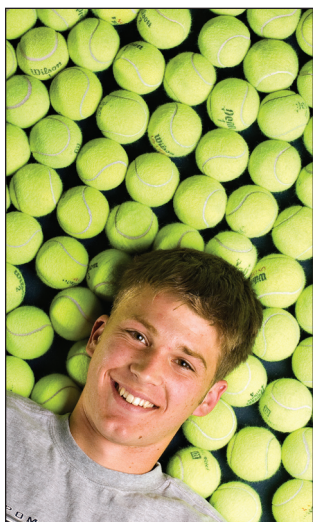


INSIDE



4 Points: Your guide to weekend entertainment

SPORTS



All-around honor

Page 15



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Steamboat Springs Assistant Fire Chief Bob Struble drives his truck Thursday morning through a water-covered section of Routt County Road 44 where it intersects U.S. Highway 40 west of Steamboat Springs.

Swollen Elk River receding

Yampa up next; melt-off also causing rural road problems

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

WESTERN ROUTT COUNTY

Although still above flood stage, the swollen waters of the Elk River are expected to recede this weekend along with temperatures, bringing relief to residents near the Elk's confluence with the Yampa River. The area of the confluence has been flooded to varying degrees

since Monday because of the record flows.

But local officials warn that Routt County isn't out of trouble yet. Even as the Elk recedes, the Yampa River could overflow its banks as early as Monday, Routt County Emergency Management Director Chuck Vale said.

Because of Thursday's rain and melting snow, a National Weather Service flood advisory

is in effect for Routt County until 8:45 a.m. today. Small creeks and streams across the county are running at or above their banks, and flooding of adjacent land is likely, according to the advisory. A flood warning for the Elk River near Milner was due to expire late Thursday.

The Elk River was measured at 7.8 feet at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, well above flood

stage, which begins at 7 feet. The Elk River measured at 7.78 feet about 6 a.m. Thursday but had dropped to 7.32 feet by the afternoon. The river was flowing at 5,690 cubic feet per second at 3:15 p.m. Thursday, down from 7,100 cfs the previous day.

"This is what good skiing turns into, apparently," Vale said.

See **Flood**, see back page

INDEX

Business.....55	Horoscope.....56
Classifieds.....58	Nation.....30
Colorado.....27	Scoreboard.....20
Comics.....56	Sports.....15
Crossword.....57	ViewPoints.....8
Happenings.....7	World.....48

LOTTO



Thursday night's Cash 5 numbers: 1-15-21-27-32 Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Windy with considerable cloudiness. High of 59. Page 2



READER FORUM

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