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## Avalanche injures search and rescue volunteer

**Matt Stensland**  
STEAMBOAT TODAY

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Routt County Search and Rescue member Jay Bowman is expected to recover after being swept away in an avalanche Thursday during a mission on Buffalo Pass.

Routt County Undersheriff Ray Birch said the incident serves as a reminder that the volunteer Search and Rescue members risk their lives every time they go out into the field.

"It just amazes me how dedicated the Search and Rescue members are," Birch said.

About 3:45 p.m. Thursday, Search and Rescue was called out to help a skier and snowboarder who had gotten lost and needed help getting out of the North Fork of the Fish Creek drainage.

Incident Commander Chad Bowdre said the men, in their mid-40s, were from Minnesota. They had visited the area before but were ill-equipped to be in the backcountry. They did not have food, water, light, navigation equipment or avalanche beacons with them.

The men made a classic mistake, stayed left and went deeper into the canyon. They called 911, and Search and Rescue was able to pinpoint their location.

Four Search and Rescue volunteers, who are expert backcountry skiers, left in the dark and were able to meet up with the lost men's tracks.

Knowing the avalanche danger was high in the backcountry, the team dug a test pit to determine the

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## Work hard, play harder



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Lou Tortora works out on the elliptical** Friday at the OldTown Hot Springs in downtown Steamboat Springs. Though many people have returned to the gym hoping to make good on their New Year's resolutions, Tortora is a regular — working out at least three times per week and skiing between workouts when he gets the chance.

# Bow-legged skiers

## Cowboy Downhill harkens Steamboat Springs roots Monday

**Tom Ross**  
STEAMBOAT TODAY

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat is expecting 14,600 visitors in town for the three-day Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend Jan. 14 to 16, and it's a good poker bet that many of them will be looking for validation that this really is a cowboy ski town. Their timing couldn't be better.

Some of the best rodeo cowboys on the planet will be in town, as Steamboat Ski Area plays host to the 43rd

"In traditional ski technique, you try to stay on your feet all day. In cowboy ski technique, if you're on your feet for 8 seconds, it's a victory."

**Billy Kidd**  
Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp Director of Skiing

Bud Light Cowboy Downhill. Like all rodeos, the Cowboy Downhill will result in a certain amount of mayhem, but in this case, the protagonists won't

be rank broncs and snorting bulls, but a slippery ski slope and one nasty drop-off in the middle of a ski race.

If you thought skiing might come easily for bowlegged cowboys and cowgirls who aren't easily bucked off, listen to what Steamboat Director of Skiing Billy Kidd had to say on the subject in a 1982 video interview with Chuck Richardson.

"In traditional ski technique, you try to stay on your feet all day," Kidd

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## SKI REPORT

\*Midmountain measurement at Steamboat Ski Area since Nov. 2. For up-to-date road conditions, call 511 or visit cotrip.org.

Midmountain base	66 inches
Summit base	79 inches
Trails open	165/165
Lifts open	16/16
Total snow*	192 inches

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