

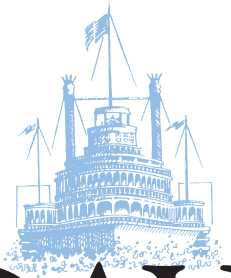
FINAL PUSH

Aspen skiers renew rivalry

SPORTS 1C



STEAMBOAT
PILOT & TODAY



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Winter Driving School teaches skills to stay on the road

STYLE 1D

Facing racial issues

Policy, parents fight harassment in schools

Melinda Dudley and Michael McCollum
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

After an allegedly race-related incident led to violence at a local school last year, the Steamboat Springs School District has installed a harassment policy aimed at better investigating complaints from students and staff.

Randall Nelson, now a 15-year-old freshman at Steamboat Springs High School, was found not guilty Thursday on assault and disorderly conduct charges stemming from a February 2007 incident that left another boy with a broken jaw.

During their years at Steamboat Springs Middle School, the other boy allegedly taunted and threatened Randall because of his race. Randall also spoke out against harassment in Steamboat schools when he was in fifth grade.

Administrators depicted last year's incident as a wake-up call about harassment in local schools, which prompted a revamp in policies for the Steamboat Springs School District — where 91.7 percent of students are white, according to...

See **Nelson**, page 8A

Local teenager killed in crash

Mike Lawrence
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

A Steamboat Springs teenager was killed in a car accident Friday night on an icy highway in Idaho.

An Idaho State Police dispatcher said Ann Barney, 19, was one of three people killed in an accident that occurred about 7:20 p.m. Friday on U.S. Highway 95, in the Cougar Gulch area just south of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The dispatcher said Barney was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Tyler Pearson, 21, of Kennewick, Wash. Police reported that Pearson was likely driving too fast for icy roads coated by rain earlier in the day.

Pearson and passenger Benjamin Lockard, 20, of Kennewick, also died as a result of the crash.

See **Accident**, page 9A



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Enrique Hernandez shovels snow in front of his home at the Fish Creek Mobile Home Park in Steamboat Springs on Friday afternoon.

Mobile home sweet home

Ownership potential instills pride in Fish Creek residents

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Walking through the Fish Creek Mobile Home Park in Steamboat Springs, the signs of recently completed remodels and ongoing renovations are hard to miss.

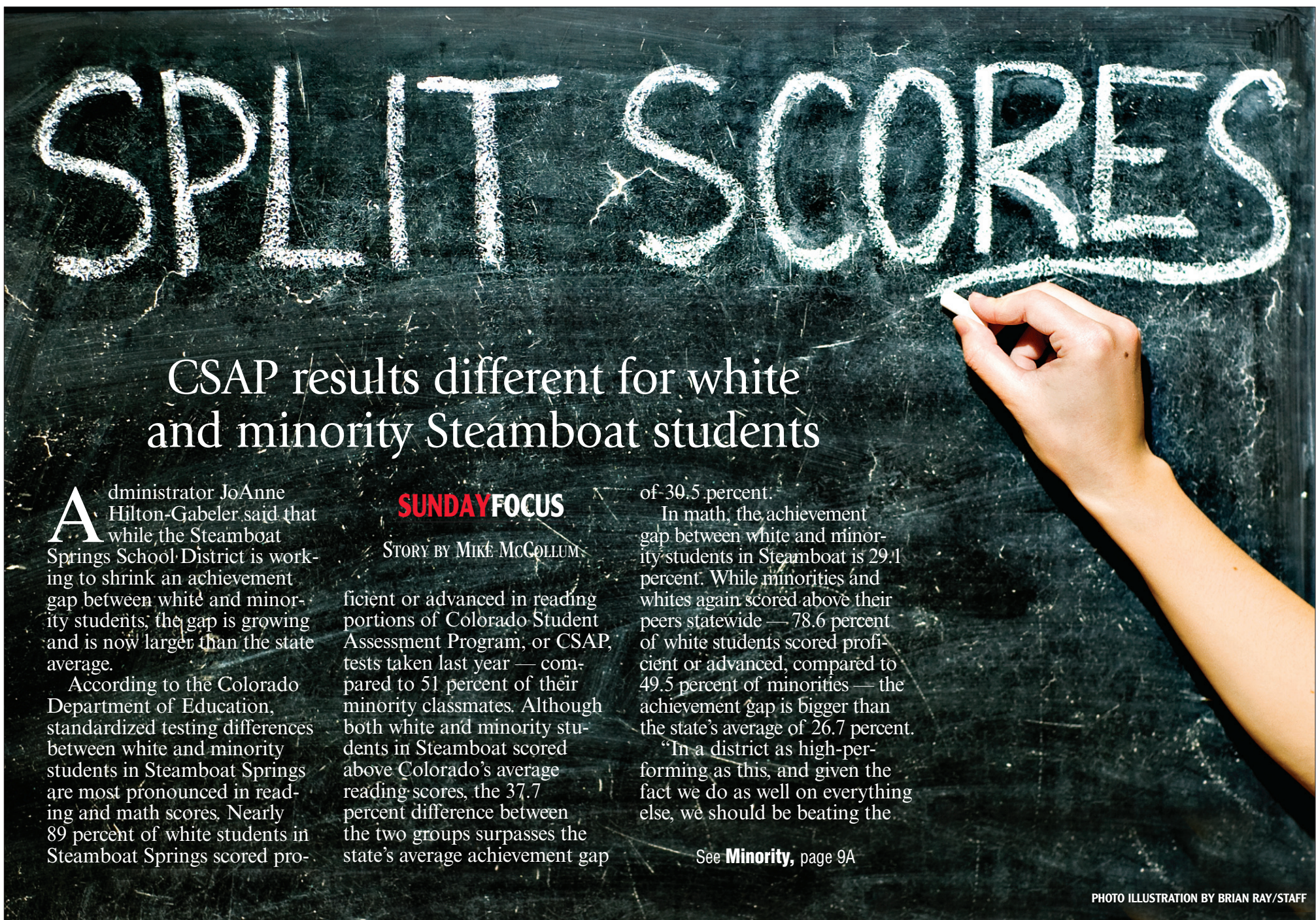
While some owners have been sprucing up their homes for quite some time, residents say the Yampa Valley Housing Authority's purchase of the 67-lot park last year — and the accompanying hope that park residents may one day own the land beneath their homes — has given the movement new steam.

