

Portland Family
Observer

New Services Sought for Problem Gamblers

A state program charged with treating Oregon's growing number of addicted gamblers plan to offer a new mix of services beginning this summer.

"Oregon is recognized as a national leader in dealing with problem gambling," says Jeffrey Marotta, Ph. D., problem gambling services manager in the state Dept. of Human Services. "These initiatives will break new ground."

The new services, subject to legislative budget approval, include staffing the state's 24-hour gambling addiction hotline (800-233-8479) with trained counselors who can motivate problems gamblers to seek treatment and make follow-up calls if given permission to do so. Now the hotline, which landed 4,339 calls last year, offers only referrals and crisis counseling.

People with less severe gambling problems could be approached with what's called "home-based intervention" that Martha says has been successful in Canada.

Another element of the overall plan is to update an Oregon Lottery-sponsored problems gambling public-awareness campaign costing \$600,000 year, and increasing funding to county governments for prevention and outreach pro-

grams while continuing to fund 25 local treatment centers aimed at helping gamblers recover from their addiction.

"Independent research shows that treatment for problem gambling works," Martha says. "States like Oregon that do something about the problem make more progress than those that don't."

Oregon has an estimated 50,000

problem gamblers. Martha says 76 percent of Oregon's problems gamblers say they are addicted to video poker, which accounts for 80 percent of the Oregon Lottery's revenues. Oregon is among a handful of states offering video poker as a state-sponsored game, he says.

Oregon spends 91 cents a year per state resident on problem gam-

bling services, highest of any state, according to Martha.

"We will maintain the integrity of the current program while we also expand efforts to raise awareness, emphasize prevention, and reach more problems gamblers with effective treatment," he says.

Treatment is confidential and paid for by Lottery revenues.

PGE Park Opens Monday as Energy Efficient Venue

Portland Family Entertainment opens PGE Park, formerly Civic Stadium, on Monday with an Earth Advantage certificate that says the renovated stadium meets rigorous energy efficiency, environmental and resource use standards.

"This is the only outdoor sports arena in the United States known to have achieved a "green" certification from any organization," said Richard Manning, coordinator of Portland General Electric's commercial Earth Advantage program.

"We know people in Oregon and

Washington are very concerned about environment and using our natural resources wisely," said Lisa Stader, PGE Parks senior project manager. "We also know that energy supply issues are at top of their list. We kept that in mind throughout the construction process."

The new field lights are the most energy efficient available and unlike conventional sports lighting that are "on or off," the new system can be partially turned on during night maintenance, when full power isn't necessary.

To reduce waste, almost all the concrete and asphalt removed from the original park, more than 5,000 tons of it, was recycled for other construction uses. The original wooden stadium seats have been transformed into tables and countertops in the pavilion suites and at the field-side Widmer Bros. Pub, preserving old growth Douglas fir from the early 20th century. The original artificial turf was cut into pieces and donated to Oregon schools and Little League fields. The original plastic stadium seats were resold, for reuse or recycling, and the "new" cast iron seat

supports were actually purchased second-hand from a stadium in Anaheim Calif.

One of the most environmentally and energy friendly aspects of PGE Park involves how fans get there. To encourage MAX light rail use, event tickets will double as fare vouchers. Bike riders will have access to a large secure bicycle corral at Lincoln High School and additional bicycle parking will be provided for large events.

The stadium opens Monday for PFE's new Portland Beavers Triple-A baseball team.

Seminar Offers Kitchen and Bath Help

Thinking of updating your kitchen, bath, or whole house, and not sure where to begin?

Let Neil Kelly help, as their award-winning designers offer advice and guidance during free seminars on Saturday, May 12 at the company's westside showroom, located next to I-5 at 15573 S.W. Bangy Rd in Lake Oswego (exit 292 off I-5).

The day begins with a bath seminar at 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The seminar will include before and after comparisons, with special emphasis on materials, layout and "do's and don'ts" of bathroom remodeling. A kitchen seminar will be held from 11 a.m. until Noon, covering various aspects of kitchen design, and a 90-minute cooking demonstration will follow immediately.



A Neil Kelly bathroom project shows the appeal a remodeled bath gives an older home.

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