Bars to gamble with video poker

SALEM - The Oregon Lottery hopes to switch on its video poker network next Wednesday, with bars and taverns offering patrons a chance to play the new gambling game across the state.

It's expected that within the first week, about 750 retail establishments will be offering the game on about 3,500 terminals, Lottery Director Jim Davey said Wednesday.

The video poker game, which is expected to double the Lottery's existing business, was approved by the 1991 Oregon Legislature after a lengthy debate over how far the state should go into the gambling business.

Davey said, however, that he's confident that the game won't create the compulsive gambling and other social problems that opponents have warned about.

"We've asked our retailers not to offer credit to players," Davey said. "And we don't want them cashing people's checks to play these games.

Plus, he said, signs will be posted in retail establishments offering a toll-free number people can call for help if they feel they're becoming addicted to the game.

Davey also noted that some of the proceeds from the video poker game will be used to finance local programs to help people who are compulsive gamblers.

Those assurances don't sit well with opponents who are mounting a petition effort to force a statewide vote this fall on whether video poker should be banned.

Mark Weiner, a spokesman for a coalition that's opposing the game, said video poker is taking the lottery a long way toward Nevadastyle gambling.

ET ALS

Multicultural Curriculum meeting will be tonight at 7 in EMU Room 20 B.

RELIGION

"Evangelism: The Big Picture" will be the locus of a discussion tonight at 7:30 in EMU Cedar Room A.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style. otices for grammar and style.



Conference opens today

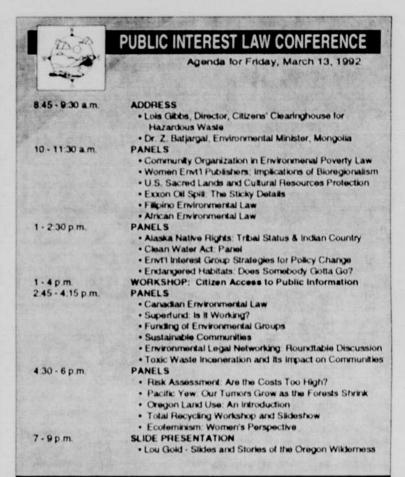
Following are several highlighted speakers from the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference running today through Sunday, March 14. There will be a total of more than 240 speakers representing more than 20 countries at the conference

- · Lois Gibbs, director of the Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, Washington, D.C. Gibbs began her career as a citizen organizer after discovering that the canal in her hometown, Love Canal, N.Y., was a hazardous waste dump, and that the members of her family and people in her community were being poisoned.
- · Michael Weirkhe, advocate for the protection of the black rhino, Mombasa, Kenya. Weirkhe has raised more than \$1 million toward protection of the black rhino, endangered by poachers seeking its horn. He has traveled throughout Europe and the United States to raise awareness of the rhino's plight.
- · Samuel LaBudde, field biologist and filmmaker, Earth Is-

known for his undercover documentary work on drift net fishing, dolphin kills by the tuna industry, and the Alaskan slaughter of walrus for the ivory trade.

- · Larry Echohawk, Idaho attorney general. Echohawk is overseeing the Idaho Department of Natural Resources litigation against the Department of Energy regarding transfer and storage of nuclear waste into the state of Idaho. His office is also involved in the Endangered Species Act salmon listing process for the Snake River.
- · Evaristo Nugkuag, president and founder of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous People's Organizations of the Amazon Basin, Lima, Peru. Nugkuag, a member of the Aguaruna tribe, has worked to get the international environ-

mental community to realize that the preservation of indigenous people is central to Amazonian conservation.





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