



FREE



INSIDE



4 Points: Your guide to weekend entertainment

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Consultants study traffic

Strawberry Park officials to hire professionals after abandoning previous plan

Page 3

SPORTS



Hayden prepares

Page 15



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Snowmaker Mike Bentley checks the man-made snow falling from one of dozens of guns set up along the Vagabond trail at the Steamboat Ski Area. Snowmakers are hoping for cooler temperatures this week in order to make snow at the resort — which is scheduled to open Nov. 30.

No snow, no show, no go

Steamboat Ski Area postpones opening day to Nov. 30

Tom Ross
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

For the second time in seven years, mild November weather has caused the Steamboat Ski Area to push back its opening day.

The traditional opening Scholarship Day benefit for the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club has been delayed from Nov. 21 to Nov. 30, Steamboat Ski and Resort

Corp. officials said Thursday. All season and value passes will be honored beginning Dec. 1.

“The warm weather patterns we’ve experienced lately have made snowmaking a challenge,” said Andy Wirth, executive vice president of sales and marketing and chief marketing officer for Intrawest, Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp.’s parent company. “Snowmaking crews, which were busy making snow

last night, are ready to take full advantage of colder temperatures and conditions; and, as we’ve seen in the past, everything can change in a matter of days.”

The last time Steamboat delayed its opening day was in 2001. Opening day was delayed until Nov. 30 that year, too, but heavy snow began to fall almost as soon as the postponement was announced.

The opening of Vail

Mountain also was delayed Thursday because of a lack of snow. Originally scheduled to open today, Vail will now open Wednesday.

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said this week that early winter snowfall in Northern Colorado could depend on the positioning of a high-pressure system associated with the La Niña phenomenon

See **Ski area**, page 14

INDEX

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Business40 | Horoscope42 |
| Classifieds43 | Nation25 |
| Colorado23 | Sports15 |
| Comics41 | Television39 |
| Crossword41 | ViewPoints8 |
| Happenings7 | World36 |

LOTTO



Thursday night's Cash 5 numbers: 8-10-12-23-27
 Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Clouds and sunshine.
 High of 54.
Page 2



READER FORUM

Share your insights and opinions on current events and issues of local importance through the *Steamboat Pilot & Today* READER FORUM. Just log on and go to: www.steamboatpilot.com