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Bo Pierce

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Hardin Valley LIVING

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A passion: Pierce becoming Briscoe..... p. 6-11
Bo Pierce discusses 'Mayberry Man' movie role, friendship with UT legend Johnny Majors

Chews and Brews..... p. 12-13

Featuring Food City..... p. 14-16
Valley's 1st supermarket expands; manager Joe Fahy profiled

25 for 25..... p. 18-19
Fitness Together's Andrew Henderson gives tips for a healthier year

Morning Pointe's Alzheimer's Center..... p. 20-24
Expansion coming soon; Tabatha Ellison earns award

New Hardin Valley Townhomes..... p. 26
Steele Landing Townhomes is expected to open in early spring

College Corner..... p. 28
Pellissippi State's winning food drive collection

Hardin Valley Hoops..... p. 30-34
Photos from the basketball seasons of Pellissippi State, Hardin Valley Academy and Hardin Valley Middle School

Kids Corner..... p. 36-37
Find the Hawk contest, Crafty ideas for St. Patrick's Day

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A passion: Pierce becoming Briscoe

Led to 'Mayberry Man' movie role; friends with 'Goober'

While Bo Pierce estimated there are “somewhere over 1,500 clubs world-wide” of the Andy Griffith Rerun Watchers Club, when it came to casting the “Briscoe Darling” role in the “Mayberry Man” movie released in 2021, a certain club member from Hardin Valley won the part among hundreds.

Playing the gruff and stubborn but lovable man from the hills outside of Mayberry in that movie was a personal highlight for Pierce, coming toward the end of his roughly 30 years playing Briscoe as an active member of the Knoxville AGRWC chapter — actually known as the Mayberry Chapter.

While he recently retired that role, and won't be making nearly as many trips as a club member, there are still plenty of memories.

Pierce's club start

While a fan of The Andy Griffith Show as a child dating back to its original airing from the 1960s, Pierce recalled how

he got involved with AGRWC.

“We were actually at a Christmas parade or a Dogwood parade — I can't remember — in downtown (Knoxville); me and my wife (Lavonne Pierce) sitting on a curb,” he said. “I cannot remember what year this was ... but here comes a Mayberry Sheriff's Office cruiser easing up Gay Street.

“I'm like, ‘whoa, because it looked just like the TV show (car),’” Pierce added. “They get next to us ... and I'm just oohing and awing at the car. My wife says, ‘Hey, Doug, how are you doing?’ The guy driving (answers), ‘hey, Lavonne, how are you?’ I said, ‘I know him ... he's a teacher at West Valley Middle School (where Lavonne was a secretary).’

“I said to Lavonne, ‘Well, find out about that club.’ But he had a sign on the bumper that said, ‘Mayberry Chapter’” with other club information.

See **BECOMING BRISCOE** on Page 8



Clockwise: Movie poster for “Mayberry Man.” Bo Pierce's Briscoe Darling character, right, with Dennis Rush (Opie Taylor's friend Howie from The Andy Griffith Show).

George Lindsey, Goober Beasley from the Andy Griffith Show, reacts with joy to a creative Christmas card Bo Pierce gave him that featured Pierce's cartoon art. “You ain't rubbin' my head,” a line from Pierce's Briscoe during a scene in “Mayberry Man.”



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Photos submitted

Above: Bo Pierce, left, and wife, Lavonne Pierce, in front, are pictured with their daughter, Rebecca Pierce Furman; son-in-law, Rudy Furman; and grandchildren, Cruise, back left, and Pierce.

Becoming Briscoe

From page 6

His first role connected with the Mayberry Chapter was as “Regis,” remembered by the show’s fans for his one role as the “Down with the Gold Standard” protester in the episode featuring an armored car going through Mayberry.

“But then two or three people said, ‘You look like you could be Briscoe Darling,’” he added. “I liked that because (the Darling family was) in five episodes. I got a little more material to work with.

“I guess the rest is history.”

Movie role

A retired executive director of Knox County Housing Authority, Pierce, 74, was considered the “official Briscoe” of the AGRWC nationwide before stepping down.

With club heads concerned about the former “official” Briscoe character who was originally cast for “Mayberry Man,” Pierce said he was told, “‘He’s a great guy with his voice; he’s got a real raspy voice, but he has trou-

ble public speaking in our events.’ “And we can’t get him to dress like Briscoe; he wears a cowboy hat and boots with his overalls.”

Pierce then recalled being asked, “‘If he ever steps aside, would you do it?’ I said, ‘I don’t know what is involved, but I’d certainly be interested.’”

A little while later, “He gave it up,” Pierce said. “... That’s why I was in the movie ... went around to all the red carpets.”

Goober-Pierce

AGRWC co-founder Ken Beck from the Nashville area “used to host a party for (the late) George Lindsey (Goober from the Andy Griffith Show) every December on his birthday,” Pierce said, “... It was a selected group, about 40 or so of us would get invited.”

