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Farmland to the lab By Brandon L. Jones

T first made Billy Jack ■ Hendrix's acquaintance reporting on the Hardin Vallev Breakfast Club in the last issue of Hardin Valley Living and wanted for this edition since, according to the rest of the club's members, he's considered "the walking history book" — to pay him a visit on his home turf instead of Food City's to see what else of his life he'd care to share.

There at home, and willing, amidst the more rolling, green pastoral acreage off Hardin Valley's tree-lined winding back roads, Hendrix installed himself in his recliner in the corner of his living room, a large set of windows to his right overlooking the front yard of the remaining 25 acres of the once 400 to his family's name, away from the subdivisions and the newer money affiliated with the two lanes that most people associate with today's Hardin Valley.

On July 1, just about a half-mile from here 89 years ago — and about where the old grist mill his family bought around 1925 and operated — was where Hendrix was born. grew, played and worked until having his house here built back around 1965.

"Back then," he said, "everything was farmland." About his grandfather — though it applied to nearly any family back then — he ran cattle, raised his own crops and managed the mill until he passed away in the 1940s.

"Then that left the mill up to dad," Hendrix said, which continued to allow folks from Anderson County and points beyond to ferry and wagon over, bringing their own corn and wheat to grind for meal and store.

His dad, recognizing the innovations on the rise to assist the water-powered operation before he, too, passed, bought a John Deere power unit, Hendrix said, back in '46. "When the creek would get down low in the fall of the year," he remembered, "why, he'd use his extra power to run the wheat mill, the rollers and everything, to make the flour," stock-piling it for folks in 25and 50-pound paper sacks.

As the years ticked on, though, so did the distance between Hendrix and that life on the farm. But it wouldn't ever be too far away.

Drafted at age 22 on April 11, 1958, just under two weeks after getting married on March 29, he entered the Army and headed off to South Carolina, leaving both the state he'd never before left — and his bride — behind.

"There wasn't nothing I could do," Hendrix said. But his bride, Barbara, "a worker if there ever was," he reminisced, split her time between hers and Hendrix's family homes and whiled away her time helping on the farm until her groom could return. She died on Oct. 14, 2010.

Jumping about from his schooling at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland as a fuel and electric repairman — working, he said, "on tanks and all big, heavy equipment that the Army had" — back to Hardin Vally when his grandmother died. Hendrix would be sent over to bounce around Germany.

He returned to get called, after actually getting out of the Army,

See HENDRIX on Page 27





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Let's perform an exercise before getting amongst things.

Take a few deep breaths and place either of your hands in front of your face, as though you've just counted to five, palm side facing you, fingers spread.

Now, take the index finger of your opposing hand and place its middle knuckle, on the pinkie side, at the wrist below your palm. Slowly inhale as you draw your finger up the side of your pinkie finger and gradually exhale as you trace down its other side; then continue up your ring finger, inhaling, and around and down on your exhale.

Following the same breathing pattern, continue tracing your middle and index fingers and thumb on down to the wrist with a final exhaled breath.

Now, snap back to life, refocus your eyes on your surroundings, and you'll hopefully find yourself more present in the moment, as it were.

All of the roughly 30 in attendance during a Hardin Valley Business & Community Alliance meeting performed this exercise at the behest of mental health therapist and life coach Caroline Vogel, guest speaker of the meeting June 19 at Hardin Valley Church of Christ.

Vogel, MS MDiv, according to her web- moment." site, is a "spiritual director, nationally

board certified life coach. Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction teacher and Breath, Body, Mind teacher" with a "great passion for accompanying clients to engage their wholeness so they can move forward in their lives in meaningful and life-giving ways,"... utilizing "meditation, mindfulness and breath with her clients."

An Episcopal priest to boot, born in Knoxville, Vogel loves the area as much as what she does. "I kept leaving and coming back," she said. "It's a great place to raise kids."

While traveling, writing and hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are among her passions, mindfulness, meditation and spiritual guidance, as well as overall well-being, are her core life concerns outside her family.

Coaching patients through the eight-week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction approach, it was created, she said, by Jon Kabat-Zinn, who earned his doctorate degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was frustrated by patients seemingly falling through healthcare's cracks because doctors didn't quite know back then what to make of chronic pain complaints, nor how to relegate such complaints.

