

Creatively covering your community

Joey and Lindsey Young
Kansas Publishing Ventures

Recruit Community Kids

- Junior reporter story prompts

Junior reporters share their wishes



Alex Avise shared his three wishes, including world peace and equality.

Editor's Note: This is the third week of our Junior Reporter program. Students throughout McPherson participated, submitting articles on "If I had three wishes." We decided to let their work stand on its own with no editing. All of the Junior Reporters are doing a fabulous job. To view all of the submissions visit www.mcphersonweeklynexus.com. The topic for week four is at the end of this article.

Three Wishes

By Alex Avise

Imagine this: you're in a cave full of treasure, and you find an old, golden oil lamp, you see dust on it, so you rub it to make it shinier. All of a sudden, you hear thunder and a genie comes out of the lamp. He tells you you have three wishes, in which you can wish for anything except killing people, making people fall in love, and bringing people back from the dead. What would your three wishes be? Here are what mine would be.

1. World Peace and Equality
Okay, now let me just clarify that when I say equality, I don't mean everybody gets exactly the same things, because that would be communism. When I say equality, I mean everyone has the same chances of success, and everyone treats everyone like themselves.

2. Superheroes are Real
Now we have world peace out of the way, SUPERHEROES ARE REAL. I mean, you can live in New York, NY and see Avengers Tower. Now, since superheroes are real, the places they live in are real too. Which means you can live in Gotham City!

3. I can Time Travel
So I can travel to any point in time, past or future. And just so you know, we're going by these rules: When you change the past, it doesn't affect this timeline. Instead, it creates a new timeline.

1. Once new timelines have been created, I can travel to any of those, or just travel back in time on this timeline.
2. Only I have this ability, but if I'm in direct contact with someone when I use it, they come as well.
So those are my three wishes. To have world peace and equality where everyone has equal chances of success, to make superheroes, supervillains, and the places they live in real, and to time travel, in which I create separate timelines. I hope you enjoyed!

"If I had three wishes they would be"
By Grayson Keller
If I had three wishes my first wish would be eternal life. I would like to stay a kid but live forever. My second wish would be for the world to be made out of candy. So in case you get hungry walking along you could eat your house. My third wish would be for it to rain money. Whenever it rains dollars to hundred dollar bills would rain.

My 3 Wishes
By Paxton Houchen
If I had 3 wishes, they

Grayson Keller just turned eight and shares some wishes with readers this week.

would be to become a NASCAR driver, end world hunger, and find the cure for cancer and the CoronaVirus.
My first wish is to become a NASCAR driver. I would like to race for the #12 so that I could race with my two favorite drivers, Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski, for Team Penske. It would be so much fun to race and to get better as the races go on. I would like to be a NASCAR driver like Dale Earnhardt Sr. because he was an inspiration to a lot of people.
My second wish is to end world hunger. I see things on the news about people starving and not being able to get food. I would like everyone to be able to get food and not be hungry.
My last wish is to find a cure for cancer and the CoronaVirus. I would like to cure cancer because my dad had cancer and it was sad seeing him go through chemo and being sick. Now I have a chance of getting that type of cancer and I don't want to get sick. I want a cure for the CoronaVirus so I can go back to school, sports come back on, and I can see my friends.
If I had 3 wishes, that's what they would be.

My three wishes
By Zachariah Heim
I have many things in my life that I would want. If I only had three wishes I would wish for one day to sit down and visit with my great grandmother Nola Heim. She passed away the year before I was born. I would want to meet her because of some of the things that I have been told about her. Like the fact that she was a nice person. She was a big part of my family's life.
Another wish that I would wish for would be to become a game creator. I like to play games and I am really good at

Zachariah Heim wished he could visit with his grandparents, Nola and Harold Heim.

it. I think that working on and creating games would be cool. The best possible outcome would be to benefit me, the world, and everyone I can with the least amount of wishes possible. There are a few possibilities that have come up though and one of which is that I don't know the best or most impacting wishes but, these are my 3 wishes.
My first wish would be to remove any monetary system from any government so no one would be "broke". Another positive to this wish would be no one would have their eyes set to be rich which can lead to terrible decisions affecting others. Additionally, it would remove the need to make physical money such as dollar bills which takes up paper it also would let us work on something like the cure to the coronavirus without fear of running out of funding.
My second wish would be to make the human race a multi-world civilization. This wish would put humanity way further in scientific research and it would eliminate the overworlding problem as well as the global warming issue. Not only those problems but also it would give people a chance for exploration. Lastly for this wish, it would not only give us new solutions it would give us new problems

3 wishes
By Addyson Carroll
If I had three wishes they would be that I wish the coronavirus would be gone because it's boring not going out and doing stuff, also having the anxiety about it getting worse.
My second wish is that nobody is starving in the world. America wastes about 72 billion pounds of food each year. It sucks that some people in the world are always starving cause they don't have a food supply.
My third wish is I want to have world peace.

wishes there are 3 times the possibilities. So, the best possible outcome would be to benefit me, the world, and everyone I can with the least amount of wishes possible. There are a few possibilities that have come up though and one of which is that I don't know the best or most impacting wishes but, these are my 3 wishes.
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The McPherson News-Ledger is in need of a few good freelancers.

Preferably with writing and journalism experience, but willing to train an individual as long as they are reliable and accurate.

You have the right set of skills, you could serve your community, your paper and make some cash on the side all for a few hours of work each week.

Email jessie@mcphersonweeklynexus.com if interested.

ing the beauty in the tower someday in real life.

