



**Bears
abundant in
valley this year
see page 4**



(photo by Renee Rinehart)

Tiny Bubbles, the famous song by Don Ho was a crowd favorite at the Walsenburg Wild Waters fundraiser Friday night. Members of the Waikiki Beachboys entertained the 150 people in attendance to celebrate Don Ho/Waikiki Beachboy Day. The event raised \$11,000 for the water park.

Left to right: George Aio, Peter Kama, Tom Goodbody, and Harry Makalena of the Waikiki Beachboys; Rich McEntee, Black Diamond Park; Keith Varner, President, Southern Colorado National Bank and his wife Susan Varner; Lionel Haile, Frank Manuma, Bruce Sharsh, Nani Paek of the Waikiki Beachboys.

Hawaiians join community for successful fundraiser at Walsenburg Wild Waters

by Renee Rinehart

The spirit of Aloha spread throughout Walsenburg Friday evening, at a fundraiser for Walsenburg Wild Waters that brought nearly \$11,000 to the pool fund.

Over 150 residents, elected officials and dignitaries, dressed in brightly colored island apparel, gathered at the water park to hear music by the Waikiki Beachboys. The band flew in from Honolulu, Hawaii for the event, bringing authentic gifts to be auctioned and leis made of seashells for the children and fresh orchids for the adults.

The fundraising event was made possible by Rich McEntee, developer of the Black Diamond Park residential neighborhood in Walsenburg, who invited his friends from Waikiki to visit the area and support Walsenburg Wild Waters.

The live auction brought in nearly \$3,000 as partygoers bid on items ranging from a basket filled with Hawaiian treats to an outrigger canoe oar, ukulele, and a surfboard crafted by the legendary Kimo Greene.

Another \$4,000 was raised through donations from individuals and businesses in attendance at the event. McEntee matched the cash donations, which will again be doubled through a matching grant from the Gates Foundation, adding another \$8,000 to the total raised Friday night.

"This is for the children of the community," McEntee told the crowd.

A portion of the proceeds will be used to build an entrance sign that will include a waterfall with a boy surfing, according to McEntee.

The evening included an exchange of state flags between Colorado State Senator Ken Kester and Peter Kama of Honolulu. Kama carried the flag to Walsenburg for Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle. The Colorado flag flew over the state capitol on July 7, 2007 and the Hawaiian flag flew over the capitol building in Honolulu on July 14, 2007.

"I want to especially thank Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann for inviting me into his office on July 11, 2007 so I could personally present him with the City of Walsenburg's Proclamation of Don Ho/Waikiki Beachboy Day that took place on July 11, 2007," said McEntee.

Entertainment also included local dance troupe El Fandango, who offered red bandanas as a gesture of hospitality to the Waikiki Beachboys.

"We were very pleased with the large amount of money that The Hawaii Waikiki Beachboys raised for the youth of The City of Walsenburg by not only performing a concert of Hawaiian music but by also donating various objects of art that were auc-

tioned off at the fundraiser at Walsenburg Wild Waters," said McEntee.

McEntee said he hopes to make the fundraiser an annual event.

Petroglyph agrees to shut down wells for 30 day test period

by David Rinehart
and Renee Rinehart

Last Friday, July 20, Petroglyph Operating, Inc. voluntarily agreed to a 30-day shutdown of all its producing wells.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) requested the action last Friday so that further tests can be conducted to determine the source of the methane found in 11 domestic wells, according to Peter Gintautas, Environmental Protection Specialist with COGCC.

Nearly 40 people attended an informational meeting Saturday morning in Walsenburg for River Ridge Ranch and La Veta Pines property owners hosted by COGCC.

"We will be monitoring pressures and fluid levels during the shutdown. We want to know if the situation is changing," added Gintautas.

Earlier in the month, COGCC tested wells in a 13 square mile area after La Veta Pines residents Ben and Melanie Bounds experienced a flash explosion in their well house on June 1. "Of the 37 active water wells tested, a total of 11 are venting (methane)," Gintautas said.

The isotopic tests of the methane from the water wells has proven the methane is thermogenic, which means, "The gas in the water wells matches gas produced from the gas wells," said Debbie Baldwin, Manager of Environmental Protection at COGCC.

Petroglyph has 51 producing wells which average 1,300 feet deep and access the Vermejo geologic layer. Most resident water wells range from 200 to 800 feet deep and are completed in the Poison

(see *Methane Gas* on page 12)



(photo courtesy David Moore)

Mother alpaca Summer Breeze proudly lies with her new baby Whisper. The two llamas live at Valley Winds Alpacas and Llamas, owned by David and Marta Moore.


DON HO/WAIKIKI BEACHBOY DAY - JULY 20th



The Aloha Spirit filled Walsenburg Wild Waters Friday evening for a benefit concert and auction.



(photos by Renee Rinehart and David Rinehart)

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