

Vol.14, No. 1

January 24, 2015

Kohala Chapter of Hawai'i Farmers Union United Established



Kohala farmer Cab Baber and Senator Theilan hold her hempcrete block, which she uses to educate citizens about the value of hemp as a sustainable material for construction. Baber has been helping to draft legislation to accelerate opportunities for farmers to grow industrial hemp for food, fiber and fuel.

Kohala has recently formed a chapter of the National Farmers Union, an organization established in 1902 to unite farmers and others interested in food in cooperative, educational and legislative efforts.

The Union's mission is to advocate for the economic and social well-being of family farmers, ranchers, fishermen, consumers and their communities through education, cooperation and legislation. The Union advocates sustainable production of food, **See Farmers, page 2**

Hawi Park Discussions Look Promising



—photo by Gail Byrne Baber

Supporters of the County purchase of land in downtown Hawi for a community park gather in solidarity. Thanks to the many community members who contacted county officials in December, encouraging the County to move forward with purchasing the grassy acre by the Hawi banyans, the landowners and County are continuing discussions, and the outcome looks promising. Mahalo to Mayor Kenoj, the landowners and the many folks in Kohala who expressed support for preserving this area as a park for the community.

KHCF Golf Tournament Planned to Fund X-Ray Equipment

On Saturday, February 7, the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation (KHCF) invites you to play at the 7th Annual Kohala Hospital Golf Tournament at the

Hapuna Golf Course. Check-in time is 7:15 a.m. for a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

The annual golf tournament attracts golfers from near and

far. The event includes generous prizes and good times galore. In addition, each player will receive a gift bag.

The day of fun includes both Bitburger Pils and Koestritzer Schwarzbiers beers, plus a fabulous buffet lunch at Arnie's, catered by the Hapuna Prince Hotel. Many generous prizes will be awarded during the lunchtime festivities.

The KHCF Golf Tournament is a favorite among golfers of Hawai'i. Another sold-out crowd is expected, so early reservations are advised. All-inclusive tickets are \$195 each.

The tournament is again sponsored by the Meinardus family and by

Bitburger Brewery. One hundred percent of all proceeds will go directly to the purchase of a portable x-ray unit and a hot/cold food cart for Kohala Hospital. Last year the KHCF raised \$45,000 for the hospital's Emergency Room Fund. The Foundation is hoping that this year's tournament will be another successful event.

Go to kohalahospitalgolf.com for detailed information. Please contact Betty Meinardus at elsbethm@earthlink.net, or by phone (808) 889-5304, with any further questions.



—photo courtesy of Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation

Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation trustees and volunteers raised funds for the hospital's emergency room during the 2014 golf tournament. The Foundation is planning another tournament in 2015 to fund an x-ray machine and food cart.



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Fire Weed in bloom on the Kohala Mountain Road. Fire Weed first appeared in Hawai'i about 35 years ago. It is actually a noxious weed that can damage the livers of cattle and horses, if ingested

Farmers, continued from page 1
fiber, feed and fuel. The vision of the Union is to continue to be the respected, influential and independent national voice and coalition leader that bridges family producers and consumers on behalf of a vibrant and growing grassroots membership. Our local chapter joins seven other chapters in Hawai'i, falling under the umbrella of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United.

On December 9 elections were held and a board established. Dash Kuhr is serving as president, Nate Hayward as vice president, Jim Land as secretary and Andrea Clipson as treasurer. Other board members include Clarence A. "Cab" Baber, Gail Byrne Baber, Jana Bogs and Peter

deVries.

The board has been busy attending influential legislative events on O'ahu and the Big Island. Some items on the legislative agendas include industrial hemp production, an on-farm mentoring bill, direct farm-to-school food sales, legalizing cottage industry sales (for items made in home kitchens), and cow share and raw milk legalization. Our board members have found our elected legislators very interested in the needs of small farmers.

The Union hosted Ed Boteilho Jr. of Cloverleaf Dairy in Hawi at the January 8 meeting. After more than 50 years of milk production by his family-owned dairy, he is forced to sell due to price controls by Meadow Gold,

Hawai'i's only milk processor. Boteilho is hoping that Ulupono, a Hawai'i-based investment company, will take over operations.

To address concerns about the dairy expressed by some of our members, the Union passed a resolution which recognized Mr. Boteilho's history of avoiding rBST (genetically-engineered hormone injections) and GMO (genetically-modified organism) practices (which are common to the dairy industry) as examples of good management essential for the future sustainability of the `aina. The resolution supports the operation of a local non-GMO dairy in North Kohala; and supports all regenerative practices related to dairy farming and farming in general.

The Union chapter meets monthly at the Kohala Hub at 6 p.m. on the Thursday nearest the new moon. The meetings include a potluck dinner featuring locally-produced foods and informative speakers. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 12 at 6 p.m. The Union's membership goal for 2015 is 200 members. The nearest chapter is in Kona, so organizers expect to welcome members from the Waimea area. The Union welcomes the community to help improve our local food production and "Keep Kohala, Kohala" by sharing their mana`o.

For more information go to <http://nfu.org>. Follow the drop-down tabs to the Hawai'i section.

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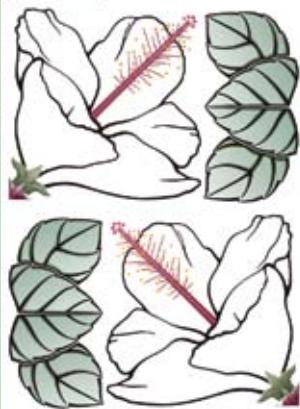
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Local Talent to Shine at Live Performance Fundraiser

The Big Island's Got Talent (BIGT) Fundraiser, put on by One Holistic Place (OHP), has been a community-building event since 2011. BIGT started at Luke's Place in Kohala in 2011 and has since grown to welcome hundreds of guests supporting OHP's cause. Guests and performers experience a unique, fun-filled night each Valentine's Day. OHP will showcase 20 varied performances and feature delicious, local, healthy Hawaiian food and the opportunity to bid on silent auction items at an elegant beachfront venue.

One Holistic Place is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing chronic illnesses in the Hawaiian population and improving health care disparities on the Big Island. One Holistic Place has a grand vision in creating a model of health care that focuses on promoting health awareness and disease prevention, using a holistic and culturally sensitive approach.

One Holistic Place is a grassroots organization. The majority of OHP volunteers work full-time in health or Hawaiian oriented professions. All of these volunteers make extra time to support a cause that they pas-

sionately believe in.

Every year OHP receives overwhelmingly positive responses from community members and performers. Many performers express how they've felt more confident after performing and how it has inspired them to do more. Performers from last year's BIGT event were invited to perform in regular paying gigs. After performing Acro Yoga at the 2014 OHP talent show, Gold E. Harmon and Mary Chapmon were motivated to go to the mainland to earn teaching certifications in that discipline and now teach Acro Yoga to keiki in Hilo.

Each year, a handful of people make this event extraordinary. Izzy Kalaau Catrett from North Kohala has put her heart and soul into event planning for the past four years. Izzy makes time for everyone and everything important in her life. Zoe Kosmas has been involved in many progressive projects in Kohala and on the Big Island. Zoe has also been involved in decorating each event. Last year she completely transformed KCC with local resources on a \$50 budget, making the venue look extraordinary, and she leads the decorating committee this year.

OHP is inviting all community members to join hands in raising awareness and improving health awareness on the Big Island. OHP invites the Big Island community to come together as ONE on Valentine's Day at the Kawaihae Canoe Club (KCC) site in the spirit of aloha, love and community.

One organization that has supported OHP is St. James Episcopal Church in Waimea. Father David Stout of St. James Church

will be performing his Annual Valentine's Day Renewal of the Vows to your Beloved. This ceremony will be held at their regularly scheduled Saturday night 5 p.m. beach mass at KCC, which will immediately precede the Big Island's Got Talent Show.

There are many ways to contribute to this exciting event. Please contact 808-756-3883, www.OneHolisticPlace.org or www.BIGT.EventBrite.com for more information.



Local acrobats Gold E. Harmon and Mary Chapmon contort and flip while performing Acro Yoga as part of the 2014 Big Island's Got Talent fundraiser.

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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.



