

Segway tours speed onto campus

BY JEREMY BEHRENS

of the Scout

Exploring the Peoria Riverfront just got a little more fun and futuristic for those willing to spend a little cash.

World On Wheels Peoria offers two options for a scenic view of a downtown staple. Boasting itself as "Peoria's only Segway tour and Quadracycle bike rental experience," World On Wheels gives its clients a one-of-a-kind experience that few cities have to offer.

"First off, the Riverfront is just so picturesque a spot," said Lynnette Lee, who co-owns World On Wheels Peoria with her husband Ronnie. "The Riverfront Association has taken painstaking care to make beautiful renovations to the area, and that is one of the draws to the tours."

Offering two modes of transport, the Segway or the Quadracycle, World On Wheels is able to cater to almost any person willing to give it a try.

"The Segways are a draw to those people that are interested in technology. It is something futuristic that people want to try," Lee said.

The Segway, a two-wheeled self-balancing vehicle that is driven while standing, is one of the main reasons people are drawn to the tours.

Released in December 2001, the Segway's advanced balancing technology is able to keep the vehicle upright while you drive it. By simply leaning the direction you wish to turn, you are able to steer the Segway with ease.

"It's a novelty," Lee said. "It's

a unique invention that can't help but catch your eye."

World on Wheels offers two different Segway tours, each with its own unique spin that is sure to spark interest from many different people.

The Peoria Premier Segway Tour is the cheaper of the two tours at \$45 for one hour. Riding along the Riverfront and a few nearby downtown areas, tourists visit many of downtown Peoria's popular attractions. Starting at the RiverFront Visitor's Center and going as far as O'Brien Field, the tour gives interesting insights into some of the spots that those living in Peoria commonly overlook.

The other option, the Past Glories Segway Tour, runs for two hours and costs \$65. Along with touring the Riverfront, this tour takes its riders up Main Street and through some of the other more historically rich areas of town. Hitting sights such as the High Wine District, Moss Avenue and Bradley's campus.

If Segways aren't really up your alley, World On Wheels also offers a spin on the classic "bicycle built for two."

The Quadracycle is a four-wheeled cycle with either two seats or four. Riders sit side-by-side and work together to maneuver the cart around the Riverfront property.

"A girlfriend and I took a trip to Texas and saw those old-fashioned bikes," Lee said. "When the Peoria Riverfront was renovated, I looked into getting these types of carts for a business."

Specially built, these carts generally run with only the frame

and wheels itself. Lee added the lights and the canopies hoping that it would be an added highlight to the Peoria Riverfront.

"Our Quadracycles are for the sportsman person," Lee said. "The exercise and work out that you get from it is more than you would get from the riding of the Segways."

While there is no specific tour route for the Quadracycle Rides, \$8 per person will get 30 minutes of riding time on the Riverfront.

Whether it is you and a date or you and three friends, the World on Wheels Quadracycle Rides are a great way to bring people together, according to its Web site, www.worldonwheelspeoria.com.

Quadracycle rides run Friday through Sunday during normal business hours until the end of September.

Running spring through fall, World on Wheels Segway tours operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Unless there is inclement weather, the tours run up until the end of November.

World on Wheels also caters to groups of people for birthday parties, special groups and expos. If you want to add something new and unique to your next event, World of Wheels would love to make it more memorable for everyone in attendance.

If you would like to make reservations for one of the tours, call (309) 453-0916 during business hours or log onto World On Wheels' Web site and book your next tour with the click of a mouse.