

# Kohala Mountain News

Vol.13, No. 6

June 28, 2014

## Banyans Park Slated for County Purchase

In late May, Mayor Billie Kenoi contacted community members to share news that the County intends to move forward in September with purchasing the grassy acre fronting Shige's gas station and the downtown banyan trees to preserve the area as a community park. An appraisal was ordered and should be completed by mid-July.

This communication comes after nearly a year of letters and testimony by community members to the County urging this area be preserved. Residents cited a number of reasons for the purchase, including room for the farmers

market to expand, having an area for festivals in downtown Hawi and pursuing smart growth.

Chris Helmuth, who owns two businesses in downtown Hawi, feels the County purchase will be good for business. "There's plenty of research about the value of green spaces to business and a town's quality of life. This is a good long-term investment in our local economy."

Ten years ago, Kohala Coffee Mill owner Karen Rosen and community member Alex Achmat launched an effort to preserve this area, which has been used as a de facto park for over fifty

years. The preservation project was resurrected in March of 2013 shortly before the land was sold to the current owners, husband and wife Dave Lucas and Kona artist Shelly Maudsley White. Dave and Shelly had planned to build their home and a gallery but gave the community an opportunity to see if funds could be secured to preserve the land as a park. "I'm glad for the community, but it's taken much longer than we anticipated and we hope the County will close quickly in September," shared Shelly.

Gail Byrne Baber, who has assisted with the project, stated, "Dave and

Shelly have been tremendous. They provided excellent testimony to the County Council and are very community-minded people. Good hearts."

Funds for the purchase will come from the County's 2% land fund, which is dedicated to purchasing lands and easements to protect open spaces, public access ways and natural resources. There is now a dedicated maintenance fund for lands purchased with 2% funds, to which local community groups and nonprofits can apply for money to support locally-based maintenance and stewardship.

## Keokea Mahalo Celebration

By Claire Trester

On Saturday, May 10, grateful community members held an ocean-awareness day and thank-you party for the



Keokea and his mom, Waimanu.

keiki of the park.

This Mahalo celebration was to thank the keiki and their families for their patience and understanding during the pupping, nursing and weaning cycle of Hawai'i Island's newest monk seal, "Keokea." Keokea's mom, Waimanu, hauled out on the keiki beach at Keokea Beach Park in Niuli'i to give birth to her pup on November 11, 2013. Keokea, especially, sends his mahalos.

Welcoming the guests were Sarah Pule-Fujii and other members of "Friends of the Park."

The day's festivities included a number of activity stations featuring Gyotaku fish printing, the seal wheel of fortune, tag the seals flipper and

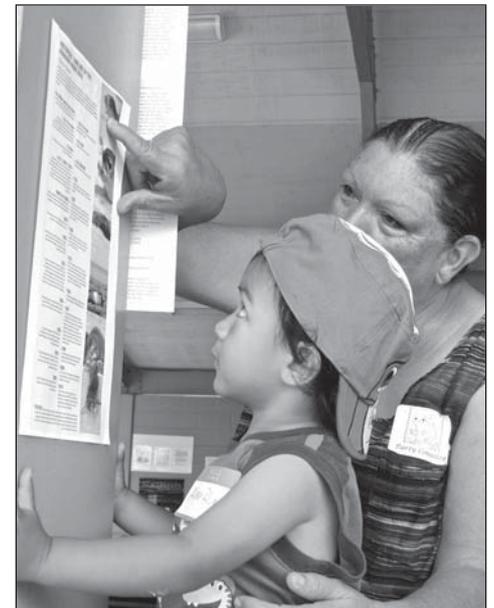
monk seal critter-cam footage (real-time underwater monk seal video, captured by monk seals with cameras attached to them.)

The Department of Aquatic Resource officer John Kahiapo brought along a lawn activity known as backyard bass, and the kids and adults loved it!

The Department of Aquatic Resources was promoting the use of barbless fishhooks and handing them out at the event.

Priscilla and Ralph Galun prepared and served lunch to over 135 in attendance. We enjoyed Priscilla's homemade chili, hot dogs, nachos and cake decorated with monk seals.

Goodie bags were filled with fun and educational items such as compasses, binoculars, Hawaiian reef fish guides,



—photos by Susan Mitnik

Priscilla Galan shares facts about seals with a keiki.

first experience and the generosity of the children of Keokea Park!

Keokea and his `ohana are native and want to remain wild!! Keokea wants to remind all of us:

Please kokua and never, never feed us!

Please kokua and keep your distance, letting us sleep undisturbed when you see us on the beach.

Please kokua and call the Monk Seal Hotline at 987- 0765 when you do see us, especially if we are injured!

I'm learning it's a big ocean, and there is plenty for us all. My `ohana eats approximately three percent to eight percent of our bodyweight daily.

**See Keokea, page 2**

## KMS Art Students Help Preserve Upolu Trail

By Toni Withington

This spring Kohala Middle School students turned their talents into inspiring trail signs to help save the shore and reefs at Upolu Airport. The signs will be posted on the mile-long shoreline trail seaward of the airport runway.

Besides directing hikers to stay on the trails to prevent more erosion on the rocky cliff, most of the signs identify five native plants being nurtured to re-cover the land. Learning about the plants and their importance to Hawaiian culture made up a big part of the process of painting the plants for others to enjoy.

Two classes of art teacher Lauren Canton spent eight weeks to produce 12 signs. Artists Elaine and Bob Losey helped students working in small groups learn how to design their



—photo by Toni Withington

Kohala Middle School Period 2 art students display their signs painted for the Upolu Airport shoreline trail. With them are artists Elaine and Bob Losey.

signs, mix permanent paint from primary colors and transfer the designs to the finished artwork.

Working from photos and the actual plants, the students drew nau-paka, akuli-kuli, ilima, h i n a h i n a and pa'u o Hi'iaka

plants and even included hints to the legends associated with the plants.

The project was guided and staffed by Kohala Lihikai, a local non-profit stewardship group restoring the trail and vegetation at Upolu in conjunction with the State Department of Transpor-

**See Upolu, page 3**



Priscilla Galan and Patty Solomon were dubbed "Mahalo Aunties."

a monk seal photo of Keokea and his mom, Waimanu, a monk seal doll, crayons and coloring activity pages.

Keokea, our pup seal, wanted to be sure that the keiki had a fun time!

Keokea wanted the kids to know he was grateful for the opportunity to get his start in life on their beach at their park. He will always remember this

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## Kaiholena Preservation Pushing Forward, Needs Final Funding

By Gail Byrne Baber

Hoping to finally save a critical stretch of North Kohala coastal lands from development, a coalition of community groups are seeking the final dollars to purchase the land for preservation.

Kohala is very close to preserving another 35 acres at Kaiholena, south of Mahukona. Completing this project will cap off a seven-year, community-led effort of working with the current landowner, EWM Enterprises, and their representative, Charlie Anderson, to save the 267 acres at Kaiholena makai of Akoni Pule Highway. This area is comprised of six parcels. Decades ago, the community was able to stave off a resort development by a previous owner that included 1,500 hotel units, a golf course and hundreds of condos slated for this area. EWM had originally intended to sell the land for oceanfront homes but has been working closely with the community to preserve it.

The North Kohala Community Development Plan, adopted by the County in 2008, calls for the preservation of coastal lands, including this land at Kaiholena.

Working with lineal descendent

Jean Razor, a hui of North Kohala community groups and nonprofits have worked to preserve this area including: Kamakani O Kohala `Ohana, Malama Na Wahi Pana O Kohala, Kohala Historic and Cultural Preservation Committee, Maika'i Kamakani O Kohala, North Kohala Community Access Group, Malama Kohala Kahakai and Kohala Lihikai.

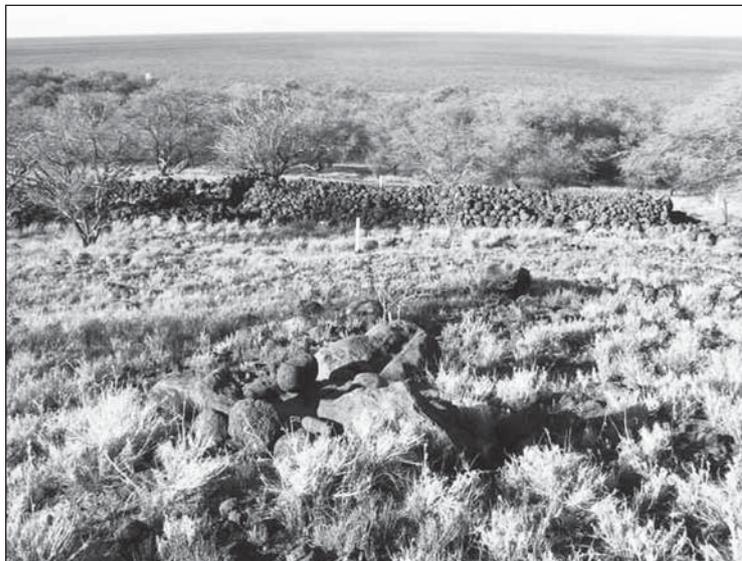
In 2011, a number of these groups approached the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to help with preserving this last Kaiholena parcel. That same year \$1,449,555 was secured from the Legacy Lands Conservation Fund, with EWM Enterprises contributing \$497,000 towards the purchase at a critical time when the community needed to generate more matching funds. Malama Kohala Kahakai donated

\$1,000, and the Dorrance Family Foundation subsequently awarded a \$50,000 challenge grant to close the project.

(ATA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission that includes supporting community-based management of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and the lands associated with the trail. Joe Carvalho, Kohala Lihikai Board Chairman, elaborated, "The Trail Association's track record of listening to the community and working in partnership is why we approached them to help us preserve this last parcel."

ATA Board Member Alan Brown shared, "We will listen to what the community wants as far as stewardship goes at Kaiholena. The land and communities thrive when we all collaborate."

Five of the six other parcels at Kaiholena were preserved by Hawai'i County with 2% Open Space Funds and funding from the State's Legacy Lands Conservation Fund. Local community groups, Malama Kohala Kahakai and Kohala Lihikai, have launched efforts to work with the County on steward-



—photo by Toni Withington

A large, unidentified archeological feature is seen at Kaiholena. The property has the highest concentration of intact pre-contact archeological and cultural sites in the state.

Now \$104,000 is still needed, but it's hoped that another \$25,000 grant award will soon be forth coming, reducing the funding need to \$79,000.

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association

ing these lands.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help close this project, please call the Ala Kahakai Trail Association at (808) 326-6012.



### Keokea, continued from page 1

We also want to give a big special flipper wave to Sarah Pule-Fujii, Priscilla and Ralph Galun, Kayalee Galun, Paulette Smith and Claire Trester, who read the messages we left in the sand every day to make sure our party was special for our keiki.

Big mahalos to West Hawai'i Marine Mammal Response Network; the WHMMRN volunteers, Hawai'i Chapter; the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation; the Friends of The Park at Keokea; the Department of Parks and Recreation; the Department of Aquatic Resources; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Islands; Doug Perrine Photography and everyone else involved who gave their kokua and time that made the day's event so enjoyable!!

