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# Hardin valley LIVING

From  
*Silver Creek* to  
**Hardin  
Valley**

**Growing  
Valley Church**  
*soon to have its own home*

*Remembering a*  
**Hardin Valley**  
*Legend*







**Kathryn Kibler, O.D.**  
Optometrist



**Mia Guillory, O.D.**  
Optometrist



**Jake McMillin, M.D.**  
Ophthalmologist/Cornea Specialist

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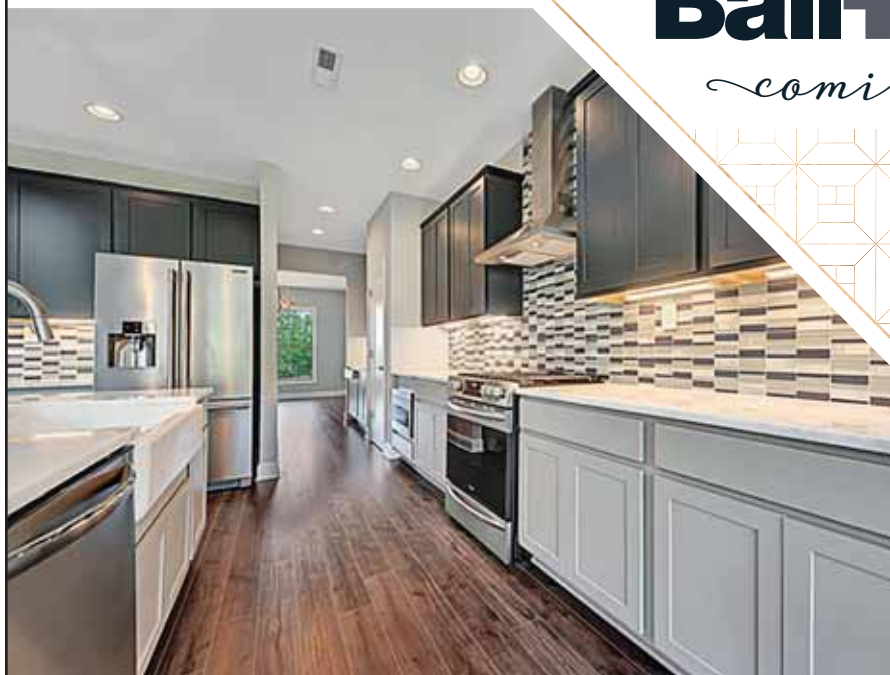
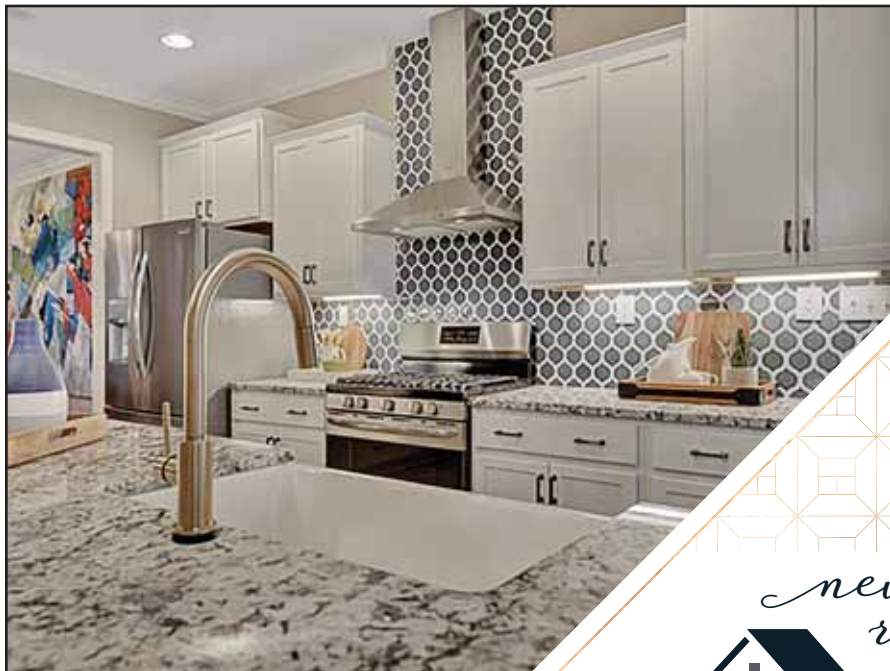
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*A Special Publication of farragutpress*

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# *It's Your Business*

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## *Mission Statement:*

Our Alliance exists to promote businesses, community and fellowship all to stimulate and build the Hardin Valley Community.



## **Hardin Valley Business & Community Alliance**

is a collection of business owners and community influencers dedicated to the mindful growth of the Hardin Valley Community of every month. Stay current on all things Hardin Valley.

Each meeting expect special speakers who share the most current information about our community. local events, new businesses, updates on traffic flow and so much more.



