

Vol.14, No. 2

February 21, 2015

Ditch Repairs Promise Increased Flow and Return of Tours

By Kyle Combes

Two months ago—on December 23, 2014—flash flooding not seen in a lifetime ravaged the aged Kohala Ditch, bringing it to its knees. Rocks fell from cliffs, smashing into one flume, and raging waters displaced tons of other rocks, filling and clogging crucial waterway tunnels. In Pololu, flowing water nearly took out a giant masonry pier supporting one flume, potential damage that could have taken many months to fix. As it was, nothing catastrophic occurred, but plenty of damage did cripple various portions of the ditch.



A flume of the Kohala Ditch is damaged and leaking after heavy December 2014 rains caused flows too great for the aging structure to withstand. Damaged sections of the ditch are being repaired by the operator, Kohala Ditch Company.

Photos courtesy of Surety Kohala Corporation

Repairs have been ongoing

since before the New Year and for the most part have been progress-

ing smoothly, said Bill Shontell, executive vice president and chief

Honokane cannot get past Pololu
See Ditch Page 3

Kim Takata Recognized as Citizen of the Year 2014

Story and photo by Leslie Nugent

The North Kohala Merchants Association is excited to announce Kim Takata as the 2014 Citizen of the Year! The Merchants Association recognizes, appreciates and celebrates Kim Takata's dedicated service to the youth and community of North Kohala. Kim Takata is actively involved in various community projects and generously volunteers her time to contribute to their success.

Takata is a founding member

and active organizer for the Kohala Coqui Coalition for the past eleven years, volunteer Director for the Kohala Community Athletic Association (KCAA) since 2002, a Director for the North Kohala Community Resource Center since 2009 and a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau. Kim currently manages Takata Store with her husband Jerry Takata and cares for her mother-in-law Clara Takata.

When asked what she loves about Kohala, Kim shares her generous smile and responds that she "loves everything about Kohala." Living in Kohala is comfortable, familiar and connects Takata to her roots growing up as a country girl in a small, rural town. Involved in agriculture her whole life, Takata has been contributing to agriculture in Hawai'i for over 30 years. She was the manager at Watanabe Floral in Waimea for 15



Citizen of the Year Kim Takata relaxes with her dog EleEle.

see Takata page 2

Kohala Seniors Bring Home Top Pastry Honors

By Lucy Pasco

On February 7 at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Waimea, the Kohala Senior Citizens took part in the cherry pie contest. Seven ladies entered the contest: Sumi Kawasaki, Emily DeWitt, Mamo Shontell, Arlene Ohta, Dora Vernola, Ellen Kato and Genevive Kaysinger. Congratulations to Dora Vernola

who took 1st place in the crusted cherry pie contest. "What is the secret to a good pie?" somebody asked. "The crust!"...and the taste.

Genevive Kaysinger was last year's 1st place winner in the crusted pie division, and this year took 1st place in the non-crust division with her cherry cheesecake. YUMMY!



Photo by Lani Eugenio

Dora Vernola (left) and Genevive Kaysinger (right) are the winners of the 2015 Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival cherry pie contest. Both women are members of the Kohala Seniors Club.

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Photo taken by Tom Morse

Kamehameha Park's grandstand roof was one of the many casualties North Kohala suffered during the gale force pummeling of February the 14th.

Reunion 2015 Signing Up Players

Takata, continued from page 2

years before starting her own nursery in North Kohala in 1999. With over 10 years as a successful businesswoman, Takata closed her nursery, Kiolohana Palms, in 2009 to care for her mother-in-law and work at the family business, Takata Store. Before working at the store full time in 2012, Kim enjoyed three years of part-time substitute teaching at Kohala Elementary and Kohala Middle Schools. Working at Takata Store is another way that Takata serves and connects with Kohala, as Takata Store and the Takata family are all about community.

Takata shares her love for the people of Kohala, and especially the Takata family that has become her family since she and Jerry started dating in 1984 and married in 1994. She is following in the legacy of her father-in-law, Shiro Takata, and mother-in-law,

Clara Takata, as they are both past recipients of the Citizen of the Year award for their astounding service to the North Kohala community.

Takata humbly accepts the recognition as Citizen of the Year 2014 and reflects that "there are so many people that do amazing work in Kohala. I am very honored and very grateful that the people of the community recognize that I really care for Kohala, and that I am willing to spend time volunteering."

The North Kohala community is so grateful for the Aloha that Takata shares with us every day. Her vibrant spirit, warm heart and deep commitment to serving our community are valued treasures.

A light reception will be held to recognize Kim Takata as the 2014 Citizen of the Year on Thursday, March 26, at 5 p.m. at the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

By Toni Withington

The Reunion 2015 committee, gearing up for the Fourth of July weekend, is reaching out to the community for even more participation than in past reunions. The gathering has become a tradition held every five years.

It draws people with connections to North Kohala from near and far, filling our community with celebration for four days – this year from July 3 to 6.

Throughout this month the reunion committee will be manning a booth at the Saturday Farmers Market in Hawi to encourage residents and families to pre-register for the event and to reserve the commemorative T-shirts.

The last chance to pre-register will be on Saturday, February 28, as the deadline is the following day, March 1.

Funds from pre-registration and T-shirt sales allow the com-

mittee to plan activities and entertainment.

The deadline for signing up for a food booth or craft selling booth is also March 1.

Anyone interested in selling food or products at the reunion, which will be held in the Kamehameha Park Complex, should contact Teresa Marquez, chairman of food and crafts, at 217-7879. Applications are still available.

Inside the gymnasium, exhibits of Kohala's history and future will focus on different eras during each of the four days.

Non-commercial exhibit space is still available for groups or organizations wanting to display and demonstrate their connection to those attending the reunion.

To apply for booth or display space, contact committee members Fred Cachola at 753-8896 or Leilani Scovel at 884-5037.

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



Keiki Yoga Kohala was awarded \$3,000 from Kaiser Foundation to provide yoga classes to Kohala Elementary students.



Young Brothers awarded \$2,300 in grants to KCAA, Kohala Youth Ranch, Keiki Yoga Kohala and KHS Aquaculture.

Mahalo to these foundations for their support of the Kohala community!

You can support our projects and the Center with a tax-deductible donation to NKCRC, P.O. Box 519, Hawi, HI 96719 • 889-5523 • www.northkohala.org

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Ditch, continued from page 1
until all of the rocks have been cleared from Tunnel 15.

Surety is also taking the opportunity to rebuild portions of the ditch entirely. In light of heavy damage on one and a demolished pier support on another, Flumes 10 and 11 are scheduled to be dismantled then rebuilt from the ground up once replacement timbers arrive from the mainland.

With the ditch mostly offline, water levels are, unsurprisingly, a far cry from normal. With the rain late in January the flow was back up to around 10 percent of its normal million gallons per day. While this lesser flow does seem to be holding agricultural users for the time being, a prolonged shortage of rainfall could spell trouble. Currently the Kapa`au-Hawi section of the ditch is being fed primarily by springs in Halaula and Kapa`au charged with rainwater, with only a small amount of tunnel drip from Pololu and Makapala making it through a bypass pipe on Flume 10.

Shortly before the timber shipment arrives in late March, Flumes 10 and 11 will be razed and whatever water was making it through the bypass will cease to flow.

Once this happens, it's all up to the springs until the new flumes are in. Surety hopes to have them completed by the end of April, which would put the ditch back

online shortly thereafter.

Shontell also discussed Surety's plans for reopening the ditch tours. Kohala Ditch Company

They had given Kohala Ditch Adventures (KDA) until the end of February 2015 to wind down operations. Unfortunately

tours in June. When asked about employment opportunity, Shontell said it will provide at least the same number of jobs as the

old tour business, with the possibility of more down the road as Flumin' grows and expands its operation.

