

## A NEW LEAP

Pole vaulting making way back to 'Boat

SPORTS 1D



## STEAMBOAT PILOT &amp; TODAY

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## CLOSE TO COMPLETE

Refurbished Sheraton resort a month from opening

REAL ESTATE 1C



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Routt County Road & Bridge mechanic Jason Bongiorno fuels up a plow truck Friday morning at the country shop in Steamboat Springs. Skyrocketing diesel fuel costs and a big winter have led the city and country to exceed fuel budgets.

## Gas prices draining budgets

Rising costs, record snowfall shattering expense projections

Brandon Gee  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Record snowfall and soaring fuel costs have set both Routt County and the city of Steamboat Springs on a course to overshoot their 2008 budgets for transit and road maintenance.

According to a financial outlook report that county Finance Director Dan Strnad presented to the Routt County Board of Commissioners last week, diesel

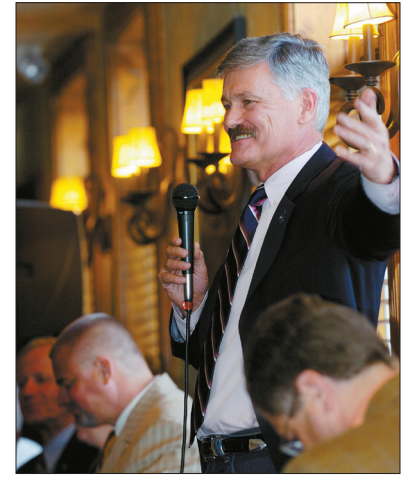
prices have increased to \$3.65 a gallon, \$1.51 above what the county budgeted for 2008. When annualized, the 70 percent increase results in a \$225,000 increase in the county's 2008 budget for its road and bridge department. The cost of driving vehicles in the county's motor pool has jumped 21 percent higher than budgeted, from 47 cents a mile to 57 cents a mile. That increase puts the county on pace to spend \$115,000 more than expected at year's end.

Similar factors are impact-

ing the city's budget. Only four months into the year, the city already has spent more than 50 percent of its fuel budgets for both Steamboat Springs Transit and its street fleet of snowplows and other equipment. The city budgeted \$208,500 for street fleet fuel in all of 2008, but already had used \$132,658 as of April 30. SST has a \$261,600 budget for fuel and had used \$148,983 by April 30.

"I don't think it's going to get

See **Budget**, page 12A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

House District 57 Rep. Al White, R-Hayden, who is running for the District 8 state Senate seat, speaks during the Routt County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday at Old Town Pub.

## Obama appeal falters

Impression among working-class whites getting worse

Alan Fram  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## WASHINGTON

Barack Obama's problem winning votes from working-class whites is showing no sign of going away, and their impression of him is getting worse.

Those are ominous signals as he hopes for strong performances next week in Indiana and North Carolina primaries that would derail the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton, his rival for the Democratic presidential nomination. Those contests come as his candidacy has been rocked by renewed attention to his volatile former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and by his defeat in last month's Pennsylvania primary.

In an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll in April, 53 percent of whites who have not completed college viewed Obama unfavorably, up a dozen percentage points from November. During that period, the numbers viewing Clinton and Republican candidate John McCain negatively have stayed about even.

The April poll — conducted before the Pennsylvania contest — also showed an overwhelming preference for Clinton over Obama among working-class whites. They favored her more than him by 39 percentage points, compared to a 10-point Obama lead among white college graduates. Obama also did worse than Clinton among those less-educated voters when matched up against Republican candidate John McCain.

"It's the stuff about his preacher ... and the thing he said about Pennsylvania towns, how

See **Obama**, page 12A



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Daouda Adama, 35, moved to Steamboat from West Africa in 2002 and credits community members and friends for the associate degree he earned Saturday.

## From trials to triumph

West African man comes from civil war, refugee camp to earn degree

## SUNDAYFOCUS

STORY BY BLYTHE TERRELL

Daouda Adama is proud of just one thing: The Senegalese flag will soon hang in the Colorado Mountain College library.

The 35-year-old West African man spoke humbly about graduating Saturday

with his associate of the arts degree from CMC's Alpine Campus in Steamboat Springs. The Steamboat community lifted him to where he is, he said.

"I graduated because I came to the right town," he said. "This is the graduation of the group of people that helped me. It's not Daouda's graduation — it's Daouda's friends' graduation."

Last week, Adama spoke with joy of the people who helped him. He spoke with pain of the loss of his mother and father. He spoke with wis-

dom from his journey.

When Adama was 16, his parents were beaten to death before his eyes in Mauritania.

"When they died, the last words of my dad were, 'Take care of your brother and sister,'" he said. "When I remember that, I don't want to let them down."

Adama wishes his parents, victims of a 1989 civil war, could have seen him graduate. If they were alive, he said, he would tell them about all the people who helped him reach that moment.

Adama would like to tell his parents that those people were white.

"My parents died with the idea that they and white people couldn't like each other," he said. "I wish they were



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

Daouda Adama sits with fellow students at the Colorado Mountain College graduation ceremony Saturday at the Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel.

alive, and I'd explain to them that not all white people hate black people."

## A winding road

In the nearly 20 years since

that day in Mauritania, Adama has had a world of experiences. He and his younger siblings, brother Alassane and sister Aissata, went to Senegal

See **Adama**, page 13A

## Senators push for oil shale project

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard has joined other Republican members of Congress in pushing for more domestic energy production by removing barriers to oil shale leasing in Colorado and other parts of the region.

A bill introduced Thursday by Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., would repeal a one-year moratorium on approval of final regulations for commercial oil shale leases on federal land. It also would allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Colorado's other senator, Democrat Ken Salazar, pushed the one-year ban that prevents the U.S. Bureau of Land

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PAGE DESIGNED BY AMANDA FUERTE



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Partly sunny.  
High of 60.  
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## VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Are you changing spring or summer vacation plans because of rising gas prices? **Results/5A**

THIS WEEK: Will the end of adult slow-pitch softball games change your perception of Triple Crown?

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