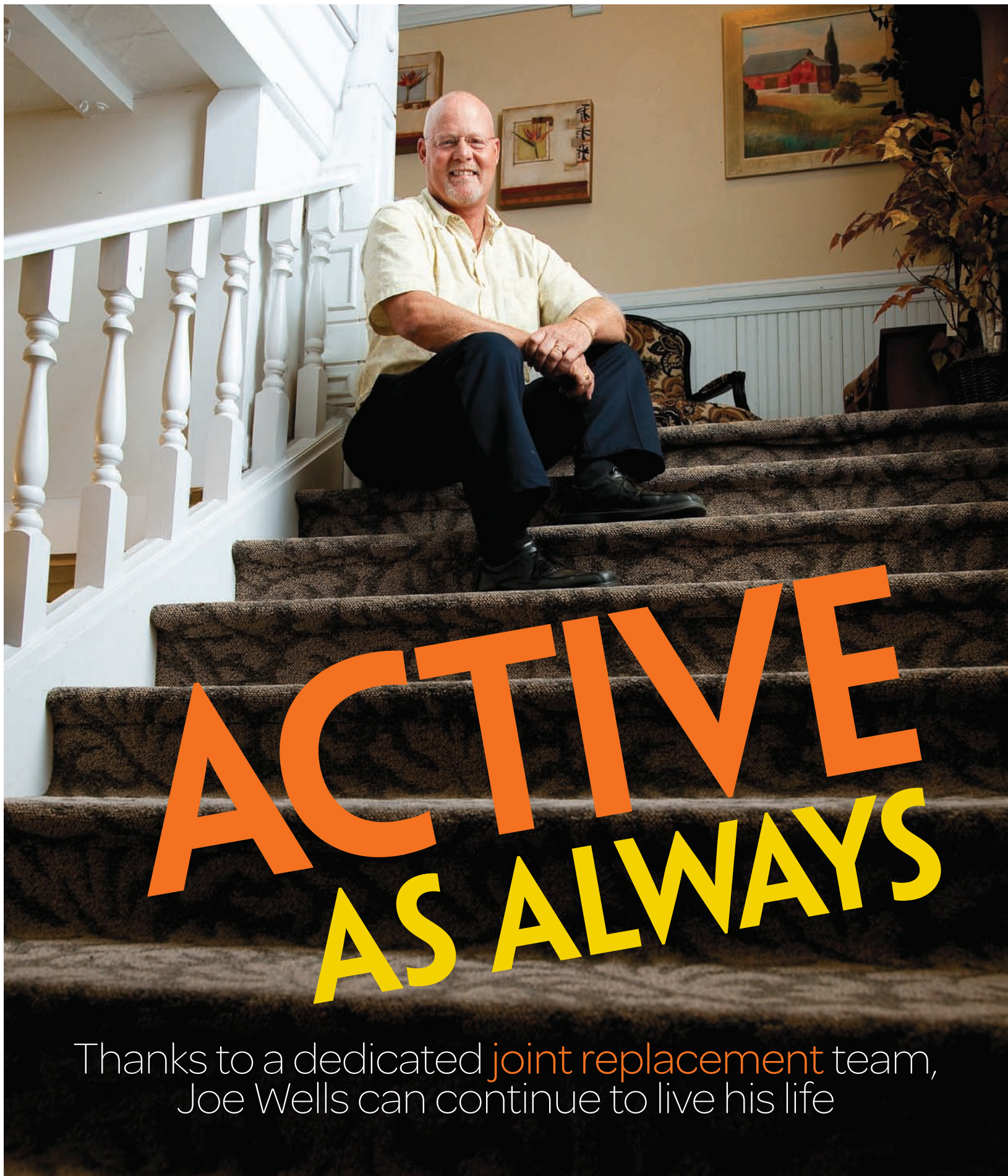




"IT WAS LIFE-CHANGING, LITERALLY," JOE WELLS SAYS OF HIS TWO JOINT REPLACEMENTS.

Joe Wells lives an action-packed life.

Golfing, walking with his wife and working at his downtown Appleton furniture store are very important to him. Until recently, however, it seemed as if chronic knee and hip pain would keep Wells idle. Joint deterioration caused by an active lifestyle as a teen and young adult eventually led him to a point where he could hardly walk.

Just three years ago, Wells, now 55, had a total knee replacement, followed by a hip replacement about a year later, to fix his longtime failing joints. "I don't have any achy joints or pain anymore," he says.

Wells is grateful to Jeffrey McLaughlin, MD, medical director of The Kennedy Center for the Hip and Knee at Mercy Medical Center.

JOINTS TO LAST A LIFETIME

The Kennedy Center opened in 1983 as a clinic specifically dedicated to better serving patients' joint replacement needs. With this philosophy, unique titanium joints were developed by Kennedy Center doctors as a response to poor results reported with cemented hips, Dr. McLaughlin says.

"Our goal was to create a hip that would last a patient's lifetime," Dr. McLaughlin says.

So far, The Kennedy Center team has been true to that goal. Late last year, the first 145 titanium hip replacements—spanning 26 years—were studied. More than 90 percent of the original hip replacements were still intact, making the center a world leader.

"It's very gratifying to offer hip replacements to all patients—young, old, heavy and active—knowing that it is highly likely to improve their quality of life for more than 25 years," Dr. McLaughlin says.

'GREAT TO BE BACK'

Wells encourages people who are living in pain to talk to their doctors because, he says, "life is too short to live through that kind of agony."

"I went into the hospital in excruciating pain," Wells continues. "From the second I woke up, it wasn't as bad as it was before the surgery. Of all things medically I've ever been through, this was the easiest."



Jeffrey McLaughlin, MD

ORTHOPAEDIC EXCELLENCE

Mercy Medical Center was recently rated the No. 1 overall orthopaedic hospital by HealthGrades, the leading independent health care rating organization for consumers researching hospital quality. This is the fourth consecutive year that Mercy Medical Center has achieved recognition for orthopaedics.

Mercy Medical Center also achieved an excellence award from HealthGrades for joint replacement. The medical center was ranked in the top 5 percent of the nation in both orthopaedics and joint replacements.

For more information about HealthGrades, visit www.healthgrades.com.



Joe and Ruby Wells stay active and busy at their four-story furniture store in downtown Appleton.

Wells says his hospital stay was short for both joint replacements.

Recovery included rehabilitation to get range of motion back, which he says he expected.

Within a year, Wells says, he was feeling like a brand new man.

Today, he's back to walking some 17,000 steps per day, including the stairs at his four-story furniture store.

"It was life-changing, literally," Wells says of his two joint replacements. "It's a miracle that people can create the type of things that put people back on track in life, things that put people back together. It's great to be back." 📌

