

Herald Democrat

Leadville, Colorado

Dec. 2, 2004 Edition

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Photo by Marcia Martinek
Loren Marcella places a lighted snowflake on a light pole on Harrison Avenue Monday as part of the city's holiday decorations.

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Even Start helps parents and kids, alike

The Even Start Family Literacy Program in Lake County will hold a book drive and storytelling event at Cloud City Coffee House on Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. [[more](#)]

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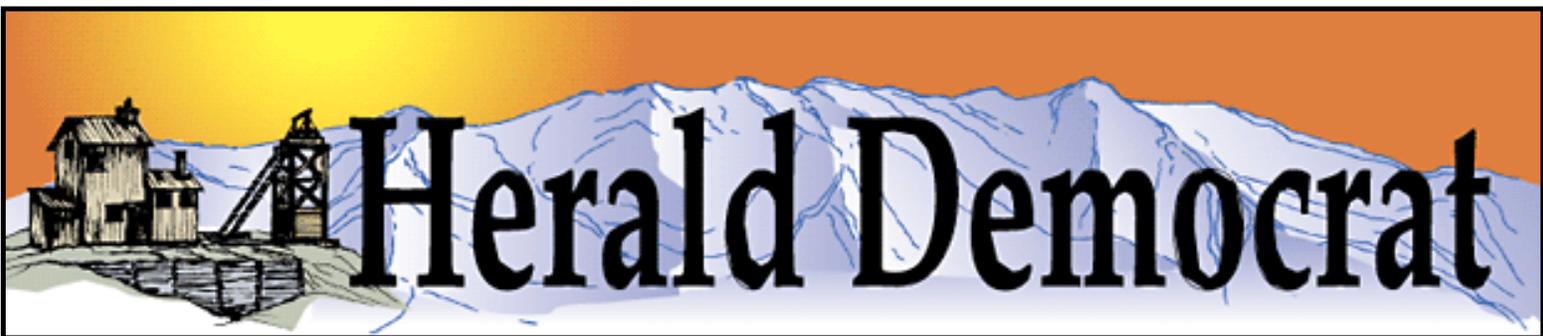
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City would bury new utility lines

by Jenn Wiant
Herald Staff Writer

Two ordinances proposed by the City of Leadville and passed on first reading will require all new utility lines in the city to be buried. This includes any existing lines that are damaged and need to be replaced and any lines installed in new subdivisions.

Local resident Bill Klauber brought the issue to the attention of the City Planning and Zoning Committee, which recommended that the city council pass an ordinance requiring utility lines to be buried.

In a memo to the city describing his proposal, Klauber explained that Leadville, Minturn and Red Cliff are the only local government entities in Xcel Energy's central Colorado mountain region that allow utilities to be installed above ground. Lake County also prohibits the installation of new above-ground utility lines except for high voltage electric transmission lines, according to Lake County Building Department Director Bill Collins.

Klauber added that electric, phone and cable lines are run above ground because it is cheaper to suspend them than to bury them.

" We, through our utility bills, help pay for Xcel to bury lines in other jurisdictions, while ratepayers in the other jurisdictions currently do not have to pay for buried lines in Leadville," Klauber explained.

For Klauber, buried lines are preferable because they are more aesthetically pleasing, they are not subject to power outages during storms and they are not hazardous to vehicles that go off the road.

Xcel Energy has some concerns with the ordinances, according to Media Relations Consultant Mark Stutz.

" It's a problematic ordinance that they're proposing," he said. Stutz said Xcel has no problem with the city requiring that new utility installations be underground because the cost is the responsibility of the developer. He explained that

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developers often include the cost of burying utility lines in the price of the homes in the subdivision.

Stutz does take issue with the portion of the ordinance that would require replacement lines to be buried. Stutz said the requirement poses three problems. First, Xcel would have to get underground easements for its entire Leadville system, where in some areas it only has air ordinances. Secondly, the outages that will occur while the lines are being buried could last for days, Stutz said. Xcel would have to first scope for other utility lines underground and then dig a trench to install the lines underground. Finally, forcing the rest of the state's Xcel customers to pay for the burial of Leadville's lines goes against a Public Utilities Commission regulation. The PUC says that Xcel cannot benefit one class of customers to the detriment of another. The proposed ordinances also conflict with Leadville's franchise agreement with Xcel, which allows overhead lines and does not require lines to be buried.