February

Ad Deadline: 2/6/15
News Deadline: 2/8/15

March

Ad Deadline: 3/13/15
News Deadline: 3/15/15

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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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. **All material, either in part or in whole, is protected under U.S. copyright laws. ©2014.**

Kohala Mountain News

P.O. Box 639, Kapa'au, Hawai'i 96755

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Letters—

Big Mahalo from Hula Halau o Mana'olana o Kohala

Hula Halau o Mana'olana o Kohala is deeply grateful for all the continued support from our North Kohala community. A big mahalo to all of the local businesses and individuals who donated to our silent auction at the Hub's Christmas Lu'au. Likewise, mahalo to all our community members who placed bids and took home fabulous goods and services. This generous support enables us to provide scholarships for youth and adults in the halau. We look forward to sharing hula with our North Kohala community in 2105.

Mahalo,
Hula Halau o Mana'olana o Kohala

Christmas Angels Bring Blessings Once Again

Dear Editor,

We had another successful event, with 255 children at this year's Kohala Christmas Angels. We want to give special thanks to a few people who helped make this happen. Thanks go to Gigi and Tita Alcoran, Marget Kawai, Desha Yamasaki, NSP Parents, Shay Vanzandt, Renee Perez, Derek Higa and crew, Mike and Debbie, North Shore Live, Bamboo Restaurant, Kristin Smith, Kenneth Van Swae, Cole and Nancy Cornelius, Travis and Patricia Owen, Michael and Kathryn Hasselbring, Nakahara Store, Takata Store and Art and Brenda Owen.

Our sponsors, the County of Hawai'i, Parks and Rec., Figs

Mix Plate, Hawai'i Community Federal Union, Kohala Branch, Kohala Police Station and Roots Advocate for Youth want to thank everyone who helped make this year a success.

Mahalo!
Traci and Alfred Figueroa



—photo by Taysia Figueroa

The 2015 Kohala Christmas Angels: Left - right: Gigi Alcoran, Georgette Cazimero, Renee Gonzales, Traci Figueroa, Marget Kawai

Stay Away From Drugs

Dear Kohala community,

My name is Danyka Cazimero-Roxburgh. I am from Kohala Middle School, and I want to talk to you about the causes and effects of drugs.

Why are drugs bad for you? Well, about when I was in fourth grade (I'm in seventh grade now), my cousin showed me a PowerPoint about crystal meth. I saw how people turned out, and it was horrible.

There are also many other drugs, like marijuana, or weed.

Also there are many bad effects from smoking, like lung cancer or cancer maybe even breathing problems.

What about drinking? Is it as bad as smoking? Well, it's not as bad, but yet it's still not good if you over-drink. If you feel like you can't drive home, ask someone that did not drink. But sometimes it causes car accidents, and many people get hurt even if they don't drink or anything.

So what I am trying to per-

suade you of is that drugs in Kohala need to slow down. You might not know it, but they can cause you many problems with your body.

Sincerely,
Danyka Cazimero-Roxburgh

This contribution is part of the ongoing series of Kohala Middle School student letters. Students in Mr. Anderson's 7th grade class are encouraged to write persuasive letters about topics that are meaningful to them.

County Council Update—

From the Desk of District 9 Council Woman Margaret Wille

FOR STARTERS: Plan to have fun on Saturday, February 7, at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival. At 12 noon on that date we will hold the Second Annual Cherry Pie Bake-Off among the district's three senior citizen clubs: North Kohala, Wai-koloa and Waimea. If you are a member of one of the clubs or want to help the members of any one of these clubs...

GET READY TO BAKE A CHERRY PIE and submit your entry by noon at "The Pie Tent" on Church Row. There will be prizes for cherry pies—including for taste and for beauty. And if there

are other cherry dessert entries by any member of the District 9 community, such as cherry cheesecake or cherry cobbler, there will also be prizes for those categories. Call my office for more information or for the contact person in each community.

Now if you are not up to baking and just want to sample a bunch of yummy pies, get in line, because following the announcement of the winner at 12:45 p.m., it will be sample time! Samplers will be asked to contribute a small donation in exchange for a slice of pie.

For those who want to make

a full day of this celebration, Waimea events are scheduled from 9 a.m. (the opening ceremony) until 3 p.m.

THE BIG ISSUE BEFORE THE COUNCIL: The County is at a cross roads, and you should think about weighing in on the decision to be made by the County. Which path will we, as an island community, take? Within the next several months the Council will be asked to decide between contracting for a 25-year mass burn incinerator program versus implementing a community-based mass recycle

See CC Update, page 5

CC Update continued from page 4

and composting ZeroWaste program. Presently the Administration is on track to go with the mass burn incinerator option. However, before that option is finalized, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in, and the Council will have the final vote. There will be several opportunities for public testimony.



OTHER COUNCIL ISSUES: Other issues coming before the

Council in the near future will be under what circumstances folks living in elderly housing can be refused re-lease of their units, whether there should be a limit placed by the County on aquarium fish collectors, and how the County will pay for Puna's lava-related expenses.

DISTRICT 9 NEWS-LETTER: If you are not already on the email or US mail list to receive my District 9 News-

letter, call my office and provide either your email or postal service address. This way you can find out what is coming up on the next Council agenda. And, I urge you to then come voice your opinion at each Council meeting

about any agenda item of interest by way of videoconferencing at the North Kohala videoconferencing site in the old Bank of Hawai'i building in Kapa'au.

With much aloha,
Margaret Wille

New Community Police Officer Joins North Kohala Force

Aloha,
I'm Officer Kauahikaua (Pronounced Kah-wah-hee-cow-wah). Being that I'm a junior, you can call me Officer KJ, since I understand the difficulty in my name. As of September 16, 2014, I am the newly appointed Community Police Officer (CPO) for North Kohala.

Community policing is where the police specialize in building partnerships with the community's businesses, residents and visitors. The intent is to have a liaison between the police department and the community.

For example, let's say you're a part of a club or an association and you would like an officer to give a presentation relevant to your group's mission. It might be information on how a neighborhood watch committee could take preventive measures to deter criminal activity in its neighborhood. It could be informing a children's athletic club of the dangers of using illicit substances. No matter the subject, you can contact me, and I will gladly work with you.

Another way I can help is with community relations. Say you have an ongoing dispute with your neighbor and you would like to have mediation while an officer is present. I might be able to be that mediator. This is not to say that every time you have a problem with

your neighbor you must notify me directly—community police involvement with concerns like neighbor disputes will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The same policy applies to all police matters, whether crime, traffic enforcement, environmental conditions, etc.

I am looking forward to getting to know the community of North Kohala. I was born in Honolulu, raised in Hilo and graduated from Hilo High School (Class of '98). I first experienced North Kohala at about age 13, coming to participate in a Hawai'i Police Athletic League weekend boxing meet held at the Hisaoka Gym. (If you were involved in, or simply remember, those boxing meets feel free to contact me via my e-mail address posted at the bottom of this article.)

I also played high school football, and at times we played at the Kohala High School football field. My junior year Hilo High came to play Kohala High, and we lost the game.

It was noted as one of BIIF (Big Island Interscholastic Federation) football's greatest upsets ever. I'm not saying I'm proud to have been on the losing side, but it's good for you to know I've been involved in Kohala's history.

Prior to this assignment I've known the district of North Kohala only through sports. I'm very excited about being here and very much looking forward to meeting and working with you.

I would also like to take this time to inform our community of a money scam. It has been going on for many years now, yet still manages to acquire new victims. Most of us in the police community call it the Money Order or Western Union Scam, being that it is mostly Western Union money orders involved.

Basically, a supposed orga-
See Police, page 7



—photo courtesy of Hawai'i Police Department
Officer K. Kauahikaua, Jr. is North Kohala's new Community Police Officer.

HI House of Representatives Update

Storm Damage, Roads Addressed With State Funds

December and January have been very hectic months for all of us in our district. We are recovering from the recent storms causing flooding and electrical outages. I have been working with the state Department of Transportation [DOT] to ensure a rapid response. The recent storm prompted DOT to act on making sure that our residents are safe. There have been many questions about the Niuli'i and Waikane bridges and their safety. DOT has cleared these two bridges and declared them safe for use. DOT has also been proactive in responding to the removal of tree debris on roads and streams. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support in ensuring the safety of the community.

In these discussions, DOT highlighted a number of new projects to help North Kohala. Its Highways division will begin a \$3 million program of drainage improvements for Kohala Mountain Road. There is also a \$1.3 million project to improve intersections on Queen Kaahumanu Highway at Kawaihae Road. Waiaka Bridge is in the design phase to meet federal guidelines. Kawaihae Harbor will also be improved by two projects: a concrete paved container yard, which was completed in Decem-

ber 2014 on the Harbor's Pier 2, and new fencing and gates expected to be installed by May.

