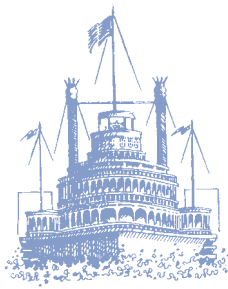


THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 20, No. 39



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Trial to be in Routt

Judge denies prosecution's motion to move Wall's DUI case out of county

Page 3

COLORADO

Liquor battles

Proposed changes to state law spark disagreements among store owners

Page 15

SPORTS



Sailors bitten

Page 23



BRIAN RAY/STAFF

An Oak Creek Fire Protection District firefighter pauses while shoveling snow and debris from the site of a home explosion in Oak Creek on Wednesday morning. The blast and subsequent fiery collapse killed one male occupant in the house.

Harris served seniors

Man killed in home explosion drove shuttle for South Routt elderly

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

OAK CREEK

A 64-year-old Oak Creek man killed Wednesday in an apparent propane gas explosion was remembered for his kind nature and service to local senior citizens.

Dennis Eugene Harris, 64, was at home at 208 Carbon Ave. in Oak Creek when the explosion occurred just after 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. Harris, known as

Geno or Gene to friends and neighbors, was a shuttle driver for the Routt County Council on Aging.

Harris lived alone with his dog, Buddy, who escaped the explosion. For the past three years, Harris drove the council's South Routt van and did part-time cement work.

Shelley Orrell, the council's program director, praised Harris for his work with the elderly, which included providing transportation for the council's senior

lunch program, exercise classes and other social activities.

"He's been an outstanding driver, great with outreach and getting people to come," Orrell said. "He always went above and beyond."

The shuttle van Harris used to transport South Routt senior citizens was parked at his home at the time of the explosion. Many of its windows were blown out.

When the explosion hit, the walls of the home blew out and

the roof collapsed, reducing the home to burning rubble, Oak Creek Fire Protection District Chief Chuck Wisecup said. The ensuing fire was contained by noon, though fire crews continued to extinguish hot spots into the afternoon, Wisecup said.

Harris is believed to have survived the initial explosion. Crews reportedly heard him calling for help when they arrived on scene but were unable to locate anyone

See **Explosion**, page 11

INDEX

Business.....	22	Horoscope.....	30
Classifieds.....	32	Nation.....	17
Colorado.....	15	Sports.....	23
Comics.....	30	Television.....	29
Crossword.....	31	ViewPoints.....	8
Happenings.....	7	World.....	21

SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	374 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	72 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	72 in.	Conditions	Packed powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 18 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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