Stutz mentioned two possible solutions: Leadville could set up a special taxing district to pay for undergrounding, or individual property owners could pay for undergrounding on their property.

Stutz said one disadvantage to buried utility lines is the length of outages. Because it is harder to find a break in a line buried underground than in an overhead line, a 60-90 minute outage could turn into a six- or seven-hour outage. The two ordinances passed on first reading Nov. 16 and say essentially the same thing – that all new utility lines and replacements shall be installed underground at the cost of the utility provider, developer or property owner. One ordinance will apply to the city as a whole and the other will become a part of the subdivision regulations if passed on second reading.

The second reading and public hearing for the ordinance will take place at the city council meeting on Dec. 21 at 6:30 p. m.

Hospital has first case of RSV

by Jenn Wiant
Herald Staff Writer

St. Vincent Hospital confirmed its first case this season of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, last week. The virus is most common among infants under 12 months and causes more hospitalizations in Lake County than anywhere else in the country, according to Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger.

RSV is a respiratory illness that can cause coughing, wheezing, runny nose, low oxygen levels, fever, difficulty sleeping and a lack of interest in eating and drinking. A child with RSV can develop complications that may result in hospitalization, respiratory failure or death, although the percentage of deaths from the disease is very low, Zwerdlinger said.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 0.5-2.0 percent of infected children require hospitalization, but a

study conducted in 2000/2001 in Leadville showed that 33 percent of children with RSV required hospitalization. Zwerdinger and four of her colleagues conducted the research from Dec. 2000 until April 2001 on 57 children under the age of two with RSV or suspected to have RSV. Of the 57, 19 were hospitalized due to complications from RSV. Three of those hospitalized had to be airlifted to Denver and 18 required oxygen. All 19 children survived. Because of Zwerdinger's research, Lake County children with asthma or a history of oxygen use now have access to a monthly medicine that can help prevent the virus. Before Zwerdinger proved in her research that living at an altitude above 10,000 feet is a risk factor for RSV, children could only obtain the medicine if they had other risk factors, such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, immune deficiency or if they were born premature. Zwerdinger's research also pointed to three risk factors for RSV hospitalization that were specific to the study group in Lake County: a family history of asthma, sharing a bed with a sibling, and a history of breathing problems. St. Vincent Hospital performs about 40-60 tests each winter on people who may have RSV. No information was available on the number of people who get the virus each year. The best ways to prevent RSV are to wash your hands and avoid people who are coughing, Zwerdinger said. See a doctor if you or your children have symptoms of RSV.

Even Start helps parents and kids, alike

by Jenn Wiant
Herald Staff Writer
The Even Start Family Literacy Program in Lake County will hold a book drive and storytelling event at Cloud City Coffee House on Dec. 4



Contributed photo
Kim Osborn reads a book to Stephanie Reveles and Giovanna Gonzalez while Stephanie's mom, Cristina Reveles, looks on.

from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Local adults will read their favorite books out loud while Even Start collects new or slightly used children's books to donate to its families. Even Start will give away a \$50 Cloud City Coffee House gift certificate to one lucky donator as a door prize. Emily Adams has been the director of the Even Start program since January. She enjoyed working with kids in her last job at the Center, but loves "being able to help the whole family" at Even Start. The Even Start Family Literacy Program is currently helping

about 20 families in Lake County, but it can accommodate up to 30. The program offers support for parents who want to pursue their own educational goals and provides opportunities for adults to read and spend time with their children.

Even Start is a national program for parents with children between birth and eight. The program's five parts include adult education, early childhood education, Parent and Child Together time (PACT), parent support and home visits.

Even Start offers classes for parents who are preparing for the G.E.D. test, learning English or who need basic education. All classes and materials are free to the parents. The staff understands that going back to school can be hard for parents and supports them in any way it can.

"It's a daunting thing for a lot of parents," Adams explained. "I so admire our parents who take that step out of their comfort zone." Even Start supports parents by providing tutoring, talking to teachers or even attending class with the adult.