In a “famous little restaurant out on the Natchez Trace (Parkway)” southwest of Nashville, “They would reserve a room for (George), and there’d be about 40 of us guys who were invited to eat lunch with him,” Pierce recalled. “Then we’d go to Jim

Clark’s house (AGRWC co-founder’s home in Nashville) and we’d just let (George) be George and talk about Hee-Haw and the Andy Griffith Show.

“He actually had a ball. Some folks would give him gifts.”

The last birthday before Mr. Lindsey’s death, Pierce presented a unique birthday card.

“I’m not much of an artist, but I can do cartoon-type stuff,” he said. “I found out he played football” at Florence State (what is now the University of North Alabama) in Florence, “and they had some good teams. He played quarterback.

“I found a Florence State yearbook (with) a picture of the mascot; they were the Lions and had a male cheerleader with a lion’s head ... holding up the Florence State banner,” he added. “I drew that — re-created that pretty good on a card — and gave to him.

“I’ve got a picture I really treasure of him opening that card, and he’s sitting there reading it. ... I got my camera ready, and

he points at me and says, ‘Thank you.’ I really treasure that.”

Saying he got to know George well, Pierce added, “I’m so thankful about that.”

Darling family ties

While Denver Pyle (the actual Briscoe Darling in the TV show) died not long after Pierce assumed the Mayberry Club version, “I met three of the Darling (boys), got to know them real well,” Pierce said. “Charlene Darling (Maggie Peterson), the daughter, she was as sweet as she could be; I got to know her real well.”

Final thoughts

About his favorite club experiences as Briscoe, “While doing the parades, or after a show or after premiering the movie or something, just sitting and talking or walking with fans,” he said. “They’re always stopping me for a picture.

“A parade may be a mile-and-a-half long, but I’d end up walking 5 miles back and forth, stopping to pose for pictures.”

By Alan Sloan

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Though never quite a football Vol, Pierce got to know coach Majors; met his wife at UT

A former star football player at Giles County High School before injuries prevented a shot at playing big-time college football for the Tennessee Vols in the late 1960s and early 1970, Hardin Valley's Bo Pierce said he "got to be good friends" with UT legend Johnny Majors.

"He loved to talk about Lynchburg and Moore County, where he grew up," said the former Briscoe Darling character from the Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers Club. "He was famous for football, but in high school he also played basketball. ... He loved to go back and think about those high school days."

Meanwhile, "I was able to fill in some gaps for him" facts-wise, Pierce said.

Pierce himself first came to the Knoxville area "hoping to play football" as a Tennessee Vol, but while still nursing a bad knee, "They wanted me to go to a prep school," he said. "Back in that day, there was Tennessee Military Institute" in Sweetwater. "They wanted to make sure my knee was going to be alright."

However, "I was bullheaded, came on up here anyway, and played on an intramural team, flag football, with a bunch of former UT team scholarship players that (then head coach) Doug Dickey had

Right: Bo Pierce, right, stands alongside his friend, Johnny Majors, former University of Tennessee Football Heisman Trophy runner-up running back (1956) and Vols/Pittsburgh Panthers coaching legend (1976 national championship), in front of Neyland Stadium, where an enlarged player photo of Majors (back middle) is included in a "Ring of Fame" alongside fellow UT greats, including quarterback Peyton Manning.



kicked off or run off. ... We won a campus championship in flag football.

"I looked up one night, and there was Dickey ... on the sideline watching us play," he recalled.

In the classroom, "I was an average student, close to flunking out," he said. "Vietnam was hot. Got in the first draft lottery and got a good, high number and quit and went back home."

Back home working on the family farm, "I eventually changed my major, went to a community college down there in Columbia, Tennessee (Columbia State)," he said. "I changed major and transferred back up here (to UT in 1970) and married about two months later."

His new wife — his wife of more than 50 years, Lavonne Freeman Pierce, a Bearden High School graduate — "helped focus me a little bit more academically. I was making Dean's Lists then: from almost flunking out to Dean's List, imagine that."

"My undergraduate degree was in history; I thought I was going to teach," he added.

Lavonne made a great early impression on her future mother-in-law.

While working on the farm during a holiday break at UT, "Mama (Elizabeth Pierce) came over the hill just grinning like a mule eating briars," Pierce recalled. "She had a bunch of Christmas cards from girls that had met at UT. She looked at me and she said, 'One girl sent two.' That's the one who turned out to be my wife."

The couple's daughter, Rebecca Pierce Furman, and their son-in-law, Rudy Furman, have provided Bo and Lavonne two grandchildren: Cruise, a sophomore at HVA, and Pierce, a fourth-grader at Hardin Valley Elementary School.

By Alan Sloan

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Valley's 1st supermarket bringing 1st Starbucks, much more

Being Hardin Valley's only supermarket since Food City opened along Hardin Valley Road just across from North Campbell Station Road "in 2009," Joe Fahy was there on opening day as manager about 16 years ago.

