

PURE  
TALENT

Junior  
looks  
to snowboarding  
SPORTS 1C



STEAMBOAT  
PILOT  
& TODAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 19 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • www.steamboatpilot.com

ONE LAST  
WINTER

Ski Time Square  
businesses  
prepare for  
final season

BUSINESS 1B



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Liz Croes, left, and Jax Larsen compare driver lists in the Alpine Taxi offices in Steamboat Springs on Friday.

## Driver shortage unnerving

Lodging, resort interests find city transportation issue 'unacceptable'

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat's private sector is growing increasingly worried about staff shortages in a public sector category dear to their hearts: transportation.

Earlier this month, Steamboat Springs Transit announced it would cut three traditional win-

ter routes — at least initially — because of an inability to recruit and retain enough bus drivers. The strategy is to cut the least-used routes while maintaining frequency on the heaviest used ones.

Last week, city officials sat down with representatives of Steamboat's lodging and resort interests to discuss a situation that Colorado Resort Services'

Kathy Connell called "unacceptable." Connell requested last week's meeting during a recent Steamboat Springs City Council meeting.

"It is a crisis for a lot of people," she said Tuesday.

City Transportation Director George Krawzoff said Tuesday that the initial winter bus schedule will not change as a result of last week's meeting. The princi-

pal debate is "order of restoration," he said, meaning which routes will be reinstated first.

"One of the debates that's going on is what are we going to do if we add drivers," Krawzoff said Tuesday.

Steamboat Springs Transit is 12 drivers short of the 40 it wants for the winter season. Last week,

See **Drivers**, page 10A

## Colorado snowfall lagging

East, Whistler pull ahead as weather slows ski industry

Robert Weller  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## DENVER

Balmy and dry fall weather could put the Colorado ski industry's two-year string of record snowrider numbers in danger, and most of the West isn't in any better shape.

Last year, despite getting less snow than the season before, Colorado numbers were still up 6.7 percent in the first half of the season.

"This is a great kickoff to the season. With Mother Nature helping out and the extensive mountain improvements, we're looking forward to a great year."

Dave Riley  
CEO, Telluride, after the resort received 11 inches of snow last week

But this year, it is even warmer, and some major resorts weren't open for Thanksgiving, usually the first big revenue producer of the season. Telluride and Steamboat still aren't open. Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on snowmaking has made it possible for some resorts to open, but if they use the water now they might not have it if they need it later in the year.

Veteran skiers will bring out their rock skis.

Late this week, after four straight weeks of temperatures in the 50s and 60s, Telluride got 11 inches, the *Telluride Daily Planet* reported. "This is a great kickoff to the season. With Mother Nature helping out and the extensive mountain improvements, we're looking forward to a great year," said Telluride CEO Dave Riley. However, the resort will not open until Nov. 30.

Also unlike last year, some of the state's biggest competitors have plenty of snow. Whistler-Blackcomb, which contends with Vail frequently for the No. 1 rank of ski magazines, has 37 inches. Vail has 18. Stowe, in Vermont, has 49 inches on its upper mountain.

"... for the best and earliest snowfall of the season, head north to Whistler-Blackcomb in British Columbia," says *Outside Online*.

"We've had lots of early snowfall, 110 centimeters (44 inches). It has been great up here. Sunny but cold so the snow stayed, and it is light and fluffy," said Ryan Proctor, public relations coordinator Whistler-Blackcomb. Thirteen lifts are open.



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Nancy Mucklow, the mother of two teenage boys, is part of a group of parents and school staff that has created a Parent Academy to address issues related to parenting teens.

## Off to Parent Academy

School officials and parents band together to form 'unique team'

## SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY MIKE MCCOLLUM

Nancy Mucklow, a mother of two high school boys, says there is no all-encompassing handbook on how to parent a teenager.

"All along, even through the middle school years and into the high school years, I have wanted some pieces of education about how to parent teens, because it's so much different than parenting a toddler," she said.

Mucklow is one of about 20 parents, com-

munity members and school officials who have banded together to create a Parent Academy to foster better communication among those who may have some insight into the lives of teens.

The academy is open to all parents of middle

and high school students in Routt County.

"This will be an opportunity for them all to get into the same room and to be able to talk and share information and start to build a support system to be able to help raise each other's children," said Shelby DeWolfe, a Steamboat Springs High School counselor.

"It will give them somewhere to go if there

See **Academy**, page 12A

## Development signals end for rancher

Matt Stensland  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

## SOUTH ROUNT

South Rountt County rancher Cynthia Crawford says she has had enough.

Even with more than 2,100 acres of property to herself, she says there

is no escaping the vehicles that speed down Colorado Highway 131. She is unable to grow enough hay to feed the 160 head of cattle that were grazing along the Yampa River on an autumn afternoon last week. Then, there is the issue of growth in the valley. Crawford says development is pushing her out.

"Eventually it's going to put all of us out of business," Crawford said. "I'm moving all my livestock. I'm going to continue to ranch, but it's not going to be here."

In October, the C-Cross-C Ranch, which has been in the Crawford family since 1914, went on the market for \$23,342,000.

A local ranching family getting out of the business in Routt County is not uncommon, said Marsha Daughenbaugh of the Community Agriculture Alliance.

"We've lost people that decide the grass is greener somewhere else,

See **Ranch**, page 10A

PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA FUERTE



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Partly sunny.  
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THIS WEEK: Should the Steamboat Springs City Council repeal a moratorium on demolitions of potentially historic structures?

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