There will be announcements starting in March regarding employment opportunities at the new eco-tour operation. Shontell also hopes the new headquarters in Hawi will bring more customer traffic to all businesses in town, and



A worker inspects damage at a pier supporting part of the Kohala Ditch. The pier, damaged in the heavy rains of December 2014, has since been repaired.

had decided in the summer of 2014 to bring the kayak operation back to Hawi and to have it more closely integrated into the overall operation of the ditch system by bringing the kayak tour directly under control of the Ditch Com-

pany. The massive flood and damage in December expedited the inevitable.

Surety plans to call the new venture "Flumin' Kohala," an ode to the original "Flumin' Da Ditch" tours, and hopes to start offering

that the ditch fortifications will make the ditch less subject to the whims of Mother Nature—something for the agricultural water users of Kohala, and future kayak-tour guides to look forward to.

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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 accommodated.

March

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

April

Ad Deadline: 4/10/15
News Deadline: 4/12/15



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

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Letters

Dr. Wight's Legacy From a Different Perspective

Dear Editor,

It behooves me to correct the biography of James Wight who came to Kohala in 1851. I understand that Wight was the best friend and business partner of Reverend Bond, so the writer would want to present Mr. Wight in the best light, but when it comes to history, several sources need to be researched. Looks like only one source was used: the Wight Family website.

I could repeat oral histories of families who have dealt with James Wight, but instead, I will quote directly from pages 38-39 of Sophia Schweitzer and Michael Gomes' book, "Kohala Aina."

"Once Wight made his decision to make his fortune in Kohala rather than in California, his private gold rush was on. He became district judge of Kohala and a member of the legislature. He accumulated land, often pressuring Hawaiian commoners to surrender what was theirs, indebting them, misleading them, and seeking deals that profited himself." Wight, it is said, was ruthless. "He was warned not to take over a piece of land upon which there was a heiau, but he paid no attention. Shortly after he had done so, one of his daughters died and much of his life was later plagued with family tragedy." (Kohala Keia)

"The land he grabbed he used for ranching, cane and the orchids he loved...The Wight Estate eventually would grow to 17 thousand acres, stretching from Halawa to Mahukona. Halawa Gulch provided water to irrigate Wight's increasing wealth.

"James Wight's little store at Halawa served cane workers in camps nearby. In later years, the store also functioned as Kohala's post office. Since Wight knew a bit about medicine and Bond had been in desperate need of a doctor for his people, the store tripled as a pharmacy. In fact, Wight wanted to be known as Doctor Wight, although it's doubtful that he ever held a proper medical degree. Some say his title served him as a cover to keep his shop well-supplied with drugs, including the opiates loved by the Halawa Chinese."

Aloha,
Lani Eugenio



The Wonderful People of North Kohala

Dear Madam:

I recently spent my annual two weeks in Kapa`au. I rented a house on Maluhia Road (way down and way off the grid -- the McIntire Retreat). I read your newspaper and fully agree that the people of North Kohala sure come together when needed. The Friday night following New Year's was a fierce windstorm, knocking out power, breaking trees and I heard (I am not certain if true) that someone's newly installed solar panels were ripped off during the storm. While I had plenty of power (solar), I learned that the power was out in Kapa`au and Hawi.

When I got up the next morning on Saturday to drive to Hawi for the farmer's market, there were fallen trees blocking the gate where I was staying.

I tried to move them but could not, so I drove over the trees and went up Maluhia towards the highway. When I got over the

small bridge there was a stand of fallen pine trees, which I could not move or drive over.

A nice couple came back and had some parachute-type cords, but no hitch on their pick-up

off to the side of the road. A short distance further on, a very large plum tree had snapped in half and was blocking the road. The cords would not have fit around the tree. A gentlemen from Kohala

Landscaping (I think he said his name was Sam) came down with a chainsaw and took all of ten minutes to saw through the tree, which we all then threw to the side of the gulch.

The road was cleared! I work as a paralegal here on O`ahu and am what could be considered a glamour city slicker (with manicured nails, pedicure,

hair and make-up). I have never done anything like this in my life, but it was a very exhilarating experience and I was glad I had that pick-up truck with the tow hitch! I love the people of North Kohala (and hope to retire there). It was four of us and we cleared Maluhia Road.

Anita G. Diaz Honolulu, HI



Pine trees block Maluhia Road after the January 2, 2015 windstorm.

Photos by Anita Diaz

truck. I had rented a U-Haul (cost of a rental car is \$200 per day over New Years; cost of U-Haul is \$19.95 per day plus mileage).

Fortunately, the truck had a heavy duty tow hitch on back, so the man was able to attach the cords to the trees and secure to the tow hitch and I drove the trees



Help Stop Bullying!

Dear Kohala Community,

My name is Jovylyn Campollo. I'm a current seventh grader from Kohala Middle School, class of 2020. I'm writing this letter because I've noticed a lot of bullying in our school. Why can't we just all be friends and accept who a person is by the way they are! Bullying is not cool, nor will it ever be!

Bullies think they are cool. The only reason why they bully you because they think you can't do anything. But when you get bullied you should go and tell your teacher, principal, or guidance counselor. You can make a difference and also stand up for yourself. Bullying can also cause suicides. You see innocent people die for being bullied.

I hope bullying stops. Bullying is sad. Everyone should stop bullying. Bullying is not polite. Please stop bullying; it causes suicide. Hawai'i is number two in suicide deaths. That is sad.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Jovylyn Campollo

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.

Hawai'i Island's Mass Burn Incinerator Update

The RFP (Request for Proposals) for incinerating the island's waste (98,550 tons a year) in a mass burn incinerator has been withdrawn by the mayor. The short list of bidders was made up of three mass burn incinerator companies. The reason given for the RFP being withdrawn was the price of fuel dropping so low. The price for a megawatt produced by the bidders would not have been able to compete with the low price of HELCO's petroleum-generated megawatt. It has been suggested that when the price of fuel goes back up, that this RFP will come back to life.

What can we do as Hawai'i residents now?

Rent or view online the movie "Trashed" (PG-13) for a very well done film that will educate viewers in a flash. Come to the free screening of "Racing to Zero" at the North Kohala Public Library - date to be announced; flyers will be posted. This movie is family friendly and celebrates the successes of San Francisco in their quest for "zero waste" (RECYCLING EVERYTHING). San Francisco is the leading city in the world in the race to zero waste. We can do that!!!

The County of Hawai'i already



Courtesy of <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incineration>

This stock photo shows an active mass burn incinerator in Malmo, Sweden. The stack on the left is still under construction.

has a policy of "zero waste" (a proclamation to attempt to recycle or reuse all waste; the hitch is it takes public education and contracts). It is estimated that at least 200 LOCAL JOBS would be created with a zero waste program/plan in place.

We can respectfully call or write the mayor's office and ask him to re-issue an RFP that allows for "zero waste solutions."

East Hawai'i: 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 961-8211

West Hawai'i: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Bldg C, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 (808) 323-4444, Fax: (808) 323-4440. Email: cohmayor@co.hawaii.hi.us

Within our homes, at work, beach clean ups and around the community, we can: reduce, reuse, recycle (see www.KohalaMountainNews.com - archives Nov. 2014 issue for info)... Sort, sort, sort... learn how to compost online OR in a workshop with Sam Robertson (call 747-2737 for information).

The Hawai'i County Council has declared 2015 the "YEAR OF COMPOST." Please stop taking green waste to the dump. Green waste becomes topsoil when composted! There are good methods out there that are FREE and FAST. Find a corner of the yard or a neighbor or friend that can manage your green waste. Kohala needs its topsoil! Once it goes to the landfill it is gone forever... mixed with toxins. Auwe.