3 wishes

By Addyson Carroll

If I had three wishes they would be that I wish the coronavirus would be gone because it's boring not going out and doing stuff, also having the anxiety about it getting worse.

My second wish is that nobody is starving in the world. America wastes about 72 billion pounds of food each year. It sucks that some people in the world are always starving cause they don't have a food supply.

My third wish is I want to have world peace.

If I Had Three Wishes
By Henry Lyon

Recruit Community Kids

- Junior reporter story prompts
- Class interviewing project
- High school newspaper takeover

Feature Series

- Odd jobs, dirty jobs, etc.
- Young entrepreneurs



FRED SOLIS/THE CLARION

Drake Klingenberg, left, and Elijah Harris sit on the frame of their hot dog stand that they put together for their hobby, "Rally Dogs," in Mount Hope.

Brothers open hot dog stand

BY FRED SOLIS

THE CLARION STAFF
clarionnewsdesk@gmail.com

MOUNT HOPE – Drake Klingenberg and Elijah Harris aren't your typical mom and pop business people. The brothers, who just opened their very own hot dog stand last weekend in Mount Hope, are just 9 and 7 years old.

Elijah, 7, got the idea for Rally Dogs, the name of their stand, after he and his Mount Hope Elementary School classmates visited LMNO Pizza in town as part of a career day outing.

"He let us make our own pizza," Elijah said of LMNO owner Vance Summers.

Excited from the experience, Elijah talked Drake into starting a business of their own.



Feature Series

- Odd jobs, dirty jobs, etc.
- Young entrepreneurs
- Artists, crafters, quilters, etc.

Retiree Neufeld pivots from making music to making musical instruments

By LAURIE OSWALD ROBINSON

HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NORTH NEWTON—It began to happen slowly for musician and songwriter Chuck Neufeld: the loss of hearing folk tune notes he played on his guitar and a slower flow of his fingers over the strings.

Music, which had always been a vital part of his work, became more and more cumbersome. This caused Neufeld, a longtime Mennonite pastor, conference minister and administrator for Mennonite Voluntary Service, to question: "Should I continue performing concerts and adding to the 12 albums I've created over the decades?"

As a lifetime person of faith, he decided not to be paralyzed but to pray, said Neufeld, recently interviewed in his North Newton home with his wife, Bonnie. His prayer was simple: "Lord, if this should continue to be established in my life, increase my desire for it. If not, decrease my desire for it."

After he prayed for some time, "I no longer felt a desire to keep doing concerts," he said.

In response to the discernment, Neufeld pivoted from making music to making musical instruments for others. Empowering this new venture was his lifelong love of woodworking, which earlier produced some more common folk instruments, such as mountain dulcimers and hammered dulcimers.

Today, he builds other, original wood-based instruments—in-



LAURIE OSWALD ROBINSON/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
Chuck Neufeld of North Newton builds original instruments such as this sound cradle, in which sits his wife, Bonnie.

more common seven-note scale.

"Their strings are tuned to a random scale; kind of like an arpeggio, but not necessarily in sequence," he said. "The pentatonic scale is very ancient,

Neufeld his curiosity and love for musical instruments from around the globe.

For example, the largest instrument that Neufeld builds—a sound cradle—was inspired by musical craftsmen in



LAURIE OSWALD ROBINSON/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
Chuck Neufeld of North Newton builds original instruments, one of which is this quieting harp.

Feature Series

- Second stories/hidden spaces



PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Rachel Mondt, local architect, business owner and building owner, looks out a second-floor window where she wants to build two Airbnb apartments, one of which she'll reside in when she's in town.

'Second Stories'

Local architect Mondt remodeling second floors of downtown buildings

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles called "Second Stories" about what people are doing to second floors in the downtown Newton area and other areas of town.

By Wendy Nugent
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Local architect Rachel Mondt plans to eventually remodel the second floors of two buildings she owns in downtown Newton into eight apartments.

Mondt owns two buildings downtown, 425 and 427 N. Main Street, as well as the store Discount Depot that's in the building on the corner of West Fifth and North Main Streets.

Mondt said she plans to do six one-bedroom apartments at 427 and two apartments at 425.

First, she'll start on the two apartments at 425 N. Main as soon as she gets a permit, which should be this month.

The apartment facing the train station will be Mondt's



This is part of the second floor of the building local architect and business woman Rachel Mondt wants to turn into apartments.

ing to remodel her buildings' second floors.

"Every asset needs to be maximized," she said. "It's just part of the DNA of being an architect. There's a lot of square

it's easier to redo a building that's already there than build new, she added. One of the tricky things about remodeling downtown is the historic aspect, she said, which can be more ex-



PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

From left, Zach McHatton with the City of Newton, Newton Mayor Leroy Koehn, Anabaptist World editor Paul Schrag, local realtors Joe Carbajal and Stan Brodhagen, and Newton Commissioner Rod Kreie look over a ceiling on the second floor of what used to be apartments in the 300 block of West Sixth St. in Newton.

Downtown living

Buyer interested in remodeling part of downtown building on West Sixth

By Wendy Nugent
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Vintage furniture, kitchen appliances and wallpaper are but echoes of what the apartments on the second floor of 133, 131 and 129 W. Sixth Street looked like when they were bustling with people.

The apartment entrances have screen doors guarding their homes on hot days to let in the airflow. Behind those are regular, solid doors for privacy. People could open skylights above a common area to let in air and open the downstairs door to get a cross breeze. There also were shared restrooms when it was a boarding house, local realtor Stan Brodhagen said.