Aloha Nui.

Keiki enjoyi a game of "Backyard Bass."

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Sat. July 12, 3 - 6 pm

Maya Soaringsun

August 1st - 31st

"Visions of the Sacred"  
by Francene Hart  
Artist Reception:  
Friday, August 1  
3 - 6 pm



Francene Hart

www.livingartsgallery.net • 808-889-0739

## KOHALA LIONS CLUB ANNUAL AUTHENTIC HAWAIIAN LU`AU

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 5 PM

*If you've been before, you know what a great time this is!*

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## Booth Opportunities at Kohala Country Fair

Do you have food, treats, crafts, one-of-a-kind gifts or information you'd like to share with thousands of island residents and visitors? Booth applications are now available for the 30th annual Kohala Country Fair on October 4.

To maximize the success of vendors, booth prices are held at last year's rates, with discounts for local residents and nonprofit groups. There won't be a separate Made in Kohala tent this year, so vendors with limited items are encouraged to join one or two friends and apply to share a space.

The fair's all-day entertainment, free admission, abundant parking and keiki activities make it possible for attendees to spend hours browsing the booths, which means more sales for vendors.

"As an island resident and small business owner I look forward to the Kohala

Country Fair each year. The feeling of Aloha is everywhere at the fair. The food is wonderful, the people are warm and the area is absolutely breathtaking," says repeat vendor Kerri Thomas of Sea Sisters Trading, who has applied to sell handmade hammocks.



—photo by Susan Ince  
*Tiare Kauhahao and Moani Otukolo are all smiles in their Beautiful Addiction booth at the 2013 Kohala Country Fair.*

Booth information and application forms are available from the website, KohalaCountryFair.com or by contacting the Booth Committee at Booths@KohalaCountryFair.com or 808-990-3458. Early application is encouraged as rates increase in mid-August.

The Kohala Country Fair depends on sponsors and volunteers to continue to offer this great event free of charge. More information on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities is on the website.

Contact: Susan Ince, 889-6238, susan.ince@hawaii.rr.com

## Kohala Hongwanji Obon Festival Coming Soon

Kohala Hongwanji Mission invites the public to its annual Obon Festival held in remembrance of ancestors and late loved ones. The event will be celebrated July 5. A short service will be held at the cemetery (just before Keokea Beach) at 5 p.m., followed by Obon service held at the Kohala Hongwanji Temple (Halaula) at 6 p.m. The Bon dance will follow the service. Ono concessions including chili, musubi, BBQ sticks, cold drinks and more will be available for purchase. Feel free to attend dance practices Tuesday, July 1 and Wednesday, July 2 at 7 p.m. at Kohala Hongwanji Mission.

Mark your calendar:

- Kohala Hongwanji Mission Bon dance practice: Tuesday, July 1 at 7 p.m. on church grounds (Halaula).
- Kohala Hongwanji Mission Bon dance practice: Wednesday, July 2 at 7 p.m. on church grounds (Halaula)
- Kohala Hongwanji Mission Obon service and Bon dance: Saturday, July 5. Service at 6 p.m., Bon dance to follow.

## Kohala Bon Dance Schedule

Saturday, July 5: Kohala Hongwanji Mission, 7 p.m., following 5 p.m. graveside and 6 p.m. Mission services; 775-7532

Saturday, July 12: Kohala Jodo Mission following 6:30 p.m. service; 889-5456  
Saturday, August 2: Hawi Jodo Mission following 6:30 p.m. service; 775-0965

### Upolu, continued from page 1

tation, Airports Division. It received funding from the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Natural Resource Program, in partnership with Malama Kohala Kahakai, a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center. Funds from that grant will also help Kohala Lihikai with its planting project.

"I want to thank all those who worked diligently to educate and nurture our 'opio in preserving our

'aina me ka moana for generations to come," said Chauncey Wong Yuen, Hawai'i Airports District Manager. He praised the creativity and color blending shown by the students.

The signs will be posted along the trail this summer. They will join the three 4-by-8-foot project signs painted by middle school art students last spring and dedicated at the airport terminal and both ends of the trail last June on National Trails Day.

# NORTH KOHALA

# EAT LOCALLY GROWN

*Growing a Local Food System in North Kohala*

## JULY EVENT

### LAWAI'A

**TO FISH OR TO CATCH FISH**

We are surrounded by the ocean. Food self-sufficiency in Hawai'i is not just about the land, but also about gathering from the ocean. However, the ocean resources today are not what they once were. Join us in learning traditional Hawaiian and modern ways to fish, gather and regenerate the ocean resources.

**Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**TRADITIONAL GATHERING & MODERN IMPACTS**  
Friday, July 11th 6 - 8 pm  
Kohala Intergenerational Center  
*Free. Open to the public.*

This lecture will cover: Traditional gathering methods for 'opihii, 'a'ama, limu koku; Kapu System—conservation practice for survival; Spawning cycles; Connection and counter parts between mauka and makai; Hawaiian Moon Calendar; the state of our coastline marine resources of yesterday as compared to today.

**LAWAI'A: SPEAR FISHING, SHORELINE FISHING, THROW NET**  
Saturday, July 12th, 8 am - 5 pm  
Mahukona & Kapa'a Beach Parks  
*Free, but registration is required. Ages 15 +.*  
Karla@andreadean.com  
or call (808) 224-1404

This hands-on, in the ocean class to cover equipment (traditional, modern and hand made), gathering ('opihii, 'a'ama, limu) and fishing techniques of spear fishing, shoreline fishing and throw net.

**Jeff Coakley, Instructor** — Jeff grew up fishing and gathering in the pristine waters of Kaneohe Bay in the 1950s, where he learned traditional Hawaiian ways from his father and grandmother. He moved to Kohala in 1971, where learned from the many skilled fishermen who relied on their skill to feed their families during the plantation era. Jeff is deeply concerned that today the reefs are depleted of fish and the stones bare of 'opihii, limu and 'a'ama. He teaches people proper techniques to maintain the ocean resources, living the value of "take only what you need," and through education hopes that the community can work together in restoring "what once was."

website [FoodHubKohala.org](http://FoodHubKohala.org)  
Events! Equipment Share! Food Share!

The North Kohala Eat Locally Grown Campaign is a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center and is funded by the County of Hawai'i County Council.

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### Future KMN Deadlines

It's important for the Kohala Mountain News to receive ads and news submissions by the following deadlines. Otherwise, submissions may not be able to be accommodated.



#### July

Ad Deadline: 7/11/14  
News Deadline: 7/14/14

#### August

Ad Deadline: 8/15/14  
News Deadline: 8/18/14

### Kohala Mountain News

www.kohalamountainnews.com

**Our purpose is to enhance and strengthen the community by fostering continuous communication and understanding among the various cultures, residents and constituents.**

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**Current Circulation 3,700**

Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must be accompanied by the author's name, address and telephone number. Both must address issues affecting North Kohala. Letters and Viewpoints are subject to editing, and shorter submissions will receive

preference for publication.

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**Kohala Mountain News**

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## From the Editor's Desk

### Please Direct Comments Regarding the Post Office to USPS

By Maureen Garry

The letter regarding the Hawi Post Office run in last month's issue of the Kohala Mountain News has generated a lot of strongly-opinionated community discussion. This is healthy and an indication that we have brought an important issue to the fore. Having run letters representing both sides (an opposing opinion is being run in this month's issue) it is now time to refer comments and suggestions to the US Postal Service, which welcomes your perspective.

They prefer hard-copy letters over phone calls, as these letters will convey your exact words to the appropriate parties. They do not accept email submissions, because the volume of email they receive poses a risk of your comments inadvertently being missed.

Please send your written letters to:

Felix Bagoyo  
Manager, Post Office Operations

US Postal Service

3600 Aolele Street

Honolulu HI 96820

Alternatively, if you feel comfort-

able calling and having a representative transcribe and convey your comments, you may call USPS Consumer Affairs in Honolulu at (808) 423-3471.

Of course, the intention of any comment should be to add your voice to the discussion that will assure the mail gets delivered promptly and with aloha, not to condemn or attack anyone. Here is an opportunity to practice aloha, work together to address an issue and strengthen our community. Let's all keep that intention in mind as we work toward a resolution.

## Letters—

### Hawi Postmaster is Courteous and Helpful

This letter is to express my feelings about a recent article, which contained unnecessary and hateful remarks about our Hawi postmaster.

In this article, the author shares his opinions, which should not have been published in the manner they were. His letter was hurtful and rude. Attacking someone publicly is cruel and danger-

ous. We may not have all the facts, and we shouldn't rush to judgment without looking at both sides of a conflict. Such misunderstandings and differences of opinion should be dealt with on a one-to-one basis.

I myself had an unfortunate incident, and we worked it out. I realized our new postmaster was just doing exactly

what she had been trained to do, and she might need some time to settle into her new position and new community. Once we shared our opinions she was, and still is, extremely agreeable, courteous and helpful at all times.

Erika Valentine Cheesbrough  
Hawi

## Kohala Hospital Emergency Room Project Update

Work on the new emergency room (ER) has been progressing quite nicely, and it is time to update you on the status of the construction.

As the electrical, medgas (medical gas), mechanical and data contractors finish up their rough-in work, we are nearing an important point in the emergency room project. Soon the wall coverings will be applied, and everything that goes behind the walls must be installed before we close them up. This final rough-in time takes a lot of coordination and double-checking to make sure that all the details are thought of before hand.

As is expected, this rough-in work is taking the majority of the time in the construction schedule. As previously mentioned, the covering of the walls means that the most significant part of the work is complete. This work should be wrapping up in July. After the drywall

is finished, we will be installing cabinets and fixtures. Painting and flooring fall in as the area is ready for them, and then the hospital can outfit the rooms with furniture, medical equipment, and supplies as necessary.

In addition to the systems infrastructure on the interior of the building, the equipment rooms on the exterior of the ER are being framed and dried in. These rooms will house the pumps and other equipment for the modern medgas system that is being installed here.

While the emergency room portion of the renovation moves along steadily, the area containing the new rooms to the south of the existing building is moving through the permitting process. This area includes the triage area, waiting room, multiuse room, bathroom and new concrete ambulance ramp. There have been many hurdles in getting this portion permitted but, with

the support of the building community, including the permitting authorities, we feel we are getting very close to receiving the go-ahead to start building.

The extended timeline of this permitting process has allowed us to complete most of the bidding and contractor selection work so that when the permit is approved, we should be able to move quickly toward completion of the new area. This new construction will require some heavier steel sections for framing in addition to the normal work of steel stud wall framing, drywall and other standard building scopes. Some of these items are able to be fabricated off-site and allow us to expedite this building process.

This project would not be possible without the generous support of the community, the coordination of multiple contractors and all those directly responsible for overseeing this complex work.

