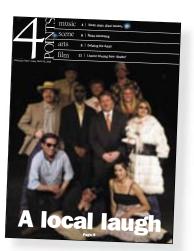


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Horses weather a spring snowstorm Thursday afternoon off Routt County Road 14 at Sidney Peak Ranch.

MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

# **Oak Creek growth a concern**

## Two candidates challenging incumbent mayor in April 1 election

Melinda Dudley PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS With Oak Creek's update of its Comprehensive Plan looming this summer, the mayoral candidates in Tuesday's election want to play a role in shaping their town's future growth.

Bill Paxton and Gerry

Oak Creek Town Board, are challenging incumbent Mayor J. Elliott. The winner of the threeway race will serve a two-year term as mayor. Elliott was first elected to the Town Board in 2002, and was appointed mayor in November 2006 after Kathy "Cargo" Rodeman resigned.

Growth is needed for Oak Creek to increase its prop-Greenwood, both of whom erty and sales tax bases and a family — we have our lithave previously served on the put more dollars in the gen- tle squabbles, but we all come

eral fund, Elliott said. The only other way to balance the budget would be to cut expenses in the town's already "bare-bones" operations, he said.

But that growth needs to be carefully planned to keep Oak Creek the way it is, only a little bigger, Elliott said.

"I'd just hate to lose the

together," Elliott said.

Greenwood serves on the Oak Creek Planning Commission and spent 10 years on the Oak Creek Fire Protection District Board. Greenwood also served a one-year appointed term as mayor after five years on the Town Board in the 1990s.

"My primary concern with small-town character. It's like the next two years ... is seeing

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