

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Local cadet nominated

US Rep. John Salazar recommends Buddy Kinder to Air Force Academy

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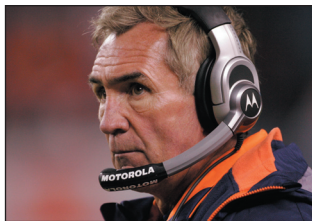
COLORADO

Eldora boss killed

Employee shoots ski area manager, is later shot by Boulder County deputy

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SPORTS



Shanahan fired

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Holidays far from home

Au pair from Moldova grateful for Steamboat family

Blythe Terrell PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Lilia Sula isn't agonizing about spending another holiday season away from home — the Moldova native has a second family right here.

Sula is an au pair for the Bartels family in Steamboat Springs and spends her days caring for and speaking French to Mateo, 2, and Louis, 6. She started working for the family in June 2007, and they asked her to stay another year. But Sula still misses the traditional celebrations of Moldova. The big party and gift-giving occur around New Year's, she said, and Christmas in her Eastern Orthodox faith is Jan. 7.

"People for the new year ... are very excited," Sula said. "It's the same. They decorate a tree, they buy presents, they put the presents (out) every Dec. 31, and, in the morning, the kids wake up and go under the tree for presents."

Those are courtesy of Santa Claus, she said. Although some traditions are similar to those in the U.S., people don't decorate their homes' exteriors, she said, because electricity is expensive.

On New Year's Eve, adults partake in a feast, drinking champagne and dancing past midnight, she said.

"Young people — for example, if I have a boyfriend — they kiss each other," Sula said. "They say at midnight who is around you will be all year together."

Sula grew up near the capital, Kishinev, in Moldova. The country, between Ukraine and Romania, was part of the



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Lilia Sula holds the children she cares for, 2-year-old Mateo Bartels, left, and 6-year-old Louis Bartels. Sula, a native of Moldova, is spending her second Christmas in Steamboat with the Bartels family.

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

Table with 4 columns: Snow type, Location, Amount, and Status. Includes rows for New snow (Mid-mountain, Summit), Base (Mid-mountain, Summit), Total snow, Trails open, Lifts open, and Conditions.

\*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 21 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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