Jess Turnbull  
Project Manager  
Kohala Hospital Charitable  
Foundation

## County Council Update—

### News from the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Margaret Wille

By Margaret Wille

**Phase 2 of the North Kohala skate park:** This past year each councilmember was allotted close to \$100,000 for county-related projects. Many of the projects that I allocated funds to will help all of the North and South Kohala communities, such as providing funding for fire boots for District 9 volunteer firemen, tools for Kawaihae, Waikoloa and North Kohala county parks and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) supplies and equipment to assist the Waikoloa, North Kohala, and Waimea CERT volunteers. My single largest allocation however was specifi-

cally for the North Kohala skate park in the amount of \$35,000. This sum is what was estimated as necessary for the labor component to complete the skate park.

Through donations and volunteer labor, the community previously completed the initial infrastructure including drywell construction. Then in 2012 the County Parks and Recreation Department committed to fund the materials component to complete Phase 2, also estimated at about \$35,000. My agreeing to fund the \$35,000 labor cost meant we would actually be ready to complete construction of the skate park. Very exciting! However, nailing down

the Parks and Recreation Department's 2012 written commitment of \$35,000 for materials turned out to be quite a challenge. Yet, with the help of the many North Kohala residents who came to testify at the June 2 Special Budget meeting, we were able hold the County to its commitment to fund the materials for the skate park. At that budget hearing Nancy Crawford, the County's Director of Finance, testified and promised the materials component would be paid out of the Friends of the Parks line item in the County Budget. Had she not done so, the Council was poised to vote

**See CC Update, page 5**

**CC Update, continued from page 4**  
to designate an additional \$35,000 in the operating budget specifically for this expenditure. Theoretically, I would like to say securing the funding for the skate park is now a done deal, and that in the near future we can schedule a skate park Phase 2 celebration. But frankly, vigilance is still required. Our County Parks and Rec Department works hard to assist all of the communities around the island, and North Kohala is just one of those many communities with park projects underway. It is, therefore, essential that we immediately move forward on this skate park project, and at the same time make sure that all of the other North Kohala Parks and Rec projects that have been committed also move forward. This includes the now-funded repairs at the North Kohala Parks—from repairing the Kamehameha Park scoreboard to repairing the hole in the roof in the vacated courthouse.

**Status of other North Kohala projects:** I am also glad to report that the County's purchase of "Banyan Tree Park," although not finalized, has secured all the key approvals—both that of the Council and that of the Mayor. Mayor Kenoi deserves special recognition for approving this pur-

chase, which is to be paid for from the County's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation funds. We also need to recognize the generosity of Dave and Shelley Lucas,



—photo courtesy of the Office of Margaret Wille  
*Councilwoman Margaret Wille stands with the sign for the North Kohala Roots Skate Park. With the help of many community members, Councilwoman Wille is working to commence construction of Phase 2 of the Skate Park in the near future.*

the owners of the property, for their willingness to relinquish this private property for the benefit of the North

Kohala community at large.

**Repainting the Akoni Pule highway center line through Hawi and replacing the road reflectors:** One state project that I promised I would push, and yet still have not accomplished, is getting the State Department of Transportation to repaint the center line, as well as replace the missing and/or broken road reflectors, in the business area of Hawi on Akoni Pule Highway. Currently the DOT's equipment to do the repainting is broken beyond repair, and bids are out to obtain new equipment. BUT I do have a promise from DOT that this North Kohala highway project will be the first job scheduled once the new road-stripping equipment arrives.

**Ongoing Agriculture and Solid Waste Project:** As many of you know, I am chair of the County Council's Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability Committee. In this capacity, I focus on many agriculture-related projects, which often overlap with water and energy projects. Most recently I co-hosted a forum at UH-Hilo discussing issues related to soil health, alternative local feeds for livestock and the fire ant crisis. A number of North Kohala residents were among the presenters. If you are interested in watching the You Tube tapes of this forum,

please contact my office.

I have also been focusing on green waste and how we can maximize return of compostables (includes all organics, not just green waste) to the land. On June 17 the Council heard my Resolution #452 - 14, urging the Administration to withdraw its current solid waste plan Request for Proposals (RFP). I was concerned because at least two groups (both of which are involved in solid waste management with a focus on maximizing compostables) were excluded based on specific RFP requirements. About thirty members of the public came to testify. Every testifier supported my resolution. Because the Director of Environmental Management was unable to attend the council committee meeting, we recessed this matter until the next council committee meeting scheduled for July 1.

For more information on any of these topics, or to bring other matters to my attention, please contact my office.

With much aloha,  
Margaret Wille

### Corrections

In the May 24, 2014 issue, the "North Kohala National Guard Maintains Monument" article on page six erroneously states the Puerto Ricans landed in Kohala in 2001. In actuality, they landed in 1901 and the monument was placed in 2001 to honor them. We apologize for the error.

# TAKATA STORE

"Always Leave with a Smile"

*Loves Kids Bread*  
24 oz.  
\$3<sup>99</sup>

*Chips Ahoy Cookies*  
9.5 - 11.75 oz.  
\$2<sup>99</sup>

Featured prices good May 28 - June 10. Come in for more in-store specials.

*Blue Diamond Almond Milk*  
32 oz. \$1<sup>99</sup>

*Haagen Dazs*  
14 oz. or 3 bars  
\$3<sup>99</sup>

*Dasani Water*  
24 pk. 2/\$8<sup>99</sup>

*Franks Foods Red Franks*  
1 lb. \$3<sup>59</sup>

*Dairyland Milk*  
1 gal. \$5<sup>99</sup>

*Powerade Thirst Quenchers*  
32 oz. 10/\$6<sup>99</sup>

*Ritz Crackers*  
8.8 - 13.7 oz.  
2/\$5<sup>00</sup>

*Heineken Beer*  
12 pk. cans  
\$12<sup>99</sup>

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**Open Monday - Saturday 8 AM - 7PM • Sunday 8AM - 1PM**  
**889-5413**

## The Rebirth of Warren Vignato

By Tim Head

Warren Vignato, a longtime Kohala resident, was sent home from the hospital a couple of months ago to die. At home alone and confused, he sat down. Quickly his friends and hospital authorities helped with Home Health and Hospice applications. If Warren was going to die from heart and kidney failure it was not going to be alone.

Landing in the hospital on three occasions in the past few months, after several previous major surgeries, was very difficult for him. When he was discharged from the hospital, many friends started showing up. After a month of hanging by a thread, the soft loving hands of caregivers and the presence of friends seems to have produced a rebound. When speaking of the kindness and nurturing he has received Warren is barely able to speak. Tears fill his eyes. "I felt like a little kid," he said. The swelling in his legs has gone down, and his energy improved.

After a few weeks hospice authorities notified him that he was no longer in dire straits, so hospice workers said "goodbye for now." No problem. Home health services have remained in place and "friends have continued to come out of the bushes," he said. Although a fragile 79 year-old, he no longer has one foot in the grave.

Most people in Kohala know Warren as a tree trimmer. He arrived in Honolulu from New York in 1960 and began what has become a 50-year career as an

arborist in Hawai'i. He moved to Kohala in 1988. His brother Lee, who lives on O'ahu, had bought land on the Mountain Road, built a house from recycled lumber and offered it to Warren. Since Warren's recent illness, Isaiah Price has



—photo by Carolyn Mondress

*Warren Vignato, left, plays his harmonica, accompanied by guitarist William McLane. After being discharged from hospice care, Warren is still playing.*

been the lead man for operations at All About Trees.

Except for a brief marriage (Mirabelle from the Philippines) and a decade in a commune in the 1970s, Warren has lived without a partner. In recent years his son Joey stayed with him during the school year. The boy now lives with his

mother in California.

Often alone, Warren appears to be self-contained, reserved and at peace with his own company. He has found intimacy in his writing, music and nature. Using a pen and notebook (no typewriter or computer), he expresses what catches his eye and touches his heart.

Several friends in Kohala have known about Warren's writing. Mary Sky Schoolcraft invited him to offer a reading at her Living Arts Gallery in Hawi. Early on she realized that the gallery would be too small, so the event was moved to a meeting room and dancing space behind the new Kohala Village Hub, formerly Luke's.

Warren agreed to read some poems and play his harmonica. Jim Land helped to organize the event and typed up the poems. On Friday evening, May 23, nearly one hundred people showed up. Asked about the source of his words, he said, "When writing, I feel like I have an invisible partner inside me."

### SPIRIT

Spirit has filled me  
Overflowing  
Blessed me with righteous  
Knowing  
Come what may  
The light has shown me  
Inner glowing  
Lit the path before me  
Showing  
This is the way  
Wherever I go from here  
I'm going  
In the name of Spirit

My faith is growing  
Day by day

### MAHINA

I am attracted to the essence  
Of your allure  
Captivated by your charm  
Are you an angel or a goddess?  
I love the opportunity to bask  
In your loving ray of light.  
Have no fear, love is all there is  
I ask only for a chance to dance  
On the venture of genuine  
Acquaintance and spiritual connection.  
If my words  
Have just a hint  
Of essence  
Of amour  
'Tis the captivating  
Essence  
Of your allure.

Warren shared a humorous story from his early days on the island. He joined the Outdoor Circle in Kona, went to his first meeting wearing his work jeans and was surprised to find everyone formally dressed. When he arrived the program director asked, "What do you do for a living?" He said, "I'm an arborist." A few minutes later he was introduced to the membership as "an abortionist."

The degree of his recovery was demonstrated later in the evening when he joined guitarists William McLane and Jack Hutchings on stage in the barn. They played beautifully together late into the night while we danced in celebration. Warren played his harmonica with gusto.

*See Warren, page 7*

# Happy Birthday America!

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## Accountability

**Fulfilling the needs of your constituents  
and the priorities of their community.**

## Integrity

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and protecting our island values.**

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and the 'aina with respect.**

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is Now!  
Please Re-Elect**



## Qigong Masters to Join Kokolulu's Medicine-less Healing Program

Kokolulu Farm and Retreats (KFR) welcomes Masters Peng Xiaoping and Bu Xiaojing to the medicine-less healing program here in Hawi.

In 1993, Master Peng Xiaoping began working in the Huaxia Zhineng Qigong Centre, known in the west as the "Medicineless Hospital." It was known as the biggest healing and training qigong centre in the world. Nearly 200,000 people attended trainings and treatments at the centre. Over hundred different types of diseases were recorded, including all types of cancers. Most of those treated achieved positive healing effects.

Beginning June 23 Master Peng will be spending five months at the Kokolulu Retreat Center as a resident healer and teacher in the medicine-less healing program. He will be offering private healing sessions,



*Master Bu Xiaojing of China will be spending several months, beginning July 7, at the Kokolulu Retreat Center's medicine-less healing program.*

weekend and ten-day intensive retreats at Kokolulu.

Come meet this gifted healer and teacher! KFR is offering free sessions (open to the public) with Master Peng on Wednesday, July 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Kokolulu's Retreat Center; on July 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Tutu's House in Waimea; or on July 9 in Kona (call 889-9893 for details).

He will also be doing a healing circle on Wednesday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Kokolulu Farm. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

In the 1990s, Master Bu Xiaojing was deeply affected by the ideas of Zhineng qigong that she learned from her parents, but she practiced only occasionally. However, later as a result of being overstressed and overworked, she devel-

oped systemic lupus erythematosus (a.k.a. lupus). She became too weak and tired to work at her job any longer. Bu began to study Zhineng qigong and practiced diligently. She believes it was because of her firm conviction and deep love of qigong that she recovered quickly and completely without using drugs.

