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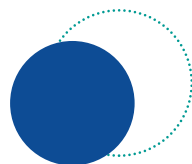
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From the Editor



Wendy Nugent, Editor

Seems like we put out one magazine, and it's time to start writing another. If my calculations are correct, this marks the 13th issue of the magazine from when we started it in June 2013. Our first cover story was the local Mexican-American men's fastpitch softball tournament, which is the oldest such tournament in the country.

Our magazine focuses on positive articles about the people, places and events in Harvey County. If you have any ideas for articles, please call the Newton Now office at 316-281-7899 or email me at wendy@harveycountynow.com.

I started writing articles for the magazine as a freelance writer around March 2013. I've had a freelance business,

Wendy Nugent Words and Photography, for a few years now, and writing for this magazine was my biggest account. I enjoyed it from the beginning. In the mornings, I worked at Bethel College, and my afternoon focus was on story writing and photo taking. Kansas Publishing Ventures, which owns Newton Now and Harvey County Now, hired me to write some articles for the Harvey County veterans book. I, personally, learned a lot about war and the military from that experience. I felt honored these men and one woman shared that part of their lives with me. By the way, the books are for sale at the Newton Now office, 706 N. Main St. Then, when I started full time as the features editor at Newton Now (we've been around for six months now), I also was chosen to be the magazine editor.

I really like this magazine, and I hope you do too.

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ON THE COVER: Halstead artist Gene Marsh has been doing art since he was a youngster. Here, he's near a colorful wall in an alley in Newton.

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A like in his belly

Halstead artist has passion for art, medicine

Gene Marsh is writing his memoirs and attempting to tie the creative side of medicine to the creative side of art in his writings.

"Because I think there is considerable overlap," he said.

Throughout his life, Marsh has explored art and medicine careers.

When he was in the fourth grade, Marsh said his art teacher, Hester Snyder, encouraged his abilities.

"She was an artist herself," Marsh said. "I don't know what it was, but she recognized me as having some ability in art or interest maybe. I didn't know which."

At the time, there was a William Allen

White book out called "Brightly and the Grand Canyon," and Marsh copied the cover.

"It really came out very well," he said, adding he ended up doing copies for other teachers as well. "That was what set it off, I think."

Also as a youngster, he drew a variety of animals, such as butterflies and snakes.

"I remember the first drawing I was conscious doing was a buffalo," he said, as he's always been fascinated with them and still paints them.

In high school, the retired physician who lives in Halstead said he just took one semester of art.

"I wasn't happy with the teacher because he was into abstract art, and I didn't understand abstract art at the time," he said.

Marsh's parents encouraged him to develop his artistic ability, paying for tuition for a correspondence course with the Minneapolis School of Art.

While attending Ottawa University, Marsh majored in pre-medicine, and by the end of his junior year, he was accepted into medical school, so in his senior year, he took drawing and painting classes throughout the entire year. At the end of the year, he had a one-man show.

Marsh has had a variety of milestones in Ottawa, such as being born, marrying wife



LEFT: Halstead artist Gene Marsh is surrounded by several of his paintings. ABOVE: This is one of Gene Marsh's many paintings. Marsh has pursued careers in art and medicine.

Connie and attending college.

"I'll probably die there," Marsh said, laughing.

From there, Marsh went into surgery training at The University of Kansas Medical Center. Then, he moved to Halstead to begin his surgical practice.

After a while, he left his surgical practice to study art at Wichita State University, where he received a bachelor of fine arts degree. He also took 30 hours of graduate study in art. Then, he moved to New Mexico, where he thought he'd make a success of his art if he lived near the Santa Fe area. He started a gallery in Santa Cruz, but didn't make a lot of money.

"So I came back to Halstead when I ran out of money," Marsh said.

He went to Newton Medical Center and said he'd work 48 hours in the emergency room every weekend, so he was hired. That started his ER career, he said, and he retired in 2012 from NMC.

"There are times I regret I left surgery," Marsh said, saying both are similar in a variety of ways, such as both are visual, tactile and involve creativity.

"The reason I went into medicine is because my father encouraged me to go into something where I could earn money," Marsh said.

Marsh thought the two paths went hand-in-hand. At one point, Marsh read the book, "The Agony and the Ecstasy," a biography of

Michelangelo Buonarroti. In the book, Marsh read that artists at the time dissected bodies to learn anatomy.

"I thought if I didn't like medicine, at least I would have the opportunity to learn anatomy," Marsh said.

Marsh is concentrating on art in his retirement and primarily uses acrylics. In the past, he's used mixed media and has done collage-type work, as well as doing some sculpture. Acrylics dry faster than oil, so Marsh doesn't have to worry about his paintings getting smudged. Acrylic also is convenient to take on painting trips. One time, Marsh took a 5,000-mile trip by himself to the west, going to such places as Yellowstone, Glacier Park, Washington state, Crater Lake and a mountain range in Oregon.

Marsh made his way through the eastern part of California.



Gene Marsh works in his studio in Halstead.

"That was the time Yosemite was burning," Marsh said. "It changed the color of the mountains."

He took the trip in 2012 or 2013, he said.

The subjects of Marsh's paintings vary widely. For instance, four paintings on display and for sale at the Newton Now office, 706 N. Main St., range from a portrait of an Asian artist, an abstract of a burning forest, a cup of coffee and a colorful landscape.

"Landscapes a lot of times catch my eye

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just for the beauty of it," Marsh said, adding he also has a tendency to paint from his emotions.

For example, Marsh did a piece of his father running after having a dream of him running. Before his dad died, Marsh would visit El Dorado to help keep his dad walking as long as he could. In 1998, his father had a brain tumor, which killed him. Marsh's father had been a runner when he was younger.

"After he died, I dreamt of him running," Marsh said. "That was reassuring that wherever he was he was able to run again."

