

A vote in favor of the new pool

Letter to the Editor
The water aerobic classes sponsored by Norton County Hospital have ended for another season. This year we enrolled around 75 adults in two classes. NCH offers a half hour low impact class followed by an hour long class with higher impact activities. The classes were held two nights a week for eight weeks. We have been able to offer the classes for over 12 years now.

Water aerobics offer many health benefits. The buoyancy of the water allows movements without as much stress on the joints. Our classes consist of stretches, toning and aerobic activities. The exercises work on arm, leg and core strengthening as well as cardiovascular. We have participants who walk to the stairs with canes and walkers and once in the water are able to go without them.

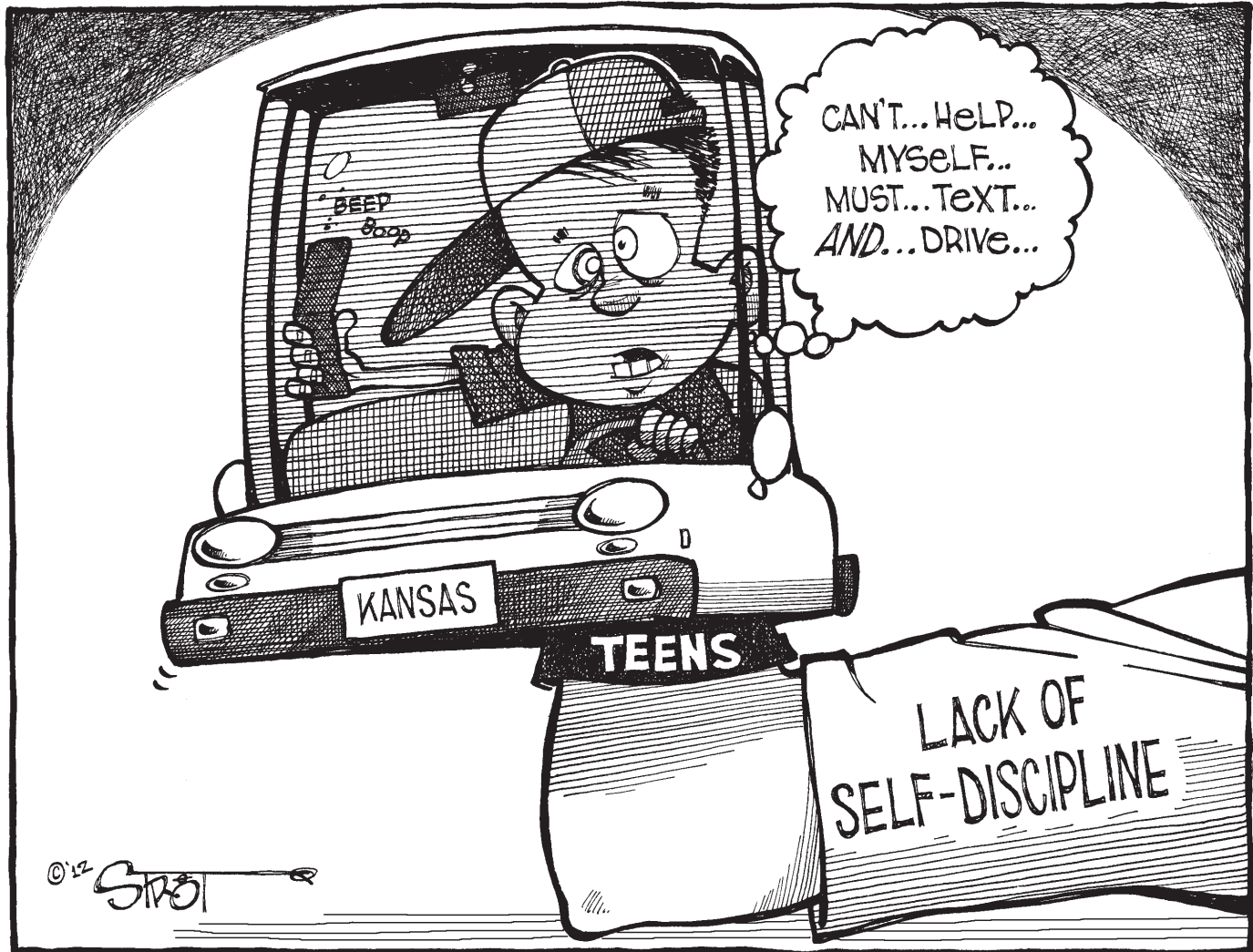
Having used the pool on a regular basis over the years with the water aerobic classes, I have observed problems that exist with this pool and the dressing rooms. The question is in the community as to why we just can't repair our current pool at a lower cost. Perhaps we can temporarily plug the leaks for a year or two but that still does not change the other major problems.

Everyone was given an opportunity to complete a survey regarding designs for a new pool. Hopefully everyone took the time to provide their input. I have seen the new designs and feel that it is a great pool design. It seems to fit the needs of a community our size.

There is so much talk out in the community about the pool and upcoming election. I would encourage everyone to learn the true facts. Visit www.nortonpool.com to view the results of the community survey, see the new design and most importantly learn the specifics of problems with our existing pool.

In the end, it does not matter if our pool leaks one gallon or 100 gallons. It has served us well for the past 58 years, now we need to plan for the next 58 years with a new pool. I will vote YES for the sales tax to fund the new pool.