Beginning July 7 Master Bu will be spending several months at the Kokolulu Retreat Center as a Taiji and qigong teacher in the medicine-less healing program.



*—photos by Karin Cooke  
Master Peng Xiaoping of China will be spending 5 months, beginning June 23, at the Kokolulu Retreat Center's medicine-less healing program.*

She will be offering weekend and ten-day intensive retreats.

Come meet this remarkable woman! KFR is offering a free session (open to the public) with Master Bu on Monday, July 14, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Kokolulu's Retreat Center in Hawi; on July 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Tutu's House in Waimea; or on July 9 in Kona (call 889-9893 for details).

To book a private session with either healer please call Kokolulu at 808-889-9893.

### 3rd Quarter Honor roll for Kohala High School (3.5 GPA or above)

**Seniors:** Jason Ah Sing, Carley Arraujo, Venus Asencion, Koa Bartsch, Geronimo Boyle, Jacelyn Campollo, Troy Castillo, Ramon Cubangbang, Kimberly Elarco, Marjorie Francisco, Bronson Fuertes, Dylan Giron-Arellano, Kauano Gusman, Kawehilani Heinicke, Kahuliau Kaai, Chawncy Kaholoaa-Kumukoa, Aunika Lawrence, Mariah Letzring, Trenton Lorenzo-Akamu, Jesilynn Manalo, Summer Murai, Eloisa Obero, Sandrex Ramos, Leign-Ann Rivera, Samara Shaw, Hauoli Sproat-Lancaster, Chelsea Ventura. **Juniors:** Josiah Adams, Genevieve Boyle, Maranda Carvalho, Kadence Coito, Don Ryan Dollagam, Mikala Jordan, Cassandra Kometani, Alexis Matundan, Timothy Pontius, Denae Rivera, Isabel Steinhoff, Brayden Torres, Riley Uehana. **Sophomores:** Kiana Alejandro-Cazimero, Mina Apostadiro, Zaylee Apostadiro, Gabrielle Bartolome, Patricia Cubangbang, Elijah Dela Cruz, Tyra Faisca, Christopher O'Donnell, Melanie Sahagun, Yuki Zbytovsky. **Freshmen:** Tanya Adams, Zebadayo Bartholomey, Gabriella Boyle, Gabriella Boyle, Teshna Gilhuis-Nekrash, Kiera Javillonar, Jamesen Keyes, Marissa Lawrence, Desha Yamasaki-Cazimero.

### Warren, continued from page 6

When old timers begin to disappear from Kohala it leaves a hole in the community. Drivers passing the Coffee Mill in the morning may find it very strange if Warren is not sitting there. Something is missing, like, "what's wrong with this picture?"

If it is true that a man can be judged by the company he keeps, take a look at who came that night. People who

care about what really matters. People in touch with empathy, compassion and generosity. People who are among the precious arteries in the heart of the Kohala community.

This year Warren turns 80. With good Italian genes, love in his heart and a harmonica in his pocket, he may keep writing and playing for quite awhile.

# RE-ELECT MARGARET WILLE

## AS OUR DISTRICT 9 COUNCILWOMAN

**MARGARET** doesn't just talk the talk; she works hard and **GETS RESULTS!**

### ★ Examples of Margaret's **SUCCESSES** in North Kohala: ★

- ✓ Opened the new Council videoconferencing site in Kapa`au.
- ✓ Led the council effort to preserve the Ala Loa Trail in Kohala Kai subdivision.
- ✓ Nailed down funds to build phase 2 of the North Kohala skatepark.
- ✓ Led the council effort to purchase Banyan Tree Park.



Margaret often attends North Kohala community and senior club meetings. She also keeps us informed in her Kohala Mountain News column and District 9 Newsletter.

*For more information, contact: margarewille@mac.com or call her at 887-1419.*

*To donate to Margaret's campaign - make check out to: Friends to Elect Margaret Wille and mail to:  
65-1158 Mamalahoa Highway #8 PMB229 Kamuela HI 96743*

## June Sustainable Saturday Features Hector Valenzuela

By Deborah Winter

Hector Valenzuela, Ph.D., Professor and Vegetable Crops Specialist from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa believes that small scale organic farms and gardens are the path to long-term sustainability of local communities. As he phrased it in a recent talk that was part of Sustainable Kohala's Free Sustainable Saturday series, "Agriculture is the bedrock of our culture and society." Without sustainable ag, we will not have sustainable communities.

Hawai'i is a microcosm of what the rest of the planet is facing on a global scale. Because we are living on isolated islands where things are expensive, we cannot afford to waste money, much less time and energy, on materials that degrade our soil, contribute to pollution and climate change and jeopardize our health. For example, Roundup, a commonly used pesticide, contaminates the air, water, soil and the oceans. Residues may show up months or years later in some of these realms. And Roundup is expensive. Sustainable alternatives to its use are available and, most importantly, the scientific literature indicates that Roundup causes unintended negative effects on

health and the environment. Instead, we can grow plants that are healthier, more nutritious and cheaper by following a few simple concepts, and well-tested practices, of sustainable agriculture.



—photos by Mellanie Lee

Dr. Hector Valenzuela poses with members of Sustainable Kohala: l - r Hector Valenzuela, John Winter, Val Barnes, Peter DeVries and Deborah Winter.

**Cover crops:** Feed the soil, reduce weeds, protect soils from the elements and conserve water by planting cover crops such as oats, sunnhemp, buckwheat and pigeon peas.

**Composts and mulches:** Grow plants

that offer carbon (brown residues from grasses) and nitrogen (green manures from legumes) for your compost piles.

**Crop selection:** Grow plants that like our tropical climate, such as sugar cane (for windbreaks and mulch), taro, breadfruit, bele or edible hibiscus (an easy-to-grow leafy green), lemongrass (to reduce insects), etc.

**Saving seeds:** Save seeds from your veggies and use the local seed bank. Buying seeds from the mainland often means getting seeds adapted to climate conditions that are far different from ours. And the results are often disappointing because those plants may be difficult to grow here. Fortunately, the Kohala Center in Waimea is spearheading a statewide Public Seed Initiative to support local seed banks. We also have our own seed bank in North Kohala, which is located in the North Kohala Public Library.

**Crop diversity:** Plant different species in the same plot, without overcrowding. Diversity helps to mitigate damage from insects and disease, reduces soil exhaustion and encourages "positive synergistic interactions." Companion planting (pairing specific plants) can help to control pests, attract bees and beneficial insects and promote soil health.

Dr. Valenzuela has published

research on a huge list of tropical food crops including bush beans, cabbage, cucumber, daikon, eggplant, kay choy, lettuce, leafy greens, mustard cabbage, onion, bell pepper, Romaine lettuce, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini. For details, see <http://www2.Hawaii.edu/~hector/Vegetable.html>. As part of his research efforts, Dr. Valenzuela started the first organic research plots at a university in the Pacific region. Sharing his slides and stories about his garden near the University of Hawai'i Manoa at the end of his talk, he brought much appreciation and inspiration to his audience.

For his free "Overview of Organic Farming in Hawai'i," see <http://www2.Hawaii.edu/~hector/VegCropUpdates/1999/April99.html>.

Though he didn't focus on the issue of genetically modified (GM) crops during his presentation, he has also done a lot of work to raise awareness about the adverse health effects of GMs on humans and soils. At a controversial summit held in Waikoloa last fall, Dr. Valenzuela was the only speaker who addressed health risks, and he was influential in persuading county officials to ban biotech companies and new GM crops from Hawai'i Island. This bill was spearheaded by Kohala's Council Representative Margaret Wille, and was signed last December by Mayor Kenoi.

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## Meditation and Teaching with Anam Thubten

During the weekend Aug 1 - 3 the Dharmata Foundation's Anam Thubten Rinpoche will visit North Kohala.

Rinpoche is the Dharmata Foundation's spiritual adviser and dharma teacher.

He will hold a weekend retreat at a private Kohala residence.

The focus of the retreat is to unburden ourselves from mental habits that cause unnecessary suffering and to realize our natural state that is the inner dimension of peace, joy and love. Anam Thubten invites everyone to experience this spiritual transformation through meditation practice and the timeless teachings of the Buddha.

There will be a free preliminary evening talk on Friday, August 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Tutu's house in Waimea.

For those who wish to attend the full retreat, it will be held on September 2 and 3 in North Kohala from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$125 for the whole weekend or \$70 for one day.

No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Anam Thubten grew up in Tibet and at an early age received traditional Buddhist training from various teachers. He is a direct disciple of Lama Tsurlo, who was a life time hermit and yogi.

Anam Thubten teaches and conducts meditation retreats internationally. He is the author of the books, *No Self, No Problem*

and *The Magic of Awareness*. For further information about the retreat and directions to the location, contact Pamela Kimball at solution-shawaii@msn.com or 808-896-2284.



—photo courtesy of Dharmata Foundation  
Anam Thubten

## Kohala Kindergarten Orientation Coming Soon

July 25th has been chosen as the day for this year's Kindergarten KAMP! KAMP stands for Kindergarten Are Most Precious! This excellent orientation program is facilitated by the Kona chapter of 4-H. Adults and experienced high school students will come to the Kohala High School cafeteria for the event. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The program includes time for parents to work one-on-one with children as well as opportunities to meet the kindergarten teachers, principal and school staff. After a quick tour of the school, parents will be given relevant information and an opportunity to ask questions of school personnel while the incoming students will engage in fun activities with the 4-H staff. A light lunch will conclude the program at 11:30.

In order to attend this fun event, your child needs to be registered to attend kindergarten during the 2014-15 school year. Please note that there has been a change in age requirements to attend kindergarten. Children must now be five years old by August 1 of this year in order to be enrolled. A copy of your child's birth certificate and health records will be

required by the time school begins on August 1. Students must also have passed a TB test before attending school.

Once your child is registered to attend, you will receive detailed instructions regarding the first week of kindergarten. Individual testing will be done with each incoming student during the first three days of school (August 1, 4 and 5). On August 6 half of each class will attend until after lunch. On August 7 the other half will attend until after lunch. The whole class begins regular attendance on Friday, August 9. Kindergarten teachers have found that this slower "start up" builds confidence in students and helps them feel secure in their new setting.

It is essential for students to begin kindergarten from the first day so that rules and routines may be established. Please be sure to register your child early and have all the required paper work to ensure a positive beginning of the school year. If you have questions about registering your child or about Kindergarten KAMP, please call Kohala Elementary School at 889-7100.



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Thank you Kohala!

### Meet the Masters From China at Kokolulu

QiGong Master Peng Xiaoping  
Healer and Teacher  
July 2, 6:30 p.m.  
at Kokolulu Farm and Retreats



—photo by Lew Whitney



—photo by Karin Cooke

Tiji Master Bu Xiaojing  
Healed herself of Lupus  
July 14, 6:30 p.m.  
at Kokolulu Farm and Retreats

Lewis Whitney and Karin Cooke RN  
Organic Natural Farmers

Kokolulu Farm and Cancer Retreats Inc.

