



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Carnival kicks off

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

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SPORTS



Nuggets pass Spurs

Light traffic



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

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-and-

pop liquor stores ... than large supermarket chains will suffer if it doesn't pass," he said.

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.

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	250 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	165/168
Base — Mid-mountain	65 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	78 in.	Conditions	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

