

## Good sportsmanship, service shows class

It's always nice to get compliments, even if sometimes you don't think you deserve them.

In today's paper there are two letters to the editor with compliments for the Norton High School.

The writers compliment our facility, the friendliness of our ticket sellers and the hospitality of our people.

We all take this for granted. This is western Kansas. That's the way we do things out here. We're nice. We care about others and we try to follow the Golden Rule.

These things we expect when we go to other schools and are surprised when sometimes they aren't there. Poor guest facilities for visiting teams are not uncommon nor is vandalism, poor sportsmanship and shoddy service. But those things are the exception.

Still it's nice for people to notice that you care.

Here in Norton the folks over at the school do more than care. They do more than the minimum hospitality requires. They go out of their way to be nice to our guests and we salute them for it.

A hospitality area is wonderful and we hope it catches on all across the area. The folks who wrote to the paper were impressed by that.

The band learning to play the opponent's fight song goes above and beyond the call of duty.

That, folks, is class.

We want to tip our hat to the school, the Blue Jay Boosters and everyone who went out of their way to make us look good and make our guests feel welcome.

It's great to have a winning football team. We hope we always do.

It's something else to have an attitude of sportsmanship, hospitality and friendship.

That's something, win or lose, we must hold on to.

We're doing something right. Let's keep it up.

— Cynthia Haynes

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Principal thinks appreciation is in order

To the Editor:

An open letter to the Norton High School administration, staff, booster club and students.

On behalf of Riley County High School, I would like to thank all those associated with our recent football game for their outstanding hospitality.

The Booster Club Welcome Tent with homemade cookies, coffee and hot chocolate offered throughout the entire game was much appreciated.

Several of our fans commented on how friendly the ticket takers were and how much they felt welcomed to the contest.

And certainly last, but not least, was how your band faced our visiting crowd and played our fight song during their half-time performance.

Each of these separate incidents of sincere hospitality and sportsmanship has gone beyond the call of duty and each of the people associated with them are to be commended.

Norton High School should be very proud that you have such outstanding and considerate fans and staff. Thanks again for all you've done!

Brad Starnes, principal  
Riley County High School

## Family impressed by hospitality

To the Editor,

My husband, son and I traveled to Norton last Tuesday to watch our Riley County Falcons take on the Blue Jays in bi-district football.

When we walked up to the visitor's side, we were met by your hospitality tent, complete with coffee, hot chocolate and homemade cookies, as well as smiling, friendly faces.

When we sat down, we commented on what a beautiful facility you have. At half-time, your band played our fight song and formed an RC on the field. We were so

impressed at the sportsmanship and hospitality that was shown to us by your town.

Although we would have liked to have won the game, we had a very enjoyable evening and thank you for all the effort you put into it. It set a wonderful example for the students, as well as a new standard of conduct at high school sporting events for all of us.

We wish the Norton Blue Jays the very best of luck as they continue their post season play.

Ken, Donna and Matt Sullivan  
Riley



## Things can't be changed once done

One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me was the philosophy; "You can't look back." Once something is decided, we can't look back and wish we had done things differently.

We can learn from our mistakes, but we don't have enough information to know what might have been had we made other choices.

So many times I hear people say, "If only I would have done this instead of that, my life would be so much better."

It may have been different, but not necessarily better.

When we make choices we have to live with them, the good and the bad. And sometimes we don't even know which category the choice will fall into. We don't know the winning card until all the cards are played.

Life is best lived one day at a time. Any more than that overwhelms us and any less doesn't make the most of opportunities.

I think people from my parents' era and the generations just following lived according to that measure. The Great Depression did not give one much to look forward to and certainly at the time didn't

make for great memories.

As my mother always says, "Stories of the good old days, make good reading, but not necessarily great living."

Good things happen and bad things happen; no matter where we live or how old we are. Relatives of those who died in the World Trade Center bombing may think if only their loved one hadn't gone to work that day. But we have to remember there are things worse than death and we don't know what worse fate they might have met had they not been where they were that day.

I believe God is in all things. He makes the good out of the bad, the weak from the strong, the joy from the sorrow.

We can look back, but when we do we may overlook the delight of "right now".

Phase II  
Mary Kay  
Woodyard



## A pie can be a wonder-filled thing

When I was a child my mother decided I should learn how to make a cherry pie. I don't think you could buy pie filling in a can; if you could we didn't do it that way. We used frozen cherries and cooked a filling.