Over the next two years, I will serve as Majority Floor Leader in the Hawai'i State House, where I will be working on issues relating to education, healthcare, unfunded liabilities, protection of natural resources and infrastructure for the district. I will sit on the following committees: Energy & Environmental Protection; Legislative Management; Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs; and Water & Land.

The 2015 legislative session will begin on Wednesday, January 21. It is important for community leaders and residents to help me educate Governor David Ige and state agency directors about what is needed for our district.

Please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov to sign up for hearings, receive updates, and submit testimony. If you are in Honolulu, please stop by my new office in room 438 and take a tour of the State Capitol. We have our work cut out for us, but I know we will get results because of the strong voices and talent in our community.

Sincerely,
Representative Cindy Evans

The Kohala Community Athletic Association (KCAA) would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support for our after-school sports programs for the children of Kohala in 2014.

Takata Store
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Surety Kohala Corp
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Correction

On page 1 of the December 2014 issue, the caption under the photo entitled "Santa Visits Kohala" erroneously states the tree was donated by Craig and Janice Williams and erected by Cartow Kohala. The tree was actually donated by Shiro Takata and erected by Janice and Craig Williams. We apologize for the error.

Kohala Arena Project Annual Meeting And Elections

Kohala Equine Education Center, Inc. (KEEC) has been working for the past seven years towards the goal of building a community arena here in Kohala. The KEEC Board of Directors invites all interested community members to join us on Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kohala Community Resource Center

(Welcome Center) for our annual general membership meeting.

While everyone is welcome to hear updates on progress and ask questions, only paid members can vote. General membership dues are \$60 and can be paid at the door. Paid members can ride their horses on our `Iole site, even before the arena is complete, in

accordance with KEEC rules and regulations for use.

In addition to events and educational opportunities for Kohala residents who already own horses or those who want to learn horsemanship, the KEEC arena will also host a variety of programs and clinics such as carriage driving, therapeutic horsemanship and equine assisted learning.

KEEC welcomes new members. If you have a passion for horses or agricultural education, come help us build Kohala a community arena! Contact KohalaArena@gmail.com or membership chair Fern White at 896-0316 for more information.

Police, continued from page 5

nization or an online employer sends a person a check. Along with the check are instructions for the victim to cash the check at a bank, deduct from the money the amount of their reward or pay, then purchase a money order and send the remainder of that money to a completely different organization or person.

At first it seems legit, being that the bank accepts the check and renders cash to the victim. This is where many people have fallen victim. No matter how high tech your bank is, the teller at the counter is still a human. If you're lucky, the teller can tell the check may be fake and not accept it. Other times the teller may be in a rush, accept the check and render cash in return.

To add to the confusion, some checks are actually real, but the account is fake. Keep in mind, sometimes when you cash a check it is credited to your account until the check clears, and that is what happens in the end. The bank finds that either the check or account was fake and sends the debt to your account. While you may have thought you were cashing a check for a thousand dollars of the sender's money, instead you owe the bank that money and the scammers reap the rewards.

Many countries are very relaxed when it comes to having to deal with money orders. Chances are the money order goes John Doe in Nigeria, but Jane Doe takes the money, and

the cashier makes no attempt to obtain the collectors identity. Your money is gone, never to be seen again.

The scam can be disguised as a reward for a lottery that you didn't enter, or for an online method to earn extra income. However disguised, the method remains the same. The majority who fall victim to this scam are the elderly, being that they are more trusting, and people who are struggling financially, being that they tend to lose sight and patience in solving their financial problems.

Should this happen to you, it is okay to initiate a police report with us. However, investigations like these are very difficult to solve, and even the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a low closure rate due to the complexity and creativity of the scam. The chances of apprehending a suspect are slim to none.

My piece of advice to you is this: Should you receive a check from any one with instructions for you to cash it and then send the remainder through a money order, stop immediately. If they had so much money to give you in the first place, they would not have needed you to run their errands for them.

I hope this has been informative and ask that you spread this information.

Mahalo,
Officer K. Kauahikaua Jr
Email: officerkauahikaua@gmail.com

Kohala Challenges The Honolulu Marathon



Kohala runners are all smiles after completing the 2014 Honolulu Marathon. Left to right: Aaron Sienkiewicz, Bill Davis, Malcolm Davis, Tristan Sienkiewicz, Bob Martin

Story and photos by Lisa Ebrahimi

On a misty December morning, five Kohala residents ages 14 to 76 lined up with over 30,000 other participants eager to run 26.2 miles through the streets of Honolulu.

The participants from Kohala included Malcolm Davis with his father Bill Davis, Tristan Sienkiewicz with his father Aaron Sienkiewicz, and Bob Martin. It was the first marathon ever for Malcolm, Tristan and Bob.

Bob, being the oldest of the group, trained for eight months, walking daily and up to 70 miles a week.

Malcolm and Tristan prepared for the race by running

for the cross country team for Division 2 State Champions, the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy Kamakani. Neither of the boys had ever run more than 10 miles straight, but they were determined to finish the race. Bill Davis is a veteran marathon runner, having participated in eight marathons to date. This was Aaron's second marathon.

We are proud to report all five finished in glory.

Final times were Bill Davis: 4 hours, 15 seconds; Tristan Sienkiewicz: 4 hours 6 minutes; Malcolm Davis: 5 hours, 10 minutes; Aaron Sienkiewicz: 7 hours 56 minutes; Bob Martin: 7 hours 56 minutes.

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

NKCRC raised over \$385,000 in community donations and grants for direct support of more than 90 community projects in 2014.

Mahalo to all who support the great work being done in Kohala!

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Robin Woodley, D.V.M.

Kohala Hospital Emergency Room Project Update



On Monday, January 12, Kohala Hospital administration released a community update on the status of the hospital's Emergency Room (ER) Renovation/Relocation Project.

Phase I of ER construction, which kicked off in July 2014, is nearing completion. This phase includes most of the ER's essential clinical areas. The entire basic infrastructure has been installed and is awaiting inspection by the county building department. Once inspection is completed, Phase I will begin to transition from construction to operations.

During this transition, primarily finish work will remain, such as wall and ceiling coverings, flooring, cabinets and fixtures. The main construction portion of Phase I should be completed in February, with punch-list and other finish items being completed after that.

Phase I will wind down with the commissioning and testing of systems, both mechanical and electrical. Testing will ensure that the air conditioning system meets design requirements and that data and communications systems are functioning properly. In addition, the physical infrastructure will require thorough testing as this new technology is installed in the walls and ceiling of the emergency room area.

Phase II of the ER project was conceived around the time that Phase I began. It includes a waiting room, a restroom and two meeting rooms. These spaces will greatly improve efficiency and comfort for staff, patients and their families. Building permits have been obtained, allowing construction of Phase II to begin.

The new foundations for

Phase II are currently being formed. Subcontractors will lay conduit and pipe in preparation for the new slab. Although complex, the underground systems are a time saver, as less time will be spent routing conduit and pipe in walls when they are framed. Underground routing was not an option in Phase I as that was a remodel of an existing space.

Gino Amar, Kohala Hospital Administrator said, "We would like to thank the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation (KHCF). They took this project from its 'dream phase' and made Phase I their total priority for five years."

The Phase I efforts by KHCF presented the opportunity for Kohala Hospital administration to secure Capital Improvement funding for Phase II.

"When completed, the

new Emergency Room will be a modern medical facility," Amar continued. "We would also like to thank the community for their support as this project nears completion as well as the contractors whose hard work and experience are bringing this complex project to fruition."

Kohala Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital with acute and long-term care services and a 24-hour emergency room that supports the North Kohala community. It is a member of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, a special agency of the state of Hawai'i established in 1996. Its mission is to provide a healing environment to the community of North Kohala through the provision of quality health care services with emphasis on quality of life to all patients and residents.

Kohala Goes to Hollywood

On December 19, 2014, Kohala resident Megan Solís had her 15 minutes of pre-recorded fame: she was a Wheel of Fortune contestant.

Solís had auditioned for the show in June when the show was recruiting in Waikoloa. During mock games, screeners look for potential contestants who can not only solve puzzles but are lively, vivacious, enunciate well and can speak up.

She got the call in early December to come on the show and fortunately was already planning to be in the filming area over the holidays, so accepted the invitation.

In recalling the experience, Solís notes the wheel was very heavy, the boards were huge, the stage was cold and the lights were very bright. It all went by really fast.

She can't reveal the results of the game, but you can see them for yourself on Channel 2 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 24.

