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Officials attempt to ban slot machines



NORTHWEST

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Nine days after the Spokane Indian Tribe opened its Nevada-style casino, the federal government asked a judge to ban slot machines at the Two River Resort.

The casino, on tribal land, has more than 100 electronic and lever-pull slot machines.

In motions filed Monday, the government asked a federal judge to rule that the slot machines violate state and federal laws. It also seeks an injunction to enjoin the tribe from offering slots or other types of Nevada-style gambling.

The motion seeks forfeiture of the gaming machines.

Jim Connelly, U.S. attorney for Eastern Washington, said the government will ask the court to expedite hearings.

John Kieffer, vice chairman of the Spokane tribe, said the tribe welcomes the federal suit.

"We have been trying for more than four years to get this into the federal courts," he told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. "We finally have the chance to go in and get this settled. We should prevail. We have done every-

thing that the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act required us to do. We have the sovereign right to do this."

The tribe will argue that it should be allowed to continue its gambling activities, tribal attorney Scott Crowell told the *Seattle* newspaper.

"We believe that if the federal court gives the tribe an opportunity for a fair and thorough hearing, it will agree with the tribe," he said.

State law enforcement and elected officials have pressured the U.S. Department of Justice to shut down the slot operations that spread across the Eastern Washington reservation and trust lands.

The state has no jurisdiction on the reservation, which is considered a sovereign nation.

Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., this month wrote Attorney General Janet Reno seeking federal intervention.

Connelly said his office had been studying the legal issues for three or four months and was not pressured to act.

"This was not what I would call a response to any arm twisting by anybody," Connelly said. "We simply had to complete our inves-

tigation and get authorization from the Justice Department, which we did Friday."

State Gambling Commission Director Frank Miller said state officials made a concerted plea for federal action to keep compacts already negotiated with 10 tribes from falling apart.

"We're pleased the U.S. attorney has finally brought an action," Miller said. "We are hopeful this will be resolved in the courts and in a very expeditious manner."

Miller is still negotiating gambling compacts with nine other tribes.

The government cited a provision in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, which says state laws apply on Indian reservations for so-called Class III gambling when there is no compact with the state, assistant U.S. attorney Jim Shively said.

The tribe contends a federal court ruling last summer gave Washington state tribes the right to offer Nevada-style gambling activities without negotiating a tribe-state compact.

On March 19, they opened their 5,000-square-foot casino as part of a planned economic development on the southwestern corner of their 1-million-acre reservation.

Riot police quell fans at concert

MIAMI (AP) — Riot police were called in after about 2,000 frustrated rock fans downed chain-link fences and hurled bottles and rocks at an outdoor Pearl Jam concert, police said Tuesday.

Four people were arrested and five were injured, including three police officers.

"People were trying to force their way in," said Miami police spokesman Angelo Bitsis. "More showed up than had tickets."

Monday night's concert, held at the open-air AT&T Amphitheater at downtown Bayfront Park, was sold out in 11 minutes when the \$18 tickets first went on sale Feb. 16, said Ira Katz, the theater's executive director and general manager.

Katz said 8,314 tickets were sold. But an additional 2,000 fans of the Seattle-based group showed up, apparently hoping to sneak into the

concert, Bitsis said.

"It was real ugly out there," said Carah Thomas-Maskell, 34, a free-lance photographer who was covering the event and was hurt during the concert.

"Everyone was frustrated," she said. "The place was packed. Why didn't they play at a bigger venue?"

The crowds started knocking down the fences and kicking holes in them at about 8:30 p.m., police said.

About 65 riot-trained officers, clad in helmets, shields and batons, helped disperse the crowd. Two officers were hit with flying bottles and rocks. A third officer was treated at a hospital for a severely sprained ankle.

King testifies to jury of racial slurs by officers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rodney King insisted to a jury Tuesday that despite his earlier uncertainty in previous testimony, racial slurs were uttered when he was beaten by police officers.

"There's no doubt in my mind," said King, who is suing the city for \$9.5 million in connection with his March 3, 1991, beating by four white police officers after a traffic stop.

The city has admitted liability for King's beating, and jurors are being asked to set a compensatory damage figure.

In a second phase, they will try to allocate blame to individual defendants, including the officers, for punitive damages.

Last year King testified he heard officers shout the racial slur but admitted under cross-examination that he could not remember if he heard the word "nigger" or "killer."

But on Tuesday, King, testifying for a second day in his lawsuit against the city, said that in spite of his previous hesitation, he was now certain what he heard the night of the beating.

On direct examination, King testified he could identify the point on the video soundtrack when the slur was uttered.

King testified he still hears officers shouting slurs in his sleep and suffers nightmares.

Volkswagen may market new Beetle

NEW YORK (AP) — The Volkswagen Beetle, the much-loved and fondly remembered car that disappeared from auto showrooms more than a decade ago, may be coming back to U.S. markets.

If Americans like the idea, a sleek futuristic version — complete with convertible top and environmental controls — could be sold here as early as 1997.

The German automaker is tapping into American nostalgia to reverse a sharp decline in its overall U.S. sales, which totaled only about 50,000 cars in the United States last year — down from more than 10 times that in 1970 when the Beetle was a hot seller.

The marketing strategy could fail if the American consumer tires of nostalgia before the new Beetle returns, one analyst said.

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