

"If you don't want it printed, don't let it happen."

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SUGAR PLUM PIROUETTE



Craig Turpin/Aspen Daily News

Sadie Brown with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet pirouettes across the stage during a dress rehearsal for the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" Thursday afternoon at the District Theatre. The Nutcracker opens tonight.

Snowmass Club sells for \$18.5 million

ABA Hospitality closes on sale from Toll Golf

By Madeleine Osberger
Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

The Snowmass Club has a new owner. ABA Hospitality on Thursday closed on the venerable private club from Toll Golf for \$18.5 million, according to Scott Brown, ABA principal.

"This deal falls in line with our expertise, which is hospitality," Brown said this week from his office that overlooks the Snowmass Club's athletic facility.

The workout area is one section of the 64,000-square-foot main clubhouse that will receive an overhaul under the new ownership group, which includes a silent partner who, like Brown, is a local resident.

There's already a design team in place looking at the facility, Brown said, and they are "giving us a blueprint to make decisions from. How we phase that renovation is to be determined.

"We know we're doing something fun and exciting. We just don't have the road map yet," he said.

The original building, which Brown described as having "good bones," was inspired by a hotel in Zurs, Austria, according to Jim Light, who was part of the team that developed the original Snowmass Club nearly 40 years ago.

It was on a trip to Zurs with Jim Chaffin, a longtime development partner, and then Aspen Skiing Co. executive Jerry Blann, that the men spied a huge elk rack hanging prominently in the Hotel Zurserhof lobby. Upon closer inspection they noticed the elk had been harvested in Snowmass, some 5,300 miles away.

Light and Chaffin would learn that the hotelier and elk hunter, Ernst Skardarasy, had helped Friedl Pfeifer design the trails on Buttermilk back in 1957 after first visiting Aspen as an Austrian team coach for the 1950 FIS World Championships. The men would establish a close kinship while staying at the Zurserhof, during which time Skardarasy shared with them ideas about design and building interiors.

That included utilizing beams from the heart of pine trees that were used for flooring, the ceiling and in the Snowmass Club's bar and reception area. Architect Larry Yaw and craftsman Terry Morse were among the legions of hands and vi-

SNOWMASS ON PAGE 6

Sardy Field's quirky parking to be eliminated

Diagonal curbside spots to become flow lanes after TSA cracks down

By Chad Abraham
Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

The funky curbside parking spots at the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport will be eliminated soon, part of a terrorism-related tightening of rules by federal authorities for vehicles in front of terminals, airport director John Kinney said Thursday.

Many people dropping off or picking up passengers at Sardy Field back in to the diagonal spots and occasionally wander into the

terminal, leaving their vehicle unoccupied. The Transportation Security Administration has ordered that to cease, Kinney said.

The TSA wants uniform security measures across all airports, edicts that contain multiple aspects. On the terminal parking issue, Kinney said he has been in talks with the feds for "awhile" about compliance, and said local officials, "put it off as long as we possibly could."

"The TSA informed us that, in no uncertain terms, the time has come," he said in an interview. "We have to get in sync with other airports."

The federal agency is concerned about car bombs, which Kinney agreed remain a threat to the country.

On Thursday, airport staff be-

PARKING ON PAGE 5

Invasion of the scooters

Columnist Mel Blumenthal outlines the alternative transportation war that is coming to Aspen. Spoiler alert: it'll include plenty of scooters. » 8

The worst is yet to come

France prepares itself for the worst with government officials reportedly expecting further rioting. Museums, tourist landmarks to close. » 18

New boss, different from the old boss (hopefully)

After a season that saw the Colorado Buffs football team win five straight games only to drop their last seven, CU has hired a new coach, Mel Tucker of Georgia renown. » 24



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