Overall Solís notes, "It was a positive experience, a lot of

fun. The staff was great, and the other contestants were friendly

and supportive. I would recommend it."



Kohala resident Megan Solís was a contestant on a pre-recorded episode of Wheel of Fortune, to be aired on Channel 2 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 24.

Soup, Salad and Sing "Hootenanny"

St. Augustine Episcopal Church is sponsoring a dinner and "sing along" for all who would like to join us with their voices and appetites! Our intention is to learn songs in our new songbook, which include temporary as well as traditional Christian songs. Singers are also welcome to bring other sacred and uplifting music to share.

The event will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Walker Hall in Kapa'au on Wednesday, February 4. Dinner will be served at 6, singing to follow. For further information please call Lani Bowman at 889-5852 or St. Augustine office at 889-5390.

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Kohala Coastline First in Line for

Story and photos by Toni Withington
Private lands along Kohala's north coast scored the highest ranking on this year's priority list for public purchase using the County's Open Space Fund. In fact, all seven of the community's nominations to the list took top honors.

If funding can be found for the top three projects, which total 265 acres, most of the four-mile shoreline between Kauhola Point (Lighthouse) and Neue Bay near Pololu will be preserved.

This month Mayor Billy Kenoi received the ranking of 13 projects reviewed by the County's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission (PONC). Using this list, the County negotiates the purchase of important lands using a special fund set aside each year since 2006, comprised of two percent of the real property taxes collected. It is known as the 2% Fund. While North Kohala coastal lands have often ranked high on the list, this is the first year they have garnered all seven top slots.

Highest on the list is a 50.3-

acre parcel which includes much of the lower Halawa Gulch and runs a mile along the coast between the already-preserved land at Kauhola Point to Hapu'u Bay. In local speak, it is between Swimming Pools and the Hapu'u access road. The land is owned by the Buddhist meditation organization Vipassana and has been on the County's priority list before. It is named Halelua, for the gulch which forms a cove midway along the cliff-lined shore.

Second is a series of seven parcels totaling 167 acres between Hapu'u Bay and Kapania Bay called the Hapu'u to Kapania Cultural Corridor. This strip of coastal land, often referred to as Kamehameha I's home land, includes two major heiau and a large part of the Waiohia and A'amakao gulches behind Kapania Bay.

The third project is two parcels totaling 48 acres from Keokea Beach Park stretching almost a mile to Neue Bay. It also includes the site of the former Niuli'i Sugar Mill and Kohala Railroad terminus. Both of these projects have been ranked high



From Niuli'i looking toward Neue Bay, the land prioritized for County purchase includes many sites associated with Kamehameha I.

on previous County priority lists. All three projects are lands closely associated with the life of Kamehameha I.

Five community groups have worked together to fund the public purchase of private coastal lands since state funds, through the Legacy Land program, became available in 2005 and the county's Open Space Fund was set up in 2006.

Since then the groups have

been involved in the purchase of 248 acres of coastal land by helping to raise almost \$14 million from federal, state, county and non-profit sources as well as local fundraisers. The groups are Maika'i Kamakani O Kohala, Kamakani O Kohala Ohana (Kako'o), Malama Kohala Kahakai, Kohala Historic and Cultural Preservation Group and Malama Wahi Pana O Kohala.

"We try to get Kohala lands



The coastline from Halelua Cove looking toward Lighthouse is highest on the priority list for County acquisition using 2% Fund monies.

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

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County Open Space Funding

listed by the County every year not only to qualify for Open Space funds, but to show other potential sources of help in preserving these lands that their importance is recognized on a broader scale," said Mike Isaacs, head of the Kohala Historic and Cultural Preservation Group. "Preserving our land and culture has become a community-wide effort."

Choosing the properties for the County's priority list is a year-long effort by the PONC commissioners, with the guidance of the county Finance Department. The report issued this month says, "The commission developed its prioritized ranking order based upon reported urgency, anticipated use, significance and benefit to the public, and special opportunities available for acquisition and management."

Right behind the high scores for the three northern properties is a 434-acre parcel of land makai of the highway at Mahukona. This land, once proposed for resort, residential and golf course development, has been on the Open Space list almost every year since 2005. The North



Kapanaia Bay, with King Kamehameha's canoe road, lies on the Hapu'u to Kapanaia Cultural Corridor, second on the County's priority list for acquisition.

Kohala Community Development Plan also calls for public purchase of this land between Mahukona and Kapa'a county parks.

Fifth on the list is Keawenui Easement, a 166-acre parcel

with two prominent coves on the leeward coast. It is south of Kaiholena, a former six-lot subdivision that was purchased in segments over a period of years. Funding of the last lot was recently completed by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association with the help of the State Legacy Land program.

Lamaloloa, a project of 35 acres just south of Lapakahi State Historical Park, is listed sixth. This highway-to-ocean piece is bordered on both sides by state-owned land. Purchase of Lamaloloa is the key to providing protection for a contiguous 10 miles of leeward coast.

Kukuipahu-Haena Corridor, the seventh property listed, is a massive stretch of coastal land from Kapa'a Park to the subdivision called the Ranch at Puakea. Made up of many parcels totaling 1,750 acres, this former Parker Ranch pastureland is studded with historic sites and important fishing grounds.

Other properties on the PONC

list are from South Kona, North Kona (2), Ka'u, Puna and Hilo.

Council member Margaret Wille is expected to introduce resolutions to the County Council authorizing the Finance Department to enter into negotiations with the owners of land within the three north coast projects this month. Unlike condemnation for public use, purchase of land for open space is achieved by negotiations between private owners and the county, state, land trust or non-profit organization.

All of the eight parcels of land purchased in the past decade were listed on the PONC priority list. Two formerly listed parcels are currently in the process of purchase. The southern and final parcel at Kaiholena will close escrow within the next eight weeks. The County and landowners of land next to the Hawi Farmers Market continue discussions about a County purchase of the grassy acre, which is part of what residents call Banyans Park.

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Christmas Storm Floodwaters Severely

Story and photos by Lani Eugenio

Two days before Christmas, in the early morning hours of December 23, 2014, Monique Merck-Hiraoka was awakened by the sound of crackling trees near her home. As she got out of bed in the darkness, she realized she was standing in ankle-deep water and hurriedly woke the family to move them to safer grounds. The Merck-Hiraoka families consisted of Monique; her sister and nephew; her husband Lance and their three children; and Lance's mother Rachel Rabang-Hiraoka. The water was rising, and by the time the children were moving out the water was knee-deep.

Justin Hiraoka was in shock and barely remembered anything except hearing the trees break, the water flowing and the mud. His cousin, Waylon, tripped as they rushed out.

All he thought was, "What's happening? How'd it happen?"

When Monique and Lance returned to their home at the break of dawn, the front lawn was covered with sludge and debris, and the rooms were ankle-deep in mud. The little stream that has flowed alongside their yard for decades had widened to an unimaginable proportion and was filled with trees, boulders and branches. The telephone and electric lines prevented huge, uprooted trees from crashing onto the bridge. It was shocking, an incomprehensible sight. How could a calm, little stream

turn into a raging monster, refusing to stay its course, pulling up grown trees and displacing tons of boulders in its path? As Waylon thought, "What's happening? How'd it happen?"

The next bridge wasn't damaged as much, but the water was raging, and Sarah Pule Fujii was worried about her house. She had grown up with her grandparents near that stream, and "big water" was an exciting time when she and her cousins would stand on the bridge and watch the water flow under them. She knew what "big water" was.

"When big water comes, it comes slowly, then dirty, then it gets bigger and bigger," Sarah explained, "but this was just one punch! I heard it coming." The sound was so frightening that she went outside and turned on the light. She saw the turbulent



Trees and flood debris blocked the road across a bridge to Niuli'i the morning after heavy rains caused flooding on December 23, 2014.



Clean up crews work to clear debris from a bridge after floodwaters blocked passage on December 23, 2014.

waters flooding Ralph Galan's taro patch. "My neighbor turns on his porch light, and all I can see is the water under my bridge rising. The water is all in

my yard, it took out everything! I'm pacing and praying, 'Please, please don't take my house'." Sarah worries now every time there is a storm warning because her bank was damaged by the boulders, and the January 2 storm took out the avocado tree between her house and the stream.

From the road, the stream before Makapala, Aama-koa, seemed like it had done no damage. However, a shed was lost, and the water moved a truck and a tractor. Trees and debris also blocked the bridge and diverted the stream, damaging a roadway and crops.

