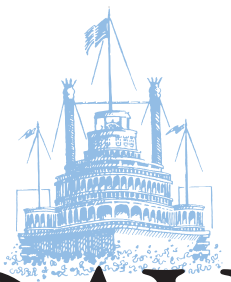


**HEATING UP ALASKA**

Former Sailor finding success up north  
SPORTS 1D



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**PILOT & TODAY**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 30 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • www.steamboatpilot.com



**DOGGIE DELICACIES**

New barkery serves up canine treats  
BUSINESS 1B

**A delicate decision**

Officials monitor wildlife, consider feeding operation

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Mike Middleton can point at just about any North Routt County property and tell you stories about the troubles elk have caused for landowners during the years — especially during winters like this one.

"It's pretty important this time of year, under these conditions, to keep an eye on what's going on," Middleton, a district wildlife manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, said on a drive up Routt County Road 129 on Thursday.

Middleton has been with the DOW since 1981. He said this winter is shaping up to be one

of the top five — if not top three — in terms of toughness on area wildlife. That's why he and other DOW officials are closely monitoring deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep in Northwest Colorado to determine if an emergency feeding operation might become necessary.

One such operation already See **Elk**, page 11A



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF  
A herd of elk eats hay laid out for cattle on a ranch near Haymaker Golf Course east of Steamboat Springs earlier this winter.

**Look at the bright side**

Fighting Seasonal Affective Disorder

Margaret Hair  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The National Weather Service has sun in its forecast for today — the first time that's happened so far this month.

Based on data that classifies daily weather conditions as fair, partly cloudy or cloudy, the service recorded two fair days in December and six fair days in January.

The lack of sunlight leaves Routt County residents especially vulnerable to wintertime woes, which in severe form can become a medical condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder.

"It's a form of depression that sets in on people who are affected by the lack of sunlight," said Tom Gangel, director of Steamboat Mental Health.

"It's just worse this year for us, since the sun has left us," he said.

Gangel said many of those who suffer from S.A.D. are predisposed to depression and might be more likely to move to areas of the country that usually are sunny — i.e. Colorado — to avoid seasonal symptoms. When that sun goes away, certain behaviors can set in, such as oversleeping, social withdrawal, change in appetite or a lack of energy.

"I think some of these people tend to have S.A.D. in their code. Then when you get a winter like we're having when you never see the sun, it affects them more," Gangel said.

While the symptoms of S.A.D. are similar to clinical depression, Gangel said there is a distinction.

"I don't want to overstate it — they don't feel horribly hopeless," he said.

The best treatment for sunlight deficiency is to absorb more light, whether it's real or artificial, Gangel said. Steamboat

See **S.A.D.**, page 11A

**Southern officials assess tornado warnings**

Dan Sewell  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAFAYETTE, TENN.

After the deadliest wave of tornadoes to hit the South in more than two decades, dazed authorities and residents are wondering what could be done differently next time.

There will be new interest in tornado sirens in places like Macon County, which has none and suffered 14 deaths, and consideration of other changes there and elsewhere across tornado-prone areas of the South. Officials cite strong storm awareness and disaster drills with helping Union University, in Jackson, Tenn., avoid loss of life as tornadoes roared through last week.

Sirens and long advance times in warnings that were repeatedly broadcast also helped prevent higher losses of life — the total as of Friday was 59 — from the powerful set of storms that included a ground-hugging tornado that roared across northern Tennessee with wind estimated at 125 top 150 mph. That twister was blamed for 24 of the deaths.

The most effective preparation for the next storm could be a healthy dose of fear triggered by lingering images of this month's disaster.

"A lot of it is just members of the public taking seriously that it can happen," said Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, who toured stricken areas. "You get a little more convinced each one you see."

The tornado's awesome destruction drew gawkers Saturday, complicating the recovery and salvaging efforts of residents and officials in rural Macon County.

"There's an awful lot of spectators, that's for sure," said Joe Jones, a contractor from nearby Franklin, Ky., who was waiting to fix the windows blown out of a Lafayette home. "People are running 10 to 15 mph around town, and they've got plates from all over."

Gawkers who interfere with See **Tornadoes**, page 10A



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

Skating icon Glen Plake, left, and Scott Flower, right, help Cole Puckett over the jump ramp on Lincoln Avenue during Winter Carnival on Saturday. For more photos from Winter Carnival events, see page 12.

**Skiers take to streets**

Winter Carnival events liven up atmosphere on Lincoln Avenue

When Steamboat Springs resident Ryan McClellan volunteered three longtime friends for Winter Carnival's famous shovel race, he kept some of the details of the competition under wraps.

It was not until his friends had already arrived in Steamboat to visit that they learned there were horses involved.

California resident Sean Sullivan,

**SUNDAY FOCUS**

STORY BY MELINDA DUDLEY

whose friends said he was the most apprehensive of the foursome, ended up winning the event with a time of 8.05 seconds.

"I'd never even seen the race before," Sullivan said. "I was a little edgy with the

horse I got paired with, because he was a little jittery."

"It's almost more fun than a guy should have," third place finisher Dave Collins said. "We were shovel racing under the influence of peer pressure."

Saturday's street events at the 95th annual Winter Carnival brought out not just tourists and far-flung competitors,

See **Winter Carnival**, page 13A



COURTESY PHOTO

Daisy Anderson, the last black widow of the Civil War, may be the most well-known black resident of Routt County. Anderson gazes at flowers in this undated photo.

**Stories of a bygone era**

Contributions by black Routt County residents immeasurable

Mike McCollum  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The stern, coal-dusted faces of about 20 miners are fixed straight ahead in a 1942 photograph of a Moffat Coal Mine crew. The unity of the racially diverse men belies the segregation of the era.

The black coal miners who

labored to make a living in once-thriving black communities in Oak Creek and Mount Harris are pieces of Routt County history that local historians say are largely forgotten. Stories include Mount Harris' all-black baseball team; Oak Creek's black Methodist Church and Afro-American Political Party; and Steamboat Springs resident Daisy Anderson's experiences as

the last surviving black widow of the Civil War.

February, which is nationally celebrated as Black History Month, provides an opportunity to shed light on the contributions made by black residents of the Yampa Valley, Steamboat resident Reggie Sellars said.

The original purpose of See **Black History**, page 10A

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



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**OUTSIDE**

Some sun then turning cloudy. High of 39. Page 2A



**VIEWPOINTS**

LAST WEEK: Should Intrust do more to expand nightlife options, such as a large venue for live music, in Steamboat Springs? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Will more than 450 inches of snow fall at Steamboat Ski Area this year?

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