To learn more about the organization and register for meetings VISIT US at [www.hvbca.org](http://www.hvbca.org) or send an email to [info@hvbca.org](mailto:info@hvbca.org).



## From *Silver Creek* to **Hardin Valley**

(Portions of this historical look at Hardin Valley first appeared in farragutpress in the early 2000s, then was updated in a 2012 feature story. Further updates are featured in this story)

The area bound on the south by Beaver Ridge and on the north by Conner Creek was not always called Hardin Valley. To the Native Americans first living there, it was known as Silver Creek.

Hardin Valley Road used to be called Buttermilk Trail before the coming of the Hardin family. Their trail followed the natural spring that dotted the Valley. These springs were the home sites of early families who used their cooling waters to store their milk. Travelers along the trail could water their horses and buy a dip of buttermilk at the same time.

The verdant Silver Creek valley was re-named after Colonel Joseph Hardin, a soldier of the Revolutionary and Indian wars who helped organize the state of Franklin beginning in 1784.

Hardin was born the same year as Daniel Boone — 1734 — near Richmond, Virginia. President George Washington, in 1784, rewarded Hardin for his years of military service with a land grant of 3,000 acres in Middle Tennessee. This land became Hardin County.

### **The first Valley purchase**

In 1795, Hardin bought 2,000 acres along Conner Creek from a land surveyor named Stokely Donelson, who was Andrew Jackson's brother-in-law. Hardin paid 50 cents an acre for the land that would one day bear his name.

At the age of 61, he moved his wife, Jane Gibson (whom he married in 1762), and their children to the Valley. Family records indicate nine households,

**See HISTORY on Page 8**



History still lives, as the bell in the Hardin Valley Elementary tower came from the old Hardin Valley school that was located about two miles west, at the corner of Hardin Valley Road and Marietta Church Road.

**File photo**

## History

*From page 7*

which included Hardin's sisters and brothers-in-law, took up residence in the Valley.

Col. Hardin had 14 children, nine sons and five daughters. Not all of them remained in the Valley. Some moved land grants, and still others kept going until they reached the Pacific Coast.

With the rank of captain, twin sons Joseph Jr. and John served in the Revolutionary War along with their father.

Joseph Hardin continued to acquire land in the Valley and distribute it among the family until his death on July 4, 1801, just six years after he moved to Tennessee. At the time of his passing, Joseph was living on the Roy Gallaher Farm at what is now the corner of Campbell Station Road and Hardin Valley Road.

He is the first man buried in the Mount Pleasant Church Cemetery at the corner of Buttermilk and Everett roads.

As for the second generation, John Hardin's death proved violent, killed by Native Americans at Lookout Mountain.

### Second generation, 19th Century

Joseph Hardin's 11th son, Amos Hardin I, continued the family tradition of acquiring land. Whenever a member of the Hardin clan left the Valley, Amos would purchase their land. The Valley was given the Hardin name during his years of land consolidation. At one time more than 12,000 acres were in the Hardin name.

Serving as a Baptist minister, Amos Hardin I began a new dynasty when he married Mary Gallaher, daughter of James Gallaher. The Gallahers of Pennsylvania were one of the families already living in the area when the Hardins arrived.

The Gallahers, like the Hardins, were a large family. They too owned large portions of land in the Valley.

Amos and Mary would have 10 children. Many of them remained in the Valley, passing the land from generation to generation.

The Steele family also intermarried with the newly arrived Hardin family. Ninian Steele married one of Joseph Hardin's daughters and bought land from Hardin. Neil Steel Brown, great-great granddaughter of Ninian, lived in the Steel homeplace along Hardin Valley Road.

In the 1800s, family farms dominated the Valley. Gradually, the ridges that had been burned clear by the Native Americans to promote the growth of chestnut trees grew back. The land in the Valley was cleared and corn and cotton were raised with the help of slaves. Beef and dairy cattle grazed the rich pastureland.

### Conner Creek Mill

An important part of life in the Valley was the old Mill on Conner Creek. Originally called Conner Mill, the name was changed to Hardin Mill when Amos Hardin I bought an interest in it. When the Thomas G. Hendrix family took over its operation, the name changed once again.

The mill was used for grinding corn and flour. Flour was sold from the mill under the name Cally Lilly Flour. Farmers from Anderson County would cross the Clinch River on the Gallaher Ferry, bringing their wagonloads of grain to be ground at the mill.

When Thomas Hendrix died, the ownership of the mill reverted to the state. Guy Johnson bought the mill from the state and operated it until the flooding of Melton Hill Lake by TVA in the 1960s. The old mill was torn down and the site is now underwater.

### Churches

Organized in 1838, Marietta Cumberland Presbyterian Church was one of the oldest and most influential churches in the Valley. Its 24 charter members included some of the most important names in the valley: Ninian Steele, Sara Hope Hardin, Benjamin Gallaher and Walter Christan.

