Fiddlin’ around

Enjoying the music of the Fiddlin’ Foresters at Twin Lakes Saturday are Bob King, holding grandson Colin King, and Karen King, holding granddaughter Ellie King. The grandparents are from Leadville, and their grandchildren are from Salida.

Hostel won’t happen
Bryan Edlund withdrew his conditional-use permit application for a hostel at 527 Elm Street.
“ At this time I think there is a need to consult some professional help with this endeavor and events that have already taken place,” said Edlund in a letter to city council announcing his withdrawal.
He claims that since the public hearing on his proposed business, he has been cursed at, had lies circulated about him, had people snooping about his property and had rude comments made about the race of one of his tenants. [more]

**Work starts at Climax**
Demolition work is starting at the Climax Mine this week, according to Phelps Dodge spokesman Ken Vaughn. The contract for the demolition work was awarded to LZI Environmental Services, a Denver firm. [more]

**Dowdney resigns as city treasurer**
Lisa Dowdney announced her resignation from the position of city treasurer at the council meeting Tuesday. She stated that she has developed back issues with the job, and, in light of the fact that council decided to go with upgrading the Fundware program, did not see that the back issues would be getting any better.

“ I’m sorry to disappoint those who voted for me,” she said.
Dowdney started as treasurer in December 2005. In January, she asked that council approve additional funds for more training on the program, which council granted. [more]

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Hostel won’t happen
by Ann E. Wibbenmeyer
Herald Staff Writer

Bryan Edlund withdrew his conditional-use permit application for a hostel at 527 Elm Street.

“At this time I think there is a need to consult some professional help with this endeavor and events that have already taken place,” said Edlund in a letter to city council announcing his withdrawal.

He claims that since the public hearing on his proposed business, he has been cursed at, had lies circulated about him, had people snooping about his property and had rude comments made about the race of one of his tenants.

“Obviously the residents of Leadville would rather keep innovative ideas and new style of businesses away,” he wrote. This could be why there are so many empty business buildings in town, he added.

His application went before the city planning and zoning committee for a public hearing on June 20, when it was recommended to city council for approval.

Concerns expressed by citizens at that meeting included the type of people that would stay at a hostel, dropping property values because of the type of business and the deterioration of the building even with the business operating in it.

City Administrator Linda Hollenback wrote, “I am very disappointed to see this type of behavior from citizens of our community and understand the applicant is leaving the community and starting his business in an area that will accept and welcome this type of business.”

This was in response to the withdrawn application and explanation from Edlund.

At the council meeting Tuesday, Council Member Betty Benson and Mayor Bud Elliott voiced similar sentiments about the withdrawn application.

Work starts at Climax
Demolition work is starting at the Climax Mine this week, according to Phelps Dodge spokesman Ken Vaughn. The contract for the demolition work was awarded to LZI Environmental Services, a Denver firm. It is anticipated that the demolition at the mine will take up to two years, and 30 to 40 people are being hired to work on the project. When construction begins, some 400 to 500 workers will be hired, he said. In the meantime, Phelps Dodge is completing its final feasibility study and obtaining the permits it needs. The estimated date for the mine opening is still 2009, Vaughn said.

Dowdney resigns as city treasurer
by Ann E. Wibbenmeyer
Herald Staff Writer
Lisa Dowdney announced her resignation from the position of city treasurer at the council meeting Tuesday. She stated that she has developed back issues with the job, and, in light of the fact that council decided to go with upgrading the Fundware program, did not see that the back issues would be getting any better. “I’m sorry to disappoint those who voted for me,” she said. Dowdney started as treasurer in December 2005. In January, she asked that council approve additional funds for more training on the program, which council granted. She repeated the request again a couple months later, and requested that council purchase the Caselle program to replace the current Fundware program. Council talked to the sales representatives from both companies to make its decision. Dowdney did say she would stay on until council found a replacement and could show the new person how to turn on the computer and get into payroll. “I am not capable of training,” she told council. Council Member Caroline Puntenney thanked Dowdney for the timing of her resignation in light of the ballot issue coming before the voters in November. The ballot question asks if the city clerk and the city treasurer positions should be appointed or elected. They are currently elected. The city code allows the council, upon the resignation of an elected position, to either schedule a special election or advertise and appoint someone to the position. Mayor Bud Elliott suggested that city council should consider hiring an accounting firm to do the job. This could be done through the process of appointing a replacement. Council voted to advertise the position for a replacement. A meeting was scheduled for Friday night at 6:05 p.m. for the committee to discuss what qualifications the city would be looking for in a replacement.

