

North County Community Alliance *Newsletter*

May, 2007

Northwood Crossing Casino...

Active citizens impact casino building process--what has happened since January

by Craig Mayberry

One year ago North County Community Alliance (NCCA) stated that it was the responsibility of this community to uncover every rock to make sure everything was done legally. It has been enormously time consuming to investigate every action, but we have learned an incredible amount about the process.

Unfortunately, we have learned that most casinos are built illegally, without proper permits and with complete disregard to environmental issues. We have also learned, however, that when a community comes together the right thing does happen and casinos fail.

We have also learned the importance of the role of elected government officials. Please be mindful of the experience of our community as we prepare for elections next year.

Environmental Update:

Severe flooding occurred at the casino site on March 12 and March 24, reiterating citizen concerns about construction and ongoing activities at the site. We must now also deal with wetlands designation and the contradiction between Whatcom County and the Army Corp of Engineers.

The response of the EPA has been lackluster, but the most senior person in Washington State is visiting the site on May 22, and seeing the actual location may change his mind (plus having a number of displeased citizens voice their concerns). Please continue to contact the EPA and express your concerns.

On May 24 we will update the

community on our conversations with the EPA. If you have specific environmental concerns and would like to participate in the conversation, contact Craig Mayberry at 441-9903.

Legal Update:

A couple of court rulings and information related to the site has dramatically bolstered our court case. Dick Stephens, our attorney, has been heavily involved in another Federal case, but a strategy will be mapped out between the time of this writing and May 24. We fully intend on being back in court in the near future. Please attend the event with Chad Hills and receive an update.

Liquor License:

Finally, after much delay, the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) approved the liquor license for the Northwood Crossing casino. The NCCA will continue to search for avenues to oppose the casino and the liquor license approval.

Construction: (see photo p.6)

Construction remains at a virtual standstill. The casino was originally schedule to open in March of 2007, now it is unlikely it will even open this year, and is looking more and more like it will never open. The efforts of local citizens is having a significant impact, and at least slowing construction. Despite the wonderful success that we have had so far, we must remain diligent as a community and continue to put pressure on the State and Federal government. If the government does their job, the casino will never open.

An Important Event- Please attend:

Chad Hills

Analyst for Gambling Research
Focus on the Family

7 pm, May 24

Sonlight Community Church (8800
Bender Rd)

Help wanted at NW Washington Fair

Last year the North County Community Alliance (NCCA) hosted a booth at the NW Washington Fair in Lynden. Information was presented opposing the proposed Northwood Crossing Casino. There was a great response.

We are planning to be at the fair again and need your help to staff the booth. If you would like to participate, contact the NCCA. (See contact information on newsletter cover.) There will be a pre-fair meeting to sign up for days and times in two-hour increments.

At last year's fair we had a petition to sign which at least 2000 people signed. Copies of that petition were sent to the Washington State Liquor Control Board and our local county council. Because of the petition and hundreds of letters from the community the WSLCB has not yet made a decision regarding the liquor license application. Your involvement works.

fight continues today...

Community fought casino a century ago;

by Jeff Fullner

It may come as a surprise to you but casinos and prostitution are no strangers to Whatcom County. In fact, casinos have shared a dark place in our history that spanned nearly half a century; an embarrassing part of our history that most historians and politicians would like to forget.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's as Whatcom County was beginning to take shape, men were coming from all parts of the world to cash in on the wealth of Northwest salmon, gold mines and timber that provided jobs and opportunities unparalleled even by today's standards. These opportunities brought with them an undercurrent of prostitution and gambling that was centered primarily in the vicinity of today's Fairhaven district. The casinos and brothels were sought to exploit men seeking entertainment as a result of a population explosion that included a huge imbalance in the ratio of men to women.

