



Photo by Bobbie Lo

The EMU Recreation Center gives students a place to step away from their books and enjoy billiards as well as several other activities.

Rec Center plans tournaments

By Cami Swanson
Emerald Reporter

The Erb Memorial Union's Recreation Center hopes to increase student involvement this year by adding more activities and tournaments in events ranging from billiards to backgammon.

According to Manager Sue Peterson, tournaments will be held for billiards, darts, bowling, backgammon, table tennis, chess, bridge, foosball, and even video games. Peterson, who joined the recreation center staff just this summer, said the center is definitely offering more of a variety of tournaments than last year.

"They had a few billiards tournaments last year, but not with the same intensity or range of events as we are planning," she said. "We are looking for more student involvement and also hope to get them ready to compete in the Associated College Union International tournaments," she said.

ACUI puts on local, regional and national tournaments for college students in events similar to the ones being offered by the recreation center. Peterson, who participated in ACUI tournaments when she was in college, said this year's regional tournament will be held at Idaho State.

Since the ACUI tournaments don't begin until January, the recreation center staff will hold their own tournaments this term.

"It takes a lot of dedication on part of the employees. They will seek out the sponsors, create new fliers and distribute them

themselves," Peterson said.

The first tournament, which will have opponents squaring off over video games, is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

In addition to the tournaments, the recreation center is also offering "Moonlight Bowling" on Friday nights from 7 until 9. During Moonlight Bowling the house lights are turned down over the bowling lanes, but not over the colored pins. The bowler who makes a strike wins a prize, such as a free game of bowling.

"It's a lot of fun, especially after the beer gardens," Peterson said.

She plans to bring music speakers into the bowling alley from other parts of the center, so

students can bowl to music.

Peterson said she hopes the activity will generate more interest in bowling among the students. The recreation center currently has an established faculty/staff bowling league, but no such league exists for the students.

Although the center serves primarily students, Peterson said non-profit groups — such as Eugene Arts and Recreation, Sacred Heart Hospital and Stepping Stone — regularly use the center.

The recreation center is also available to be rented for an evening, Peterson added. The Pi Beta Phi sorority has asked to use the center's facilities Oct. 16.

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