

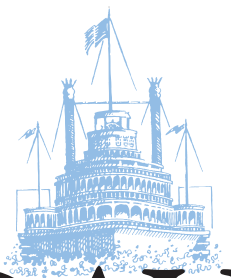


TAKING FLIGHT

Ski season arrives at YVRA

BUSINESS 1B

STEAMBOAT
PILOT & TODAY



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RAMS FALL

Soroco loses to Rangely

SPORTS 1C



The future of textbooks

School district looks to add interactive education materials

Mike McCollum
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Frayed edges, broken spines and missing pages are evidence that textbooks take a daily beating in Steamboat Springs schools, but officials stress that the school district's aging books have shortcomings far more troublesome than cosmetics.

Instruction Support Specialist Kandise Gilbertson said the problem is most evident

at Steamboat Springs Middle School.

Flipping through an eighth-grade U.S. History textbook Thursday, she noted that in 1995 — the year the textbook was printed — Bill Clinton was in his first term as President, Yugoslavia was a country, and the U.S. recently went to war in Iraq — for the first time.

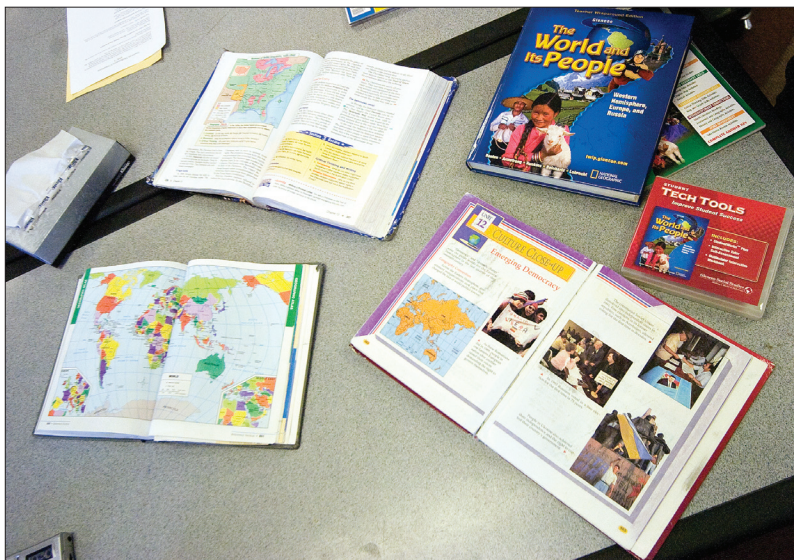
"When I got here 10 years ago, 'textbooks' was a dirty word," said Gilbertson, who entered the district as a teach-

er at Steamboat Springs High School.

"They were dry, they were boring. It was, 'answer the questions at the end of the chapter,' and that is it," she said. "Textbooks have changed so much — even in the past few years — and we are behind the curve in getting ourselves caught up."

JoAnne Hilton-Gabeler, the Steamboat Springs School

See **Books**, page 11A



A variety of old and new textbooks are displayed at Steamboat Springs Middle School Friday afternoon.

BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Wolf Creek case nears end

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER

The U.S. Forest Service is near a settlement with environmentalists opposed to big development near the Wolf Creek ski area, says a published report.

The *Durango Herald* said Colorado Wild, the lead group opposing a project that would dwarf existing facilities at Wolf Creek, apparently will be getting much of what it wants. Specifically, the settlement would deny the developers road access to their property.

Texas developers Bob Honts and Red McCombs want to build residences, shops, hotels and other services for up to 10,000 people.

The main lodging for the small resort, which often has the most snow of any Colorado resort open on a daily basis, is in communities below the nearly 12,000-foot-high pass.

Lawyers for Colorado Wild hinted at a settlement in two legal briefs this week. "At this point, it appears that the parties have reached an agreement in principle on the merits of plaintiffs' claims," wrote attorneys for Colorado Wild and the Forest Service in the joint brief.

Ryan Demmy Bidwell, director of Colorado Wild, said the proposed settlement is good news, but he would not go into detail.

