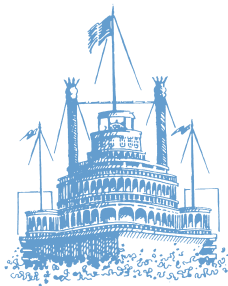


THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 19, No. 286



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

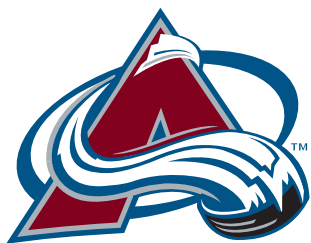


Feeding the employees

Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. hosts meals for cash-strapped workers.

Page 2

SPORTS



Avalanche beat Oilers

Page 21

CORRECTION

The Steamboat Springs School District pays custodians \$11.85 per hour in the first-step of a 10-step pay schedule. Custodians max out at \$17.17 per hour in step 10. A story on the front page of Wednesday's *Steamboat Today* incorrectly reported the pay for custodians.



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Steamboat Ski Area gondola lift operator Michael Gulley watches the new Christie Peak Express chairlift run from the operator's booth Wednesday. The new lift will open Friday, when skiers and riders will have access to limited skiing from Thunderhead down to the base area.

Lift throws a curve at skiers

Steamboat to debut Christie Peak Express at Friday opening

Tom Ross
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Devoted Steamboat skiers and riders will have to learn some new tricks Friday when the ski area opens for the season.

The resort ushers in a new era this week as it opens the 2007-08 season with its first six-passenger chairlift, the Christie Peak Express. The lift will open at 8:30 a.m.

Steamboat Ski Area officials

also announced Wednesday that Scholarship Day lift tickets will cost \$20. All proceeds will benefit the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club. Season passes and value cards will not be honored until Saturday.

Skiing and riding Friday will be from Thunderhead down Upper Vagabond and then back to the base via a series of intermediate and beginner trails.

There's more to Christie Peak Express than its capacity. The new lift has a midway station

where skiers can decide whether to get off the lift at the top of the Headwall trail or continue on their way to the top of Christie Peak.

That means learning how to use a new liftline maze that matches up groups of six, plus communicating one's intentions when preparing to get off the lift. Steamboat skiers should be up to the task.

Ski area spokesman Mike Lane predicted the Christie Peak maze would fall into place.

"If you can group in six, that's perfect," Lane said. "It's what Steamboat's about. Get to know your neighbors."

When it comes to getting off at the midway point, Lane said the lift would slow down as it enters the station.

"The way it is designed, there is ample time for those who want to get off to do so regardless of where they are sitting on the chair," Lane said.

See **Lift**, page 11

INDEX

Business.....	20	Horoscope.....	30
Classifieds.....	31	Nation.....	16
Colorado.....	14	Sports.....	21
Comics.....	29	Television.....	28
Crossword.....	29	ViewPoints.....	8
Happenings.....	7	World.....	18

LOTTO



Wednesday night's Powerball numbers: 8-23-32-37-39, 3
Lotto numbers: 10-12-17-29-31-36
Cash 5 numbers: 11-22-26-30-32

WEATHER



Intervals of clouds and sun. High of 37.

Page 2



READER FORUM

Share your insights and opinions on current events and issues of local importance through the *Steamboat Pilot & Today* READER FORUM.

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