In 1903, F.D. Yale Allen Campbell and J.F. Wells were appointed investigators to attend the Bellingham Casino Theatre while representing a small group of concerned Bellingham citizens over the activities rumored to be occurring at the Casino. The report reads, "*Since the Casino has become engrafted, like a bloodsucker, upon our municipal body and is licensed by the "powers that be" to do business... we concluded to visit that prosperous and seemingly necessary institution and satisfy ourselves as to the assurance... that "everything is run alright."*" Campbell had heard in a public speech that "the Casino was worse than either the saloon or the brothel, for it was the open door to both," he said.

After paying their entry fee at the door, they were given credits to be used at the casino bar. On their way to the bar, the manager spotted the two men and invited them upstairs where the in-

vestigators observed women with "*painted faces protruding from half-curtained boxes staring into clouds of smoke through the bottoms of beer glasses... the balcony contained partly concealed men, women, beer bottles, glasses and cigarettes... Two of these girls were about 7 to 10 years old respectively. As we looked upon their sweet, innocent, childish faces and then glanced at the brazen, soulless forms of female depravity whose sin-scarred faces had sought refuge behind masks of paint, we shuddered as we thought, 'Here is the beginning and there is the end of life for those little girls.' My God!*"

Could nearly a century of laws and regulations have brought a new element of integrity to the gambling industry?

Could nearly a century of laws and regulations have brought a new element of integrity to the gambling industry? In February 2007, Gary Drumheller, special agent with the Washington State Gambling Commission investigated a prostitution ring in Spokane, Washington. Drumheller reported that Cheryl Mae Larson the operator of a large-scale escort service allegedly laundered more than \$3 million dollars in profits from her "alleged" prostitution ring through the casino. "There are also some indications that she contacted her potential customers or they contacted her at the casino," Drumheller said. Larson remains in jail on \$500,000 bond.

Why does prostitution and gambling always seem to come bound to-

gether in the same package deal?' Researchers at the National Council on Problem Gambling suggest that 5% of Americans are highly susceptible to severe gambling addiction that affects them much in the same way cocaine does. The report continues, "...teens with a gambling problem are more likely to engage in risky behavior such as unsafe sex, binge drinking, smoking marijuana and skipping school."

An article in the May 1997 issue of USA reports, "In 1994, the Florida Office of Planning and Budgeting conducted a study to project the costs of legalizing casino gambling in the state. **The biggest potential government expense turned out to be that of incarcerating all the new pathological gamblers who turn to crime.**" The real cost, for this new classification of criminal will cost the state of Florida just over six billion dollars. You may not be a gambler—but as a taxpayer, you are going to be right there at the Blackjack table ready to pick up the tab when that gambler loses.

Despite the negative impact gambling has had on Americans, it has had a positive impact on reservations according to an article in the Midwest Hospitality Advisors report on Indian gaming in Minnesota. "Indian unemployment rates of 30 percent and more are dropping to almost nothing with the emergence of Indian casinos."

The casinos were allotted in order for Native American tribal members to achieve sovereignty on their own, but it is coming at a very high cost to taxpayers. Americans will gamble away nearly \$550 billion dollars this year alone; more dollars than will be spent on films, books, amusement attractions and recorded music combined!

In a Texas article by Howard Kieth, he writes, "In areas where legalized gaming has been introduced, sharp increases in gambling addiction has always followed, producing high rates of

more on how
community fought casino

divorce, unemployment, bankruptcy, criminal activity, and health problems among its sufferers.” He continues, “The destructive consequences of legalized gaming ALWAYS outstrips the nominal benefits produced...and the deleterious effects of legalized gaming should be contained to the greatest extent possible.”

