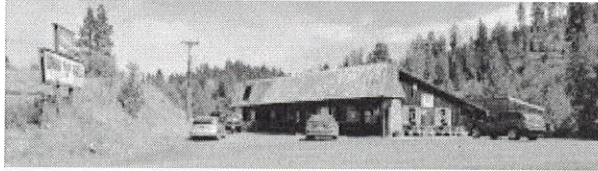


Not on the menu: Owners of Waha bar boycott companies that go against their beliefs



Tribune/Steve Hanks

The Waha Bar & Grill south of Lewiston.

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By David Johnson of the Tribune

Mike Fuller, co-owner of the Waha Bar and Grill, said Thursday he and his wife, Mari, weren't seeking publicity and attention when they explained at the bottom of their menu why they don't sell Miller-Coors and Pepsico products.

"But we've been inundated the last couple days," Mike Fuller said about fallout from the posting.

"We are Christians who do not believe in supporting the goals and the politicians who support the goals of the NGLCC," the menu reads in part.

NGLCC stands for the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Laura Barry, spokeswoman for the NCLCC, said she was aware of the Fullers' stance after being contacted by a local television station. But she declined on-the-record comment to the Lewiston Tribune. She instead sent the following email response:

"The NGLCC is proud of our more than 130 corporate partners, including PepsiCo, MillerCoors, and their industry colleagues, who remain committed to supporting LGBT and allied small business owners. Our corporate partners are essential to the economic development of LGBT-owned small businesses so those employers can continue to create jobs and provide health care for their employees."

Mike Fuller said he and his wife have been exercising the same boycott policy for three years, but only recently did it gain media attention.

"We've had this policy in place since 2009. And basically, we didn't open this can of worms at all," he said. "We posted a flier at our restaurant here and on our online menu because of the numerous questions from consumers wanting to purchase, you know, Coors Light or Keystone (and other products)."

The Fullers claim Miller/Coors, Pepsico and other corporations endorse non-Biblical beliefs by supporting the NGLCC. The organization has an objective of "securing social, economic, and political gains for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities," the Fuller's Website asserts.

Instead of supporting the politically charged NGLCC, the Fullers suggest companies should redirect their charitable contributions toward non-divisive, non-political entities such as cancer and heart disease research or fighting world hunger.

"These are companies that initiated a political stance that a lot of Christians don't agree with," Mike Fuller said. "So we're merely responding to what they have done with the money we spend in purchasing their products."

The Fuller's Website lists scores of other companies who've given financial support to the NGLCC.

"The big thing is, we didn't initiate this," Mike Fuller said. "We're reacting to a political stance the companies are taking. We didn't go out preaching our Christian views."

He said regular customers at the bar and grill have known about the policy since it was started, but recent inquiries led to the Website posting. "Rather than us explaining to every person ... why we aren't carrying those products, we just simply put the posting on there so people could read about it. And if that didn't answer their questions they could come and ask us later."

Mike Fuller said he and his wife have a right to carry what products they want, and stay away from others. "What if a customer comes in and demands we carrying Playboy magazine, should we have to go out and buy Playboy magazine?"

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