



Top performances from the final day of USATF Outdoor Championships track meet

SPORTS, 1B

Statesman Journal

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New parking, camping and yurt fees coming to Oregon state recreational facilities



Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK



Twenty-one Oregon state parks will charge a new parking fee beginning in October and the cost of camping or renting a yurt or cabin will go up in May 2026. • The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department said it will face a \$14 million shortfall by 2027, potentially requiring the closure of some parks, unless it raises additional revenue. • The fee increases are a first step in attempting to bridge that gap, the state agency announced Aug. 1. • “State parks are some of the most beloved spaces in Oregon, but we have struggled as a state to sustainably fund them,” OPRD director Lisa Sumption said. “We’re working to reimagine the future of Oregon State Parks as financially resilient system that will serve generations to come.” **See PARKS, Page 2A**

The cost of staying at yurts, cabins or deluxe yurts at cabins will go up at every Oregon state park, year-round, beginning in May 2026. PROVIDED BY OPRD, GETTY IMAGES

Oregon halts Medicaid program for former inmates

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INVESTIGATEWEST

More than two years ago, faced with a growing addiction crisis in the state, Oregon health officials began work on an innovative program that would help people about to be released from jail or prison receive targeted health services through Medicaid.

Federal rules make it hard for people to access benefits until their sentence is up, meaning most leave uninsured. Officials hoped the \$64 million Medicaid expansion would smooth the often difficult transition for people exiting the prison system by providing them basic care — like drug prescriptions, behavioral health and addiction counseling and doctor’s visits — three months before their release.

The reentry benefits program appeared to be on track to launch in late 2025 for juveniles and early 2026 for adults, with state funds earmarked for it in Gov. Tina Kotek’s two-year budget proposal released in December.

But this summer, the program was quietly delayed. Kristen Lambert, a spokesperson for the Oregon Health Authority, told InvestigateWest in an email that the program was put on pause in anticipation of sweeping changes to Medicaid funding under President Donald Trump’s signature tax and spending cuts package, referred to as his “Big Beautiful Bill.”

The agency says it is revisiting the project plan and timeline to ensure the entities tasked with implementing it would be “properly resourced and supported.”

But with no new launch date in sight and Oregon’s federal authorization for the program due to expire in 2027, the program’s fate is now likely to fall into the hands of the Trump administration — and it is unclear what they might do. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), which authorized Oregon’s

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What Oregon borrowers need to know about student loan changes

Miranda Cyr
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USA TODAY NETWORK

From eliminated payment plans to new borrowing caps, changes to student loans have brought confusion and frustration to federal borrowers, according to a recent annual report from Oregon student loan ombuds Lane Thompson.

Thompson’s report states that 42.5 million people owe a total of \$1.66 trillion in federal student loans as of this year, a 2.5% increase over the last year.

In Oregon, 533,700 federal student loan borrowers owe more than \$20 billion in total, meaning approximately 12% of the state’s population has student loan debt. This is a small decline compared to past years — 535,900 in

2024 and 552,100 in 2023.

According to the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard, University of Oregon students graduate owing a median of \$20,139 in debt and pay \$214 monthly. Oregon State University graduates left owing a median of \$21,221, paying \$225 monthly.

Changes to repayment in the One Big Beautiful Bill

President Donald Trump’s megabill signed on July 4 makes significant changes to federal student loans, both in the short and long term.

The “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB BB)

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