The results of his work took hold, and people in the field such as Vogel later began utilizing the technique to really start making headway in terms of helping people begin to relax, realize, focus, shift and maybe just

start to heal.

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Meditationto Mindfulness

Resetting your mind, body, soul with your breath: Vogel

See VOGEL on Page 20





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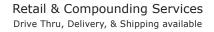
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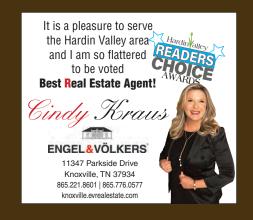
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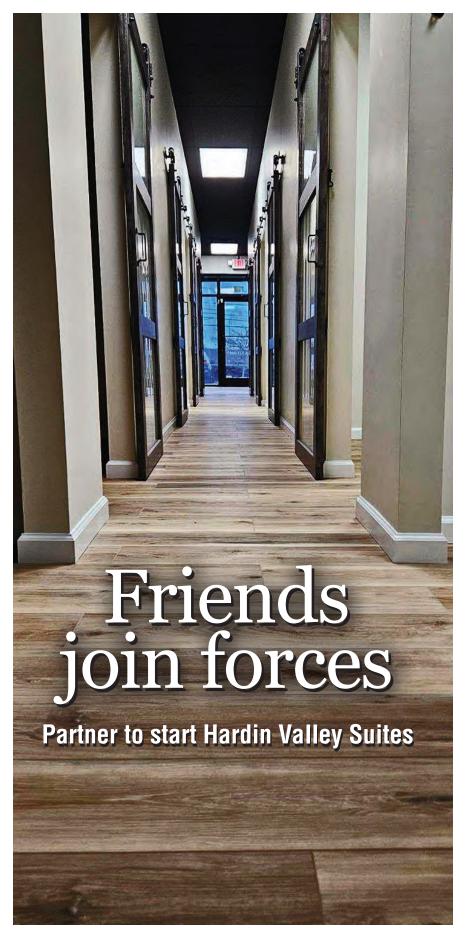


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Two friends, Terry Smiley and Leslie Elmore, partnered up to open Hardin Valley Suites, of which Blink Lash & Beauty Bar is their parent company, at 10612 Hardin Valley Road.

The suites are welcoming aestheticians, as well as facial, waxing and massage businesses.

Smiley explained they are not catering to hair and nail businesses because they already are flanked by hair and nail businesses.

"That wasn't our target anyway," she said. "We wanted to do aesthetician services."

"They can come right in this little strip mall and get beautified any way they want," Elmore said.

"We're ready now (to lease) now that we have our sign up," Smiley added. "Our goal is to ... interview people and get them in."

For Smiley, she recalled getting her lashes done in a salon suite similar to hers and thought, "I could do this.'

"I called Leslie, and she said, 'Yeah, I'd like to do that with you,'" Smiley related. "We looked around at two or three different places, and they weren't right."

But the catalyst came when she was called into the corporate office of her employer, FirstBank.

"I thought I was in trouble." she recalled. "But they said, 'We're very sorry but we're closing seven branches, and your branch is one of them.'

"I went home and my husband said, 'This is your opportunity to do a lash lounge," recalled Smiley, who lives off Cedar Bluff Road. "Well, there's my sign. It's time to Elmore, left, and Terry Smiley go."

16 years, Elmore said she and Smilev met because their children played soccer together in middle and high school.

"I just like anything to do with getting rid of wrinkles or skin care, hair care," said Elmore, who lives in Louisville (Blount County). "I have always loved that since I was a teenager, so I thought (salon suites) could be a successful business."

Her husband, Scott Elmore, a contract attorney at Elmore Stone and Caffey, for whom she works, helped set up the business.

"So, when people come in here and need help setting up their business, he can help," Elmore said.

"We were looking in Maryville, but it was so expensive, and my husband and I drove by here and saw the sign," Smiley said. "It was perfect."

When they found the location in Hardin Valley, they thought, "Hardin Valley's growing like crazy, so we thought this would be a great location," she said.

For more information about the suites, call 865-207-2250.



Long-time friends Leslie have become partners in a Knowing one another for about venture to open Hardin Valley Suites, of which Blink Lash & Beauty Bar is their parent company.



