

STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY

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TUBING GOALS



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Matt Friel of Chicago floats down the Yampa River on Monday while visiting Steamboat Springs. He was one of a steady stream of tubers hoping to enjoy the scenic float, but Peter Van De Carr, owner of BackDoor Sports in downtown Steamboat, said the river, which was flowing at about 114 cubic feet per second, is expected to fall below 85 cfs in the next few days. That would mean the river will be closed to tubers, and operations like his will be shut down during one of the busiest weeks of the year. Van De Carr said he is hoping for some rain to help keep river flows above 85 cfs to extend the season.

Monsoon moisture could be on horizon

Tom Ross
Steamboat Pilot & Today

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — If a moisture-rich monsoon comes to the rescue of the unusually dry Yampa Valley in July, it wouldn't be the first time.

Accuweather predicted this week that, particularly in the latter half of July, there is potential for above-average monsoon moisture over Western Colorado.

Steamboat Pilot & Today reported July 31, 2013, that with the help of 1.21 inches of rain that fell on July 14, 2013, Steamboat Springs was starting to green up again after receiving just .01 inches of moisture in the entire month of June. It was the result of a classic monsoon pattern that rejuvenated rivers and streams here.

June 2018 produced just .44 inches of rain, and ranchers, floaters, water managers and gardeners are all hoping for a mid- to late-summer tropical weather pattern. The scarce rainfall for June compares to the "normal" 1.77 inches here. That's just the right amount to get grass hay growing.

The wettest period of the month came between June 16 and 18 with precipitation amounts of .03 inches, .27 inches and .08 inches recorded by volunteer weather observer Kate Gmeiner with the Colorado Cooperative Rain Hail and Snow Network.

If you thought monsoon rains were an Asian phenomenon, be assured, that late in the summer, subtropical moisture is pulled northward from Mexico, first into

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Summer safety tips

Search and Rescue offers tips to prepare for worst case scenario

Eleanor C. Hasenbeck
Steamboat Pilot & Today

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — It's been a busy week for Routt County Search and Rescue. The organization has been called to rescue three individuals since June 25. On Saturday, search and rescue

volunteers and the North Routt Fire Department were called to Hahn's Peak to rescue a woman who broke her lower leg below the mountain's summit. Last week, volunteers rescued a 15-year-old who suffered a head injury in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and a woman who fell 35 feet down a slope near Fish Creek Falls.

Routt County Search and Rescue volunteer Kristia Check-Hill said the organization doesn't have a busy season. The number of calls they receive fluctuates regardless of the time of year.

With three rescues in a week, she said

"it seems super busy, but prior to that, we weren't really busy, so it kind of just ebbs and flows."

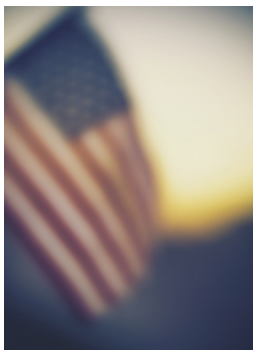
So far, Check-Hill estimated search and rescue has responded to about 28 calls in 2018.

"Nobody ever goes out with the intent to get lost or get injured, obviously," Check-Hill said. "Always think 'it might happen to me.' You have to have that thought in your head."

There are a few things to know to be

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FOURTH OF JULY



Check out all the events going on in Routt County for the upcoming holiday

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BRYNN GREY ANNEXATION



Steamboat City Council seeks to finalize details of Brynn Grey annexation

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PREPARE

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prepared for the worst when enjoying the outdoors.

Getting help from search and rescue is free, so don't hesitate to call 911 if you're in trouble. You'll have to pay for medical services once you're out of the woods, such as an airlift or ambulance ride, but you won't be charged to receive advice or be rescued by search and rescue volunteers.

Call search and rescue sooner rather than later. Check-Hill said she'd rather call off volunteers after a person who called for help was able to walk out on his or her own than to wait for night to fall before setting a search in motion.

"The sooner we can determine where you're at and get to you, the better off you're going to be," Check-Hill said.

BE PREPARED

Accidents happen, but you can be prepared should you be lost or injured in the outdoors. Kristia Check-Hill offers these tips to help you be ready for the unexpected.

■ Even if it is warm and sunny, take a jacket and be prepared for the weather to change.

■ Carry a well-charged cell phone. Don't drain the battery by using it to take photos, post to social media or for other functions that aren't essential to your safety.

■ Tell someone where you are going and when you intend to be back. If you plan to be gone for a long time, she said it's a good idea to contact someone when you safely return.

■ Always carry water with you.

■ Call 911 to reach search and rescue as soon as you need help. Don't wait for night to fall or bad weather to roll in.

Carrying a well-charged cell phone will make getting help easier. If you're not sure where you are, search and rescue can often pinpoint your location and help you navigate to where you want to be via a cell phone — no search required.

If you're injured, a cell phone can connect you to life-saving medical advice. But it can only do these things if you have a battery that is adequately charged.

"Having that battery saved is really important," said Check-Hill. "People don't really think of that sometimes when they're out there taking photos or doing whatever they do so social media-wise. That zaps that battery pretty good."

Check-Hill hopes adventurers keep the unanticipated in mind.

"Be prepared for any changes that might come up that you do not expect," she said.

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