For parents who are taking classes or working during the day, Even Start offers free infant and toddler care for its families. All older children must attend school.

Parents spend time in their child's classroom every week as part of PACT time. This requirement helps the parents become involved in their child's education, see how their child learns, and makes them comfortable enough to help their child at home.

"If the parents aren't involved, the kids really aren't going to get any better," Adams said. "A parent's influence is what a child is going to listen to in the end."

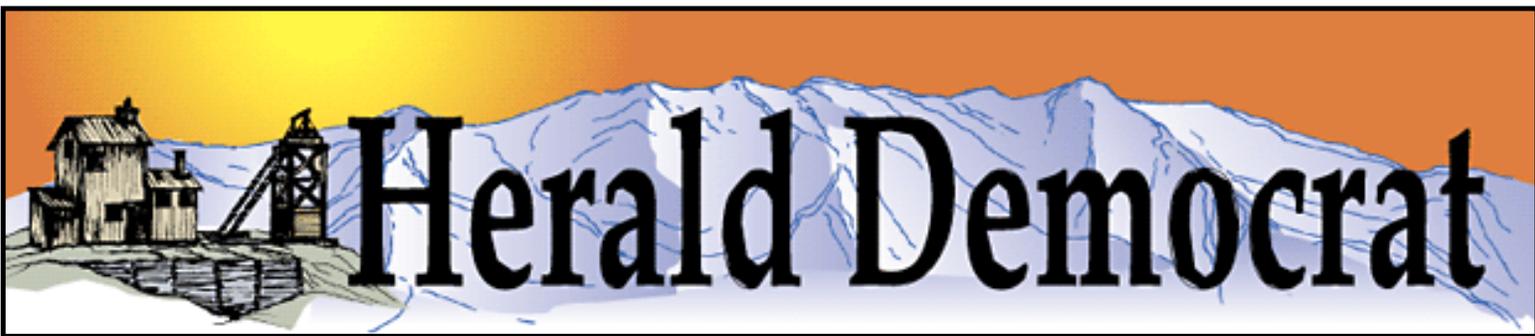
Parent support, the fourth aspect of Even Start, includes education about how to be a good parent. Parents hear speakers who teach them how to make reading aloud fun, how to use the T.V. as a learning tool, or how to deal with health issues like anger management, blood lead, and respiratory illnesses in high altitude.

Monthly home visits by Even Start staff are the final aspect of the program. The staff members talk with the parents about their child and model activities and behaviors to use with the child.

Even Start also provides night activities for all of its families. At the monthly Nutrition Night, for example, families cook and eat a healthy meal together. Public Library Nights are read-aloud sessions for families. Each family receives a book to take home at the end of the evening. Adams said she is looking into starting scrapbooking nights and adding other night activities to involve the parents who work during the day.

Even Start is funded by the federal government. Although the program is facing \$20 million in cuts nationwide in 2004-2005, Lake County's program should not be affected since it has already received its grant money, Adams said.

For more information about Even Start, located at West Park Elementary School, call 486-6897.



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Sports & Recreation Page

Ski Cooper opens Friday; Santa to arrive Dec. 11

Ski Cooper will open for the 2004-2005 season on Friday, Dec. 3, at 9 a.m.

The most recent storm system that went through this past weekend brought more than 15 inches of fresh powder at the ski area.

It will be open for the three-day weekend, closed Monday through Thursday, and reopen on Dec. 10. At that time, Cooper will stay open seven days a week for the remainder of the season. The Piney Creek Nordic Center will open with the same dates.

The ski area boasts a new Piney Creek Nordic Center, completely remodeled first-aid room and a bathroom at the top of the Tenth Mountain chair lift.

"We are looking forward to a great season with the great start we will have with the new snow we just received this past weekend," said Anne Dougherty, director of marketing for the ski area. "We are gearing up for opening on Friday." Santa and Donner will visit the ski area on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

This is an opportunity to bring a camera and take a Christmas photo. Mrs. Claus will be present to assist with the picture taking.

Adult season passes are still available for \$219. A child's pass will be \$120.

Seniors 60 to 69 may purchase a pass for \$170 and those 70 and better may purchase a season pass for \$75. A separate pass is available for the Piney Creek Nordic Center.