889-9893

e-mail: lew@kokolulu.com

web site: kokolulu.org

### North Kohala Kamehameha Day 2014



—photo by Deborah Winter  
*Kawe Tracie Akana, Island of O`ahu attendant*

On June 11 North Kohala once again hosted a phenomenal floral parade on Kamehameha Day, a public holiday meant to honor King Kamehameha the Great, unifier of the Kingdom of Hawai`i. The Kingdom comprises the islands of Hawai`i, Kaho`olawe, Kaua`i, Lana`i, Maui, Moloka`i, Ni`ihau and O`ahu.

Kamehameha Day was proclaimed by Kamehameha V in 1871 to honor his grandfather. Evolving from earlier celebrations which included carnivals, fairs and races, modern-day celebrations focus on ancient Hawai`i and the cultural traditions Kamehameha the Great defended during his reign.

Royal pa`u riders highlight the traditional floral parade. Each island is represented by a queen and her attendants, all of whom are mounted on horseback and regally dressed in colorful and elegant 19th century riding gowns. Wearing the island's designated color, the royalty and their mounts are adorned with meticulously-crafted lei.

The floral parade represents long hours of hard work by numerous dedicated volunteers each year. Kohala thanks you for yet another spectacular event!



—photo by Tom Morse  
*Pa`u riders, Island of Hawai`i.*



—photo by Maya Parish  
*Kohala Insitute at `Iole's float featuring a hand crafted hale by Ohua O Na Kia`i*



—photo by Tom Morse  
*Pa`u riders, Island of O`ahu*



—photo by Deborah Winter  
*Adornment fit for a king*



—photo by Deborah Winter  
*Princess Chyler Imai, Island of Moloka`i.*



—photo by Maya Parish  
*Members of Ohua O Na Kia`i riding down Akoni Pule Highway on the Kohala Institute at `Iole float*



—photo by John Gardner  
*Kohala Institute at `Iole float — adults*

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## North Kohala Kamehameha Day 2014



—photo by Deborah Winter

*Kohala Lions Club members wave from their float*



—photo by Randee Golden

*Members of 'Ohua O Na Kia'i, a group of Kohala residents working to restore historic lo'i, offer their Ho'okupu chant to the King during the annual Kamehameha Day parade.*



—photo by Tom Morse

*At the heart of the event, the king surveys his subjects*



—photo by Deborah Winter

*Princess Zenalyn Poliahu, Island of Lana'i.*



—photo by Lakme Nishie

*Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union float.*



—photo by Sharon Hayden

*Pa'u Queen Hualali Carvalho*



—photo by John Gardner

*Kohala Institute at 'Iole float — kids*

*Zazztiny Matsu*



—photo by Sharon Hayden



—photo by Tom Morse

*Parade Marshals gather before the parade. They help keep spectators and participants safe during the event.*

**Kohala**  
**Green School**

**Homeschool Enrichment**  
**Enrolling for Fall 2014**

Family Information Meeting: July 16th  
10 am, North Kohala Public Library  
RSVP to [greenschool@oneisland.org](mailto:greenschool@oneisland.org)  
[www.oneisland.org/greenschool](http://www.oneisland.org/greenschool)

**The Kohala Community Athletic Association announces its after-school sports programs for the youth of Kohala for 2014 - 2015**

Since 1980

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Sport	Ages	Registrations	Playing Season
Volleyball	9 - 14	2nd week Aug	Sept to mid-Oct
Biddy Basketball	5 - 8	2nd week Aug	Sept to mid-Oct
Girls Softball	9 - 14	4th week Sept	Mid-Oct to end Nov
Boys Basketball	9 - 14	1st week Dec	Mid - Jan to mid - March
T-ball	5 - 6	1st week Dec	Mid - Jan to mid - March
Pitch-ball	7 - 8	1st week Dec	Mid - Jan to mid - March
Girls Basketball	9 - 14	4th week Feb	April to late May
Flag Football	5 - 14	2nd week April	May and June

Watch for ads in this newspaper and on community bulletin boards for registration dates and locations. All sports are free of charge. KCAA is a community-based non-profit volunteer organization. For more info contact Tom Morse at 345-0706.

**Dr. Jonny's Health Tips:**

A great way to improve health is by simply walking at a moderate pace for 30 minutes per day, 3 to 4 days per week. A moderate pace will cause you to breathe heavily, but you should still be able to talk. Some of the benefits of walking include: Reduction in the risk of developing heart disease, osteoporosis, type II diabetes, and breast and colon cancers. You can also improve blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and blood lipid levels. Consult a doctor before beginning any new exercise plan.

**For more information, contact Dr. Jonny at Kohala Chiropractic 938-3888**

## Kohala High School Class of 2014 Senior Exit Plans

*Like all graduating seniors, the members of KHS Class of 2014 show an interesting diversity in plans they hold for the future. Here's a brief run-down of where they're headed:*

Ah Sing, Jason-Mahonri; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Agriculture - Amar, Coby; Seek Employment; Work as a Lifeguard at Hapuna Beach then save money to go to college - Anakalea, Tihani; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Nursing - Arraujo, Carley; University of Puget Sound; Psychology/Sociology - Asencion, Venus; Hawai'i Pacific University; Nursing - Bartsch, Koa; University of Portland; Major in History, After college: Aviation Officer, After Army: History Teacher - Boyle, Geronimo; Northern Arizona University; Civil Engineering - Cabulizan-Aros, Pukaua; Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology; Veterinarian Technician - Campollo, Jocelyn; Vanguard University of Southern California; Pre-Law, Political Science - Carvalho-Yoneda, Brandy; Seek Employment; Work at Coffee Shop for 1 to 2 years then attend college for culinary arts - Castillo, Troy; University of Colorado-Denver; Civil Engineering - Ching, Taric; Military: U.S. Army; Serve in U.S. Army and later attend college - Cubangbang, Jr. Ramon; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Marketing - Dean, Arden; Hawai'i Community College-Hilo; Agriculture / work at Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center - Edwards, Mark; Northern Arizona University; Business Management - Elarco, Kimberly; Seek employment / mentorship; Mentorship as a starting Chef in Las Vegas - Estabilio, Shawn; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Digital Media Arts - Francisco, Marjorie; Hawai'i Pacific University; Nursing - Fuertes, Bronson; Seek employment; Heavy Equipment Operator - Geiger, Kalani; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Auto body repair & painting or work in Hotel Industry - Giron-Arellano, Dylan; Honolulu Community College; Auto Body & Painting - Gusman, Kauano; University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Nursing (RN) - Heinicke, Kawehilani; Seek employment; Work for 1 year then plan on attending UH - Hilo for Hawaiian Language - Henandez, Jas-

mine; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Liberal Arts then transfer to university - Higa, Daylan; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Agriculture - Kaai, Kahuliau; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Performing Arts - Kaholoaa-Kumukoa, Chawncy; Western New Mexico College; Liberal Arts - Kainoa, James; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Auto body repair & painting or work with automotive repair trade - Kamanu-Macariola, Kalani; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Agriculture and Landscaping - Kanoa, Brittney; Colorado Mesa University; Nursing - Kelly, KenyaRae; Seek Employment; Employment at Kapa'au Veterinary Center - Kijiner, Kimberly; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Hospitality/ Tourism Management - Lawrence, Aunika; Southern Oregon University; Nursing - Letzring, Mariah; Oregon State University; Liberal Arts - Lewis, Jayden; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Cinematography or Anthropology - Lewis-Matsu, Justice; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Police Officer or Construction Trade - Lorenzo-Akamu, Trenton; Honolulu Community College; Auto body

repair & painting - Manalo, Jesilynn; Hawai'i Pacific University; Nursing - Medeiros, Ivy; Seek employment; Work for 1 to 2 years then go to college for Cosmetology - Moniz, Ginise; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies - Murai, Summer; Hawai'i Community College - West Hawai'i; Business Administration - Navarro, Robert; Military: U.S. Army; U.S. Army - Obero, Eloisa; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Kinesiology - Okubo-Kaluau, Micah; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Fire Science or Automotive/ Diesel mechanic - Paro, Haley; Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology; Cosmetology - Perote, Prince Rhopert; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Culinary Arts: to become Executive chef - Ramos, Davyn; Military: U.S. Navy; Enlisted and will be training as a gunner's mate - Ramos, Sandrex; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Auto Body & Painting - Rivera, Leign-Ann; University of Hawai'i - Maui College; Hospitality & Tourism to pursue a career as a flight attendant - Rix, Katherine; Travel Academy in Minnesota; Travel Industry / Flight Attendant - Rodrigues-Berdon, Joshua; Seek employment for 1 year then go to college; Work in Hotel Industry at Sushi

Restaurant then go to college in a year - Rodriguez, Carlos; Community College in Arizona; Fire Fighter/ EMT/ Paramedic - Salvador, Michael John; Hawai'i Community College - Hilo; Auto Mechanics - Santana, Jasmine Helen; Employment then Military: US. Air National Guard; Work then plan to enlist in Air National Guard and later pursue interest in L.A. Special Effects Make up School - Santiago, Larissa; Hawai'i Community College - West Hawai'i; Culinary Arts - Seidel-Glory, Azariah; Seek Employment; Work as a Lifeguard at Hapuna Beach then save money to move to Oahu - Shaw, Samara; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Liberal Arts, Creative Writing or Photography - Skelton, Edward; Unknown; Unknown - Solomon-Lewis, Kaimipono; University of Hawai'i - Maui College; Sustainable Science Management - Sproat-Lancaster, Hauoli; Colorado Mesa University; Athletic Training - Ventura, Chelsea; University of Hawai'i - Hilo; Bachelors in Math - Victorino, Robert; Military: U.S. Navy; Join the Navy and later attend college - Viernes, Kristine Diane; Seek Employment; Work in hotel industry - Yamamoto, Chaslyn; University of Phoenix (O'ahu campus); Human Services.



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## Kohala Middle School Raises over \$750 for American Cancer Society

By Randee Golden

It was a warm afternoon with high clouds and little wind on Wednesday, May 14, when the student body of Kohala Middle School gathered to participate in the school's Second Annual Relay for Life Field Day, a fundraiser organized by students in support of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Different activities took place from 12:30 to 4 p.m., with many students and staff staying past the school day to participate in the event and support fundraising efforts.

This event began last year when Hale Akamai, one of the school's six Houses, planned the middle school's first Relay for Life Field Day. The House's advisors, teachers Erika Blanco and Cristy Athan, wanted to find a way their multi-grade team

of 30 sixth through eighth graders could give back to their community. This year, Hale Laulima's house members also helped to plan the afternoon of activities with the stu-



Sancie DeMattos and Daveline Ching from the American Cancer Society register participants in the Kohala Middle School Second Annual Relay for Life Field Day.

—photos by Randee Golden

dents in Hale Akamai.

Teachers worked with Sancie DeMattos, the West Hawai'i American Cancer Society staff member who set up an information booth and brought supplies for the event. Cancer survivor and Honoree Daveline Ching also joined the afternoon festivities. Both she and Sancie spoke to the students about surviving cancer and what the ACS does to help people.

