

Students reflect on helping others

Norton's junior high students took a day to help clean up the community.

On April 26 the youngsters traded their studies for manual labor.

They painted benches, planted flowers, picked up trash and boxed books.

They helped at the library, lake, thrift shop, a daycare and schools.

Then after all their hard work they were rewarded by the Norton Lions with a hamburger cookout at Elmwood Park.

But the work wasn't over.

When they returned to class, each wrote an essay, a reflection paper, telling what they had done and how they felt about it.

Here are some of their observations on Service Learning Day:

Service Learning Day was a blast.

My crew and I all had to scrape and paint the benches down at the city parking lot.

We also had to help out at the Thrift Shop sorting clothes and much more.

Helping other people makes me feel very good. Also, some senior citizens think teens just want to "ruin" the city.

These projects help us to make them rethink things like that, when they see us doing good. I think this project was beneficial for that reason.

I probably would not volunteer for a project on my own, but if I had it presented to me, I would definitely do it.

I don't believe that this should be tied to graduation in any way. We already have so many points and standards to make that we just don't need any more.

Thanks
Charli Lawson
Eighth grade

I thought that Service Learning Day was fun.

I had fun cleaning the lake. I also got to keep some of the stuff that I found. I felt pretty good about cleaning the lake because I could have saved some fish or animals.

I would try to volunteer to do other service projects in the future.

I thought this was beneficial to the environment.

I thought my group did a very good job in the short amount of time we had to do it.

Coady McMullen
Eighth grade

Helping people is fun and interesting.

You can learn a lot by helping people.

I went to the library and made boxes and helped sort the books. Then we went down to Sunshine Day Care and helped do things there.

Yeah, it was so fun!

I learned the Tooty-tot-tot-la song they sing and dance to at Sunshine.

Yes, I would (like to volunteer again) because it gives you the chance to work with new people and the experience of helping others.

Yeah, I thought it was (beneficial). Well, I think it should be. Like you should have so many hours of service, so that you can graduate.

Also, it would make the people that help more well rounded and they'd probably get along with others better too.

Brittany Otter
Eighth grade

For Service Learning Day I went out to the lake and cleaned up the shoreline.

I had fun going out and cleaning up the lake with my friends.

It felt good helping out and giving back to the community. In the future, I would probably help out again.

This project was beneficial because it got the lake looking a bit nicer for the upcoming fishing/camping season.

I don't think it should be tied to graduation though.

When we were out there we found lots of trash to pick up.

It was fun getting out of school and being with friends and helping out.

Vernon Carlton
Eighth grade

I helped Mr. Mordecai's group clear up trash.

We started at the elementary and went over to the water tower park then the junior high and high schools.

It was lots of fun, everyone helped out with everything we had to do.

I feel good knowing we have cleaner schools.

The experience was really cool, we found a couple of toys and a turkey call.

I think it was very beneficial. Now when visitors come to Norton they can see a clean community.

When some little kids were out for recess they saw us cleaning up and some of them brought trash that was under the equipment.

I think we learned anyone can be helpful no matter who you are.

We are setting an example of who we are for adults in our town.

This was a great experience and you should do it next year too.

Austine Dole
Seventh grade

Service Learning Day was fun. I felt like it should be done everywhere.

I planted flowers and had lots of fun talking and pulling weeds at the same time.

If I had time I would go out in Lenora and pick up trash, but I can't find any free time left open.

What I did was helpful to the Norton people, they get to look at flowers instead of weeds.

Service Learning Day I think should not be tied to graduation.

I think 12th graders have a lot more to think about than cleaning (but they should).

Steph Shepard
Eighth grade

I felt good about helping, but I think I should have done more.

When we first started I just was picking up little scraps of metal when everyone else was in the back mowing and hauling wood, metal and plastic scraps in a pile.

After I was done with picking up metal scraps, I went into the garage and started sweeping and hauling out junk with help from Adam and Jordan.

While in the middle of our work, Ms. McMullen would always come up to us and say thank you, every time.

For her saying that every time, I thought to myself that I was having fun and I should volunteer and help others around town when I had large amounts of free time on weekdays.

