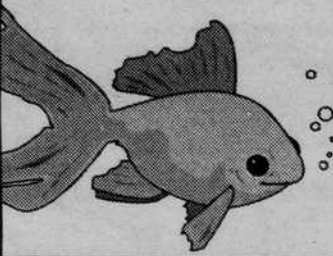


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# Oregon mountains ready for ski season

In Oregon, there are many opportunities awaiting those who ski or snowboard

By Simone Ripke  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

With the holiday season comes the ski season, and as soon as more snow turns the local slopes white, students will have plenty of opportunities to get out and use their skis.

Willamette Pass is the closest of ski resorts in the area and will open its slopes as soon as the weather will permit it. While students have missed the chance to buy a \$200 season pass, a pass for \$299 will be available throughout the remainder of the season.

Six lifts are available at Willamette Pass to take skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels up to 35 advanced, 45 intermediate and 20 beginner runs. Cross country skiers can take advantage of 29 skiable trails, covering 12 miles.

Berg's Ski Shop offers bus transportation to Willamette Pass, Mount Hoodoo and Mount Bachelor on Saturdays and Sundays and on additional days over the holidays. Prices for transportation and lift passes range from \$35 to \$39 depending on the ski area, said Svein Berg, sales associate at Berg's Ski Shop. ULLR Sport Shop also arranges bus transportation to Willamette Pass for \$13 per round trip. Buses leave from the store, which is located on Coburg Road, at 7:15 a.m., and are back in Eugene by 5:30 p.m. The drive to Willamette Pass takes about an hour and 15 minutes.

Michael Strong, University Physical Activity and Recreation Services coordinator for skiing, said he does not mind driving an extra hour and a half to reach Mount Bachelor, in Bend.

"The mountain has a lot to offer," he said. "It's such a good hill."

For those students who cannot get enough snow during winter break, Strong coordinates skiing classes, which are offered through the PARS program at the University. Students spend seven Thursdays of winter term at Mount Bachelor, where they receive an hour and a half lesson from local skiing instructors and are free to ski or snowboard for the rest of the day.

Strong said lessons are taught according to students' ability levels. Students pay \$389 in self support fees, transportation, lift tickets and lessons.

Mount Bachelor has already opened its slopes and will remain open until July 1. The mountain offers a total of 100 runs, accommodating four different skill levels. Cross country skiers have 31 miles of terrain at

## Oregon ski resorts open this season

**Mount Ashland:** From Eugene, take I-5 southbound to about 15 miles south of Ashland. Look for signs.

**Mount Bachelor:** Take Highway 126 east to Highway 20. Take Highway 20 south; follow the signs.

**Mount Hoodoo:** Take Highway 126 east about two hours. Follow the signs.

**Mount Hood:** Take I-5 northbound to Highway 26. Take Highway 26 east, and follow the signs.

**Willamette Pass:** Take I-5 southbound to Highway 58. Take Highway 58 east about an hour and a half. Look for signs.

their disposal and snowboarders are welcome also.

While there are no discounts for students from Lane County, lift passes purchased through Berg's Ski Shop, which are \$39 and include transportation, enable students to save \$4 and leave their cars at home.

Students visiting Southern Oregon during their break might explore the slopes at Mount Ashland. While the mountain is currently waiting for a few more inches of snow, slopes are expected to open around Dec. 10. All-day passes for students cost \$28 on weekends and \$24 during the week. Season tickets are available to students for \$290.

While Mount Ashland offers no opportunities for cross country skiing, alpine skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels can take advantage of both private and group lessons.

Hoodoo is another mountain where students can give their skis a workout this season. The slopes will open as soon as there is enough snow and are expected to remain open until April 1. The mountain offers 100 runs accommodating advanced, intermediate and beginner skiers as well as 24 miles of cross country terrain.

Snowboarders are also welcome at Hoodoo. There is a snowboarding package for \$48, which includes a beginner lift ticket, rental equipment and all-day instruction.

With Mount Hood Meadows adding additional skiing opportunities, students might find their breaks going by too fast. Like many other ski areas in Oregon, Mount Hood is waiting for another snow storm to fill up its slopes. The mountain will remain open throughout May. A total of 100 runs for expert, advanced, intermediate and beginner skiers in addition to 15 miles of cross country terrain await students at Mount Hood. Day passes are available for \$41.

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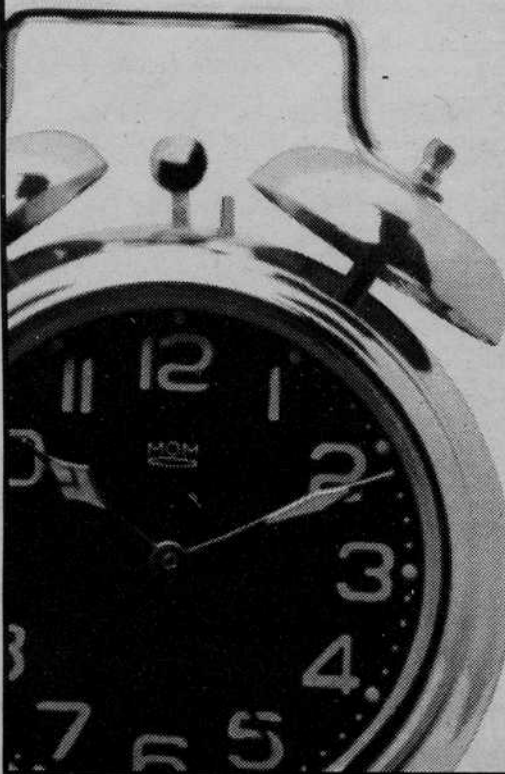
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