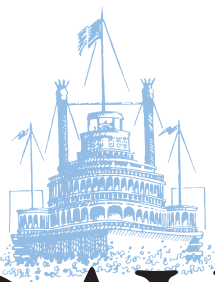


SNOWBOARDERS SCORE AT RACE TO THE CUP

Local racer finishes 1st in women's finals
SPORTS 1C



STEAMBOAT
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STOCK SHOW STARTS

Vendors, ranchers head to Denver for 3-week event
BUSINESS 3A



Obama team: Millions of jobs coming

Philip Elliott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President-elect Barack Obama countered critics with an analysis Saturday by his economic team showing that a program of tax cuts and spending like he's proposed would create as many as 4.1 million jobs, far more than the 3 million he has insisted are needed to lift the country from recession.



Obama

Congressional Republicans reacted skeptically, just as Obama acknowledged that he would be forced to recant some of his campaign promises given the economic crisis facing the country.

Even the president-elect's own economists acknowledged their two-year estimates could be wrong.

The 14-page analysis, which was posted online, says estimates are "subject to significant margins of error" because of the assumptions that went into the economic models and because it is not known what might pass Congress.

"These numbers are a stark reminder that we simply cannot continue on our current path," Obama said in his weekly radio and YouTube broadcast address.

"If nothing is done, economists from across the spectrum tell us that this recession could linger for years and the unemployment rate could reach double digits. And they warn that our nation could lose the competitive edge that has served as a foundation for our strength and standing in the world," he said.

Obama has provided few

See **Obama**, back page



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Oak Creek Town Clerk Karen Halterman's dog, Rosemary, roams the hallway in front of an empty Oak Creek Police Department office in Oak Creek Town Hall.

Police still in limbo

Oak Creek focus group explores department's future

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

OAK CREEK

Four months after the Oak Creek Police Department's former chief and sergeant resigned, the town is getting down to business on determining Oak Creek's law enforcement future.

Starting this week, a nine-member citizen task force will

begin taking a hard look at whether Oak Creek should forge a contract for long-term services with the Routt County Sheriff's Office or reform its own police department — and what that department should look like.

Since the Oak Creek Police Department's last officer departed in October, about a month after the other three resigned, the town has relied

on the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. In the meantime, the town's law enforcement future essentially has been in limbo.

"The sheriff is more than willing to say that he will always respond," Trustee Gerry Greenwood said. "But there's a reality, and that's that the town, without our own

See **Police**, page 9A



HANS HALLGREN/CRAIG DAILY PRESS

Shell Frontier Oil and Gas has filed in Steamboat Springs water court to skim 375 cubic feet per second from this section of the Yampa River, west of Maybell in Moffat County's Sunbeam area. Shell's filing could dramatically change the landscape of future water rights and use in Northwest Colorado.

Shell claim stirs waters

Energy company's pursuit of Yampa River flows could have flood of impacts

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY
TOM ROSS

When Shell Oil revealed last week it had filed for substantial water rights in the Yampa River west of Craig, the news marked another milestone on the road to fulfilling a prophecy made 2 1/2 years ago:

Powerful interests are coming after the water that originates from melting snow in the mountains of Northwest Colorado.

That was the message that Russell George, then executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, brought to a water symposium at Hayden High School on June 1, 2006.

George, a former state legislator from Rifle, said it was inevitable that unappropriated water in the Yampa would be called upon to balance

the entire state's needs and obligations. The announcement by Shell this week underscores the likelihood that the Yampa also will be called upon to help meet the nation's needs for energy.

Shell's interest in the Yampa stems from the need to amass enough water rights to support

See **Shell**, back page



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Steamboat Springs High School junior Ty Hvambals will use data from a survey for his senior project to express that not all students use drugs and alcohol.

Anti-underage drinking group rebuilds

Excellence Project looks for new approach after social host ordinance defeat

Zach Fridell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Steamboat Springs City Council's narrow defeat of the social host ordinance last month managed to slow the work of the Excellence Project, but it did not stop the goals of the organization.

Following the 3-3 defeat of the bill, by lack of a majority Dec. 16, the Excellence Project

has started to regroup and focus on new efforts, though it seems unlikely the group again will approach the City Council any time soon. The Excellence Project is a community collaboration — including parents, teachers and counselors — to curb underage drinking.

Colleen Lyon, a member of the group, said the ordinance managed to shift some views and successfully increased awareness of teen drinking in Steamboat

Springs, despite its failure in Centennial Hall.

"Obviously, we were disappointed, and I think we were more concerned about the message that sends to the community — that the City Council doesn't back the ordinance," she said. "But it raised the issue, and whether that ordinance is a step the community wants to move in or not, I think the community came forward, and it raised the issue of underage drinking."

But without the support of ordinances, Lyon said, the education can fall flat.

"We can't just focus on education and awareness; it also has to focus on the environment the kids are growing up in, whether it's how many liquor establishments we have in town per capita or enforcing keg registration."

School Resource Officer Josh Carrell, a constant presence at

See **Drinking**, page 9A

PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA PHILLIPS



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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area	
New snow — Mid-mountain*	2 in.
New snow — Summit	2 in.
Base — Mid-mountain	62 in.
Base — Summit	73 in.
Total snow†	190 in.
Trails open	165/165
Lifts open	16/18
Conditions	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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