

Fines, tougher sentences urged by one local teen

By Traci Brutlag

Kankakee High

I think Kankakee County will be worse in 10 years if we don't start doing more. There will be more murders, gangs, and drugs if we don't do something now.

If I were in charge, a lot of things would be different. There would be more cops to do more drug busts, stop the gangs from murdering, dealing, and recruiting new members. I would make penalties stronger for crimes like murder, domestic violence, and street violence. For murder, the penalty would be life in prison. Why should a person take another person's life, go to jail, get out after so many years on parole, and continue on with his/her life after taking someone else's life away? The murderer would pay by giving his/her life up in jail.

For domestic and street violence, a longer jail or prison term, a bigger fine and/or community service, and psychiatric help.

I would build centers to keep children and teens off the street. They would include programs such as sports, computers, tutoring, art, mu-

sic, and other things to do.

I would also have our teachers screened better. By this I mean screen them for all types of drugs, check into their high school and college to see what type of student they were, and test them to make sure they are qualified enough for the job.

I would improve the schools by the screening of teachers and a few other things as well. I would have it so the mentally and physically challenged got the extra help they needed, but also mainstreamed with the other students. There would also be a required class for everyone in high school to learn how to cook, clean, sew, shop, and better prepare them to live on their own when the time comes.

There would also be a nursery/day care for teenage mothers in the high school for teenage mothers. The mothers would rotate the days they worked in the nursery/day care, so they can earn money to help raise their child and go to school at the same time.

That is what I would do to change Kankakee County, in a positive way, in 10 years.