



INSIDE: Heartbroken 1 year ago, Tigers' Christian Carson hopes to make hay at state wrestling • page 13

## Jesse remembered

Steamboat man's life celebrated by friends, family

Matt Stensland  
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Friends and family of Jesse Christensen remember him as a talented artist, musician, devout Mormon and a genuine cowboy who deeply loved his family.

"He cared about you," Christensen's younger sister Aimee Stephens Bonham said. "He looked you in the eye. He engaged you."

The 55-year-old Steamboat Springs man died tragically in an avalanche Tuesday in the Flat Tops Wilderness. Sean Searle, the friend he was riding snow bikes with, survived.

"This one's gonna hit a lot of people," Christensen's friend Kim Haggarty said. "It is a huge, huge loss."

Those who did not know Christensen personally probably have at least heard his music. He would play his guitar at Steamboat Springs restaurants and bars. For the past several years, he has played at Aurum Food & Wine on Thursday nights — often with his son, one of six children.

"He was just such a nice guy," Aurum owner Phil Armstrong said. "Every week there was a loyal following of people that wanted to see Jesse. He had a real presence to him."

There will be a dozen musicians playing Christensen's favorite songs from 6 to 9 p.m. today at Aurum.

"I think it's going to be an amazing night," Haggarty said.

Christensen was also known to be an impressive dancer.

"He could dance like George Michael did," Stephens Bonham said.

Christensen owned Infinity Finishes, a painting company that went



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesse Christensen and his son Colter could regularly be found Thursday's performing at Aurum Food and Wine.

beyond painting white interior walls. Stephens Bonham said Christensen was a craftsman who had a knack for turning wood into pieces of art. He also was commissioned to do paintings at the Schmiggity's bar.

She said Christensen learned most of his talents, like playing the guitar, on his own.

"If he wanted to know it, he

See **Remembrance**, page 2

## Lisel Petis appointed to City Council

Scott Franz  
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Young professionals in Steamboat Springs have a new voice on the City Council.

After three and a half hours of interviews late Tuesday, the council needed only one round of voting to appoint Lisel Petis to the open council seat.

Petis, a financial manager and general counsel at Gerber Berend Design Build, is also a member of the Young Professionals Network.

"Very excited, very honored," Petis said late Tuesday after she was appointed. "There was some very good competition."

The current council on Tuesday, interviewed nine applicants for the seat Tony Connell resigned from. Connell cited work demands and a desire to spend more time with his family as his reasons for resigning.

Petis was born and raised in Steamboat.

"My main reason to be on City Council is to have an impact on my hometown and the hometown of my future children," she said.

In a wide-ranging interview, she told the council she thinks she can provide insight to the young professionals, which she labeled as an underrepresented, but impactful, segment of the community.

"I know the issues they are facing that City Council might not know right now," Petis said.

Petis also touted her financial and legal background along with her understanding of Steamboat history.

"I would love to see (Howelsen Hill) still functioning and having

See **Council**, page 3

### SKI REPORT

Midmountain base	61 inches
Summit base	74 inches
Trails open	165/165
Lifts open	16/16
Total snow*	238 inches

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

### INDEX

Briefs	12	The Record	6
Classifieds	19	Sports	13
Comics	18	Sudoku	18
Happenings	8	ViewPoints	10
Lotto	16	Weather	17

STEAMBOAT TV

TUNE IN TO  
**CHANNEL 18**  
THE STEAMBOAT TODAY SHOW  
FROM 7:30-9:00AM TODAY  
OR WATCH ON  
**STEAMBOATTV.COM**



# Christensen committed, active Mormon

**Remembrance** continued from 1

would learn it," Stephens Bonham said. "He could do anything he put his mind to."

While growing up in Wyoming, Christensen helped neighbors with cattle drives. At his Routt County ranch, Christensen tended to horses.

"Not just a guy who wore a cowboy hat," Stephens Bonham said. "He did cowboy stuff."

He was also a good-looking cowboy and had modeled western wear for Cowboys and Indians Magazine.

