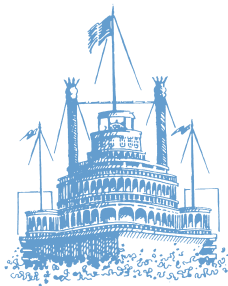


**SATURDAY**

NOVEMBER 15, 2008

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

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# STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE

[www.steamboatpilot.com](http://www.steamboatpilot.com)

## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



### Early snow shapes base

November snowfall leaves Steamboat Ski Area with 14 inches to build on

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## COLORADO

### Restaurant explodes

Authorities unable to determine cause of Pueblo blast that killed 1

Page 12

## SPORTS



### Playing with pain

Page 19

## Sparks fly



MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

**Richard Martinez, with Lakewood-based R&D Pipeline Construction,** sends sparks flying as he cuts a piece of rebar Thursday at a utility project at Third Street and Lincoln Avenue. The work is expected to be completed by the end of next week.

# Room for improvement

## Despite relatively low dropout rates, area school officials want better

**Zach Fridell**  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

As Dennis Alt sees it, no stone should be left unturned when determining why a student dropped out before graduation day — and what could have been done differently.

“It’s our failure for not meet-

ing their needs,” the Soroco High School principal said Friday. “When we lose a student, we’re pretty worried about them and their future.”

According to new data released by the Colorado Department of Education, all three Routt County public high schools performed well above the state and national averages

for graduation rates during the 2006-07 school year. Soroco’s graduation rate was 90.5 percent, while Steamboat’s rate was 87.1 percent. Hayden’s graduation rate was 82.9 percent.

A total of 18 middle school and high school students dropped out of Routt County schools during the 2006-07

school year. The Steamboat Springs, Hayden and South Routt school districts had a total of 1,546 students in grades seven through 12 that year. Eleven students left the Steamboat Springs district without enrolling in another program, while three students

See **Graduation**, back page

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## LOTTO



Friday night's Cash 5 numbers: 2-18-19-25-32  
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

## WEATHER



Mild with plenty of sunshine. High of 47.  
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