Toxins must be kept out of the waste stream. It is up to us to do the right thing. Small batteries can go to bin in front of Takata Store. Curly lightbulbs can go back to Lowe's return counter (please DO NOT BREAK them as they contain highly toxic mercury). Car batteries can go to the store for credit when you buy a new one, OR Atlas in Waimea for buy-back, where they will give you cash by the pound (they will buy scrap metal, too).

More articles on the subject to come.

Imua, Aloha. Lisa Andrews

Viewpoint

Information and opinions expressed in viewpoint articles are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the News or its staff.

Right to Home Rule Still in Question



Community members gather to testify in the matter of regulating GMO crops at North Kohala County Council videoconference center, formerly known as the Bank of Hawai'i building on February 4, 2015.

On Wednesday, February 4, the Hawai'i County Council had before it Communication 9.1: whether to support acceptance of Earthjustice and Center for Food Safety lawyers' offer to co-council and defend our partial GMO ban at NO CHARGE to Hawai'i County or its citizens.

On November 26, 2014, U.S. Magistrate Judge Barry Kurran invalidated our own Councilwoman Margaret Wille's Ordinance 13-121 ban on GMO crops, which has exceptions of papaya and corn already growing on the island, as well as those in enclosed facilities for research studies.

Judge Kurran stated that, although the state does not specifically regulate genetically modified crops, Ordinance 13-121 still conflicts with the work of state agencies. He said the state legislature intended, "...to have extensive and broad responsibilities over agricultural problems spanning the various counties."

The ruling is in line with Kurran's decision last August to invalidate a Kauai County ordinance that required large agricultural companies to disclose certain pesticides used and abide by buffer zones. This decision could also have implications for the ongoing case against Maui County's newly approved moratorium on genetically modified crops, as he is to decide this case brought by Monsanto and Dow Chemical, too.

But there was overwhelming testimony (64 in favor vs. 6 opposed) for the County accepting the pro-bono attorneys in

appealing the lawsuit filed by Hawai'i Floriculture and Nursery Association and other agriculture and biotechnology groups in a federal court of appeals. Six votes (two thirds of the nine Council members) were needed to approve accepting the offer for free legal counsel.

I did not get all those who testified here in North Kohala in the accompanying photo. We are not even listed on the County website: <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/lb-council-meeting> We had at least as many attendees as any other videoconferencing location, including Hilo, thanks in a large part to local political activist Lisa Andrews, partially photographed here (middle of back row).

This case is not just about the cultivation of GMO crops but is critical to preserving our home rule rights at the county level. It is to me, closest to the golden rule to honor, as close as possible, the rights of the individual. If we fail to defend our GMO law now, we could invalidate our 2008 GMO ban our county enacted to protect taro & Kona coffee farmers from cross contamination of their valuable crops and livelihoods.

So as the Hawaiian legend goes, taro/haloa is 'ohana. Like Senate Agriculture Chairman Russell Ruderman from our island 'ohana said, "It's a tremendous concern for me when chemical companies overrule democracy."

I love you North Kohala...you are a force for Good to be reckoned with!

April Lee

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation West Hawaii Regional Board of Directors will be having its next meeting open to the public:

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Kona Community Hospital's Conference Room 2

The West Hawaii Regional Board of Directors represents Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital.



Any questions, please contact 322-6970 www.kch.hhsc.org

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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 December 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



Police Department Update

New Station Clerk Welcomed to North Kohala

Aloha! So how did everyone's first month of the year 2015 go? As for me I can say that it went very well. The Hawai'i Police Department's North Kohala District would like to welcome our new station clerk Mrs. Mary Salvador. Mrs. Salvador is from North Kohala, therefore it is a pleasure to have her on board with us.

Please note that she is not the one to contact with regard to driver's licensing. The North Kohala Station does not handle driver's license applications and road tests. The nearest establishment from the district of North Kohala will be at the Waimea Police Station. You can also go to the DMV offices located in Hilo and Kona.

Now in community matters, I would like to inform you to be aware of a paving company that has been operating in the district of North Kohala, as well as other districts, on the island of Hawai'i. A representative of Regulated Industries Complaints Office of the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs has reported a company had approached many residents posing as a contractor with a large amount of leftover asphalt. The company says it is willing to use the leftover asphalt to pave the residents' driveway for a small fee.

However, the situation usually does not end after the leftover

pavement had been laid. The contractor will then say that it looks like the job will need more asphalt than what was left over, and that he can order more asphalt and complete the job if the resident is willing to pay more.

I have visited residents within the district of North Kohala who I was informed had been approached in this manner, and they were satisfied with the contractor's service. The representative of the Regulated Industries Complaints Office had informed me that they were contacted by residents who were unsatisfied with the contractor's work. Because we will not identify the contracting company we want you, the community member, to be aware that there is a contractor traversing our community regarding driveway paving. If you are in need of property paving it is best you seek

out a company that you have researched. If you are approached by a contractor informing you that he has a load of leftover or rejected asphalt and would like to do work on your property for a small fee, it is your decision to choose. Feel free to contact police should you feel uncomfortable of the situation.

Officer Kauahikaua, Jr. (Officer KJ)
HPD North Kohala Community Police Officer
e-mail: officerkauahikaua@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Hawai'i Police Department
Mrs. Mary Salvador is the new station clerk at the North Kohala Police Station

Dr. Jonny's Health Tips:

A recent study released in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Internal Medicine, shows a strong association between anticholinergic drugs and dementia. In the study the authors found that even low dose usage at the recommended amounts could be a cause of dementia if used for prolonged periods. What is alarming is that this type of medication is available without a prescription. Common brand name anticholinergic medicines include Benadryl, Dramamine, Chlor-Trimeton, Sominex, Advil-PM, Zyban, Welbutrin and many others. This is an important study because it shows a medication that was once thought to be safe enough for non-prescription use can actually be a significant contributor to the dementia problem that currently affects 5.2 million Americans.



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



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Movie Theaters in Kohala The Kohala Theater 1940-1958, Part 1, Fourth in a Series



Courtesy of Faye Mitchell

The Kohala Theater in Halaula – circa 1949

By Tom Morse

The Kohala Theater was built in 1940, five years after the Hawi Theater, and the same year as the Kahei Theater. It had approximately 775 seats – more than the other two theaters combined. It was designed by the famous architect C.W. Dickey, who also designed many buildings in Honolulu, as well as the

Volcano House on the Big Island. The theater was a joint project of the Kohala Sugar Company and Consolidated Amusement, which purchased the Hawi Theater from Harold Sugiyama at the same time as it opened the Kohala Theater.

The two large neon “KOHALA” signs could be seen from a great distance at night. Covered walkways added style

to the entrance. A large trellis supported a beautiful growth of hua pala vines, noted for their bright orange flowers and shiny, dark green leaves. The occluded glass blocks were a distinguishing characteristic. A large lobby featured a concession area braced by potted palms. There was no balcony; the projection room and an office were above the lobby.