So is there hope against what appears to be an unrelenting attack on nearly all levels of even our most commonly held principles of morality? In Richmond Virginia, “...over a dozen casino companies pushed to legalize riverboat gambling. They hired more than 50 lobbyists, bought newspaper ads, and even aired television commercials. While the casinos spent more than \$800,000 on direct lobbying in Richmond and millions more on indirect lobbying across the state; **thousands of citizens, armed with the facts, mobilized at the grassroots level against the casinos. When the smoke cleared, the gambling bill was crushed in committee.**” (Horn, USA Today)

In 1903, a small group of concerned citizens in Fairhaven got together and eventually overturned the laws allowing casinos to thrive. Campbell closes his 1903 report on the Fairhaven Casino Theatre with the following appeal to the Fairhaven community: “But what profiteth it a man though he gaineth the whole world and loseth his own soul?...Where there’s life there is hope. **Where there’s dirt we will use the soap.**”

Mexico shuts down off-shore casino because of negative impact on culture

by Don Kooy

We have just returned from a vacation in Cancun, Mexico. The day before our departure from that tropical paradise we had dinner at a Caribbean seafront restaurant. We asked our waiter why all the abandoned pilings extended some 800 feet from shore out to sea. He told us there had been a stationary casino boat there for a number of years. However, the Mexican Federal government stepped in and halted all casino gambling in the country of Mexico. Why? The reason they put a stop to it was because it was not only having a devastating effect on the nation’s economy but also increased divorce rates, crime, teenage and adult addiction, poverty, and government corruption.

Looking into the casino problem in other countries, we found that Russia and others have also outlawed gambling for the same reasons. Perhaps we could learn from these countries. Let’s take a look at what is happening in our country and state. Mr. John Kindt, University of Illinois professor, calculates that for every dollar the state receives in gambling revenues, it costs the state at least THREE dollars in increased criminal justice, social welfare and other expenses. Could this be the reason why our governor and team have increased our taxation and continue to push for more increases? Remember that on March 30 Governor Gregoire signed a new tribal gambling compact that will result in a massive expansion of gam-

bling in our state! We need to keep a close eye on Governor Gregoire and follow the money trail.

Further research shows the following negative aspects of casinos.

* The crime rate in gambling communities is nearly double the national average, according to a 1996 U.S. News and World Report analysis.

* Teens are three times as likely as adults to become addicted to gambling, once exposed, according to Loma Linda University Medical School Professor, Durand Jacobs.

* Children of compulsive gamblers do worse in school than their peers, are more likely to engage in substance abuse, are more susceptible to gambling and eating disorders, and are more prone to depression, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling.

* At least two-thirds of compulsive gamblers turn to crime to finance their addiction, according to Valerie Lorenz, director of the Compulsive Gambling Center in Baltimore.

* A 1995 study of casino gamblers in Wisconsin found that half had household incomes below \$30,000. Those with incomes below \$10,000 comprise 7 percent and they report gambling losses of \$1,900 annually.

* The *Detroit News* reports that gambling-related bankruptcies in metro Detroit have increased up to 40-fold since the opening of a large casino in neighboring Windsor, Ontario.

* Counties that added casinos in the early 1990’s, have experienced NO additional growth in new businesses, according to a *U.S. News and World Report* analysis.

* Gambling’s ability to draw tourists has been vastly overstated. Surveys in Illinois and Wisconsin show that gambling entrepreneurs make most of their profits from residents, not tourists.

* Each problem gambler costs society an estimated \$13,000 to \$52,000 per year.

We--individuals, Chamber of Commerce, churches, city council and all other influential organizations--must band together!

Ways to get involved...

- Write letters to legislators. Voice your opposition. Contact NCCA at 255-3885 or 354-5656 for assistance
- Write to the liquor control board
- Put up a “No Casino” sign--if you need help, Ivan and Kay Likkel will put one up for you or replace your old one. 354-2208
- Sign the enclosed petition and get others to sign also
- Be informed--lots of info and books at Jon’s Truck Repair--then pass them on
- Contribute to the cause

Williams impressed with legislative reception

by Tom Williams

In March my wife Katherine and I traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA) 2007 conference. The foundational basis for the conference was civil rights. Equal Civil Rights for American Indian citizens and citizens of all other ethnic backgrounds. The CERA Mission Statement is: "Federal Indian Policy is unaccountable, destructive, racist and unconstitutional. It is therefore CERA's mission to ensure the equal protection of the law as guaranteed to *all* citizens by the Constitution of the United States of America."

