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INSIDE: Steamboat Springs' PGA Junior program returns, hopes to duplicate last summer's results • page 25

Aprés Ski Way to receive upgrades

Tom Ross
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Work is underway on a road project intended to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Aprés Ski Way and Village Drive, easily the site of some of the most congested traffic at the base of Steamboat Ski Area during peak seasons.

City Engineer Ben Beall confirmed Aug. 10 the intersection also sees some of the heaviest pedestrian traffic in the city.

"There is tremendous pedestrian volume there," Beall said. "Peak hours see up to 100 people."

On a busy winter day at the resort base, pedestrians approaching the intersection from vacation condos on Village Drive with skis on their shoulders are intent on continuing to the Steamboat gondola via a private lane at One Steamboat Place.

Condominium shuttle vans struggle to make the left turn from Village Drive onto Aprés Ski Way on their way to the gondola transit center, and Steamboat Springs Transit buses flow through the intersection from two different directions.

The road project is a collaboration between two branches of city government — the Public Works Department and the Steamboat Springs Redevelopment Authority (City Council authorizing the expenditure of

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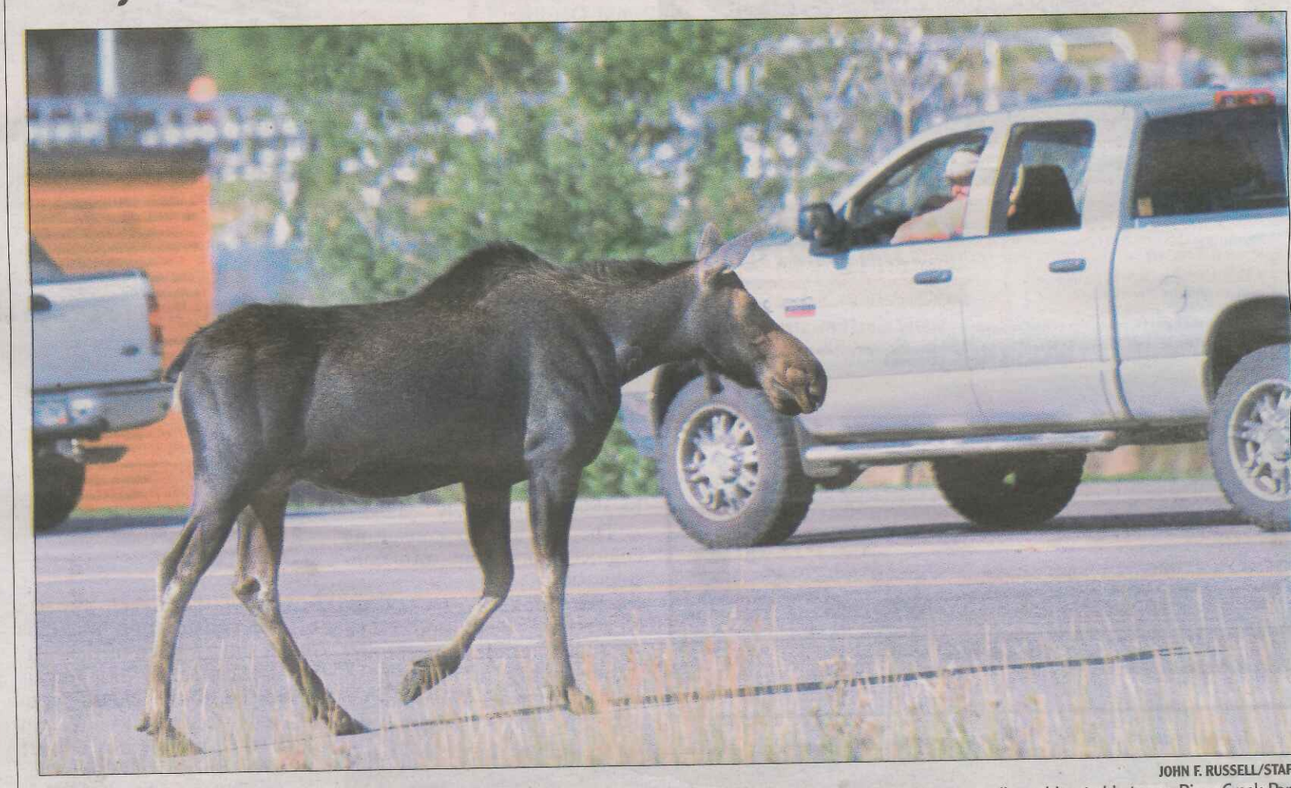
Why did the moose cross the road?