The structure is sound; it has good bones, but there is work to be done to make it habitable.



Realtor Stan Brodhagen, left, and Newton Mayor Leroy Koehn look over an area in the back of the building for sale.

World that has offices in that has been made on the building.

Feature Series

- Second stories/hidden spaces
- Farm to table
- Feature obituaries
- Service industry workers



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
 Ana Lewis of Newton works the drive-through on Thursday afternoon at South Sonic, where she's a carhop. She has been working there on and off for 11 years.

At your service: South Sonic carhop enjoys her job

Editor's note: This is one of several articles Harvey County Now is doing called 'At Your Service' where we talk to people who serve others.

BY WENDY NUGENT
 HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Ana Lewis appeared like a dancer improvising each step as she worked at the South Sonic drive-through window, reaching for customer tickets, preparing drinks, taking money and giving folks their orders, stepping all over the small space in each required step on Thursday afternoon.

She knew what she was doing. There was no hesitation in her movements.

She knows her job, and she should after being there 11 years off and on. Lewis, a single mother, is a carhop at South Sonic, and she has worn roller skates to deliver food and drinks to folks.

"It wasn't the best experience," Lewis said about roller skating at work. "I wasn't the most graceful."

She said that was a long time ago and that she probably wouldn't try that today but wishes she could.

"It would be so cool if I could do that," she said. Lewis, a Newton resident who was born and raised in Newton, enjoys working there.

"I like getting the occasional compliments," she said. "I do fast food, and I don't think that my job really impacts people very much, but you get the customers who come



through and say, 'You brighten my day' or they need to talk something through."

There are challenges, however, like any job where employees deal with members of the public who might come through when they aren't in the best of moods.

"I just try to make sure they're happier than when they came in," Lewis said. "I've been there before, and sometimes you just have bad days. I just try to be in a good mood so I don't ruin someone else's day. Energy can transfer, that's for sure."

Her contacts usually involve food or drinks, and Sonic has a lot of those for the public, from burgers to fries to desserts. Lewis's favorite food on the menu is a simple sandwich.

"I'll get a Junior Double with all the fixin's," she said. "Pretty easy."

One of the new winter items on the menu is a Recharge drink, which includes flavors like Twisted Lime, Dragon Fruit and Blood Orange, with Sprite and Red Bull.

"I haven't tried one yet," Lewis said. "I should probably try one of those."

One of the bright spots



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
 Ana Lewis fixes a drink at the South Sonic in Newton.

around the holidays at Sonic, in addition to new winter items, are large tips, like people who tip \$100 bills.

"I've gotten a couple of those," Lewis said, adding that helps since she has a son and his birthday is in December. Lewis works almost full time at 35 to 38 hours a week and doesn't have another job. She wants to spend more time with her son.

"I'm kind of on the fence of going back to school, although they treat me good here," Lewis said. "I can't be here for the rest of my life. We're always hiring."



At your service: Loganbill's been helping customers for more than 15 years

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles called 'At Your Service' about people who serve the community in their jobs. If you know someone on whom we should do an article, please contact Wendy Nugent at wendy@harveycountynow.com or call the office at 316-281-7899.

BY WENDY NUGENT
 HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Deanne Loganbill's children joke with her they can't go anywhere with her without her knowing someone.

"They just think it's funny wherever we go that there will be something that we know," Loganbill said. "I like that. I'm a people person."

She knows a lot of people from where she works in downtown Newton—Main Street Company.

Loganbill has been greeting customers with her bright smile for more than 15 years, and good timing and probably her friendly personality contributed to her landing a job there.

Once her son and



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
 Deanne Loganbill, left, talks to customer Barbara Anderson of Newton last week at Main Street Company. Anderson was trying to find a gift.

daughter graduated from high school, Loganbill looked for a job outside of her home, initially checking out a place in Heston to work. Then, on a whim one day, she drove to Newton from her rural Moundridge home and talked to Becky Stine-

man, who owned a women's clothing store in Newton. Stine-

man said she didn't need help, but she suggested Loganbill talk to Main Street Company nearby, which she

did. The now current owner, Tina Ostrander, asked Loganbill to return two or three days later, and she hired her.

"That was in August of 2008," Loganbill said. "My daughter was off to college."

Loganbill started three days a week and then went full-time.

"Now it's back down to four," she said, adding it's sometimes five days a week if she's needed. She enjoys customers.

"There's a lot of people that I see over and over, and I love that," she said. "A loyal customer base here."

Customers aren't just from Newton, however. They're from all over the surrounding area, Loganbill said.

"Sometimes, I end up seeing family members here at the store more than I do outside the store," Loganbill said. "My life seems so busy."

In addition to assisting



customers in the store, Loganbill likes to help Newton businesses. She started going to a nearby dental office since she met the office gals who work there, and she gets her nails done at Gina's Salon.

"I like to help people out," Loganbill said. "I try to get to as many as I can. You keep acquaintances going."

She feels like she's made a lot of friends and acquaintances through Main Street Company.

"I like to see people I know out and about," she said.

Main Street Company isn't the first place Loganbill has worked. Her first job was at Small Fry Shop, a baby and maternity clothing store when she was first out of high school and married. She quit that job when she

was going to have a baby.

When her daughter was a baby, she picked up small jobs and also baked for people.

"I did some baking for people and still do," she said.

When her children were small, she was a custodian at her church and also was a volleyball coach. She even did interior painting.

Loganbill's favorite thing about her job is the people. She likes the people she works with, as well as the customers.