Marsh also said he's also painted people he admires or whose music or art to which he's attracted, including one at The Carriage Factory Art Gallery, 128 E. Sixth St. in Newton, of Bob Dylan.

"I call it 'Tangled Up in Blue' after a song he wrote," Marsh said.

Marsh has painted pictures related to war, such as one he created after being inspired by a photo taken during the Vietnam War of children who had been exposed to napalm. A girl in the photo is crying and isn't clothed.

"I have a painting of a Palestinian woman who's holding her hands up with the peace sign," Marsh said.

Another piece is a "very dark" painting he did after being inspired by National Geographic photo. A woman was talking about her trauma of being told if she didn't reveal where her husband was, they'd take her son.

"I thought, 'What a dilemma,'" Marsh said. "I thought what pain that must have been for her."

Marsh painted the woman behind a veil.

Marsh's favorite painting, however, is the one he did of Dylan. "That's a hard one to say which one's my favorite," he said. "It always tends to be the one I just finished."

Marsh hasn't just been drawing since he was a youngster.

"I've painted and drawn since I was in grade school—some famous, some friends, family," Marsh said.

He's also painted himself, a self-portrait of him looking at a medical chart.

"It looks medical, but it looks where I think society's headed because I have a chart that's going down," Marsh said. "A lot of times, there's a couple of meanings to things."


Marsh believes the meaning in paintings is what the viewer sees, not necessarily what he tries to convey.

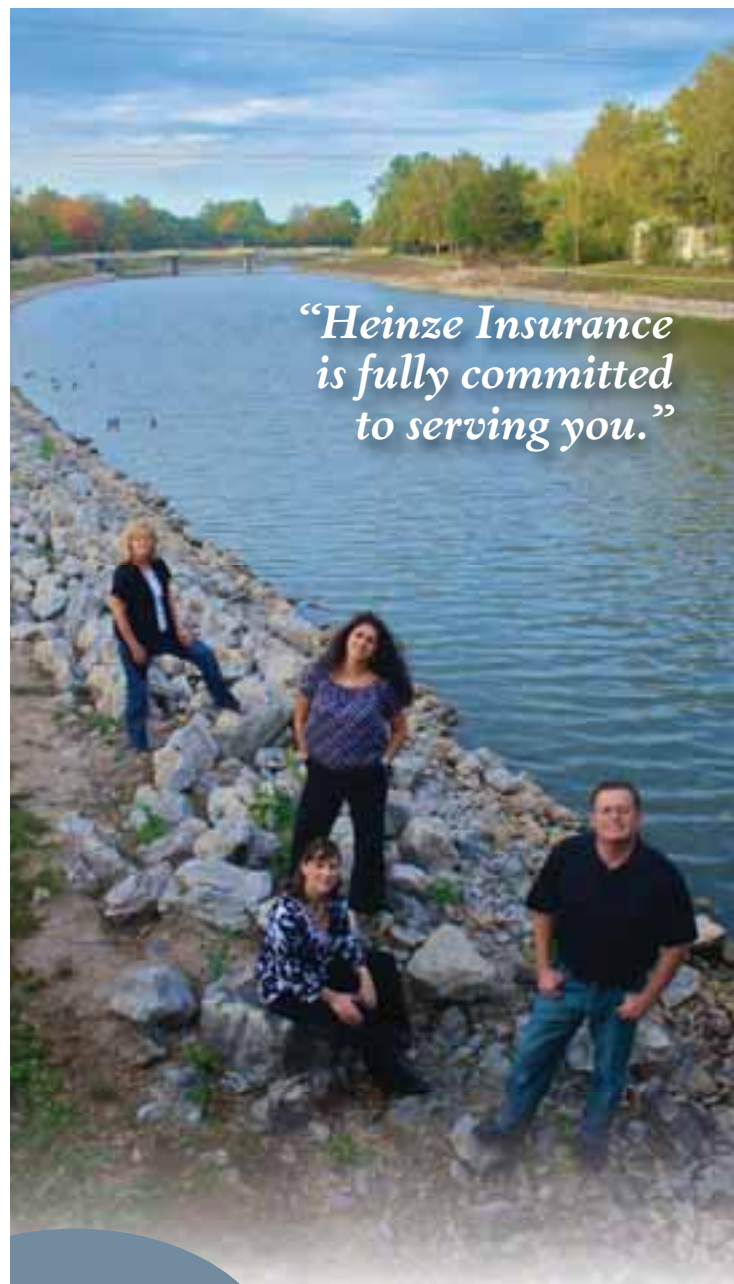
"They may connect with my meaning, but their meaning is personal," he said.

On occasion, Marsh doesn't always have a plan in mind when painting.

"Sometimes I put paint on the canvas and see where it goes," he said in his home studio.

One theme in some of his paintings throughout the years has been fire.

"Fire is energy, and I don't know—somehow that's all tied to my drive to paint," Marsh said. 



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A LONG ROAD to Newton

profile



Article • Adam Strunk
Photos • Wendy Nugent

Business owner makes gas station a happy store

Why Thaun (Twahn) Ngo named her Newton Gas Station "Happy Store" becomes apparent after a few minutes watching her operate it.

Customers cycle through buying scratch tickets, cigarettes, coffee, snack food.

Each one approaches a counter greeted by a smiling Ngo.

She calls most by their first name, if not Honey or Baby.

"What I enjoy most about this is the customers," she says.

That's the sort of statement any business owner might utter.

But with Ngo, it seems like she means it.

She says her greatest skill is her memory, and as she makes small talk and recalls the minute details of each patron's life, you tend to agree with her.

That good memory, along with her quick smile and easy-going demeanor, makes Ngo the definition of personable.

It's a good way to keep customers coming back to her small gas station in a market dominated by Caseys and Kwik Shops.

You can get gas and sundries anywhere. But there's only one Thaun.

