

STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY

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RUFF RUNNING



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY

Sean O'Donnell and his dog run through the snow along the Yampa River Core Trail Wednesday.

Leaders look to expand child care center study

Dylan Anderson
Steamboat Pilot & Today

In a joint meeting Tuesday city and county leaders agreed to continue studying a publicly built child care facility, looking beyond a cramped site in downtown Steamboat Springs for other potential parcels.

The Steamboat Springs City Council and Routt County Board of Commissioners approved expanding the scope of a previous feasibility study for the child care center, looking at what the ideal size of a center might be if it didn't have to fit into the county-owned location on the corner of Sixth and Oak streets.

The expanded study is also expected to look for other potential partnerships beyond the city and county governments and identify other available sites for a child care center.

"Rather than having us brainstorm (other potential sites), we could hire the consultants," said Steamboat city manager Gary Suiter. "We can give them an inventory of sites, they could do an inventory of what is available and come back and report to us."

The feasibility study initially explored how doable a facility built on land where the county is building a new Health and Human Services building would be. After each being presented the results of that study in recent weeks, both council and commissioners expressed doubt about the site, with commissioner Tim Redmond likening it to squeezing "15 pounds into a 10-pound bag."

While the catalyst for the study — the county having land identified — has faded, both groups have said they want to continue to partner to address the issue.

"If we're serious about partnering with you guys on doing something in the city, then maybe we have to pony up some land to make it happen," said council member Michael Buccino. "I'm glad we got to where we are right now, but I really think

Police: 'We believe you'

Despite Routt's 92 arrests in 10 years, experts believe sexual assault is still under-reported

Suzie Romig
Steamboat Pilot & Today

From 2012-21, sexual assault case numbers across Routt County show 241 initial reports leading to 92 arrests.

Based on combined statistics from the Routt County Sheriff's Office and the Steamboat Springs, Oak Creek and Hayden

police departments, there has been an average of one to two sexual assault reports throughout the county each month. In 2021, 33 reports received countywide were followed by 15 arrests. There were 35 reports and 14 arrests in 2020, and 30 reports and 12 arrests in 2019.

Experts say that sexual assault is a notoriously under-reported crime.

"I believe there were unreported cases that involved tourists leaving town and not wanting to report or local people who choose not to report," longtime Steamboat Springs Police Department Detective Sam Silva said.

Officials say higher reporting numbers may signal positive signs — that education, awareness and societal changes are combining to encourage more people to come forward.

"Or the higher reporting could also simply indicate more cases," Silva said.

Sexual assaults reported in Steamboat Springs have been almost exclusively perpetrated by people who were acquainted with the victim — and the majority involved substance use.

SEX ASSAULT, 8

CHILD CARE, 5

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT



Federal and local officials push for creation of Type 3 team to aid in wildfire control.

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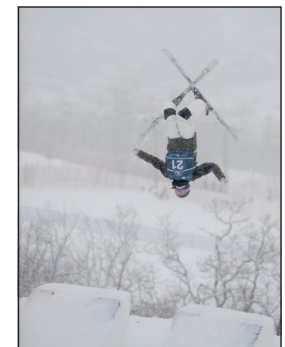
FOOD SUPPORT



Hayden's LiftUp Routt County food bank moving inside Hayden Center starting in April.

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TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN



Steamboat moguls skier Anabel Ayad finished her season at the top of the leaderboard.

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