



CRAIG



Deepened devotion

Craig man's love for fiancée strengthens after vehicular accident

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Quiet celebration

Law enforcement officials face little trouble during New Year's festivities

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Smelling the roses

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BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Monthly removal of snow and ice by area residents can help prevent leaks, collapses and structural instability in roofs of local buildings and homes, officials say.

Shouldering the load

Heavy December snowfall puts roof strength to the test

Mike McCollum
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

December's bountiful snowfall was a welcome sight for many in Steamboat Springs, but it could eventually lead to problems for some area homeowners.

Snow removal expert Tom Williams urged business owners and homeowners not to let too much snow build up on their rooftops. Cracked drywall

and garage doors that won't open are signs that heavy loads are putting undue structural pressure on buildings. The stress may result in the need for expensive repairs, while many buildings, unable to shoulder the load, collapse under the enormous weight.

"It's something you really need to take care of before it becomes a problem," said Williams, who has been clearing snow from rooftops for 24 years. "If it's a problem for

one person, it's a problem for a hundred people."

Steamboat Ski Area officials reported about 126 inches of mid-mountain snowfall in December, which is almost double the amount reported in a typical December. Despite the heavy snowfall, which has been a boon to Williams' business, he said most residents do not need to worry about their roofs caving in — yet.

"We have to have 350 to 400 inches of snow, or 80 pounds

per square foot, for a home to really do that. The real danger for your home is leaks," said Williams, who noted the average home accumulates about 2 tons of snow per season.

"What happens is the snow melts above the body of the house, runs down until it hits the eave and then it freezes up and creates an ice dam," he said. "Water creeps back up the roof and water gets high

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	166 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	158/165
Base — Mid-mountain	47 in.	Lifts open	18/18
Base — Summit	52 in.	Conditions	Packed powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 10 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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