The utility workers (HELCO, the county Department of Water Supply), emergency departments (firemen, police) and state Department of Transportation (DOT) were there in the morning. They were chopping trees off the lines, trying to restore the water and electricity as soon as possible, and assessing the damage.

The water and electricity were out for a few days, and some residents feel that it's time to talk about preparedness and finding another route out of the district. The old-timers talk about four routes to Niuli'i during plantation days. "We need to open them, because when disasters like earthquakes and storms strike, emergency people need to get in, and we need to get out," one resident said.

There was a lot of work to be done. The DOT workers spent all day on December 23 clearing the debris. Surprisingly, they only worked half the day on Wednesday, December 24, and vacated the job throughout the holiday and weekend. This prompted the granddaughter of Akoni Pule to post on Facebook on Sunday, December 28, "I wish it was still election time. Maybe then we would have the politi-



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Damage Parts of North Kohala

cians here in Niuli'i checking out our disaster." She also asked for local traffic only.

In the early hours of December 29, a family friend sent the governor, mayor, local politicians and agencies the Facebook post with pictures of the problem taken on December 27. Mayor Kenoi's office was first to respond, but officials on O'ahu, and even on the Big Island, knew nothing about the disaster in Kohala. Work on the bridge was resumed on December 29, but not full time because it was explained that the work was too big for the current crews. The DOT hired a private contractor on December 31, who worked overtime until January 2, 2015, to prepare for the January 2 storm.

On January 8, Na `Unu Pa`a O Kohala Council utilized one of their professional moderators to conduct an informative and effective meeting in bringing together government and community members. Questions were posed to the state and county agencies, politicians and organizations to answer and respond regarding how they could help. Joseph Kealoha of the mayor's office, Abby Au of the governor's office, Shane Nelsen of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Community Police Officer Kauahikaua came with answers and a promise to work on this issue.

Abby Au reported that according to the DOT report to the governor, the engineers deemed the bridge structurally sound. There were no weight

was also in disrepair. Thomas Stuart suggested that the Army Corps of Engineers be contacted for another opinion.

Residents wanted to know what happened upstream that caused the water to flow at such a rate. The DOT speculated that there was a landslide upstream, but most old-time residents question that theory.

It is still unclear who will clean up the debris upstream. The state owns the waterways, but it is said that the landowners are responsible for keeping their areas free of debris. Abby Au stated that it was just made known to her that the properties closest to the Hiraoka's house are in foreclosure. Hermann Hernandez volunteered to help the group locate the property owners of the areas with piles of debris.

Although many questions were answered, there are still issues that haven't been resolved. And like the young man tripping in the darkness as the water rose, all we can think of is:

What's happening? How'd it happen?

Na `Unu Pa`a O Kohala is organizing a fundraiser in March for the family. Monetary donations will be accepted by the Kohala Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1047, Kapa`au, HI, 96755 (808-889-5416). Checks should be made out to "Kohala Baptist Church" and designated to "Merck-Hiraoka Family."



Trees knocked over by December 23, 2014 floodwaters damaged power lines near Akoni Pule Highway in the area near Niuli'i.

restrictions. On January 1 it was estimated that one third of the debris and mud from the area had been removed. The DOT said that they will continue to keep the road open only to local traffic until after they repair the sidewalk and walkway.

As projected, the debris under and surrounding the bridge was cleared by January 9. On January 10 the flashing "Road Closed" sign was disabled, and tourists were allowed to traverse the road to Pololu at their normal rate, even though the sidewalk and walkway were not yet repaired and the pavement that had been damaged by the flood

Cultural Enrichment Thrives at Kohala Elementary and Middle Schools

The North Kohala Student Cultural Enrichment Program (NKSCPEP) is designed to expose Kohala students to many cultural and educational programs that have previously been prohibitive due to cost.

NKSCPEP is a sponsored project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center and is funded by private donors and, most recently, participation in our island's Charity Walk.

Currently in its sixth year, the program covers students' transportation and event costs.

The 2014-2015 school year started with first and sixth grade students being treated to performances by the Stars of the American Ballet on October 24.

On November 10, second and third grades were entertained by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth's "GRINDS," billed as a musical romp exploring Hawai'i's relationship with food.

On November 21 all grades were invited to Nick Roberti of the Ukulele Institute's multi-genre performance.

On January 13 third graders enjoyed "Voice of the Wood," an educational performance group comprised of two artists who tell stories, weaving in sound effects, dramatic narration and masked movement.

On January 15 fourth graders were entertained by an award-winning Maori singer-songwriter from New Zealand, Maisey Rika.

Future planned performances include:

- Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra – A Salute to Youth
- Prince Dance Institute's "Legends of the Forest"
- The Harlem Quartet
- Hawai'i Opera Theatre
- Local ukulele virtuoso and favorite Jake Shimabukuro
- The Brave

In addition to performances, the program sponsors cultural field trips. This year students will visit W.M. Keck Observatory and Ka'upulehu Interpretive Center, featuring programs for learning about the rich history of Hawai'i.

Artists-In-Schools resident Bonnie Kim of the State Foundation of Culture and Arts will visit the elementary school during the spring of 2015.

Kohala residents Dixie Adams and Laura Burkhart are chairpersons for the program. For more information contact Dixie at 889-5730 or Laura at 884-5833.



THE COQUI CORNER

January 2015
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Kohala High Students Give and Gain with Kaiholena Project

Four Kohala High School students participated in a three-month project for Kaiholena, near a special place in Kohala known to most residents as "Secrets." In terms of pre-contact and archaeological value, Kaiholena is identified as one of Hawai'i's most significant historic locations — not just on the Big Island, but across the state. Under the guidance of Gail Byrne, students Tanya Adams, grade 10, Kaliko Dela Cruz, grade 11, Lai Bello Coito, grade 12, and Riley Uehana, grade 12, worked to design a way-side at Kaiholena. Their goal was to provide interpretive information guiding Kaiholena visitors on how they could leave no trace of their exploration.

interpretive signs and received a stipend for their work.

When meeting with Byrne and White to finalize illustrations and textual contributions, students were asked for impromptu reflections on the project. Lai

for insights of what makes the project special." Tanya Adams shared how great she felt that, "even though I do not have Hawaiian blood, I got to help preserve something meaningful for the community and his-

effort between multiple non-profits and community members has become a model throughout the state, showing how people can work together to protect land. The school's partnership with the community allows students to share in what happens to special places in the future.

Funding for the project was provided by a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, which was secured by Malama Kohala Kahakai, a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center, with project support from local non-profit Kohala Lihikai.

Ongoing work for Kaiholena's protection and preservation will continue, and the four students who



—photo by Kehau Hedlund

Pictured l-r: Kohala High School Kaiholena Project participants Riley Uehana, Lai Bello-Coito, Kaliko DelaCruz, Project Director Gail Byrne, Tanya Adams and Kohala High School Curriculum Coordinator Fern White celebrate their completion of research and development of interpretive signs for Kaiholena, a.k.a. Secrets, on December 18, 2014.

The group met after school weekly in September and October, 2013. Kohala High School Curriculum Coordinator Ms. Fern White facilitated student selection, evaluation, participation and discussions.

During the project, students researched Kaiholena and effective designs for interpretive signs. They met with professionals in planning, interpretation and natural resource protection. They traveled to Kaiholena to walk the sites and observe the natural and cultural resources first-hand. They learned about the area from lineal descendent Jean Razor and studied the history and need for protecting resources. They spoke with Mike Isaacs to learn about the community's work to preserve the Kohala coast and visited national parks on the island to study interpretive signs. In addition to textual information, students created illustrations for the

Bello Coito commented she feels especially happy to have a part in, "keeping Hawaiian culture [alive] and learning about events that happened." Riley Uehana offered that she gives, "thanks for the interactions and conversations, especially with the park rangers and Uncle Mike Isaacs

tory." Kaliko DelaCruz noted he "enjoyed the connections to the past and the evolution of how Hawai'i people came to be in society."

History shows people in Kohala have worked together in land preservation for many years. Kohala's collaborative

completed the first phase continue to refine their understanding and knowledge. Students interested in participation at Kaiholena during spring of 2015 should contact Ms. Fern White at Fern_White/kohalahi/hidoe@notes.k12.hi.us, or 889-7117 extension 249.



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The 2015 Kohala High School Homecoming Parade Brings Excitement to the Streets

School spirit was high at Kohala High School's 2015 Homecoming Parade under beautiful blue Hawaiian skies January 17, 2015.