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Chews & Brews



I was scouting the area in search of a pulse, scrounging for anything else I could jot up for this volume of Hardin Valley Living, when, drawing a blank, I busted a U-turn and sought out a watering hole to think.

I wound up at Orange Hat Brewery to have a pint drawn instead, which subsequently proved to be just what the doctor ordered, and found the pulse I was after.

Loosely explaining to the lone server my aim that quiet Wednesday afternoon, I wondered if I could snap some pictures while milling about in thought, curious about the big, shiny fermenters peeking out partially visible from the bar.

A few minutes later, I was able to mosey on back and meander through where the magic happens.

Orange Hat Brewery, the area's only microbrewery, started up four years ago, about 26 days before COVID-19 really started flipping the world upside down, co-owner Rodney Ramin said, who'd shown up at some point while I was talking with the rest of the crew.

"We made it through," he said. "It was just crazy how the community came out and supported us."

Before restrictions lifted, he recalled a particular customer who would drop in to carry out weekly. They initially would ask what kind of beer she likes, and so forth, to help. Ramin recalled her response: "I don't drink beer. I just think you guys are good for Hardin Valley, so I'll buy whatever you guys are selling."

Ramin said that's when it really struck home, thinking, "'Man, these people really want us here." He said what he loves about Hardin Valley is it's "a melting pot of the United States," noting how in his previous neighborhood virtually all his neighbors came from states across the country got along. "And that's what I really love about it. For me, living here, I realized that."

As for OHB starting up in the first place, he and co-owner Brian Hatmaker simply liked beer, but "all the craft beer was downtown," Ramin, a father of two, said.

With the kids younger at the time, he said, "Between a babysitter and an Uber, I was \$150 out of my pocket before I even touched a beer. And I was, like, I'm not the only person like this, and I could see all these single-family homes moving into the area. ..."

And the idea blossomed. Speaking of blossoming, for those curious about the brewery's name, according to OHB's website, it came from a mash-up of Ramin's name for his first batches, Orange Blossom Homebrew, and "Hat" from Hatmaker, and the pair landed on Orange Hat.

"... Because beer is art, it's culinary, it's biology, it's engineering," Ramin explained regarding the creative process of crafting a palatable brew, and, with all these intricacies in mind, he jokingly admits he knows "just enough to be dangerous," so he and Hatmaker have the connoisseurs behind the scenes crafting it all.

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And that's where head brewer Brandon Smith and brewer Nick Moran come in. When I first walked back, I found Moran hard at it but polite enough to allow me to interrupt his work. "I love making a variety of beers that everyone can enjoy," he told me. "I brew beer to share with people."

And with some 20 years of experience between them, "We've brewed a few beers," he said, constantly thinking about what's missing from the menu or keeping an ear peeled for customer recommendations.

"We're thinking two, three, four months ahead," commenting on how they need to craft and perfect, say, a summertime release the winter prior "so we can have beer ready for everybody at that time," he added, "just trying to have that good variety, and the right beer for the right season."

Smith moved to Knoxville to help start OHB. "They hired me," he said, "to kind of build the brewery and help them set it up."

In contrast to a lot of other taprooms he's experienced, Smith enjoys the more "regular" feel at OHB, clientele wise. "We have good locals that we see every week," he said, barely stopping his work, "so that's always cool, people that continue to show up because they appreciate what you're doing."

Orange Hat Brewery was designed to be family-friendly and fun, with a handful of activities and games indoors and outdoors, and welcome to all, be they 5 or 85.

"It was very taboo for us to be putting a brewery in West Knoxville that was family-friendly," Ramin said. "I mean, we joke all the time that we cater to kids and dogs more than we do beer-drinking adults. We really just wanted this place to be an extension of your living room."

Ramin and Smith also opened an OHB along Cherry Street in East Knoxville late last year and recently obtained their wine license, with a red and a white blend now on offer to accompany its plentiful brews on tap.

So, if you're at a loss on any given day and need, as I did, a place to think or just hang out, don't draw a blank, come have a pint drawn instead and experience the pulse of Orange Hat Brewery. Cheers!

