

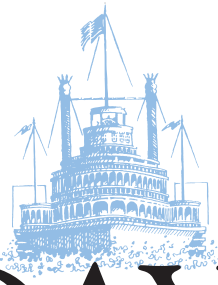
HIGH-SCHOOLERS IN COLLEGE

Dual credit scholars stock up on classes

ROUTT COUNTY 1D



STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY



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EYEING THE RECORD

Gelande hopefuls attempt to make history

SPORTS 1C



Day care dilemma

School district staff asking for help with child care needs

Zach Fridell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Teachers who have lived in Steamboat Springs long enough know the drill: Sign up for day care as soon as you realize you or your spouse are pregnant.

But that is often not enough. Even if a slot is available when the child is born, and even if the schedule for the facility works with the teacher's schedule, costs can easily reach more than \$1,000 a month.

Strawberry Park Elementary School special education teacher Niki Struble said that by the time she pays her monthly mortgage bill and day care costs for 5-month-old Sean and 21-month-old Kaitlin, she's left with practically nothing to put in the bank.

"It's impossible to save money. My son was hospitalized twice since his birth... and I had to return to work to pay the bills," she said.

Several months ago, Struble wrote a letter to ask

the Steamboat Springs School District to help provide district personnel with the day care they need.

"I cannot even begin to describe what a tremendous help it would be," she said. "It would be a phenomenal tool to keep and retain qualified teachers."

She is one of many school district staff members searching for child care answers — an e-mail sent to district staff had more than a dozen responses

See **Child care**, page 9A



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Niki Struble prepares to leave the Young Tracks Preschool on Monday afternoon along with her 21-month-old daughter, Kaitlin, back, and 5-month-old son, Sean. Struble, a special needs teacher, and other employees in the Steamboat Springs School District support creating a child care network in Routt County.

House, Senate debate nears

Stimulus changes create new hurdles

Andrew Taylor
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Republicans and Democrats offered starkly different assessments of President Barack Obama's newly renegotiated economic recovery plan Saturday, as the Senate held a rare week-end debate in advance of a key vote on Monday.

Lawmakers already are looking past Senate action to difficult House-Senate negotiations that will test the mettle of a few of Senate moderates against House Democrats unhappy about more than \$100 billion in spending being forced from the bill.

Jon Kyl, of Arizona, the Senate's second-ranking Republican, said central elements of Obama's plan such as the \$500 tax cut for most workers would do little to help the economy, just as last year's \$600 rebate checks failed to provide a jolt.

"It was not effective last year," Kyl said. "There's nothing to suggest it's going to be any more effective this year to stimulate the economy."

Saturday's debate came a day after a few GOP moderates struck a deal with the White House and Democratic leaders after White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel weighed in to urge Democrats to make a final round of concessions.

Architects of the compromise included Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who represented a broader group of moderates unhappy that so much money went into programs they thought wouldn't create jobs.

Eventually, every Republican except Collins and Arlen

See **Stimulus**, page 10A

Speeding through town

Traditional Winter Carnival street events bring spills and smiles

When Heather Wilhelm participated in Winter Carnival street events on skis, her childhood favorite was skijoring — being pulled down Lincoln Avenue by a horse at top speed.

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY MELINDA DUDLEY

Too old for the children's events, Heather now participates on horseback with members of her family, and other Routt County ranchers who volunteer their time year after year. Despite reversing her role in the horse events, skijoring remains her favorite for reasons of pure speed, she said.

"Anything we can go fast on, it's like us being a kid again," Heather's father, Lynn Wilhelm, said.

See **Winter Carnival**, page 11A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Steamboat Springs 9-year-old Katherine Karnick crashes during the Winter Carnival street events skijoring competition Saturday. She was being pulled by North Routt rancher Guy Urie. For a schedule of today's Winter Carnival events and results from Saturday's competitions, see page 11A.

Frustration grows for Nordic skiers

City officials hashing out plan for maintenance of Howelsen Hill trails

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Many local Nordic skiers — already annoyed with what they feel is an insufficient dedication to cross-country skiing in Steamboat Springs, even during flush economic times — are experiencing further frustrations this year as citywide budget cuts have reduced grooming standards at Howelsen Hill.

"A lot of people were pretty unhappy with the conditions over there," Dan Smilkstein, of the Steamboat Nordic Council,

said about sentiments before a Jan. 14 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss core services, prioritizations, resource allocations and cost recovery. "It really seemed like there was some response to that. ... There is definitely some attention being paid."

According to the city's 2009 adopted budget, Nordic trails at Howelsen Hill will receive \$106,564 in funding this year, down from \$138,414 budgeted in 2008.

Director of Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Chris Wilson said he

For more

For more information about the meeting the city hopes to hold this week with Nordic enthusiasts, to discuss trail maintenance and use at Howelsen Hill, call Director of Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Chris Wilson at 879-4300.

hopes to schedule a meeting this week with Nordic enthusiasts to discuss concerns and a plan for the rest of the winter.

"I think we've got a plan that will address the concerns, keep us in budget and be better for everybody," Wilson said. "It's

going to be a good discussion if you're interested in the Nordic trails."

In an e-mail circulated among Nordic enthusiasts last month, Antonio Marxuach expressed frustration with several issues, including trail passes that increased to \$80 this year, inconsistent grooming and the lack of any classic track being set on Howelsen's trails.

"I had a handful of conversations with fellow skiers and coaches, all of who expressed their frustration at the center's

See **Nordic**, page 10A



FILE PHOTO

Share stories about John Fetcher

Ski pioneer, dam builder and rancher John Fetcher died Friday at 97. Fetcher's impacts on the Yampa Valley are immeasurable, particularly in the fields of skiing, water storage and ranching. If you have a story to share about Fetcher, e-mail it to mlawrence@steamboatpilot.com or call 970-871-4233.

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area	
New snow — Mid-mountain*	.25 in.
New snow — Summit	.25 in.
Base — Mid-mountain	61 in.
Base — Summit	74 in.
Total snow†	250 in.
Trails open	165/165
Lifts open	16/18
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

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