The theater was open every evening, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. There were no matinees on weekdays, so as not to distract the workers. A few cents extra bought reserved seats in the center rows. Filipino movies were shown on Thursday nights. All the Kohala theaters were a popular retreat for soldiers on rest and **see theater page 8**



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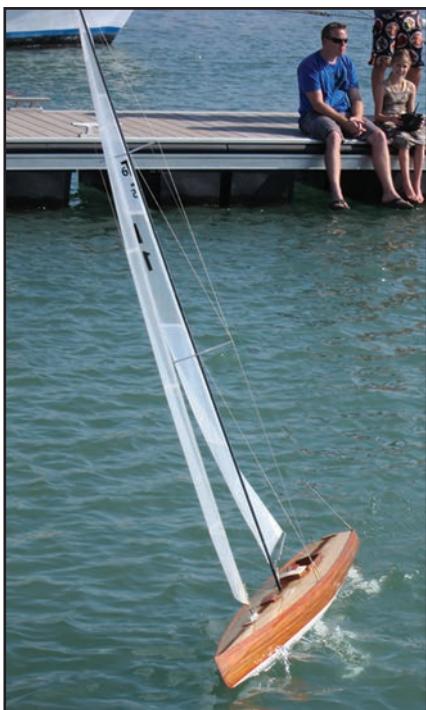
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Kohala Model Boat Club Launches Newly Built Yachts

On January 17 Dick Medve and Carl Miller got the Kohala Model Boat Club up and sailing at Kawaihae Small Boat Refuge. So far they have six boats built and five were in the water that day. The T65 and two of the T37s were launched for the first time that day.



Photos courtesy of Kohala Model Boat Club



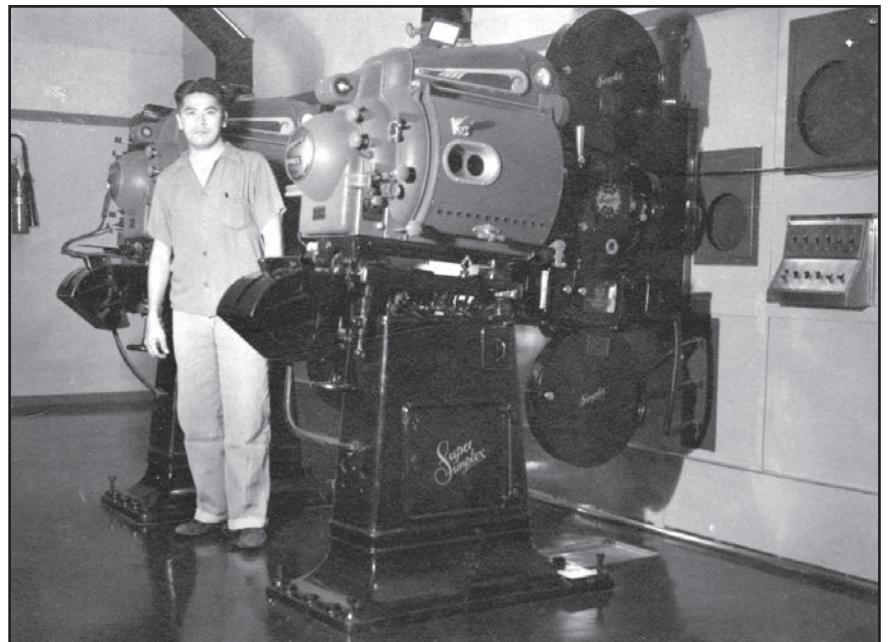
The fruits of Dick Medve's big idea to "build a fleet of boats...."



Carl Miller with the T65 "Delphinus."

**To advertise
in the Kohala
Mountain News
call Tom @
345-0706**

Theater, continued from page 7



Courtesy of Roy Kimoto

Two Projectors in Kohala Theater

recuperation from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.

The projection room housed the most modern color and sound projectors, pictured here with operator Kazuo Kamoto. Two projectors were needed to allow a smooth transition between rolls of film.

The theater opened to much

fanfare. Shown here is publicity about the new theater from Show Parade, a publication of Consolidated Amusement.

The playbill from the opening night shows an extensive program with live singers, dancers, an orchestra, two newsreels, a cartoon and, of course, a feature film. Welcoming talks were

see Theater page 9

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- Kohala Institute at 'Iole**
- Lōkahi Garden Sanctuary**
- Paliili 'O Kohala**

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- Rio Polynesian Supper Club**
- The Art of Fermentation**
- Kohala 'Āina Harvest Festival**

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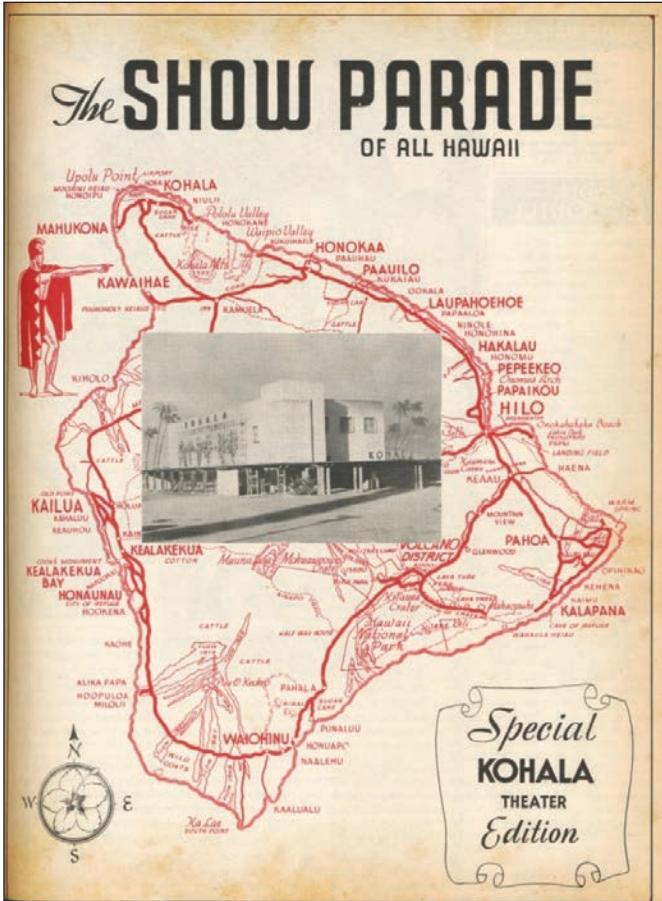
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Theater, continued from page 8



Courtesy of Lowell Angell

The Show Parade Advertisement

given by Consolidated's President and the General Manager

Chief Usher (who later became a Hawaii County Councilman, and

of the Kohala Sugar Company.

The first manager of the theater, Jack Sanborn, was the Master of Ceremonies on opening night. Consolidated Amusement operated the theater, but staffed it mainly with Kohala residents. Pictured here is the staff on opening night.

Top row, left to right: Kuni Iwaoka, Projectionist; Edith Mizushima, Cashier; Kazue Nakagawa, Cashier; Jack Sanborn, Manager

Second row: Ikuo Hisoaka, Usher; Hideo Naito, Door-

GRAND OPENING PROGRAM
FRIDAY EVE. KOHALA Theater* AUG. 30, 1940

<p>★</p> <p>C. W. DICKEY ARCHITECT for the new KOHALA THEATER</p> <p>★</p>	<p>Part 1 ROSE KUAMOO AND HER MELODEARS Present (a) "MAIKAI KA MAKANI O KOHALA" (Dedicated to the New Kohala Theater) (b) "EVENING IN HILO" (c) "BEAUTY HULA" (d) "KAWIKA" (e) "LILIU E" (f) "LOVELY HULA HANDS"</p> <p>The Dancers: Waialeale Maluo, Janet McKaig, Marion Correa, Leonetta Osorio, Eloise Moniz, Laverne Aio The Musicians: Mrs. Rose Kuamoo, Phillip Kuamoo, Eddie Keliipio, Rosabella Maluo, Mrs. Eliza Osorio, Elizabeth Aiceo (Production Under Direction of Rose Kuamoo)</p>	<p>ALOHA and BEST WISHES TO THE CONSOLIDATED AMUSEMENT CO. on the opening of the KOHALA THEATRE</p> <p>★</p> <p>JACK KAYATANI Your Neighborhood Service Station</p>
<p><i>Congratulations</i> to the CONSOLIDATED AMUSEMENT COMPANY Upon the Opening of the New KOHALA THEATER We are Proud to Have Been Selected to Erect This New Amusement</p>	<p>Part 2 E. R. DAVIS.....CONSOLIDATED'S SALUTATION J. SCOTT B. PRATT.....KOHALA'S WELCOME</p> <p>Part 3 (a) PARAMOUNT NEWS "PACIFIC PARADISE" Eyes & Ears of the World Color Cruise of Hawaii (b) "DONALD'S DOG LAUNDRY" Color Cartoon (c) "FOUR WIVES" (d) With PRISCILLA LANE, ROSEMARY LANE, LOLA LANE.</p>	<p>Congratulations Consolidated upon the opening of your new KOHALA THEATER</p> <p>Consolidated keeps up it's progressive march to bring better entertainment to Hawaii. Keeping right in step the Von Hamm-Young Co. announces the opening of it's new Budget Store to bring better values for the motoring public.</p>