Colorado Wild and others had been pressing the Forest Service to do a new environmental assessment of the development. Its original report, which took three years to prepare and was released last year, would have granted road access to the developers.

U.S. District Judge John Kane, senior Denver judge, has blocked construction of the roads until the case is finished.

Mourners pack into church for slain woman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHISHOLM, MINN.

Tiffany Johnson was remembered Saturday as a young woman on a mission to spread the love of God around the world.

Before Johnson's life was cut short by a gunman at age 26, she worked hard on that mission, family members and friends and co-workers said as about 900 mourners packed St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Chisholm for her 90-minute funeral service.

"She always told me 'Dad, you think you can control things, but you can't. The Lord controls things.'"

Tom Johnson
Father of Tiffany Johnson, who died last Sunday in Arvada

Johnson died last Sunday when a former student at the Youth With a Mission training center in Arvada opened fire.

She was remembered as a giving person who several years ago placed her trust in Jesus at an evangelistic event that she attended with her grandparents.

For more than an hour before the service, hundreds of friends and acquaintances filed past family members offering hugs.

"She always told me, 'Dad, you think you can control things, but you can't. The Lord controls things,'" her father, Tom Johnson, told mourners. "I'd like to ask all of you to instead of saying, 'I love you,' on the telephone to your children, to look them in the eye and say 'I love you' — because Tiff taught me that."

Johnson was born in nearby Hibbing and graduated from Hibbing High School and Normandale Community College in Bloomington. Her funeral — with contemporary Christian songs including "Open the Eyes of My Heart," "I can Only Imagine" and an old traditional, "It is Well With My Soul," — was a tribute to her life and faith.



Punk band Agent Orange rocks to a crowded audience pit on stage at the Steamboat Mountain Theatre in Steamboat Springs on Thursday night.

BRIAN RAY/STAFF

A place to perform
'Messiah' production spotlights need for arts venue

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY MARGARET HAIR

As executive director of the Steamboat Springs Art Council, Marion Kahn said she feels the need for a true performing arts venue every day. Kahn said a lack of rehearsal and performance space in Steamboat Springs has put the arts

community at critical mass. "You can't put one more drop in that cup without it spilling over," Kahn said.

On Saturday, several of those groups will come together to stage the town's first professional production of Handel's

"Messiah." A holiday tradition that often has a roster of more than 100 people, the "Messiah" is a joint effort by five of Steamboat's largest performing organizations.

See **Venue**, page 10A



The future of the Roan Plateau, which spans more than 70,000 acres near Rifle and Parachute, is a focal point in state and national debates about energy policy.

FILE PHOTO

Mineral dollars spur debate

Western Slope lawmakers: Use exploration revenues locally

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Months after floating the idea with a colleague, and after criticism from some Western Slope lawmakers and fellow Republicans, state Rep. Al White of Winter Park is now distancing himself from a proposal to use mineral exploration revenues to help Colorado's ail-

ing higher education system.

Gov. Bill Ritter, a Democrat, proposed earlier this year to divert some of Colorado's mineral revenues — in the form of severance tax and federal mineral-lease payments — toward higher education. Months later, White and state Sen. Josh Penry, R-Grand Junction, suggested using revenues from drilling on the Roan Plateau, a pristine swath of more than 70,000 acres

near Rifle and Parachute.

While some state Republican lawmakers see drilling atop the Roan as a way to generate millions of dollars for education and other areas, most Western Slope officials believe energy revenues should remain in the communities affected by energy development, for projects such as road repairs.

See **White**, page 10A

PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA FUERTE



INSIDE

Classifieds 5B
Crossword 5D
Education 6A
Happenings 2A
Horoscope 5D
Milestones 3D
Obituaries 3A
South Routt 7A
Television 5D
Viewpoints 4A

OUTSIDE

Rather cloudy.
High of 25.
Page 2A



VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Should security cameras be used inside Steamboat schools?
Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Are you doing anything charitable this holiday season?

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