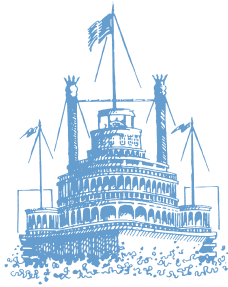


SATURDAY

MAY 24, 2008

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

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STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Starting a new chapter

Off the Beaten Path Bookstore and Coffeehouse opens new location

Page 2

COLORADO

After the tragedy

Tornado victims survey damage to homes after storm

Page 28

SPORTS



Lakers rout Spurs

Page 15



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Steamboat Springs kayaker Dave Neal rides Charlie's Hole on Friday afternoon on the Yampa River near Bud Werner Memorial Library. The Yampa River Festival gets started at 10 a.m. today with a kayak freestyle event on the Yampa in downtown Steamboat Springs.

Rapid changes

River Festival celebrates Yampa Valley's defining resource

Margaret Hair
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

For river sports, bigger is almost always better. And when it's not, you've got to make due.

That's the philosophy driving organizers of this year's Yampa River Festival. The event, which moved up a few weeks from years past to coincide with the Paddling Life Pro Invitational,

gets started at 10 a.m. today with a kayak freestyle event on the Yampa in downtown Steamboat Springs.

"On lower water years, the water level is more desirable than it is now, but that's just part of any outdoor sport. You've just got to deal with it," said Pete Van De Carr, director of Friends of the Yampa and a River Festival organizer for more than 20 years.

"It's really not that high," he

said of the river's water level Friday morning. "And that doesn't mean if we got a lot of warm weather or warm rain it could be high, but all the fuss about high water, it doesn't relate to the Yampa through town."

Van De Carr said with lows in the high 30s and upper 40s through the weekend, the chances of the water levels on

See **Festival**, page 12

If you go

What: Yampa River Festival
When: Events start at 10 a.m. today and 10 a.m. Sunday.
Where: Yampa River in downtown Steamboat Springs
Cost: Individual event costs range from \$5 for the Crazy River Dog contest to \$100 per boat in the raft race
Call: 879-6249

For a complete listing of Yampa River Festival events, see the Memorial Day weekend calendar on Page 5.

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LOTTO



Friday night's Cash 5 numbers: 2-8-10-19-22
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Cool and cloudy.
High of 58.
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READER FORUM

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www.steamboatpilot.com