There were 85 individuals from 20 states and each individual represented thousands in their hometowns. Attendees were from African, Anglo, Asian, European, Filipino and Hawaiian backgrounds as well as Crow, Cherokee, Yakama, Temecula, Navajo, and Oneida American Indian Tribes.

The conference started with an invocation and two days of speakers, lectures, legal briefs, federal legislation analysis and testimonials from attendees. Then came three days of meetings on Capital Hill with Senators, Congressmen, Legislative Aids, Department Directors and other staff discussing issues. When meeting on Capital Hill, in most all cases, and equally among all political parties, we found our elected officials, appointees and all other staff to be very accessible, polite and interested in what we came to discuss. The overall experience was fabulous.

Topics for panelists and guest speakers included: Land/Environment/EPA lack of Federal enforcement; Law Enforcement, Jurisdictional concerns, Cross-Deputization and Homeland Security; Congress and Revision of Laws, and results of recent Litigation as well as pending or proposed Court Actions; Voting Rights Act, Election Issues and Corruption at the Ballot Box; Economics, the irrefutable statistics/studies on

the negative Socio-Economic impact of Gambling; Sovereignty – what it was meant to be and what it has become; Excessive Corruption within Federal Indian Policy; The "AKAKA bill" (Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act – S. 310 and H.R. 505, the act which would replicate in Hawaii all the problems with Federal Indian Policy); and finally, we heard thoughts, experiences and perspectives from the American Indian and Native Hawaiian members of the conference.

From federal Indian Policy a trail of injustice can be traced to communities all over the United States. Individuals from all walks of life found themselves in Washington D.C. at the conference to express their concerns, damages and dilemmas and propose solutions.

...we found our elected officials, appointees and all other staff to be very accessible, polite and interested in what we came to discuss.

How are casinos involved with this issue? Since 1988 the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act allowed and expanded tribal gambling. This opened the door and allowed casinos and the culture enveloping them to exacerbate and further corrupt every flaw associated with Federal Indian Policy. Indian and non-Indian citizens who recognize the problems are reluctant to become involved for fear of retribution.

Non-Indians who become involved are labeled as racist and Indians who become involved are harassed, evicted, fired and sometimes

disenrolled from their tribe. 'Disenrolled' is a method of Tribal Administrative Genocide. Tribal members are kicked-out and removed from all tribal records. Civil rights of Americans living on the reservation and those living off the reservation have been trampled. Everything within Federal Indian Policy that was bad, gambling has made worse...

Stories we heard in D.C. from citizens all over the United States were consistent with what transpired here in North Whatcom County. A casino company starts a casino on short notice claiming sovereignty from all law. We learn later that we have not been told the truth.

In D.C. the Office of Indian Gaming stated that the required application has never been submitted for a permit to place a casino on that property and no land determination of eligibility for casino placement has been completed. We learned that the casino project must comply with Federal EPA regulations like any other commercial project. Corrupt casino/gambling companies and their operatives from within the United States and all over the world are usurping and exploiting tribal sovereignty for themselves at the expense of the rank and file tribal members and the surrounding community.

Who's to blame?

No specific governmental agency, but Congress, The Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Gaming and The National Indian Gaming Commission, whose directors, members and appointees *have* allowed and even facilitated the fraud and corruption. One thing I feel certain of is that most every American Indian is innocent. Programs and policies, which provide the environment for corruption, need to be fixed. But the most glaring contributor to the current state of exacerbation is tribal gambling expansion

to anti-gambling cause

driven by casino companies. Casinos abuse tribal sovereignty, which facilitates violating Indian and non-Indian citizens' civil rights. Majorities of tribes, even the 'casino tribes' live in substandard conditions. We could help our American Indian friends, fellow citizens and this county by eliminating the influence of billion dollar gambling casino companies... They are the epitome of gluttonous corruption. They are not free enterprise; they are oppressive and create economic cannibalism.