Also coming back to help again this year was Clayton Yamamoto, Jr., known to many as C.J. This young man has been helping run Kohala Relay for Life events for years as one of his many ways of giving back to his community. Many thanks to CJ for his support as emcee and chief motivator!

A special moment during the beginning of the Field Day was when a group of students, along with Hana Anderson, presented a beautiful artistic hanging of 1,000 origami cranes that they had made for Dr. Ana Garcia Brown. The group wanted to share their aloha with Dr. Garcia, who has also battled cancer.

Besides doing laps around a track to raise money for ACS, students paid a small donation to participate in volleyball, basketball and kendama competitions. The school also raised a lot of money by selling shave ice and baked goods. Mahalo to Lehua Ah Sam and kupuna Henry Ah Sam for the use of their shave ice machine, and to Lehua for helping to run the booth. A big thank you is also extended to the students and staff who baked treats to sell to hungry walkers.



Kohala Middle School students prepare luminary bags for the luminary ceremony.

A touching part of the afternoon was the Luminary Ceremony, where participants decorated a bag in memory of loved ones who had passed or who are battling cancer.

The presentation of the bags holding small votive lights provided a powerful image of aloha being sent to those who were remembered.

In addition to raising funds for a good cause, students in Hale Akamai did research about different kinds of cancer. They then created PowerPoint presentations to share with their peers.

A special note of appreciation goes out to the Kohala Middle School staff whose continued dedication allows students to experience community service and positive advisory activities that are vital to a solid middle school experience.



CJ Yamamoto was emcee for the Kohala Middle School Second Annual Relay for Life Field Day.

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## Movie Theaters in Kohala First in a Series

By Tom Morse

Today, if you live in Kohala and want to see a movie in a theater, you must drive at least an hour. But there was a time when there were multiple movie theaters all over Kohala. In fact at various times there were ten separate movie theaters. This cannot be explained by differences in population. In 1930 (at the transition point between silent and sound movies), the population was 6,275 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. By 1940, when the three largest sound theaters in Kohala were new, it was 5,362. And yet those three theaters, open every evening, had a combined seating capacity of 1,430 seats!

Not many people came from other parts of the island to attend Kohala theaters. The Kohala Mountain Road was the only access to Kohala till 1968. Until it was paved in about 1934, a one-way trip to Waimea took about four hours.

The lifestyle of this area was integrally tied to the six sugar mills, which stretched from Hawi to Niuli'i. Especially in the silent film era (1921-1930), the mills wanted after-work entertainment for the workers, many of whom were single men of various ethnic backgrounds brought in to work on the plantations. Transportation was much more likely to be by foot or horseback, as very few people owned cars. The mills supplied the theaters, not only for entertainment, but also to assure that the workers did not go to another mill nearby in search of recreation. Plantation workers were generally housed in "camps" surrounding the mill. The mill theater was located near the camps. Although the theaters were open to the public, most people, even up to 1950, did not travel far from their mill area, even though the distance between mills was only three or four miles. As there were very few entertainment alternatives, many people went to the theaters more than one night a week. And of course, several relate that they met their spouses at

the theaters.

The early theaters were very basic. Benches were the usual seats. In Mahukona, where there was no theater, movie-goers sat on bags on raw sugar awaiting shipment. Admission price to most theaters was nine cents for adults, seven cents for children.

A movie industry trade magazine in 1921 refers to the "Hawi Movies," the earliest reference to a movie theater in Kohala. It most surely was located on the open space area between the banyan trees and Akoni Pule Highway in the center of Hawi and was built by the plantation. The manager was Johnny Medeiros.

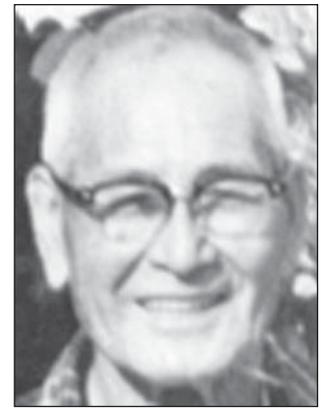
Showing only silent films, the theater later became a U.S.O. hall until sometime after World War II. Prior to the war, there were live shows by Japanese performers. The site is still marked by the stone steps and walkway leading up from the intersection of the highway and Shige's Service Station. The theater stood near where the pine tree now stands.

### Koichi Sugiyama

Beginning in 1925, Koichi Sugiyama managed all the theaters showing silent films. Born in Kohala in 1893, the son of one of the first Japanese plantation workers to come to the Big Island, Koichi picked up the films at the wharf in Mahukona,

where they came in once a week on a sugar freighter. He then lined up projectionists to show the movies each night at the various theaters, often using his own projection equipment. No electricity? No problem, he ran the projector with power from his car engine.

At times theater patrons would play their ukuleles to accompany the action on the screen. Far and away the most well-received were "cowboy" films. The silent film era especially featured many male cowboy film stars. This trend con-



—photo courtesy of Ellen Sato

**Koichi Sugiyama** managed all the Kohala theaters showing silent films.

**See Theater, page 15**

Kohala Movie Theaters	
Silent Films 1921 - 1934	Sound Films 1930 - 2001
Hawi Movies - 20s	*Makapala Theater 20s - 1939
Pineapple Cannery - 20s	Hawi Theater 1935 - 1973
Halawa Mill - 20s	Kahei Theater 1940 - 2001
*Union Mill - 20s - early 30s	Kohala Theater 1940 - 1958

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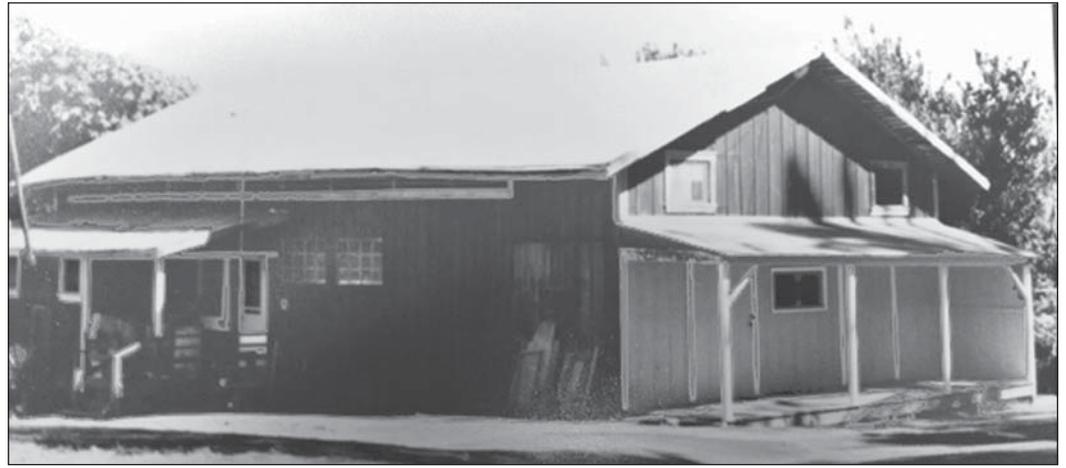
**Theater, continued from page 14**  
 tinued when sound was introduced, although only a few stars transitioned well. Sound also introduced the singing cowboys, such as Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and Tex Ritter. And of course, John Wayne, who made at least five films a year beginning in 1932. The first Technicolor films were introduced in 1935. Some theaters had one night each week for Japanese or Filipino films only.

The **Kapunapuna Pineapple Cannery** began in 1919 to grow and

can pineapples in the acreage between Puakea and Puuhui. In the early 1920s this area housed a small movie theater, as well as a store. The pineapple venture was not commercially successful, and the theater closed with it in 1931.

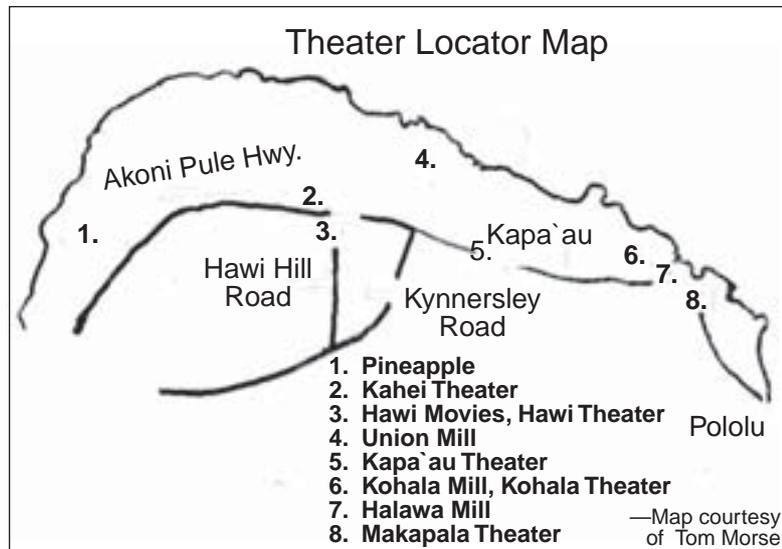
The **Union Mill** began in 1874. It was located makai on what is now Union Mill Road in Kapa`au. Sometime in the 1920s the mill erected a theater with benches which seated about fifty. Movies were shown

every night by Koichi Sugiyama. In the 20s the films were silent. In the 30s sound films were shown on a permanent projector/speaker system. It remained in operation as a theater



—photo courtesy of the North Kohala Public Library, Reference Room

*Makapala Theater; Makapala Store still stands next to the site of what was once the Makapala Theater.*



until the merger with the Kohala Mill in Halaula in 1937. It then held boxing matches until it was torn down, sometime around 1942.

The **Halawa Mill** began in 1873. It was located adjacent to the highway just past the Wo On Store. A mill theater was built here also. The theater closed when the Halawa mill merged into the Kohala Mill in 1929.

A theater was built sometime in the 1920s in central Kapa`au on the old road to the hospital. It showed silent films at first, and then sound films until it was torn down in the early 1930s.

The **Kohala Mill** in Halaula was the first mill in operation, beginning in 1863. In the 1920s it too built a theater at the makai end of the property near the shooting range. As the other mills merged one by one with the Kohala Mill, this became the last mill theater. It closed in 1939 with the completion of the luxurious Kohala Theater which opened in 1940. The building remained in use as a recreational hall, well into the 1950s.

**Kazuo Komoto**  
 The **Makapala Theater** likewise was built sometime in the 1920s. Although



—photo courtesy of Roy Kamoto

*Kazuo Komoto was the projectionist at the Makapala Theater.*

it was not owned by a sugar mill, it was the main recreational outlet for the nearby Niuli`i mill. It was owned by the Zane family, who also owned a store next door, until it was sold to Kiyomatsu Komoto in about 1929. His son, Kazuo, was the projectionist. It also showed silent films at first and then converted to sound in the early 1930s. It closed in 1939, at the time that the Niuli`i Mill merged with Kohala Mill.

