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TODAY 'The Odd Couple,' see Theater, page 3C.

FRIDAY 'The Odd Couple,' see Theater, page 3C.

SATURDAY Iowa basketball, Minnesota at Iowa, see Sports, page 8C.

SUNDAY Cross-country ski lessons at Macbride Nature Recreation Area — if weather permits, see Recreation, page 6C.

EMPHASIS

CALENDAR

Iowa City Press-Citizen — Thursday, January 9, 1986

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Ski Midwest

Check out the region's snowy slopes

By Robyn Sue Singleton
The Press-Citizen

That's hills on these here plains. And if you think Midwest powderheads are limited to cross country ski adventure, tuck this information inside your stocking cap:

There are 12 downhill ski areas in Iowa, most with snowmaking capabilities. There are 18 in neighboring Illinois. Wisconsin boasts nearly 50 resorts. Michigan has nearly 50 and there are 28 slope sites in Minnesota.

It's too far to the Great White North, bucko. Head out for the Midwest's Milky Mounds.

Iowa

• **Crescent Hills Ski Area,** seven miles north of Council Bluffs on Highway 183. The resort offers 51 skiable acres and the opportunity to select a trail on your own. This means your shot at fresh powder is a good one. The hills range to 2,000 feet long and 300 feet vertically. For more information and snow reports call 712-545-3850.

• **Dayton Dell Ski Area,** near Dayton on Highway 175, five miles from the Des Moines River Bridge and three quarters of a mile north. It's your stripped down model, but this resort has slopes ranging to 2,400 feet long. The steepest slope is 750 feet long and 242 feet high. There are no easy slopes other than one beginner hill. The bunny hill and two expert runs are lighted.

There's a a newly installed poma lift and a tow rope. Food is available on the grounds. Parties can be arranged on Friday and Saturday nights. For more information, call 515-547-2410.

• **Fun Valley,** near Montezuma, eight miles south of Interstate 80, Exit 91, two and a half miles west of the International Store on Highway 63. Fun Valley features eleven slopes, including three beginner hills, five intermediate slopes (ranging up to 1500 feet long) and two advanced slopes. Seventeen snow making machines keep the hills covered and you can navigate uphill with the help of three rope lifts, a triple chair and three cable hand tows.

Facilities include a restaurant, clothing store, ski and boot shop and ski repair. There's also a Polaris snowmobile dealer and 50 acres of snowmobile trails. For more information call 515-623-5656.

• **Horseshoe Bend,** two miles south and three miles west of Milford. Horseshoe Bend has an astonishing distinction — it's free. It has only one 650-foot ski run, a rope tow and a ski lift. Sledding facilities include a 1,000-foot hill with a tow. No rental is available.

A large warming house complete with fireplace and heated restrooms are nearby.

Free tubing with tube tows is also available.

• **Nor-Ski Runs,** near Decorah, a mile and a half north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 52 and Iowa 9. You can graduate from 250 and 400-foot beginning hills to intermediate hills up to 1200 feet and an expert slope at 950 feet. No ski instruction or snow making equipment is on hand. But there's a shelter house and the hills are lighted at night.

The facility is run by the Decorah Parks and Recreation Department. For more information call 319-382-4164.

• **Oak Highlands,** two miles north of Waverly on Highway 3. To get there, turn north on First Street NW, cross the bridge at the power plant and take the first left turn after the bridge. You'll find seven runs from beginner to expert, two rope tows, one handle and T-bar tow and a double chair lift. There's also a tubing hill with tow lift. All runs have snow making capacity and are groomed daily.

The lodge contains a restaurant and lounge. For more information call 319-352-9877.

• **Racoon River Ski Resort,** two and a half miles north of Dexter on County Road P-48. One beginner, two intermediate and three advanced hills are about 1,400 feet long with a 238-foot vertical drop. Chair lift installation is planned and the hills are lighted at night.

The chalet houses a snack bar and rental shop. For more information call 515-789-4693.

