

The slopes beckon season's skiers

By Jennifer Curran
Emerald Contributor

It's time for snow, believe it or not, although knowing where to go is half the battle.

According to the Weather Bureau, the snow level is 15 percent below normal for this time of year, but not to worry! With the rain here, resorts will be open this weekend.

Here is a guide to some of Eugene's surrounding ski areas.

Willamette Pass — Located off Highway 58, east of Eugene.

The Pass is the closest skiing facility. With three new lifts, the Pass hopes to offer less time in the chair and more time on the snow.

It's open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and also is open during the holidays.

The Ski & Rental Shop is in Cascade Summit Lodge. By calling ahead of time from Eugene, you can reserve your skis so that they will be ready when you arrive. Renting the Recreation Package costs \$10.50. The High Performance Package costs \$17.50.

For more information about Nordic trails, racing and overnight lodging, call 484-5030. The Willamette Pass ski phone is 345-SNOW, which has weather and snow conditions.

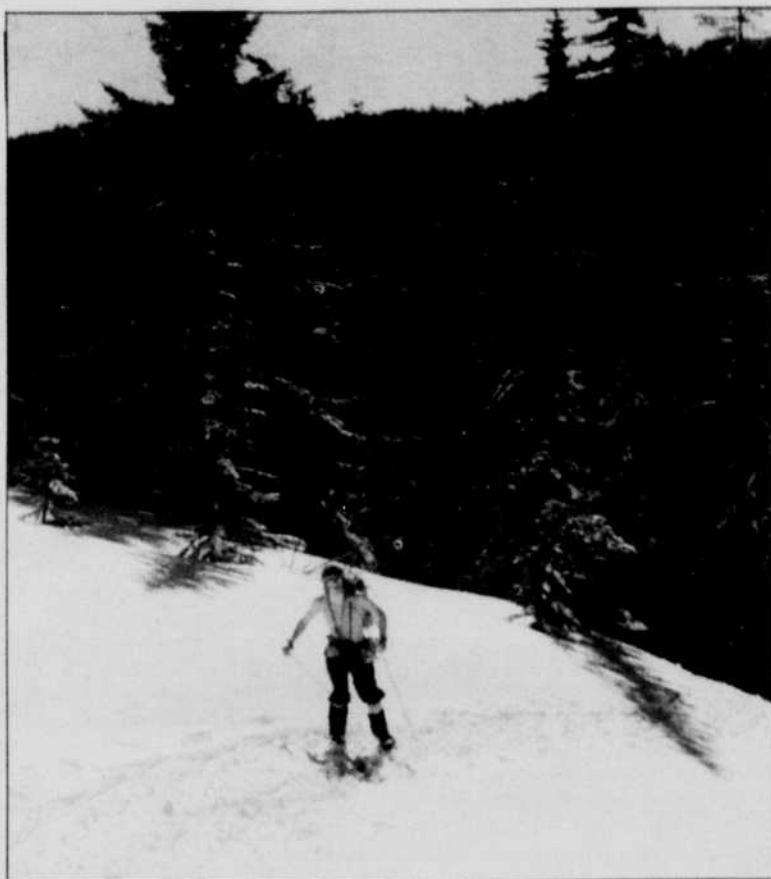
Hoodoo — Located off Highway 20, on the summit of the Santiam Pass

Hoodoo is a friendly, family-oriented ski area with affordable lift rates and a variety of Alpine runs. They have one triple chair and two double chairs distributed over their 17 groomed runs.

The skiing day is divided three ways at Hoodoo. An all-day ticket (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) is \$12.50. The rate for swing shift (2 p.m. - 10 p.m.) is \$12.50 and night skiing (4 p.m. - 10 p.m.) costs \$10.50. Rope tow, weekend and holiday rate (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) is \$6.

Hoodoo sells season passes for day or night skiing, for \$325. Lessons are offered on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, which include specials on lift tickets and rentals. Sessions begin in January. For additional information on Hoodoo, call 342-5540.

Mt. Bachelor — Bend, Oregon.