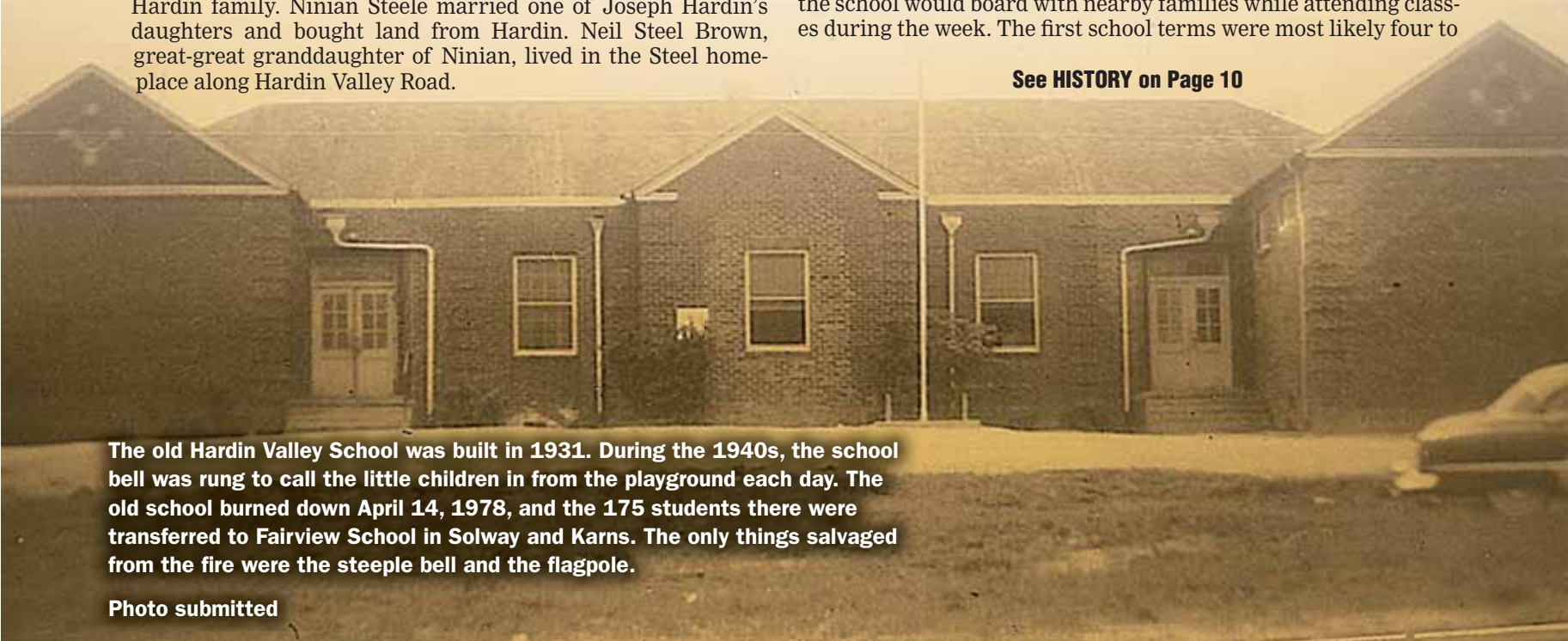
The first church meetings were held in a building located between present day Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and the mouth of Hickory Creek. The site is now underwater.

Services moved to the Steel School after it was built, where they remained until a new church was erected in 1879 along Marietta Church Road.

### First schools

By 1850, the Valley was now settled enough to support a school. Ninian Steele donated land near the family home and a two-room schoolhouse was built. Students as well as teachers living far from the school would board with nearby families while attending classes during the week. The first school terms were most likely four to

**See HISTORY on Page 10**



The old Hardin Valley School was built in 1931. During the 1940s, the school bell was rung to call the little children in from the playground each day. The old school burned down April 14, 1978, and the 175 students there were transferred to Fairview School in Solway and Karns. The only things salvaged from the fire were the steeple bell and the flagpole.