Ngo opened CT Happy Store, on the corner of Broadway and Poplar, in October 2014, following a few stir-crazy months. She had sold her two Wichita gas stations and needed to get out of the house.

"I was going crazy," she says.

So Ngo said she prayed about it at her church.

She said she didn't know if God wanted her to buy the Newton gas station, but the location became available at a reasonable price, and everything fell into place.

Ngo bought her Newton Gas Station at the corner of Broadway and Poplar in 2014 and began remodeling it.

But the gas station needed a name. After debate, she took the first letter of her husband's name, the first letter of her name, and called it CT Happy Store.

"I like the people here," she said. "It's peaceful. People are nice and friendly. Not wild."

Ngo, who goes by "T" as it's easy to pronounce, came to the United States in 1990 from Vietnam.

She said a Wichita Baptist church sponsored her and her son to come to the States.

Jimmy is named after his father, a U.S. soldier Ngo was engaged to before he shipped off, leaving Ngo behind with her newborn son.

In the United States, Ngo spent 10 years working at Piccadilly Market and Grill, became a manager and picked up people skills, she says.

She married, had three children and

eventually took over a gas station for a friend at her church.

"They trained me for three days; then they left me," Ngo says.

Ngo, a non-smoker, said she hadn't a clue about cigarette brands, which perturbed the gas station's regulars.



Ngo peers over stacks of lighters she sells in her store.
INSET: Thaun Ngo opened CT Happy Store in October 2014 and calls customers Honey and Baby.



"People lined up and yelled at me," she says with a smile. "I lost 30-something dollars."

But as time passed, Ngo quickly picked up the business with the help of her memory.

She eventually ended up owning two gas stations in Wichita, one at 2199 Woodlawn, which she ran with the help of her family.

She grew close to her customers and says she leaned on them after her husband passed away.

"I am a happy person," she says. "I go to work, and the people who know me say, 'Man what's wrong with you?'"

"I don't want to be sad but thank God I have this store."

Today, a son helps her with the store, as do some of her four grandchildren. She says working with family is a benefit as it's a challenge to find trustworthy help to run a gas station.

Ngo said The Happy Store comes with its own set of challenges.

The first few months after opening were difficult before she built up a customer base.

"When I opened, it was slow," she said.

"But my family helped me out and worked hard to make money to pay my bills."

Since then, business has grown. Ngo says decreasing gas prices can hit a small station hard. It takes her a long time to go through a bulk order of gas. She might buy it at one price, but two weeks later, be selling it for a much cheaper price.

"When you run your own business and it goes smoothly, it's OK, but if it doesn't, you don't sleep. People who run a business, they know. The hard months are November, December and January. There's always something, like a pump that doesn't work."

But Ngo says despite that she continues to

make it work and plans to do so in the future with the help of her customers and family.

"It's picked up," she says.

She makes periodic visits to Vietnam to see family, but says each time she visits, she wants to stay less.

"The first time it was hard. I didn't really want to come back. Now I go visit, and I just visit. Everything in America is more free. I open a business, and I don't have to give anyone anything under the counter."

Ngo says she's happy with the life she's made raising a family and owning a business in the United States.

"I'm thankful for the American people letting the kids and people like me come to America."

A happy owner makes a happy store. ➡

Thaun Ngo waits on Brayden Monares. At left is Kenyon Forest.

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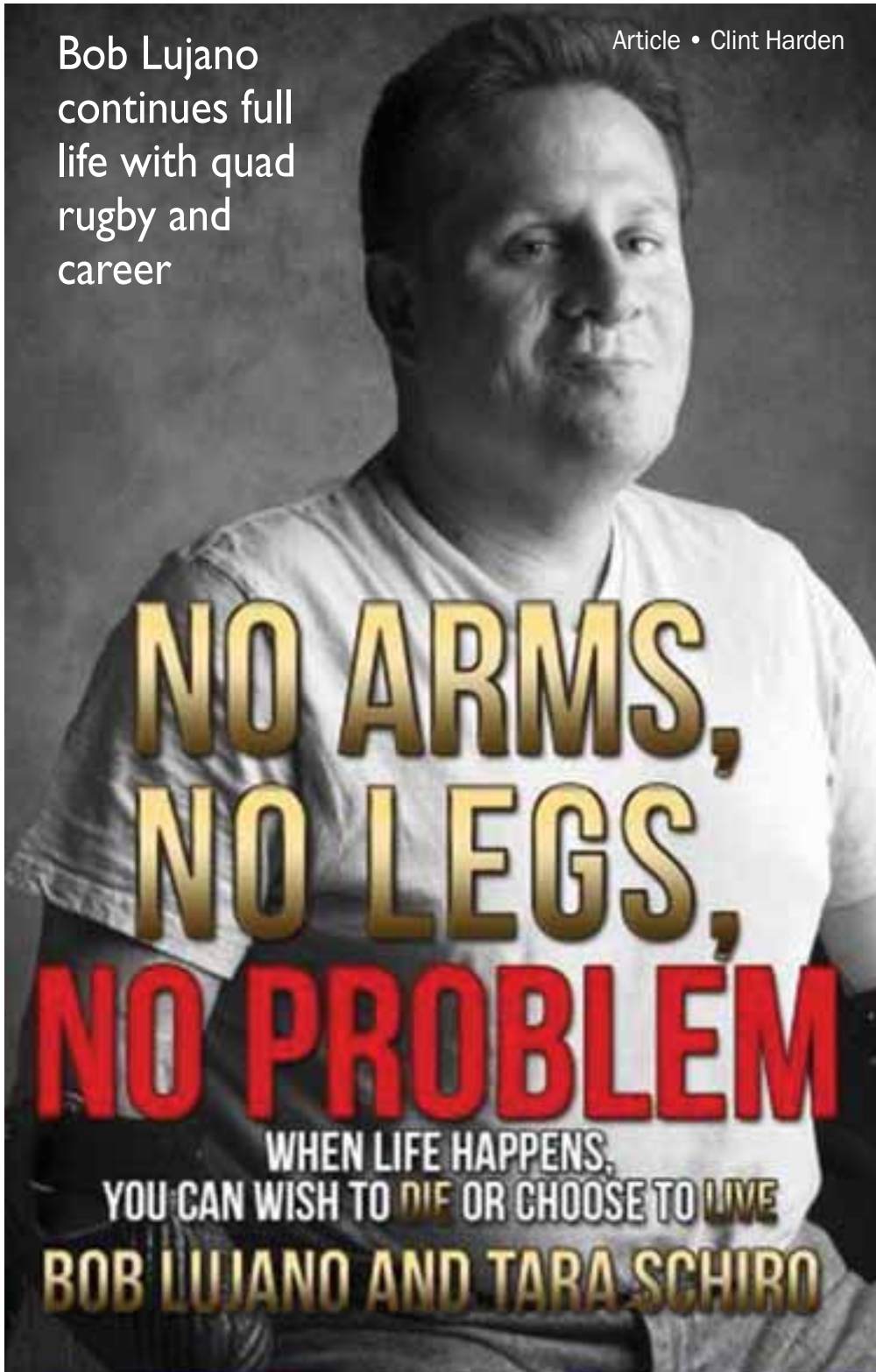
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After 'Murderball' documentary