Boy Fong rides the ATV along with Tate Medeiros for sophomore class poop scooper duty. Senior Kadence Tomiko Coito is towed along on her skateboard while the Kohala High senior class marches in the background.



Brayden Torres, Ella Matundan and Isabel Steinhoff guard Kohala High School's float exhorting their teams to "Wipe Out the Waveriders."



A ferocious octopus float in the 2015 Kohala High School Homecoming parade.



Kohala High School sophomores, Class of 2017

—photos by Fern White



Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation



February 7th, 2015

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Shotgun Start: 8:00 am

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For more information and to register/pay online, please visit: <http://www.kohalahospitalgolf.com>

Don't miss out on the fun and prizes!



Visitors Stimulate Economy and Conversation in Kohala

It's that time of year when North Kohala is bustling with visitors from all over the world. Although sometimes it may seem like we are waiting in longer lines, driving in more traffic, or having a hard time finding a place to park, it is nice to take a moment to remember the gifts that these folks bring to our rural community.

The economic stimulation that visitors bring us is undeniable. They support local businesses, galleries, restaurants, and cafés while enjoying the beautiful scenery and the friendliness of our community. Taking a few moments to chat with these folks can be a great reminder of the unique blessings we experience living here in North Kohala.

The Densons, a couple from



—photos by Leslie Nugent

The Densons from Birmingham, Alabama enjoy an afternoon shopping and dining in Hawi.

Birmingham Alabama, were visiting Kohala for the fourth time. Visiting the island for a conference, they once again made their way up to Kohala to eat at the Bamboo Restaurant. Appreciating the laid back atmosphere and lovely scenery, they discover something new each time they visit.

The Turnbolls, a family of eight with three generations present, were visiting from Australia and New Zealand on summer holiday. Having dreamed up and planned this trip for years, the Turnbolls were visiting Hawai'i for 22 days, spending seven on the Big Island. In Hawi they were admiring the shops, appreciating the unique local crafts—

especially the jewelry that is different from what you find in the ordinary tourist shops. The family shared how Hawi was reminiscent of North Queensland, Australia, sharing similar vegetation, architecture, and lifestyle. Paying a big compliment to the Kohala Coffee Mill, one family member noted that, "The Kohala Coffee Mill knows how to make espresso, something that we find rarely in the US."

Loving everything from the Kohala coast beaches and the surf to the interesting and stimulating shops in Hawi, North Kohala will forever be a part of the Turnbull family's memories. Enjoying a delicious Tropical Dreams ice cream outside the Kohala Coffee Mill, the Easterlys had just made the hike up out of Pololu Valley after a morning's adventure with Kohala Grown Farm Tours and Market. A farmer from Sydney, Nebraska, Mr. Easterly was interested in learning about how farming was happening here. Doing some research online they were able to find Kohala Grown Farm Tours and Market, which drew them up to Kohala. They found the farm tour to be interesting and informative. One party member spoke very highly of tour guide Nate Hayward, saying "Man, he knows everything about anything around here!"

Coming from a large scale commercial farming operation in Nebraska, Mr. Easterly enjoyed seeing the difference in the style of farming practiced here, Polynesian inspired garden farming. Although the climate and landscape is very different from where Mr. Easterly is farming in Nebraska, the friendly, laid back, small town community feeling is much the same. Perusing the Zeidman Gallery, the Sheltons expressed their love for the art galleries in North Kohala. Having lived on O'ahu for five years many years ago, and visiting the Big Island for a conference, the Sheltons always come to Kohala to visit Pololu valley, admire the incredible art, and enjoy a drink at Bamboo. North Kohala has so much to offer those of us who live here and those who come to visit. Taking a few moments to engage with a new face in town can reveal a whole host of new connections and even reinvigorate our own appreciation for our vibrant community.

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The Turnbolls visiting from Australia and New Zealand on summer holiday.

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The Sheltons enjoy the afternoon admiring the fine art galleries in North Kohala.



The Easterly family from Nebraska and Arizona enjoy a full day of adventure in North Kohala.

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Free Sustainable Saturday Series, 2015

February Event:
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 Using social media (Facebook, Twitter) for emergency communications and recovery

Learn about Puna's experience with the grassroots network that emerged during hurricane Iselle and has continued with the lava flow. Neighbors, web experts, County and State government and private-sector relief organizations came together to connect offers of help to support those in need.

Presenter: Denise Laitinen of DLC Hawaii Media, Hilo

Saturday, February 14 • 2 - 5 p.m.
 at The Barn at the Agriculture Hub
 (across from the banyan tree area)

Free and open to everyone

Hālāwa Sugar Mill and Plantation

Kakau e Boyd D. Bond

The arrival of Dr. James Wight in Kohala was both tragic and unfortunate, yet his influence in Kohala and to Hawai'i Island was positive and profound. Wight started operating the Hālāwa Mill and Plantation, the second oldest sugar mill in Kohala *nei* in 1873. He established it on the hills above the road just Pololū direction after the Kamehameha Stone at Hālāwa stream.

James Wight (pronounced *white*) was born in India in 1814 to parents of Scots-Irish descent, educated in Edinburgh and graduated in 1836 in Medicine at the age of 22. He then traveled to Australia to practice his craft, which he did for the next 13 years. While in Australia Dr. Wight discovered two things: one was that he had a strong entrepreneurial bent, and the other was his future wife, Jane.

Jane Tomkins Wight was born in Cape Colony, Africa, of English-Irish descent. She was educated in England and traveled to Australia following her own graduation at the age of 22, presumably to find work. She met James there in 1848, and they had a child together out of wedlock, so almost immediately decided to depart for California and the great Gold Rush. They did so in 1850, while Jane was pregnant with their second child.

Dr. and Mrs. Wight arrived in Honolulu in 1850 and decided to visit the other islands before continuing to California. In early August, having stopped briefly at Kawaihae, they continued north, whereupon their ship ran into the rocks in a storm and sank near Mahukona. Their young daughter Ada was brought to shore but had not survived the stormy seas. As the good doctor ran off to the mission station ten miles away, Mrs. Wight went into labor with their second child.

There were no facilities there in those days; only a small

number of grass huts dotted the hill above the bay. Jane Wight was taken to one of these *hale pili*, where she delivered one child alongside the body of the other and fell asleep exhausted.

Having being raised in wild Africa and not knowing what to expect, at first Mrs. Wight feared her husband had been taken prisoner by the natives and eaten. "And think of it," she once told her friend H.R. Restarick, "I was afraid of the kindest people in the world who had only come curious to see a white woman and her baby!"

Eventually her husband returned with assistance. Knowing that further rescue would take time, he recovered some of the wood from the wrecked vessel and began construction of his own home. Persuaded to stay by Rev. Bond, he built a small store in Hālāwa in 1851, which he sold to S.G. Wilder in 1884.

Dr. Wight did not establish a medical practice *per se* in the islands, preferring to follow his business interests. However, he gave his services freely whenever presented with a need, kept up a pharmacy as part of his store and was called upon to attend members of the royal family when they were visiting in the district.

Dr. Wight also became Judge Wight, serving as circuit court judge from 1852 to 1863, and was appointed school agent



—photos courtesy of <http://www.greenbankhawaii.com/wightfamily.html>

James Wight, Sr.

for the Kohala District in 1869. Dr. Wight became a partner in the Kohala Sugar Plantation when Rev. Bond leaned on him to sell some of his Halaula property to the new mill enterprise—taking stock instead of cash for payment, as Bond had done.

As time and resources allowed, Wight continued to purchase land as it came up for sale, eventually owning properties from Mahukona to Makapala. When Wight began his own Mill in Hālāwa in 1873, the plantation was only 972 acres. Yet the mill produced about 1,000 tons of sugar—twice as much as Kohala mill with one-third of the land! Dr. Wight had encouraged

nearby Hawaiian and Chinese families to grow sugar on their own lands, and he would process their cane and split the profits of those sales with them 50/50.

In 1879 when the planters and mill owners of the district banded together for mutual benefit, Dr. Wight was selected president of the group, and Dr. Lyman Thompson was elected vice-president. The doctor leased his lands at Puakea for sugar production and had a small ranch there to produce beef for food locally as well as oxen as beasts of burden. He developed the landing at Honoipu with his own money, although the kingdom later pitched

in with some upgrades.

Remembered also as a horticulturist, Dr. Wight is said to have been the first to import orchid plants from England and the first to bring a live ironwood tree from Australia. While decidedly not a member of the Kohala Club, he was a member of the British Benevolent Society and of the Lehua Club, which was devoted to "promoting common interest and fellowship between natives and foreigners."

