



SCOTT FRANZ/STAFF

### Road conditions hazardous

**A Jeep is towed out** of a steep snowbank on Routt County Road 36 on Monday. The crash was one of several that emergency responders tended to. In two other crashes on Fish Creek Falls Road, three people were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Emergency responders said the roads were very icy at the time of the crashes.

# Backcountry skiers rescued

Scott Franz  
STEAMBOAT TODAY

#### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Local skiers and Routt County Search and Rescue volunteers worked together Sunday evening to help two backcountry skiers make it out of the Fish Creek Canyon area safely.

The skiers, who were from out of town and not familiar with the area, called 911 at about 5:40 p.m. after they became stuck above a cliff.

“They kind of panicked and then just stood still, which is a good thing,” Search and Rescue incident commander Ross Sessions said.

Using a ping from a cell phone, Search and Rescue was able to

determine the skiers were only a few switchbacks away from the wooden bridge at the base of Fish Creek Falls when they called for help.

Search and Rescue offered encouragement to the men until some local skiers who were familiar with the area and steep terrain were able to connect with them and show them a safe way down.

“It was a really easy one,” volunteer Chad Bowdre said of the rescue effort.

Bowdre expressed gratitude to the locals who helped the skiers.

Deep snow conditions in December proved to be enticing for backcountry skiers, but it has also resulted in numerous rescues.

Sessions said the Sunday call

was the third he has had to take this winter season for backcountry skiers in that area.

John Kohnke, director of Steamboat Ski Area’s Ski Patrol, said the resort had rescued a dozen individuals from the cliffs in the Fish Creek drainage before the end of the year.

Ski area officials are constantly reminding skiers and riders not to venture into the backcountry if they do not know where they are going or lack the experience to get down safely.

Backcountry skiers are also encouraged to be mindful of avalanche conditions and to also carry proper equipment, including avalanche beacons, a probe and a shovel.

## THE RECORD

POLICE, FIRE AND AMBULANCE CALLS — SOME MINOR CALLS OMITTED

**SUNDAY, JAN. 3**

**1:26 a.m.** Steamboat Springs Police Department officers contacted a person in a vehicle parked on private property in the 500 block of Marketplace Plaza. Officers determined the person had a suspended driver’s license. The person was given a warning and told not to drive the vehicle.

**2:17 a.m.** Officers were called to a report of a person at a sandwich shop after hours in the 2000 block of Curve Plaza. The person was an employee at the shop, and everything was fine.

**3:23 a.m.** Officers were called to a report of someone receiving unwanted phone calls at a gas station in the first block of Anglers Drive.

**9:08 a.m.** Officers were called to a report of a car that had eggs thrown at it in the 800 block of Pine Street.

**10:10 a.m.** Officers took a report of a person who lost a wallet some where downtown.

**10:40 a.m.** Officers were called to a report of a person who was smoking

marijuana in a car before driving away from the 200 block of Anglers Drive. Police were unable to locate the vehicle.

**12:33 p.m.** Officers assisted Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue emergency responders as they tended to a skier crash on the mountain. Fire Rescue emergency responders were called to help ski patrol several times throughout the day.

**1:56 p.m.** Officers were called to a report of a hit-and-run crash in the 1800 block of Ski Time Square Drive.

**2:25 p.m.** Officers were called to a complaint about a dog tied up outside of a restaurant in the 600 block of Yampa Street. No action was taken.

**3:19 p.m.** Fire Rescue emergency responders were called to help someone who had fallen in the 2700 block of Laurel Lane.

**4:15 p.m.** Officers were called to a report of a snowboard that was found at Steamboat Ski Area.

**5:40 p.m.** Routt County Search and Rescue volunteers were called to a report of two skiers stuck in Fish Creek Canyon.

### Crime Stoppers

If you have information about any unsolved crime, call Routt County Crime Stoppers at 970-870-6226. You will remain anonymous and could earn a cash reward.

Volunteers and some local skiers were able to help the men ski down the canyon.

**8:02 p.m.** Officers were called to a report of an intoxicated woman near the Ski Time Square roundabout. Police were unable to locate her.

**9:03 p.m.** Officers were called to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked outside of a sandwich store in Central Park Plaza. A 19-year-old man in the vehicle was issued a ticket for possessing marijuana as a minor.

**10:02 p.m.** Officers were called to a report of an intoxicated man who was sleeping in the lobby of a hotel in the 2300 block of Mount Werner Circle. Police helped the man get to his room at the hotel.

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