

## Letters to the Editor

### County has jewel it should cherish

Poor Lawrence County. It has possession of a state of the art museum that was built using grant money, is staffed with volunteers and senior aides and is kept open by the sheer will of a small group of dedicated people who recognize its importance to our county and region.

Jesse Owens Park and Museum is visited by tourists from out of state and out of the country who sing its praises. Everyone seems to be proud of it except some of our elected officials, who are trying to give it away. These officials want home rule for everything else in the county, yet they want the state to take control of the museum.

One might be led to think the museum isn't supported by them because it celebrates the life of a black man and is located in a poor, largely black community.

The original plan, developed in 1991, includes a track that, through sporting events, can make the park self-supporting. Let us hope the next election brings a new group of county commissioners who have an appreciation for the museum and will understand the park needs to be completed, not given away.

**Joyce Cole  
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