missy is touring with her own band, Missy Raines & Allegheny, a bluegrass ensemble featuring banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and bass.

Tickets are available at TicketLeap (jubilee-community-arts.ticketleap.com), by mail or at the door 30 minutes prior to show: \$20 at the door, \$15 general audience advance and \$14 JCA members, students and seniors age 65-plus.

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Katy's Hallmark

Charlie and Sherilyn Tallent have been retailers since 1994 and acquired ownership of Katy's Farragut in 2023. They also own stores in Nashville and Brentwood, TN. As an Oak Ridge native, and UT grad, Charlie finally feels like he has come home. At Katy's, we are in the rewarding business of helping people create unique moments and we strive for excellence to make them especially memorable. Our goal is to serve our community with care and integrity and to nurture lifelong customers as well.

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Concert
From page 3B

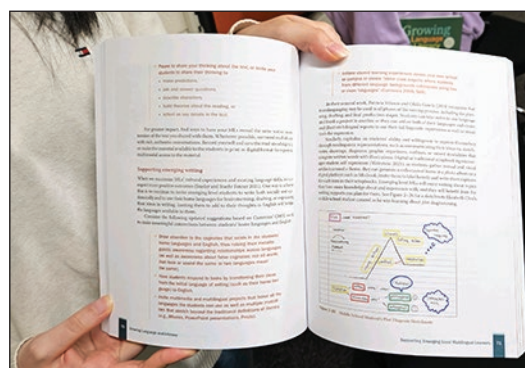
Bitner said many of its students would rather stay at Ridgedale than return to their base school, which currently is not an option. As such, she said some students who return to their base school will get in trouble solely because they can return to Ridgedale. "We believe most of the students want to stay because of the support system and because it's a smaller school," she said.

Mega Work
From page 3B

25 multi-use trails and one dedicated Mountain Bike trail, totaling more than 16 miles with five trailheads and greenway access in addition to other Knox County Parks amenities. • All the trails at Concord Park are maintained by AMBC volunteers and staff. • All trail issues, such as down trees, can be sent to trails@AMBCknox.org

Worldwide
From page 3B

Choi said she enjoys learning from her students because "they are always expanding my ideas. They're giving me new experiences by telling me their experiences." She also found it rewarding and "very impressive" to watch how quickly they grow. The students in this program are around 12 to 14 years old and already learning a second, or even third, language — in some cases more than many



The work of FMS eighth-grader Dahyun Ahn in Andrea Honigsfeld's worldwide book "Growing Language and Literacy; Strategies for Secondary Multilingual Learners."

of the adults in their lives and even many of their teachers. The English Language Development program sees stu-

dents from 18 countries speaking 13 languages. There are 33 languages spoken at FMS, representing 28 countries.

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