



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Request opposed

Water district files statement against Shell Oil's move to acquire water rights

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MOUNTAIN NEWS

Rocky says goodbye

As the Rocky Mountain News shuts down, its editor reflects on the business

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SPORTS



Tigers lose, 55-52

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MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Cantina Mexican Restaurant cook Sergio Esquivel squeezes lime onto a Mexican salad Friday afternoon in the restaurant's kitchen. Cantina owner Kristi Brown says business has been down compared to last year, but she is optimistic about business for the rest of the ski season.

Changes on the menu

Local restaurateurs reducing costs, seeing diners order less

Margaret Hair
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Rex Brice has noticed his Steamboat Restaurant Group customers ordering one cocktail instead of two with dinner.

Kristi Brown has noticed her Cantina diners splitting entrées more often or ordering an appetizer as a meal.

Mike Lang has noticed an immense popularity for a deal at Harwigs/L'Apogee that offers

smaller, cheaper plates of food all night, every night.

As Steamboat Springs sales tax revenues continue to slide — showing an 8.6 percent decline in December 2008 compared to the same month in 2007 — local restaurant owners are bracing for a decline in business.

“Since the beginning of January, we’re down a little less than 6 percent, so we’re doing pretty well,” said Brown, owner of Cantina restaurant on Lincoln Avenue. “It’s consider-

ably less than the restaurant sector has been down in sales tax revenue.”

Brown attributes the relatively small decline in business to Cantina’s casual dining prices, and she is optimistic for stronger sales in March, traditionally a busy month for Steamboat Ski Area.

Brice, who owns Rex’s American Grill & Bar, Mazzola’s and Big House Burgers, doesn’t see things looking up quite so much.

“I am not anticipating a strong March,” Brice said. He expects sales numbers to be higher in March than they were in January, but he anticipates a bigger percentage decline between March 2008 and March 2009.

“We’re not budgeting to have the strong sales that we’ve had in the past, that’s for sure,” he said. “We’re not going to break any records this year.”

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	5 in.	Total snow†	294.25 in.
New snow — Summit	7 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	69 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	88 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



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