WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2009 Steamboat Springs, Colorado Vol. 21, No. 30



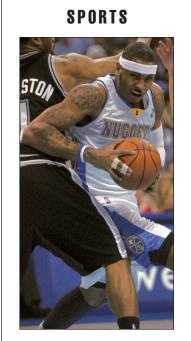
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Carnival kicks off

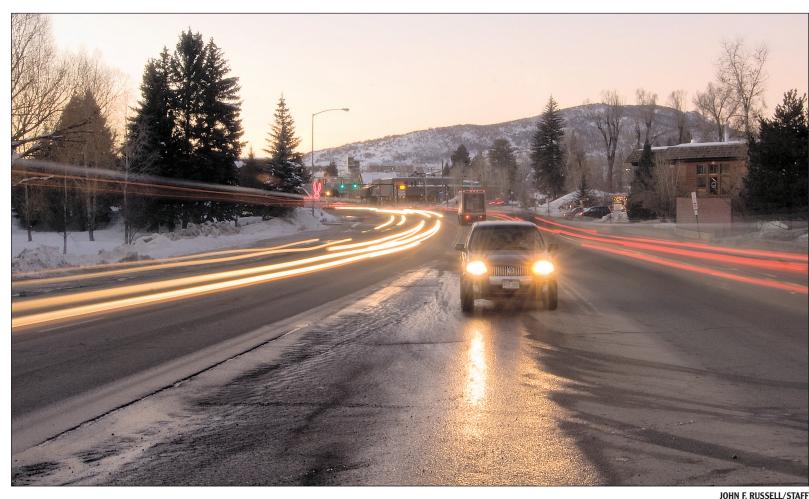
Opening Ceremonies begin at 5:30 p.m. today; events take place through Sunday

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Nuggets pass Spurs

Light traffic



A steady stream of lights and traffic rolls past a car waiting to turn off Lincoln Avenue onto Old Fish Creek Falls Road in downtown Steamboat Springs on Tuesday afternoon.

Beer battle brewing

Lawmakers seek to loosen sales rule; Baumgardner, White oppose change

Blythe Terrell PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Routt County's lawmakers don't want to change beer rules for grocery and convenience stores.

Under Colorado law, those retailers can't sell beer that's stronger than 3.2 percent alcohol by weight. A measure in the Colorado House of Representatives would convert their licenses to allow full-strength beer sales. Supporters say it would eliminate an unfair rule. Opponents say it would put some liquor stores out of business.

State Rep. Randy Baumgardner, R-Hot Sulphur Springs, and state Sen. Al White, R-Hayden, oppose the bill. Baumgardner represents House District 57, which includes Routt County.

"I am going to probably vote

'no' on that bill due to the fact of the impact on the small liquor businesses in my district," he said. "There's a lot of those small businesses that depend on that income to make their house payments and send their kids to school."

White said he also was concerned about small businesses. "I oppose it because I think if it passes, I believe there

will be more economic damage done to small mom-andpop liquor stores ... than large supermarket chains will suffer if it doesn't pass," he said.

FREE

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State Rep. Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, D-Pueblo West, and state Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver, are sponsoring the legislation. House Bill 1192 was introduced in the House on Jan. 28 and assigned to the Business Affairs and Labor Committee.

See Beer, page 16

INDEX **SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT Steamboat Ski Area** 0 in. New snow -- Mid-mountain* Total snow₁ New snow — Summit Base — Mid-mountain 0 in. Trails open Lifts open 165/165 65 in. 16/18 Base - Summit 78 in. Conditions Packed powder MBOAT SPRINGS *24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 21 as measured at mi FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.or