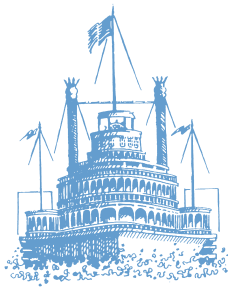


SATURDAY

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STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Emerald options

Public meets to discuss future recreational use of land on mountain

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NATION

The end is near

Voters eager for completion of primaries, a Democratic presidential candidate

Page 22

SPORTS



Prepare to ride

Page 13

Green transit



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Strawberry Park Elementary School second-grader Lauren Requist, front, parent Lyssa Lewis, kindergartner Lexington Lewis and fourth-grader Melissa Requist ride to school Friday morning. **For more on Strawberry Park students getting outside, see page 4.**

Rivers to peak this weekend

Flood warning in effect for the Yampa River in Steamboat Springs

Melinda Dudley
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Elk and Yampa rivers are expected to peak this weekend before high-water season floats away, Routt County Emergency Management Director Chuck Vale said.

A National Weather Service flood warning is in effect for the Yampa River in Steamboat Springs, with the river expected

to approach flood stage tonight and continue to remain high through early next week. Flood stage begins at 7 feet in the Steamboat Springs area.

The Yampa River measured at 5.38 feet at 1:15 p.m. Friday in Steamboat Springs and was churning at 2,780 cubic feet per second, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

High water has closed portions of the Yampa River Core Trail for more than a week,

with more closures possible as the river continues to rise. The trail remains closed at the 13th Street underpass, the stretch from Trafalgar Drive to Fetcher Pond, the railroad underpass upstream of Fetcher Pond and the U.S. Highway 40 underpass at Walton Creek.

"If it comes up really big, we might have the Howelsen Hill tunnel go underwater like we did a few years ago," said Craig Robinson, open space supervi-

sor for the city of Steamboat Springs.

In addition to carefully watching the river, Vale's eyes also are on Walton Creek, which tends to back up as it approaches the swollen Yampa, he said. Another flood warning is in effect for the Elk River near its confluence with the Yampa east of Milner, where residents already have been dealing with

See **Rivers**, back page

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LOTTO



Friday night's Cash 5 numbers: 7-12-16-21-31
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Mostly sunny.
High of 73.

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