The store continued on for many years. The Komotos sold the store to the Pasamonte family in the early 1950s. The theater building housed various businesses into the early 1990s. Today the stone steps leading to the site of the theater can still be seen directly across the street from the walkway to the Makapala School (now the Makapala Christian Retreat Center) on Akoni Pule Highway, just past the road to the Kohala Baptist Church (formerly St. Paul's Church).

**See Theater Locations in Kohala's past on page 16**

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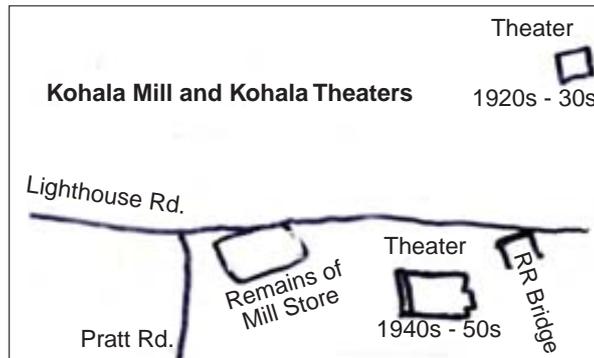
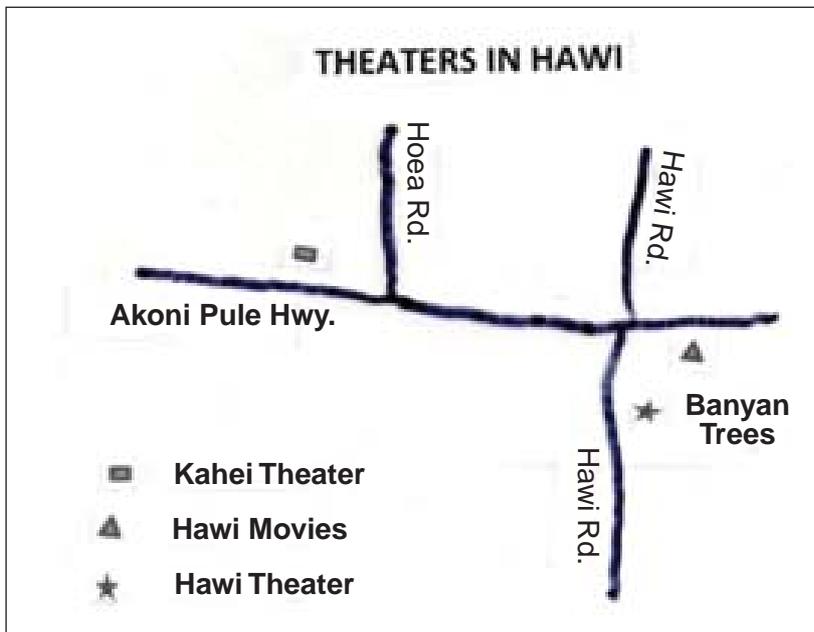
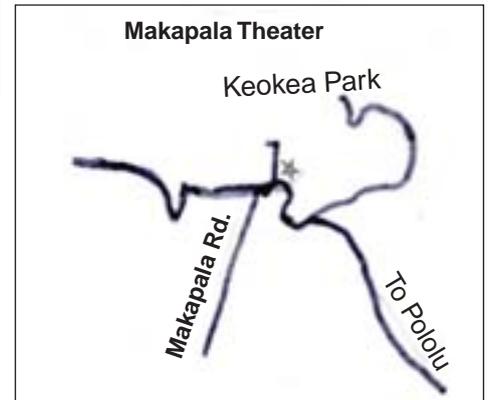
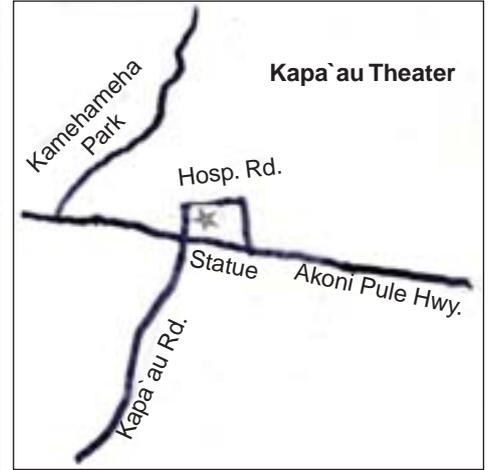
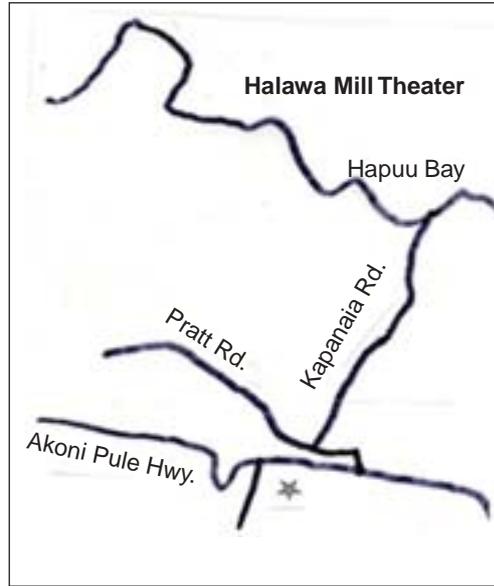
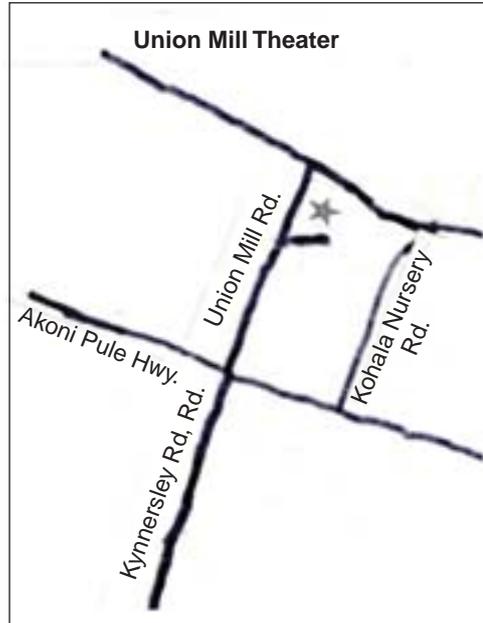
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**Theater, continued from page 15**

Author's note: The information presented in this article was gleaned primarily from interviews with Kohala's kupuna. If after reading this you find any inaccuracies, or if you have additional insights, please contact me. Future articles will feature the big three sound theaters: The Hawi, The Kahei and The Kohala. Special thanks to Ellen (Sugiyama) Sato, Lucy Hinokawa, Rod Hinokawa, Jr., Zen and Iris Fujii, Shiro Takata, Henry Dulan, Joe Mattos, Roy Komoto, Harold Sugiyama, Jr. and Lowell Angell.

Individual maps show more detailed locations of North Kohala theaters.



— theater location maps, diagrams courtesy of Tom Morse

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## Kohala Elementary School Completes Aloha Mural

At the end of each school year Kohala Elementary School second graders make a class mural. This mural serves a couple of purposes. It makes a real-world connection to a story read in class, incorporating research of an animal, and it also becomes a culminating activity for the year. This year the second graders took this activity even further. The original story is about a class deciding how to celebrate a school's 50th anniversary. This process included brainstorming ideas, voting on one, requesting help for such a large scale project, working on it and informing the media. We followed a similar format. With administration's approval, a common wall area in the second grade level was designated as the mural surface; our talented Title I coordinator, Mrs. Rebecca Jankowski, volunteered to be our resident-artist in charge.

Four students were pulled out each session to work with Mrs. Jankowski. Her first question to them as they approached the mural was, "What do you see or envision?" Their responses, ranging from thumbprint butterflies to stenciled surfers, are reflected in the wonderful collage.

Since April, every second grader has participated in the painting. Many completed a second round. It has been so exciting to see it "evolve" each day. As



—photo by Rose Mae Watterson  
Mrs. Jankowski advises Daysha Lynn Tayan-Germano, Savannah Kupukaa, Kiona Nakamura and Alan Secuya in the creation of the 2014 Kohala Elementary School Aloha Mural.

each student's hand print will be traced on the rainbow we truly can say, "Every child had a hand in it."

The mural also serves another purpose. It is a way of saying "Aloha" to the school and students. School counselor, Mrs. Rose Mae Watterson, second grade teachers Ms. Mary Lou Griesser and Mrs. Noreen Hagio, and part-time teacher Mrs. Sharon Wilkinson will be retiring at the end of the school year. We worked hard to make this mural a reality and a "legacy" we leave for the students and school. The mural is truly an "aloha"—a "hello" as it welcomes and a "good-bye" for several teachers.

### Weekly Events in July

Please note these events meet every week.

- Mon 8 am, Kripalu style yoga class w/ Kunga Ogle, white tent at Bond Hmstd, 889-5151.
- Mon 7 pm, Al-Anon mtg., lower level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's, Laura, 884-5833.
- Tue 8-9 am, Heart's Reflection Sitting Meditation Group, Meditation Hale, 53-3988 Akoni Pule Hwy, mauka, east of hospital, by donation, 889-5151.
- Thu 8-9:15 am, Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/ Maya Parrish, all levels, by donation, white tent at Bond Hmstd, 889-5151.
- Thu 2-4 pm, Hawaiian weaving w/ Mele Waikiki, by donation, white tent at Bond Hmstd, 889-5151.
- Thu 5 pm, Beginning Hula w/ Mele Waikiki, by donation, white tent at Bond Hmstd., 889-5151.

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## Hawai'i Paso Finos Hosts First EAGALA Training in Hawai'i

On May 16 Joe and Kelly Vitorino of Hawai'i Paso Finos in Niuli'i hosted a six-day professional training for EAGALA (pronounced ee gá luh), or the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association. Joe is certified by EAGALA as part of his credentials to work with at-risk youth at the Vitorinos' Kohala Youth Ranch, and he wanted to bring the program to more therapists in Hawai'i. This training was the first EAGALA training in the state and drew eager students from the mainland, O'ahu, Maui and across the Big Island. Amy Blossom (Equine Specialist) and Brenda Hunter (Mental Health Professional) of EAGALA led the training.

The Vitorinos are striving to create a Hawai'i Network group, stimulating equine therapists to work together and increase the therapy's availability in Hawai'i. In addition to bringing advanced professional knowledge to the islands, Joe notes, each training provides a big boost to the local economy.

EAGALA, founded in 1999, uses equine (horse) therapy/learning to address mental health and human development. It is the leading international non-profit in this arena, with over 4,000 members in 49 countries. EAGALA model equine

therapy/learning can effectively treat an array of needs, including addictions, depression, eating disorders, ADHD, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), grief and loss, and family or social relationships. In addition, EAGALA model equine assisted learning can offer personal and professional growth opportunities ranging from corporate team building to personal skill development (e.g., assertiveness, parenting skills, professional development, etc.)