Bob Lujano continues full life with quad rugby and career

Article • Clint Harden



The cover of Lujano's autobiography "No Arms, No Legs, No Problem: When Life Happens, You Can Choose to Die or Choose to Live." Courtesy photo

Bob Lujano had no idea who the guys were with the cameras.

They just popped up one day and didn't leave for three years.

"We had no idea what was going on," Lujano said. "There were guys running around our gym with cameras. It wasn't until they started going to camps with us and then overseas with us that we realized they weren't going anywhere."

Lujano, a native of Newton, is the president of the United States Quad Rugby Association and played on the United States National Team during the filming of the documentary titled "Murderball."

"Those guys followed us for three years," Lujano said. "They were in meetings, at games, training sessions, even when we were just hanging out, wrestling, being guys and playing cards. They'd occasionally pull people aside for interviews and comments."

Those guys were Dana Adam Shapiro and Henry Alex Rubin. Shapiro is best known for his work on "Murderball" and also a film released in 2010 titled "Monogamy." Rubin is best known as the director of the 1999 hit "Girl, Interrupted." "Murderball" was released in 2005. It won an award at the Sundance Film Festival for Best Editing and was later nominated for an Academy Award.

"They came back from Athens (2004 Paralympics) with 300 hours of footage," Lujano said.

The 10-year anniversary for the documentary will be later in 2016.

"I still get asked to speak about the movie," Lujano said.

Oftentimes, people find it difficult to truly be themselves when a camera is around. It can be tough to not think about how something may look through the lens of a camera.

"I took the cameras in stride," Lujano said. "We got to know the directors really well. We still keep in touch over the phone or we'll email occasionally. I still keep up with what they're doing professionally, and we'll talk about our personal lives as well."

Shapiro and Rubin saw an article and thought it would make a good documentary, so they packed up and went to Birmingham, Ala., home to the United States Quad Rugby National Team's training center at the Lakeshore Research Collaborative, which is where Lujano works.

Quad is short for quadriplegic, which means Murderball is rugby played in wheelchairs. That was the actual name of the sport before it gained popularity and



wanted to expand, so it was renamed as, perhaps less aptly, wheelchair rugby.

Wheelchair rugby makes football look like a jog along Sand Creek.

Players don't wear pads and hit each other with their wheelchairs as hard as they possibly can.

Most wheelchair rugby players have broken their necks from hits taken while playing, and it's rare to see a player without a scar on his neck from surgery.

Wheelchair rugby can be tough to watch, as seeing someone fall in a wheelchair brings an unsettling feeling for most people. Players from opposing teams hit each other so hard it causes their chairs to tip over.

But even with all the risks and dangers that come with the job, Lujano has played the sport since 1995. He said the toughest part of playing isn't the risk of injury or even the injuries themselves, but instead, he finds it tough to get over losing a match.

But "there are more positives than negatives" to wheelchair rugby. Lujano has built countless relationships through his job and has shown during the years he's just like anyone else. He lives a completely independent life, exercises and is involved in his church. Lujano lost both his legs and most of his arms due to meningococemia, a rare form of meningitis he contracted when he was a child. His arms and legs needed to be amputated to save his life.

Lujano's autobiography titled "No Arms, No Legs, No Problem" was published in December 2014, and he continues to receive requests to speak to groups about it.

"The more it gets around, the more requests I get," he said. "I've been to Israel, Canada and all over the United States."

What Lujano does now is make sure companies and cities comply with codes to ensure disabled people can do all the same things as those without physical disability. He's had meetings with the taxi service Uber and First Lady Michelle Obama.

"She started the Let's Move campaign, encouraging people to get at least 60 minutes of exercise each day," Lujano said. "We met to make sure that everyone was included in the plan. We want to commit to inclusion."

The best part of his job are the relationships he's built and also introducing someone new to the sport of wheelchair rugby.

"A lot of times, guys will come in thinking their life is over after an accident or something," he said. "They'll watch a game or a practice, and their eyes light up. It really gives people the opportunity to remain active, and physical activity is important for everyone in leading a holistic life."


Lujano leads a full life. Don't expect him to spend his days just lying around and being lazy. He likes to go to the movies, swim and travel.

When asked the highlights of his playing career, the first thing out of his mouth was the United States' bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games.

"You don't get to play just because you're disabled," Lujano said. "You have to be good at it."