Photo submitted



# Community Outreach

## The Dr. Robert W. Frazier Scholarship

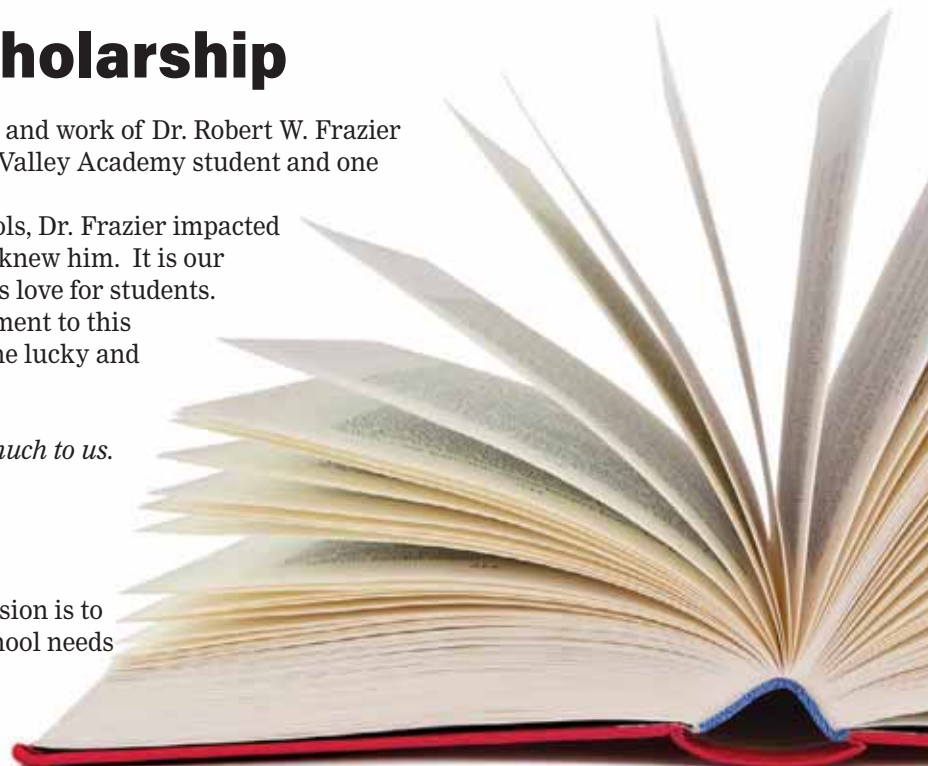
**W**e are humbled and thrilled at this opportunity to honor the life and work of Dr. Robert W. Frazier with a scholarship fund to be awarded annually to one Hardin Valley Academy student and one teacher for their pursuit of continued education.

As a long time educator, leader and mentor within Knox County Schools, Dr. Frazier impacted the lives of so many and left a tremendous impression on everyone who knew him. It is our hope that this scholarship will carry on his passion for education and his love for students. Your gift will support the Hardin Valley Academy Foundation's commitment to this scholarship, and any donation will help better the life and learning of one lucky and deserving student and teacher.

*Thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to us.*

In Service,  
**Russ and Kim Frazier**

More information about Hardin Valley Academy Foundation: Our mission is to support the students and staff at Hardin Valley Academy by funding school needs in infrastructure, professional development, and technology. We directly impact day-to-day school life!



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## History

*From page 8*

five months long.

The one-room Stony Point School also opened around this time. It was located close to Hendrix Mill and the Clinch River.

Students from Anderson County attended Stony Point, ferrying across the Clinch River each morning. School often was recessed to allow the children to cur fodder or pick peas.

Steele School, a two-room school with a fireplace, opened in the Valley in the mid-1800s on what is now the Hardin Farm. Gentry Spring supplied the school with water, which was carried.

Chestnut Grove School, along Yarnell road near Lovell Road, was build about 25 years later on land donated by the Yarnell family.

African-American students attended Clover Mill School along West Coward Mill Road, and Liberty Mill School along Swafford Road near Marietta Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Beaver Creek.

In 1890, David Gallaher donated land along Campbell Station Road for a new, one-room school: Hardin Valley Grammar School. Two rooms were later added when enrollment reached about 40. The school serviced the students of the area for 41 years.

Valley high school students in the early 20th century attended Farragut High School as boarding students, which was required. Cost to board was \$2 from Monday into Friday, and \$3 if staying the whole week.

Three schools — Stony Point, Hardin Valley and Graybeal Hill — were consolidated into Hardin Valley School in 1931. That new school, a seven-room brick building featuring a boiler room, auditorium, steeple bell and cafeteria, was built on four acres of land at the corner of Hardin Valley and Marietta Church roads.

A first-through-eighth-grade school, HVS employed five teachers.

The school burned on April 14, 1978, and never was rebuilt. Students were relocated to Fairview School in Solway and Karns schools.

### **Moonshine, whiskey**

The prohibition of the 1920s and '30s provided a source of income for many residents of the area. Large quantities of moonshine began to move out of Anderson County across Gallaher Ferry.

Hodge Crawford, who ran the ferry during those years, said, "I'd set them boys across with a truckload or wagonload of whiskey, They'd bring it to the side and stash it. Then the bootleggers would come from Knoxville, or maybe Lenoir City, to pick it up."

Whiskey continued to be an important commodity during the Depression. Crawford noted, "People didn't have any work. They didn't have any payday. But there was always a sale for whiskey, so they make whiskey."

