

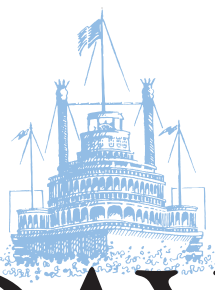
## SHEDDING A SWEET LIGHT

Hannukah celebration focuses on food, family

ROUTT COUNTY 1D



# STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY



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## RAMS ROLL TO WIN

Soroco rocks North Park on Saturday

SPORTS 1C



## Officials pursue stimulus

City, county lobby for federal infrastructure dollars

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Yampa Valley children aren't the only ones preparing lists of Christmas wishes this holiday season.

City and county government officials have their own roll of infrastructure projects they hope will become a reality sooner than previously anticipated. For Routt County and

the city of Steamboat Springs, however, Christmas would come about a month late — at the earliest — in the form of a multibillion-dollar infrastructure investment plan promised by President-elect Barack Obama's administration-in-waiting and congressional Democrats.

For now, local officials are lobbying to be kept in the loop. "There's a lot of intrigue out there about what might be included in" Obama's eco-

nomie plan, said County Commissioner Doug Monger, who noted Routt County schools, roads and water and sewer infrastructure are all subpar. "Hopefully some of the money can come back to counties. ... We're going to be lobbying that we get a fair allocation. You can't throw all the money into the state governments."

Details about Obama's eco-

See **Stimulus**, page 9A



FILE PHOTO

**City Facilities Manager Bob Robichaud** reviews construction of the Steamboat Springs Community Center in 2007. City officials are hoping federal funding from President-elect Barack Obama's planned stimulus package will boost future city capital improvement projects, which total more than \$150 million in the next five years.

## Back to the bylaws

Fund Board finds sharing sales tax difficult to do

Zach Fridell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Education Fund Board is learning to share — and finding it an arduous process.

After 15 years of keeping revenues from the city's half-cent sales tax for education within city limits, members of the Steamboat Springs group are looking through bylaws and regulations in an effort to figure out how and when to grant the money to the South Routt and Hayden school districts.

Even after close examination, however, the results are murky and the rules will need to be rewritten to make distributing the funds equitable and legal.

After November's passage of Referendum 2B, stipulating the money raised from Steamboat Springs' half-cent sales tax be shared with the other Routt County school districts, the Fund Board has agreed to hear requests in its capital improvement, educational excellence and technology commissions. All requests to the full board must come first from one of the commissions.

That's why representatives from all three school districts have presented applications to each of the three commissions this week, in preparation for next year's budget cycle. The Steamboat Springs School District is requesting about \$3.1 million, while each of the other two districts is requesting \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Fund Board members repeatedly have said the money should first go toward Steamboat Springs schools. In a presentation to the Steamboat Springs City Council before the issue went on the ballot, Fund Board President Tom Ptach said the Steamboat Springs School District "would not be adversely affected by sharing

See **Fund Board**, page 12A

## Obama names science team

Hope Yen  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President-elect Barack Obama's selection Saturday of a Harvard physicist and a marine biologist for science posts is a sign he plans a more aggressive response to global warming than did the Bush administration.



Obama

John Holdren and Jane Lubchenco are leading experts on climate change who have advocated forceful government action. Holdren will become Obama's science adviser as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Lubchenco will lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees ocean and atmospheric studies and does much of the government's research on global warming.

Holdren also will direct the president's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology. Joining him as co-chairs will be Nobel Prize-winning scientist Harold Varmus, a former director of the National Institutes of Health, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Eric Lander, a specialist in human genome research.

"It's time we once again put science at the top of our agenda and worked to restore America's place as the world leader in science and technology," Obama said while announcing the selections in his weekly radio address.

The president-elect said promoting science means more than just providing money, but also ensuring that facts and evidence are never twisted or obscured by politics or ideology.

"From landing on the moon, to sequencing the human genome, to inventing the Internet, America has been the first to cross that new frontier because we had leaders who paved the way," Obama said.



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Longtime managers Doug Post and Scott Schlapkohl** chat inside Steamboat Springs' Ace at the Curve. Post has been with the store (Ace at the Curve and True Value) for the past 25 years, but he is leaving in January to open new stores in Washington state.

## Ace icon moves on

Doug Post and his wife will head to Washington next month

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY BLYTHE TERRELL

If you've ever been pelted in the noggin with candy at Ace at the Curve, odds are that Doug Post was the one slinging the sweets.

The store manager loves easing the tension of long lines or tough days, sometimes by tossing a snack, sometimes by belting out "Hey Jude." Post is an icon, his colleagues say, the face customers conjure when they think about Ace. His beloved

laugh bursts forth like snakes from a pressurized can, bouncing about as he and co-workers tell tales about his tenure.

After nearly 25 years at Ace and True Value, Post is on his way out.

Coming and going

In 1979, the Michigan native packed his possessions into a Chevrolet Suburban and motored to Steamboat Springs. His sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Barry Lamb, had invited him to work at their store, Lamb's Beer, Bait and Beans.

See **Post**, page 10A



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Darrell Randall, left,** and Beverly Halcomb, shown here with her 8-year-old son, Steven, are planning to open The Fun Bucket, a youth teen center, in Oak Creek.

## Fun Bucket set to open in '09

Oak Creek locale a place for games in supervised environment

Melinda Dudley  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

OAK CREEK

When The Fun Bucket opens in Oak Creek early next year, co-owners Darrell Randall and Beverly Halcomb hope their youth center will fill what they perceive as a huge void in their community — safe, supervised after-school activities for South Routt children and teens.

The Fun Bucket got its name from Bucket Park's namesake

bucket on Main Street, after Halcomb's son Steven was playing there with his friends one day. A stained glass window depicting the bucket has been installed at the youth center and serves as its logo.

"We thought that Oak Creek needed a place for kids to go after school," said Halcomb, who has worked in child care most of her life.

Other than the Oak Creek Ice Rink during the winter, there are not a whole lot of places for

local children and teenagers to congregate, Randall said.

"For kids who don't do sports and just want to hang out with their friends, they can come here and be supervised," Halcomb said. "They won't be making messes, eating everything in the house and getting into trouble."

The Fun Bucket's 1,600-square-foot facility on Main Street includes the space for-

See **Fun Bucket**, page 12A

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



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Considerable cloudiness. High of 21.  
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### VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Will Steamboat residents benefit from the post office's move to Pine Grove Road in 2011?  
Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Do you think the economy will rebound out of recession in 2009?

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