Around 500 athletes try out for the Quad Rugby team, but only 12 makes the roster.

Lujano is an advocate for not only people with disabilities, but for everyone to lead full, active lives.

"It's really cool seeing people that want to contribute to what we're doing, even those without disability," he said. 

TOP: Lujano water skis during a summer. He lives a completely independent life despite having half of his arms and no legs. **INSET:** Bob Lujano, right, competes in wheelchair rugby, formerly known as murderball. Lujano has traveled the world playing the sport and also as a motivational speaker. *Courtesy photos*

Article and photos
Kelley DeGraffenreid

THE WINDMILLS OF JOE HARPER'S MIND

Joe Harper first got the windmill bug in the 1950s when he still was in high school. This was when his Grandfather Wilson gave him an old damaged windmill that was on his land in Butler County for him to fix up.

Windmills have been a pervasive fixture throughout the Midwest as a power source to run pumps for farmers and ranchers in isolated locations for more than a century.

Today there still are a few mills in use, but solar-powered pumps have replaced most of the tall, graceful, simple machines that once dotted the countryside.

Often if one sees a windmill in a field, it is no longer functioning, and it's slowly rotting away, another victim of time and the elements. Thankfully, there are many out there who still appreciate the beauty of these grand old mills. Harper is one of those

people, and he has quite the collection.

Harper is always pleased by the interest in his collection. He said a lot of "city folks" have a real interest in windmills. People are often stopping by the farm asking about his windmills. The side yard at Harper Farms north of Sedgwick might even be mistaken for a windmill museum. A large steel mill turns in the brisk Kansas breeze, harvesting the wind as it spins. Harper and his fellow

One of Joe Harper's giant steel mills is propelled by a cool winter breeze at the Harper Farm north of Sedgwick.

windmills are helping preserve yet another piece of history that might otherwise be lost.

Harper has spent decades collecting and restoring these old windmills, which are not only historically significant; they may even be considered pieces of art.

"It's been rewarding for me," said Harper of his years of work restoring these grand old beauties. "They are easier than the tractors," he said with a grin.

Harper also had an extensive collection of antique tractors. He still enjoys the tractors, and, in fact, he has one he's working on right now, but the windmills are easier to work on and haul.

Harper has one of the biggest collections around.

"Oh there are two or three others with bigger collections than mine," he said.

He estimated he has about 40 windmills, most of which are restored.

Harper, who turned 80 the first week of February, still works as a farmer and rancher, although he has started to cut back a bit, and he knows he'll never fully retire. Often busy with the farm, he does not have a great deal of time leftover for the restoration work.

"The winter months are the only time I really have to work on them," he said.

He has passed on his hobby to his son Frank who has done some of the restoration work with him.

Harper also has been an active member of the International Windmillers Association, a group of collectors that gets together every

year to trade parts, share their knowledge and socialize.

"Our Windmillers are just like a big family," he said.

The International Windmillers Trade Show has been in El Dorado a few times. In 2013, the Harpers hosted a hog roast and


15 while doing the restoration. This model is extremely rare. In fact, the folks at the last trade fair told him, "It is the only 16-foot one they know of."

Harper dug this particular mill out of a field out near Clayton, N.M. A friend of his from Phoenix helps him find leads on mills.



tour of their farm on the last day of the show. The Harpers look forward to attending the annual shows when their schedule allows. This year, the show will be outside of San Antonio, and they are trying to get a trip on their calendar. They have made some lifelong friends traveling to the trade shows.

Harper's current project is a massive 16-foot in diameter Eclipse Fairbanks Morse wood mill. This model was only manufactured from 1904-1912. He found the Roman numeral marking his mill as number

He got ahold of the folks who had this one out on their property. Most of the mill was intact, but the 62-pound weight was missing. The weights themselves are collectors' items. Harper has had the weight reproduced. The project is still being assembled at Harper Farms. All of the wood blades had to be reproduced. Harper has a stockpile of cypress wood, which is ideal to reproduce the wood blades. The cypress will not rot and accepts paint. 

Joe Harper shows off his most current work in progress—the restoration of a 16-foot Eclipse Fairbanks Morse Wood Mill that he dug out of a field in northeast New Mexico.



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Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic

Apartment residents enjoy living in old Lincoln School

Article and photos • Wendy Nugent

Not a lot of people can say they live in the same school they attended in the seventh grade, but Rosa Lee Greer can. Greer went to Lincoln School in the early part of the last century, and now the 92-year-old resides in a spacious apartment there, as the school was renovated into apartments in 2002 by MetroPlains Management.

During its 99 years of existence, Lincoln has seen many people come and go, from hundreds of students clamoring through the halls to learning to read in classrooms to eating lunch there, to residents who've set up house there.

"Way back when I was going (here) back in the '40s, it was the grade school and seventh and eighth," Greer said, sitting in a chair in her living room.

Back then, Greer said her family resided in Wichita, and her father was promoted with the railroad, so they moved to Newton.

"Came up here, and we were scrunched in this building," Greer said.

Now, her first-floor apartment is where the lunchroom used to be, and she's resided at Lincoln for eight years.

"I think the upper grades were more on the top floors, the way I remember it," Greer said.

After Greer grew up and had children, two of her sons played basketball at the school when they were teens.

"They came and played basketball just to practice," Greer said.

Greer has other memories of the school.

"On the east side, we had to stand out in the vestibule thing until the bell rang, and then we could go up," she said. In addition, she said the principal was John England, and two of her classmates were Kathy and Arnold Nye.





OPPOSITE: Bobbie Hague
reads in her apartment's
living room.

Kay Self has a country tableau
set up in her entryway.





LEFT: Kay Self's apartment is adorned with teacups and florals.

ABOVE: Geri Hendrix's living room is quite elegant.

RIGHT: Karen Nightingale's living room sports a cozy feel.

