Ban still lights fire for some Kirksville citizens

Bar owners and restaurant managers say the smoking ban isn’t affecting their business, Macon said. “But for some, the new laws are causing controversy among business owners and patrons.”

The Kirksville public hasn’t issued any citations yet, but there has been a recent increase in sales of smoking cessation supplies and services. “We are seeing more inquiries and sales at this time,” Perkowski said. “The smoking ban has moved smoke to other areas within the restaurant and at home.”

Regulars “don’t stay as long because the majority of the regulars are smokers.”

Owners are expected to up their prices to cover the cost of the continued service. But there’s been no talk of raising prices, even the Full Moon, which is asking the city to rebid its contract, is not discussing the changes in sales and atmosphere since the smoking ban. “Graduate student, Thomas Perkowski, supporter, at Ryan’s says, ‘I know for sure, I’ve beenroyal the smoking ban has caused change in the flow of business around here,’” Macon said.

Perkowski said, “Regulars don’t stay as long. It’s not selling cars but because they can sit at home on their couch and have a beer and a smoke.”

Seoul said the smoking ban has increased business for the Full Moon, said his patrons don’t sit and smoke. “I think the Full Moon has seen some publicity relative to smoking. Perkowski is talking about cigarette consumption being up and the city council re-enters the smoking ban.”

“I think the Full Moon has seen the city council re-enter the smoking ban,” Seoul said. “I support it, and I’m going to make it happen.”

Perkowski is experiencing changes not only in his bar but also in his hometown, Seoul said. “You can get more of an awareness of people and their customers. I tell them, ‘If you want to be a bar owner you should be able to run your business your way without government interference. A lot of these guys are employees and even the students, that are upset that they can’t smoke.’”

Seoul said the smoking ban creates issues of equality. “If the situation were reversed non-smokers wouldn’t like it if they were barred from a smoking- only place,” Seoul said. “You can make your own rules.”

Some business owners are going to ban smoking because they are going to ban one you have to ban them all.”

According to the city of Kirksville’s Web site, the ordinance did not ban patrons from smoking in facilities owned and used by membership associations. “Some businesses have transitioned smoothly to a smoke-free environment,” Page, owner of Two Tall’s, said. “But the patrons have willingly set down their cigarettes and enjoy their time there. We have a no smoking environment throughout the club.”

Page said that unlike other bars, Two Tall’s has not been affected by the smoking ban because he has created a smoke-free environment. “We haven’t really seen a difference between Two Tall’s and other bars. Our bar’s a college bar,” Page said. “We’re not going to ask you to fill out a form with more information about not smoking rather than asking about some of the bars, what are you going to do? If it’s going to be in bars you have to ban them.”

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Anyone who owns or operates a smoke-free area and who allows smoking could receive a $100 fine for the first violation, a $200 fine for the second violation within a year and a $500 fine and/or 90 days of imprisonment for the third violation within a year.

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Source: Adair County Clerk’s Office

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