

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

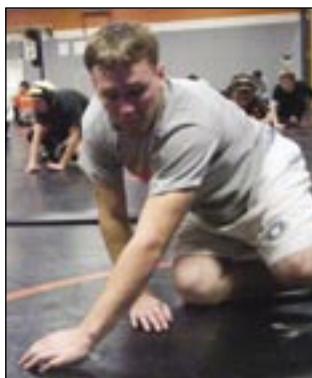


**Howelsen hiccup**

Blown part shuts down snowmaking operations for five days

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**SPORTS**



**From field to mat**

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**CORRECTION**

The Steamboat Springs City Council voted, 5-1, to remove \$80,000 from next year's budget for an affordable housing feasibility study on an 18.5-acre piece of city-owned property known as the Bear River Parcel. Councilman Steve Ivancie cast the lone "no" vote. A story in the Nov. 27 *Steamboat Today* incorrectly stated that the vote was unanimous.



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Custodian Christine Bark** vacuums a classroom at the Steamboat Springs Middle School on Tuesday afternoon. The Steamboat Springs School District is facing a shortage of custodial staff in many of the schools. As a result, the district has hired students and teachers to fill the void in the after-school hours.

**No clean solution**

School district's janitor situation a mess; principals use Band-Aid solutions

**Mike McCollum**  
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

A janitor shortage at some Steamboat Springs School District schools has reached the critical level, so much so that two building principals have enlisted the help of volunteers and students.

"It has gotten to the point where we are offering hours to teachers and high school students to come in or stay after

school," Strawberry Park Elementary School Principal Brenda Barr told the Steamboat Springs School Board on Monday.

Strawberry Park has one full-time custodian, Bill Hebrank, who works the morning shift, but the school currently relies on volunteers and part-time workers to take care of the school after Hebrank goes home at 2 p.m.

"We've had a Band-Aid on the dam since I got here," Barr said.

Christine Bark travels more than 80 miles round trip each day from her home in Craig to her job as a janitor at Steamboat Springs Middle School.

"It's tough year-round," she said. "We lost a (co-worker) this year because she got better pay at another job."

Middle School Principal Tim Bishop said the school is looking for an additional full-time custodian to work with Bark and Jeff Greene.

"I currently have one of my

paraprofessionals working four hours in the evenings as a temporary solution," he said. "We have been short-handed for a couple of months."

Bishop said he has had little success in hiring professional cleaning services to work the afternoon custodial shift.

"We got down to the dollars, but both called the day (they were) to start and said they had people quit and they

See **Janitor**, page 13

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**LOTTO**



Tuesday night's Cash 5 numbers: 4-19-21-23-25  
 Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

**WEATHER**



A little morning snow.  
 High of 20.  
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**READER FORUM**

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