He returned late last summer to lead the Valley's No. 616 store through another transition period: a roughly 10,000-square foot expansion that began in December.

"We've got a remodel coming up mid-year," Fahy said, with some features expected to be ready "by mid-April, then hopefully they'll be done with the whole thing by mid-July."

"We're actually going to add a Starbucks, we'll have a brand new bakery deli, brand new produce department," he added. "We're shifting the pharmacy over in the corner, then we'll have a walk-up pharmacy as well. So, a very big expansion."

It's no wonder why this expansion is happening. "Hardin Valley has been growing for years," Fahy said, contrasting the current heavy growth with his experience in the area as a Pellissippi State Community College student (1998 graduate).

"When I was coming to school down here, there was nothing, absolutely nothing but farmland," he said. "I think when we opened this store in 2009, there was just a handful of businesses at that point in

time. You had a couple of gas stations."

Upon coming back as 616's first manager, "I ran it for probably about the first two years," Fahy said. "So when they decided to remodel, they asked me to come back here to help with the remodel."

"We've been delighted to see the growth in Hardin Valley over the years, and we're excited to be expanding our store by 10,000 square feet to better serve this growing population," Steven C. Smith, Food City president/CEO, said.

Looking at his workforce, "We're up to 108 right now," Fahy said. "So I'm looking to add probably another 65 on top of that."

As for providing customers with a quality shopping experience, "We've got to understand that people don't always look at shopping like it's a fun task," Fahy said. "A lot of times they put it on their chore list. We've got to do our best to make sure it's a good experience when they come, so they come back because there's a lot of options out in the market these days."

"We've got to do everything we can to make sure that customers have a good experience inside our store," he added about store 616, which currently utilizes roughly 43,000 square feet.

By Alan Sloan

A HISTORY Of SUCCESS In Hardin Valley



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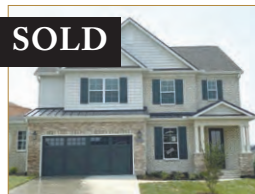
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Back to oversee Hardin Valley Food City's expansion, Fahy passes 30 years of service

If you're with a company for more than 30 years, chances are you've been treated well.

While a former Heritage Mountaineers high school football lineman/defensive end standout, and eventual Class of 1996 graduate, Joe Fahy started off as a bag boy at the Alcoa Food City in 1994.

Having been a store manager for roughly 23 years at Food City, Fahy returned late last summer to Hardin Valley No. 616 store along Hardin Valley Road, across from North Campbell Station Road, to lead a roughly 10,000 square foot expansion (see related story on page 14).

"I went from bagger to a cashier, from a cashier to the computer room, where they did the countdown ... where we process money and do deposits," he said of 30-plus years with Food City. "Then from there to front-end manager. Then from front-end manager to assistant manager.

Fahy, 47, said he first became a Food City manager at age 24, having also managed Food City stores along Chapman Highway, Middlebrook Pike, in Oak Ridge, Lenoir City and Alcoa to name a few.

"I've ran, I think, eight different Food Citys, maybe nine," Fahy said.

"We're very proud of Joe Fahy. He is a contentious people person who believes in taking care of our customers, our associates and our community," Steven C. Smith, Food City president/CEO, said.

"In this business, you're always changing and adapting," Fahy said. "I mean, like (recently), the snow scare. You're always shifting and trying to adapt to take care of the customer."

As for evaluating his strengths as a manager, "I'd like to think it's staffing and taking care of the customer aspect," the manager said. "That's 90 percent of our job, is to keep the store stocked, helping people have a good customer experience when they come in and just keeping a well-stocked store.

"After I finished Pellissippi State (Community College, where he graduated in 1998), my father passed away shortly after that; that's how I got into management," Fahy said. "There's a lot of grocery people that go to school and stuff, and they just stay in the business. It's just what they know.

"It's always been a very secure job to have," he added. "Once my father passed away, I had to make money. I had to pay bills at that point in time, so they put me at my first store (as a manager) off of Chapman Highway" in the early 2000s.

About the joys of the grocery business, "It just grows on you," Fahy said. "When I was going to school, I didn't anticipate being in the grocery business for the rest of my life.

"But it's always been a good company to work for," he added. "They've always taken care of me. I've never worried about a paycheck. That's a lot of relief as you're going through life."

While Fahy and his wife, Sarah Fahy, don't have any children, "We've got three dogs: we've got a mastiff and two French Bulldogs," he said.

The couple live in Karns.

By Alan Sloan



Joe Fahy inside the Hardin Valley Food City store No. 616 he came back to manage late last summer.