"I don't see your for-sale sign," park resident and Manager Tom Palmer said to Joe Mansfield during a tour of the park Friday.

Mansfield had considered moving out of the park, but with the Housing Authority now in control, he's thinking much the opposite and asked Palmer questions about improvements he would like to make to his home. While past improvements were mostly made by people who bought a home in the park, fixed it up and flipped it for a profit, Mansfield said these days, the motivation is much different.

"People are definitely improving the look of their houses,"

See **Fish Creek**, page 8A



CSAP results different for white and minority Steamboat students

Administrator JoAnne Hilton-Gabeler said that while the Steamboat Springs School District is working to shrink an achievement gap between white and minority students, the gap is growing and is now larger than the state average.

According to the Colorado Department of Education, standardized testing differences between white and minority students in Steamboat Springs are most pronounced in reading and math scores. Nearly 89 percent of white students in Steamboat Springs scored proficient or advanced in reading portions of Colorado Student Assessment Program, or CSAP, tests taken last year — compared to 51 percent of their minority classmates. Although both white and minority students in Steamboat scored above Colorado's average reading scores, the 37.7 percent difference between the two groups surpasses the state's average achievement gap

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY MIKE MCCOLLUM

of 30.5 percent. In math, the achievement gap between white and minority students in Steamboat is 29.1 percent. While minorities and whites again scored above their peers statewide — 78.6 percent of white students scored proficient or advanced, compared to 49.5 percent of minorities — the achievement gap is bigger than the state's average of 26.7 percent.

"In a district as high-performing as this, and given the fact we do as well on everything else, we should be beating the state's average."

See **Minority**, page 9A

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Ski Corp. working on parking plan

Meadows, Knoll lots jammed Saturday; shuttles cart from Central Park Plaza

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat Ski Area shuttles trolled Central Park Plaza on Saturday as part of a makeshift overflow parking plan enacted after skiers and snowboarders filled the Knoll and Meadows lots to capacity.

"We did have to send some people to park at Wal-Mart, but that's just a temporary solution for today," Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. spokeswoman Heidi Thomsen said. "We don't plan to do that again."

Ski area parking was significantly reduced earlier this month with the construction of a special events tent in the Upper Knoll lot. The tent will come down in about

two weeks, after the MusicFest, Ski Jam, Family Snow Festival, and Country in the Rockies events have all concluded.

Ski area officials will be working on an overflow parking plan for next weekend, when crowds on the mountain are expected to be even larger than Saturday and today, Thomsen said.

"We're looking at different options — we know next (weekend) is not only Family Snow Festival weekend at the tent, it's also Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend," Thomsen said.

Thomsen urged vacationers to take available lodging shuttles, and locals to use public transportation to get to the ski area whenever possible.

"For the next two weeks while

the tent is up ... if people could take a ride on the free bus or carpool, that would be great," Thomsen said.

Recent snowfall likely contributed to the busy weekend — as of Saturday afternoon, 55 inches of snow had been recorded at the ski area in the past three days.

But those hoping for more powder this week are likely to be disappointed. Sunny weather with little precipitation is expected.

"Every couple of days, there's a slight chance of snow, which means the mountain might get a total of a half-inch or an inch," said meteorologist Chris Cuoco from the National Weather Service's station in Grand Junction. "Steamboat proper might not even get a dusting."



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Christie Ginanni, left, and her brother, John, get ready for an afternoon of snowboarding in the Knoll parking lot at the Steamboat Ski Area on Saturday afternoon. The ski area's parking lots filled beyond capacity on Saturday with shuttles even taking patrons to their cars in the Central Park Plaza lot.

PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA FUERTE



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OUTSIDE

Cloudy with a bit of snow. High of 29.
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VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Do you support an exclusively mail-in ballot for the November 2008 election? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Have you witnessed racism in Routt County?

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