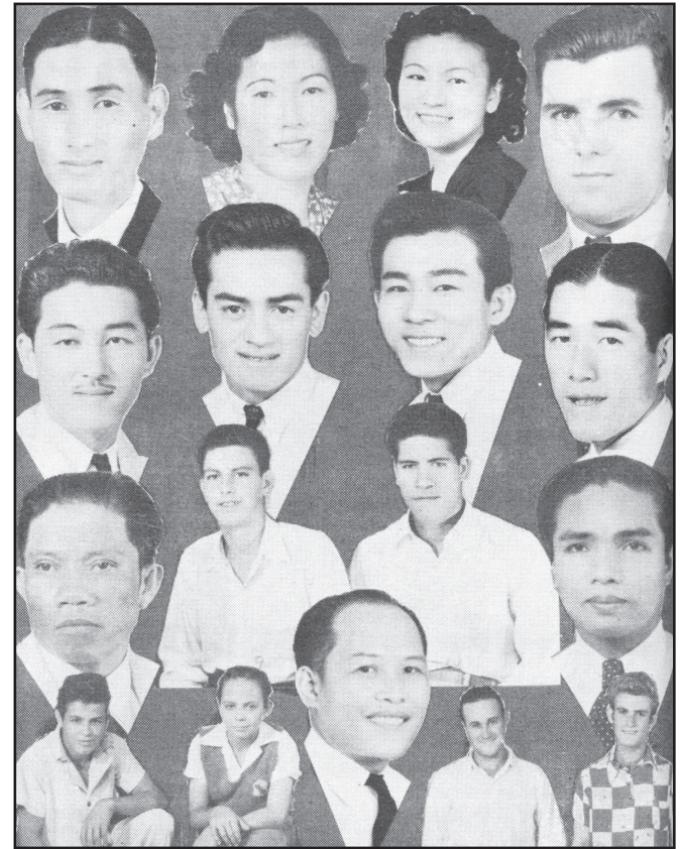
Courtesy of Lowell Angell

Congratulations on the grand opening of the theater

man for whom the gym at Kamehameha Park was named); Frank Caitano, Usher and Projectionist, Rod Hinokawa, Usher; Hideo Naito, Door-

man Third Row: Tereso Laure, Attendant; Joe Carvalho, Poster Service; Muchi Koomoa, Poster Service; Santos Ramairo, Usher; Isidro Tagorda, Usher

Bottom Row: Edward Silva, Herbert Silva, Joseph Crivelho, Joseph Franca, Show Parade Magazine Distributor



Courtesy of Lowell Angell

The staff at the Kohala Theater opening night

see theater page 15

For more info visit us at www.kohalavillage.org or at the Kohala Village Inn Lobby

Kohala Village HUB HUB Happenings

Food as Medicine Fermentation Workshop
Feb 28, 2015 2-5pm
 \$10 class + \$7 supply fee = \$17/person
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Mahukona High Surf Shows Ocean's Power

Story and photos by Lani Eugenio

High surf crashed on Mahukona and Kapa`a Parks on the evening of Wednesday, January 21, resulting in the road being closed. Patti Ann Solomon, who works for the owners of the property, reported that the swells began between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. and got bigger throughout the night.

Solomon checked on Railroad Hale the next day, and was surprised to find rocks strewn all over the lawn. She assessed the pavilion area and found a gigantic tree stump lying in the middle of the road. Huge boulders and coral dredged from the ocean floor also littered the road. Waves had crashed the picnic tables into a tree, and the camping ground was turned into a "rock garden". The water had gone all the way up to the pavilion.

On the wharf side, the angry waves had taken the two portable toilets, bounced them around and landed one by the gate near Railroad Hale. The other had been crushed in the brush near the bridge. The paved parking lot was damaged, and a large portion of the cement barrier was bashed and broken off by the waves. The elevated grounds above where the port-a-potties stood was soaked. Those who know Mahukona can imagine how high and strong the destructive waves must have been.

At Kapa`a Park, the heavy cement barbecue pit was overturned and a tree was uprooted, which flattened a picnic table. The workers reported that the waves had deposited debris into the Kapa`a pavilion, and a trashcan was stuck in a fallen tree stump.

Solomon credits the County Highway Division and the County Parks Department for the quick clean up. "They're from Kohala, that's why," she explained, as if one would understand the simple reasoning.

The Kohala County Parks work crew is supervised by Shawn Rocha. His workers are Ian Carvalho, Herbert Ching, Kalei Emeliano and Pono Nakamura. The



A section of the cement barrier at Mahukona was washed away by the punishing waves of January 2015.

road was closed on Thursday, and by Friday before noon the crew had the place cleaned up.

Willie Perez, Sr. supervises Kohala's county road crew. His

workers are Tyce Chong, Robert Cambra, Warner Geiger, Stan Gonzalves, Guy Nakamura and Kyle Oshita. The road remained closed after it was cleaned up because more big surf was expected on

the wharf side. They filled up the holes in the parking lot pavement and brought in two Jersey barriers to prevent cars from falling into the ocean. The park and pier were opened to the public shortly thereafter.

Perez explained why they completed the projects as soon as they could. "We can't leave the parks and pier like that because there's not too many places for Kohala people to go. We live here. We fix it for Kohala." These dedicated workers surely deserve the community's gratitude.

Solomon also reports that people, mostly tourists, still go down during high surf and play "Catch-Me-If-You-Can" with the waves splashing



A large wave breaking at Mahukona on Friday, January 23 is actually smaller than those of those of the prior two days.

See Mahukona, page 11

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ELAINE CHRISTIANSON, RB AND HOLLY ALGOOD, RS

Kid Pan Alley Returns to Teach and Inspire Students in Songwriting

For the third year running, Kid Pan Alley (KPA) came to Kohala Elementary School to teach songwriting and creative expression to all ages.

KPA's songwriting residencies teach students to how to har-

ness and express their creativity through writing and performing original songs.

Paul Reisler started KPA by means of a brilliant but obvious discovery: Kids make the greatest song co-writers, especially

when you are writing songs for kids. Since his light bulb moment in 1999, Reisler has toured the country working with kids of all stripes, facilitating and co-creating original, entertaining and inspiring music.

Cheryl Toth, vocalist and KPA's executive director, assisted Reisler with this year's program. Kids worked with Reisler and Toth to write their own songs, both lyrics and music. They worked their creative writing muscles while



Photos by Maureen Gary

Ms. Carpenter's 1st grade class sings their song, "The Hundredth Day of School."



Ms. Carlson's 5th grade class gives it their all while performing their original composition, "Nevermind."

Mahukona, continued from page 10 against the pier wall. She used to warn them and feel responsible for their safety because of her background in navigation, having water skills and being certified in life-saving. She has since released

her feelings of responsibility, because she feels like nobody listens.