In addition, two of Greer's daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, brother and a niece went to school at Lincoln during the years.

Lincoln School was built by James Gordon in 1917. Gordon was a Newton contractor, and the building was erected with a bond issue for \$60,000. The building served as the junior high and grades kindergarten through fourth for 21 years, according to the book, "Recipes and Remembrances: 80 Years of Lincoln Tradition: Lincoln School 1917-1998."

The year 1939 brought changes when the new high school was constructed on West Broadway, the book stated. This is when the junior high moved out and

kindergarten through sixth grade students filled the classrooms.

As enrollment increased, another middle school and high school were built in 1973, which is when Lincoln became an elementary school, serving children in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Lincoln remained an elementary school through 1998, when it closed after serving the community for 80 years.

"In 1995, a school bond issue passed to build a new elementary school and improve three others," the book stated. "With this comes the closing of Lincoln."

Greer said the cookbook was published just before the building closed.

In the book, a variety of people give





Geri Hendrix's kitchen is adorned with an interesting backsplash and a round table with cloth-covered chairs. Hendrix is one of many Lincoln Park Apartments residents in Newton.

remembrances, such as Walter Hessler of Newton.

"I attended Lincoln in the fall of 1925 through the spring of 1927," he wrote. "I lived a couple blocks south of First Street, and I walked back and forth to Lincoln four times a day, as there was no lunch served at school. I used to stop at the bakery on Main Street and buy three cinnamon rolls for a dime."

Fast forward to 2002, when MetroPlains completed renovations on the 24 apartments.

"They all average 760 square feet to 864," said Gary Hackbart, Lincoln caretaker, adding about three of them are more than 1,000 square feet. Around three of the

apartments have two bedrooms while the rest have one.

"That's what MetroPlains does, is buy historic buildings and turn them into cool apartment communities," Hackbart said, adding he runs into people who tell him they know or are related to people who went to school there.

"There's a lot of people here that say that," he said.

Apartments have tall ceilings and tall windows, and they seem to be decorated in about as many ways as their are apartments.

Kay Self, who's lived there for about a year, described her décor as cottage, vintage or country cottage. Her apartment is decorated in light colors with teacups,

comfortable furniture, antiques and vintage decorations. One living room wall is graced with a light green hutch with books, teapots, teacups and saucers, while a white rack against the same wall is adorned with teacups and saucers.

A variety of throw pillows grace a blue-and-white couch while a wood coffee table is adorned with a white doily and a vase full of flowers. Opposite the couch is a floral chair.

Self, who resides on the top floor, enjoys living there.

"I like that I'm in my elegant little perch because I'm on the third floor," she said. "I feel like I'm in a high-rise in New York."

She also likes the building's community,

as well as the privacy. One thing she misses is having a patio, however, as all apartments open to the inside of the building with only windows to the outside.

Self said she lives where the music room used to be and that her daughter, Kelly, attended sixth grade there.

Self also said she likes to refer to the building as the Waldorf Astoria of Newton.

Another resident, Geri Hendrix, also likes living at Lincoln, which she's done for about a year and a half.

"I like the ladies," she said. "Most of them are Christian. We share in spirituality a lot—enjoy each other's company."

Every fourth Friday of the month, residents have a potluck, sometimes with a theme, such as pajamas or dressing up.

"We all pray and have a meal together," she said. "It's very nice. I call that spirituality too."

Hendrix's apartment is cozy with a tan-colored sectional and large matching footrest/coffee table with a fireplace above it attached to the wall to add warm ambiance. Cream and tan Chevron and cream pillows add a homey feel to the sectional. A variety of pieces have a jungle animal theme, such as frames in the living room, and the chairs for the dining set are covered in cloth to set a soft, warm feel.

Another resident, Bobbie Hague, who lives in a large one-bedroom apartment on the ground floor, has intricate matching rugs on the floors, as well as antiques in a variety of places. One shadow-box-type of shelving hangs on the wall in her bedroom. Hague said that's her favorite thing in that room, and it appears to hold many small vintage items.

A cat keeps her company, as light shines through windows graced by lacy curtains. Her kitchen is of the galley type, and her living room has a variety of items, functional or not, like a small dining table, fancy lamps and a comfortable recliner. Lace tablecloths cover tables in the living room.

In the entire building, wide halls onto which main apartment doors open are swathed in floral-themed carpeting, and many of the residents have decorations on the outside of their doors. Some seem to have family photos, while others might have wreaths or décor giving clues to college affiliations or upcoming holidays, like Valentine's Day.

Like many of the other residents, Hendrix likes residing in such a historic building.

"Enjoy the mode of living in an old school," Hendrix said. "Living here is really neat." ➡



TOP: Lincoln School, which now is Lincoln Park Apartments, was built in 1917.

MIDDLE: Bobbie Hague's bedroom has dolls and antiques.



LEFT: These flowers adorn the main floor of Lincoln Park Apartments.





The fabric of her life

Article and photos
Wendy Nugent

Moyo family moves from Africa, Sue Moyo opens clothing store in Newton

Sue Moyo has a talent not a lot of people have. She can look at

an article of clothing she'd like to make for herself and draw a pattern on a piece of fabric with chalk, since she knows what size she needs to make for herself.

Sometimes, she doesn't even have to draw the pattern pieces.

"Sometimes, (I) just cut," said the owner of Moyo Clothing in downtown Newton. "I don't need pattern."

If she makes clothing for someone else, however, she would have to take measurements. Moyo said many people wonder how she does that.

At one point in her life, Moyo used to make her own patterns and design clothing, as she went to college for dressmaking and designing.

"I love sewing a lot," Moyo said. "Sometimes I make most of my things. I have a lot of blacks and browns in my closet."

Moyo, who is from Zimbabwe in Africa, opened Moyo Clothing in March 2014 at 610 N. Main St. A few months later, she moved the business across the street to where the old Katherine's clothing store at 615 N. Main

St. used to be.

