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THE DAILY TIMES

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Vehicle drives into Panera Bread in Alcoa

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Alcoa Police Department officials have released new information about the crash through the Panera Bread location in Alcoa on Saturday.

According to a media release posted to social media, officers responded to reports that a black Subaru Outback had driven through the front of the restaurant. Neither the driver nor passenger were reportedly

injured.

Early reports indicated two individuals may have sustained minor injuries, however APD Chief Carswell has since confirmed no injuries were reported for treatment onsite.

The Alcoa Panera Bread will remain closed for the rest of Saturday as electric services have been shut off to allow for repairs.

For updates on repair status, please visit the Panera Bread website. Questions about the accident should

be directed to the APD at 865-981-4111.

Early Saturday afternoon, a black SUV-type vehicle reportedly drove through the front windows and door and part of the inner tiled wall of the sandwich chain. A stone pillar supporting the Panera Bread sign was also damaged.

Police have cordoned off the sidewalk area surrounding the storefront. Pedestrians and thru-traffic should be cautious of broken glass and metal which may have splintered off from the crash.



SHANON ADAME | THE DAILY TIMES

The front facade of the Panera Bread on Louisville Road in Alcoa is taped off after a vehicle crashed into the building Saturday afternoon.

‘Now, here we are’



REBECCA RANEY | THE DAILY TIMES

Spanning more than 300-acres in Rockford is the Harris Farm. Once a family-run operation, the farmhouse now serves as the Foothills Land Conservancy headquarters.

Foothills Land Conservancy celebrates 40 years

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Spanning more than 300-acres in quiet Rockford is the Harris Farm. Once a family-run operation, the farmhouse now serves as the headquarters for a local conservationist nonprofit which celebrated a momentous milestone on Saturday.

Foothills Land Conservancy hosted its 40th anniversary with an open-house celebration, inviting guests to tour the Harris Farm property, view the farm’s rows of beautiful sunflowers and meet other Tennesseans committed to conserving the natural beauty and integrity

of the region’s diverse ecology.

“It is so good to see all of you out here today, all our current and, well, I don’t want to say old so I’ll say former board members,” said FLC Executive Director Bill Clabough. “That’s what today is all about, bringing the old and the new together. It’s a smaller celebration than we hold in the spring, but we’ve got a lot to be glad for.”

From the more than 500 conservation easements FLC has helped get established to date, to the announcement of the new partnership between the organization and the Maryville City Council for the creation of a 23-acre park off U.S.

Highway 321 and Gateway Road named in honor of one of the FLC’s longest-serving board members and prolific conservationist, Billy Minser, truly, the conservancy has blossomed from its origins as a local resistance effort.

“This was my husband’s farm, but it didn’t really start with us. It started with a group that was trying to stall Smokey World,” said Gail Harris, former FLC president and board member. “That translated into another organization called Alternatives for Blount County, which went on for about 10 years

See FLC, 4A

McGhee Tyson evaluating an alternative for garage pilings

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Smaller holes may keep the airport from falling to a financial hole.

Designers and staff promised the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Board of Commissioners an update on the new parking garage’s foundation pilings during a report on the project in July. It delivered the update Wednesday during MKAA’s August meeting.

The issue that construction crews have encountered is common to East Tennessee and Blount County when working at depth underground. The subsurface has vertical rock formations and also voids above the bedrock layer the foundation pilings need to reach. The vertical rock is difficult to drill, costing time, which costs money, but that additional time for an open drill hole also creates additional opportunities for the lighter material that’s exposed to shift. That kind of shifting within the existing voids contributed to the formation of a sinkhole that briefly closed an airport access road earlier this summer.

Bryan White, vice president of Planning & Development, updated the board on a possible solution that will be tested and evaluated over the next month in hopes that it may prove successful and provide a recommendation for its use in the remaining pilings for the new six-story garage.

“They are a micro-pile hybrid foundation system, and we really moved to just calling it a hybrid foundation system,” White told the commissioners. “The foundation timeline, I’d like to lay that out for everyone. The hybrid foundation calculation design package was delivered on Aug. 11. The design team is currently evaluating the package and that is going on now and is underway. Site work testing and validation of the hybrid system is upcoming from Aug. 25 to Sept. 1. The design team evaluation of the site work testing is scheduled for Sept. 8 through 12. A

See GARAGE, 3A

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Tall ships invade
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Sunday comics, puzzles
run in Saturday edition.

Some sun with a
thunderstorm
High 83 | Low 64

