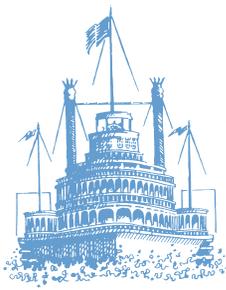


TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 21, No. 47



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Offering Web tools

Bud Werner Memorial Library adds new Internet programs for patrons

Page 4

SPORTS



Nuggets crushed

Page 19

Correction

An article in Sunday's *Steamboat Pilot & Today* incorrectly reported the income limits for two housing assistance programs administered by the Craig office of USDA Rural Development. The Section 502 (direct program) income limit for a four-member household in Routt County is \$60,550. The Guaranteed Rural Housing Program income limit for a four-member household in Routt County is \$87,050.



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Seventh-grader Ashley Spitellie, front, and classmate Dillon Kidder read a section in their science books during class at Steamboat Springs Middle School on Monday. The Steamboat Springs School Board discussed class size at its meeting Monday night and voted, 3-2, to keep the policy under the control of the superintendent.

Class-size crunch

Staffing levels, program offerings and budget play into debate

Zach Fridell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Superintendent Shalee Cunningham retained control of the Steamboat Springs School District's class-size policy after a 3-2 School Board vote Monday.

The split vote came after a 90-minute class-size discussion attended by about 35 parents and community members. Discussion points ranged from

parents pushing for maximum class-size caps to administrators questioning the educational benefit of further reducing class sizes at the expense of programs and course offerings.

Cunningham reiterated her belief that class sizes are small in Steamboat Springs. She said she will continue to work with parents and community members to clarify the district's class-size policy.

The current policy calls for a teacher-to-student ratio

of 19-to-1 in the elementary schools and 18-to-1 in the secondary schools. Cunningham said that although the policy is being met, it can be deceptive to parents because it includes all teachers in the school and is an average. Classes may range higher or lower.

"I think clearly there is a real sense of misunderstanding and deceit around the policy," Cunningham said.

One way to ensure small class sizes in every classroom

would be a cap on the maximum number of students, an idea suggested Monday by some parents.

Parent Melissa VanArsdale presented a list with 134 signatures of people who support keeping class sizes low throughout the district. The petition called for a cap on maximum class size, changing the policy from administrative to board control, and for the board and

See **Class size**, page 13

INDEX

- Briefs10
- Business.....12
- Classifieds25
- Comics.....23
- Crossword23
- Happenings7
- Horoscope24
- Lotto.....10
- Scoreboard.....22
- Sports.....19
- ViewPoints.....8
- Weather14

SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	1 in.	Total snow†	288 in.
New snow — Summit	1.5 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	66 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	84 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