

Timberlee ski hill closed this season

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TRAVERSE CITY — It looks like the slopes will be empty this season at Timberlee Hills, Michigan National Bank, which owns the ski, resort, and residential complex north of Traverse City in Leelanau County, is seeking a buyer.

But a lot of people, through an apparent fluke in reporting by the state's tourist organization, may begin to wax their skis in anticipation of a downhill run there.

The bank took over the property after the former owners declared bankruptcy. Bank officials say that it would be too expensive to open Timberlee up to skiing this year, and add MNB is interested in selling.

In the meantime, however, the Michigan Tourist Council has included Timberlee in the skiing portion of its annual Winter Guide.

That guide is sent to a lot of places.

For instance, last weekend in Chicago ski shops were getting the word that Timberlee would be open for skiing this season.

The snafu, said Sue Galloway of the Council, was that the West Michigan Tourist Association didn't notify the Lansing-based Council of any change in the ski area's status.

The association "listed no change for Timberlee," she said.

Timberlee was open for skiing last season.

The Council spokesperson said the regions — such as the West Michigan association — are asked each year to submit their information on skiing in their areas.

"We told 'em not to" include Timberlee said Bob Rose of the West Michigan Tourist Association.

"We sent everything in for this side."

The council must have included it through some fluke, he said.