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Slopes

Scherer said.

While outdoor enthusiasts at Hill Billy Hills were towing the ropes, skiers at Powder Ridge Ski Area, Kimball, were hitting the slopes. Manager Jerry Wahlin expected about 1,200 people to ski the 12 runs of Powder Ridge Saturday.

"The warm weather has really brought people out," Wahlin said. "I think everybody is getting cabin fever."

The bitter cold temperatures that hampered outdoor fun of any kind a week ago made for perfect weather to make snow. Powder Ridge is operating with an 18- to 36-inch snow base, Wahlin said.

It's not uncommon to see small children on the ski slopes, either. Wahlin said more parents are enrolling their 2- or 3-year-old children in ski lessons. Children that age have little fear, he said.

Wahlin expects the slopes to remain busy through the holiday weekend.

One place not enjoying crowds this weekend is Mt. Notch near Avon. The ski resort did not open for skiing this season because of financial difficulties.

After years of dreaming and planning, Larry Notch opened Mt. Notch for skiing in early January. Business was not bad, even though the runs opened late.

The ski hill started out small, with a couple of runs and rope tows. Notch's dream was to slowly expand the facility so someday there would be more runs and a chairlift.

But, Larry said, when his brother, Leander, who formed half of the corporation to open Mt. Notch, decided to pull out of the business deal, he closed Mt. Notch.

Larry Notch still has hopes of opening the ski hill, but not this year.

"We have quite a bit invested in it," Notch said.