Jan Volgamore
Norton



Learning how to handle differences

I often wonder, "Do you really want your child learning conflict management from another three year old?" Preschool day care is a difficult choice and one often determined, for obvious reasons, more on parent need than child's. Some preschools are able to address this problem and create a healthy environment for children to learn positive social interactions. In other cases though, children do not learn how to deal with conflict in a healthy way, and then they proceed into adulthood unable to handle anger, differences of opinion or discover paths to compromise, thus remaining in the stilted world of preschool.

Our granddaughter, Ella, has a wonderful book entitled "It Could Have Been Worse". This is based on the parental teaching tool of, "I'm sorry you are hurting, however what are the plus sides of this situation?" Most preschoolers view themselves at the center of everything and a parent's desire is for their child to grow beyond that belief.

We have all encountered people, at

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



one time or another, whose growth has stopped in that phase. Generally this does not allow people to look beyond their own feelings, needs and wants. This arrested development makes it difficult for the person, whatever the age, to deal with problems in an adult manner. Too many times those individuals handle a crisis like a three year old rather than an adult.

This lack of maturity can be at the core of failed relationships. Perhaps this selfishness is also at the root of infidelity, addiction, and a myriad of other problems. The unfortunate part of this is the one with the problem is usually the last to identify its existence. Ongoing tirades of others' injustices toward them, make them constantly

angry, forever jealous and difficult to be around.

So much of what has made us an outstanding society is thinking of others first, a trait most three year olds (and adults with arrested development) do not excel in. When we see ourselves at the center, everything revolves around us leaving little room for understanding of others. Unfortunately, the emphasis becomes on the individual in the center, not the needs of society, community, or families and relationships.

The sandbox discourse works for three year olds. It serves as a foundation for children to learn better ways of handling their differences. They learn these skills from effective parenting and watching adults interact in a positive manner thus paving the way for the child to steadily grow into adulthood.

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." 1 Corinthians 13:11 Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Thumbs up to Margaret Seeman for all the wonderful meals she prepares for the Norton Community Center (formerly Norton Seniors Center). They are delicious! Emailed in.

Thumbs up to Jeremy Wetter, manager of the Norton Theatre. He is really dedicated and brings us great premiere movies. Well done! Emailed in.

Thumbs up Main Street IGA. Every time I go in there I am greeted. The stockers are always asking if they can help me and the sackers are always polite and good natured. Thanks for making my shopping experience enjoyable! Emailed in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Blue Jay football supporters who donated money to paint the football field this fall. Called in.

At least I wasn't driving is all I could say

Despite what the hubby says; my intent when writing, is borrowed from the Hippocratic Oath, "Do not harm."

In the middle of a recent misadventure, Cindy turned to me and said, "This is going to be in the paper, isn't it?"

My first thought was: Never! If I'm not going to unduly embarrass others why would I embarrass myself!

But it's a slow news day and I wasn't driving!

Cindy's daughter and son-in-law were involved in Lindsborg's RFD outdoor theater production of "Pirates of Penzance". We decided to go to the dress rehearsal because the nights of the actual performances did not fit her schedule.

We would shop en route and baby sit during the rehearsal.

I'm not even the Grandma but I gotta say the six year old is smart. The real Grandma worries that she knows it! (She undoubtedly does! Did anyone else in her Kindergarten class go to First Grade at Christmas?)

A stop at the second hand store in Downs filled the back of Cindy's Toyota. The guy gave her a deal when she asked. Then, because he thought we were sisters and was worried he'd disrupt family harmony, I got one also.

In Salina, we told the clerk in the dress shop it was okay that she messed up which clothes went in which dressing room. "We're sisters!"

You can stuff clothes in amongst bedside tables and serving carts, but

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



when we got to Lindsborg there was no room for kids or cars seats.

Angela says; "take Ben's car", (another Toyota). It made sense; the car seats were already in there. Off she went.

We played with the girls awhile; picked up the toys and headed to the car. Cindy had the keys to the Toyota, which are really not keys at all. It's just a fob you put in your pocket or purse. As long as the thing is in the vicinity you can unlock the car, start it by pushing a button.

I don't understand it. That's okay, I wasn't driving.

Cindy got some things out of her car. We got in Ben's car. She pushed the button. Nothing happened.

"Don't I have his key?" she asks. She searches her purse. There is a "key" that says Toyota. But Cindy's car is a Toyota also. Ben's car was unlocked so the fact that we got in proved nothing.

She walks back to her car to see if she dropped the "key" somewhere. Then up to the house. Then she looks in her car. It was hot. The girls and I get

out of Ben's car and look.

She was certain she had the key in her hand when she left the house. Or maybe not. We go into the house. We look at the key hooks. We look in the toy room, the kitchen, the bathroom. We go back outside and look. We search maybe 20 minutes.

We call Angie. Is there an extra key? She told us where it would be. But it wasn't.

At this point Angie decides she has the extra key. She will come home. We look some more. We go outside to wait, still looking. Cindy goes through her purse again, though if the key is in her purse why doesn't the car start?

Low and behold, she finds two "keys": one black and one gray. One is for her car; she isn't certain which one. The other must be for Ben's.

She asks the six year old to get in and push the button again. Remember how smart that kid is??? She slides in, assesses the situation, and says, "The car is running!"

WHAT??? Oh wow, people: It's a hybrid! Still, shouldn't the radio or the AC or something come on even if the engine doesn't! Shouldn't a voice come down from the heavens, "Fools, your car IS running!"

The six year old obviously got her brains from another branch of the family tree. Not her grandma or her grandma's sister, Nancy. You wouldn't believe the look she gave us!

At least I wasn't driving!

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