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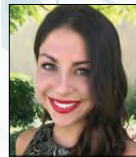
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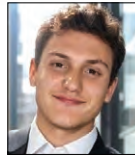
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Rachel Swain
865-307-0363



25 Tips for a Healthier 2025

- 1** Make sleep a priority. Let's face it, if you're chronically tired, then it can be hard to have the energy to do anything else on this list. If you're not getting at least 7 hours a night of quality sleep, then it's time to figure out why and take steps to sleep better.
- 2** Stay hydrated. Our bodies are made of about 60% water, and being dehydrated even slightly can lead to noticeable decreases in both physical and mental performance. Strive to consume at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of your weight in fluid ounces of water or other hydrating fluids.
- 3** More fruits and vegetables. Loaded with vitamins, fiber, and antioxidants, fruits and vegetables should be the backbone of your diet. Strive to eat at least 2 servings with every meal, or 5-6 servings per day.
- 4** Healthy fats in moderation. Fats are essential for good health, hair, skin, and nails. Limit saturated and trans fats, and focus on including healthy fats from foods like avocado, olive oil, salmon, and nuts.
- 5** Emphasize protein. Be sure to include proteins with every meal if possible. Protein helps you feel satiated, and is crucial for building and preserving muscle. Greek yogurt, eggs, lean meats and fish, beans, and lentils are all great sources, and adding in a protein shake can help meet your needs in a bind.
- 6** Skip the diet and change the lifestyle. It's a cliché, but it's true. Most people who lose weight with a diet will eventually gain it back. Instead, look to make small changes to your nutrition and exercise consistently over time until those changes become the new normal.
- 7** Get sunlight! It can be tough this time of year, but regular exposure to sunlight provides the body with Vitamin D, and is also thought to be related to improved mental health and improving sleep by resetting the circadian rhythm.
- 8** Limit screen time. Too much screen time has been linked to increased rates of depression, insomnia, anxiety, and lack of social development. It can also lead to orthopedic issues, including hand, wrist, elbow, and neck pain (tech neck).
- 9** Spend more time with family and friends. The documentary "Blue Zones" on Netflix explores areas of the world with a higher than average number of centenarians. One of the common

threads is that those who live to be over 100 shares is a strong tie to their families and their communities.

10 Set boundaries for your work. In the age of cell phones and the internet, lines between work life and personal life are getting more and more blurred. Be sure to protect your personal time by setting limits on when you will respond to emails, text messages, and other work related tasks.

11 Stay sharp mentally. The brain can be incredibly adaptive, but you need to intentionally challenge it. Spend a few minutes each day doing puzzles, learning a new skill or language, reading, or anything else that encourages your brain to create new synapses. Combined with exercise and nutrition, this can help delay or prevent cognitive weakening common with aging.

12 Build muscle and strength. A strong body is a healthy body, and strength training is a great way to get stronger. Try to strength train 2-3 days per week, and focus on compound exercises like squats, rows, dead lifts, and push-ups.

13 150 minutes of Zone 2 cardio per week. Zone 2 cardio involves training at about 60-70% of your maximum heart rate. Cycling, jogging, hiking, and swimming are all great ways to get into and stay in this heart rate zone.

14 Stretch more! Sitting has been called the “new smoking”, and sitting too much, especially with poor posture, can lead to serious health detriments. Try to periodically get up and stretch throughout the day, and be sure to include stretching after every exercise session as well.

15 Start with gratitude. It can be easy to fall into a negative mindset, but expressing your gratitude on a regular basis can be a great way to remind yourself of all that you have to be thankful for. It can be as simple as a text message or a note sent in the mail to someone you appreciate, or a journal entry that is just for you.

16 Get a physical examination. If it's been more than a year since your last physical, you should consider scheduling one. It's a great way to get a current snapshot of your overall health, and a good time to discuss a plan to improve it with your doctor.

17 Set goals for yourself. Whether they are fitness, financial, relationship, or professional in nature, you are more likely to accomplish your goals if you write them down. Remember to be fairly specific about your goals, and to set both short and long term goals.

18 Find an accountability partner. The number one reason people hire personal trainers is for the accountability we provide. Find

a friend or family member that has similar goals as you and hold each other accountable to them. You may also consider hiring a coach that can provide accountability as well as the expertise for how to reach your goals.

19 Sit less, move more. Our bodies were designed to move, so get up and get going!

20 Manage your stress. Stress has been called the silent killer. It can affect blood pressure, sleep, digestion, our immune systems, mental health, and so much more. If too much stress is affecting your health, talk to a mental health professional about a strategy to manage it.

