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FREE



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Tree deaths studied

Report links increasing temperatures to forest losses across West

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Obama asks **GOP** for help

President seeks assistance from Republicans with economic stimulus package

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SPORTS



Tigers add to wins

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Sailors keep Bulldogs at bay



Steamboat Springs High School boys basketball player Charles Wood goes up for a layup during the second half of Steamboat's game Tuesday night against rival Moffat County at Kelly Meek Gymnasium. The Sailors won, 44-32. **See the story on page 23.**

Job losses broad-based

Unemployment affects middle-class workers, social services

Brandon Gee

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Architects, accountants. managers and other middleclass workers are increasingly swelling Routt County's unemployment and social services

lines, as figures released Tuesday put Colorado's jobless rate at more than 6 percent.

Statewide, unemployment increased from 5.8 percent in November to 6.1 percent — a five-year high — in December. Routt County's unemployment actually decreased 0.5

percentage points in December to 3.9, but experts attributed that to typical ski season gains in seasonal employment. Applications for food stamps, home heating assistance and unemployment are on the rise in the county.

Routt was one of 23 Colorado

counties that saw a decrease in unemployment, which Joe Winter, a senior economist with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, attributed to "a natural consequence of economic cycles" related

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

	<u>Steamb</u>	_	
New snow — Mi	d-mountain* 1 in	Total snow _t	229 in.
New snow — Su	mmit 1 in	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mou	untain 69 in	 Lifts open 	16/18
Base — Summit	79 in	Conditions	Powder/packed powder