For more information about lessons or snow reports, see www.skicooper.com or call 719-486-2277.

Snowshoers begin season with trek

by Jenn Wiant
Herald Staff Writer

Lake County snowshoers started off the race season with a

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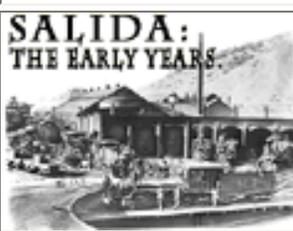

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five mile trek around Tennessee Pass on Saturday, Nov. 27. One local man and one local woman finished in the top five. Mark Burgess was the first Leadville finisher at the Tennessee Pass Nordic Center 5-miler with a time of 44:18. He placed fifth overall. Lisa Isom of Lake County was the third woman to finish at 50:00. The top five men and women, as well as all Lake County finishers, are listed below:

Men

1. Josiah Middaugh, Vail 43:23
2. Bernie Boettcher, Silt 43:31
3. Travis Macy, Boulder 43:43
4. Dan Nielson, Avon 43:52
5. Mark Burgess, Leadville 44:18
12. Julio Flores, Leadville 52:24
19. Bob Snyder, Leadville 53:38
28. Innes Isom, Leadville 56:16
30. B.C. LaPrade, Leadville 58:37
33. Raul Bueno, Leadville 1:17:33
37. Al Slavin, Leadville 1:30:32

Women

1. Helen Cospolich, Breckenridge 48:51
2. Lindsey Krause 49:52
3. Lisa Isom, Leadville 50:00
4. Sarah Tarkenton, Boulder 52:59
5. Katie Mazzia, Eagle 53:13
10. Wendy King, Leadville 59:50

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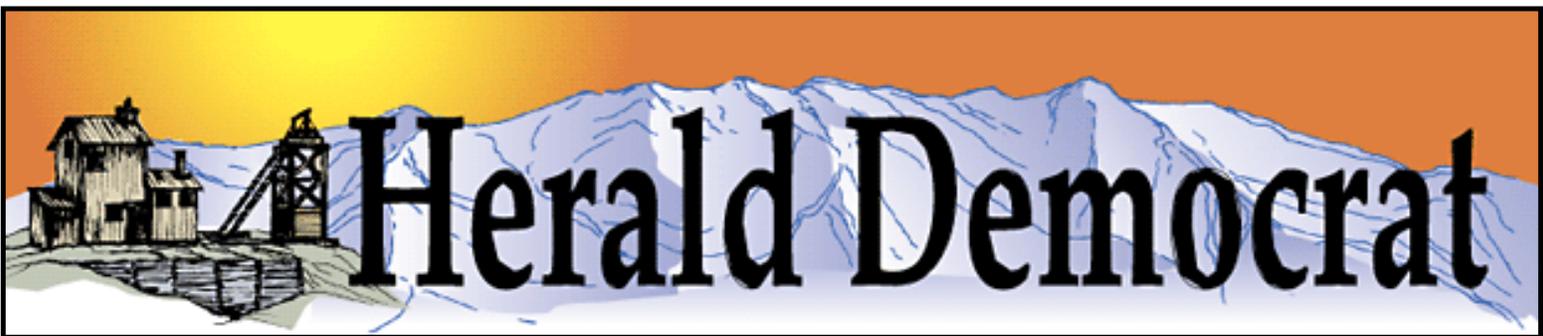
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Editorial

From the editor

The truth is out there somewhere

If there's one place where Leadville/Lake County citizens usually excel, it's in speaking their minds. We want to applaud those who attended the last hospital board meeting or who have written letters to the editor in order to have their say in defense of the members of the St. Vincent Hospital Board. We could certainly understand the anguish expressed by Dr. Wayne Callen's patients over his situation with the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners. We also appreciated hearing from these people over the past six months or so. But we thought that it was made pretty clear from the start that the St. Vincent board has nothing to do with the outcome of the Callen investigation. Now it appears that some individuals are taking the Callen situation and using it to their advantage in a move to take control of the hospital board. To imply that signing a petition to recall Molly Barnes and/or Joe King will somehow "save" Callen is simply untrue. We still haven't heard any rational explanations regarding why certain board members should be recalled and not others. We're not even sure that we've been hearing from the right people. To coin a phrase from a long-gone quiz show, "To Tell the Truth," we want to say, "Will the people who are actually behind this recall please stand up?" Again, thanks to our readers who have spoken their (own) minds. Silence isn't always golden.