Logan McClelland is video-game
champion
by Ann E. Wibbenmeyer
Herald Staff Writer

Logan McClelland, 14, Leadville, is ranked in the top 10 players in the world for Halo 2, an Xbox game accessible on the Internet.
He has worked for the last year playing against about 1.1 million other Xbox owners connected to the Internet to reach his ranking.
The difference between playing online and playing just the Xbox is, "it's not artificial intelligence. You have to outsmart people," said McClelland. The other gamers are from places like France, Japan and even Arabic countries, he said.
On July 21, he was at number seven, according to the online statistics. He has been as high as number three, he said.
Players are only ranked when they are legitimate, said McClelland. As with all Internet access, some players hack into the game without having a “host,” which gives Xbox players legitimate access to the game and their opponents.
McClelland chose Halo 2 as his game, which happens to be the most played online game, he said. He is a super soldier fighting alien beasts.
As he plays, he talks to his teammates on a headset with a communication button.
He has made it to level 49, along with only seven other legitimate players. The top level is 50, and only one Halo 2 player has reached that level.
McClelland pointed out different strategies from the rookie mistakes.
“ They run for cover when they get shot at,” he said, “I figure out where the shots are coming from and pursue them.”
He also likes to hide behind a wall and wait others out.
“ I make them come to me,” he said.
He warns against staying still as well. If one keeps maneuvering, it’s harder to get shot at, he said.
McClelland spends about two hours a day playing the game.
The rest of the time he is homeschooled. His plans for the future are to join the U.S. Army and become a mechanical engineer, he said.
In the immediate future, if he can get sponsorship, the money raised from his Xbox skills can help pay for college, he said.
Otherwise, figuring out the nuances of the game and the sensitivity of the controller have started his training for his future career.
Logan moved to Leadville from Georgia with his family last year, he said, which is when his family got the high-speed Internet required to play the game online. His dad had switched jobs at the time.
Multi-purpose field to be delayed a year or more
by Ann E. Wibbenmeyer
Herald Staff Writer

The time line for the multi-purpose field is being set back one to two more years.
The recreation advisory board had put out requests for proposals on the a combined design and build project of the field. The hope when the bids came back was to narrow down some numbers, according to Bob Deister, RAB.
The proposals put the price of design and build between $1.5 and $1.9 million.
The design portion of the proposals came back from the three companies that responded with a range of $120,000 to $125,000. A survey of the land would narrow this range down more, said Deister.
The RAB is currently considering separating the design and build into two different phases to obtain a more accurate cost for the build portion. To separate the design and build would push the completion to 2008 instead of the hopeful 2007 completion.
In addition, a Great Outdoors Colorado grant, which the RAB was hoping to apply for, would require a match from local governments. On the combined design and build approach, the required match could be $155,000 to $200,000.
At a meeting with the RAB on Tuesday, July 18, Commission Chair Ken Olsen told the advisory board that the commissioners could only commit $55,000 to the entire project.
However, if the advisory board was looking at just the design portion of the field first, a GoCo grant would not be available until the building phase anyway, according to Deister. This is one reason the RAB has been trying to combine the design and build of the project into one.
Another advantage of combining both the design and build into one project was selling the project in fund-raising efforts. Nobody wants to donate to a design, Commissioner Mike Hickman agreed. The commissioners want to see something for the money they spend on the project as well, said Hickman. The design would be complete, but more fund-raising would have to be done before the build portion of the project is seen. The RAB is looking further at the proposals and will continue to look at both approaches to the project, said Deister.

**Fairplay winner**

*Photo by Tom Locke/The Flume*

Tom Sobal and his burro, Mordecai, take the first leg of the Triple Crown by winning the World Championship Pack Burro race in Fairplay this past weekend. This is Sobal’s 11th win in Fairplay where he also holds the record time for the long race. The second leg will be run in Leadville Sunday.
From the editor

It’s our party
As we prepared for the 56th annual Boom Days, we glanced at a booklet from the 3rd annual Tabor Days in Leadville which took place Aug. 30 through Sept. 1, 1947. This is the celebration that became Boom Days. In 1947, Tabor Days was dedicated to those who fell during World War II. Events included a mining and mineral exhibit held at Harrison Avenue and Third Street. The program opened Friday night with fights at the ballpark followed by a dance at the gym and another dance at 527 Elm Street where the Silver Queen was crowned. Dances were held each evening. Saturday’s events included timbering and rock-drilling contests as well as a series of races for children in the afternoon. On Sunday, more mining events occurred along with a soapbox derby, jalopy race and tug of war between miners. The grand parade was Monday, followed by a softball tournament. At 2:30 p.m., Buena Vista Lettuce Day (if you know what this was, let us know) was celebrated followed by a 16-horse quadrille at the ballpark.