After everything was said and done, Ms. McMullen thanked us very much and with Mr. Melvin saying that we worked hard and did a good job, two times in a row, I really think this was a beneficial project we completed.

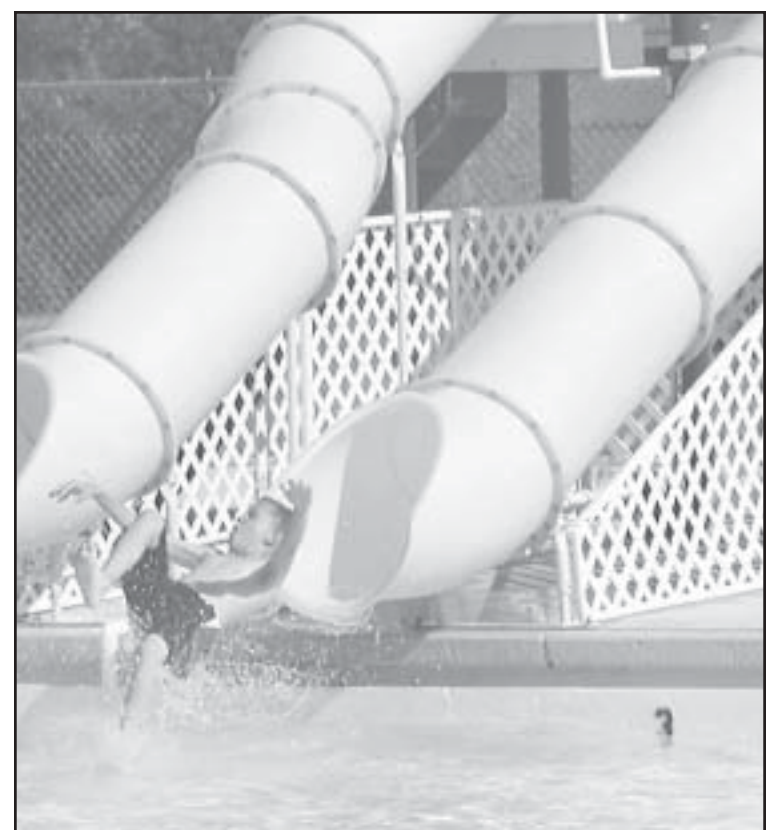
Caspian Whitesell
Eighth grade



Youngsters have fun at the pool

The Norton swimming pool is open and summer is officially in session. Sunday afternoon, swimmers brought giant floaters (above) and used the water slide (right).

— Photos by Carolyn Plotts



Farm Service Agency needs committee members

The Norton County Farm Service Agency is looking for people to serve on the farmer-elected committee.

People who want to help out, get involved and work to help others in agriculture are all invited to join the committee. The agency needs people who know farming, are farming new or different crops and those who can bring a different perspective to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's work in the area.

This year's election will be held Dec. 5. Nominations will be accepted through Monday, Aug. 1. The Local Administrative Area for

the elections is the middle one-third of Norton County. Candidates will be taken from that area.

If you know someone who might be interested in working on the farmer-elected committee or would like to do so yourself, contact the Norton County Farm Service Agency office at 11640 Pineview Dr., Norton, or call 877-5156.

The family of Robert Linden Requests a Card Shower in Celebration of his 90th Birthday Cards and Wishes May be Sent to: HC 1 Box 178 Clayton, KS 67629

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Open House 65th Anniversary For Verlyn and Loraine Thalheim



~Verlyn and Loraine Thalheim~
Sunday, June 12
5-7 P.M.
LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
Hosted by Children
NO GIFTS PLEASE

WANTED PART TIME JOB

Healthy 74 year old male with 50 years experience. **NON-SMOKER** — Will work Sundays, Holidays or Nights. References supplied. People person! Enthusiastic! College graduate, service veteran. Have car will travel. Excellent FAX and computer skills. If possible health, dental, life and disability insurance with 401K plan. Would like inside job with T.V. and air conditioning. Please no heavy lifting.

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