The U.S. government National Gambling Impact Study of June 18th, 1999 recommends a **moratorium** on gambling. It states, *"The members of the Commission agree that there is a need for a "pause" in the growth of gambling."* *"Because the search for answers takes time, some policymakers may wish to impose an explicit moratorium on gambling expansion while awaiting further research and assessment."*

Many other countries have identified gambling as a huge problem and taken action. In 2006 Russia closed 2230 casinos and will allow only four to operate within the country in "uninhabited areas". China totally banned gambling (except in Macao). Turkey banned casinos in 1998, India Banned lotteries in 1998, Norway banned all slot machines in 2007, Trinidad banned all slot machines in 2006 and online gambling in 2007, South Korea banned online gambling in 2006, Kazakhstan banned gambling in 2007 (except two isolated areas), (ref: Prof. John W. Kindt, Harvard University International Business Conference, February 10-11, 2007). Also, the United States banned internet gambling in 2006

In Washington State, we need an immediate **moratorium** on gambling expansion. This can be legislated at the state level. We then need a **statewide impact study** on the socio-economic

effects of gambling. If the study indicates a severe negative effect (virtually every independent study has), gambling should be **recriminalized** through legislative or citizen initiative processes. State legislators should be contacted and encouraged to take these actions.

Confronted with our situation at hand and an awareness, which has grown fifty fold in the last twelve months, we believe the community should be vigorously opposing gambling expansion. Here in Whatcom County we can start to remedy this situation by opposing The Northwood Crossing Casino. The North County Community Alliance has been effective, help them finish the job. Contact NCCA, P.O. Box 934, Lynden, Wa 98264, www.agyes.org 360-255-3885, get involved and get on the mailing list.

We need your support!

Thank you for your continued support.. The conflict continues this year and the NCCA needs your continued financial support. Research, legal action, and lawyer fees require a lot of money.

Therefore we are asking you to step up and help our community by preventing the Northwood Crossing Casino from opening its doors. We are being effective. Send your contributions to:

**NCCA
Box 934
Lynden, WA 98264**

Willman impacts community

Elaine D. Willman, author, national speaker and Indian civil rights activist appeared Feb.8 at the Lynden Community Center. Over 100 people attended to hear her speak regarding the effects of casinos on a community. There was also an early morning meeting at the Fairway Cafe and a luncheon meeting at Homestead where nearly 100 more businessmen, local community leaders, county council members, accountants and bankers participated. These meetings were very informational and filled with alarming facts about casinos.

If you haven't heard Elaine speak, please get her book *Going to Pieces, the Dismantling of the United States of America*. Get the book at Jon's Truck Repair or from an NCCA member. Also, you don't want to miss our upcoming meetings with Chad Hills from Focus on the Family, May 24, 7:00, Sonlight CRC.

Silence is consent

If you do not give your consent to a casino being built near Lynden, WA sign the petition below and mail it to P.O. Box 934, Lynden, WA 98264. We feel it is vital for the preservation and well-being of our community.

Signature Printed Name Address

Community meeting

Listen to Chad Hills, the analyst for Gambling Research in the Public Policy Dept. at Focus on the Family.

This renowned Christian researcher, writer, and lecturer will speak at Sunlight Community Church on Thursday, May 24 at 7 pm

Please put this important date on your calendar

Be encouraged--little progress made



photo by Fred Ypma, May4, 2007



field sign on Northwood Rd.

Address Correction Requested

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Fred Ypma--newsletters

Alliance Board
Jon and Sharice Ballou
Dave Bren
Dewey and Lori Honcoop
Craig Mayberry
Bernie and Starla Mulder
Virgil and CheetaStremler
Ivan and Kay Likkel
Rick Vander Veen
Tom Williams

North County Community Alliance
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 934
Lynden, WA 98264
Telephone #: 360-255-3885

web site: www.agyes.org/

email address: jonstruck05@hotmail.com

North County Community Alliance

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