

Warm winters close Ski World

BY GREGG DUNN
Niles Daily Star

BUCHANAN — Niles-Buchanan area skiers will have to find a different location than Ski World in Buchanan for fun this winter.

Ski World majority stockholder, William Risky of Nashville, Ind., said due to recent warm winters, Ski World will be closed this winter and perhaps much longer.

"Last year, there was considerable money spent and we didn't get a reasonable return due to the lousy weather," Risky said.

Risky said Ski World, located on Main Street outside of the Buchanan city limits, is hoping to reopen its Buchanan resort next winter, but is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"It's difficult to say if it will be open in the future. It's going to take a considerable amount of money to put into snow-making equipment," he said.

Although Risky said there is no doubt there has been much usage at the Buchanan Ski World resort, the question about future profitability still remains.

"Due to the warm weather, it has not been a profitable business during the one and a half years we've been running it. For this year I would say it's simply a matter of a lack of timing and funds to get it under way," he said.

Local effects of this decision may not be noticed due to because of limited ski activity at Ski World caused by warm weather for the past few years, said Greg Buckley, Buchanan city manager.

"But it will undoubtedly have an effect," Buckley said.

According to Buckley, the effect of Ski World's decision will not have a major impact on local economies.

However, with a good cold snowy winter, Ski World could bring a lot of money into the local economies.

"I understand in the early to mid-80s with good weather conditions, Ski World benefitted the local economies, not just Buchanan, but Niles as well. The weather has been so poor lately that we haven't been able to see the benefits of Ski World," Buckley said.