

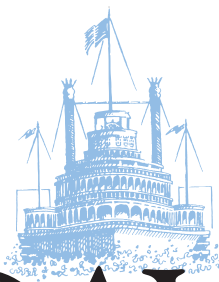
HATS OFF

Soroco graduates Class of 2008

EDUCATION 6A



STEAMBOAT
PILOT & TODAY



SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 45 • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO • WWW.STEAMBOATPILOT.COM

SEASON TO SEAR

Meat experts offer grilling tips, recipes
STYLE 1E



Storm losses broad

Windsor victims return to homes after tornado

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDSOR

Residents of a northern Colorado farm town ravaged by a large tornado returned to their homes Saturday to find varying degrees of damage.

For more
Photos of destruction
See page 15A

"Our house is not too bad," said Courtney Schinner. "Our roof is gone, a lot of windows are blown out,

but the interior is OK. "We got really lucky compared to a lot of people," she said as she gathered her valuables and prepared to move into a hotel while her apartment is repaired. Most of the trees in her complex were gone or knocked over, but she described one sturdy, remaining tree looking "like a light pole with twigs sticking out of it."

Natural gas leaks and the threat of explosions had kept hundreds of anxious residents from assessing the damage to their homes on Friday, a day after a large tornado tore through the town.

There were 596 homes damaged, with 102 deemed unsafe to occupy, when the tornado bounced along a 35-mile-long swath that began near Platteville, about 50 miles north of Denver, said Dan Hatlestad, an incident management spokesman. A 52-year-old man was killed at a campground near Greeley. More than 100 people were treated for mostly minor injuries.

Residents surveying the neighborhood Saturday found color coded placards on their homes from inspectors who rated the damage from green — meaning the house is livable — to bright orange — meaning the structure is unsafe.

"What did you get," a neighbor asked Cindy Miller as she moved furniture and other belongings

See **Tornado**, page 15A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Karen Strong watches her 2-year-old son, Kyan, ride Lightning on Friday in front of F.M. Light & Sons. Britina Design Group is in the process of developing a Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan, which would address pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle improvements.

A new look for Old Town
Streetscape consultants plan revitalized downtown

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Yampa Street could become a festival hub, Lincoln Avenue could have wider, plaza-like sidewalks, Oak Street could get greener and side streets could be revitalized under recommendations consultants are considering.

Kristin Cypher of Britina Design Group presented a range of possibilities in a presenta-

tion Thursday at the Steamboat Springs Chamber Economic Development Council's 2008 Economic Summit. Britina is studying downtown streetscapes in Steamboat Springs.

"You have the ability with your downtown streets to have a different experience on each street," Cypher said.

After a series of public meetings last year, Britina's study looking at a revitalization of streetscapes was put

to hold while a separate firm conducted a traffic analysis to make sure Britina's Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan — a \$439,000 project — would fit needed pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle improvements. Now that the traffic analysis is complete, development of the streetscapes plan will continue.

Cypher said that at public meetings last year, residents overwhelmingly said they don't

See **Streetscape**, page 16A

YAMPA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER EXPANSION TO INCREASE BIRTH, SURGICAL SERVICES



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Kevin Kolvereid, right, assists Dr. Eric Verploeg with hip surgery on Clark resident John Sharp on Thursday in an operating room at Yampa Valley Medical Center. An expansion at the hospital will add two new operating rooms in addition to two suites for minor and endoscopy procedures in the Surgical Services Department.

YVMC expanding care

SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY BY BRANDON GEE

Things can get a little tense at Yampa Valley Medical Center's Family Birth Place.

When the hospital was built in 1999, about 200 babies were being delivered each year. YVMC delivered 431 babies in 2007.

"It hasn't been uncommon for the unit to be full and people to come in ready to deliver," said obstetrician and

gynecologist Dr. Jim Summers, one of five doctors who deliver babies at YVMC. "It's hard to give these patients the care they need and deserve."

That will change, Summers said, when the hospital completes a \$13 mil-

lion expansion that also will increase the hospital's space for surgical services. A groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion, which hospital CEO Karl Gills said will take 15 to 16 months to complete, is Tuesday.

"We would like the whole community to be aware and to know they're certainly

See **YVMC**, page 14A

Families mourn soldiers killed in Iraq war

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT CARSON

The families of Fort Carson soldiers killed in Iraq remembered their loved ones during an annual ceremony at the military's post Friday.

The names of the 46 Fort Carson soldiers killed in Iraq in the past year were read to the sound of bagpipes Friday to honor their service. The 46 soldiers bring the total number of Fort Carson casualties to 237 since the Iraq war began in 2003. Each of the names read Friday were added to the six stone tablets on a memorial wall at Fort Carson.

"Those listed on the wall here have given up everything for you and I," Fort Carson's commander Maj. Gen. Mark Graham said to an audience of hundreds at the ceremony.

Graham, like others at the event, has lost a loved one to the war. His son, 2nd Lt. Jeff Graham, died in a 2004 bombing in Iraq.

Relatives of the fallen soldiers made the trip to Fort Carson from around the country.

Leasa DeLozier of Claremont, N.C., attended the ceremony for her son, Brian L. Holden, of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, who was killed in Iraq. His name was among those added to the memorial.

"I truly believe they do care," DeLozier said about the ceremony and the reception she and others received from the military.

About 5,000 Fort Carson soldiers currently are deployed in Iraq. That number is expected to increase to almost 1,000 by the end of the year.

Graham reminded those in attendance the military will continue supporting them.

For more
Memorial Day activities
See page 8A



Clinic renovations complete

South Routt Medical Center offering new services

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

OAK CREEK

Just more than two years ago, the South Routt Medical Center was running on bake sales, dances, raffles and the generosity of Steamboat practitioners willing to spend an occasional day in the clinic, physician assistant Jennifer Sliney said.

In 2006, voters in South Routt

County created the South Routt Medical Center Health Service District by an overwhelming margin and agreed to fund a 2.1 mill levy expected to raise about \$180,000 a year for the clinic. The mill levy funds not only have allowed the South Routt Medical Center to offer services five days a week but also paid for the recent renovations that bring new local services to South Routt residents.

"We've met the goals we set out to do when we started this," board member Janie Romick said. "It's so wonderful to be open five days a week now."

Last year, the clinic saw patients three days a week, with eight to 10 people coming in for services each day. Now, the clinic sees a dozen patients in person daily, plus six to eight telephone

See **Clinic**, page 16A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Physician assistant Jennifer Sliney says the biggest transformation for the medical center was to create more room for sports medicine and physical therapy.

PAGE DESIGNED BY NICOLE MILLER



INSIDE

- Classifieds 3B
- Crossword 5E
- Education 6A
- Happenings 2A
- Horoscope 5E
- Milestones 3E
- Obituaries 3A
- South Routt 7A
- Television 5E
- Viewpoints 4A

OUTSIDE

Warmer with sun. High of 65.
Page 2A



VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Do you think Lincoln Avenue is unsafely narrow through downtown Steamboat Springs? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Should a four-field sports complex be built near Steamboat Springs Airport to help accommodate Triple Crown?

DELIVERY PROBLEM?

To report home delivery problems, please call (970) 871-4250 on Sunday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Missed papers will be delivered by 10:30 a.m.

www.steamboatpilot.com