



WINTER CARNIVAL



Weekend schedule

Street events start at 9 a.m. today. Winter Carnival runs through Sunday.

Page 6

SPORTS



Tigers win

Page 21



JOHN F. RUSSELL/FILE PHOTO

Steamboat Springs icon John Fetcher, shown here on the Fetcher ranch just south of Clark in 2006, died at age 97 at Yampa Valley Medical Center on Friday.

An extraordinary life

John Fetcher, ski pioneer, dam builder and rancher, dies at 97

Tom Ross
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

John R. Fetcher, who helped changed the course of history in Northwest Colorado by building reservoirs, overseeing local water districts and ushering Steamboat Ski Area into the modern age, died late Friday afternoon at Yampa Valley Medical Center. He was 97.

Fetcher's son, Jay, said his father was admitted to the hospital Monday to be treated

for pneumonia.

"He went very peacefully," Jay Fetcher said.

John Fetcher died on the eve of Steamboat Springs' 96th Winter Carnival weekend, less than 24 hours before skiers were scheduled to soar off the jumps at Howelsen Hill. More than 35 years earlier, he had helped to resurrect the historic ski jumps after a fire. That effort was one of countless impacts Fetcher had on the Yampa Valley.

Fetcher was a Harvard-trained engineer who learned to ski as a

youth in Switzerland and worked in Europe before returning to the United States and working as an engineer in Philadelphia. He and his brother bought a ranch on the Elk River near Clark and moved their families there in 1949.

Fetcher met Olympic skier Gordy Wren, with the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, and quickly became involved in a national ski hill engineering committee, where he helped to improve the safety of ski-jumping hills.

His pioneering work in building

ski jumps and ski areas earned him a place in the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. However, Fetcher said in 2008 that the accomplishment he was most proud of was the role he played in building Yamcolo Reservoir in the late 1970s on the headwaters of the Yampa River.

"Yamcolo was an absolute godsend to the ranchers," Fetcher said in May 2008. "In 1977, the year of the terrible drought,

See **Fetcher**, page 12

Corrections

Performance times for two local music acts were listed incorrectly in Friday's 4 *Points* music calendar. The rock band Jebus plays an après ski show Monday at Bear River Bar & Grill. Musician David Harlan will not perform at The Boathouse Pub on Thursday.

Headlines on pages 1 and 25 of Friday's *Steamboat Today* were incorrect. A bill increasing vehicle registration fees in Colorado passed in the Senate and now heads to the House.

Clarification

Montessori parents mentioned in a page 6 story in Friday's *Steamboat Today* are not considering charter school options.

INDEX

Briefs	10	Horoscope	26
Business	14	The Record	10
Classifieds	28	Scoreboard	25
Comics	26	Sports	21
Crossword	27	ViewPoints	8
Happenings	7	Weather	20

SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area			
New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	250 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	61 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	74 in.	Conditions	Packed powder

*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

Wake up with Steamboat's only live morning show!

steamboat TODAY

7-9AM DAILY ON CHANNEL 18