~ Brandon L. Jones



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The Valley's future Chick-fil-A



To apply the ingrained Chick-fil-A phrase "my pleasure" to Hardin Valley is something Paul Rosser, who is bringing the chicken behemoth to the Valley as a franchise owner, looks forward to doing upon its opening at 10909 Spring Bluff Way. Rosser, a Knoxville native who's been an operator with the brand for about 15 years, said he is hopeful it will open sometime this fall. Most recently in Lynnwood, Washington, helping to "pioneer the brand in the Pacific Northwest," Rosser said he is "leaving that to come back home" and bring "pleasure" to the Valley.



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Vogel

From page 8

"I don't have one single person in my life, children included, who would not benefit from those kinds of results," she said about reducing anxiety, depression, chronic pain and improving sleep quality.

"Can we move through our everyday lives being more mindful?" she asked, her piercing blue eyes really engaging the audience. "So many of us will go through life, and we're kind of asleep," noting how someone may come or go from the office or grocery store and back home, for example, and hardly remember anything they saw along the way.

"Most of us," she added, "go through most of our daily lives on automatic, without really staying awake to the present moment."

The goal is to determine one's triggers and then learn how to react differently, or more mindfully, in order to come to an inner peacefulness.

"Our own thoughts can break up our own sense of peacefulness," Vogel said. "So when we start to harness our awareness to be present to what makes us reactive, how we feel when we're reactive, (it) can create a game-changing experience.

"Because if we're aware of it, there becomes a moment where we then have a choice before we say something or do something or shut down, and that little moment can make all the difference in the world," she added.

To those experiencing a mental health concern but don't know where to turn, or don't think they need to turn anywhere at all, "I think what's hard about that situation is until people want it, I think it's hard to convince people of it," Vogel said.

Trust in somebody is foremost, she added, noting loved ones are a good source of help.

However, it's often co-workers and friends who can better help pull somebody from the mental dumps, perhaps by welcoming them to participate in a yoga or meditation class, "Because oftentimes, when people start to experience some of the benefits, they often go, 'Oh, I didn't realize I could feel a little bit better, or a lot better," Vogel said. "... They don't actually remember there's a better way to live or that they could feel better."

In other words, as she put it, "Who can they hear to help turn on the lights?"

For the sake of another free lesson, here's one more exercise.

"Just close your eyes, or cast them down," Vogel said to attendees with big, about-to-pop pregnant pauses between instruction. "And just notice how your body's meeting the chair; noticing the support of the back of the chair; noticing how your legs are supported by the cushion underneath them.

"And noticing your feet," she continued, "one or both of them planted firmly on the ground; and drawing attention to your hands; and just for a moment drawing attention to your breath, this life-giving breath that's always moving in and out of our bodies; whether we're paying attention or not, we're breathing. "You may notice that gentle rise and fall of your chest as you breathe; then dropping your attention down into your belly—see if you can notice a slight expansion of the belly as you breathe in, and a deflation of the belly as you breathe out. And when you're ready, you're just going to open your eyes again, let your vision integrate with the rest of your senses and take three slow, deep breathes. ..."

For additional information regarding Vogel and her work, practice and more, visit carolinevogel.com.

~ Brandon L. Jones



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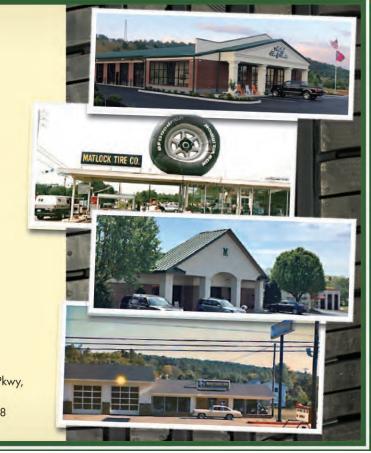
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5 lanes coming to Hardin Valley Road

From Solway Road westward about one mile to Award Winning Way, the "hard" in Hardin Valley Road's daily traffic is on its way to alleviation, with that stretch planned to be turned from three lanes into five.

During a Knox County Commission meeting in May, funding was approved for the 2025 fiscal year to include that section's transformation, along with other proposed roadway improvements.

Work on the project, costing "probably in the neighborhood of ... less than \$2 million," is expected to start next summer, according to Jim Snowden, senior director of Knox County Engineering and Public Works Department. "Usually, when we think of road projects, you think tens of millions of dollars, 8-10 years. This one is less than two-year's time. So it's a very short fuse.