•••••

Having just passed the holiday of Thanksgiving, this seems like a good time to reiterate our policy in not running those interminable letters thanking almost every business in town for its support of this project or that project. The editorial page is a place for people to express their

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opinions on topics of interest to our readers.

In the past year, we have implemented an appreciation column where people can say their thanks to individuals or to one or two businesses that have really given them a helping hand. We see these notes of appreciation as different from letters to the editor.

But if organizations do have lengthy lists of businesses to thank, and want this to appear in the newspaper, then we do require that they buy an ad.

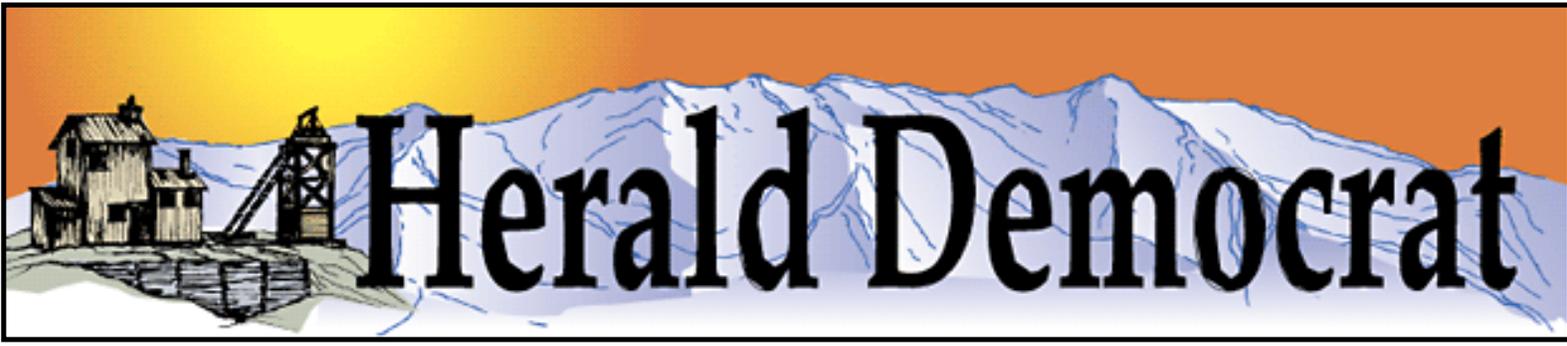
Not long ago, this newspaper donated an advertisement to a certain organization, publicized its event before and after, and then was criticized by a representative of that group for not running a very lengthy letter of thanks.

Give us a break. We just think that if you want to say thanks, you shouldn't expect us to foot the bill.

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By the way, our message for this holiday season is: Shop Leadville. With this issue we begin our annual feature about what we've found interesting in local shops. Incidentally, this coverage is free, and no one has to buy an ad to be included. You just have to be open when we stop by.

Marcia Martinek
Herald Editor



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November 25, 2004 Edition



God Bless America

New Arrival

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Lane Asher Magill

Audrey and Ryan Magill are the proud parents of Lane Asher Magill, born Oct. 22, 2004, in Denver. He weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. He is joined by his brother Jesse, 16 months old. Maternal grandparents are Frank and Mary Ellen Gaeddert, Denver. Paternal grandparents are Jack and Velma Magill, Leola, Pa.



Mckenzie Jay Alcia Mascarenas

Jason and Atika Mascarenas are the proud parents of Mckenzie Jay Alcia Mascarenas, born Oct. 26, 2004, in Denver. She weighed 3 lbs. 9.5 oz. and was 17 inches long. She is joined by her brother Dominic, 8 years old.



Maternal grandparents are Connie and George Sebestyen, Leadville. Paternal grandparents are Bobby and Eva Mascarenas, also of Leadville.

