

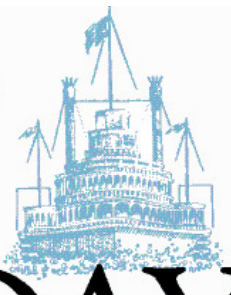
## SAILORS STRONG

Girls win six of seven matches against Glenwood Springs

SPORTS 1D



# STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY



SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 36 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • www.steamboatpilot.com

## AGRICULTURAL ENRICHMENT



Tours promote, explain ranching  
STYLE 1E



# Fed's moves bold

Efforts to stabilize economy bring power scrutiny

Tom Raum  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The Federal Reserve has taken its boldest action since the Great Depression, invoking rarely used powers in an effort to contain a panic threatening to undermine the economy. The central bank acted with speed the White House and Congress could only envy.

The Fed largely is free from many constraints that bog down other policymakers. Also, it is the only U.S. institution with the authority and ability to create money out of thin air.

For now, the steps orchestrated by Chairman Ben Bernanke, in the first critical test of his leadership since succeeding Alan Greenspan in early 2006, are earning praise from the Bush administration, Congress and presidential contenders Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain.

But the Fed's moves are raising questions about its power. See **Economy**, page 12A

# School ignores racism

Parents accuse Colorado district of turning a 'deaf ear'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLORADO SPRINGS

Parents and community leaders charged that a Colorado Springs school district has ignored complaints about racial prejudice, creating an unsafe environment for minority students.

About 30 people led by the Rev. Promise Lee held a news conference at the Falcon School District 49 headquarters Friday to demand better efforts to combat discrimination such as racist taunts in the district's schools.

Lee, who is black and has three children in the district, said officials have "turned a deaf ear to racism."

Superintendent Nancy Wright acknowledged that the claims are valid and outlined efforts to improve. "We recognize the problem," she said.

See **Racism**, page 13A



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Several members of the Steamboat Springs City Council enjoy an informal chat together at Harwigs in downtown Steamboat Springs on Tuesday night after the council's weekly meeting.

# Council's Harwigs habit

Steve Ivancie calls for an end to weekly gatherings

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Late Tuesday night at Harwigs Grill, six members of the Steamboat Springs City Council sat in the bar, unwinding after an unusually long six hours in the chambers at Centennial Hall. Over a glass of wine or a pint of beer, conversation ebbed and flowed about an array of subjects spanning idle

gossip to national politics.

During the past four months, the gathering has become an after-meeting tradition for most of the seven-member body. They cite a team-building quality of the get-togethers that allows them to maintain congenial personal relationships no matter how fiery their political differences may be.

"If you can go out afterward and let that go away,

you can work a lot better as a team," said Councilwoman Cari Hermacinski, noting council members have far more similarities than differences. "We're not Sunnis and Shiites."

But one council member says the ritual should come to an end.

"In my opinion, that's illegal," Councilman Steve Ivancie said of the gatherings. "I know how

See **Council**, page 13A



PHOTOS BY BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Above: Sophie Leeson, 6, scrounges for plastic eggs at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Howelsen Hill in Steamboat Springs on Saturday morning. Volunteers hid more than 5,000 eggs this year for children to collect. Right: The Easter Bunny arrives at Howelsen Hill to greet children at the Easter Egg Hunt.

# Easter egg scramble

Hunt draws festive crowd

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY MELINDA DUDLEY

At the tender age of 2, Elisa Engelken already knows what Easter means for her.

"She's been saying 'Easter bunny bring candy' for days," Elisa's mother, Nancy Engelken, said Saturday.

Engelken and her daughter joined hundreds of youngsters and their families at a crowded Howelsen Hill on Saturday morning for the city of Steamboat Springs' 33rd annual Easter Egg Hunt. Parents pushed their chil-

dren across the snow at Howelsen — some in snow-tired strollers, others piled on sleds, clutching their Easter baskets on the bumpy rides across the softball fields — to take part in pre-Easter festivities.

Children scrambled for Easter eggs in the hay, as they did earlier

See **Easter**, page 12A



# Traffic concerns consultants

Engineering firm focuses on congestion, transportation

Blythe Terrell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

MainStreet Steamboat Springs Manager Tracy Barnett summed it up: "It's the question on everybody's lips: What can be done about the traffic?"

Her group, which aims to promote and enhance downtown Steamboat Springs, brought in a resource team with the PBS&J engineering

consulting firm, which has offices in Denver and Colorado Springs and has addressed traffic issues in locations as distant as San Francisco. The team approached downtown Steamboat Springs with an eye toward how MainStreet should move forward with its plans — focusing on traffic and transportation issues.

The team's report lends credence to common complaints about traffic flow and drivers' attitudes, noting that traffic is

"perceived as being too aggressive" and that "it's difficult to cross the street." MainStreet gave copies of the report to the Steamboat Springs City Council on Tuesday.

Key concerns swirl around Steamboat's east-west thoroughfare: U.S. Highway 40.

Crowds flooded sidewalks along that road's downtown stretch, Lincoln Avenue, to enjoy the Friday afternoon sunshine and sidewalk sales.

See **MainStreet**, page 12A



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Pedestrians make their way across Lincoln Avenue in downtown Steamboat Springs on Friday afternoon.

PAGE DESIGNED BY NICOLE MILLER



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## OUTSIDE

Partly sunny.  
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## VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Would attracting big box retail stores be good for Steamboat Springs residents?  
Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Is aggressive driving a problem in downtown Steamboat Springs?

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