Equine therapy/learning is based on the premise that because horses are prey animals they are acutely aware of their environment, much more so than hunting animals. They must be vigilant and respond to potential threats, whether overt or more subtle, for survival. This sensitive reactivity gives valuable feedback to

clients/participants and the treatment team during an equine therapy/learning session. Among the many advantages of working with horses is their honesty and skill in perceiving nonverbal communication. They mirror the human

body language, giving the client an opportunity to see his or her behavior reflected back in a non-judgmental, non-threatening way. The client learns to change his or her own behavior to affect change in the horse—a powerful life lesson. The therapy/learning experience creates a metaphor of life in the arena that then can be applied to the real life of that person(s).

Developed over the last 15 years, the EAGALA model adheres to four standards. First, sessions are run by a team consisting of a qualified mental health professional and an equine specialist. Second, all sessions take place on the ground; there is no riding. EAGALA professionals like to say, "You can't look in the mirror if you're sitting on it." Third, the model is solution focused, allowing participants to find their own solutions through experimentation and problem-solving. And finally, practitioners rigorously adhere to a code of ethics, following a strict protocol to ensure quality client care.

During a series of (typically 12) sessions, each client/participant works with a team including a qualified mental health specialist, an equine specialist and a horse(s). The team plans the treatment and structures the sessions, with a progression building across sessions in order to continue exploration and finding solutions. Sessions focus on observ-

ing the horses' behavior in areas they call SPUDS, which stands for Shifts, Patterns, Unique behaviors, Discrepancies and "the treatment team's Stuff." The idea is to observe the horse's actions without bringing in the team's personal interpretations ("the treatment team's stuff.") Information from SPUDS observations help the client/participant bring in the metaphoric and learning relevance of the session. All time with the horses is experiential, not verbal.

The treatment team encourages and guides the participant to interpret things through the eyes of the horse. "What do you think was going on with the horse?" is a typical inquiry. The method is intentionally indirect; the horses will be a projection of what's going on with clients. This method of inquiry creates a less defensive response from the participant thereby allowing participants to more freely project their own interpretations and feelings onto the horse and their experience.

**See EAGALA, page 19**



—photos by Kyle Combes

*Miradouro, one of the Hawai'i Paso Finos horses, patiently awaits his turn to guide the clinic students through their assignments during the EAGALA training. Horses, along with mental health professionals and equine specialists, are a critical component of therapeutic teams.*



*Participants in the EAGALA training, including the horse, embrace each other after a therapeutic session.*

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L-R: Bernard Ho'opai; Michael Matsu; Brenda Fong; Deborah Winter; Melissa Kaho'opai; Chona Ho'opai; Art Owen; Hope Keawe; Teresa Marquez; Blaine Ho'opai, Bernelle Camera, Wilton Camera; Not pictured: Cicely Ho'opai; Laddie Shim; Kay Aldrich; Patricia Ako; Kau Nakamura

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**EAGALA, continued from page 18**  
 rience with the horse.

As an example of how a session might go, during the training participants were directed to use the horse to "build their journey through EAGALA." The partici-



*A session participant welcomes her equine team member during the May 2014 EAGALA training at Hawai'i Paso Finos.*

pants proceeded to lead the horses down a plywood path, luring them with buckets of water. The horses wandered a bit, but eventually made it to the end of the plywood. Once at the end with the participants, the horses gathered nose to

nose, with one horse dropping to one knee.

Encouraged to "find the metaphor" in the experience, one of the participants' interpretations was personally freeing. She learned that even though the horses didn't go along with her strict plan for the journey it was okay to let go of being in control, something completely unnatural to her. She learned that despite their wanderings, she could trust the group to end up at the destination together, and was tremendously moved by the large animal's gesture of kneeling to "meet her on her level."

Looking toward the future, the Vitorinos hope to host more trainings and increase the availability of this highly-effective therapy, also used adjunctly with traditional mental health services) across the Hawaiian islands.

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**July**

**KOHALA CALENDAR**

- 1 Tues 7 pm, Bon Dance practice, also 7/2, Kohala Hongwanji Mission, on church grounds, Halaula, 775-7532.
- 2 Wed 10 am, Fizz Boom Science Wednesdays (ages 6-12), "Alka-Seltzer Rockets," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 2 Wed 4:30-6:30 pm, CDP Public Access Subcmte. Mtg., Senior Center, Ted, 889-5801.
- 3 Thu 6-9 pm, Green Drinks Hawi, Kava Kafe, organic networking & pupus, Forrest, 987-2365.
- 5 Sat 8:30 am, "Walking in the Wild" guided silent walks w/ Gavin Harrison, by donation, Kohala Institute at `Iole, 889-5151.
- 5 Sat 6 pm, Obon service, Bon dance to follow, Kohala Hongwanji Mission, on church grounds, Halaula, 775-7532.
- 7 Mon 6 pm, Family film night, "Monster's University," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 7 Mon 6-7 pm, CDP Growth Management Subcmte. Mtg., public invited, old Bank of Hawaii bldg., Kapa`au.
- 8 Tue 11 am, Adult book discussion group, "Daughters of Fire," by Tom Peek, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 8 Tue 5:45 pm, Metaphysical Forum: 'Spiritual Healing Classes,' also July 15, 22 & 29, Kohala Village Inn, Hawi, Rev. Lee, 989-5995.
- 9 Wed 8 am, No. Kohala Merchants Association Mtg., Resource Center, public invited, Richard, 889-1112.
- 9 Wed 5-6:15 pm, CDP Power, Viewplanes & Erosion Control subcmte. mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr, Susan, 882-7611.
- 11 Fri 10 am, Preschool Story Time series, ages 2-5, also 7/18 & 7/25, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 11 Fri 6-8 pm, "Lawai`a: Traditional Gathering & Modern Impacts," lecture, free, KIC, Karla, 224-1404.
- 12 Sat 8 am-5 pm, "Lawai`a: Spearfishing, Shoreline Fishing, Throw Net" hands-on workshop, ages 15+, free, Kapa`a & Mahukona beach parks, registration req'd, must attend lecture on 7/11, Karla, 224-1404.
- 12 Sat 3-6 pm, Artist reception, music, talk story w/ Maya Soaringsun for show "Spirit of Hawaii," 5 pm ukulele & drum chant, show dates July 1-31, Living Arts Gallery, Hawi, 889-0739.
- 12 Sat 6:30 pm, Obon service, Bon dance to follow, Kohala Jodo Mission, top of Kapa`au Rd., 889-5426.
- 14 Mon 2 & 6 pm, Simple jewelry craft w/ Sid Nakamoto, free, call to register, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 14 Mon 5-6:30 pm, CDP Action Cmte. Public Mtg., former Bank of Hawaii bldg., Kapa`au.
- 16 Wed 5 pm, CDP Agriculture Subcmte. Mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr., Frank, 333-8026.
- 17 Thu 1:30-2:30 pm, Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Mtg., Hospital Pavilion, new members welcome, Dixie, 889-5730.
- 19 Sat 9 am-1 pm, Treasures Helping-Hand Store, Assembly of God, Hawi Rd., free meal: 10 am-1 pm, 889-5177.
- 19 Sat 10 am, Yoga on Horseback, Hawaii Paso Finos Ranch, 884-5625.
- 19 Sat 4:30-6:30 pm, Free Grindz-Hot Meal, under the Hawi Banyans, bring a friend, Kohala Baptist Church, Sondra, 889-5416.
- 22 Tue 6:30-8:30 pm, 'Talking Story about Death and Dying,' open forum, Kokolulu Cancer Retreat, Bobbi, 238-5681, Stephen, 328-2452.
- 26 Sat 11 am-12:30 pm, Free Community Meal, St. Augustine's Walker Hall, Thrift Store open 10 am-12:30 pm.
- 28 Mon 5-7 pm, Poetry gathering: read, discuss, share original & favorite poems, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 29 Tue 5 pm, CDP Parks, Water & Roads Subcmte, public welcome, Senior Ctr., andi@hawaii.rr.com.
- 30 Wed 4-5:30 pm, Restorative Yoga Therapy w/ Carla Orellana, Kohala Institute at `Iole, 889-5151.

Email calendar listings to kmncalendar@hotmail.com or call 884-5986.

## Mahukona's Danger Zone

By Tim Head

The slippery, moss-covered concrete at the Mahukona swimmer's ladder has claimed another victim. On Monday, June 8, Hawi's Dr. Alan Thal fell and broke his hip. He was flown to Honolulu for surgery. By the weekend following Alan's accident, the wharf landing had been scrubbed, probably with bleach, and the moss was gone.

Ongoing swimmer conversations have not only included reports on the clarity and temperature of the water, but also the realization that Doctor Thal is not the first person injured at that landing. The dangerous situation has been present since the wharf became part of Mahukona Beach Park in 1955. The list of victims is a long one.

This is not an article to beat up on the County Parks Department. There have actually been improved County services lately. How about the new pavement on the entry road, complete with a double yellow line! Have you

noticed the shower plumbing? About every five years, someone fixes the pipes that provide warm ditch-water showers (don't drink it). The present upgrade is the best effort in twenty years. It may have been done gratis by some Kohala

handyman as a community service. Or, perhaps it was Parks and Recreation. Whatever. Mahukona swimmers are pleased and grateful.

Another step in the right direction is the three portable toilets now parked long-term on the wharf. For a half a century swimmers and party animals had to hike south to facilities at the beach park pavilion.

However, these perks pale in contrast to the cost of broken bones. One's mind searches for a solution. Weekly bleach scrubs don't sound very sustainable. Here's one that jumped out of my keyboard: a heavy duty plastic grate that lets water fall through and has a barefoot friendly top surface that is dry and safe.

There may be no permanent

or final solution to the wear and tear that constant wave action has on that ladder and landing, but something needs to be done to reduce the pain and suffering from mishaps that happen.

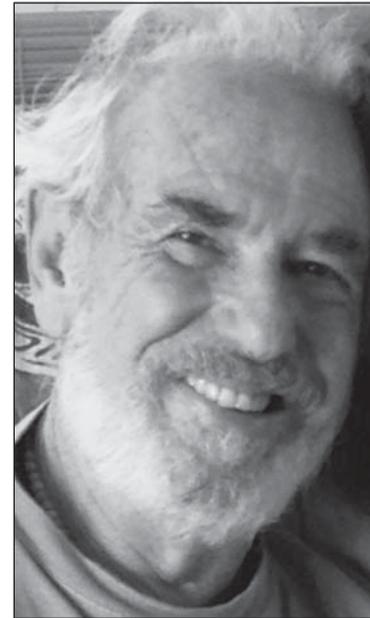
Mahukona's Wharf is one of Kohala's treasures, and it enriches the lives of all who visit the place. One wonders how Kohala might get the aid needed to meet this current challenge. If you know of anyone, from keiki to elders, who has slipped and been hurt, please telephone the mayor and/or the director of Parks and Recreation with a few words about that incident. Thanks. Our community really needs creative and immediate action on this one.

Call Mayor Billy Kenoi at 961-8211; Parks and Recreation Director Clayton Honma at 961-8311.



The swimmers' ladder at Mahukona wharf.

—photo by Tim Head



—photo by Sherri Thal

Dr. Alan Thal, a Kohala physician, seen in a recent photograph. On June 8 Dr. Thal fell and broke his hip at the Mahukona swimmers' ladder due to slippery algae on the concrete.



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