



**WINTER CARNIVAL GUIDE**  
INSIDE

STEAMBOAT  
**PILOT & TODAY**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009  
VOLUME 122, NUMBER 29 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • www.steamboatpilot.com



**LIKE MAMA USED TO MAKE**

Sisters open crepe shop at ski area base

BUSINESS 3A

**State battles \$600M deficit**

Tourism spending could be slashed

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

As the Colorado General Assembly prepares to enter the second month of 2009's opening session, there's no shortage of legislative action to keep Northwest Colorado's representatives busy — and local officials' eyes turned toward the Capitol.



White



Ritter

The state is wrestling with issues such as a \$600 million budget shortfall, tourism spending that may be cut in half and proposals to inject new money into a cash-strapped Colorado Department of Transportation.

Much of what is being discussed in Denver could have significant impacts on Routt County.

As they have in Washington, D.C., and state legislatures across the country, economic and budgetary issues have taken center stage in Denver. State Sen. Al White, R-Hayden, a member of the General Assembly's Joint Budget Committee, is in negotiations with Gov. Bill Ritter's team to try to reduce the governor's recommended \$10 million cut to tourism production. The recommendation is part of Ritter's \$1 billion budget-balancing plan, and it would cut in half the \$20 million in gaming revenues that go to the Colorado Tourism Office each year.

White said such a move is counterproductive because studies show that the state receives at least \$6 in return for every dollar it spends promot-

See **State budget**, page 9A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**Steamboat Springs School District** Superintendent Shalee Cunningham is seeking the community's input to better set and reach broad-based district goals.

**Schools seek input**

Community to help set long-term district goals

Zach Fridell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

When Superintendent Shalee Cunningham asks what the Steamboat Springs School District stands for, it's not a rhetorical question. But she has found that district administrators and officials often have a hard time coming up

**How to help**

To sign up for the community planning committee, call the Steamboat Springs School District offices at 879-1530.

with an answer.

Cunningham hopes to change that by establishing a set of three to five broad goals for the district, and she wants the community to be part of

the process. Cunningham is organizing a planning committee comprised of 30 community members who will help identify the district's goals.

"I am recognizing as the new superintendent in town that people can't answer for me what the beliefs are and what the desired outcomes are for the

See **School goals**, page 9A

**Teeth could be life-savers**

**Local oral surgeon harvests stem cells for patients**

Some Steamboat Springs residents are forgoing the Tooth Fairy, hoping their teeth wind up being worth a lot more than a quarter.

Steamboat Springs oral surgeon Dr. John Lupori offers patients the chance to store the stem cells in the teeth he extracts. Lupori partners with StemSave, a New York-based company that freezes and stores stem cells found in the pulp

at the base of teeth. Science is moving fast, those involved said, and the cells might someday save the patient's life.

"Potentially, they're incredibly miraculous," said Dr. Bob Pensack, who had his daughter, Miriam, save her cells. "They've already been miraculous in the lab."



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Oral surgeon Dr. John Lupori is breaking new ground** at his Steamboat Springs practice. Lupori, who has partnered with a company called StemSave, is giving patients the option of saving stem cells, which can be recovered from extracted teeth.

Stem cells exist throughout the body and differentiate into organs and tissue. Stem cells that could be used to grow new organs, for example, are the type that haven't differentiated. Dental stem cells fall into this category, StemSave CEO Art Greco said.

"They are what is called very plastic, which means they can become different kinds of tissue," Greco said. "That's

what makes them very valuable."

The possibilities of dental stem cells still aren't proven, Lupori said. But he, Pensack and StemSave have high hopes.

"In the not-too-distant future, you'll be able to re-create the bone, and you can re-create it in the shape of that person's own bone using 3D

See **Stem cells**, back page



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**After wisdom teeth have been extracted**, they are sealed in StemSave's technology collection kit and shipped to the New York-based company. Once there, the cells are tested for viability before being cryogenically stored.



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**A draft of Oak Creek's** comprehensive plan update identifies areas of town that could accommodate future growth. Routt County Road 25 and agricultural lands north and south of town are named as the ideal places for future annexation.

**Oak Creek explores residential growth**

Melinda Dudley  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

OAK CREEK

With restricted space in town limits for future residential growth, the current draft of Oak Creek's comprehensive plan identifies Routt County Road 25 and agricultural lands north and south of town as ideal places for future annexation.

In a survey conducted last spring, residents indicated they most valued Oak Creek's small-town character, close-knit community and natural

**For more**

The draft version of Oak Creek's comprehensive plan update and the town's land use code can be found at [www.steamboatpilot.com](http://www.steamboatpilot.com)

environment. The ongoing comprehensive plan update is examining how to preserve those characteristics while allowing for future growth.

Oak Creek is working with Denver-based Britina Design Group for the comprehensive plan overhaul, which examines future areas of growth for Oak

Creek and overhauls the town's building and annexation policies.

Britina also worked on the town's most recent comprehensive plan, which was completed in 1996. The town received a \$20,000 energy impact grant to fund the current project.

The 2009 comprehensive plan is character-based, providing guidelines and preferred scenarios that go along with Oak Creek's future vision, rather than drawing up land-use maps that future developments should fit in. Nothing in the comprehen-

sive plan will be binding, but the document is intended to be used as a guideline for future decision making.

Future developments will be considered in light of what the comprehensive plan terms a "community of interest," meaning that the project appeals to the community, Trustee David Fisher said at a comprehensive plan work session Tuesday.

Some of the more specific policies enumerated in the most recent draft of the comprehensive plan target maintaining

See **Town growth**, back page

PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA PHILLIPS



**INSIDE**

- Business ..... 3A
- Classifieds ..... 2B
- Comics ..... 5D
- Crossword ..... 6D
- Happenings ..... 7A
- Horoscope ..... 6D
- Obituaries ..... 6A
- Outdoors ..... 6C
- Viewpoints ..... 4A
- Weather ..... 2A

**SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT**

**Steamboat Ski Area**

New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	249 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	71 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	82 in.	Conditions	Powder/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](http://www.cotrip.org)

**DELIVERY PROBLEM?**

To report home delivery problems, please call 970-871-4250 on Sunday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Missed papers will be delivered by 10:30 a.m.

[www.steamboatpilot.com](http://www.steamboatpilot.com)

**LOOK INSIDE for**

*Prudential Properties*

**FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS**

*Prudential*

Residential Realty