

**CLOSING DAY
APRIL 6**

Revenue challenges outweigh snow
BUSINESS 1B



STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY

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PERFECT PENTATHLON

Warm weather welcomes participants
OUTDOORS 8D



Noon siren still sings

Margaret Hair
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

There used to be a reason for it. People used to know why every day at noon the quiet bustle in downtown Steamboat Springs is shattered by a lonely wail, a screeching blast of sound that lasts only a few seconds, but genuinely hurts if you get close enough.

Now, no one seems to know who controls it.

The siren is chalked up to alerting the fire department and signaling breaks for miners, to play-

ing defense in the Cold War and giving the go-ahead for downing the first beer of the day.

Most people ignore it. Some are confused by it. And some others, including businesspeople and homeowners who have no choice but to be close to it, have tried to silence Steamboat's iconic noon whistle on a handful of occasions.

But the daily siren keeps singing.

The real reason

"It's there, and you hear it, but it doesn't really register because

you're so used to hearing it," said Steamboat resident of 40 years Barb DeVries, 77, who used to sound the alarm to call volunteer firefighters to blazes in the late 1960s and early '70s.

"There was an answering service in the basement of the courthouse," DeVries said. "The courthouse janitor's wife was the one who would pull the switch for the fire alarm to go off, and then she'd come back and wait for all the volunteer firefighters to call back."

When Steamboat law enforcement See **Whistle**, page 10A



Yampa Valley Milling and Elevator Co. burned Feb. 28, 1958, on the site of what is now the Iron Horse Inn. Steamboat's emergency whistle, still heard every day at noon, called firefighters to the scene.

Troop return talks vague

President declines to promise withdrawal

Deb Riechmann
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

President Bush declined Saturday to promise more U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq before he leaves office and underscored the need for a strong military presence during Iraqi provincial elections in October.



Bush

Security has improved markedly since last summer when the last of five Army brigades arrived in Iraq to complete the president's buildup of 30,000 troops. One brigade already has returned home and the four others are to leave by July. What remains unclear is whether Bush will order additional drawdowns in the final months of his presidency.

See **Bush**, page 10A

Pilot & Today wins 21 awards

STAFF REPORT

DENVER

The *Steamboat Pilot & Today* picked up 21 awards Saturday night at the 130th annual Colorado Press Association Convention in downtown Denver.

Awards were given by circulation class and in three general categories — advertising, photo and design, and editorial. The *Pilot & Today* competes against other Colorado newspapers with circulations between 7,500 and 15,000.

First-place winners for the *Pilot & Today* were: Staff, series; staff, editorial layout and design; Samantha Johnston, newspaper promotion; Whitney Stansbery and Gayle Yovis, best use of color in an ad; Deb Proper and Liz Kuzmowski, best black and white ad; Karen Gilchrist and Andrew Bisbee, best real estate ad; staff, sustained coverage; Dave Shively, sports column writing; Meg Wortman, informational graphic.

Second-place winners for the *Pilot & Today* were: Editorial board, editorial writing; staff, special section; John F. Russell, sports column writing; Beth Fucaloro and Sarah Steneman, best classified page or section; Deb Proper and Liz Kuzmowski, small space ad; Mike Hart, informational graphic.

Third-place winners were: Staff, advertising layout and design; Joe Roberts, editorial cartoon; Samantha Johnston, small space ad; staff, Web site — multimedia; Jill Hines, automotive ad; Steve Balgenorth, circulation promotion.

"The awards are a testament to the dedication and talent of our staff — from the reporters to the advertising representatives to the designers and everyone else who makes the daily newspaper possible," *Pilot &*

See **Awards**, page 11A



Snowboarders Kevin Anthony, from left, Bobbi Bentz and Christopher Rodriguez ride the Christie Peak Express chairlift on Wednesday morning. Anthony and Rodriguez visited Steamboat Springs this week with the Sunshine Kids Foundation.

New places, friends

Sunshine Kids provides adventure for cancer patients

SUNDAYFOCUS

STORY BY MIKE MCCOLLUM

At the age of 4, Christopher Rodriguez was diagnosed with stage-four Burkitt's lymphoma, a highly aggressive form of cancer.

After enduring radiation and chemotherapy treatments throughout his childhood, he was unable to shake the disease. Rodriguez, now 16, was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system.

But while strapping into his snowboard atop Mt. Werner on Wednesday, the Camden, N.J., resident was able to put the illness out of his mind.

"I'm actually doing a lot better — I'm hanging in there," he said. "But it's a lot of fun to come to Colorado to snowboard."

Rodriguez was one of 31 teenag-

ers and young adults who visited Steamboat Springs last week for the 21st annual Sunshine Kids Winter Games. The Sunshine Kids Foundation is a national nonprofit organization based in Houston that gives youths with cancer an opportunity to participate in fun, group activities, free of charge.

For the third consecutive year, the Sunshine Kids came to Steamboat for a week of food, skiing and other activities, such as tubing and snowmobiling.

"I've never snowboarded a day in See **Sunshine Kids**, page 11A



Christopher Rodriguez rides a groomed run at the Steamboat Ski Area on Wednesday morning with the Sunshine Kids organization.

Dams lessen climate worries

Study says structures may ease water need

Nicholas K. Geranios
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, WASH.

The era of massive dam construction in the West — which tamed rivers, swallowed towns, and created irrigated agriculture, cheap hydropower and persistent environmental problems — effectively ended in 1966 with the completion of Glen Canyon Dam.

But a booming population and growing fears about climate change have governments once again studying dams, this time to create huge reservoirs to capture more winter rain and spring snowmelt for use in dry summer months.

New dams are being studied in Washington state, California, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado,

See **Dams**, page 10A

PAGE DESIGNED BY NICOLE MILLER



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OUTSIDE

Colder with some snow. High of 33.
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VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Should Routt County commissioners approve the installation of winches on Sheriff's Office vehicles?
Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Would you support a 13-cent-per-gallon increase in the gas tax to boost state funding for transportation projects?

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