The store's slogan is "Moyo Clothing—the clothes that reveal the soul" because that's what she and husband Ron believe clothing does. People can express who they are or people can read who others are by the clothes they wear.

Moyo said she originally had wanted the old Katherine's location for the business but didn't know who the owner was.

"We would ask people, and they would tell us we don't know who the owner is," Moyo said.

Then, one day, a man was shopping in her store, and he said he was the owner of that property. She told him she had been looking for the owner.

"That was a good day for us," Moyo said.

The store's current location is probably about twice as big, with backrooms and more storage. They carry a variety of clothing, including women's, men's and children's, as well as about 20 or so wedding dresses. The store caters to all women's clothing age groups, carrying small through 3X, as well as junior sizes. They also sell, at reasonable prices, jewelry, purses, scarves, vests, dresses, blouses,

shirts, blazers, swimsuits, sports bras and gloves. Moyo said the store did very well with men's clothing in December.

"Usually, women buy clothes for their husband," Moyo said, adding she does that with her husband, Ron Moyo, who is an outreach pastor at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston. Moyo said she sneaks new clothing into her husband's closet.

"I take away the ones that are no longer good," Moyo said.



ABOVE: This is just some of the jewelry Sue Moyo sells at Moyo Clothing in downtown Newton. LEFT: Sue Moyo wears a necklace she sells at the store.

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people, it encourages you. But I think it's a good idea because they're supporting their town. I love shopping in Newton."

The Moyo family

Ron and Sue Moyo have two children, Lincoln and Linda. Lincoln graduated from Hesston College last year and plans to attend Bethel College in the fall. Linda is a sophomore at Newton High School.

Sue is a native of Zimbabwe, and Ron left that country for the States in 2006.

"We joined him in 2009," Sue said about her and the children, adding they left for many reasons and that there were political issues.


After a stint in Georgia, Ron was a pastoral ministries student at Hesston College.

"He had worked with Mennonite Central Committee back home for some time before we moved here," Moyo said.

The Moyos moved from Atlanta, Ga., to the Newton community after friends Fremont and Sara Regier invited them here. And they became close. When end of Fremont's life drew near, he and his family asked if Ron could do the meditation for the funeral.

Sara Regier suggested to Ron he consider attending Hesston College to study ministerial studies. Now, he's working on a master's in divinity degree at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Sometimes, Linda works in the store.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. 

The store also sells items that few, if any, stores in the area sell.

"We have a lot of prom dresses," Moyo said. "Last year, we did better with them."

She said she sold a prom dress in December, as a young woman found one in her size and asked her parents to purchase it for her for Christmas. Girls aren't coming by much this year to look at prom dresses, so Moyo said she thought she needed to put some in her window display. They have more than 60 such dresses. Sometimes, she can order dresses from a catalog if they have the customer's size.

"I have one coming today to try a wedding gown on," Moyo said. The woman is from Lincoln, Neb.

"A friend told her she saw a dress that

might work for her," Moyo said.

This isn't the only clothing store Moyo has owned. In Zimbabwe, she used to own a store where she'd make wedding and bridesmaid dresses, as well as comforters, and she had people to help her sew. She also did wedding decorations.

"Everybody knew me in town," she said.

She decided to open a clothing store in Newton because she had been in the clothing business.

"This is what I like," Moyo said, adding she had been a CNA at Bethesda Home in Goessel and decided to do this instead.

She has plans for the future.

"I would love to expand and bring more nice things if people support the store," Moyo said. "You know if you get more

Sue Moyo looks over prom dresses she sells at Moyo Clothing, which is in downtown Newton. The store has about 60 prom dresses for sale.

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Keeping Busy

profile

Article • Reece Hiebert
Photos • Wendy Nugent



Lunsford general manager at Meridian Center, Chamber president

Keeping busy has never been a challenge for Michael Lunsford, the general manager of the Meridian Center.

Besides working at the Meridian Center, Lunsford serves as board president for the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the YMCA Board.

"I enjoy working these positions because I am helping to bring money into the community and because I can help showcase

the city of Newton to people from all around the state," Lunsford said.

Lunsford grew up in Haysville and later moved to Wichita, where he worked for 13 years in operations and sales for UPS and later for DHL. When DHL downsized, Lunsford moved to a position as director of membership and development for Visit Wichita. Through relationships through his past sales position, Lunsford accepted his current position at the Meridian Center and

began work on March 1, 2011.

The Meridian Center is a city-owned property managed by KemperSports. This company also manages Sand Creek Station Golf Course.

As general manager, Lunsford manages all aspects of the business at the Meridian Center and helps out with anything that needs to be done.

"We serve three main markets: corporate meetings, social events, like wedding

Michael Lunsford is the general manager of the Meridian Center, which is a city-owned property managed by Kemper Sports.



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receptions, and state or regional association meetings. These are usually the events that require people to stay for longer periods of time," Lunsford said.

One such meeting that the Meridian Center will be the Kansas Association of City Managers.


Lunsford and his family moved to North Newton in 2013. As the father of two young children, Lunsford enjoys taking advantage of all the family facilities in Newton. The Lunsford family loves to spend time riding bikes on the paths, playing in the parks in the nice weather and playing all types of sports. During the holiday, the Lunsford children participated in Bill Self's basketball camp at The University of Kansas.

Lunsford and his children also have been training in tae kwon do in Newton. All three are red belts and are studying for their black-belt tests.

"One in 10,000 people who start martial arts will reach the black-belt stage, and for my kids and I to reach this accomplishment at the same time would be very exciting," Lunsford said.

Lunsford is an active member of the First Baptist Church and believes his faith as a Christian helps motivate him through his life.

