



# STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY

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## WHITewater WELLNESS

Disabled veterans kayak to help mend war wounds  
SPORTS 1D

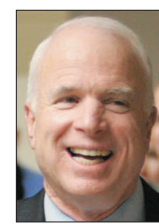


## McCain, Obama court Hispanic voters

Liz Sidoti  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Presidential rivals John McCain and Barack Obama on Saturday vied for the support of Hispanics, beginning a four-month courtship of a pivotal voting constituency by vowing to remake immigration policy.



McCain



Obama

"I come from a border state, my dear friends. I know these issues," McCain told Hispanic elected officials. The Republican senator from Arizona said overhauling the country's broken immigration system, not just securing its borders, "will be my top priority."

Appearing later before the same audience, Obama accused McCain of walking away from comprehensive immigration reform. The Democratic senator from Illinois said, "We must assert our values and reconcile our principles as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. That is a priority I will pursue from my very first day."

The two spoke separately to some 700 Hispanics attending the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference. It's the first of three such appearances each is scheduled to make to Hispanic organizations in less than a month, underscoring the importance of the nation's fastest-growing minority group.

McCain and Obama were warmly received at NALEO; the crowd gave each standing ovations and cheered loudly.

See **Candidates**, page 10A



COURTESY PHOTO

**Dr. Rosanne Iversen** frames the full moon while ascending the west face of Mount Shasta on June 19.

## Upward and onward

Rosanne Iversen summits Mount Shasta with Breast Cancer Fund

Melinda Dudley  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

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Most anyone would consider climbing a fourteener a success. But for Dr. Rosanne Iversen, the real success on Mount Shasta wasn't reaching the peak.

"It wasn't just about summit day," she said Saturday. "It was about the journey."

### Uphill battle

A local physician's fight against cancer

In the spring of 2007, Iversen had her life derailed by a breast cancer diagnosis. Now in remission, she threw the past six months of her life into training and fundraising for Climb Against the Odds 2008, a trek up

California's Mount Shasta with 35 breast cancer survivors and supporters.

The climbers raised more than half a million dollars for the Breast Cancer Fund, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization which works to identify and eliminate the environmental causes of breast cancer while raising awareness of the disease and making it a public health priority.

At a Jewish service Friday, Iversen's rabbi congratulated her on her return to Steamboat, saying this time last year, everyone was consumed with worry for her health.

"Now, everyone can hear how I've taken a negative situation and turned it into something positive," she said.

See **Uphill battle**, page 12A

## Looking to the West

New York firm pumps \$100M into Comet Ridge for oil exploration

The Australian oil exploration company hoping to find 200 million barrels of oil in underground shale beds between Steamboat Springs and Hayden has hit a gusher of cash.

### SUNDAY FOCUS

STORY AND PHOTO BY TOM ROSS

Comet Ridge Managing Director Andy Lydyard announced June 19 that Pine Brook Road Partners, LLC, a New York private equity firm, will infuse Comet's operations in the American West with up to \$100 million to further

exploration and development. Comet's operations include drilling already under way in the Tow Creek anticline just west of Milner.

"The initial focus will be on the Florence (Colo.) and Grays Harbor (Wash.) projects," Lydyard said, but "another well is planned for Tow Creek. Further drilling at Florence and Tow Creek is likely later in the year, once we digest the results of the initial drilling."

The news comes against the backdrop of record prices for crude oil further encouraging energy exploration companies to push into wildcat — remote and essentially unproven — basins like West Routt County. The price of crude increased to

\$142 a barrel Friday.

The new capital for Comet Ridge is indicative of heightening interest in the pool of oil beneath the surface in West Routt.

Routt County Assessor Mike Kerrigan said June 20 that his office plays host to more than one "land man" daily. Land men typically are independent agents working on behalf of energy companies to tie up leases on subsurface mineral rights.

The *Steamboat Pilot & Today* reported June 23 that a San Antonio limited liability company, NRC Group, had paid \$30.5 million for mineral rights beneath 12 parcels of land south of Milner — about 10 miles west of Steamboat Springs — and south of U.S. Highway 40.

### Strong signs

Energy exploration companies often lease mineral rights, and often the lease is with government entities. But NRC Group bought the rights in Routt County outright.

NRC Group has not indicated it is looking for oil. But the mineral deed conveys title and interest in all minerals on the parcels involved. That includes oil, gas, coal, gravel and even sand. There is one notable exception, which involves two coal seams leased in late 2006 by Twentymile Coal Company, a division of Peabody Energy.