Christensen was a committed Mormon who was very involved with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Steamboat Springs. When he was 19 years old, he went on a two-year mission trip to South Africa.

His faith was reflected in the way he led his life.

Ron Wendler said Christensen was a good listener and very friendly to everyone.

"He was the type of guy who would do anything for anybody," Wendler said.

Christensen also liked to have fun, and Wendler spent many powder days riding snowmobiles with him in the backcountry.

"Surfing the snow," Wendler said. "Just like all of us. Pulling the throttle."



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**A Google Maps image shows** the location of Tuesday's avalanche.

"He was the type of guy who would do anything for anybody."

**Ron Wendler**

*Jesse Christensen's friend*

Wendler said Christensen was always fun to be around and fun to ride with.

"We know he's in a really nice place," Wendler said. "Hopefully, I'll be riding with him again someday."

After Routt County Search and Rescue found Christensen on Tuesday, Garfield County returned Wednesday to retrieve the body.

U.S. Forest Service and

Search and Rescue officials confirmed Wednesday that Christensen and Searle had been riding in a wilderness area, where motorized vehicles are prohibited.

An autopsy will be done later during the week. The manner of death is being investigated as accidental. The cause of death will not be released until after the autopsy.

"Our condolences to the Christensen family and the Steamboat community," Garfield County Coroner Robert Glassmire said.

To reach Matt Stensland, call 970-871-4247, email [mstensland@SteamboatToday.com](mailto:mstensland@SteamboatToday.com) or follow him on Twitter @SBTStensland



**STEAMBOAT DRIVING SCHOOL**  
CONFIDENCE IN DRIVING

**BLUE'S BREAK COURSE FEB. 21-24 9am-5pm**  
**SPRING BREAK COURSE APRIL 24-27 9am-5pm**

Teens can be 14 years and 7 months to attend.  
Meets state requirements for obtaining learner's permit.  
Curriculum approved and accredited by DMV.  
Engaging and interactive learning environment.  
Guests speakers and hands-on learning activities.  
Certificate of completion awarded at completion of class.

Call 970-846-1777 to register  
space is limited.  
[www.steamboatdriving.com](http://www.steamboatdriving.com)





**8th Street STEAKHOUSE**  
STEAMBOAT COLORADO

**MUSSEL & MARTINI MADNESS EVERY THURSDAY**

**MUSSELS \$5 PER LB.** "THAT'S A LOTTA MUSSELS!"  
**\$3 MARTINIS** OVER 20 FLAVORS "WE DARE YOU TO TRY THEM ALL!"

**\$5** 8oz. STEAK BURGERS EVERY DAY DURING HAPPY HOUR 4:30-6PM & 9PM-CLOSE

**STEAKS** STARTING @ \$17.95 INCLUDING SALAD BAR & TEXAS TOAST

**970-879-3131**  
[8thStreetSteakhouse.com](http://8thStreetSteakhouse.com)  
50 Eighth Street, Downtown Steamboat Springs  
Reservations Recommended Open Nightly for Dinner at 5:00pm

## OVERSTOCK SALE!

up to 60% Off select in-stock inventory



**SAVE A CLICK - SHOP LOCAL**  
NEW Inventory just arrived - Come check it out!

**DAVID CHASE**  
RUGS & FURNITURE  
970.879.5667 | Central Park Plaza | M-F 11-5:30 & Sat. 11-4  
[www.davidchaserugsandfurniture.com](http://www.davidchaserugsandfurniture.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday,  
February 18th  
10am - 2pm

### Home Tour Extravaganza!

**6 PROPERTIES ON TOUR!**  
Visit all six properties and you could win a  
**\$100 GIFT CARD**  
to Yama Modern Japanese Sushi and Ramen Bar




**Print out our map at <https://goo.gl/maps/8KRJGVNGztp> for directions to all properties. For more information about our current available listings, please visit [ColdwellBankerSteamboat.com](http://ColdwellBankerSteamboat.com)**

**970-879-8814 • 350 South Lincoln Avenue**