



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Passion for outdoors

Wildlife biologist Skorkowsky honored for work in national forest

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Lawmakers delay vote

Colorado officials postpone decision on paper ballots

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Forsberg could play

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A sweet treat



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Mya Boehm has some fun with her ice cream at the GrandKids Child Care Center in Steamboat Springs on Monday afternoon. The ice cream was provided by the new Cold Stone Creamery, which is slated to open on the west side of Steamboat Springs on Wednesday. **For more about Cold Stone Creamery, see page 4.**

Close call at airport

Saturday incident reveals radar, communications challenges

Brandon Gee
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

A close call this weekend at Yampa Valley Regional Airport reveals some of the major challenges of mountain flight and small airport operations.

On Saturday afternoon, air traffic controllers in Denver gave a small private plane clearance to take off from YVRA as United

Express flight No. 6573 was landing. The two planes managed to avoid one another, but still provided quite the scare for passengers and airport officials.

"Just as we were nearing a touchdown, we suddenly banked sharply and accelerated up at what must have been full throttle," Hayden resident John Merrill, a passenger on the daily flight from Denver, wrote in an e-mail to the *Pilot & Today*. "After

a couple of disturbing minutes, the pilot came on and said that he suddenly saw 'another plane moving onto the runway' and that is why he aborted the landing so abruptly."

Airport Manager Dave Ruppel confirmed Merrill's account on Monday. According to Ruppel, one of the United pilots told air traffic controllers in Denver, "I'm on the deck." The Denver officials then cleared the

private plane to take off, Ruppel said, thinking the United flight was on the ground.

"It wasn't a good day, but fortunately, we had a clear day and they saw each other," Ruppel said.

The United plane was a 66-passenger CRJ-700, and the private plane was a 9- to 12-passenger King Air based out of

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area			
New snow — Mid-mountain*	7 in.	Total snow†	414 in.
New snow — Summit	4 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	76 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	96 in.	Conditions	Powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 18 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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