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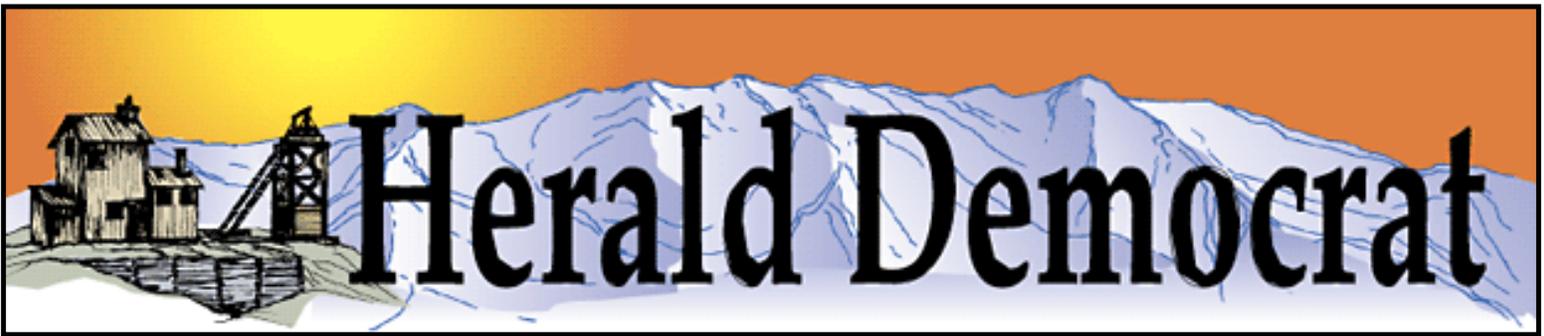
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Obituaries



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Lupe R. Griego

Former Center resident Lupe R. Griego, 72, died Nov. 11, 2004, in Leadville.

She was born Dec. 12, 1931, in La Garita, Colo., to Fidel and Dilia Archuleta Hurtado.

Griego worked many years at Copper Mountain and was an active member of the churches that she attended over the years.

Griego enjoyed sewing, making photo albums, crocheting and spending time with her loving family. Many nieces, nephews and friends loved her and she loved to pray for her family. Griego was preceded in death by her parents Dilia and Fidel Hurtado; and sisters Faye Martinez and Alice Vigil.

Griego is survived by her husband Leopoldo Griego, Leadville; children Louise (Refugio) Cancino; Leo Jr. (Lorie) Griego; Dilia (Rick) Lara; and Richard (Anita) Griego; grandchildren Eli (Amanda) Cancino; Cheree (Linn) Autrey; Jessie Griego; Joshua (Alicia) Griego; Jason Griego; Jenifer Griego; Christopher Lara (Esmeralda Campos); Candice Sanchez (Eric Keel); Cynthia Sanchez (Brian McEvoy); Rico Archuleta-Griego; Damian Griego; and Dominic Griego; great grandchildren Taniza Cancino, Carson and Gabriela Griego, Sebastian Lara and Sunshine Campos; brothers and sisters Manuel (Gloria) Hurtado; Mary Archuleta; Susie (Steve) Archuleta; Jenny (Bobby) Tafoya; Arcino (Julie) Hurtado; Raymond (Delia) Hurtado; Martha (Dan) Dickey; Gloria (Phillip) Holt; George (Priscilla) Hurtado; and Penny (Larry) Arellano.

She is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. A prayer service was held on Nov. 14, 2004, at Templosion Church in Center. A funeral service was held on Nov. 15, 2004, at Assembly of God Church in Center. Interment



Lupe R. Griego

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followed at La Garita Cemetery in La Garita.
Arrangements are in care of Romero Funeral Home of
Monte Vista.

