

Mill Bay Resort owners in legal battle with Chief Evans, Inc.

A hearing has been delayed until July 29.

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After several months of legal battles, the owners group of Mill Bay Resort has another setback in its efforts to bring resolution to the developing situation between it and Chief Evans, Inc. On Monday, April 22, the case was to get an airing in the Colville Tribal Court. That date has been moved forward to July 29.

The entire legal issue came about when the members of Mill Bay Resort were informed by letter from Chief Evans, Inc. that the park was losing money and would be closed at the end of 2001. It also was learned during this time that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville were pre-

paring to build a new casino on the site.

During the summer of 2001, several meetings between members of Mill Bay Resort and attorneys for Chief Evans, Inc. failed to bring resolution to the problem. The members of Mill Bay Resort purchased their long-term memberships years ago. At the meetings during the summer, the members said they would be happy to take over the operation and expenses of the resort property, but that option was rejected.

Eventually, the members contacted the State Attorney General's Office and the Washington State Department of Licensing with their complaints. The State Attorney General's Office

launched an investigation into the activities of Chief Evans, Inc. and its operation at Mill Bay Resort. Subsequently the Attorney General's office demanded documents and records.

This led to Chief Evans, Inc. filing suit against the Washington State Attorney General and two members of Mill Bay Resort in the Colville Tribal Court on the basis that the Colville Tribal Court has jurisdiction over Indian affairs.

The issue at hand, which has been delayed until late July, is who has jurisdiction over non-reservation Indian Trust Land, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville or the State of Washington.