"And that's because much of the roadway, over the course of roughly 12 to 18 months, can still be utilized versus reconstructed," he added.

Further reducing construction disruptions, "The great thing is we're really only touching one side of the road ... very minimal work to get a lot of benefits," Snowden said.

Among those five-lane benefits, "We're going to hopefully take a lot of that merging issue away," Snowden said,

"and allow people to merge in a much longer section of roadway."

Currently the lanes in that stretch are 12 feet wide, similar to Interstate 40/75. A department illustration indicated regular traffic lanes would be reduced to 10 feet, and turn lanes 11 feet.

"Roads such as Kingston Pike, for instance, with slower traffic have narrower lanes," Snowden said. "This project will reduce the width of those lanes to gain the footage to be able to more efficiently, in terms of cost and traffic disruption, add ... lanes to help ease traffic flow and better facilitate merging."

However, "We are still developing (plans)," he added. Sixth District Knox County Commissioner Terry Hill said, "We are finally getting the attention and the improvements that have been so desperately needed."

"We're excited about the project," Snowden concluded, "and think it'll bring a lot of value to that community."

With an estimated 15,000 cars passing through daily, the expectation is this will be the start to what Knox County is planning for the rest of Hardin Valley Road in coming years.





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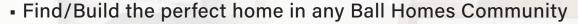
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Renegar

'at bat' as New HVA Principal

As the first baseball head coach at Hardin Valley Academy back during 2008-2009 school year, when HVA was born, Dr. Kirk Renegar recently "sent one over the fence" to become HVA's new principal effective Monday, July 1, likening his administrative start to his first day on the field.

"I'm very, very excited," Renegar said about his promotion. "It's really cool to be able to come back here."

Crediting HVA with his career transformation, "Certainly when I got into teaching and education, administration was not necessarily my focus, but having the opportunity to be here and work ... was probably a career-changing move for me," Renegar said.

Like an academic-minded player on the field, Renegar looks up to the educational world, which bolstered and has enveloped him all these years.

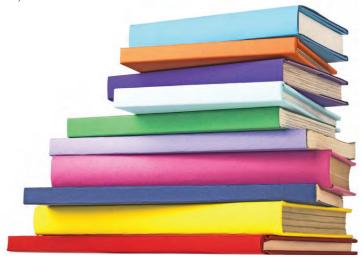
"I've been very fortunate during my career," he recalled, "to be surrounded by great instructors, great teachers, but also great leaders who certainly have had such a profound influence on me and my career."

Academically hopping about the south, Renegar picked up his bachelor's degree in Modern American History from Brevard College in North Carolina and his master's in education from Virginia's Shenandoah University. From Lincoln Memorial University, he acquired his education specialist degree in educational administration and supervision, then snatched up his doctorate in education leadership from Liberty University in Virginia.

With a goal of excellence hitched to his HVA leadership at a high school of about 2,000 students, "You certainly bring your own viewpoints to leadership — but, more than anything else, this first year for me is about learning, immersing myself in the culture, understanding the points of strength at Hardin Valley Academy," Renegar said.

"It's more, 'look, listen and learn."

Renegar and his wife, Rebecca Renegar, have three children: son, Whit, and daughters, Kara and Eilidh.





Dr. Kirk Renegar was promoted to principal of Hardin Valley Academy beginning Monday, July 1, where he started during the 2008-2009 school year as the school's first baseball head coach. He is pictured with wife, Rebecca Renegar, their son, Whit, and daughters Kara and Eilidh.

Photo submitted





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Growth — academically with 865, structurally — anticipated at HVA

Knox County Schools, with its carpet having been rolled out Thursday, Aug. 8, for the 2024-2025 season, has promised parents nothing short of continued excellence.

"I want to say how excited we are to kick off another great year of learning," Knox County Schools superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk said in a letter to parents, championing KSC's highest graduation rate in history and gains made across the board academically in 2023-24.

Moreover, "This year will be the first year that every KCS high school is a part of the 865 Academies," added Rysewyk, beginning his third year as superintendent, about a relatively fresh initiative where the district's freshmen "will spend their first year of high school exploring careers, visiting post-secondary institutions and beginning to imagine what they want their life after graduation to look like."