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAF

A moose stops traffic as it makes its way across U.S. Highway 40 on Wednesday. The moose had been hanging put in a small pond located between River Creek Par and the highway. The moose attracted the attention of people making their way along the Yampa River Core Trail and eventually elected to cross the highway.

Caught in green tape

Buffalo Pass trails project held up by environmental concerns

Scott Franz
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

A plan to build a more expansive and sustainable trail system on Buffalo Pass for cyclists, hikers, equestrians and off-highway vehicle drivers is in a holding pattern because of environmental concerns.

Two local residents and an environmentalist from the Front Range are continuing to object to the project, which would bring several miles of illegally built trails into the United States Forest Service's trail system along with miles of new trails.

Proponents of the plan have said the project will give several types of trail users new areas to explore and a better recreation experience on the rugged mountain pass northeast of Steamboat Springs.

And local Forest Service officials are confident the plan will ultimately get the green light so construction can start in the coming days.

Project opponents have raised a number of concerns that range from a fear of rewarding those who illegally built trails in the area to the project's overall impact on wildlife.

But the petitioners' main concern centers on one of the proposed trails that would take travelers to a mountain pea that offers sweeping views o the Yampa Valley.

The petitioners don't war the Forest Service to adopt an improve the illegally built tra that skirts around the Mour Zirkel Wilderness Area on th way to the summit of Sod Mountain.

Steamboat Springs reside John Spezia said improving th

See **Buffalo Pass,** page 5

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WEATHER

Chance of storms. High of 80.

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RIVER REPORT

Yampa River flow Wednesday

Noon	139 cfs
11 p.m.	141 cfs
Average for this date	164 cfs
Highest for this date	438 cfs, 1997
Lowest for this date	38 cfs, 1931

Streamflow reported in cubic feet per second at the Fifth Street Bridge as provided by the U.S. Geological Survey.

SHARE

Do you have a photo or video you'd like to share with the community? Send it to share@SteamboatToday.com.

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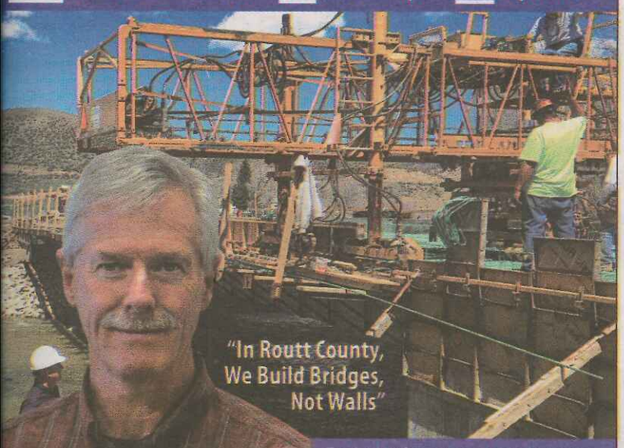

Routt County Commissioner Tim Corrigan

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Goal to make intersection more predictable

Intersection continued from 1

incremental tax funds in the Mountain Plan Area). Ralph Walton, SSRA project manager, said the members of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Advisory Committee suggested using some SSRA funds to help with the nearly $1 million road project because of its importance to the resort base.

Completion is targeted for mid-October.

A primary goal of the project is to make it safer and more predictable for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

"None of the four legs (of the intersection) aligns," Walton said. "There's not a right angle in the whole intersection, so the crosswalks are," skewed.