On Wednesday, when the swells were beginning to increase, she warned a couple of its danger. However, the couple continued

to frolic in the splashing showers, heedless to the warnings of the power of the ocean. Then a forceful wave slammed them to the ground, and rolled them around in the parking lot.

Luckily the barrier was still there, and fortunately for all that the destruction happened that night when no one was around.

The couple ended their day with pavement "burns" all over their bodies. As they were leaving, Patti Ann shook her head, reminding them of being warned. The man said, "But you would've saved me, wouldn't you?" to which she retorted,

"No, I don't save idiots."

In the next few days of high surf, adults and parents with children came to play in the spray, even when the barrier was gone. It was suggested by those who understand the peril in such acts that the police and Child Protective Services send officers down to the water during high surf and issue tickets to those who endanger lives.

exploring rhythm, rhyme, melody and form.

Each class had a turn on stage to perform its song, with the lyrics projected onto a large screen in the front of the auditorium.

A sample of their work can be found in "We Have Stories To Tell," a song written by Ms. Rufo's 5th grade class, Paul Reisler and Cheryl Toth.

*We have stories to tell
Stories no one else knows
About the legends of Hawai'i
That the hands of
the dancer show*

*Pele is the Goddess of Fire
Poliahu of Water and Snow
Like fire and ice
They didn't play nice
That's how it started
so long ago*

*We have stories to tell
Stories no one else knows
About the legends of Hawai'i
That the hands of
the dancer show*

*The spirits of the `Aina
are listening
To our dreams and
our prayers, too
Our ancestors hear
There's nothing to fear
This song is our offering to you*

*We have stories to tell
Stories no one else knows
About the legends of Hawai'i
That the hands of
the dancer show*



One of the toilets at Mahukona ended up in the gulch, washed from its usual station by January 2015's powerful waves.

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Did you know?
The Kohala Mountain News is online at www.kohalamountainnews.com
Check us out for all the latest news in Kohala!

KNKR Logo Art Contest Winners Announced

Story and photo by Wendy Nickl
 Kohala Middle School continues to extend our community partnerships to benefit our students. Mr. Chris Michaelis is teaching a broadcasting class this year in anticipation of the summer 2015 opening of the community's new radio station, KNKR. Mr. Michaelis and Principal Alan Brown also attend KNKR planning meetings to support the radio station and incorporate real-life learning into our KMS curriculum.

During the fall of 2014 our art teacher, Ms. Kylie Gonsalves, had her students enter the KNKR

Logo contest. And the winners are:
 Third place: Gabrielle Tomas, grade 8;
 Second place: Nathan Romero, grade 8; and
 First place: Grace Todd, grade 6.

These talented students were awarded prizes from KNKR representatives John Sullivan, Annalene Williams and Kellyana Campbell. Their work will be featured on KNKR publications!

Go to northkohalaradio.org to see more pictures of our students and to find out about our new community radio station.



KNKR logo contest winners Left to right – Kellyana Campbell, John Sullivan, Annalene Williams of KNKR with Principal Alan Brown, Gabby Tomas, Nathan Romero and Grace Todd.

BAZAAR- CONCERT FUNDRAISER

For the Hiraoka family,

who lost their house in the flood.

Saturday, March 28

BAZAAR – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CONCERT – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Hisaoka Gym – Kamehameha Park

KACHI-KACHI DANCE CONTEST

for young, middle age and senior citizen dancers!!!

Weekly Events in March

Please note these events meet every week.

MONDAY
 6-7 pm, Fit Club with Ross Pagat, Kamehameha Park, 989-0966.
 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
 8-9:15 am, Hatha Yoga with Morgan Cassidy, by donation, in the white tent, 53-496 'Iole Rd., 889-5151.
 7 pm, Al-Anon mtg., lower level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's, Laura, 884-5833.
 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.

TUESDAY
 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.
 2:30 pm, Kendama Club, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.

WEDNESDAY
 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
 7 pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.

THURSDAY
 8-9:15 am, Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/ Maya Parish, all levels, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 2-4 pm, Traditional Hawaiian Weaving with Auntie Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 4-5 pm, Beginning Hula with Auntie Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 6-8 pm, Open Pickleball, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.

FRIDAY
 10 am, Preschool Story Time, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.

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

Winners in the "Got Pono?" Anti-Bullying Artwork Contest

- Grades K-2 Bumper sticker**
 Winner: Tyler Sulliban
 1st runner up: Madeline Buczyna
 2nd runner up: Jennifer Apollo
- Grades 3-5 Bumper sticker**
 Winner: Oshen Cazimero
 1st runner up: Daylan Tayan
 2nd runner up: Desiree DelToro
- Grades 6-8 Bumper sticker**
 Winner and overall bumper sticker winner: Gayle Lum
 1st runner up: Kaycee Oandasana
 2nd runner up: Kyle Wierick
- Grades K-2 Poster**
 Winner: Madeline Buczyna
 1st runner up: Payton Camara
 2nd runner up: Leo Parks1st
- Grades 3-5 Poster**
 Winner: Weston Jon Camara

- 1st runner up: Manutea Pagud
 2nd runner up: Leiana Carvalho
- Grades 6-8 Poster**
 Winner: Alika Viernes
 High School Poster
 Winner and overall poster winner: Sione Ching



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County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilwoman Margaret Wille

Incinerator Plans Go Up in Smoke

THE REALLY BIG NEWS: The mayor's mass burn incinerator proposal is dead!!! Really! Even without getting into the health and environmental risks, economically the numbers just did not

justify the proposed 25-year high volume incineration facility. In other words, the proposed incinerator would be an economically risky proposition. Numerous other municipalities have ended up in bankruptcy "feeding their beast" of an incinerator. So thank you, Mayor Kenoi, for agreeing "the numbers don't add up".



Johnelle "Amoo" Ching-Kainoa and Councilwoman Margaret Wille join winners of the "Got Pono?" anti-bullying campaign logo art contest.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?? Time for what is being called a "Zero Waste" program. We need to revise our approach to trash from waste management to resource management, a far more eco-friendly approach. In this way we will be able to reduce our waste stream and significantly reduce what needs to be landfilled. Maximizing composting with our green waste and produce discards will be our first order of business. At the same time we need to expand and start new cottage industries (jobs) aimed at reuse and recycling here on this island rather than shipping most recyclables

post programs. And, according to the Director of Environmental Management, Waimea and Hawaii will be two of the first "resource centers" (aka transfer stations) that will have their own green waste recycling facility!

OTHER COUNTY WIDE LEGISLATION I am currently working on includes:

- limitations on collection of reef fish, including a licensing bill;

- an ethics bill to prevent conflicts of interest with contract services;

- a housing rights bill for those in government subsidized housing to ensure they can renew their

- leases, absent good cause for non-renewal;

- an amendment to ensure that those qualifying for the reduced real property tax agricultural use program are in fact engaged in bona fide agricultural operations; and various District 9 Contingency Fund Relief resolutions, including for our parks.

On a **DISTRICT LEVEL**, my focus now is on traffic circulation and mass-transit issues, including starting up an intra-North Kohala bus route.

With regard to **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**,

I want to mention the top two recent events that I sponsored.

First there was the North Kohala student anti-bullying "Got Pono" campaign contest. Stop by my office if you would like one of the winning bumper stickers, posters or an anti-bullying pin to wear. The top two winners were Gayle Lum (bumper stickers) and Sione Ching (posters).

Another successful event I recently sponsored was the second annual Cherry Blossom District 9 Senior Club Cherry Pie Bake-Off Contest. And guess what? The Grand Event Winner was North Kohala's Dora Vernola, and the winner for the non-traditional cherry pie category was North Kohala's Genevive Kasinger.