"I enjoy helping people with the clothes," she said. "I enjoy seeing people love what they're wearing. If they don't love it, I never want them to take it home. I want to help them in an honest way. The fact that I like the people I work with is huge."

That includes her supervisors.

"My bosses—they're great," she said. "When I've had things going on in my life, they've treated me like family. They're my work family. I needed that work-family support, and that means a lot to me."

Feature Series

- Second stories/hidden spaces
- Farm to table
- Feature obituaries
- Service industry workers
- Recycle, Reduce, Reuse



Volunteers Wanda Williams, Mary Ann Conyers and Jandee Moore price clothing at St. Luke Hospital Auxiliary Shoppe in Marion. They are just three of 90 volunteers who help keep the shop running smoothly.

St. Luke Hospital Auxiliary Shoppe a great secondhand option in Marion County

Editors note: This is the second article in a series about ways to repurpose materials to keep them out of landfills and help them find a second life in honor of Secondhand Clothing Awareness Week. Check back for more articles in this series.

St. Luke Hospital Auxiliary Shoppe in Marion is a great option in Marion County for both finding great bargains and for donating items no longer needed that still have a lot of life left in them.

According to nationaltoday.com, one-quarter of Americans shop at thrift stores. In comparison, only 21% shop at a major department store and 19% shop at an apparel store. While many think only those who are finan-

cially challenged shop at thrift stores, there's no 'typical' customer at thrift stores. Even among the rich or middle class, many people enjoy the thrill of saving money while discovering a hidden treasure.

Thrift stores, like St. Luke Hospital Auxiliary Shoppe, make it easier to dress kids who quickly grow out of clothes as you can find high-quality children's clothing in excellent condition for a few dollars.

Or you can get high-end, name-brand clothing for low prices that you can't find anywhere else.

"The donations we get in are so generous. We have Coach. We have Uggs. We have Patricia Nash, Michael Kors and more as far as handbags and other items," said Manager Mary Ann

Conyers. "Our donors are able to have a place here to get rid of good things and our customers are able to get the good things at a price they can't find anywhere else."

All profits go to St. Luke Hospital for equipment, remodeling expenses and other extras not in their budget.

"All the money goes back to departments of St. Luke Hospital. Any of the department heads can come down to our board meetings once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and request things. They usually have done their homework and they usually get a couple of bids for us, and then we can approve the purchase if we can," said President of the Auxiliary Board Janet Herzet. "We

■ See **LUKE**, Page 5

another \$130,000 available through grant funds as well as from funding from the federal

Becker voting against it. The commission voted unanimously in favor of ordering a

sitioning back to the EMS Charts program to help manage patient records. They voted to

access to parts of the county. That pledge included an allocation of \$100 per fiber drop.

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Norma Kline oversees the ministry Sew Much Love and enjoys getting together with others every month at Eastmoor Church in Marion to make dresses for little girls all over the world.

Local churches have fun while serving

**This is the third article in a series about ways to repurpose materials to keep them out of landfills and help them find a second life. Check back for more articles in this series.*

BY LAURA FOWLER PAULUS
The Free Press

Two churches in Marion are different denominations and located on different streets but both are doing some very similar things. They are helping others and keeping materials out of the landfills. And they are having a wonderful time while doing it.

"We have a lot of fun. We eat lunch here. It's just a whole two days each month of fellowship, fun and doing the Lord's work," said Norma Kline who heads up the group Sew Much Love at Eastmoor Church in Marion.

The group makes dresses for little girls. The group recently met on Feb. 20 and 21 for two full days and completed 67 dresses. They make the dresses out of donated fabric that comes from all over. While the fabric is unused, much of it comes



Plastic shopping bags are cut into loops and knotted together to make a sort of plastic yarn or "plarn" that is used by women in Marion to crochet bed mats for homeless folks all over the world. The mats are 6 feet by 3 feet and can be washed off and hung to dry in the sun.

lots of jobs you can do," said Belinda Skiles. "Just show up."

Each dress has the same basic design with strings that tie at the top and a flower attached and a pocket, but every one is uniquely designed and as different as the fabric and the women who designed them. The women enjoy matching different fabrics and adding special touches to each dress while spending time together.

"We get to hang out and be creative. It's fun. And you get to do good while you're at it," said Skiles.

The group has been working for about nine and a half years with about a year and a half off for COVID-19. They have made over 5,000 dresses now that they have sent all over the world to places including India, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, North Sudan, Uganda, Congo, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil, the Amazon, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, Kentucky, New Mexico and

Investigative Series

- State of downtown
- Housing availability
- Health care/Local and statewide reports
- “Ask us”

Ask Jessie: McPherson served by 39 mayors throughout its history



Editor's Note: We receive questions regularly from readers about a variety of topics important to those living in McPherson County. We will attempt to provide answers to as many of those questions as possible. If you have a question, ask Jessie, by emailing jessie@mcphersonweeklynews.com.

Question: Can you tell me about the history of McPherson mayors? How many mayors have we had, have any of them been women?

McPherson has been served by a total of 39 mayors. Each of the mayors left a mark on the city many of which can still be seen today. The first mayor of McPherson was Solomon Stephens. Stephens was elected in March of 1874 when the first McPherson city election was held.