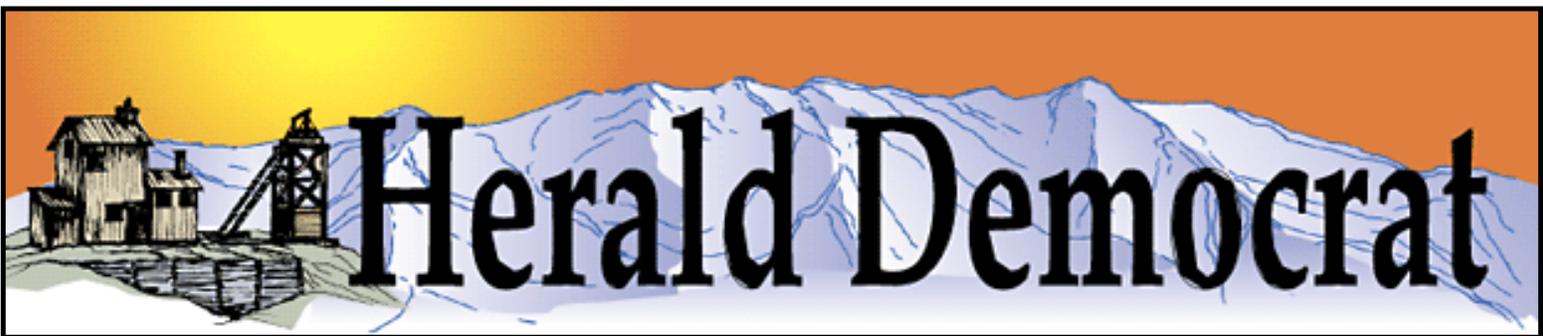
Alex John Vargas

Alex John Vargas, 37, died Nov. 12, 2004, in Montrose,
Colo.

He was born in Leadville on Jan. 17, 1967, to Alex and
Dorothy Vargas.

He is survived by his parents in Leadville; daughter Melissa
Vargas, Leadville; sister Flora Vargas; and brother Gerald
Vargas, both in Edwards.

Family services were held at Bailey Funeral Home in
Leadville.



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Waiting for response from board

Your Nov. 25 edition quoted John Cirullo regarding Dr. Wayne Callen, "Why crucify him?"

The answer is obvious, crucify Dr. Callen, shut down the Leadville Medical Center to eliminate competition with the St. Vincent clinics and save the expense of buying out the medical center.

The Colorado Board of Medical Examiners declined to name the person or persons who filed complaints on Dr. Callen. I'll assume ulterior motives on someone's part, and the St. Vincent Hospital Board has yet to respond to my letter of July 16, 2004. My interest in the issue is that my wife, Betty, has relied on the care of Dr. Callen for many years.

**Walter Maass
Granite**

Following is the letter that Maass sent to the St. Vincent Hospital Board in July.

On Tuesday, May 18, 2004, I took my wife, Betty J. Maass, to the emergency room at your hospital on an order from her doctor, Dr. Wayne Callen. Dr. Callen examined Betty and advised me of tests Betty might need and she was thereafter admitted to your hospital. Betty's medical condition may have been life threatening. However, Dr. Callen advised me that after midnight he could no longer be her doctor, but that Dr. Perna was qualified and would be available. This raises some serious questions.

1. Did Dr. Callen abandon Betty's medical needs by his own volition or was he denied access to his patient?
2. If Dr. Callen was denied access to his patients, who or what authority suspended him?
3. Was it the St. Vincent Hospital Board or the Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners that called for his suspension?
4. If a complaint was filed against Dr. Callen, who filed it?
5. Unless Dr. Callen objects, what was the complaint filed

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against him?

6. Why were we not given advance notice of this suspension so that we could have sought another doctor and hospital in case of medical emergency?

Betty Maass has depended on Dr. Callen for many years for quality health care. He has been a caring, considerate and competent doctor for Betty's medical needs and to his other patients. Over many years, the hospital staff has supported Dr. Callen and respected his dedication to his patients.

There must be a very quick resolution to this dispute because I must know soon if I must find another doctor and hospital for my wife. Her life depends on it.

**Walter Maass
Granite**

Don't sign the petition

Don't sign the recall petition! The hospital board exemplifies one of the best groups of dedicated, intelligent and articulate volunteers serving this community. They all give of their time and wisdom to improve this community. To recall two of them as scapegoats for Dr. Callen's suspension is wrong. To recall two of them because you disagree with expanding or remodeling the hospital is a misuse of the recall process.

If you think you can do a better job and can give the time it takes, then run for the board at the next regular election.

It's easy to tear apart and destroy (and sign petitions), but it takes vision, focus and commitment to build and improve our hospital (and serve on the board). Rather than sign a petition, call the hospital board members and thank them for their service to our community.

**Jack Saunders
Lake County**

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