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## Columbus Day marks bittersweet end to summer season

By BENJAMIN C. KLEIN

[bklein@citizen.com](mailto:bklein@citizen.com)



**ISABELLA COTTRELL enjoys her ice cream outside Jordan's Ice Creamery in Belmont while her father Brian pays the bill. BENJAMIN C. KLEIN/CITIZEN**

LACONIA — A cold and cloudy Columbus Day weekend signaled the unofficial end of the summer tourism season for the Lakes Region, as seasonal tourists are leaving and local vendors are closing up shop before the snow arrives.

For seasonal businesses like Jordan's Ice Creamery in Belmont, many local patrons came for the final business day knowing it would be the last time these shops would be open until next season.

For many Granite Staters, going on the last day seasonal shops were open was their way of saying goodbye to summer, despite the calendar reading autumn.

Karen Simpson brought her six-year-old son, Ricardo, to Jordan's to get some ice cream for the last time this season on Monday.

"It's his favorite thing. We were in Florida for much of the summer and he couldn't wait to come back for Jordan's. He loves it here,

the people are so nice and Ricardo loves their bulldog, Tilly," Karen said.

It was cold Columbus Day, with Ricardo shivering in a vest and cap as he quickly ate his ice cream.

“The thing I like best (about Jordan’s) is also the thing I don’t like, it’s cold,” he said.

When asked what his favorite flavor was, the youngster couldn’t pick just one, “Bubble gum and coffee,” he said.



**RICO SIMPSON** smiles as his mom Karen offers him some of her ice cream after finishing his. **BENJAMIN KLEIN/CITIZEN**

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“Rico is like a fanatic for this place, I mean look at this, they make their

own cones every morning and dip them in chocolate,” Simpson said while displaying her waffle cone.

Eric Jordan, who has owned Jordan’s with his family for the past 18 years, said he and his wife, Gail, flee New Hampshire for warmer states like Florida in the winter.

“It has been a phenomenal summer, the best summer ever,” said Jordan. “Every year we seem to grow and do better than the year before.”

When asked about Tilly, the bulldog everyone loves so much, Jordan laughed, “Oh, Ms. Tilly? Yeah we bring her all the time. A few years back we even had T-shirts with bulldogs on them because of her.”

According to Plymouth State University, tourism is the second largest industry in New Hampshire. In 2011 the Granite State saw more than 13 million visitors, spending more than \$1.7 billion during their stays. It’s that kind of seasonal traffic that makes business boom year after year for places like Jordan’s. However, the children outside Jordan’s on their last day were decidedly sorry to see it go.

Lt. Brian Cottrell of the Gilmanon Fire Department brought his young daughter, Isabella, to Jordan’s for one last ice cream — one she could barely hold in with excitement.

She shouted, “chocolate,” when asked what her favorite flavor was and jumped up and down shaking her head yes when asked if she would miss Jordan’s in the winter .

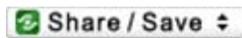
The Carpentier family also made a stop at Jordan’s on Monday.

“I just hope they have cookie dough,” said nineyear old Mike Carpentier. “I am going to miss them,” he added.

Also with Mike, was his mom Laurie, father Jay, and 11-year old brother James, and there was a decided mix of melancholy and joy in their faces as they lined up for their last cone of the season.

While the season may be ending Jordan said he is already prepping for opening next season in April.

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