BIG NEWS EXPECTED SOON: Stay tuned for big news about the 2% Fund purchase of the Banyan Park - details to be made available soon!

VIDEOCONFERENCING AND YOUR PARTICIPATION in our County government decision-making. So, have you come to express your opinions or concerns to the County Council, by weighing in on the legislation before the Council? The next Council meetings are on March 3 and 4. If you can't make it in person to the Hilo Council chambers, just sashay on down to the old Bank of Hawaii building in Kapa'au and testify by way of videoconferencing. To get the agenda in advance, call my office to be on our email (or mail) newsletter list. But if you are not yet up to testifying, and just want to follow what is going on at the Council, we now have live stream on-line programming and are starting an on-line archive of previous council meetings. Check it out: http://hawaiicounty.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

With much aloha,
Margaret Wille
County Council District 9
North and South Kohala



Councilwoman Margaret Wille (right) with her council aide Donni Sheather (left) enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival Senior Clubs' Cherry Pie Bake Off.

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Library News

Annual Book Sale Coming, Needs Donations and Volunteers



The Friends of North Kohala Public Library will hold its annual spring book and bake sale from 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, at the Kohala High School cafeteria. All books will be sold for one dollar or less. Buyers also have the option of filling a reusable grocery bag with books for \$7.00. Please bring your own bags. True bargain hunters will want to be on hand from noon until 2 p.m. when the remaining books will be given to good homes for free.

The Friends are asking for volunteers to help with the sale, and also for donations of books, media and baked goods. Volunteers are needed to help with setting up the sale beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 20, as well as to help clear the remaining books following the sale on Saturday afternoon.

Books, CDs and DVDs in good condition may be dropped off at the North Kohala Public Library until March 20. Baked goods can be delivered directly to the Kohala High School cafeteria on the day of the sale. Donations are tax deductible. Library staff can provide receipts for tax purposes when the materials are delivered to the library.

The proceeds from the annual sale provide funding for library programs and materials at North Kohala Library. Call the library at 889-6655 for additional information or to sign on as a volunteer.

Public Invited to Make Jewelry

Jewelry artist Sid Nakamoto will demonstrate a simple and beautiful jewelry design for the next North Kohala Public Library Adult and Teen craft program on Monday, March 9. Sid will offer two sessions of the same program—one at 2 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. Materials will be provided for participants to create their own jewelry piece.

Due to the popularity of Sid's jewelry workshops, a limit has been placed on the number of participants. Call the library at 889-6655 to register for the afternoon or evening session of this program.

North Kohala Public Library's adult and teen craft programs are free and materials are donated by the artist or the Friends of the Library. The library is located adjacent to Takata Grocery Store in Kapa'au. Please call the library three weeks in advance of the program if you require a sign language interpreter or other special assistance.

Kamehameha III History Comes to Library

North Kohala Public Library in Kapa'au will host a "talk story" session on Hawai'i's History with North Kohala historian Boyd D. Bond at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 30.

The talk, "Kamehameha III, King in a time of transition," will focus on the life of Hawai'i's longest ruling monarch and the many changes that came to Hawai'i during his reign. This is the third and final talk story session in the winter Hawaiian History series at North Kohala Library.

Boyd Bond's knowledge of Hawai'i's history stems from his academic studies and from a lifetime spent in Hawaii as a 6th generation descendant 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 history 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 North Kohala Public 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.

Miracle in the Pool - A Story

Story and photo by Jeffrey Coakley

The Kohala High School girls swim team had set a goal of winning one of the relay events—the 200 medley, 200 free or 400 freestyle—at the upcoming BIIF (Big Island Interscholastic Federation) Championships on February 6 and 7 at the KCAC (Kona Community Aquatic Center) pool.

Kohala has never won a relay championship, and this team seemed to have the best chance against HPA (Hawai'i Preparatory Academy). In fact, the only individual BIIF multiple swimming championships were won by Daniel Coakley from 2002 - 2005.

To prepare to achieve their goals, the girls trained hard and long over the four month swim season. Some of them would meet at the Kamehameha Fitness Center, getting there by 6 a.m. to work out on the machines. From there they would go to the pool and train until it was time to go to school. The mornings would be cold and the water would be colder, and those who walked the park in the early morning hours would marvel at the girls training in the cold water.

However, the training paid off as the five Cowgirls started to turn in the second fastest times, beating all of the other BIIF schools except powerhouse HPA with its 60 swimmers. The task seemed daunting but, as usual, Kohala is always up to the task and used to being the underdog with its small student body.

At the BIIF championships the Cowgirls disqualified on their first relay, the 200 medley, as a swimmer went off of the block too early. That meant they could not swim that event in the finals and would have to make sure they qualified for the 200 free and 400 free relay. However, that would be an uphill battle as HPA had 8-10 swimmers as fast as, or faster than, the Cowgirls and would have fresh swimmers for both relays while the Kohala team could only rely upon their five swimmers. These girls would have to do double duty swimming both relays.

However, Kohala had a weapon that one coach called "The HPA Killer." Kassie Kometani ruled the

pool in the 50 and 100 freestyle no matter who swam against her, and she would play a major role in the success or failure of the Kohala team. Still, everyone had to step up Big! Besides, there is no "I" in TEAM!

The Cowgirls prevailed in the prelims and made it to the 200 free and 400 free finals as the #2 seed, and that set up the a rematch between HPA and Kohala for the BIIF championships for both relays. HPA was a huge favorite to win both events as their swimmers were literally annihilating every relay team in their path.

At the start of the finals for the 200 free relay event, Kassie Kometani (the HPA killer) swam the first 50 yard leg at a blistering pace of 24.70 seconds, giving the Cowgirls a lead



The Kohala High School girls swim team won the first ever 200 Freestyle Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF) Championship.

Pictured bottom left to right: Freshmen Marvelanne Clark and Naomi Ney
Pictured Top left to right: Senior Kassie Kometani and Junior Yuki Zbytovsky

Missing from picture is Freshman Bayleigh Wiernicki, a member of the 200 free medley and 400 medley relay teams.

of 1.35 seconds. Marvelanne Clark then swam a 26.78 second leg, but the HPA swimmer blasted out a 25.22 and now the Cowgirls were 0.21 seconds behind. On the 3rd leg freshman Naomi Ney did her best, but HPA extended their lead even more.

On the 4th and final freestyle leg, Yuki Zbytovsky swam a fast 26.30, but the team came up short and HPA won the relay.

The Cowgirls had swum their best, giving it their all. They were

See Miracle Page 15

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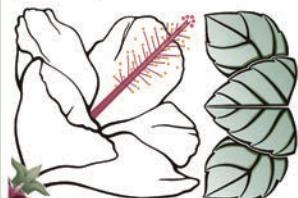
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theater, continued from page 9

Other Kohala residents were employed at the theater in the coming years, including Violet Carvalho as an usherette in 1950-51 and Madeline Gonsalves as a cashier in 1955. Richard Bartolome was a long-time usher. Rod Hinokawa became the manager in 1955. Consolidated Amusement brought in two managers from Hilo: Isaac Silva 1942-43 and Mr. Aguirre in 1957.



Courtesy of Lucy Hinokawa

Men and women of the Consolidated Amusement Staff

The men: Kuni Iwaoka, Jose Follasco, Rod Hinokawa, Richard Bartolome, Manager Aguirre, Frank Caitano, Kazuo Komoto The ladies: Alice Vinta, Mieko Murai, Maggie Obina, ???, Teruko Yoneda

This photo shows the rural nature of the theater's location, ironic with its size and seating capacity. No one remembers it ever being close to full, although one kupuna recalls that the only time there was a traffic jam in Kohala was when the theater let out.