Local bars and clubs participated in the festivities as they do today. Familiar names included the Silver Dollar, with an orchestra; the Manhattan Bar, “a union bar for union men;” and the Pastime, advertising “dancing, dining and devilment.”

Since that time, Boom Days has gotten bigger, but still encompasses the same concept as the early celebrations. A quick review of the Boom Days rules for locals. Park the car and walk everywhere, thus preserving your parking space and making it possible to eat all you wish without thinking about calories. The entire Herald staff will be on the streets this weekend; see next week’s paper for our
annual Boom Days top 10.

All things come to those who wait.
As one example, everyone who read the item in last week’s paper about Cassie the cat will be glad to know that Cassie finally has found a home after languishing in the animal shelter for almost two years.
She is sharing that new home with an elderly German shepherd, also adopted from the shelter, and we hope that the two will enjoy growing older together.
As another example, more than a year ago, we wrote about a mysterious little door in the wall below the skylight at the Herald Democrat office.
We have wondered for years what was inside that door, but it was much higher than any of our ladders could reach.
Then this past Thursday, we smelled smoke. We called the fire department, and in the course of trying to determine where the smoke was coming from, they opened that little door to discover . . . nothing. No hunks of gold or silver, as we had hoped. No old bones from the days when this building was a mortuary. Not even smoke. Now we know.
Thanks to LLCFR for showing up and solving the problem.
We’re still standing.

Marcia Martinek
Herald Editor
Billips

Shelby Paige Billips, along with her parents Dale and Michelle Billips, would like to announce the birth of her baby brother, William David Billips, born June 28. He weighed 4 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 18 inches long. Proud grandparents are Rick and Marianne Bistram, Mike Sterkel and Margie Hendrickson, all of Leadville.
Matias Martinez
Matias Martinez, 93, of Albuquerque and formerly of Leadville, died Tuesday, July 25, in an Albuquerque nursing home.
He was born April 17, 1913, in Llano, N.M., to the late Gavino and Alicia Martinez. Martinez began his working career in Leadville where he worked for American Smelting and Refining Company for numerous years. He opened The Grill Cafe in 1965 with Robert Martinez Sr. They jointly owned and operated it for several years. Martinez retired from New Jersey Zinc Company in Gilman after 26 years of service in the mine and in other positions within the company. Martinez was liked by everyone and never got involved in controversy. He was a very gentle and kind person who was devoted to his family, friends, the Catholic church and his God. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and loved the outdoors. When asked how he wanted to be remembered, Martinez said, "I want everyone to remember how we spent time together and how we always took care of each other. I also want them to remember I was the best person I could be. I always want people to say that I never spoke badly about anyone, and I want them to remember that I did the best I could in my life. I worked hard, I took care of my family and loved my dear Lord, my God, my Father with all my heart."
He was preceded in death by the love of his life and companion of 22 years, Cidelia Gomez-Gurule on May 8, 2006; his two sisters, Maria Inez Martinez and Porfiria Martinez; his brother, Manuel Martinez; his two half brothers, Juan Jose Arguello and Genaro Arguello. Martinez is survived by his son, Manuel Martinez of Leadville; his daughter Annablle (John) Vigil of Broomfield; his stepchildren Ruby Danbury and Nancy Romero, both of Albuquerque; LeRoy (Diane) Gomez of Ft. Collins, Delfino Gomez of Wheatridge, Marie Brodie of Scottsdale, Ariz., and...
Thomas (Kathleen) Gomez of Arvada; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A rosary was recited Thursday, July 27, at French Mortuary in Albuquerque with Deacon Kenn Sinatra reciting. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, July 29, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Leadville with Father Jay Jung, celebrant. Interment followed in St. Joseph Cemetery in Leadville. Pallbearers were Rudy Salazar, Valentine Martinez, Miguel Martinez, Robert Martinez, Jr., Daniel Dowd, Scott Gomez, LeRoy Gomez and Delfino Gomez. Arrangements by French Mortuary, Albuquerque.
Letters to the editor...

From Dubuque to Boom Days
A couple of years ago, the Herald Democrat editor advised locals dreading the bustle of Boom Days to get out of town, adding “perhaps this is the time to visit Aunt Dolly in Dubuque.” Well, we’re from Dubuque, Iowa – and we planned our vacation in Leadville to coincide with Boom Days. It sounds like fun. By the way, Leadville folks who choose to “escape” to Dubuque will find plenty to do in our Mississippi River community.

Brian Cooper
Dubuque, Iowa