• **River Hills Ski Area,** south of Estherville on Highway 4. Two T-bars and two rope tows haul skiers up a 1,200 foot novice hill, two intermediate hills as long as 1400 feet and a 750-foot advanced run.

The chalet features a snack bar. For more information call 712-363-5376.

• **Silver Creek Ski Area,** three miles east and a half mile north of Humboldt on Highway 3. Three hundred yards of each of 11 slopes stretch across Des Moines River bottomland. There are two beginner runs up to 850 feet long, seven intermediate hills, the longest of which is 1200 feet, and two advanced runs at about 700 feet each.

Facilities include lighted night skiing, snow making equipment, a chalet with fireplace and snack bar and a ski shop with repair service. Ski races are each Saturday afternoon beginning Jan. 5.

For more information call 515-332-3229.

• **Sundown,** 8000 Asbury Road, three and a half miles west of Dubuque. One of Iowa's most popular ski areas, Sundown boasts 17 runs up to a half mile long. It has three rope tows and three chair lifts.

Inside accommodations are a snack bar, "The Loft" bar and a ski shop. Sundown also offers an amputee and blind skier program. For more information call 319-556-6708. Taped snow reports are at 319-556-6108.

• **Sunset Ski Area,** a half mile east of Cherokee on Old Iowa 3. Fifteen skiable acres feature four runs ranging to 1200 feet long. A poma lift and a rope tow, lighted night skiing and a chalet with rental shop, sales and snack bar are available. For more information call 712-225-5743.

• **Ski Valley,** three and a half miles west of Boone on Highway 30. Four intermediate to advanced slopes 1000 feet long with 180 foot vertical drop. A T-bar and four rope tows haul skiers up from the valley. The hills are lighted at night and snow making equipment is on hand. The lodge contains a snack bar and accessory shop.

For more information call 515-432-2423.

Illinois

• **Chestnut Mountain,** Galena. Nestled amid hills and timber overlooking the Mississippi River, Chestnut's 14 runs provide long, sloping hills for beginners and chills and thrills for the expert. Except for the wide variety of bunny hills, the slopes end in a scenic trip by chairlift through craggy Illinois landscape.

The 120 rooms in the lodge are complimented by an indoor pool and sauna, two restaurants and three lounges with live entertainment nightly. Alpine decor is enhanced with leafy trees "growing" inside and porch seating overlooking the slopes.

For more information, call 815-777-1320.

• **Snowstar,** Andalusia. Just 15 miles southwest of the Quad Cities, Snowstar is about an hour drive from Iowa City. Its seven runs include two beginning slopes, three intermediate and two advanced. The longest hill is 300 feet vertical. There's a tow rope and a chair lift, along with lighted night skiing and ski instruction.

Inside the lodge is a lounge and ski shop. For more information call 309-798-2666.

Michigan

• **Sugar Loaf Mountain.** It might be more remote than many Michigan ski areas, but experts say it's worth the trouble of getting there. Some 20 runs on each side of the mountain are served by five double chairlifts and a J-bar on the bunny hill. There's the notorious Awful-Awful, with its 600 feet of steep, rough going. On the other hand, Sugar and Spice offers beginners gentle gliding for nearly three quarters of a mile.

Lodging is plentiful, with 130 rooms in the main lodge and 120 townhouses complete with fireplaces and laundry facilities. Dine at the elegant Four Seasons or the basic Bucket Bar Rathskeller. For relaxation, try one of two lounges, a dip in the heated outdoor pool or a stint in the sauna.

For more information call 1-800-632-9802.

Minnesota

• **Quadna Mountain,** at Hill City just above Hill Lake. Five beginner, eight intermediate and two advanced runs cross the hill and meet at the lodge. The 325 foot vertical drop is serviced by a fast-moving chairlift, two T-bars and a rope tow. Lift capacity is 3,000 skiers per hour.

Local entertainment plays nightly at the Loose Moose Saloon, with its nostalgic northwoods atmosphere. The Quadna Lodge features motel rooms and indoor tennis courts.

