

OSV opens employee fitness center



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER PERYAM / jperyam@h-ponline.com

FITNESS AREA: A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Monday at Our Sunday Visitor for the new fitness center and lounge. From left: Kyle Hamilton, OSV president and CEO; Tina Burnau, executive director for customer satisfaction; Laurie Miller and Tyler Ottinger, OSV employees; Pete Eckert, facility manager; Jim Lewis, materials manager; Joe West, OSV employee; Barbara Thompson, executive assistant; and Msgr. Campion, OSV chaplain.

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Our Sunday Visitor has opened a new fitness and wellness center for its employees, along with a lounge area. The new facility offers employees a place to have a break during work and encourages an active and healthy lifestyle.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Monday afternoon attended by employees and local officials

including Mayor Brooks Feters, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce President Steve Kimmel and Huntington County Economic Development Director Mark Wickersham.

Kyle Hamilton, OSV president and CEO, said a year ago there was a group of employees who met to receive input on what they

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EMPLOYEE FITNESS: Joe West, OSV employee, exercising on a bodycraft machine.

on Interstate 80 in eastern proclamation about the im- roads in Michigan.

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would like to see for a fitness center and lounge area.

There were six to eight employees called the "Dream Team" who planned the fitness center and lounge area.

"We asked the employee team to come together. They spent time looking at other fitness areas. A year later we are opening this," Hamilton said.

Pete Eckert, OSV facility manager, was part of the team.

"We went to Sweetwater and looked at the fitness area they had for their employees," Eckert said.

Hamilton said it is important to OSV to give employees an opportunity to exercise and provide them with a place to play video games and relax.

Having the fitness center on site allows employees to use it during breaks, at lunch and after work. Hamilton said he enjoys using the equipment himself.

The fitness area features seven strength machines and six cardio machines, according to Eckert. The equipment was purchased by OSV from Brigadoon, Fort Wayne.

The contractor for the project was Shawnee Construction, Fort Wayne. Travis Mounsey, Huntington, did the tile work.



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TREADMILL EXERCISE: Laurie Miller, OSV employee, exercises on the treadmill Monday.

The equipment will be used by the 300 employees who work at OSV. It is free for them to use.

"With the cost of insurance rates sky rocketing, we want them to stay fit," said Eckert.

The fitness area also has showers and restrooms for employees to use.

The lounge area has new furniture, pin ball machines, and gaming systems.

Laurie Miller, employee, said she lives in Marion. Before the YMCA there had a nationwide membership, she could not use the Y

locally. "This gives me more options to work out. I work out two to three times a week. I like the strength machine," Miller said.

Feters spoke about having the fitness center at OSV.

"OSV is one of the leading corporate citizens in town that really is out at the fore front of making sure health and wellness is here," Feters said.

Those who attended Monday's event received snacks, a water bottle and cooling towel giveaways.