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Camping options limited in Routt for weekend

Scott Franz
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Camping in Routt County this Memorial Day weekend will likely be a little more adventurous than usual.

That is if you can even find a space.

The weather forecast is calling for chances of rain, and maybe even snow, Friday and Saturday nights. The forecast clears up Sunday, when it is expected to be mostly sunny with a high of 61 degrees.

And recent snowstorms have prevented the U.S. Forest Service from opening some gates that lead to prime camping spots.

All four state parks in the area are reporting their campgrounds are already fully booked for the weekend.

Camping options remain limited in the National Forest, especially if you head north.

The only National Forest campground that will be open in North Routt County this weekend will be the Hinman Campground off Seedhouse Road.

The Seedhouse gate is still closed, however, meaning several dispersed campsites along the Elk River in the Hinman Park area are not yet accessible.

"It was kind of tracking for campgrounds to be open a touch earlier than normal this year until the snowstorm we just got," Forest Service spokesman Aaron Voos said Wednesday.

Voos did not expect the Seedhouse

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Sewing seeds of caring



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Christine Pietras does a little yard work in front of Intergrated Community as part of the Routt County United Way's annual Day of Caring. Routt County United Way celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Day of Caring on Wednesday in an event that featured a record number of project sites and the most volunteers in the history of the event. More than 300 volunteers were involved in 36 projects around Routt County.

Drowning causes death

Autopsy reveals Qureshi suffered hypothermia, trauma

Matt Stensland
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Routt County Coroner Rob Ryg said Wednesday the 22-year-old Steamboat Springs man found dead in the Yampa River after fleeing police had drowned.

An autopsy performed Tuesday also showed signs that Arman Qureshi was hypothermic and had trauma. Ryg said it did not appear as if the trauma

was fatal, and it was likely caused by objects in the river.

Toxicology test results are not expected for a few weeks. They will show what substances were in Qureshi's body.

Qureshi's older sister, Taj Qureshi, submitted a letter Wednesday about her brother, who moved to Steamboat recently to do IT work for SmartWool.

"Arman was a loving brother, charming cousin and nephew and devoted son," Taj Qureshi wrote. "He

loved Steamboat Springs and all the people he came to know over the last several months. My parents are thankful that they got to spend the past week vacationing with him and were able to make happy memories that will last forever."

Steamboat Springs Police Chief Cory Christensen on Wednesday released some additional information about the incident that resulted in

See **Death**, page 2

RIVER REPORT

Yampa River flow Wednesday

Noon	948 cfs
7 p.m.	983 cfs
Average for this date	2150 cfs
Highest for this date	4720 cfs, 1984
Lowest for this date	388 cfs, 1934

Reported in cubic feet per second at the Fifth Street Bridge as provided by the U.S. Geological Survey.


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Local police investigate specifics

Death continued from 1

Qureshi fleeing from police and going into the river.

Police first contacted Qureshi in an alley behind 737 Lincoln Ave. on Sunday night after it was reported he stole a purse.

Qureshi was disoriented with a swollen eye, and police believed he had been involved in an altercation.

According to Qureshi's sister, Qureshi had drunk too much alcohol, and he likely mistook another person's jacket for his own and walked out of the establishment with the person's belongings.

Police were still investigating the specifics of what happened.

"In his disoriented state, he was eventually approached by the local police for questioning," Qureshi's sister wrote. "To avoid escalating the situation further, he must have thought it would be best to run away and cross the river."

When Qureshi was initially contacted by police, they were still gathering information and decided not to detain him.

When paramedics arrived to check Qureshi, Christensen said Qureshi walked toward the ambulance and then started running away.

Christensen said Officer Jeff Malchow deployed his Taser about half-way between the alley and the river, but the Taser did not work.

After Qureshi's body was recovered,

one of the Taser's two probes was found in his belt. Both probes have to have contact for the device to work.

"We know for a fact it didn't work," Christensen said.

Qureshi entered the river where tubers put in next to Backdoor Sports. There were no indications that Qureshi intended to take his own life.

Christensen reviewed body camera footage and said he recalled Malchow shouting to Qureshi, "it's too cold, you'll die."

Malchow followed Qureshi and yelled at him to come ashore. Around 10th Street, Qureshi came near the shore and Malchow.

"You clearly see Arman pull away from the officer," Christensen said.

Further down river, Malchow took off his belt and vest and waded in the water but was not able to save Qureshi.

His body was found the next day about five miles downstream.

Qureshi was a Muslim from the Chicago area, and Christensen said they worked closely with the Qureshi family to follow their Islamic traditions.

On Wednesday, the Qureshi family met with people at the Steamboat Police Department, Routt County Search and Rescue and SmartWool to show the family's gratitude.

To reach Matt Stensland, call 970-871-4247, email mstensland@SteamboatToday.com or follow him on Twitter @SBTStensland.

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