Stephens was one of the first permanent settlers in the county, having originally called Kentucky home. He and his brother David relocated to the area in 1866. In 1868, he was made First Lieutenant of a Military Company or Home Guard formed for protection. At that time, a sod fort was built just south of the present town of Marquette. That same year, he and Major Holmberg of Sveadal were appointed as the Justices of the Peace by the Governor of Kansas, the first officers of what is now McPherson

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Solomon Stephens 1874-1876 | 1899 A.C. Spillman 1899- 1901 | C.E. Booz 1939-1944 Dr. E.L. Hodge 1945- 1947 |
| C.E. Pierce 1876-1877 | W.H. Cottingham 1901 | Homer Ferguson 1948-1953 |
| G. McClintick 1878 | Geo Wallison 1902 | A.W. Bremyer 1954- 1959 |
| W. E. Pitzer 1879 | W.J. Krehbiel 1903- 1906 | G.G. Dixon 1960-1965 |
| M.D. Grimes 1880 | L.C. Criner 1907- 1909 | Carlos Crabb 1966- 1968 |
| Eli P. Williams 1881- 1883 | I.F. Talbott 1909-1911 | Kenneth Swanson 1969-1974 |
| G. L. McCourt 1883- 1885 | J.A. Davis 1911-1913 | Fred Diehl 1975-1980 |
| D. W. Heath 1885- 1887 | F.O. Johnson 1914- 1917 | Delbert Crabb 1981- 1986 |
| J. M. Stabler 1887- 1889 | B.A. Allison 1918- 1920 | Paul Anderson 1987- 1992 |
| J. C. Hamilton 1880- 1891 | M.T. Fletcher 1921- 1923 | Vernon Dossett 1993- 2001 |
| Eli P. Williams 1891- 1893 | C.K. Hawley 1924- 1929 | Bill Goering 2002- 2008 |
| S.C. Wright 1894- 1895 | D.R. Maltby 1930- 1932 | Thomas Brown- 2009- present |
| A.C. Spillman 1895- 1897 | E.C. Crary 1933-1938 | |
| Jeff Tourney 1897- | | |



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PROVIDED PHOTO

Milford Dudley Grimes served as the fifth mayor of McPherson. His term as mayor was from 1880-1882.

McPherson County. Elizabeth Street in McPherson was named after the mother of Solomon Stephens.

Benjamin Alexander Allison was the 23rd mayor of McPherson, serving from 1918 to 1920. He was appointed to West Point but later disqualified because of an injury to his trigger finger. He began his career as a journalist and cartoonist for the Sturgeon Leader. In 1879, he established the McPherson County Abstract Company in McPherson, one of the oldest businesses in the city. He



MCPHERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/
PROVIDED PHOTO

Eli P Williams served as the 6th and 11th mayor and worked as a banker in the early days of the city.

Delbert Crabb was the 32nd mayor. During his tenure as mayor, the city underwent several changes. The downtown parking deck was built, serving as a catalyst for several downtown improvement projects. The Northview interchange was created and improvements were made to Ave. A. The community saw \$90 million worth of industrial development during his time in office from 1981 to 1986.

He also faced several controversial issues head on. The fate of the McPherson Opera House



MCPHERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/
PROVIDED PHOTO

Mayor Ken Swanson, left, and James Cassler place flowers on the grave of Solomon Stephens on May 29, 1972.

Interestingly, two mayor's served two separate terms. Eli P. Williams was mayor from 1881 to 1883. He was preceded by G. L. McCourt, D.W. Heath, J.M. Stabler and J.C. Hamilton. Williams was then reelected and served as mayor from 1939 to 1941. A.C. Spillman was mayor from 1895-1897. He was preceded by Jeff Tourney who served for two years, then Spillman was reelected and served from 1899 to 1901.

Thomas Brown is currently serving as the mayor of McPherson



MCPHERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/PROVIDED PHOTO

McPherson Mayor AC Spillman introduces Vice Presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt stepped onto a platform at the Union Pacific depot only long enough to give a short speech before climbing back aboard the train.



MCPHERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/PROVIDED PHOTO

Fire Chief Bob Sisson and Mayor Tom Peterson drive the fire truck in the Jubilee parade in the 1940s.



MCPHERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/PROVIDED PHOTO

Currently Tom Brown serves as the Mayor of McPherson. He was sworn in by former City Administrator Gary Meagher in April of 2009.

of information about

Dult Services at the

School Stories

- New teacher profiles
- Club/“nerd sports” highlights
- Themed lessons

Celebrating Kansas



Phog Allen (Zach Hobbs), left, answers questions for Marcia Somers about his contributions to the sport of basketball in Kansas during activities to mark Kansas Day at Mount Hope Elementary School.

FRED SOLIS/THE CLARION

Area grade schools get into Kansas Day

BY FRED SOLIS
THE CLARION STAFF
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Mount Hope students didn't just get to walk in the footsteps of famous Kansans for Kansas Day. They got to become them.

For the month of January the students at the grade school prepared to put on a "Living Wax Museum," researching famous historical figures from the state and creating costumes to represent them in honor of the state's 154th birthday.

Explorers, inventors, writers and sports figures—they were all there. William Allen White, Laura Ingalls Wilder, President Dwight Eisenhower, Amelia Earhart, Buffalo Bill Cody, Frank Carney, Phog Allen, Lynette Woodard, and more came to life in the school gym.

Buffalo Bill Cody, that is student Jacob Towle, said the celebration and project provided a way for students to get in touch with their past.

"Kansas Day is important, because you should learn about your history and what gave you what you have today," Towle said.

Towle picked his character because he saw similarities between himself and the historical hunter and showman.

"I'm a survivalist type of person



At Colwich Elementary School last week, first grade students assembled a Kansas flag on the floor and also munched on a Kansas Day treat in honor of



Rose Peltzer scoops first-grader Krista Hesslink a tasty apple treat Thursday at Andale Elementary School. The first-grade class was celebrating Johnny Appleseed day.

