

New ice rink expanding services



Lane County Ice, which opened Dec. 22, has capitalized on business brought by residents from Canada and the East Coast.

By Michelle Boucher
Emerald Contributor

Lane County Ice, 796 W. 13th Ave., is the new Eugene ice skating rink that opened last December and now hosts a variety of activities from hockey games to figure skating lessons. Since then, the new rink has had incredible response.

"It's a big success. I hope it keeps up," said Roger Lloyd, foreman and senior guard.

"I think it's the best thing in Eugene," said 7-year-old Toby Kirklin. "If it wasn't here, I would have to go somewhere else."

"We have had three times more business than expected," Lloyd said.

Only 1,000 yearly passes were expected to be sold, but more than 3,000 had been sold less than a month after the opening.

"It's great. There are too many people and it is too small, but we have prayed for a skating rink for three years," said Judy Lemay, ice skating enthusiast.

Forty years ago, a local ice rink was built, but it did not generate enough support, Lloyd said. But with the continued immigration of Canadians and East Coast residents to Oregon, many more people wanted to play hockey — which caused a need for a rink.

"There is a calling now. We are all transplants and all want to play," Lloyd said.

Hockey is becoming a popular sport in Oregon. Lane County Ice has a team called the Eugene All-Stars that competes with teams from Portland, California and Montana.

Because of the rink's opening, University student Scott Brown has put together the first University hockey team. He began seeking club sport status

BIJOU

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not going to see at a Tim Moyer theater," Schramm said, sticking to the Bijou's tradition of offering a variety of movies to its Eugene audience.

A trip to the Bijou now costs \$4.50 for regular shows and \$3.00 for late night shows Thursday through Saturday, with discount prices Sunday through Wednesday, but prices will probably rise in the Fall, Schramm said.

To help offset the price hike, the Bijou is hoping to start offering ticket books for the frequent movie-goers, and reduced prices for tickets purchased at the EMU this Fall.

Back to the Books

ball with brooms.

"Groups come out here with 50 people on a team and have a great time," Lloyd said, adding that groups can rent the rink for \$95 to \$115 per hour any time the rink is not being used. Broom ball teams are now being formed.

There have been a few problems at the rink because of the large number of skaters. Many times a specific skate size runs out, but there are plans to expand. Rink officials said they plan to build a bigger pro shop to sell equipment and purchase more skates in the future.

The rink is open Monday and Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m.; Friday, 9 to 11 a.m., noon to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m.

Skaters may have trouble getting into the rink, and once in may have trouble staying on their feet, but ice skating can be a fun way to spend any evening.

"It's cool, you can just skate around and around," said skater Jennifer Farlas. "It's my first time and I have only fallen a couple of times; it's easy. I'll be back."

right after the rink opened.

"Lane County Ice is very well run. It is some of the best ice I have ever skated," Brown said. "It's been packed during the public sessions. There has been a great interest from the city."

Hockey lessons as well as figure skating lessons are available for all ages. Another activity offered at the rink is broom ball. Broom ball is played like hockey, but the players wear street shoes and hit an orange

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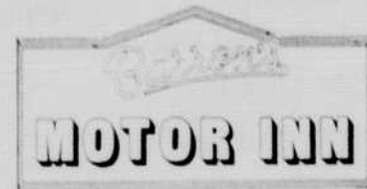
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