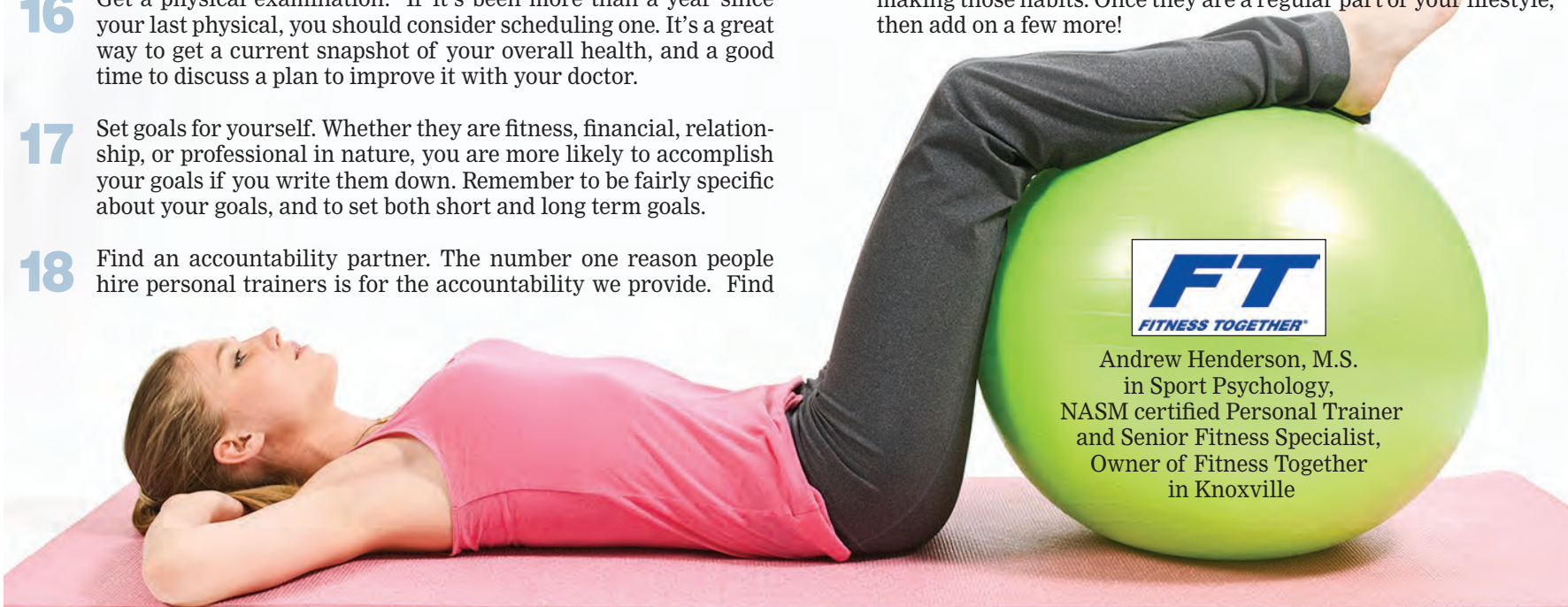
21 Reduce alcohol. While many of us enjoy a cold beer, a nice glass of wine, or a cocktail, try to limit your consumption of alcohol. It is a depressant, can interfere with sleep, lead to dehydration, and can lower your inhibitions to other unhealthy behaviors.

22 Pay attention to your breathing. Try slowing down your breathing by inhaling through your nose until you feel your diaphragm expand, and then slowly exhaling through your mouth. This can help with stress as well as overall health.

23 Laugh more. Laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles, and increases the endorphins that are released by your brain. Watch a funny movie, listen to comedy in your car, and spend time with people who make you laugh!

24 Go for a walk. St. Augustine said “It will be solved in the walking”. A nice walk outside is a great way to start the day, re-energize you mid-day, or aid in digestion after dinner. It's also a great time to just think.

25 Don't strive for perfection - strive for improvement. There are a lot of things on this list, so don't get overwhelmed! Identify the top 3 items that will have the biggest impact on YOUR life and work on making those habits. Once they are a regular part of your lifestyle, then add on a few more!



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An bird's eye view of Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, Hardin Valley, in late December 2024.

Morning Pointe's Alzheimer's Center

soon to expand; 20 extra senior living apartments

The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, 2433 Reagan Road in Hardin Valley, is hoping to open in late winter or early spring 2025.

The Lantern is next door to the current Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Assisted Living and Memory Care, which will convert to all assisted living when the new community opens.

"The 60 apartments at the new building cover two distinct levels of memory care, expanding the model of care on campus," a Morning Pointe press release stated. "These are Lamplight, a large area for residents with early-stage Alzheimer's and dementia who are more active; and Lantern, a more intimate and quiet space designed for more advanced stages. Several floor plan choices include studios and companion two-bedroom apartments, such as for couples."

"We are excited about not only the new building and campus services, but also a new family that will fill these apartments and offices," said Lones Green, who has been named community relations director for The Lantern at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley. He has served for several years at The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence in Clinton.

"This will be a place where seniors with Alzheimer's or other dementias can come and receive the clinical care they need while still finding purposeful activities and building positive social relationships with their peers and the associates," he added. "For staff, our community offers a brand-new place for meaningful work and a family atmosphere."

To reserve an apartment or learn more about the campus, call 865-343-0409.

"... We are seeing more and more progress on our new Lantern at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley, and we are getting excited about providing a safe environment where more seniors with dementia can live as meaningful of lives as possible through their disease process," said Greg A. Vital, Morning Pointe Senior Living co-founder and president. "Our trained associates will also be able to offer support to the families along the journey, which is a huge need as our country's population ages."