PHOTOS BY ADAM STRINK/THE CLARION

Celebrating with some apple treats



Above: First-grader Thadron Bentley makes sure he gets every last bit of delicious caramel goodness off the plate Thursday at Andale Elementary. The first-grade class was celebrating Johnny Appleseed day.



Left: From left Bo Kaiser, Trent Eck, Landon Harp have a good time Thursday as Harp makes a sculpture from apple cobbler at Andale Elementary School. The first-grade class was celebrating Johnny Appleseed day.

Business Stories

- Non-retail spots
- What used to be here?
- Home-based/cottage bu

Damon cleaning residential, commercial properties in Newton

Editor's note: This article is one of many Harvey County Now has done on cottage industries in Newton.

By Wendy Nugent
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Newton resident Mercy Damon learned how to clean when she was quite young, and now she runs her own cleaning business, Mercy's Sparkling Cleaning, and is drawn to business matters.

Someday, she'd like to become a lawyer.

"At 9, I cleaned my ballet dance studio to be able to take classes," she said.

In addition, her parents are missionaries, so she'd clean missionary homes when they returned from overseas.

"I'd already grown up helping my parents," she said about cleaning. "I dove into [cleaning] research."

She also took online classes to learn what's expected of a cleaning business before offering her services to the public.

Damon started her business in 2021, but she also had a full-time job at Discount Depot in Newton. She'd clean nights and weekends, and then in 2022, she went full time.

Her business doesn't have set prices. Pricing depends on the job.

"I give free walkthroughs," she said. "I always walk through with people and get an idea what they want specifically for their home."

Some people want her to clean once a month, while others like her to go to their homes twice a month. Some older folks

need her services every week. How often they have her go to the house depends on what type of cleaning they need, Damon said, like a deep clean. Average houses are \$60 to \$100.

"I can do single-room cleans," she said. Standard cleans for weekly clients include cleaning everything on the outside of things, like drawers, but a deep clean would involve vacuuming the inside of drawers, Damon said.

She wanted to open a business for a few reasons. It's a business she runs out of her home.

"I wanted to start this business because I've always been fascinated with business owners, and I'm young and body abled," she said, adding she can get hands-on business experience this way.

She said she's always had a fascination with business, and in high school, she hadn't had a class she loved until she took government economics. From there, she bought a lot of business books.

"I wanted to find economics books, accounting books," she said. "I always wanted to be an entrepreneur. I wasn't sold on a career [until then]."

There was nothing she was so interested in that she'd like to commit to for 30 years. That's when she decided to take a gap year between high school and college. She went to high school at Life Prep Academy in Wichita, a private international school.

Currently, Damon has regular residential and commercial recurring clients, and those wishing to employ her cleaning services can contact



PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/
HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Above: Mercy Damon of Newton cleans a sink in a local apartment building. Damon runs Mercy's Sparkling Cleaning out of her home.

Left: Mercy Damon of Newton does some cleaning at a local apartment building.

her on her business Facebook page or call (316) 227-0691.

She has her eyes set on the future.

"The goal is to be able to offer more services," she said, adding she'd like to grow and serve Newton.

And she does plan to attend college.

"I definitely think God wants me to do the most with the life that he's given me," she said. "That includes helping people through business. It's a form of me helping people."

Damon's life hasn't been easy.

"I was adopted from a Third World country at a young age, and that inspires me," she said.

"That makes me very thankful to be an American citizen. I'm very thankful for the opportunities here."



To reach Mercy Damon, owner of Mercy's Sparkling Cleaning, visit her business's Facebook page or call her at 316-227-0691.

Newton resident uses vet tech experience for nail-trimming business

Editor's note: This is one of several articles in a series about cottage industries in Harvey County.

By Wendy Nugent
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Newton resident Jessica Yoder gently put her large orange Maine coon cat, who was bursting at the seams with fluff, on her lap, getting ready to cut his claws.

He seemed pretty content for a bit, like he's done it before, but after a while, he squirmed and wiggled. He had had enough.

Yoder trims animals' claws for others as part of her business, Fur Baby Nail Trims by Jes Yo. She does dog, cat, bunny and guinea pig nail trims.

Yoder has been doing trims for 12 years, having done that at a vet clinic for eight years

until she got cancer. "Got pretty good, since

I averaged about 10 a day," she said. "When I left the clinic, clients followed."

Her hours normally are noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays for appointments, but she also will do them during the week if Saturdays don't work.

Yoder has been doing that in her home for the last four years but decided it would be easier to go to the clients' homes for older animals.

"Then it turned into all animals, simply 'cause it's easier for the owner and animal in a place they're familiar with," Yoder said.

She charges \$10 for easy trims and \$15 for difficult ones. If it's a house call, people pay what they think is fair for gas. To contact Yoder, visit her Facebook page called "Fur Baby Nail Trims by Jes Yo."

People are welcome to call or message her there.

"Once I started doing house calls, it was referral after referral," she

said. At least some of the dogs don't like getting their nails trimmed.

"Some of the dogs are so dramatic," Yoder said. "They howl and scream just at the sight of the clippers. Makes me laugh."

Yoder estimated the number of animals whose nails she's trimmed to be in the thousands.

"Some of my favorite animals from the vet clinic I still take care of to this day," she said.

"There's even been a few that I hadn't seen in over a year that immediately recognize me. That's my favorite part. I have this business to make life easier for the owners and the animals."

