



STEAMBOAT TODAY

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MONDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2008

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 20, No. 289

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Reaching for the STARS

Inclusion program expands options for adaptive skiers

Margaret Hair
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Until this season, learning to ski in Steamboat Springs was costly and sometimes difficult for skiers with adaptive needs.

"It was challenging. If they needed additional help, it was hard for one instructor to deal with six kids plus one with adaptive needs," said Julie Taulman, vice president of the board for Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports, a local nonprofit group that has partnered with Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. and the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club for the season.

With a base of volunteers and a stock of adaptive equipment, STARS has taken charge of the adaptive skiing opportunities on the mountain. In programs through the Steamboat Ski and Snowboard School, STARS volunteers will assist with any adaptive needs. That frees up the instructors to focus on the group, Taulman said.

"The biggest difference, really, is that in the past, if I didn't own the equipment, the only way I had access to any of the equipment was to take a ski lesson," Taulman said, explaining the cost of teaching her son, Kyle, how to play on the mountain with a sit-ski. "If I wanted my son to ski every week, there was no way you could do that."

A three-hour adaptive private lesson for a skier with adaptive needs is \$105; an all-day lesson is \$245. Under the new agreement, a child with adaptive needs could participate in a program such as Trail Busters with a cost of \$195 for five all-day lessons. That child can



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. snowboard instructor Chris Rogers assists Denver resident Jennifer Kosatka on Saturday during her first day of snowboarding. A new service offered by partnering organizations allows skiers and snowboarders of all abilities to enjoy Steamboat Ski Area.

use equipment that belongs to STARS, free of charge. It's significantly cheaper, and it allows those children to ski with their peers, Taulman said.

"Really, that's what most kids

want, is, they want to be able to ski with their friends," she said.

The inclusion program also allows children with special needs to participate in the Winter Sports Club. Kyle

Taulman will be the club's first athlete with adaptive needs, and he will be able to ski with his age group, said Rick DeVos,

See **Ski school**, back page



Gas prices

Cost of a gallon of regular unleaded fuel on Sunday

Fuel Stop	\$2.09
West Kum N Go	\$2.14
7-Eleven	\$2.10
Western Petro	\$2.19
Bob's Conoco	\$2.14
Hilltop Sinclair	\$2.09
Anglers Kum N Go	\$2.14
Ski Haus	\$2.12
Mount Werner Sinclair	\$2.07
Shell	\$2.07
Shop & Hop	\$2.12
State Average	\$1.76
National Average	\$1.82

HAYDEN



Lighting up the season

Hayden couple inherit enormous tree with house, carry on holiday tradition

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SPORTS



Broncos stop Jets

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	5 in.	Total snow†	40 in.
New snow — Summit	N/A	Trails open	7/165
Base — Mid-mountain	20 in.	Lifts open	2/20
Base — Summit	N/A	Conditions	Packed powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 21 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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