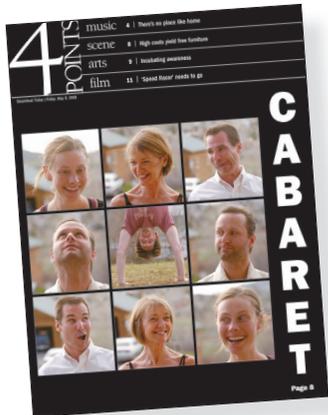


INSIDE



4 Points: Your guide to weekend entertainment

SPORTS



Five advance

Page 15



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Rowan Heid places sandbags to stop the water of Cottonwood Creek from flowing toward his home and barns. Heid said the cooler weather in the area helped keep water levels down Thursday afternoon, but he's sure the high water will be back when things warm up.

Flooding swamps N. Routt

Cottonwood Creek overflows banks; Elk River a concern

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

NORTH ROUTT

The swollen water from Cottonwood Creek is rising to houses in North Routt County, which faces a weekend due to bring wet and warm weather that may exacerbate conditions.

North Routt, including the Elk River and Cottonwood and Greenville creeks, has been under a National Weather Service flood advisory since 1 p.m. Wednesday.

The advisory, which is enacted when river and stream flows are elevated and ponding of water is occurring or imminent, is due to remain in effect until 1 p.m. today.

"Cottonwood Creek is out of its banks and has been for three nights — and last night it didn't go back in," Routt County Emergency Management Director Chuck Vale said Thursday. "We may put the Elk River under (flood) warning in a little bit."

At a U.S. Geological Survey

measuring station near Milner, the Elk River measured Thursday at nearly 139 percent of its historical discharge record for May 8. Shortly after 3 p.m., the river was churning at 4,510 cubic feet per second, breaking the 3,250 cfs record set in 1916, according to the USGS Web site.

Although the water has approached seven homes in North Routt and turned the North Routt Community Charter School playground into a mud pit, no significant prop-

erty damage has been reported. Sandbag operations have been going well, and homeowners have been able to successfully divert water from their residences, Vale said.

At Del's 3 Triangle Ranch off Routt County Road 62, Rowan Heid said he had 2 1/2 feet of water flowing just outside his house Wednesday. The 250-sandbag levee he assembled on Cottonwood Creek — which

See **Flood**, back page

INDEX

Business40	Horoscope42
Classifieds43	Nation24
Colorado22	Scoreboard18
Comics41	Sports15
Crossword41	ViewPoints8
Happenings7	World35

LOTTO



Thursday night's Cash 5 numbers: 1-12-17-23-31
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Afternoon shower or storm.
High of 60.
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