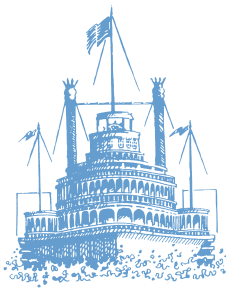


TUESDAY

JANUARY 13, 2009

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

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STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

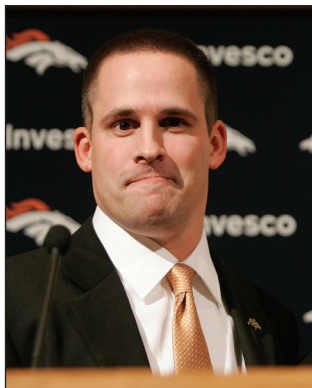


Father, son 'incredible'

Bill and Patrick Rooney died Sunday in plane crash near YVRA

Page 3

SPORTS



McDaniels takes over

Page 15

CORRECTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, oversees wholesale energy transactions across the United States. An article on page 12 of Friday's *Steamboat Today* incorrectly stated that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, rather than FERC, has oversight of wholesale energy transactions involving Xcel Energy and the Yampa Valley Electric Association.



JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Former Denver Public School's superintendent Michael Bennet listens to a question from a concerned citizen during a pancake breakfast at the Sheraton Resort Monday morning. The meeting was part of a tour designed to introduce Bennet to the state. Bennet has been named by Gov. Bill Ritter (shown in the background) to replace Ken Salazar in the U.S. Senate. Salazar is expected to take the position of secretary of the interior in President-elect Barack Obama's cabinet.

Bennet seeks ag post

Ritter outlines budget difficulties in Steamboat visit with Senate designee

Brandon Gee
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Michael Bennet is the first to admit he doesn't bring the same rural issues credentials to the table as Ken Salazar, the man he is set to replace in the U.S. Senate.

But that didn't stop him from telling Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.,

that a placement on the Senate Agriculture Committee will be his "No. 1 goal" as the newest and youngest member of the nation's top legislative body.

Bennet's announcement of this request delighted many of the politicians and residents in attendance at a pancake breakfast at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort on Monday. The visit was part of a tour with Gov. Bill Ritter, who is traveling the

state to introduce Bennet, discuss the conditions of the state, and highlight his 2009 goals.

"I'm going to spend the next two years gaining the confidence of all of Colorado," said Bennet, who said he plans to defend the seat in the 2010 election and admitted he is not an expert on issues of high interest to the Western Slope such as water, oil and gas development and public lands. "I know

something about all these issues, but people in this room know a whole lot more. Please talk to me, and I will keep visiting until you tell me to stop."

Bennet, a 44-year-old Democrat and the former superintendent of Denver Public Schools, was selected by Ritter to replace Salazar, the San Luis Valley Democrat

See **Bennet**, back page

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	3 in.	Total snow†	194 in.
New snow — Summit	5 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	58 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	61 in.	Conditions	Powder/packed powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 21 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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