

Steamboat Springs, Colorado Vol. 20, No. 284



ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



City honors employees

Workers recognized for longtime service behind the scenes

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Rocky Flats data dispute

State, US argue about benefits for former workers at nuclear weapons facility

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Bizarre Broncos

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Lending a hand



JUHN F. KUSSELL/SIA

Connie Todd unloads food at the Hayden Food Bank on Monday afternoon. Todd, along with Janet and Ralph Babish from the Hayden Congregational Church, put together food boxes in an effort to make the holidays a little happier for needy families in the area. **For more, see story on page 4.**

Opening on schedule

Christie Peak Express, Preview lifts to serve skiers and riders Wednesday

Blythe Terrell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Steamboat Ski Area is slated to open right on time.

Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. expects to run the Christie Peak Express and Preview lifts for Scholarship Day, beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday. The first day of skiing and riding for the 2008-09 winter will include the Preview, Stampede, See Ya, Sitz, Jess' Cut-Off and Upper

Boulevard trails. Ski Corp. officials plan to make final trail decisions today.

Lift tickets will be available Wednesday for \$20 — no season passes will be accepted — and proceeds benefit the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club.

"I encourage everyone to come out, make a few turns, kick off the season and support a very worthwhile cause," Ski Corp. President Chris Diamond said in a news release Monday.

New snowmaking equipment and cooler nights helped the ski area avoid a late start, Ski Corp. spokesman Mike Lane said. The mountain opened nine days behind schedule last year because of mild weather.

"The improvements that have been put into snowmaking in the past year and past four years have enabled us to make snow even when there were warm temperatures like there were this year," spokeswoman Loryn Kasten said.

Ski Corp. planned to make more snow Monday night and tonight, Kasten said.

"It looked like at mid-mountain there was a 10-inch base" Monday, Lane said.

Scholarship Day will include deals and special events. Bear River Bar & Grill will offer deals on white pizza and beer, and Worried Men will perform there from 1 to 4 p.m. Gondola

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LOTTO



WEATHER



Mostly sunny and mild. High of 49

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