

Kicking off camping season

County parks
filling for
spring break

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR

THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Spring break is coming soon at local schools, leading to packed outdoor parks across Oconee County.

Oconee County parks, recreation and tourism director Phil Shirley said space is starting to become limited for those interested in overnight stays at any of the three county parks.

"Spring break really kicks off our camping season," Shirley said. "We have seen our seasons extend in the early fall and spring since we've changed over to reservations and made improvements here at South

**'We'll
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Phil Shirley
Parks,
recreation
and tourism
director

Cove. Spring break is the first kickoff week where we're going to be full. Staff will have to be at full strength at the campground, as well as with the programs. We'll be wide open, for sure."

Shirley said, as of press time Thursday, one RV and two tent sites were re available for booking at South Cove County Park, while 11 sites are still open for Chau Ram County Park. Twenty sites remain open at High Falls County Park for the week of spring break.

The PRT department is also in its fourth year of offering spring break programs, but all 10 classes on

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PARKS: Spring break programs also full

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the week of April 15 have been completely booked.

"Even in the first year, we had things fill up," Shirley said. "We try to get the programs out to the public, and within two or three days we were completely full. Those are all the resources we have, from a staff standpoint, to offer."

Those who didn't get to reserve a spot in time can still be on the lookout for more classes offered throughout the course of the year.

"We do other programs throughout the year, but this is the one week of the year we know kids are out of school and parents are looking for stuff for them to do, so we're able to put together these things and offer them," Shirley said. "They've been extremely



From lounging lakeside to those brave enough to get in the chilly water, Oconee County's parks are filling up fast with spring breakers, parks, recreation and tourism director Phil Shirley said.

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An advertisement for BankSouth Mortgage. The background is a dark, textured image of a house. The text is white and includes the words "in" and "sec" in a large font, and "BankSouth Mortgage" in a smaller font. Below that, it says "home. Whether" and "home, or mou" and "options availa".

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