Greenbank, his home in Kohala, was patterned after an English country estate and built next to a 400-year-old taro *lo'i*, possibly upon the site of an old *heiau*, or temple. The house was two stories

See Sugar Mill, page 17

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KOHALA CALENDAR

February

- 2 Mon 6-7 pm, CDP Growth Management Subcmte. Mtg., public invited, old Bank of Hawaii bldg., Kapa`au.
- 2 Mon 6:30 pm, Film presentation, "Olomana Gardens: Permaculture and Aquaponics," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 4 Wed 4:30-6:30 pm, CDP Public Access Subcmte. Mtg., Senior Center, Ted, 889-5801.
- 5 Thu 6-9 pm, Green Drinks Hawi, Kava Kafe, organic networking & pupus, Forrest, 987-2365.
- 7 Sat 8:30 am, "Walking in the Wild" guided silent walks w/ Gavin Harrison, at `Iole, by donation, 889-5151.
- 8 Sun 2 pm, Green Building tour at the Algood Farm, register at greenschool@oneisland.org or 328-2452.
- 8 Sun 3-5 pm, Handmade Paper Bookmaking Class w/ Susan O'Malley, all ages, Algood Barn in Hawi, greenschool@oneisland.org or 328-2452 to register.
- 9 Mon 5-6:30 pm, CDP Action Cmte. Public Mtg., Senior Ctr., Kapa`au.
- 9 Mon 6 pm, Poetry group sharing and discussion, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 10 Tue 11 am, Adult book discussion group, "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 11 Wed 8 am, No. Kohala Merchants Association Mtg., Resource Center, public invited, Richard, 889-1112.
- 11 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday for ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 11 Wed 2-3:30 pm, Valentine's Day cards w/ Parks & Rec, register Jan. 26-Feb. 4, all ages, free, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
- 11 Wed 5-6:15 pm, CDP Power, Viewplanes & Erosion Control subcmte. mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr, Susan, 882-7611.
- 12 Thu 2-3:30 pm, Valentine's baking w/ Parks & Rec, register Jan. 26-Feb. 4, ages 7-14, free, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
- 14 Sat 6-10 pm, 4th Annual Big Island's Got Talent Show fundraiser for One Holistic Place, Kawaihae Canoe Club, tickets at Gill's Lanai in Kapa`au, or www.BIGT.EventBrite.com.
- 19 Thu 1:30-2:30 pm, Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Mtg., Hospital Pavilion, new members welcome, Dixie, 889-5730.
- 20 Fri 8:30 am-12 pm, Volunteer Trail Clearing Day, Mahalo Lunch to follow, Kohala Institute at `Iole, 889-5151.
- 21 Sat 4:30-6:30 pm, Free Grindz-Hot Meal, under the Hawi Banyans, bring a friend, Kohala Baptist Church, Sondra, 889-5416.
- 22 Sun 10 am-2 pm, Chinese New Year Celebration at Tong Wo Society, 11 am Lion Dance, potluck to follow, Tong Wo building, Akoni Pule Hwy., Halawa, Irma Lai, 884-5566.
- 23 Mon 6:30 pm, Hawaiian history with Boyd Bond - "Foreigners in King Kamehameha's army," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 24 Tue 4-5 pm, KCAA Girls Basketball Registration, ages 9-14, free, includes uniform, Hisaoka Gym, Kim, 895-1939.
- 24 Tue 5 pm, CDP Parks, Water & Roads Subcmte, public welcome, Senior Ctr., andi@hawaii.rr.com.
- 24 Tue 6:30-8:30 pm, 'Talking Story about Death and Dying,' open forum, Kokolulu Cancer Retreat, Bobbi, 238-5681, Stephen, 328-2452.
- 25 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday for ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 25 Wed 2-4 pm, Youth reading and movie club, "Around the World in 80 Days," grades 4 and up, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 25 Wed 4-5:30 pm, Restorative Yoga Therapy with Carla Orellana, by donation, white tent, 53-496 `Iole Rd., 889-5151.
- 26 Thu 4-5 pm, KCAA Girls Basketball Registration, ages 9-14, free, includes uniform, Hisaoka Gym, Kim, 895-1939.
- 28 Sat 11 am-12:30 pm, Free Community Meal, St. Augustine's Walker Hall, Thrift Store open 10 am-12:30 pm.

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

Cooking with Locally Grown Food

By Mellanie Lee

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in mid-December, a fun and highly informative workshop sponsored by Sustainable Kohala was offered at the Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) by co-director Erika Kuhr. Participants were welcomed with an assortment of local fruits and a refreshing garden tea before learning about locally grown foods and the many ways to cook them.

Erika began by sharing a chart listing various local foods and the many ways those foods can be prepared. Included in the chart were poi, kalo (taro), `ulu (breadfruit), sweet potato and plantain (bananas). The possible ways these foods can be eaten include in soups, salads and desserts—whether fried, boiled, baked or raw—and as thickeners. With Erika's guidance, the group became intrigued and excited as she shared the various ways each local food item could be prepared. She also encouraged us to fill in the chart with examples we might already know. For example, coco yams

can be used in soup, in pancakes for breakfast, to make bread and pizza dough, as a thickener for sauces, and also as a dessert.

Trained in college as a nutritionist, Erika shared that she was



—photo by Peter Devries

Erika Kuhr demonstrates a multitude of ways to use local foods including kalo (taro), sweet potato, `ulu (breadfruit) and plantain.

the "black sheep" of her conventional university program because she was interested in organic food. At the time, organic food was not really recognized. Erika largely credits her cooking talent and knowledge of food to what she has learned from reading books, listening to people, and having the heart to play and

See Local, page 17

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Free Community Meal:
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 www.staugustineskohala.com

Kohala Baptist Church
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 Pastor Steven E. Hedlund (808)889-5416
 www.kohalabaptist.net

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 † Service every Sunday morning at 9:30 followed by pupus and fellowship
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 www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com
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 Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Friday at 7 am
 Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm
 Rev. Robert Schwarzhaupt
 Deacon Thomas Adams
 Telephone 889-6436

Sugar Mill, continued from page 15
 high, with an attic and a Polynesian style lanai around three sides. It was a social center in Kohala for

many years. Jane's garden next to the house became famous throughout the islands.

The Wights eventually

annexation in 1894.

Hālāwa Mill survived until 1929, when the mill closed and the lands were leased out to Niuli'i Plantation and Kohala Sugar Company. Hālāwa Camp became a residence of craftsmen and specialists, paid a salary somewhere between that of field labor and *luna* (overseer). It supported a nearby village, including a tailor, a butcher and a general store.

Sugar operations continued at Puakea until 1933, when the lands were turned over to ranch-

ing. Parker Ranch leased the Puakea ranch lands beginning in 1934 and purchased them outright 12 years later, continuing to ranch there until the late 1980s.

Dr. Wight died September 2, 1905, at the age of 91. Mrs. Wight died in 1915, and they are both buried in Hālāwa. Greenbank, once maintained by the Wight Estate, is no more. However, the family cemetery remains below the old taro *lo'i* next to Hālāwa stream, each in its own way giving silent testimony to Hālāwa's past.



Jane Wright

Local, continued from page 16

get better with each new recipe she tried. She is an experimental chef taking principles of good cooking and applying them to local foods to make them nutritious and affordable.

Erika talked about the importance of being an informed consumer of food. This means knowing where our food comes from and how to prepare it in healthy ways so we can all make better choices.

She stressed that Hawai'i's agricultural diversity make this one of the best places to live because of our rich soil, which provides us with many gifts to eat. She also shared that, as a mom, she strives to cook healthy food using less sugar but still satisfying her kids' sweet cravings. She introduced many of us to rapadura, which is unrefined whole cane sugar, and using bananas and fruits as sweeteners. She also said that, because our palates are so used to eating things like bread and pasta, we need to think differently about how we might use local starches. Erika taught us how to make bread from coco yams, cassava and plantains. Yum!

Participants got hands on experience learning how to boil, steam, fry and pressure cook taro, coco yams, variegated bananas and cassava, all grown at HIP Ag. Folks also learned

how to make pizza bread, fried curry leaves that filled the room with a wonderful aroma, green papaya salad and lemon brine. For many, it was their first time tasting jackfruit and ripe, raw breadfruit that looked like ice cream.

