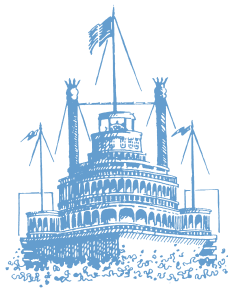


TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 21, No. 28



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Arts Council reorganizes

Nonprofit eliminates visual arts department, focuses on music, theater

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SPORTS



Avs ice Flames

Page 17

Winter break



Mike Kelby shovels snow off the roof at YoungTracks Preschool on Monday afternoon. The break in wintry weather is giving businesses and homeowners a chance to unbury from all the recent snow.

JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Searching for answers

Residents, downtown retailers brainstorm on how to survive tough times

Blythe Terrell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat Springs residents and business owners wrestled with familiar issues at a forum and movie screening Monday evening.

About 60 people attended the discussion at Centennial

Hall, which included a viewing of "Paperback Dreams." The documentary featured two independent California bookstores' struggle to survive. Local business owners and residents discussed Steamboat Springs' economic trials and possible ways to combat them.

"People are paying the highest rents Steamboat has ever

seen, and sales are sliding," City Council member Jon Quinn said. "There are going to be some hard days for Steamboat businesses."

Mainstreet Steamboat Springs and Off the Beaten Path Bookstore sponsored the discussion. Off the Beaten Path co-owner Ron Krall led the conversation after the movie, and busi-

ness owners offered suggestions.

All That Jazz owner Joe Kbouti suggested that Mainstreet take business owners to check out other stores' inventories. That would help him direct customers to other local businesses if his store doesn't have what they need.

See **Downtown**, back page

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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	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	67 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	79 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

www.SteamboatPilot.com