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SUNSET SCHOOL



Jessie Chaney/ Aspen Daily News

Aspen Skiing Co. pros practice their technique on Saturday during the late afternoon while Aspen Mountain offered extended hours for sunset skiing and a party at the Sundeck.

City could get cash instead of restriction on restaurant

Six-figure payment floated by developer

By Curtis Wackerle

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

A representative of the developers behind the Cooper Avenue building containing a deed-restricted restaurant space floated the possibility of a six-figure payment to the city to release limitations on the unit related to use, rent control and menu pricing.

Lex Tarumianz, president of Pyramid Property Advisors, said that despite the basement-level space being available since the building's completion in 2012, there has never been serious interest from a prospective tenant.

The building's owners — Cooper Street Development LLC, tied to Andrew and Nikos Hecht — "are open to the dialogue" about changing the terms of the agreement, or potentially buying the right to extinguish the deed, in order to get the space filled, Tarumianz said.

RESTAURANT ON PAGE 5

Wheels begin turning on proposed Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail

Open Space: Project will take years to complete

By Collin Szewczyk

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

The U.S. Forest Service and Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Department met recently to discuss future plans for a long-envisioned trail that would connect Carbondale and Crested Butte.

Wheels are finally turning to make the trail a reality after Gov. John Hickenlooper's office named the potential thoroughfare as a priority on the state's "16 in 2016" list, but its fruition is likely years away.

So far, the Crystal Valley Trail stretches just over 5 miles from Carbondale to the BRB Crystal River Resort and RV park. The governor's prioritized section would extend that trail for 17 miles from BRB to the summit of McClure Pass, but the long-term vision is for a 74-mile trail that would reach Crested Butte.

Dale Will, OST director, told the department's board last week that staff is embarking on quite the long journey with the trail.

"It's almost like Columbus setting sail to think about how to get this trail from Carbondale to Crest-

ed Butte," he said.

Will said that Gunnison County has already completed a "programmatic" environmental impact statement for the first 50 miles from Crested Butte toward the Roaring Fork Valley.

"So they're moving ahead of us," he said. "We're looking forward to a long and fruitful journey on this process and hopefully having this trail completed while we're all young enough to actually use it."

Pitkin County adopted an intergovernmental agreement with Gunnison County in 2006 pledging support to complete the trail.

Karen Schroyer, Aspen-Sopris District ranger, told the OST board that the Forest Service is "very supportive" of the trail, and is happy to see the Colorado Department of Transportation actively at the table on its creation.

"We were happy to see so many CDOT folks at the meeting," she said. "We started it off right, had a good kickoff meeting, and there's ... lots of work to do from here on out. We've identified a small working group that will start moving it forward."

OST Board Member Howie Mallory asked Schroyer if the Forest Service has the resources to

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Snowmass Center to change owners as of March 31

By Madeleine Osberger

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

The sale of the Snowmass Center, which houses Clark's Market and the U.S. Post Office in Snowmass Village, is due to close on March 31, according to Jordan Sarick, the principal of Eastwood Snowmass Investors LLC, which is buying the 37-year-old property from Related Colorado.

The 4.26-acre shopping center along Brush Creek Road and some adjacent parcels which are connected to the center and run up the hillside, are also part of the sale. The purchase price has not been disclosed.

Eastwood put the property under contract last fall and told tenants at the time their existing leases would be honored. Snowmass Center's anchor tenant, Clark's Market, in 2014 underwent a \$2 million remodel on its 14,000-square-foot grocery store space and the contiguous Sundance Liquor & Gifts. Sundance, which was

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