



## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



### Pee Wee returns

City to restore children's activity program with increased fees

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## MOUNTAIN NEWS

### Vail looks at housing

Town will review study on affordable living, consider \$1 million in budget cuts

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## SPORTS



### Finding a way to win

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## Hockey huddle



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**Steamboat Springs High School hockey players**, from left, Jon Winkelblech, Ian Anderson and Brady Bender celebrate after the Sailors scored their first goal of Friday night's game during the second period at Howelsen Ice Arena. Cody Fritz was credited with the goal and Bender was given the assist. The Sailors went on to beat the Pine Creek High School Eagles, 4-0. Steamboat plays Palmer today at 3 p.m. **For the story, see page 27.**

# Hybrid bus enters service

## January transit numbers continue to humble SST records

**Brandon Gee**  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

A local cyclist zoomed by City Hall and cheered Thursday as Operations Manager Jonathan Flint showed off the latest addition to Steamboat Springs Transit's fleet.

The bus, a Gillig diesel/electric hybrid, went into service last month and has generated a similar level of excitement at

the city's bus barn, Flint said. "The drivers absolutely love it and fight for it," he said.

With its flashy blue and green graphics, the bus is hard to miss around town. It primarily can be found on the Purple Line, a mountain route with stops including the Gondola Transit Center, Yampa Valley Medical Center, Central Park Plaza, The Porches and The Rockies Condominiums.

"We're trying it on the Purple

Line for a couple reasons," Flint said. "One is, it's got some very hilly terrain so we can take advantage of the regenerative braking."

As a single-bus route, Flint said, the Purple Line also makes it easy to compare the bus's performance to others in SST's fleet. Although it will take a year of service to adequately judge the bus's performance, Flint said that so far he "hasn't seen anything to lead him to

### By the numbers

Steamboat Springs Transit ridership	
January 2009	214,366
January 2008	212,508
Increase	0.9 percent

Source: Steamboat Springs Transit

believe it won't be better," and he plans to recommend that the city purchase only hybrid buses in the future.

"I'm very optimistic this is

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## SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

### Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain* <b>1.5 in.</b>	Total snow† <b>272 in.</b>
New snow — Summit <b>2 in.</b>	Trails open <b>165/165</b>
Base — Mid-mountain <b>70 in.</b>	Lifts open <b>16/18</b>
Base — Summit <b>85 in.</b>	Conditions <b>Powder/packed powder</b>

\*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)



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