*Look for Part 2 of "From Silver Creek to Hardin Valley" in April.*



# Did You KNOW

*Electricity came to the valley in 1936. The late Marjorie Walters, a sixth generation descendent of Joseph Hardin, remembered when Norris Dam was built. A busload of residents was taken to see a model home equipped with electricity by TVA agents.*

*"The people were interested in electricity because of refrigeration, irons and lights. They didn't care about it for cooking or indoor plumbing," she recalled.*

*In the early 1940s Hardin Valley was adopted by TVA as an "area demonstration farming community." Agents helped farmers control their erosion problem. They were encouraged to add lime to the soil, to rotate their crops and to terrace the soil. TVA also offered free fertilizer to anyone growing what were considered conservation crops. Farmers in the Valley used about 85 tons of fertilizer through this program.*



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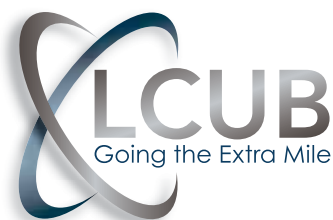
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# Worship

## Growing Valley Church *soon to have its own home*

**Darrell Richardson**  
darrell.richardson87@icloud.com

Just before the international pandemic made its presence known throughout East Tennessee last March, Valley Church was on the move.

### And it's still moving.

John Gargis, who has served as pastor of Valley Church since July 2019, recalled that “before COVID” the church was averaging about 50 parishioners ... thanks to a growth spurt of 26 or so new members.

Most of those new members, Gargis said, “I didn’t know — and now we’re like family.”

He adds, “Who launches a church in a pandemic?”

Concord United Methodist Church “is our host church,” the Valley Church pastor said. “They voted on a Wednesday night to host us or we would not be here.”

“Here” is referencing Hardin Valley Academy. Valley Church hosts a live service at the high school, 11345 Hardin Valley Road, beginning at 5 p.m. each Sunday, and anyone who cannot, or would rather not, attend the service in-person at this point is encouraged to participate every Sunday via the church’s live-streaming Facebook page.

In addition to Gargis, Aaron Tracy serves as worship leader and Kim Ponder is director of Family Ministries.

### New church home

Valley Church is well on its way

toward realizing its long-term vision of a new church home, which will sit on 20 acres recently purchased between Hardin Valley Academy and nearby Interstate 40/75. As a point of reference, the property is located next to King University along Hardin Valley Road.

“We are under way,” Gargis said of the soon-to-be new church home.

“We’re permitting right now. Studio Four is the architect and Creative Structures is the builder; and our church logo was designed by Travis Morin.”

When asked about the structure of Valley Church’s every-Sunday-afternoon service, the pastor said, “Most people would say we’re contemporary, but we have traditional elements — like an acolyte for example — that we love.”

Like the diverse, and growing, community itself that Valley Church serves, Gargis described the church’s multiple missions as a tapestry or mosaic. There are many parts to the whole.

“Our mission focus is on ‘Here, Near and Far,’” he said.

“First, regarding ‘Here,’ Valley Church will support those in the Hardin Valley area (schools, businesses and neighbors), while our ‘Near’ focus has to do with strategically partnering with top non-profits in the Knoxville area (including Operation Backyard, Emerald Youth-Lonsdale and Thrive),”

**See VALLEY CHURCH on Page 21**



John and Becky Gargis welcome members and visitors to Valley Church’s 5 p.m. service Sunday, Jan. 24, at Hardin Valley Academy. For those who choose to not attend in-person, each Sunday service is live-streamed on the Valley Church Facebook page. Visit [valley-church.church](http://valley-church.church) online for more information.

photo by Darrell Richardson



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in every morning to help prepare the daily specials. A delicious menu of breakfast, brunch and American food is featured at this popular cafe. The burgers are outstanding and have earned Nick & J's feature spots on CNN, Fox News, the Food Network and most recently in USA today. Needless to say when asked about his cafe Najwan says, "We Know Food".



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# Community Focus

## Remembering a Hardin Valley Legend

Crystal Huskey  
Contributing Writer

**B**orn and raised in Hardin Valley, the late Virgil “Hack” Hackworth was known as someone who never met a stranger. He was a barber in the community for 61 years, and if he wasn’t taking care of his customers in his shop, he was at their home when they needed him most.

His daughter, Karla Hackworth, said he often visited bedridden friends to cut their hair at no charge and was known to take a load of groceries to families he knew were struggling. He was a longtime member of what’s known locally as the “Hardin Valley Breakfast Club,” a group of folks who met every morning at Food City in Hardin Valley.

“He just loved to be a part of the community,” said Ellie Rogers, another daughter. “He loved to get to know everybody and talk to everybody.”

### A Founding Family

Hack was born in 1942 and lived his entire life within 6 to 10 miles of the barbershop, first called Yarnell’s Barber Shop, which opened in 1951, and later known as Hardin Valley Barber Shop. Karla recalled a story he told of moving into a new house when he was a child, when his dad rented a team of



Around age 20, Virgil “Hack” Hackworth sits in the barber chair that is still at the current barbershop.

See **LEGEND** on Page 18



# 'HACK' MEMORIES



Roger Yarnell, left, and Virgil "Hack" Hackworth. Lifelong friends, both grew up in Hardin Valley and went to Karns High School. They barbered together at the barbershop until Roger retired in 2000. Hack continued to work part-time at the barbershop until three weeks before he passed away.