Hardin Valley Academy, for instance, was previously involved, having toured a number of companies as part of this program, hearing and learning from professionals working in various fields.

As a result, what HVA students study in class is displayed in a real-

world environment for them to experience — at times engaging with those doing what they're hoping one day to do themselves. "As you know, our kids are doing great things all the time," said Dr. Kirk Renegar, the Academy's newly installed principal. "We have stuff going all the time.

"The kids are involved in just an incredible amount of things — so many great things," he added, confident this will be yet another amazing year for the students and faculty alike, along with Hardin Valley Elementary and Hardin Valley Middle schools.

Helping to build upon its growing foundation is a new schedule at HVA. "Every Friday," Renegar said, "we are adjusting our schedule to give our teachers an opportunity to collaborate regarding students, and adding some additional focused instructional time."

And academic growth isn't all. There's a construction project under way at HVA, with the goal to give all Hawks some much-needed wing room in their growing nest in the Valley, ensuring no wings will be clipped as students continue to fly high in the skies of educational success in 2024-25 and many years ahead.

~ Brandon L. Jones

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Hendrix

From page 6

to go back to Maryland to a "top secret school" as part of an explosive ordinance demolition unit around the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962, which turned into nothing much other than a nuclear wakeup call. He was then sent to Yuma, Arizona, to sort ammunition for the government to scrap and sell.

Hendrix had now seen a few places since departing East Tennessee.

But he hadn't (no pun intended) seen anything yet.

After his stints in the Army, Hendrix came back home to help on the farm and got into construction, hauling quarry rock and running bulldozers to help build out roads, working the night shift.

On a night too long, one can guess, he decided to take his dad's brother-in-law up on a prospect in Oak Ridge, where he wound up becoming a technician in the biology division before about a 500-head layoff decapitated his new endeavor.

"But leaving out," he said, "the personnel manager (saw) on my application that I'd worked in a slaughterhouse."

And they called him back to the office after another guy got sick and couldn't stomach what was about to be inquired of Hendrix. They asked, "'So (does) seeing blood and stuff bother you?" he recalled, replying "'no.'

"It don't bother me; I've seen it knee deep," he added.

Hendrix was sent to a doctor at Y-12 who was doing experimental cell culture work with the lenses of cattle eyes, he said, in way of cancer research.

Afterward. Hendrix was sent to the East Tennessee Packing Company, where he was instructed to collect 200 eyes a day for the doctor.

"I'd have me a cooler, packed with ice, have big plastic bags, and I'd put 20 to the bag in there. I just rolled them out," he recalled, careful not to bust them with the boning knife he sort of visually measured out with his hands.

The doctor, though, apparently needed more eves and sent him to Bristol to collect those of veal, and later unborn pigs. "But them little



Photo submitted

Celebrating their church's homecoming, Billy Jack Hendrix with his wife, Barbara Hendrix, pose outside Solway Church of God back in the spring of 2000. Barbara passed away on Oct. 14, 2010.

eyes on them wouldn't be as big as your itty-bitty finger," he said, "and I just had a problem getting them eyes out of an unborn pig."

Difficult or not, Hendrix continued his work for about 18 years before moving on to a variety of sampling work in and around Oak Ridge, around every plant within a 100-mile radius operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Hendrix, the father of two, one of which is a nurse who lives with and helps care for him today, retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratorv in 1996.

"My director of the biology division, he come to me one day- I never will forget it," he recalled through a tear-streaked walk down Memory Lane. "He said, 'Bill, why didn't you go to school, to (a) university, to get a degree in something?' I said, 'I didn't have the money, and my parents didn't have the money, to send me nowhere other than high school."

The director retorted, "You have more knowledge of stuff than half of these doctors that's got a degree. You've been helpful to them and to their work.'

"It ain't nothing but just common sense from what I've been doing, been doing all my life," he added. "I try to do the best I can, and do it right to start with, and continue to do it."

Before affording Hendrix the opportunity to enjoy the rest of his afternoon, he said over the chirping birds outside nearby windows, "I enjoyed every bit of it. It's been a pretty good life. It's one that probably ...," he paused, seemingly flicking through the snapshots of it all in his mental scrapbook, "well, I don't guess there's any other person in the world that would be acceptable to do what I've done."