One of the most apparent changes will be the installation of four-way stop signs at the intersection.

There are hills on the approaches to the intersection from both directions on Aprés Ski Way, and some property owners in the area have expressed concern that vehicles on snowy roads might not be able to stop safely.

The city and its consulting engineer took that into consideration.

"We looked very closely at that," Beall said. "The approach grades meet our standards for an intersection approach grade. We wouldn't put a four-way stop there if we hadn't studied it."

One of the biggest impacts of the construction phase is that a short stretch of the eastern leg of Aprés Ski Way is scheduled to be closed from Monday to Oct. 14, Walton said, while a large box culvert to carry Burgess Creek under the roadway is installed. That will mean some motorists, those traveling to and from Ptarmigan House for example, will be detoured.

Affected motorists will be directed to travel east to Medicine Springs Road to Walton Creek Road leading to U.S. 40.

Among the advantages of the project will be a new bus stop that will allow westbound SST buses to pull completely out of traffic at the bus stop near the bottom of the hill on Aprés Ski Way.

COURTESY PHOTO

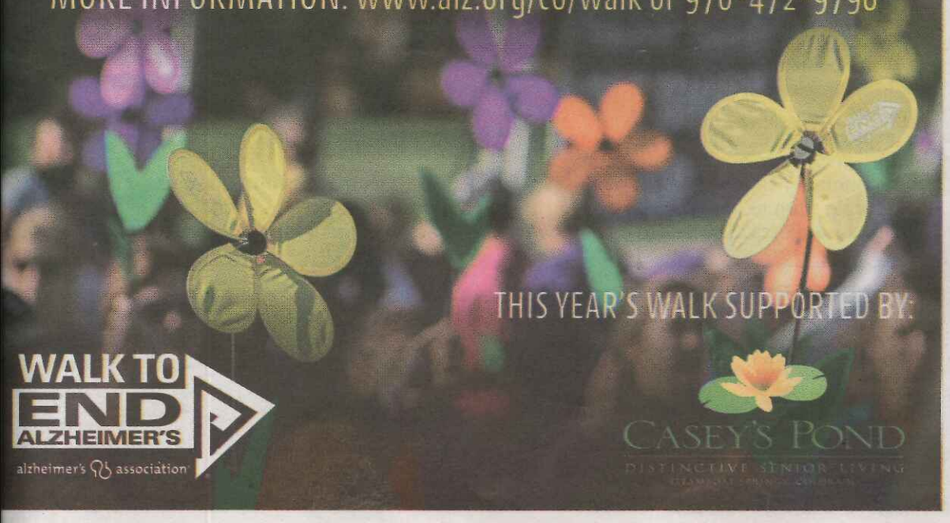
The intersection of Apres Ski Way (occupied by cars in the photo) and Village Drive (in the righthand lower corner) at the base of Steamboat Ski Area is undergoing a redesign this month and continuing through mid-October. The intersection will get stop signs on all corners, be realigned and get bicycle lanes.

Aprés Ski Way re-design at a glance

- Rebuilding the northern leg of the intersection (the private lane into One Steamboat Place) to better align with the southern leg, Village Drive.
- Installing stop signs on Après Ski Way with advanced warning signage.
- Constructing new 8-foot sidewalks, including new cross walks and ADA ramps.
- Introducing new turn lanes and new bike lanes.
- Dedicating a new bus pullout for the Dulany/Snowflower transit stop (No. 120 on the Green Line.)
- Re-profiling the roadway and adding new storm inlets and drain lines to capture more runoff.
- Upsizing the Burgess Creek culvert beneath Après Ski Way to a box culvert that can handle a 100-year flood event.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

LOCATION: Casey's Pond
DATE: Saturday, Sept. 3
TIME: Registration opens at 8 a.m.
REGISTER OR DONATE
Money raised goes to support programs and services offered in this community, as well as research to end Alzheimer's
MORE INFORMATION: www.alz.org/co/walk or 970-472-9798



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