Care staff will be specially trained in dementia and Alzheimer's. Services and amenities at The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, Hardin Valley will include:

See **MORNING POINTE** on Page 22

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An example of Hardin Valley Morning Pointe's interior elegance.

Morning Pointe

From page 20

- *Licensed nurses providing oversight of health, wellness and medication management*
- *Single-level living*
- *Licensed, clinical or care staff available 24 hours a day*
- *24-hour personalized care services*
- *Periodic check-ins*
- *Personal grooming assistance, such as bathing or getting dressed*
- *Assistance with transferring to a bed or chair*
- *Escorting to meals and events*
- *Incontinence management*
- *On-site occupational, physical and speech therapy*

“Programming will include a variety of life enrichment, such as arts and crafts, wellness offerings like exercise classes and intergenerational activities, such as partnering with local schools. Residents will benefit from Morning Pointe’s Farm to Table program with local, farm-fresh and seasonal ingredients,” the MP release stated.

“And memory care specific offerings will include the Best Friends Approach, Teepa Snow’s Positive Approach to Care, Meaningful Day purposeful programming, music therapy, art therapy and cuddle therapy,” the release further stated.

“Part II of the Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Senior Living campus is now not only accepting reservations for memory care residents, but is also accepting applications for associates in multiple roles, from directors to direct caregivers, such as certified nursing assistants and resident assistants.”

Paula Goins, executive director of Hardin Valley Morning Pointe, said the new Memory Care facility employment base “will double, if not a little bit more” the current base of roughly 60.

Current job openings are posted on MorningPointe.com/careers.

Meanwhile, the new facility will open up an additional space for 20 extra assisted living apartments, which are estimated to be ready roughly “30 to 60” days following the Memory Care unit’s opening.

Morning Pointe history

The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer’s Center of Excellence, Hardin Valley will be the 41st Morning Pointe Senior Living community.

Founded in 1997 by healthcare entrepreneurs Vital (president) and J. Franklin Farrow (CEO), Morning Pointe Senior Living operates assisted living and Alzheimer’s memory care communities in five states including Tennessee: also Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama and Indiana. Other locations in the Greater Knoxville area include Clinton, Knoxville, Lenoir City and Powell.

The philanthropic arm of Morning Pointe Senior Living is the Morning Pointe Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to provide clinical scholarships and caregiver support.

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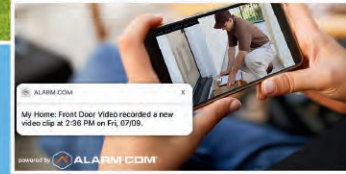
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Photo submitted

Tabatha Ellison, business office director at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley in Knoxville, received a Morning Pointe Senior Living 2024 Exceeding Expectations Award for the Business Office category during a ceremony Wednesday evening, Dec. 4, in Chattanooga. Alongside Ellison, from left, are Greg A. Vital, Morning Pointe Senior Living co-founder and president; Josh Lowe, vice president of Morning Pointe's Smoky Region; and Franklin Farrow, Morning Pointe Senior Living co-founder and CEO.

Exceeding expectations earns Morning Pointe's Ellison business office honor

Tabatha Ellison has earned one of two Morning Pointe Senior Living 2024 Exceeding Expectations Awards.

Ellison, business office director at Morning Pointe Hardin Valley Assisted Living and Memory Care for about three years, received the award in the Business Office category Wednesday evening, Dec. 4, during Morning Pointe's annual conference in Chattanooga.

The award recognizes "the most exceptional of its associates in varying roles for demonstrating leadership and excellence in providing quality senior care," a Morning Pointe press release stated.

"Ellison has overseen the business office since Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley opened more than three years ago," the release further stated. "She helps out in other departments and is always there to offer direction and counsel, as well as encouragement for the team.

"I love my job, mainly because I get to know the residents," Ellison said. "I get to spend time with them, and I get to know the employees and build relationships with them.

"I've been in business and (human resources) for probably seven years," she added.

"She goes above and beyond for our residents and our families every single day," said Paula Goins, executive director of Morning Pointe Hardin Valley. "Residents' families know that if they have a question regarding their bill, they can come to her, and she'll get it completed and fixed that same day. She's good at explaining it to them. And as far as when it comes to staff, she's always there.

"She's got a keen ear to listen to them whenever they have an issue or a problem, as well as helping them with benefits," Goins added. "She makes sure that it's explained very well to them so that they know the process and everything. And she makes sure everybody gets paid on time."

Greg A. Vital, MP co-founder and president of Morning Pointe Senior Living, said "honoring the excellence of our associates is a priority for us as an organization. Kay (Lorick, community relations director at the Morning Pointe of Powell campus) and Tabatha, along with countless others, not only keep our communities operating smoothly, but also — most importantly — make a difference for our senior residents and their teams.

"We deeply appreciate these associates' dedication and look forward every year to presenting these awards," he added.



