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ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



City Café up for bid

City of Steamboat Springs seeks proposals to run Centennial Hall food shop

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colorado House bill debated

Parent begs lawmakers to approve carbon monoxide detector requirements

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Throwing for scouts

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Soda Creek Elementary School third-graders Alex Eakins, lower right, and Zinedin Bautista eat lunch Tuesday at the school.

MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Lunch policy pays off

School district's move to refuse hot meals brings in overdue payments

Zach Fridell PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

In the first week of a new school lunch program preventing students from charging on overdue accounts, the amount of meal fees owed to the Steamboat Springs School District decreased from \$10,000 to \$2,800.

By Superintendent Shalee Cunningham's calculations, that makes the program a success.

"I think we did what we needed to," Cunningham said. "I certainly don't feel that anyone went hungry. We made sure they all ate."

Even so, some students will remain on a regimen of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches until all overdue fees are paid.

The new policy attracted nationwide attention when the district did not serve hot

lunches to students with lunch accounts owing \$6 or more, the equivalent of two lunches. On the first day back from the holiday break, Jan. 5, Steamboat Springs elementary school students who did not have the funds were given a pack of sunflower seeds and snacks, while middle school and high school students were cut off from any school food.

Since that time, elementary students have been given a pea-

nut butter and jelly sandwich each day if their account is overdrawn.

Nutritional Services Director Max Huppert said he was happy with the results. By Tuesday — a week after the program took effect — the number of overdue accounts in the district had declined from about 500 to a little more than 100, and most of those are at the middle

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