File Photo

You can go skiing this weekend, thanks to continued snowfall in the Cascades. Willamette Pass, Hoodoo and Mt. Bachelor are all planning to be open.

At Mt. Bachelor you'll find the Bullet Train of chair lifts: the new Outback Super Express Quad lift, which scoots you to the summit in less than 15 minutes. In all, Mt. Bachelor has 10 operating lifts and 6,000 skiable acres.

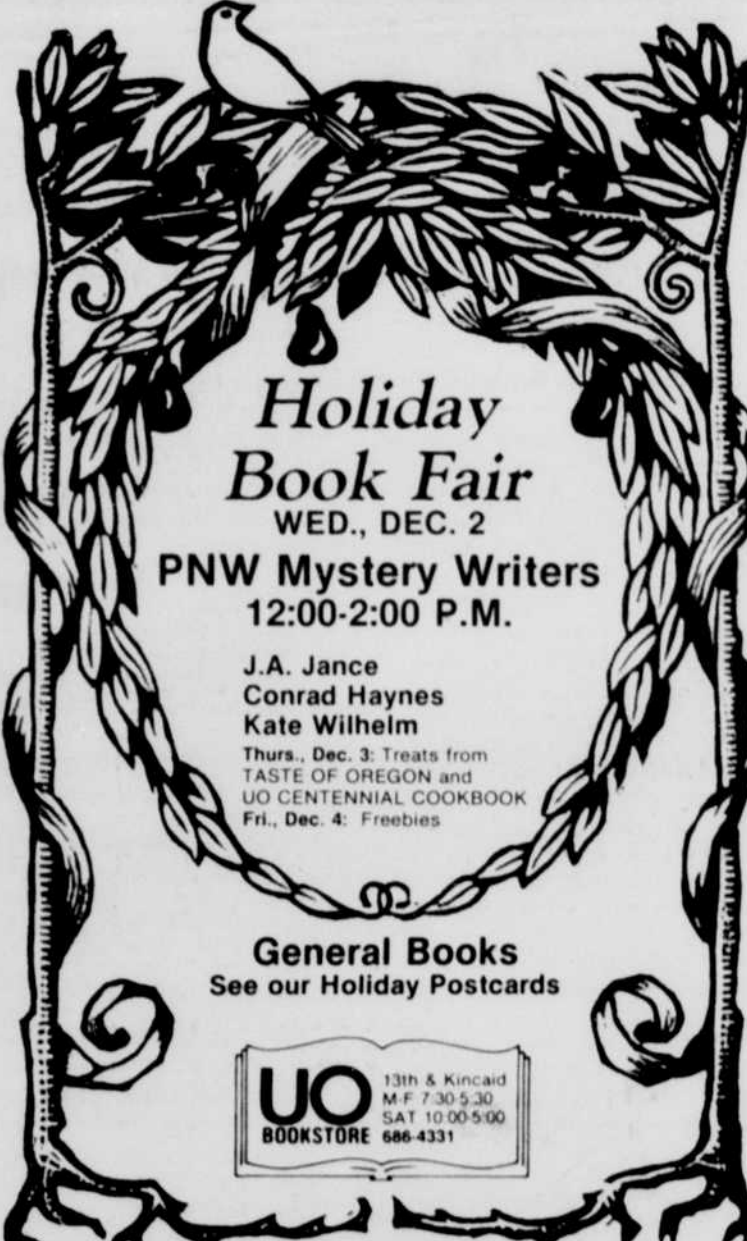
Bachelor has daily passes, as well as multiple lift passes, for all day skiing, at \$23. Nighttime passes are \$18.

Other services, such as a ski school, rental shop and even ski repair, are available.

A summer training center designed to tune up your skiing

and racing techniques is another feature at Bachelor. Call 1-800-547-6858 and find out more of Bachelor's options.

In addition, the YMCA Hookey Ski Bus will start shuttling the over-21 crowd to Mt. Bachelor every Wednesday starting Jan. 6. Both season tickets and single ride tickets are offered. It's run by volunteers, who offer low prices on the ride and discounts at the mountain. Call Virginia at 686-1222 (9 a.m. - 9 p.m.) for more information.



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