



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Snowmelt a hot topic

Council to hear updates on geothermal system, base area construction

Page 3

COLORADO

Got your tickets?

Most Coloradans haven't, either, after World Series ticket-sale Web site crashes

Page 15

SPORTS



Colts stomp Jaguars

Page 21



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

A bus makes its way along Hilltop Parkway on Monday. The Hilltop Connector Route is one of several the city might be forced to cut because of a lack of drivers.

Winter bus routes may be cut

Steamboat Springs still 20 bus drivers short for season

Brandon Gee
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat Springs' winter bus service likely will be curtailed because of a shortage of qualified drivers.

Transportation Director George Krawzoff said despite recent hires, Steamboat Springs Transit still is 20 drivers short of filling all 40 of its positions.

"Our situation is improving," Krawzoff said Monday. "But we're a long way from being fat and sassy. ... We will start the winter service with

very limited service."

The extent of the cuts remains to be seen. Krawzoff said the city is weighing two options: maintaining frequency on the most heavily used routes while cutting lesser-used routes, or "spreading the pain out across many routes."

From an efficiency standpoint, Krawzoff said the former option is the most appealing. The most heavily used routes are those that service downtown, the mountain and "condoland," Krawzoff said. The routes used the least — and those most likely to be cut —

include the Hilltop Connector route and the route servicing Colorado Mountain College.

"Until we can recruit 20 more drivers, we will have to cut back somewhere," Deputy City Manager Wendy DuBord said. "You can't run a bus system with 20 less people than you have buses for."

Last winter, nine seasonal, foreign workers drove Steamboat Springs Transit buses. This year, there will be no foreign drivers, mostly because of an energy boom in Australia that has lured away potential recruits. The Western

Slope's own energy boom has decreased the number of local recruits, as well, City Manager Alan Lanning said.

"People can make more money," he said.

The city has gone to great lengths to lure drivers, including adding \$45,000 to Krawzoff's recruitment budget. That money can be used to give drivers holiday pay and paid time off, installing tip jars on the buses, purchasing Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. silver medallion passes for driv-

See **Routes**, page 13

INDEX

Business.....20	Horoscope.....30
Classifieds.....31	Nation.....16
Colorado.....14	Sports.....21
Comics.....29	Television.....28
Crossword.....29	ViewPoints.....8
Happenings.....7	World.....19

LOTTO



Monday night's Cash 5 numbers:
 1-2-7-15-26
 Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Several hours of sunshine. High of 52.
Page 2



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