



Mount Adams as seen from the junction where the Divide Camp Trail meets the Pacific Crest Trail. WILLIAM SULLIVAN/FOR THE REGISTER-GUARD

State parks resume group camping reservations

Louis Krauss Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon State Parks will begin taking reservations for group camping and day-use areas in select parks starting Thursday.

This is the first reopening of group facilities since they were closed more than a year ago because of revenue shortfalls and reduced staffing caused by COVID-19, according to a state parks news release.

The online reservation slots will become available between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Thursday, and a list of which parks are available for group reservations is online at the Oregon State Parks website. The first reservable dates begin in May.

Each area will have a temporarily reduced size limit of 25 visitors in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Hiker and biker camping areas also are opening statewide, which are all available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Although we can’t open all group areas in all parks and the lower group limits isn’t what we are used to, we

ask for your patience as we move forward,” said Jason Resch, communications manager for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Those with questions can call the Oregon State Parks Information Center at 1-800-551-6949, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The release adds that visitors should continue to follow safety protocols while visiting state parks by limiting the size of gatherings, wearing face coverings, giving space to others and washing hands often.

Here is the full list of parks available for reservations:

- Arizona Beach State Park
- Beverly Beach State Park
- Bullards Beach State Park
- Cape Lookout State Park
- Fort Stevens State Park
- Jessie Honeyman State Park
- Humbug Mountain State Park
- South Beach State Park
- Sunset Bay State Park
- William Tugman State Park

- Catherine Creek State Park
- Emigrant Springs State Heritage Site
- The Cove Palisades State Park
- TouVelle State Park
- Tumalo State Park
- Valley of the Rogue State Park
- Wallowa Lake State Park
- Benson State Recreation Area
- Dabney State Recreation Area
- Elijah Bristow State Park
- Fall Creek State Recreation Area
- Guy W. Talbot State Park
- Jasper State Recreation Site
- Lowell State Recreation Site
- Maud Williamson State Park
- Molalla River State Park
- North Santiam State Recreation Area
- Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site
- Silver Falls State Park
- Rooster Rock State Park
- Stub Stewart State Park
- Willamette Mission State Park

Vaccine

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er than half of those age 65 and older have been vaccinated, OHA said.

In Marion County, 59% of residents age 65 and older have received at least one dose, according to OHA data. In Polk County, that figure is 63%, and in Lane County it is 62%.

The Statesman Journal asked residents why they might hesitate to get the shot. Most responses fell into three broad categories:

Some people are concerned the vaccine was developed and approved too quickly, and long-term side effects are unknown.

“I don’t feel there has been adequate time to thoroughly test the vaccines,” Stacy Adams, 49, of Salem wrote. “I will not get it.”

Others say the vaccine is pointless if we still have to wear masks and socially distance, and if immunity wears off quickly.

“It is a temporary (six month) vaccine

that has a high incidence of adverse reactions to a virus with a very high survival rate,” Sisters resident Matt Cyrus wrote. “I have more faith in the immune system than the vaccine.”

“The big question is how long is the shot or my immunity effective?” asked Hal Wineland of Keizer, who said he will not get the shot because he has had COVID-19. “Will we get a new version of the vaccine in the fall to cover all the strains?”

And still others have a general distrust of government.

Jennifer Benson, 66, of Damascus, said she was “unsure if we should be controlled to get the vaccine.”

The Associated Press poll also found a strong political split in vaccine support. The poll indicated that 42% of Republicans said they probably or definitely would not get the shot, compared with 17% of Democrats.

State and federal officials said they understand people’s concerns.

But the benefits outweigh any risks, they said.

“We know the vaccines are very safe,” Oregon Health Authority Director Pat-

rick Allen said. “I know many people are worried about side effects, but the COVID-19 case mortality rate among people 80 and older is 20% or one in five. The serious risk the virus poses to older adults far outweighs the temporary discomfort and disruption you might experience from getting a vaccine.”

In comparison, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that as of April 5, there were 2,794 reported deaths among vaccinated people, a rate of 0.002%, and no evidence suggests a link between the deaths and the vaccine.

Prior to the COVID-19 vaccine, no vaccine had been created in fewer than four years. But this vaccine didn’t come out of the blue — there is more than a decade of research behind it and efforts begun on other coronaviruses. And the work on this particular virus began in the first days of its discovery, in January 2020.

While they don’t yet have final FDA approval, the FDA has issued emergency authorizations for the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Such emergency approval is permitted during a health emergency. The drug makers still had to have completed mul-

iple rounds of clinical trials, including a trial with more than 3,000 people that lasts for at least two months.

After getting authorization, the companies have had to continue to track any side effects and file monthly safety reports. They are expected to continue trials and apply for regular approval. Pfizer is expected to submit its application for full licensure later this month.

It remains unclear to experts how long the vaccines will provide immunity. Pfizer has reported that six months after getting a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as part of a 46,000-person clinical trial, volunteers remained more than 90% protected against symptomatic COVID-19.

U.S. Health officials are continuing to urge those vaccinated to keep wearing masks in public because scientists are unsure whether they could still carry and spread the virus or how well it works against some of the new variants.

“Because vaccinations do dramatically reduce transmission, eventually the CDC will issue new (masking) recommendations for vaccinated individuals,” said Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the

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Sentenced

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“(Bravo) had been taking Ambien for some years but you’d never seen a reaction like this. Is that correct?” Thompson asked the woman during the hearing.

“Never,” she replied. “You took a gun and placed it outside, correct?” he asked her.

“I took it out with me, yes.”

“And that was because you wanted to make sure that your husband didn’t have access to it, correct?” he asked.

“Not only so that he didn’t have access to it but that responding law enforcement — they don’t know what they’re walking into ... and I knew he wasn’t in the right frame of mind. So, even him just holding it could lead to a deadly force situation.”

Supervised vs. bench probation

During Bravo’s sentencing, Suver argued for three years of supervised probation, whereas Thompson sought the less restrictive sentence of bench probation.

His wife asked that the no-contact order be lifted so she could work with Bravo on raising their family together. She said her kids needed their father.

She said his arrest, combined with the

COVID-19 pandemic, forced her to balance working full-time with essentially being a single mother parenting two distance-learning kids.

Bravo addressed the court before Judge Lindsay Partridge delivered his sentence.

“I spent the last year confused as to what occurred,” Bravo said, referring to the night he was arrested. “I know I must move forward and not let this incident define me.”

He said he has not taken Ambien since his arrest, will never again use it and will advise others against using it.

Partridge and Thompson lauded the responding officers with the Keizer and Salem police departments for preventing the night from ending in tragedy.

Partridge said he would discontinue the no-contact order but sided with Suver on the more restrictive, supervised probation.

He also sentenced Bravo to 14 days in jail with credit for time served. Due to Bravo being held for 16 days after his arrest, he will not be serving any additional time.

How to get help

Those experiencing domestic assault can contact National Domestic Violence Hotline, a free and confidential line that offers support, information and referral services, at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). The hotline is open 24/7.



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