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New Hardin Valley Townhomes promise

'different product;' March opening targeted

A new housing option, Steele Landing Townhomes is expected to be opening in early spring at 2165 Casablanca Way in the Hardin Valley community.

"We're expected to open up in March," said Diane McCarter, community manager for Steele Landing Townhomes Rentals, which is headquartered in Miami, Florida. "I'm very excited. I think it's a different product we have to offer Hardin Valley than what's already existing."

Located at the intersection of Hardin Valley Road and Casablanca Way, the townhomes will be directly across from Hardin Valley Elementary School. She said the development includes 133 multi-level luxury and serenity-style townhomes, ranging from two to four bedrooms and garages.

The new construction consists of 28 buildings, each with two to five townhomes.

"Residents will enjoy a focus on stunning interior design elements that include carefully selected elevated finishes and amenities, providing a luxurious lifestyle unique to the Hardin Valley market," the website stated.

"They will be like a luxury farmhouse style," McCarter said. "We will have quartz countertops (in the kitchen and bath) and white Shaker cabinets with black matte fixtures.

"We're carpet-free, as well, in the entire home," she added. "And, each townhome comes with a porch and a patio with a privacy fence in-between each home."

The two-bedroom home is 1,695 square feet; the three-bedroom homes range from 1,695 to 2,221 square feet; the four-bedroom home is 2,273 square feet.

"We will offer our residents luxury amenities in the home, and then we also have many available community amenities outside the home," McCarter said. "We'll have a swimming pool, a clubhouse and a fitness studio (in the clubhouse), an outdoor gaming area (with cornhole court and outdoor ping pong table), an outdoor multi-TV viewing area. We'll have a playground, grilling area and a walking trail."

Pets are allowed in the townhomes, she said.

Choosing Hardin Valley as a location, McCarter said she thinks customers will like the mountain view, "and it's in a more quiet area of Har-



din Valley. It's not right on the road.

"I think it's a wonderful view," she added. "It's really pretty. You can see the really beautiful landscape in the front and the back of the property, and it's also right across from Hardin Valley Elementary and has a redlight access.

"It will be walking distance to the grocery store and the school, and there's access to Turkey Creek, where you can go the back way and you can also take Pellissippi (Parkway), too. But we're in a great location as far as being away from congested traffic of Pellissippi's intersections."

As for setting itself apart, "It's a little different than other housing that's also available in Hardin Valley," McCarter said. "We're a town home community instead of an apartment community."

The townhomes are rentals, with rents starting at \$2,365 a month. McCarter said the development still is a construction site; so all leasing is done virtually at www.SteeleLanding.com or by calling 754-298-6381.

"We look forward to leasing tours beginning in mid-March," she added.

By Tammy Cheek

January - March 2025

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Holy Week Unity Service | April 17th @ 6:30 pm

Stations of the Cross | April 18th @ 5:00-7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service | April 20th @ 7:00 am

Easter Sunday Breakfast | April 20th @ 8:00 am

Easter Services | April 20th @ 8:45 & 11:00 am



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Donation champs

among statewide field, Pellissippi State totaled 49k+

Once again, Pellissippi State Community College stands out on a statewide level, with its Hardin Valley main campus far and away the biggest factor.

Students, faculty and staff at 23 Tennessee community and technical colleges donated or collected the equivalent of 110,851 food items for the College System of Tennessee's 26th Annual Food Drive Challenge during the holidays. The food and cash donations go to campus food pantries for students in need and to local food programs serving their communities.

Locally, among Tier 2 (larger enrollments), PSCC collected the most: 49,470 school supplies and hygiene items. With the Hardin Valley campus leading the way, PSCC also packed and distributed 150 Thanksgiving food boxes, and its Student Care and Advocacy Center, along with the Stay Strong Center, served more than 300

students a hot meal during finals. These efforts are in addition to bottled water and fundraisers hosted at campuses across the state earlier this fall to support victims of the Hurricane Helene flooding disaster in Northeast Tennessee.

"Everyone is a winner in this challenge! What a wonderful way to support students and give back to our communities," said Dr. Heidi Leming, Tennessee Board of Regents Vice Chancellor for Student Success & Strategic Partnerships, whose office coordinates the Food Drive Challenge.

Food insecurity is a major challenge on college campuses. A 2023 report by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission cites research concluding that students experiencing food insecurity are less likely to excel academically and more likely to report stress levels that hinders their ability to focus on their studies.

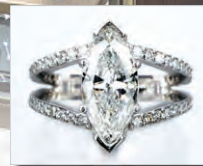
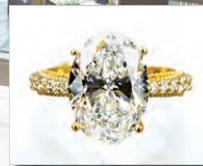
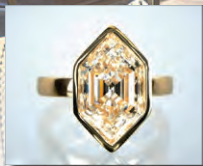
More information about food insecurity among students, and resources such as campus food pantries and other programs, is available on the THEC website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/thec/learn-about/task-forces/food-insecurity.html>.