And with that, Mr. Hendrix, we thank vou.



August-September 2024

Kids' Corner





The winner of the Find the Hawk contest for the April 2024 edition of Hardin Valley Living is

Cameron Sterling

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This hawk has been hidden in this issue of "Hardin Valley Living!" Search through the pages to find the hawk. When you do, fill out this form and mail or bring it to: farragutpress, 11863 Kingston Pike, Farragut, TN 37934

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If correct, you will be entered in a drawing for prizes to be held **September 30, 2024**. Winner to be announced in the next edition of Hardin Valley Living. (Ages 12 and under are eligible.)



Valley's first ADA playground

The children of Hardin Valley soon can expect a new place to play when all the finishing touches are complete at 12734 Hickory Creek Road, where a new playground is under way and nearly ready to be put to its playful test.

"This will be the first all-inclusive, or ADA (Americans with Disabilities-compliant), playground that Hardin Valley has," said Terry Hill, 6th District Knox County Commissioner (represents Hardin Valley). "Growth clearly out-paced infrastructure in the parks and rec, and (the park) very early became a major priority."

Ground was broken last November after Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs was reminded of and shown the already county-owned property by Hill, a tour serving as the "catalyst," she said, for getting the park in motion.

Joe Mack, Knox County Parks and Recreation director, said he hopes the park will be ready and open by the end of this or early next fiscal year, noting there's still much to do regarding adjacent surfacing, a new pavilion, community building, etc.

"The playground will be accessible here in the next weeks," he added, but will have to be closed for further construction to officially complete the playground.

"As the fastest growing area in Knox County year-over-year, the recreational offerings in the Hardin Valley community were minimal," said Kim Frazier, At-Large Seat 11 Knox County Commissioner. "This playground and other recreational enhancements still in the works will provide a place for Hardin Valley families to gather in play and fellowship.

"I'm excited to see the kids enjoy this area and make lasting memories," she added.

~ Brandon L. Jones

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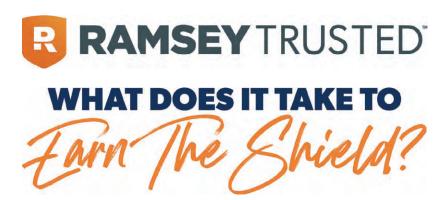
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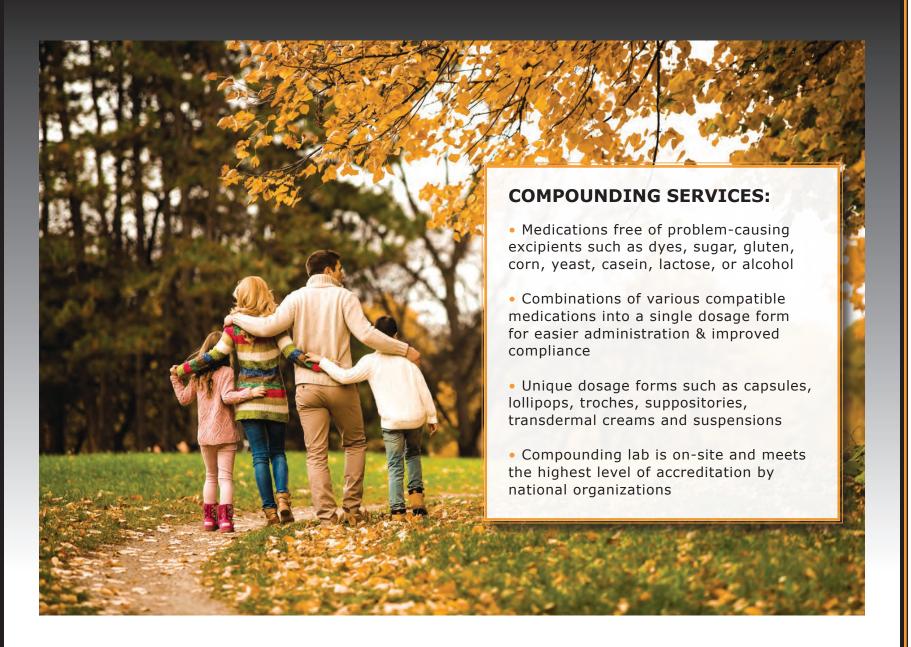
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