



FRIDAY

November 15, 2002

LOCAL NEWS



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Local News - November 13, 2002

Hearing set over resort closure: Owners prepare to shut down membership campground on Friday

By Laurie Smith, World staff writer

MANSON - Mill Bay Resort owners plan to close the campground on Friday, according to resort members who have asked the Colville Tribal Court to keep it open.

A court hearing will be held at noon Thursday.

Frank Smith, a Seattle attorney representing more than 180 members, said resort employees have indicated the campground will cease operations on Friday. In response, members, who collectively paid about \$1.5 million for 25- and 50-year memberships in the 1980s and '90s, are asking the court to restrain owner Chief Evans Inc. from closing the recreational vehicle resort.

"I think that it's inappropriate for Chief Evans Inc. to take unilateral action, and I hope that the court agrees with us," Smith said.

For the past year and a half, the company has said it's been losing money on the lakefront campground and can't continue to operate it. At the same time, Chief Evans has been working with the Colville Tribal Enterprise Corp. on plans to build a new Mill Bay Casino on the land where the campground is located.

A Wenatchee attorney representing Chief Evans, Mike Arch, declined to comment Tuesday in a message relayed by his assistant. A second attorney for the owners, Richard Price of Omak, was unavailable for comment.

Smith said Price left him a voice mail on Nov. 1 saying a letter was being sent to every member to announce the closure. As of Tuesday, Smith and Paul Grondal of Issaquah, another spokesman for the members, had not yet received that letter.

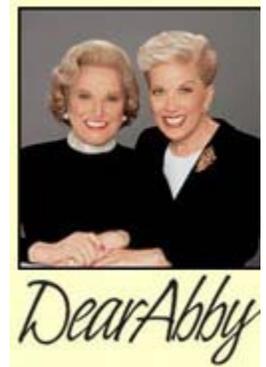
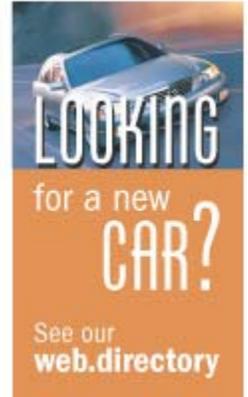
Employees at the campground have advised members that their last day of work is Friday, and that water and utilities will also be shut off that day, Smith said.

He said Mill Bay Resort has not issued the usual billings for fourth-quarter dues, and it has refused payment when members tried to remit.

Laurie Smith can be reached at 664-7153 or by e-mail at smith@wenworld.com

WORLD GRAPHIC BY CHERYL GRAHAM SHOWING LOCATION OF CAMPGROUND

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