"I strive to treat everyone with respect and courtesy," Lunsford said, "I also try not to take anything for granted; things can change and it is important to appreciate our blessings."

As someone who has found success in so many aspects of life, Lunsford explained that to achieve this, he has had to constantly redefine what his reality is and not become complacent. Lunsford went on to say, "I am most proud of my children. Seeing them succeed is how I know I am succeeding." 

Michael Lunsford, left, talks to Mike Barter, event coordinator at the Meridian Center in Newton.

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TACKLING THE GRIDIRON

Hesston's Katie Sowers gets football coaching opportunity

Katie Sowers has always loved football. She recently found some old journals that featured entries about how much she wanted to play, but her mom wouldn't let her.

"Which is weird because that doesn't sound like her at all," she said. "I showed them to her, and she just said that if she knew how much I wanted to play, I probably

would have played."

Dallas Cowboys gear filled her Christmas list one year.

"Items one through 20 was just Cowboys football, Cowboys helmet, Cowboys jersey," she said. "I don't why I picked the Cowboys."

Instead, she played basketball, a sport she went on to coach. Sowers ended up in

Kansas City, but her love for football never dimmed, and she found herself coaching former Kansas City Chiefs' general manager Scott Pioli's daughter.

The Hesston native and Pioli got to know each other through other parents on the team and formed a friendship.

"He learned of my passion for football and coaching," Sowers said. "I don't know

Hesston native Katie Sowers speaks with University of Miami wide receiver Rashawn Scott during Saturday's Shrine Game. Sowers helped former NFL player Troy Brown coach the East wide receivers. Courtesy photo



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how the conversation started, but we got to talk football, and I ended up asking him about coaching opportunities. He has a passion to get more diversity in football."

Sowers impressed Pioli with her knowledge, passion and enthusiasm for football and coaching.

"You know how you can see people's passion in their eyes?" Pioli said. "Talking to her about football, I was talking to a player and a student of the game. She is genuinely passionate about the game of football. The passion in her eyes is authentic."

On Jan. 23, she coached in the 91st East-West Shrine Game, an All-Star showcase for the nation's top college players. Sowers worked with the wide receivers for the East team.

Her official title for the week in St. Petersburg, Fla., was assistant to the head coach. The East head coach was three-time Super Bowl champion Charlie Weis.

"They used that title because they weren't entirely sure how they were going to use me," Sowers said.

Pioli contacted Weis and said there was no hesitation or balking when it came to finding a place for Sowers on staff for the game. Weis didn't know what she could do simply because he didn't know her, but Pioli explained to him that she played several skill positions.

"He said he had quarterbacks set with Brady Quinn, but he didn't have as much as he wanted with the wide receivers," Pioli said.

Sowers worked closely with Troy Brown, a member of the New England Patriots Hall of Fame. Also on the East coaching staff were Quinn, Mike Alstott and Bill Muir.

"It was a great experience," Sowers said. "I'm pretty blessed to coach and learn from them. I got a lot of time with Troy. It was good to work with him and get to know him."

Sowers plays professional tackle football for the Kansas

City Titans of the Women's Football Alliance, a league of 49 teams. Another league, the Independent Women's Football League, boasts 41 teams.

"I almost wish there weren't as many teams," she said. "It makes it much more difficult for the best to rise to the top."

Both Sowers and Pioli share a passion of bringing more diversity to the game of football.

"Why have a game that's exclusive?" Pioli said, adding that diversity and equality are something he just inherently believes.

Currently, the athletic director for the Kansas City Parks Department, Sowers had the qualifications to coach in the Shrine Game.

Sowers was awarded the American Conference Offensive Player of the Year at quarterback in 2014. She's also a six-time WFA All-American, four times at wide receiver and twice at quarterback. She was the quarterback with her twin sister Liz at wide receiver.

"Liz is my go-to," she said.

Women in football is becoming more and more prevalent, as the 2015 National Football League season was the first to feature a female referee in Sarah Thomas. The Arizona Cardinals hired Jen Welter as an intern last summer, and the Buffalo Bills recently hired Kathryn Smith as the league's first full-time coach.

"There are stigmas around women in football," Pioli said. "Whether we like it or not, there are degrees of ignorance everywhere. Their beliefs are their beliefs."

Sowers has thought about her place in the history of football as one of the pioneers for women in the game.

"I like to say I'm blazing a trail for others," Sowers said. "There are a lot of barriers in the way to get this opportunity. Women take a lot more heat."

Among the laundry list of achievements, her highlight was playing for Team USA in



Sowers smiles at practice before the national East-West Shrine Game. Sowers coached alongside former NFL coaches and players for the collegiate all-star game. Courtesy photo

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the Women's Football World Championship. She and 44 others traveled to Finland for the event.

"To represent the United States, that was probably the top experience of my life, especially in a sport traditionally reserved just for men," Sowers said. "It was also my first time out of the country, which was an experience in itself."

She was named Most Valuable Player against Germany, when she hauled in five interceptions at cornerback.

She once met Jon Bon Jovi and because the meeting was out of context, she didn't realize who he was.


"When I first met him, I thought it was some executive," Sowers said. "Someone said, 'Katie, this is Jon.' I just didn't expect to see him at practice."

She said he was extremely down to earth.

"That was humbling," she said. "He got me water a couple times and gave me his Clif Bar [a brand of granola] once when I was hungry."

Sowers also is a trainer for the USA Football Heads Up program and spent three days with the Atlanta Falcons as a guest coach.

Pioli had nothing but tremendous words to say about Sowers, and it was obvious he felt strongly about not only her, but also about bringing more diversity and inclusion to football.

"I can't narrow it down to just one 'best' quality she has," Pioli said. "Katie is genuinely passionate, she's a student, she's mentally and physically experienced and a good reader of people. She knows how to teach. Good coaches are good teachers. She is not in it for the fame or the attention." 

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