Erika also shared information about her favorite cooking tools. Some of these are peelers and graters, a large stone mortar and pestle, various cloths used for straining, pressure cookers and hand soap for gardeners. On hand were numerous cookbooks and reference books open to pages covering nutritional information, seed resources and plants as medicine. It was an inspiring wealth of information.

Erika's main philosophy in cooking is to make it come from your heart. Her goal is to use local foods and make meals taste "delicious"—and that she does. The take-away from the afternoon was the passion she shared that even the non-cooks amongst us now can cook up an 'ono and nutritious meal. Mahalo, Erika, for a wonderful afternoon of learning, eating and meeting new friends.

Are you a locavore?

Locavore: A person who makes an effort to eat food that is grown, raised or produced locally, usually within 100 miles of home.

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had 13 children, although four did not make it to adulthood. Their daughter Clara married H. R. Bryant, who later promoted the flower industry on Hawai'i Island and is largely responsible for our nickname, "the Orchid Isle."

Wight became interested in politics and was elected in 1886 to the House of Representatives. The following year he was appointed to the House of Nobles. Remembered for his independent stands in both houses, he is reported to have strongly opposed

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Library News



Permaculture and Aquaponics Come to Library

North Kohala Public Library in Kapa'au will show the video "Olomana Gardens: Permaculture and Aquaponics" at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2.

"Olomana Gardens: Permaculture and Aquaponics," is a DVD revealing the beauty and inner workings of Olomana Gardens, a permaculture farm meant to serve as a model of a modern, sustainable food growing system that can be applied to small-scale farms, as well as food production for residential lots. Showcasing integrated sys-

tems of animals, composting, vermicomposting, and aquaponics, Olomana Gardens is as much a beautiful tour of verdant green gardens as it is a demonstration of practical means for future food production.

The film is one hour long and will be followed by a brief audience discussion.

Call the library at 889-6655 for more information. Contact the library three weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is required.

Talk to Explore Foreigners in King Kam's Army

North Kohala Public Library in Kapa'au will host the second of three "talk story" sessions on Hawai'i's History with North Kohala historian, Boyd D. Bond, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 23.

For the February presentation, Bond plans to talk about foreigners in King Kamehameha's army. The final program in the series on Monday, March 30, will focus on Kamehameha III's reign during a time of transition.

Each hour long presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Boyd Bond's knowledge of Hawai'i's history stems from his academic studies and from a lifetime spent in Hawai'i as a sixth-generation descendent of early Western settlers in Hawai'i. Boyd was raised in Hawai'i in a sugar plantation family, living on plantations throughout the state.

Of his interest in Hawaiian history, Bond says, "I can't ever remember a time when I wasn't immersed in it. Many of the stories of Hawai'i's his-

tory are also our family stories."

Bond earned a BA in Hawaiian history from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and went on to earn a masters degree in education.

Call the library at 889-6655 for more information. Contact the library three weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accomodation is required.

Weekly Events in February

Please note these events meet every week.

- Mon 6-7 pm, Fit Club with Ross Pagat, Kamehameha Park, 989-0966.
- Mon, 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
- Mon 8-9:15 am, Hatha Yoga with Morgan Cassidy, by donation, in the white tent, 53-496 'Iole Rd., 889-5151.
- Mon 7 pm, Al-Anon mtg., lower level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's, Laura, 884-5833.
- Mon 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
- Tue 9-10:30 am, Heart's Reflection Sitting Meditation Group w/ John Gardner, Meditation Hale, 53-3988 Akoni Pule Hwy, mauka, east of hospital, by donation, 889-5151.
- Tue 2:30 pm, Kendama Club, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- Wed 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
- Wed 7 pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
- Thu 8-9:15 am, Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/ Maya Parish, all levels, by donation, white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
- Thu 2-4 pm, Traditional Hawaiian Weaving with Aunty Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
- Thu 4-5 pm, Beginning Hula with Aunty Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
- Thu 6-8 pm, Open Pickleball, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
- Thu 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
- Fri 10 am, Preschool Story Time, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.

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

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Upolu Shoreline Gets a Carpet of Native Plants

All the recent rain brought a boost of growth to the native vegetation planted last year on the denuded rocky shoreline at Upolu Airport. Increasingly healthy ground cover has been

storms have damaged the preliminary soil erosion control efforts, cutting deep gullies and pouring soil into the ocean. This year the groups plan to build better soil containment dams with funding just recently raised for the project.

"What a relief to see all the plants in the ground," said Gail Byrne Baber, who helped raise the funds for the Upolu restoration through Malama Kohala Kahakai, a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center. "A big thanks go out to the Kohala Watershed Project and its director Melora



—photos by Toni Withington
Volunteers plant native vegetation along the edge of the bare soil at Upolu Airport. Left to right: Gail Byrne Baber, Bob Losey, Shelley Kaialya, Eli Collins and Elaine Losey.



Gail Byrne Baber tamps down the last of 600 plants in the ground. She was the leader of this phase of the Upolu restoration project.

joined by 600 native plant starts, adding to the growing carpet alongside the coastal pedestrian trail.

Taking advantage of the winter moisture, volunteers and trail crews planted 100 nau-paka, 100 pa`u o Hi`iaka and 400 ilima. Kohala Lihikai, the local non-profit stewardship group, is working with several other community groups to plant the native vegetation for erosion control after years of recreational vehicle use left the rocky coast bare of vegetation. It took two days and 14 people to pepper the ground with plants.

Purrell for bringing a crew to assist with the planting."

Organic farmer Clarence Baber and his crew helped with the planting. He also prepared special organic supplements to surround and add moisture to

each plant.

The project was blessed with two days of light winds and good weather. Also working with Gail on getting the plants ready and choosing the best sheltered sites for the keiki plants was Shelley Kaialya, a native plant specialist with experience in restoration projects. In addition to the three species included in this last round of planting, Kohala Lihikai is also replenishing the native groundcovers of akulikuli and hinahina.

been the best species for keeping the shore and cliffs from erosion," said Toni Withington, a co-leader of the Kohala Lihikai project. "For now in this very windy area we are concentrating on the low naupaka bush and ground covers."

Kohala Lihikai entered an agreement with Hawai'i Department of Transportation Airports Division three years ago to steward the public trail and replant the mile-long coast makai of the runway. Art students at Kohala Middle School have painted signs to help trail users identify the native plants and encourage hikers to stay on the trail.

The Airports Division personnel have built a 500-gallon tank trailer to water the plants while they are young. They also greatly assisted in the first rounds of planting.

Funding for the projects at Upolu was made possible through a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.



Elaine Losey, Eli Collins and Shelley Kaialya plant the creeping native vine pa`u o Hi`iaka at Upolu.

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Spring Break Outdoor Education for Middle School Students at 'Iole



—photo by Chris Trump

G.R.A.C.E. learning Journey participants explore Waianaia Gulch with Ally Tinnin and Sa'o Vaefaga.

Kohala Institute at 'Iole's signature educational program, G.R.A.C.E. Learning Journey, will be offered for seventh- and eighth-graders this coming spring intercession, March 16 to 20. The place-based and experiential learning program will include site visits to diverse locations within the 'Iole ahupua`a, from mauka to makai. At each site visited, students will explore the physical, geographical, cultural, historical and ecological aspects of the landscape through hands-on activities and exercises.

They will explore these concepts through participation in a range



—photo by Maya Parish

Sydney Wiecking develops concepts of effective leaders during leadership training.

G.R.A.C.E. represents the universal values practiced at Kohala Institute: gratitude, respect, accountability, courage and engagement. Students will participate in activities intended to examine what these values mean to them, to others and to the natural environment.

of educational activities in the fields of sustainability, Hawaiian culture, the arts and contemplation.

Students will also engage in small group service projects throughout the week that they will share with their communities. These projects will be designed to positively impact the social, cultural, environmental and other aspects of their communities in ways in which the students themselves determine will be the most beneficial. *Kuleana* (responsibility) to self, to the earth and to others serves as the overarching theme of the program.

A brief video of the inaugural launch of the G.R.A.C.E. Learning Journey, which focused on fourth- and fifth-grade students in October 2014, can be found on the G.R.A.C.E. Learning Journey page of

the Kohala Institute's website, www.kohalainstitute.org.

Partial scholarships are available for families with demonstrated financial need. All families who register their children for the program by February 15 will receive 10 percent off the tuition price. Detailed information about the program can be found on Kohala Institute's website, listed above. Please contact programs@kohalainstitute.org or call (808) 889-5151 for further information or to register.



—photo by Maya Parish

DJ Aurello teaches an oli about the winds of North Kohala.



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