Yoder has this kind of business for one reason.

"I love animals so much, and I'm so thankful so many people trust me with their pets," she said. "Thank you, Newton, for sharing all your fur babies with me."



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Jessica Yoder of Newton trims the nails of dogs, cats, guinea pigs and bunnies with her business, Fur Baby Nail Trims by Jes Yo. Here, she's working with one of her cats.

Business Stories

- Lesser explored businesses
- Made here



DON RATZLAFF / FREE PRESS

Co-owners Darrell Driggers (left) and LaVerne Esau stand in front of computer-packaged stacks of plastic bottles ready for shipment to Dorothy Lynch Salad Dressing.

Out of the bottle

Good news is getting around about Container Services Inc.

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Container Service Inc. has experienced steady growth since its start in 1991, but the success of the Hillsboro company has been bottled up, so to speak, in regard to public awareness.

"I think most people have no idea what goes on here," co-owner and executive vice president for sales and marketing Darrell Driggers said of the stock and custom plastic bottle business located in the Hillsboro Industrial Park.

To enter the company's 74,000-square-foot facility, which includes a warehouse the length of a football field, is to enter a surreal world of around 35 workers with

hairnets hustling through thousands of plastic bottles each hour in multiple forms and sizes.

In the container industry, CSI is known as a "custom blow molder" because workers take test-tube-looking plastic preforms and run them through sophisticated machines that use heat and air pressure to "blow" the preforms into the desired shape and thickness.

CSI's most well-known product are the honey-bear bottles created primarily for its local neighbor, Golden Heritage Foods, one of the nation's leading honey processors.

But the customer list also includes companies that sell automotive, floor care, household

chemical, animal-health pharmaceutical and even black powder products.

Within the past year, CSI has added perhaps its most widely known client, Dorothy Lynch Salad Dressing, which will translate into multi-million units annually.

A place to start

The brainchild for Container Services Inc. is co-owner and president LaVerne Esau, who saw an entrepreneurial opportunity while working for Golden Heritage Foods (then known as Barkman Honey) in the 1980s.

"Part of my job was to place blow molds," Esau said. "Quite

■ See **Bottle**, Page 5A



Your own paper

- Explore meeting coverage
- Read legal notices
- Revisit previous stories

Your own paper

- Deep dive the police blotter/court records
- Look at advertisements/classifieds
- 100 years ago

Uncovering the history of Black newspapers in Harvey County

By JESSIE WAGONER

HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Newspapers were plentiful in Harvey County in the early 1900s. In 1914, Harvey County had several weekly papers which are archived with the Kansas State Historical Society and which we refer to in our weekly column, 100 years. But at least one Harvey County publication is missing from the archives.

The Newton News-Ledger began publication in 1914. Frederick Jeltz, served as editor and publisher of the paper. While no surviving copies of the paper, or a picture of Jeltz, exist in archives, there are mentions of the newspaper in other Har-

vey County publications.

In the May 7, 1914, edition of the Halstead Independent, the following brief was captured, “Col. Fred Jeltz, editor of the Times-Ledger, the new Negro paper at Newton was here Thursday on business for his paper.”

While on April 9, 1914, the Sedgwick Pantagraph printed the following, “Major Jeltz, the Newton Negro who is going to start a weekly paper in the county seat, was in Sedgwick Monday. He did not favor this office with a visit.”

Without copies of the old Newton News-Ledger to review, it is hard to know how long the publication stayed in print or what positions the

newspaper took. However, there is some information about the editor, Jeltz, himself that has been archived over the years.

Allen J. Ratzlaff presented his dissertation, “Black Press Pioneers in Kansas,” to the University of Florida in 2001. His dissertation highlighted the life and career of Jeltz. Before starting the Newton News-Ledger, Jeltz worked as an editor

See PAPER / A8

Random People

- 5-minute interview

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THE 5-MINUTE INTERVIEW: ANNE PANKRATZ

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By News Staff – Wed, 07/13/2022 - 10:55



Anne Pankratz is a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher and FCCLA advisor in Marion. She also assists her husband with their family farm/ranch operation raising, what else, but sheep! PHOTO BY JEREMY WALTNER

It's now just a matter of weeks before the fourth South Dakota Chislic Festival unfolds on the grounds of the Freeman Prairie Arboretum,

Random People

- 5-minute interview
- Retirement homes/senior centers
- Background “characters”
- Person on the street

Beetch shows off unique skill in town

BY FRED SOLIS

THE CLARION STAFF
clarionnewsdesk@gmail.com

MOUNT HOPE – Charlie Beetch lives a balanced life, whether working as a customer services representative for the Mount Hope branch of the First National Bank of Hutchinson or riding his unicycle to and from work.

Beetch “messed around and learned to ride” a unicycle in middle school when a friend bought one at a yard sale. Beetch has been actively riding his unicycle for the past five years. At this year’s Kansas State Fair, he was one of two unicyclists in the opening parade.

“Kids saw me coming down the road and smiled at me,” he said.

The unusual mode of transportation also attracts Mount Hope kids when they see him riding it around town.

“Kids follow on their bikes and holler for me to stop so they can ask questions,” Beetch said. “They want to know how to ride it and how I got it.”

Taming the unicycle took about 50 hours of practice and a lot of falling, he said. He spent a “solid week to learn to go down the driveway.” Stopping and turning took more work and

time.

When riding a unicycle, it’s a constant balancing act, he said, and constant motion. There is no resting on a unicycle.

