

CENTER STAGE



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The people behind it decided to raise the roof when they built Big Al's number two in Beaverton, OR. They went two stories tall, and put in a U-shaped mezzanine (with 180 games) that overlooks the 42 lanes, the reception desk and the sports bar.

Daniel Kirkwood, vice president of Kirkwood & Kirkwood, the family firm that built it, likes the layout especially because it

*Continued on page 14*



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*Continued from page 12*

allowed the bar to be constructed like a stadium, complete with a sky box suite. Murals on two sides depict the teams at two nearby colleges and extend into a sky painted on the ceiling.

Parents can sit at tables and divide their attention between their kids in the arcade above and sports action on the 14x55-foot video screen along the backbar.

After a \$15 million built and outfitting, Big Al's number two opened in August. Public response has been clamorous.

Number one, opened in September 2006, is in Vancouver, WA, still doing land office business. Kirkwood said he is shopping for a site for number three. ❖