The Food Drive Challenge was conceived in 1999 by the Student Government Presidents Council — student leaders from across the state — as a project to help fellow students and others in need. The campus communities have kept the campaign going annually since then with friendly competing, in tiers based on enrollment size, to see which can collect the most.

Cash donations are counted as two items for each dollar. Including this year's collections, more than 1.8 million items of food and funds have been donated and collected over the 26 years.



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PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Panthers, PSCC women welcome Memphis hoops team to Hardin Valley

Pellissippi State Community College Women's and Men's Basketball teams took to the home court at PSCC Saturday afternoon, Jan. 18, versus Southwest Tennessee Community College (Memphis).

For the men, Deshun Payton, a freshman forward, scored a team-high 15 points. But the Panthers found the going rough down the stretch, seeing its record fall to 9-9 after a 75-68 setback.

The Lady Panthers also faltered late and saw their record drop to 8-9 following a 77-71 loss.



Photos by Alan Sloan



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Hardin Valley

HOOPS



HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY

Region contenders: Hawks, HVA girls

Based on generally strong play beyond the mid-point of the 2024-25 season, both Hardin Valley Academy varsity basketball teams appeared to be contenders for high District 4-4A finishes and, therefore, put themselves into position as contenders for Region 2-AAA Tournament berths.

Photos by Alan Sloan



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Hardin Valley

HOOPS



HARDIN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Title game earned by girls; boys looked for region berth

Both Hardin Valley Middle School basketball teams were seeking top local finishes and Region Tournament berths during play in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Tournament in mid- to latter January.

The HVMS girls, 13-5 record, were runner-up to West Valley Middle School in the Class AAA tourney after play Wednesday evening, Jan. 22, at South-Doyle Middle School. Both teams already qualified for region.

The HVMS boys, meanwhile, played Gresham in the Boys Third-Place game Thursday evening, Jan. 23, at SDMS, with a region berth at stake.

Photos by Alan Sloan





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Kids' Corner



Find the Hawk

WINNER



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

TJ Basile

TJ received a gift card from **Chick-fil-A!** (Turkey Creek and Overlook Center locations)

Thank you to Chick-fil-A for their sponsorship of the Hawk contest, and congratulations to our winner!

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

SORSE

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1

DNCYA

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GTIF

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5 6

RBAE

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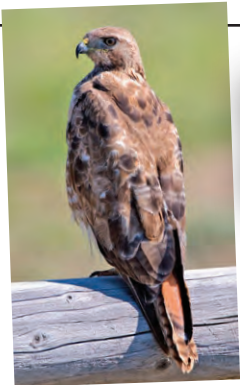
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2 1 3 6 5 3 1



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: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

If correct, you will be entered in a drawing for prizes to be held **March 28, 2025**. Winner to be announced in the next edition of Hardin Valley Living. (Ages 12 and under are eligible.)



- English:** Love
- Spanish:** Amor
- Italian:** Amore
- French:** Amour
- German:** Liebe



Conversation hearts started out as a throat lozenge invented by Boston pharmacist Oliver Chase.



Double Word Puzzle Answer: Be my Valentine

Get crafty for St. Patrick's Day!

The following are some unique craft ideas to celebrate the spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Many of these projects include items you may already have around the house.

Shamrock key chain

Find your favorite salt dough recipe and use a shamrock cookie cutter to cut out the shape of a lucky clover. Poke a hole at the top where you can connect a key ring. When the shamrock is dried and hardened, paint it in a vivid shade of green. Attach keys, a school ID or anything else to the key ring, or simply hang it from a backpack.

Leprechaun hats

With a little green paint, green card stock and construction paper in black and gold, anyone can create miniature leprechaun hats. Paint the toilet paper tube green, then wrap the bottom in a strip of

black and place a gold "buckle" made out of a rectangle of gold or yellow paper. Glue the tube to a round of green card stock, and voila, you have a perfect leprechaun hat for decorating a room or table.

Easy rainbow craft

Grab some fruity O-shaped cereal and let kids sort the colors into red, orange, yellow, green, and purple. Glue rows of these colored cereal rings onto a piece of white cardstock to make the rainbow. At the base of the rainbow, glue some cotton balls to serve as the clouds.

Beaded bracelets

Visit a craft store and stock up on small green, white and gold beads, as well as some bracelet wire or poly string. Spend a few hours making bracelets that

everyone can wear with their green attire for St. Patrick's Day. The bracelets also can be given as gifts.

Shamrock slime

Those who can find green glitter glue and shamrock confetti can turn their favorite slime recipe into one worthy of St. Patrick's Day.

Rainbow cereal bars

Incorporate some of the marshmallows from a favorite "lucky" cereal brand into the mix of rice cereal treats to give them a rainbow-inspired upgrade.

Pots of gold

If you have leftover plastic witches' cauldrons from Halloween, paint them gold and use them to store foil-wrapped chocolate



coins. Otherwise, tie green helium-filled balloons to the cauldron to make a perfect centerpiece.



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