Four generations of haircuts: from left, Ryan Osborne, Matthew Osborne, Virgil "Hack" Hackworth, Rupert Osborne Sr. and Rupert Osborne Jr.



The original barbershop, which was located at Robinson Crossroads where the gravel parking spaces are now between the soccer field and Hardin Valley Road.



Virgil "Hack" Hackworth, third from left, and his kids, from left, Karla Hackworth, Danny Hackworth, Margie Moore, Ellie Rogers and Darrell Hackworth



## Legend

From page 16

mules to bring a wagon of their belongings into the back of the house.

"He actually wanted to be an undertaker," Karla said. "He rode with the ambulance driver one or two times and decided that wasn't for him. He switched gears and went to barber school and got his license in 1960."

The barbershop was Hack's second home. He continued to barber at the same shop — although it moved physical locations — until the age of 78. They started out at Robinson Crossroads, where the soccer fields are, according to Ellie. When Pellissippi Parkway came through, they moved in front of the school, where it became the Hardin Valley Barber Shop. He was a barber with his lifelong friend, Roger Yarnell, who passed away last year.

### A Local Legend

There's a common thread that runs through the stories Ellie and Karla have heard about their dad in the days since he passed. Hack was a giver, whether that meant passing out Juicy Fruit gum or being there for his customers when they needed him most.

If he heard about someone in need, he reached out to help personally.

He also always was first to know what was going on in Hardin Valley, according to Ellie.

"People said there were three ways of communication in the Valley — telephone, telegram, and teleHack."

The last head of hair Hack cut before he passed away from COVID-19 complications was Virgil Bryant's, who was bedridden at home. Bryant built the barbershop where Hack cut hair.

Hack passed away Dec. 4. Flowers and artwork that was created by children

and more have been left as a memorial at the barber shop. Hardin Valley Academy also lit up its marquis in memory of him.

"One of the very last things he said was that he planned on opening the barber shop back up at the beginning of the year," Karla said. "That one sentence sums up everything you need to know about Hack. Even during the fight of his life he was still thinking about the barber shop and planning on getting back to servicing his friends in the Valley."

Virgil "Hack" Hackworth in front of the existing barbershop, located along Hardin Valley Road in front of the Hardin Valley Academy football field.



### TeleHack Facts

"Hack" attended Smith Grove Baptist Church along Sam Lee Road. He loved to sing and he always invited everyone to the singings the church has every third Saturday of the month.

"Hack" always had Juicy Fruit to pass out for everyone. At the barbershop, he would have coffee and doughnuts for all of the guys to sit and shoot the breeze.

"Hack" had two great friends that he spent most of his free time with, brothers Ray and DJ Sims.

"Hack" always was first to know what was going on in Hardin Valley. People would say there were three ways of communication in the Valley - telephone, telegram and TeleHack.





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## Hard Knox Race for Hardin Valley Schools

Tammy Cheek  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

**H**ard Knox Pizzeria, 10847 Hardin Valley Road and 4437 Kingston Pike in Bearden, is inviting runners and walkers to show their support for Hardin Valley schools while doing what they enjoy most.

The pizzeria is holding Hard Knox Race for Hardin Valley Schools, which involves a virtual 5k run/walk that started Sunday, Jan. 24, and will continue through Sunday, Jan. 31.

As of Tuesday night, Jan. 26, Foust said Hard Knocks had 43 people who registered while emphasizing 100 percent of the proceeds from the \$30 per person entry fee will go to Hardin Valley schools. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/HardKnoxRunfortheSchools>.

When Hard Knox owner Alexa Sponcia got the idea for the run/walk, the pizzeria's kitchen manager, Hannah Foust — who also is Knoxville Track Club race director — helped Sponcia put together the 5k event.

"One of our values at Hard Knox is love of community. ... Sponcia always wants to give back to the community, but the pandemic made that harder to do typical fundraisers," Foust said. "The Hardin Valley community has been really good to us, to support us."

While the aim was to support the schools, Foust said the owner had to come up with a creative way to do that.

"That's where the virtual 5K idea came from," Foust said, explaining people can run the 5k anywhere at any time, at their own pace, during the designated week.

"That way, it's COVID-safe and you can do it on your own," she added. "You have the whole week to do it."

"You don't have to be a runner, you don't have to be super fast. You can just go out and walk a 5k. It's totally on your own. It's just a very good way to raise money and give back to the local community. It's just the challenge of doing a 5k combined with a fundraiser for the Hardin Valley schools."

Those interested still can register through Jan. 31.

"You can sign up (until) 11 p.m., Sunday," Foust said. "You're only in competition with yourself — if you want to beat your time or do the distance. We're not congregating and meeting up like a typical race."