Excepted from the deed is all coal and coal-bed methane located in

See **Oil**, page 9A



Houston based EOG Resources is undertaking exploratory drilling for oil in Jackson County, where Mt. Ethel and other peaks in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area loom in the background.

## Two vie for GOP seat

Former cops contend for District 57 nod

Zach Fridell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Two Grand County men with police backgrounds are vying to become the Republican candidate to replace outgoing state Rep. Al White in House District 57.



Korkowski



Baumgardner

Dan Korkowski of Grand Lake and Randy Baumgardner of Hot Sulphur Springs are campaigning for the chance to face local Democrat Todd Hagenbuch in the district that includes Routt, Grand, Moffat, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Jackson counties.

Although Korkowski now works for the city of Grand Lake and owns a video rental store, and Baumgardner works on his ranch, both men spent time in uniform.

Korkowski, 53, is from Illinois, where he graduated from Western Illinois University and worked for the Champaign County Sheriff's Office. He worked for Miami's Metro-Dade Sheriff's Office before moving to Aurora in 1983.

After 13 years on the Aurora force, and nearly 20 years total as a police officer, Korkowski blew out a knee while on duty. Four partially successful surgeries left him able to walk without problems but unable to run, so he retired from law enforcement.

He then moved to Grand Lake, where he worked building log homes and eventually purchased the Moose Stop video

See **District**, page 10A

## Experts give tips on helping Spanish-speaking workers

Presentation includes lessons in culture, history and language

Blythe Terrell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Dave Slade has been asked what the difference is between a Hispanic and a Mexican. Sometimes, it's a joke. Other times, it's not.

Slade explained the difference Friday morning at the Hispanic Cultural Awareness presentation put on by the High Country Human Resources Association and sponsored by Integrated Community. Hispanic, he said, is a term the

U.S. government invented in the 1970s to give a name to all Spanish speakers. A Mexican is someone from Mexico.

Slade is founder and president of Lanza Language, a Colorado company that provides training and services to companies with Spanish-speaking employees.

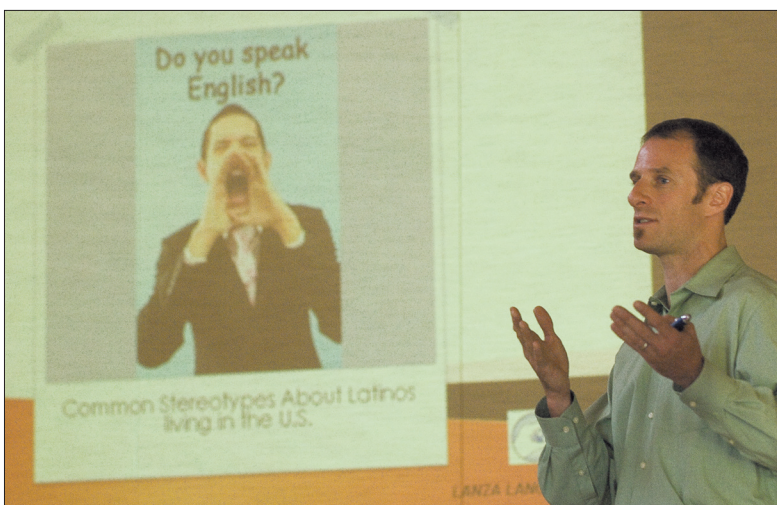
He spoke to about 15 people Friday at the Steamboat Springs Community Center, explaining common elements of Latino culture, providing history lessons and statistics, and teaching some language. The goal was to

help managers understand and communicate better with their Spanish-speaking workers.

In Mexico, Slade explained, the minimum wage is the equivalent of \$4.10 a day. It's understandable that Mexicans would want to work in a place where the minimum is \$5.85 an hour, Slade said.

"I ask people to put themselves into their employees' shoes," he said. "Imagine for a second that the U.S. wage is \$4 a day, and it's almost \$6 an

See **Language**, page 9A



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Dave Slade, president of Lanza Language, speaks during a Hispanic Cultural Awareness meeting Friday at the community center in Steamboat Springs.

PAGE DESIGNED BY CHRISTOPHER WOYTKO



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### VIEWPOINTS

LAST WEEK: Should the city crack down on illegal secondary residential units in the wake of David Engle's death? Results/5A

THIS WEEK: Will widening the vehicle lanes and narrowing the shoulders by one foot make Routt County Road 36 safer for all users?

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