

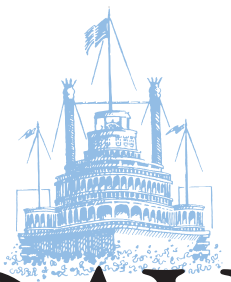
LOST HOURS OF MOAB

Endurance bike race lights up when sun goes down

SPORTS 1D



STEAMBOAT
PILOT & TODAY



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FOCUS ON PREVENTION



Bust of Steamboat raises funds for breast exams, awareness

STYLE 1E



Gearing up for winter

School buses roll along in face of increasing events

Zach Fridell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

In a time of increasingly fast-paced lifestyles for parents and more after-school activities for students, Steamboat's school bus service is still going strong.

Ed Dingleline, director of transportation for the Steamboat Springs School District,

said that a combination of eager drivers and new volunteers has resulted in smooth operation for the district's buses, in spite of workload additions such as more trips for Tier 2 sports. When the Steamboat Springs School District announced in August that Tier 2 sports would require certified drivers in district vehicles for all away games, School Board members

expressed concern that there would not be enough drivers to handle the additional load. Despite the uptick in miles required for school events around the state, drivers spend the bulk of their time on regular bus routes and operations have not changed with the new requirement, Dingleline said.

See **Buses**, page 11A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Strawberry Park Elementary School and Steamboat Springs Middle School students ride the bus home after school Thursday.

700 doubt arises

Officials question the commitment of developers

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

As formal review of the proposed Steamboat 700 project west of city limits is set to begin in earnest, concerns have been raised — and refuted by Steamboat 700's project manager — about developers' commitment to seeing the project through.

Per the terms of a pre-annexation agreement with the city of Steamboat Springs, Steamboat 700 is to submit an application for annexation by the end of the month. The city and developers are conducting studies of raw water availability, metro districts, U.S. Highway 40 and fiscal impacts of the project.

Excerpts of a leaked Steamboat 700 investment prospectus twice have been revealed publicly in recent months — at a meeting of the Steamboat Springs City Council and in a letter to the editor published in the *Steamboat Pilot & Today*. According to a copy of the prospectus provided anonymously to the *Pilot & Today*, Steamboat 700's investment strategy is “to complete the annexation, entitlement process and engineering allowing for the property to be developed by a third party. It's anticipated that the land will be sold in an unimproved state within a three year period.”

Councilman Steve Ivancie said that wording concerns him.

“I want to be sitting across from the people who are going to be a part of this community for the next 30 years,” he said. “I want to know that the deal I'm negotiating is with them. I want a partner. I'm not here to ensure that an investor in a piece of property has a huge return on his investment. My job is to negotiate the best deal for this community for now and into the future.”

See **700**, page 11A

Stocks losing support in grim market

Dave Carpenter
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO

Judy Katz reached her breaking point with stocks when the Dow collapsed at the start of this month, free-falling as much as 2,400 points and taking a big chunk of her life's savings with it before she hastily cashed out all of her funds.

Even though she's \$200,000 poorer and the market's up 5 percent since she sold, the 65-year-old New Yorker says she's happy to be off the daily rollercoaster — and sure she'll never quite feel comfortable in stocks again.

“I don't know what to do,” said Katz, who runs a ghost-writing business, after parking her personal nest egg of nearly \$1 million temporarily in her checking account this month. “You can't really put the money under the mattress or somewhere where it will get 2 percent.”

Stock prices are back to levels of more than a decade ago, 401(k)s have taken huge hits and investors have seen years of savings demolished seemingly overnight. Individual investors have pulled money out of stock mutual funds at a record rate this month — \$55.6 billion as of Wednesday, according to TrimTabs Investment Research — amid the 40 percent drop in the Standard & Poor's 500 index since last October.

It's enough to make investors question the soundness of investing in stocks, at least for now, and raises the question of whether older investors in particular could possibly abandon the market for good as many did in the 1930s.

“Just as the Great Depression scared an entire generation away from the stock market, and thereby excluded them from participating in the economy's growth for decades, recent events have the potential to disproportionately taint investors' views

See **Market**, page 10A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Yampa Valley Medical Center Occupational Therapist Beth Staunton administers observational exams at children's 18- and 24-month wellness screenings. She said detecting an autism spectrum disorder before a child reaches 4 years old can improve the chances of that child being able to handle the challenges of the condition later in life.

Acting on autism

Early intervention helps children, families cope with spectrum disorder

SUNDAYFOCUS

STORY BY MARGARET HAIR

It didn't take Craig resident Michele Dugan long to notice something was different about her youngest son.

“As soon as he was born, I couldn't put him down,” Dugan said, explaining that at a young age, her son Tanner cried relentlessly if she left him. She once tried leaving Tanner with her sister for a few hours to go see a movie with her husband, but her youngest son was more

attached than children his age normally are.

“A 4-month-old little tiny baby was pushing her away. As soon as I held him, he was fine,” Dugan said. “I've always

known that there was something different with Tanner. He was a special little guy.”

Tanner was diagnosed with autism at 20 months old. After receiving the diagnosis, Dugan started taking her son to Yampa Valley Medical Center's Pediatric Therapy Services program twice a week. The therapy center, a small house with a red roof on Pine Grove Road, offers

See **Autism**, page 12A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

The town of Hayden will spend as much as \$40,000 this coming year to make repairs to Vista Verde Drive.

Hayden sandwiched on budget

Town falls between solid and shaky outlooks for 2009 finances

Blythe Terrell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Hayden falls between Craig and Steamboat Springs in more than one way, according to Hayden Town Manager Russ Martin.

Sure, the 2,000-person municipality is bookended by its larger neighbors on U.S. Highway 40. But Hayden's budget outlook for next year also rests between the

two cities. Craig's financial forecast could be sunnier, Martin said, because of the town's Wal-Mart Supercenter and the booming energy economy. Steamboat is looking at cuts amid projected revenue decreases.

Hayden, he explained, is about in the middle.

The town has budgeted for a revenue loss of less than 3 percent, taking the general fund from about \$3.7 million projected this year to about \$3.6 million

If you go

What: Hayden budget workshops
When: 6:30 p.m. Monday and Oct. 27
Where: Hayden Town Hall

expected in 2009. Hayden has been creative in its budgeting for next year, Martin said.

For example, one apparent oddity on the budget worksheet is “half of the cost of a new patrol vehicle.” What the town is

See **Hayden**, page 10A

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



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OUTSIDE

Partly sunny.
High of 65.
Page 2A



VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Is it time for the city to cut back on spending for community groups and facilities, such as Howelsen Hill, to balance its budget? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Are you voting early or by mail this year, rather than waiting until Election Day?

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