Everyone who registers gets a free pizza, and if the participant comes and shows he/she completed the distance, that person also will get a free beverage. If the person is of age, he or she may get a free can of beer according to Foust.

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## Valley Church

From page 12

Gargis added.

As for “Far,” the pastor said, “Last but not least, Valley Church partners with the Roatan Mission Fellowship and is planning a mission trip to that island off the northern coast of Honduras this summer.”

All of that being said, Gargis perhaps more simply shared that Valley Church wants to “connect” people in Hardin Valley who are disconnected.

“To me,” he added, “it’s about finding wholeness.”

### More about the pastor

Gargis, 62, answered the call into pastoral ministry later in life than many — after a long career in information technology. While in ministry, he has served with Celebrate Recovery, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, Emerald Youth Foundation and Knoxville Leadership Foundation.

Gargis accepted Jesus at the age

of 35, and 15 years later (at the age of 50) he said the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church’s Board of Ordained Ministry wanted him to go to seminary. “I had an associate’s degree,” he recalled.

“I have been in school for 11 years,” Gargis added. “I graduate in May.”

He and his wife, Becky — and their sons, Sam and Matthew — have lived in the Hardin Valley area for many years. Sam and his wife, Emily, now live in Seattle, Washington, and Matthew lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

Gargis said his favorite Bible verse is Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Learn more about Valley Church online at [valleychurch.church](http://valleychurch.church) or e-mail Gargis directly at [john@valleychurch.church](mailto:john@valleychurch.church). The church’s phone number is 865-839-4785.



Aaron Tracy, center, serves as Worship Leader at Valley Church. The church recently purchased 20 acres along Hardin Valley Road for a new facility, which church leaders say is “permitting right now.”

Valley Church members prepare for the Sunday afternoon service Jan. 24. The church’s recent growth and its acquisition of property along Hardin Valley Road is a “longtime dream” come true, said John Gargis, pastor.

All photos by Darrell Richardson

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# Kids' Corner



## Family Baking Sessions

Fun is the focus when families bake together, and the following are some ways to make such sessions enjoyable for everyone.

- **Encourage input.** The designated family baker may have a host of go-to recipes up his or her sleeve, and baking such specialties might be a necessity on birthdays or during the holiday season. But all baking sessions need not be beholden to family favorites. Encourage all family members to recommend recipes prior to family baking sessions, even allowing a different person to choose the recipe each time. This can make the whole family enthusiastic about baking together and may even help families discover some new foods.

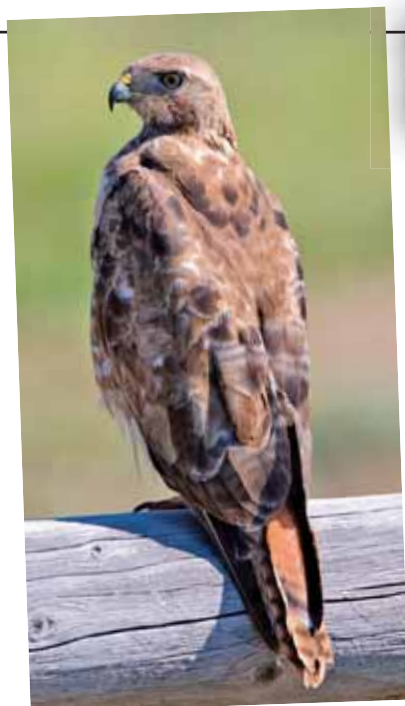
- **Remember that patience is a virtue.** Family baking sessions require patience, especially when young children are involved. Kids' attention spans may wane or they may grow upset if they spill some ingredients. Remain



patient at such times and let kids know making a mess is part of the fun of baking together.

- **Simplify sessions as necessary.** Baking with toddlers and school-aged youngsters is going to be different than doing so alongside preteens and adolescents. In addition, consider kids' maturity levels when

See BAKING on Page 24



## Find the Hawk

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**

*Location of Hawk (page number, description of hiding place):*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

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If correct, you will be entered in a drawing for prizes to be held **February 26**. Winner to be announced in farragutpress, along with prize donors. (Ages 12 and under are eligible.)

## What's the Difference?

A



B

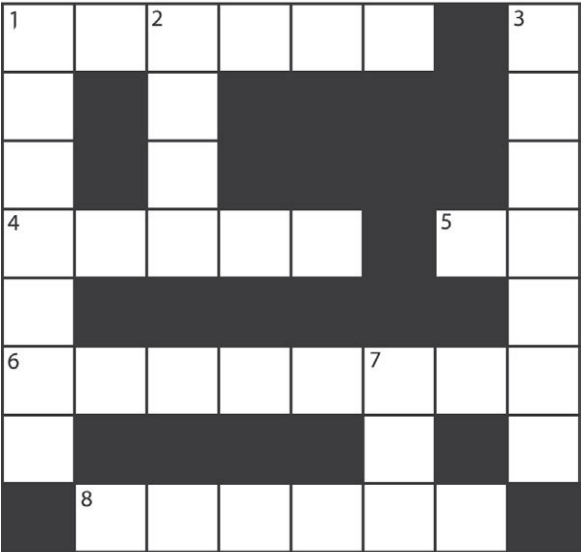


There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

Find Answers on Page 24



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
- 1. Downhill sport
  - 4. Very breezy
  - 5. Scary film and book
  - 6. In the north
  - 8. A bit cold

