Industry turmoil could ground pilot for good

By STAN CHOE Staff Writer

Capt. Rob "Dutch" Silverstein learned long ago that all dreams need backups.

He's seen countless fellow pilots lose their jobs in the turbulent airline industry over his 18-year flying career with US Airways.

Now, his employer fights for its survival. And he's scared that his own job – and lifelong goal to fly – may be ripped away if it fails.

"I've lost weight, lost sleep, and lost my dream," he said. "I can deal with the weight, the sleep. But someone is stealing my dream. It tears up my gut."

When he was a high school sophomore and couldn't make enough money fixing friends' bikes to pay for flying lessons, he

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Rob "Dutch" Silverstein, a pilot for US Airways, has started a side auto-mechanic business in Pineville. It is his 'Plan B' if he loses his dream job of being a Boeing 737 captain.