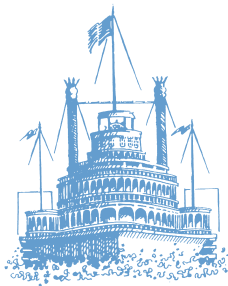


SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 20, No. 221



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Schedules flexible

Steamboat Springs Middle School puts students' individual needs first

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COLORADO

Wildfire lawsuit

Former U.S. Forest Service employee testifies at Hayman Fire proceedings

Page 26

SPORTS



Steamboat dominates

Page 15

Practice makes perfect



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

J.J. Macchia, 5, practices his reading in a bay window at the newly expanded Bud Werner Memorial Library, which opened its doors to the public Friday. For the story, see page 3. Visit steamboatpilot.com for a photo gallery of the library's opening day.

Gas prices remain high

Steamboat's per-gallon cost hasn't slipped as much as other cities

Blythe Terrell
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Officials in the local gasoline industry attribute Steamboat Springs' higher fuel prices to the increasing cost of doing business.

The average price for a gallon of unleaded gas in Steamboat was \$4.01 on Friday morning, down from \$4.06 on Sunday. The aver-

age for Colorado was \$3.72, and the national average was \$3.68.

Jon Peddie, who owns the Sinclair station on U.S. Highway 40 at Hilltop Parkway, said fuel costs reflect what station owners pay. In addition to the gasoline itself, higher credit card fees and transportation costs affect prices, Peddie said.

Those add up in an industry where profit margins sometimes

amount to pennies on the gallon, he said.

"So if your average credit card transaction costs you 2 percent, at \$4 gas, that's 8 cents," Peddie said. "At one point in time, the margin of gas might be 6 cents or it might be 26 cents. If you're paying 8 cents a gallon in credit card fees, at a minimum you're paying a third of your profit in credit card fees and sometimes all

your profit in credit card fees."

Still, some customers are frustrated because prices are falling faster in other parts of the country. Crude oil, which peaked this summer at about \$147 a barrel, was down to about \$101 a barrel Friday.

"I have friends all over the country, and I get reports of what

See **Gas**, back page

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LOTTO



Friday night's Cash 5 numbers: 2-22-24-26-27
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

WEATHER



Sunny.
High of 67.
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