- DOWN**
- 1. Frozen precipitation
  - 2. Type of metal
  - 3. Blades on ice
  - 7. Snakelike fish

Find Answers on Page 24

# WINTER SPORTS WORD FIND

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

- |           |             |              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| CURLING   | ICE DANCING | SLEDDING     |
| FREESTYLE | LUGE        | SNOWBOARDING |
| HIKING    | SKATING     | SNOWSHOEING  |
| HOCKEY    | SKIING      | TOBOGGAN     |

G I T E Y U P S X G F G  
J N G O M E K Q E N A N  
B U I I B A K L Q I X I  
L Z E E T O Y C P K C C  
Q K K I O T G Q O I U N  
N X N Q S H Z G T H R A  
N G D E T X S C A P L D  
Y R E C Z W W W N N I E  
O R G N I I K S O T N C  
F V E S L E D D I N G I  
J L T Y X O M R Y V S S  
G N I D R A O B W O N S



## ‘Free Bikes by Gemma’ Inspired by 5-year-old’s Christmas request

A little girl and her father are working hard to provide local children in need with bicycles.

Five-year-old Gemma and her dad, Brian, began donating bikes a few weeks before Christmas. So far, the family has given out 36 bikes to children across the community. And Brian said they will continue for as long as possible.

“I’m going to keep giving bikes away as long as we can,” Brian said. “She doesn’t want to stop either.”

Gemma first got the idea for “Free Bikes by Gemma” at the beginning of December, when she asked for a new bike as a Christmas gift. But because she already owned a bike, Brian said he would get her a new one, without training wheels, once she learned how to ride better.

“I told her that there’s some kids out there that don’t have a bicycle and they’re not going to get one for Christmas either, so she should feel lucky to have one,” said Brian, noting Gemma then suggested fixing up old bikes to give away.

By the next day, the two were able to purchase and donate five used bikes through Facebook.

“That’s where it all started,” Brian said. “She just loves that we’re able to give bikes out to kids who don’t have one.”

In the weeks since, Brian said members of the community have been donating bikes to the cause.

“It blew up so quick,” he said, adding that any donated bicycle material, such as hand grips or seats, also are greatly appreciated. “The more I can get, the more bikes I can get out.”

Moving forward, Brian said he hopes to expand the operation with a storefront or warehouse space, as his garage quickly is filling up.

“It’s crazy how big it’s gotten,” he said. “It’s really only because of the community.”

Anyone interested in donating bikes or other supplies should reach out to Brian at [facebook.com/freebikesbygemma](https://www.facebook.com/freebikesbygemma).

By Rachel Totten  
[racheltotten@gmail.com](mailto:racheltotten@gmail.com)





**Baking**  
From page 22

planning family baking sessions, as some youngsters might be more than capable of following more challenging recipes. Making sure kids are given age-appropriate tasks or jobs on par with their maturity levels is a great way to keep sessions fun and prevent frustration.

• **Share the baking bounty.** Let everyone indulge a little during the baking session. If you plan on making cookies, don't hesitate to let everyone snack on a few chocolate chips while preparing the cookies. And once the bounty is done baking and it's ready to eat, share it with family, friends and neighbors. Kids will be proud of their creations and want to share them, and that will ensure they're excited about the next family baking session.

Crossword Puzzle Answers:  
Across: 1. Skiing 4. Windy 5. It 6. Northern 8. Chilly  
Down: 1. Snowing 2. Iron 3. Skating 7. Eel

What's the Difference Answers:  
1. Fortune cookie next to wrist  
2. Missing cookie heart middle at bottom  
3. Cookie middle inside of cookie in middle  
4. Cream instead of jam

**Double Chocolate Chip Cookies**  
Makes about 12 large cookies

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 5 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoons light brown sugar, sifted
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla essence
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons self-rising flour
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup (or more) dark and white (or milk) chocolate chips (or roughly chopped chocolate)
- A heavy, nonstick baking sheet

Preheat the oven to 350 F.  
Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla essence.  
Sift the flour with the cocoa and salt in a small bowl. Fold into the egg mixture with the chocolate chips.  
Place 4 heaping tablespoonsfuls of the mixture on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Press down and spread out to about 1/4-inch thick with the back of a wet spoon or with dampened fingers (you may like to scatter some more chocolate chips over the top). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack. When cool, store in an airtight container. Repeat with the remaining mixture.

~ from Maxine Clark's "Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers" (Ryland, Peters & Small)



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