There was a little song we used to sing. "Oh, where have you been Billy Boy, Billy Boy? Oh where have you been charming Billy?" I can't exactly remember all of the rhyme but his answer was something like "I've been to seek a wife, she's the joy of my life, she's a young thing and cannot leave her mother."

The second verse asked, "Can she make a cherry pie?"

Lucky me—I was assured of marriage for I could make a cherry pie.

Unlucky me. The family I got out of that marriage doesn't particularly care for cherry pie. Kate's favorite is pecan. Elizabeth's is pumpkin. Tricia likes peach and coconut cream.

I like all of them.

My mother-in-law makes the best apple pie ever.

My mom really didn't like to cook. But there are some things she made that no one can top. Out of reverence, or fear of failure, I don't even try.

She made the most wonderful fried chicken and divinity that was truly divine. She made custard pie that was to die for.

Interestingly enough my niece Jill's husband is quite a pie baker. He baked a pie for Jill's sister Janis' birthday and shared his secret (which we old ladies already knew) for a perfect pie crust—lard. Janis was so grossed out when she found out what lard was I thought she would not eat it.

I neglected teaching Kate how to make pies.

Elizabeth and I experimented with apple.

Tricia and I really got with it and learned to make a fantastic peach pie. She took one to the fair for several years but never got a purple ribbon.

That's okay, judges don't know everything. The time we spent together is by far a more valuable prize.

This year she wanted to impress a boy and he doesn't like peach pie so we made cherry. She still didn't get a purple but it was a success with the boyfriend so who cares?

The boyfriend lobbied pretty hard for what he wants so when we went to the Texas Tech-K-State game I decided to

surprise him with a cherry pie as part of the tailgate spread.

I still do things the old fashioned way. I cook my own filling. It was one of those rare days when the stars are aligned correctly and everything went perfect. When that pie came out of the oven I realized it was probably the best pie I had ever made. I also made a pecan pie.

I had to be in Beloit by 9 a.m. the day of the game but I had everything organized. I was so proud of myself. At 7 a.m. I started down the road, mentally checking off everything that I needed to bring. If I had forgotten anything I could call my husband, who was coming along later.

Fast forward to 4 p.m. We are unpacking and setting up the tailgate. Time to unveil the pie. Where is the pie carrier?

"It's sitting on the counter by the fridge at home," my husband said.

Apparently, not even having the stars perfectly aligned can overcome a senior moment.

After I had left that morning he did look in the pie carrier but on top was the pecan pie. Since I had told him I was making cherry pie for Kent he assumed I didn't want it.

My masterpiece. However, there is an upside; we ate well for the next few days.

As for Tricia, yes she can bake a cherry pie but she is a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

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Nancy  
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: There are many reasons why ethanol is the right choice

To the Editor,

In today's culture, we worry about the condition of our environment. We're concerned about the reliance the country has on Middle Eastern oil supplies. And, in our agricultural community, we struggle with low commodity prices.

While tackling these problems is not simple, one simple choice can help—buy ethanol.

Ethanol is an alternative fuel made from corn, milo and other starch sources that burns cleaner than fossil fuels. It benefits the consumer, the farmer and the U.S. in the following key ways:

- Ethanol helps the environment. Because it burns cleaner, ethanol helps reduce harmful tailpipe emissions like carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons.
- Ethanol helps your vehicle. As an alcohol fuel, it provides high quality, low cost octane for exceptional engine performance.
- Ethanol helps the nation reduce its dependence on imported oil. The U.S. imports 54 percent of its petroleum needs.
- Ethanol helps the food producers. The use of grain for ethanol production adds up to 30 cents to every bushel of corn and milo for Kansas farmers and ranchers.
- Use of ethanol-blended fuels is approved under the warranties of all major automobile manufacturers marketing vehicles in the U.S. It doesn't leave gummy deposits in your fuel system and helps prevent wintertime problems by acting as a gas-line antifreeze. Ethanol is also approved for use in your motorcycle, lawnmower and power equipment.

What do you have to lose? Ethanol-blended fuels improve the environment, help local farmers and reduce our dependence on imported oil. It's a win-win-win.

Sincerely,  
Norton County  
Farm Bureau Association