“You have to learn your center of gravity,” he said. “You are falling forward and you have to correct yourself with your arms and hips. Your body flails as a reaction to trying to stay upright.

“You use your whole core. You feel it in the abs and back of your legs. There is no coasting; you have to be in motion all the time. Your legs will be burning constantly,” he added, which takes a lot of energy.

As an accomplished rider, Beetch can ride from one end of town to the other without getting winded. He rides a 24-inch mountain unicycle with 2 1/2-inch wide tires with extra tread. The combination makes it a bit easier to maneuver, and the size of the tire also means less pedaling than what would be required to power an 18-inch unicycle, he said.

Although he’s still in the process of learning stunts, he can hop on the tire, perform a 180-degree spin, and hop up on the curb. He also can ride backwards for a short distance.

“Wheel walking is a neat trick,” he said. “As soon as I learn that I’ll be happy.”

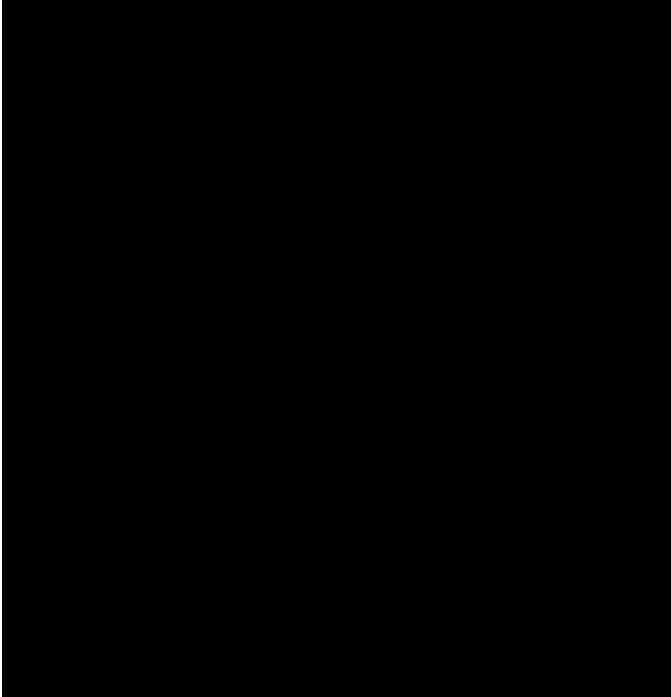


FRED SOLIS/THE CLARION

Charlie Beetch rides his unicycle in Mount Hope, where he works at the Mount Hope branch of the First National Bank of Hutchinson. He first learned to ride a unicycle in middle school and uses it to ride to and from work each day.

Social Media

- Get submitted photos



Social Media

- Get submitted photos
- Follow “What’s happening?” and “Buy, sell, trade” groups



Harvey County Sell, Buy or Trade

CW Harvey · Sun at 12:58 PM · 🌐

Selling these hand made craft boxes. I have 10 of them. As you can see in the pictures, the white boxes do not have handles yet. The measurements are in the photos. More available upon request. \$20.00 each.



\$20 · HALSTEAD, KS

Hand made wood craft boxes for sale.

Message

👍 Like

💬 Comment



SillySalamander Crafts

12h · 🌐

natural stone—10mm and 8mm size beads

Maw Sit Sit:

a rare enchanting gemstone with ecstatic energy that aids in feeling more positive, motivated, and fulfilled

Hematite:

grounding and protection

Lava Rock:

rebirth and shedding unneeded layers of emotional attachment.



\$15 · NEWTON, KS

Maw Sit Sit, hematite and Lava Rock

💬 Message

Good Practices

- Keep a “rainy day” list
- Troll local bulletin boards
- Read other publications
- Drive new routes/take different roads

Other Ideas

- Keep a calendar of local anniversaries/milestones

30 YEARS LATER:

The Hesston Tornado and how its destruction affected Harvey County - Pages 12-13



NEWTON **NEW**

Vol. 5: No. 26

Thursday, March 12, 2020

www.harveycountynow.com

Newton, KS

\$1.25

Other Ideas

- Keep a calendar of local anniversaries
- Consider cultural spotlights



PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Konner Jaso catches a softball as he warms up with his father and grandpa.

In their blood

Grandpa, son, grandson will be in annual softball tournament

By WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Left foot forward, right arm back. Make a swooping motion with the right arm, releasing the ball at the right moment to get it to first base before the runner.

Softball players' movements can be just as choreographed as any dancer's, but the athletes' movements are connected to the music of a yelling crowd, not a professional orchestra.

Once a year, these softball athletes converge on Newton for the Newton Men's Mexican-American Fastpitch Softball Tournament around the Fourth of July. In addition to fireworks in the area, there's plenty of fireworks on the field, as a number of teams pit skills against each other, all in the name of fun. Families have reunions; people eat food and cheer for their teams of choice.

One of those families is the Jaso family, which has had a lot of family members playing ball during the tournament during the years.

This year, Tony Jaso Sr., Tony Jaso Jr. and Konner Jaso will play in the tournament. Tony Sr. and his grandson Konner will be on a Newton team, while Tony Jr. will be on the Kansas City Eagles.

Tony Sr. and Tony Jr. have been playing a number of years.



Tony Jaso Sr. throws the ball around with his son and grandson.

See JASOS / A14

Other Ideas

- Keep a calendar of local anniversaries
- Consider cultural spotlights
- One-tank trips

Thoughts on staffing

- Make friends with “moms”
- Recruit yearbook students
- Look within your community

Questions?
Ideas to share?

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