



## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



### Abundant water

2008 Water Forum set to address Yampa River watershed

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## NATION

### Obama nominated

Democratic presidential hopeful gains enough delegates to secure win

Page 24

## SPORTS



### Meek retires

Page 13

## The pull of summer



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Fourth-graders Taylor Wiese, Jennie Symons and Sydney Boyd battle for position in the tug of war event at the Soda Creek Elementary School's field day Tuesday afternoon. Field day is one of the many fun things students will be doing this week as the school year nears its end.

## Teacher contracts approved

### School Board unanimously supports 1 percent raise for faculty, staff

**Zach Fridell**  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

#### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Steamboat Springs School Board on Saturday voted, 5-0, to accept the 2008-09 contracts for faculty and staff. Sporting a half-percent raise, a new insurance policy and incentives for further education for staff, the contracts stretched limited funds as far

as they could, according to negotiators.

"It's a really grueling process because you have to spread out a limited amount of money to make everybody else happy," said Steve Schibline, a custodial supervisor and bus driver who was a member of the Steamboat Springs School District's collaborative bargaining team for 13 years before retiring last year.

"I have some mixed feelings, but I guess we got what we can get and what is going to work for everybody," he said of the negotiation, which sets salary and benefits for school district employees in the coming academic year.

Interim Superintendent Sandra Smyser said there was less money to work with in the negotiating process.

The school district earned

about \$100,000 less from interest rates in 2007-08 than expected. Coupled with stagnating enrollment, the district had fewer funds than were available in years past. Colorado school districts receive state funding on a per-pupil basis.

Smyser said the district expects to have five fewer students next year, but that num-

See **Contracts**, page 12

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## LOTTO



Tuesday night's Cash 5 numbers: 2-4-9-11-21  
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

## WEATHER



Cloudy and cooler with storms. High of 61.  
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