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Casinos would ruin Jefferson County

Editor:

I am very concerned about the expansion of gambling in our lovely, historic community. Casino proponents have spent a lot of money convincing us of supposed benefits, but are silent as to the costs that we local residents will bear.

Let me paint you a picture of what I see. If table gaming is permitted, Penn National will market the casino as the "Las Vegas" of the east. High-rise hotels will explode and our main thoroughfares will be clogged with traffic. Neon lights will beckon us to strip bars and pawn shops.

Competing restaurants and shops will close. Taxes will go through the roof to pay for the increased infrastructure and social costs.

Once our neighboring states get slots and table games, then what? Our boomtown goes bust. Like Atlantic City, we go into a death spiral. Shouldn't we instead focus on the long-term economic benefits of bringing in businesses that do not have the known side effects of gambling addiction, bankruptcy and crime?

The choice ultimately comes down to competing visions for Jefferson County's future. Will we strengthen our community by protecting our families, preserving our historic heritage and encouraging smart economic development provided by companies like APUS? Or will we expand the role of the casino and its power, which inevitably leads to corruption, crime and untold social costs?

The choice is ours. Vote No Dec. 5. Learn more about what's really at stake at VoteNoTableGames.org.

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