



## Past and present



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**Preserving community character** and managing the impacts of growth have been two of the areas the Vision 2030 group has been focusing on. In a series of meetings this month, Vision 2030 will clarify its goals and priorities for the next 20 years. **For more, see story on page 12.**

# Early voting breaks records

## Less than half of county's voters remain to cast ballots on Election Day

**Margaret Hair**  
 PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

More than 60 percent of the 17,850 registered voters in Routt County have voted or been issued a ballot for Tuesday's election, exceeding expectations and toppling previous records by the thousands.

As of Friday, 4,469 people had voted early and 6,650 had been mailed ballots, said Routt County Clerk and Recorder Kay Weinland. Also as of Friday night, 4,442 mail-in ballots had been returned and processed.

Outstanding mail-in ballots can be dropped off by 4:30 p.m. today at one of the county's five designated drop-off sites, or by 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Elections Office on Lincoln Avenue near Sixth Street, behind the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Ballots must be received — not postmarked — by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

The early participation numbers are even more impressive when put in the context of Routt County's 14,751 active voters, Weinland said. Taken against the population who voted in the last general election, about 75

### For more

2008 Routt County Voting Precincts  
**See page 6**

percent already have voted or been mailed a ballot.


"We had set a goal to have, I believe it was either 50 or 60 percent of everyone who votes, to vote early or mail-in," Weinland said. "So we've exceeded our goal, which I find very thrilling. It's satisfying to see all this work pay off."

Representatives from local Democratic and Republican parties have made concerted efforts to get out the vote, using phone banks, campaign offices

and neighborhood canvassers to remind people of voting deadlines and tout their respective candidates. Carol O'Hare, a lead volunteer for the McCain-Palin "Victory 2008" headquarters, said the office has focused not only on early voting, but also on making sure people vote at all.

"I think the right to vote is probably one of the greatest privileges we have as United States citizens, so no matter what side of the spectrum you're on, to get out and exercise that privilege has been extremely important,"

See **Early voting**, page 14



### Gas prices

Cost of a gallon of regular unleaded fuel on Sunday

Fuel Stop.....	\$2.53
West Kum N Go.....	\$2.54
7-Eleven.....	\$2.54
Western Petro.....	\$2.59
Bob's Conoco.....	\$2.68
Hilltop Sinclair.....	\$2.64
Anglers Kum N Go.....	\$2.54
Ski Haus.....	\$2.58
Mount Werner Sinclair.....	\$2.54
Shell.....	\$2.54
Shop & Hop.....	\$2.64
<b>State Average.....</b>	<b>\$2.44</b>
<b>National Average.....</b>	<b>\$2.43</b>

### NATION

## Presidential push

McCain, Obama unleash massive campaigns to get voters to the polls

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### SPORTS



## Miami tops Denver

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### LOTTO



Saturday night's Cash 5 numbers: 4-7-14-31-32  
 Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

### WEATHER



Partial sunshine.  
 High of 56.  
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