WEDNESDAY **DECEMBER 10, 2008** STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO VOL. 20, NO. 297



ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Williams pleads guilty

Charges include theft and forgery for Alpine Bank embezzlement

Page 3

MOUNTAIN NEWS Beetle kill put to use

Vail resorts construct signs from dead trees, make long-term plans

Page 17





Custom On-Site worker Deric Knape holds a piece of siding while Hector Gomez cuts it Tuesday at the city's new Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Department building. City Council on Tuesday assured the Parks and Recreation Commission of continued financial support.

Funding will continue

Officials to help parks and recreation weather economic storm

Brandon Gee PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The city's prized parks and recreation programs received assurances of support at a joint meeting of the Steamboat Springs City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission on Tuesday.

But it was also clear the programs would not be immune to budget difficulties.

Commission Chairman Curtis

Church said budget cuts make sense at a time of economic uncertainty but implored council not to neglect its best revenue source in the process. Church and other commission members argued that parks and recreation programming generates sales tax receipts, the city's primary source of revenue.

'People don't come here to visit our museums as their first move," Commissioner Jack Trautman said. "It is mainly the outdoor activities. ... This is

Council members Citv stopped short of lumping parks and recreation into the category of core services of government, such as snowplowing or public safety. But it was noted that surveys of residents consistently show that parks, open space and recreation are among the city's most valued amenities.

"My No. 1 concern is we don't lose any ground," Councilman Steve Ivancie said. "We'll make it

what we're all about. This is our brand." through this. It's just not going to be an easy thing " be an easy thing.

FREE

www.steamboatpilot.com

A majority of council members agreed and said they hope to weather the current economic storm without any noticeable reduction in parks and recreation services

'Maybe this is a good time to back up and focus on what we have and the maintenance of existing facilities before we take any steps forward," City Council

See **Council**, page 13

	SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT	Win a \$500 🔭
Business	Steamboat Ski Area	
Classifieds	New snow — Mid-mountain* 5 in. Total snow _t 65.75 in.	🐣 🐔 Nhanning Nhrøe
Colorado18 Scoreboard34	New snow — Summit 5 in. Trails open 64/165	
Comics	Base — Mid-mountain 28 in. Base — Summit 36 in. Conditions Packed powder	
Crossword 35 ViewPoints 8		March & Destutor at
Happenings7 Weather47	*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	exploresteamboat.com