

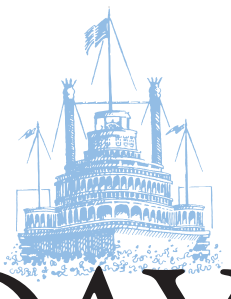
FROM REFUSE TO REFUGE

Big Agnes reuses plastic bottles

BUSINESS 1B



STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 27 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • www.steamboatpilot.com



X EFFECT

Locally trained athletes ready for Winter X Games

SPORTS 1C

Official seeks to abolish 'canned hunts'

Steven K. Paulson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Snowmobiles had been a common sight on county roads that wind through the Willow Creek Pass subdivision until officials realized state law prohibited snowmobiling on county roadways. Incidents of harassment and threats have been cited because of the snowmobile issue.

A neighborhood divided

North Routt subdivision split on snowmobile use

Matt Stensland
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

For more than 30 years, snowmobiles had been a common sight on the county roads that wind through the Willow Creek Pass subdivision. That changed last November, when officials realized state law prohibited snowmobiling on county roadways.

Not everyone in the North Routt County neighborhood was happy with the change, and resi-

dents say the result has been ongoing conflict between snowmobile advocates and detractors. Last week, those advocates appealed to the Routt County Board of Commissioners for help. They didn't get the answer some had hoped for.

The Willow Creek Pass subdivision was established in 1972, just an uphill climb on Routt County Road 129 from Steamboat Lake. Snowmobiles were all but a necessity then because the county didn't plow roads in the area.

In recent years, snowmobiles in the subdivision have taken on primarily a recreational use. With public lands less than a mile away, many residents could walk out their doors, hop on their sleds and enjoy the quick ride to an extensive area of rideable terrain. Some residents say the proximity to such terrain is the reason they moved to Willow Creek Pass.

"Snowmobiling has a long history of use within this neighborhood, and the homeowners See **Divided**, page 13A

DENVER

To Rep. Debbie Stafford, hunting wildlife while they are penned in is unfair and unsporting and she wants it banned.

For some of the ranchers who raise wildlife livestock, it's the only way in a struggling economy to feed their herds of elk and other trophy animals.

"She makes out like we hunt in little pens and they are shot at point-blank range and that's not the case," said Mike Crackel, owner of a 700-acre wildlife ranch near Craig.

Crackel said hunters are willing to pay up to \$12,000 to hunt his trophy elk and they have to work for it, chasing the animals down canyons and over mountains. Last year, only 11 were killed out of a herd of 70.

By state law, the ranch is fenced in and inspected annually by the Department of Agriculture and regulated by the Division of Wildlife.

He said if the law passes, it could force 25 wildlife ranches out of business. However, state wildlife officials said there are only two big game parks and six wildlife producer parks that would be affected. Crackel said other ranches have deer, yak, goats, sheep and buffalo for hunting.

Stafford said so-called "canned hunts" are unfair and inhumane.

"I'm very much a supporter of hunting. I support hunting with a fair chase for the animal," she said.

Her bill (House Bill 1096) would prohibit a person from offering another person the opportunity to hunt, wound or take any mammal that is intentionally confined, tied, staked, caged or otherwise restrained from engaging in normal movement.

It would allow exceptions for slaughtering a mammal for meat, leather or fur production or humanely euthanizing a mammal for health, safety or scientific purposes.



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Paula Salter, left, and Sammy Salter peruse a display of paintings at the Steamboat Art Museum in downtown Steamboat Springs on Friday afternoon. The art museum's board of directors would like the museum to occupy all of the Rehder Building, which also houses Antares restaurant and Vectra Bank.

Museum seeks new lease

Board of directors wants long-term, no-rent deal; Antares may be forced to move

SUNDAYFOCUS

STORY BY BRANDON GEE

The Steamboat Art Museum and the city of Steamboat Springs are negotiating a long-term lease for the museum in the historic, city-owned Rehder Building. The resulting deal likely will result in the building's other tenants being forced to leave.

The late Helen Rehder bequeathed the century-old Rehder Building at Eighth Street and Lincoln Avenue to the city

in 2004 on the condition that it "be designated and preserved as a historical monument, and that it be operated as a museum for the preservation and commemoration of the lifestyle of settlers in

Routt County." The newly formed Steamboat Art Museum approached the city in 2006 about occupying the building after the Tread of Pioneers Museum rejected the city's offer to move from its Oak Street facilities. Vectra Bank and Antares restaurant also occupy the building, but in its proposal to the city, the museum has

See **Museum**, page 13A

Tax rebate recipients debated

Jeannine Aversa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The poor are the people most likely to spend a tax rebate, if they are handed one in an economic revival plan. Whether that happens depends on who prevails — the White House or the Democrats who run Congress.

Democrats want to make sure rebates get to more of the poor, including those who have jobs but earn too little to pay income taxes.

The idea is the more that people spend, the more it will energize an economy threatening to slide into a recession for the first time since 2001. According to many economists, the lower that people are on the income ladder, the more probable it is that they will spend a rebate and spend it quickly — just the shot for the ailing economy. These people are more likely to be living from one paycheck to the next, without other assets to draw on.

"There's a risk of a downturn" in the economy, President Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "Congress and my administration need to work together to enact an economic growth package as soon as possible," he said.

The White House, for now, envisions providing one-time rebate checks to people who pay federal income taxes. That would leave out millions of the working poor, who do not make enough to pay income taxes but do pay Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes.

Families of four earning less than \$24,900 a year would not get a rebate under the White House approach, said Chad Stone, chief economist at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a research group that focuses on how government programs affect the poor and middle class.

Stone estimates about 22 million households file income tax returns but do not pay that tax because their earnings are so low. An additional 22 million households do not file a return, he said. This group includes many older people on fixed incomes, he said.

Taking the next step

Mid-year graduates ready for life after high school

Mike McCollum
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Colin Tucker couldn't help but smile as he thought about his friends rushing to class Friday morning at Steamboat Springs High School. Tucker spent Friday morning rushing to snowboard at the Chevrolet Revolution Tour at Copper Mountain.

There was no need for the 17-year-old Tucker to lug textbooks to the tournament, nor did he have to worry about getting an absentee slip signed. As one of seven mid-year graduates, Tucker's high school life is over a semester early. College awaits, but until then, he's a professional snowboarder.

"I am one of the few professionals in my field that has

been educated in a traditional high school with four years of education," said Tucker, who moved to Steamboat Springs as a sophomore from Wisconsin to join the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club.

"A lot of the people I know who compete professionally haven't finished high school, but education is really important." See **Next step**, page 12A



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Stephanie Herman, 18, works as a receptionist at Wildhorse Salon in Steamboat Springs on Friday afternoon. Herman is one of seven Steamboat Springs High School students who graduated early this year.

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



INSIDE

- Classifieds 5B
- Crossword 5D
- Education 6A
- Happenings 8C
- Horoscope 5D
- Milestones 3D
- Obituaries 3A, 8A
- South Routt 7A
- Television 5D
- Viewpoints 4A

OUTSIDE

Cloudy with a bit of snow. High of 25. Page 8C



VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Have you witnessed racism in Routt County? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Do you support Steamboat 700's preliminary development proposal?

DELIVERY PROBLEM?

To report home delivery problems, please call (970) 871-4250 on Sunday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Missed papers will be delivered by 10:30 a.m.

www.steamboatpilot.com