For more information call 218-697-2324.

Wisconsin

• **Alpine Valley,** three miles south of East Troy on Highway G, then a mile and half west on D. One novice, six intermediate and two expert slopes are serviced by four tow ropes and three chair lifts.

Accommodations include a motel with three cafeterias, a restaurant, pool, sauna, whirlpool and an exercise area, just in case you didn't get a workout on the slopes. For more information call 414-642-7374.

• **Cascade Mountain,** 30 miles north of Madison off Interstate 90. The mountain's 12 runs range up to nearly a mile in length. There are five novice runs, four intermediate and three expert trails. Two T-bars, two rope tows and three chair lifts carry skiers to the mountain peak.

A paradise for winter outdoorspeople, Cascade has camping sites with electrical hookups, outdoor fishing, sledding, tubing and snowshoeing. The lodge offers a snack bar and carry-outs, including packaged goods.

For more information call 313-355-6555.

• **Mount La Crosse,** south of La Crosse on Highway 3. Climb via three rope tows or two chair lifts to choose one of 14 runs extending up to a mile long. Inside the lodge, enjoy live entertainment, graze at the snack bar or browse though the ski shop. Ski instruction and equipment for the handicapped is available.

For more information call 608-788-0044.

Press-Citizen Visitor Guide

MIDWEST SKI AREAS AT A GLANCE

IOWA

Crescent Hills
Lift: $10-$14 Weekends and holidays. $6-$9 weekdays.
Rental: $9-$11 weekends and holidays. $8-$10 weekdays.
Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. weekdays. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. weekends and holidays

Dayton Dell
Lift: $6
Rental: $6
Hours: 7-10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

Fun Valley
Lift: $8 weekdays. $10 weekends and holidays
Hours: 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday. noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday-Friday

Nor-Ski Runs
Lift: $4 and $5
Rental: $6
Hours: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekends. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Closed Monday and Wednesday.

Oak Highlands
Lift: $6 and $7 weekdays. $7 and $8 weekends.
Rental: $4 and $5.
Hours: 1-9:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Raccoon River
Lift: $3-$5
Rental: $6 weekdays. $10 weekends
Hours: noon-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

River Hills
Lift: $4.50 and $8 weekends and holidays. $3.50 and $5 weekdays.
Rental: $6
Hours: 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturdays and holidays. noon-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. noon-5 p.m. Thursday. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Silver Creek
Lift: $1.50 weekends and holidays. $1-$5.75 weekdays.
Rental: $8
Hours: 9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. weekends. 12:30-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. 12:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Sundown
Lift: $13 and $15 weekends and holidays. $10 and $12.50 weekdays.
Rental: $8 and $12.
Hours: 9 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Sunset
Lift: $5.50 and $8 weekends and holidays. $4.50 and $7 weekdays.
Rental: $7
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturdays and holidays. 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Ski Valley
Lift: $6 and $7
Rental: $8
Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends and holidays. 1-9:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. 1-5 p.m. Monday. Thursday and Friday.

ILLINOIS

Chestnut Mountain
Lift: $12 weekdays. $15 weekends
Rental: $12
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

Snowstar
Lift: $11 weekdays. $14 weekdays
Rental: $12
Hours: 9 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

MINNESOTA

Quadna Mountain
Lift: $15 weekends. $12 weekdays
Rental: $12
Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. weekends. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays.

MICHIGAN

Sugar Loaf Mountain
Lift: $12 weekdays. $19 Saturday. $16 Sunday
Rental: same as lift
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

WISCONSIN

Alpine Valley
Lift: $13.75 weekdays. $16.75 weekends
Rental: $10.50 weekdays. $11.50 weekends
Hours: 10 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends.

Cascade Mountain
Lift: $12 weekdays. $17 weekends
Rental: $10 weekdays. $12 weekends
Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays. 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends
Friday. 9:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday. 9:30-5 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday

Mount La Crosse
Lift: $14 weekends. $17 weekends
Rental: $12
Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 9:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday. 9:30-5 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday

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