

Casino: Hearings continue this week at gorge, Portland

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Rosalind Sampson also mentioned the tribes' connection to the land, and spoke of the opposition facing the proposed casino—after helping other tribes with things like restoration of their culture, she said, "This is the thanks we get from them. I have to voice that."

As for the casino, Sampson said, "I think wonderful things will happen out of it and we truly do need it."

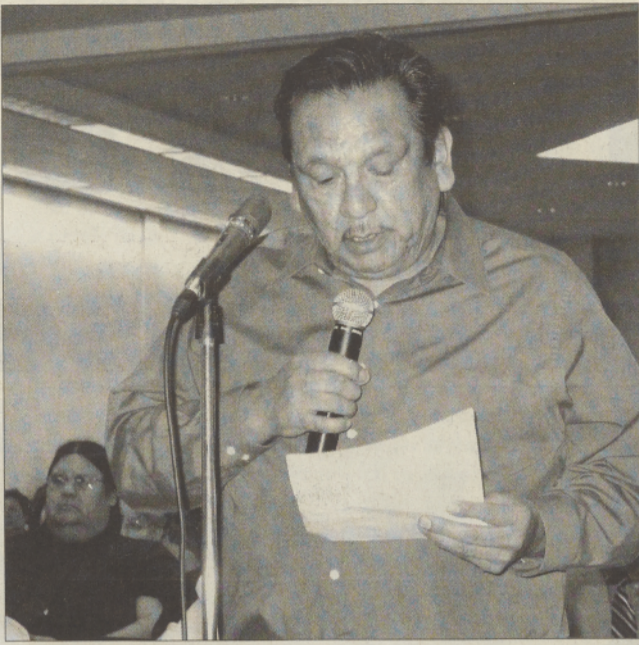
Some spoke in opposition to the proposed casino, but still supported building a casino—just in a different location.

Maxine Switzler said the commute to Cascade Locks would be too difficult for some, and doesn't think many would make the trip for work.

However, she added, something needs to be done to improve conditions for those in the workforce.

"It's terrible to see so many young people without any hope," she said.

Switzler also spoke of a need to expedite the process of build-



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah addresses the casino DEIS forum at Kah-Nee-Ta.

ing a casino.

"We've already spent millions and millions just getting to this point," she said. "If we're going to do it, let's do it."

Mary Repar of Stevenson,

treasurer of the No Casino Committee, spoke in opposition to the casino, and said she believes it will harm the environment.

However, according to

Marva Janik of the Port of Cascade Locks, the casino would instead help to restore the area.

"This will turn a former industrial area into a green complex," Janik said. "Clearly Cascade Locks is the best site."

The 90-day public comment

period on the Draft Environmental Impact study will continue with four more hearings: the second was held in Cascade Locks on March 10; the third was held in Stevenson, Wash., on March 12 and the fourth will be held in Portland tonight (all

after the deadline for this paper). Additional hearings will be held on March 17 in Hood River.

In addition, written comments will be accepted until May 15. For more information, visit www.gorgecasinoeis.com.

Arcade

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"This will be a different setting. Kids today love to play video games, they love to hang out and gossip and talk."

Now, Cole said, "This will be a great benefit to them where they can come and socialize after Eagle Tech closes at 7."

Plus, Cole added, "We're working on transportation home for kids who want to stay and hang out there."

The arcade will charge a small fee, and customers will be able to purchase a card

that can be used in exchange for money.

In addition, Cole said, "The people on the Rez will be able to benefit at large."

Because there are only a few other ATM machines in town, and no options for renting DVDs, Cole said, this provides all community members with new services.

"That will be a great benefit," Cole said. "It will bring more attraction to the kids, the families, and the people altogether here on the Rez."

They also plan to participate in the upcoming Northwest In-

dian Youth Conference by providing their space for youth to use for small meetings. Cole said the business welcomes any donations or sponsorships.

Mostly, Cole said, everyone can expect to have a good time at the Playstation @ Express Shop.

"They can come have a good time," he said. "Everyone is welcome; all ages are welcome. I look forward to seeing all of them there at our open house."

— by Leslie Mitts

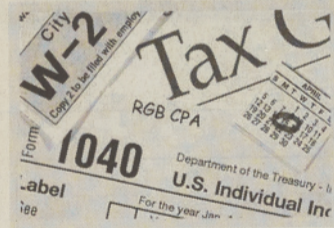
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