

Take an active interest in our community

It really saddens me to think that there are people in this town who don't want things to be nice. I was at Charlie's 105 the other night when I discovered that someone had broken the brand new window that was just recently installed at the bar/restaurant. Charlie and Patty have been working very hard to turn the former Hitchin' Post into a nice respectable establishment over the last few months. By remodeling and putting in the windows they've turned what used to be a dark smoky bar into somewhere for families to go get a good burger and NOT feel like they're in a dark smoky bar. They've done a whole lot of work there and they've had others who have contributed as well. The dark glass that was put into the second window was donated by a gentleman who'd saved it, knowing that one day he'd find the perfect place for it. He'd thought that place was in the front of Charlie's 105 until some illiterate punks who should be at home learning to read decided to break it for "fun." I hope someone comes forward and tells who these worthless little hoodlums are so that they can pay for what they've done. I get sick of people going around and wrecking stuff for other people. It's not my fault that your life sucks, but you don't have to bother those of us who are making use of our time rather than going out and destroying other's property, which in many cases means something to them and is irreplaceable.

How about pumpkins? Sure, they're fairly cheap and relatively abundant, but nothing breaks my heart more than watching a grandparent picking up the pieces of what used to be a work of art given to them by their grandchild. People spend a lot of time picking out the perfect pumpkin,

and carving or decorating them is something that is special. Those of you who are put out because you don't have a pumpkin should just ask someone for one. I am sure there are plenty of people that would delight in giving out a couple of pumpkins, but I find no one who appreciates the sight of one that's been smashed by some poorly mannered delinquent.



Rachel Rants

Rachel Kieilty

Now I know this is sort of a stretch, but here goes. I am also ticked off at the other people around the community who don't want to help make things nice. The ones I am referring to are the ones who are thinking that they should vote "no" on the school bond issue. I grew up here, and year after year I have seen opportunities for improvement voted down because of apathy or miserliness. Then, when Jackson pales in comparison to other communities that have built up their schools and offered amenities to their residents, Jacksonites wail and moan and wonder why no one under the age of 60 wants to stay and raise a family here. They wonder why enrollment and property values keep dropping and why there are so many houses on the market. Well, DUH! You have got to give to get. No one makes money in the stock market without first investing. It seems that for years Jackson has failed to grow and flourish because they'd rather not "cause a stir." Well, guess what... Those communities that are aggressively pursuing growth both by keeping the residents and businesses they have and by attracting new ones are doing great, and the others are well... failing to exist. The school is asking for people to chip in roughly \$10 a month so that our students can have the kind of facility they deserve. My figure may be less or more depending on property owned, etc., but my point

is that no one is asking just one person to shell out \$19.6 million, which by today's standards is chump change anyway, especially when considering how many people are going to be chipping in. This is an investment in the community and its youth. These are the people who are going to be taking care of Jackson and the elderly in it, but they may find that they just want to leave and never come back if their community sells them out now. That might not seem too threatening now, but you'll surely be bedridden before these kids are, and you might not want to cheat them out of what they so rightly deserve. Look at Windom. Windom taxpayers agreed to their \$17.7 million bond knowing full well that the taxes on a

\$100,000 home would go up \$323. Jackson wants you to vote "yes" to a \$19.6 million bond that would only increase annual taxes on the same valued house \$149. Ok, so DO THE MATH! This deal is a steal, and instead of voting "No" now only to wail and moan and get half as much for twice the money five or 10 years down the road, Do the right thing. Invest in the kids EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY! It takes a village to educate a child (and a part of a community). BE PART OF IT!

Let's all do what we can to make Jackson nice and if anybody sees any kids (or adults) vandalizing stuff, would you please give them a good wuppin' for me and the rest of the people in the community who are sick of their deviant ways!

Letters to the Editor

Voters in the JCC School District: Bond is a No-Brainer

To the Editor:

As a senior at Jackson County Central High School, one might think I could care less about building bonds, taxes and school funding. One might think, "Why do these students care? They will be leaving our community soon anyway." And leave they most likely will, but only because as of now there is little here for them. Does it surprise you that students may actually have a viewpoint and want what is best for our community? That kids may actually understand the need for expanded facilities and funding? What a shocker. In my fifth and final year in the JCC school district, I would say I know fairly well what our district lacks and what its strong points are. I am not speaking about the rough shape our facilities are in, either, although it is quite obvious our buildings are slowly crumbling. What I am referring to is lack of support, lack of opinion, and overall apathy for students, and most importantly, their success. Success — which we have shown time and time again in just about every aspect of extra-curricular activities.

Our dedicated Task Force and community members have worked diligently for quite a while now to present a package to our voters containing all that is needed to sustain the district and maintain our success. They have dispersed information and figures on taxes, building upgrades, facility needs and the most efficient way to fund our school. NOW is the time for you, the voters and taxpayers, to step up to the plate. It has been shown that the tax increase on this \$19 million bond proposal is nominal. It has been shown that Jackson County Central's numbers in regards to school funding per pupil and dollars spent is rock bottom. Your taxes have actually DECREASED since the consolidation first took place. What a sad, sad statement about how our communities value their young people. In all bluntness, if you want to see success continue and community growth to take place, the place to start is

LETTERS —

Continued on page 15