EYEING HALLOWEEN

Steamboat residents have a few days to complete costumes

STYLE 1D





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3-0 against Boston

SPORTS 1C

Benji Amsden, from left, and his family, Ryyan Amsden, Marc Makens and Susie Makens-Amsden were all happy to see their son and brother, Mike Makens, right, recover from a black widow spider bite after receiving an antidote from

Parent treks south to help son

Black widow spider bite prompts journey to Mexico

Brandon Gee PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

People will go to great lengths to save their kids. Everyone has heard the urban legend about a mother who somehow summons the strength to lift a car off her child trapped

While Benji Amsden of Steamboat Springs didn't display any feats of superhuman strength after his 15year-old son, Mike Makens, was bitten by a black widow spider, Amsden

beneath.

straight out of Hollywood — and just as improbable. The film-like saga climaxed with the exchange of money for antivenin in the Mexico City airport.

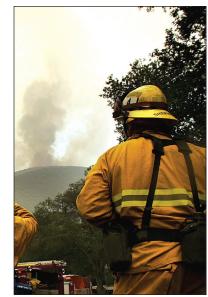
A black widow spider bit Mike, a Steamboat Springs High School student, on a Monday before school last month. Susie Makens, Mike's mother, said her son was writhing on the floor in pain within five minutes. A black widow's venom is a neurotoxin, which destroys nerves or nerve tissue and causes a tremendous

did engage in a weeklong chase amount of pain. The bites are rarely

While Mike was being treated for pain at Yampa Valley Medical Center, his family was weighing the options for further treatment. The family decided to forgo the use of an antivenin commercially available in the U.S., because of potential side effects and allergic reactions that can be particularly threatening — and potentially fatal — in children.

The family had heard about an

See **Spider**, page 13A



LEONARD ORTIZ/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER **Fire fighters** with the Orange County Fire Authority keep an eye on the approaching fire from an area known as Mine Track at the end of Silverado Canyon Road on Friday.

Now hiring

Mexico

Search and Rescue seeks assistant to handle workload

Alexis DeLaCruz

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Routt County Search and Rescue Treasurer Kristia Check-Hill has a Friday tradi-

Check-Hill, who has volunteered with Search and Rescue for six years and has served as the organization's treasurer for two terms, spends between three and five hours every Friday afternoon sprawled across an office at the Search and Rescue Barn on Yampa Street filing paperwork, paying bills, writing reports, writing grants and managing finances for the completely volunteer organization.

Check-Hill said the time she spends preparing reports doubles in budget season and when grant reports are due.

"But I enjoy it," she said Friday, cornered by a filing cabinet and tossing stacks of papers around.

Check-Hill might get a little reprieve from her overload of work, should Search and Rescue hire a part-time administrative assistant.

On Tuesday, Search and Rescue President Randall Hannaway met with the Routt

See **Search**, page 14A



Strawberry Park Elementary School ELL teacher Susie Gruben is one of four ELL teachers in the district. Steamboat Springs school officials are fine tuning the district's ELL program to incorporate the influx of students this year.

Never a typical day

ELL students learn despite language barrier

t a time when most students are trying to find a sense of self during turbulent "tween" years, local English Language Learners are living two lives — one in English and one in their native tongue.

'They have to be somebody completely different at school than they are at home, said Cathy Girard, the ELL teacher at Steamboat Springs Middle School.

SUNDAYFOCUS

STORY BY MIKE McCollum

"At home, that's their culture, their family. And at school, it's a completely different culture, and they have to abide by different rules," she said. "There is a line where, once they go to school,

they put on a different face, they put on a different façade — they put on a different everything. Then once they go home, they see that they're also different

than their parents."

The ELL population at the middle school is 22, an increase of four students from last year. The Steamboat Springs

See **ELL**, page 11A

Rain gives relief

Weather improves as wildfires burn

Garance Burke

LAKE ARROWHEAD, CALIF.

Firefighters battled stubborn wildfires across Southern California on Saturday, but cloudy skies scattering occasional raindrops brought a welcome improvement in conditions.

Tropical moisture flowing from the south replaced the hot, dry Santa Ana winds that roared in a week earlier and spread fires over more than a half-million acres, destroying more than 2,300 structures, including 1,700 homes.

The number of deaths directly attributed to the fires officially rose to seven. Officials confirmed that the flames killed four suspected illegal immigrants whose charred bodies were found near the U.S.-Mexico border on Thursday, said Jose Alvarez, a

See Wildfires, page 14A

District 1 race for City Council focuses on development issues

Mike Lawrence PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The race for a District 1 seat on the Steamboat Springs City Council is focusing on which candidate is better suited to manage widespread growth in Steamboat Springs.

Steamboat Springs Planning Commissioner Scott Myller, who is challenging Steamboat Springs City Council President Susan Dellinger, has been

an open critic of the current council, questioning decisions including council's adoption of an affordable housing ordinance in June.

At an Oct. 10 forum, Myller, an architect, said the city needs to be more trusting of private developers, including those who propose to build more than 2,000 new homes in an area west of the city that likely will be incorporated into city limits, or annexed.

See **District 1**, page 12A

For more

The Steamboat Pilot & Today will publish stories about candidates and ballot issues every Sunday until Election Day, Nov. 6. Also, look for the 2007 Election Guide, with complete coverage of your 2007 ballot, on the Web at www.steamboatpilot.com.

Early voting ends Nov. 2. Where and when to vote early: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Routt County Courthouse Annex in Steamboat Springs

District 2 race pits professional organizer against city manager

Mike Lawrence

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

There is no shortage of administrative and professional experience in the race for a District 2 seat on the Steamboat Springs City Council.

Paul Hughes, 64, served as Steamboat Springs' city manager from 1998 to December 2005, capping more than two decades of service in municipal government. Meg Bentley, 63, is a founder of

The Playworks Preschool, a co-owner of Steamboat Aviation, and a former member of the Steamboat Springs Planning Commission and Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club's Board of Directors.

In forums leading up to Election Day, Bentley has admitted that she is "not a politician" and addressed what Hughes has claimed to be his greatest advantage: experience.

See **District 2**, page 12A

PAGE DESIGNED BY MICHELLE FINKLER



INSIDE

OUTSIDE

High of 60. Page 2A



VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Will you vote for Routt County Referendum 1A, which requests a tax increase for road improvements and future county needs? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Will you vote for city referendums 2B and 2C, to construct and operate a \$34 million rec center at Ski Town Fields?

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ROUTT COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD SINCE 1885