

Heavy snow means area ski hills can now open

Heavy snow dumped on the area over the weekend will permit belated openings of ski hills in Merrill and north-east Lincoln County.

The ski hill at Lions Park in Merrill opens today and will be open each weekday from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturdays, Sundays and school vacation days from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., according to Dennis Cramer, city-school recreation director.

No fees are charged users of Wilson Hill at Lions Park.

Meanwhile, conditions at Harrison Hills Ski Area are described as "excellent" by Robert Weaver, president of the Gleason Ski Club, which operates the facility. It will open Saturday, with several slopes available for skiers of varying degrees of ability.

Harrison Hills will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, Weaver said. Daily and season passes are available at the facility.

Free bus transportation to the ski area will be available to students both days. The bus will stop at Country Sports, 413 Grand Ave., Merrill, at 9:20 a.m.; at Arlo's Spur service station, North Center Avenue, at 9:30; and at the Gleason Shopping Center at 9:45.

Sponsors for the bus this week are the Merrill Jaycees and Wausau Paper Mills Co.