

# NOBODY COVERS SNOWMASS LIKE THE SUN SnowmassSun

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## CHALK IT UP!



ANN LARSON/SNOWMASS SUN

The 2nd Annual Chalk It Up! competition on the Snowmass Mall and at Base Village was a great success. Competing for prizes in the Open, High School and Youth categories, artists from as far afield as Grand Junction used chalk on concrete to show off their talents. Top: Sam Kaufman of Aspen was voted second place by the judges in the High School category and first place by the spectators who voted for the People's Choice. The latter honor came with \$100 and a trophy. Bottom: It was quite a day for Bernie Boettcher of Silt. First he won the Snowmass Mountain Challenge 10K Half & Half Marathon, beating the nearest competitor by two and a half minutes. Then he headed up to the Snowmass Mall to compete in the Chalk it Up! challenge and came up the big winner. He went home with \$500 in his pocket for winning the Open category.

## Conoco station's future again in question

By Madeleine Osberger  
SUN STAFF WRITER

In Jeff Jandegian's mind, there are a few essential services that communities need - a grocery store, a post office and a gas station - in order to properly function.

Now understand that Jandegian is no detached observer. As the co-owner of the Snowmass Resort Conoco for the past 28 years (22 with Mike McLarry and the past six years with Jeff Head), Jandegian has a financial interest in keeping gasoline flowing, tires inflated and cars out of ditches.

But on an almost daily basis, he hears from customers about how devastating it would be if Snowmass Village is left high and dry without petrol or auto services.

The issue took on a new urgency in May when the property on which the station sits was foreclosed upon. Formerly owned by WestPac Investments and a group controlled by developer Pat Smith, it is now held by a division of Alpine Bank called Real Estate Solutions of Snowmass, LLC. Longtime local Steve Briggs is managing the asset.

This summer, the Conoco was told it would have to sign a new lease, according to Jandegian. But the short term didn't suit the partners, who are looking for something more in the ballpark of at least a 15-year lease.

Nor was he pleased by the amount of the property that is sought by Real Estate Solutions, LLC (whose price was not disclosed to this newspaper). Jandegian did say it was more than he could pay: "The value of this land does not equal a gas station at any price."

“ We are in the process of working on a lease with the present operators and have no plans for the property other than for it to be a gas station.

STEVE BRIGGS, ASSET MANAGER



The Town of Snowmass Village was approached to help buy the property but this isn't a good time for the cash-strapped municipality, which has already committed to the Droste Property purchase.

While the land swap that involved Krabloonik Kennels has been used as a point of comparison, in that case there was no expenditure of town money or services.

In an e-mail from Steve Briggs, who is currently out of town, to the Snowmass Sun he stated: "The Conoco property is now owned by a company controlled by the bank. We are in the process of working on a lease with the present operators and have no plans for the property