Courtesy of Henry Dulan

Example of how rural the theater was

An earlier photo shows the ticket booth. Note that the vines had not yet grown up the trellis on the left.

The next article, The Kohala Theater 1940-1958, Part 2: "Life in Halaula" and "The Theater Closes" will be the fifth and final article in this series.



Courtesy of Henry Dulan

Miracle, continued from page 14

tired and disappointed as they trudged back to the rest of the team. It was a tough loss. What made it even worse was as head coach of the Kohala team, I had been going around telling the swimmers, parents and anyone who would listen that we would win the 200 free relay. I had just felt so sure of it, but now we had lost to a great team of HPA girls. Well, there's always next year, I thought, but I had felt so sure this was our year.

And then the pool went quiet. Everyone was looking up at the big stadium timing board. Next to the winning time in Lane 4 of HPA there appeared the letter "d".

The Cowgirls, parents, teammates and friends then erupted into cheers, laughter, hugs and high fives. HPA was disqualified for a swimmer going off the block too early, which the Cowgirls had done in the 200 medley relay. The HPA disqualification then moved the Cowgirls into the 1st place position, winning the first 200 Freestyle BIFF Championship ever for little Kohala High School.

Something told me we would win it, and we did! Miracles do happen!

Congratulations to 2nd Quarter Kohala High School Honor Roll

Students who make Honor Roll have maintained a 3.5 or higher grade point average throughout the second quarter.

Seniors: Josiah Adams, Mikaela Bartsch, Genevieve Boyle, Kassandra Kometani, Dalyn Kupukaa, Alexis Ella Matundan, Tasiah-Lynn Salvador, Isabel Steinhoff and Melina Vanzandt.

Juniors: Kiana Alejandro-Cazimero, Mina Apostadiro, Zaylee Apostadiro, Brittney Badua, Gabrielle Bartolome, Patricia Cubangbang, Elijah Dela Cruz, Tyra Faisca, Kuhao Kawaauhau, Kumulani Kaai, Anela Medeiros, Christopher O'Donnell, Melanie Sahagun, Joey Salvador and Yuki Zbytovsky.

Sophomores: Kevin Aki, Jr, Gabrielle Boyle, Cole Fuertes, Valerie Hageraats, Kiera Javillonar, Jamesen Keyes and Hartwell Soledad.

Freshmen: Camylle Agbayani, Maya Anderson, Miranda Canniff, Nicole Castillo, Mary Marvelanne Clark, Jason Enojardo, Cheyenne Fuertes, Cheyenne Fuertes, Reece Hooton, Jashel Mae Jose, Zaztaney Matsu and Angelu Ramos.

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KOHALA CALENDAR

March

- 2 Mon 6-7 pm, CDP Growth Management Subcmte. Mtg., public invited, old Bank of Hawaii bldg., Kapa`au.
- 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 with Gavin Harrison, by donation, meet in the hale at Kohala Institute at `Iole, 53-496 `Iole Rd., 889-5151.
- 9 Mon 2 & 6 pm, Simple Jewelry craft with Sid Nakamoto, register in advance, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 9 Mon 5-6:30 pm, CDP Action Cmte. Public Mtg., Senior Ctr., Kapa`au.
- 10 Tue 11 am, Adult book discussion group, "The Boo Thief" by Marcus Zusak, 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, ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 11 Wed 2-3:30 pm, St. Patrick's Day Keychains with Parks & Rec, register Feb 23-March 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.
- 16 Mon Kohala Public Schools' Spring Break through March 20.
- 18 Wed 5:30-6:45 pm, CDP Agriculture Subcmte. Mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr., Lani, 315-8728.
- 19 Thu 1:30-2:30 pm, Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Mtg., Hospital Pavilion, new members welcome, Dixie, 889-5730.
- 21 Sat 8:30 am-2 pm, Friends of the Library annual book and bake sale, Kohala High cafeteria, 889-6655.
- 21 Sat 4:30-6:30 pm, Free Grindz-Hot Meal, under the Hawi Banyans, bring a friend, Kohala Baptist Church, Sondra, 889-5416.
- 25 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday, ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 25 Wed 2-4 pm, Youth reading and movie club, "White Fang," 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 at Kohala Institute at `Iole, 53-496 `Iole Rd., 889-5151.
- 25 Wed 5 pm, CDP Parks, Water & Roads Subcmte, public welcome, Senior Ctr., andi@hawaii.rr.com.
- 26 Thu Prince Kuhio Day state holiday, public schools closed.
- 28 Sat 11 am-12:30 pm, Free Community Meal, St. Augustine's Walker Hall, Thrift Store open 10 am-12:30 pm.
- 30 Mon 6:30 pm, Hawaiian history with Boyd Bond - "Kamehameha III's reign in a time of transition," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.

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

Kohala High Swim Team Impresses at BIIF Championships

By Jeff Coakley

At the recent BIIF (Big Island Interscholastic Federation) swimming championships held at the KCAC (Kona Community Aquatic Center) pool in Kona, all of the Kohala High School swimmers

the 200 yard free relay the Boys took 3rd place with Jayven, Ford, Isaiah and Kahj Maunu.

For the Kohala Girls team, Kassie Kometani took double gold in the 50 (24.48) and 100 yard (53.28) freestyle. Close behind Kassie in the 50 free was freshman Marvelanne Clark in 5th place, timing out in 26.81.

Other freshmen were Bayleigh Wiernicki, making Top 8 finals in the 200 IM (individual medley) and fifth in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:08.86 along with distance swimmer freshmen Naomi Ney, making it to Top 8 finals in the 200 free and fifth place in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:01.42.

Helping out the team on the relays was Junior Yuki Zbytovsky, a cross country runner, who also took fourth in the 100 free with a time of 58.88. This was the first time this year Yuki swam the 100 free and was placed in the Top 8 finals.

The girls team also qualified to compete in the HHSAA (Hawai'i High School Athletic Association) State Championships and will be entered in the 200 medley, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relays. Kassie Kometani is the #1 seed in the 100 free and #4 in the 50 free.

Mahalo to the parents, friends and families that supported the swim team throughout their swim season!



Photo by: M. Rene Weyrick

The Kohala High School Girls swim team. Bottom left to right: Bayleigh Wiernicki, Assistant Coach Elysia Yamamoto and Yuki Zbytovsky. Top left to right: Naomi Ney, Marvelanne Clark and Kassie Kometani

were able to make it to either the next day Finals or the Top 8 in individual and relay events.

Most notable from the Kohala Boys team were Jayven Amanonce in the 100 freestyle, Ford Clark in the 100 backstroke and Isaiah Villacorte-Carvalho in the 100 breaststroke, all making the Top 8 finals.

The boys team also took second in the 200 yard medley with Jayven, Ford, Isaiah and Erin Gonzalez. For



The Kohala High School Boys swim team. Bottom left to right: Erin Gonzalez, Jayven Amanonce and Kahj Maunu. Top left to right: Coach Jeff Coakley, Ford Clark and Isaiah Villacorte-Maunu

Photo by: M. Rene Weyrick

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www.staugustinesbigisland.episcopalhawaii.org

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

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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

Konea `O Kukui Gardens Restored by Many Hands

By Nani Svendsen

Once the news of Christmas Eve's flooding, and again on January 2, hit social media with pictures of its destruction posted on Facebook and Twitter, people took action. Cindi Punihaole, director of Kahaluu Bay Education Center—a program of the Kohala Center and mutual friend—took action, reaching out and networking to assist in a clean-up project.

Over the years Konea `O Kukui Gardens, also named by visitors as "The Peace Garden," has served many groups as a cultural and educational garden. However, this was the first time that restoring the garden after the storm's damage was beyond the handful of dedicated volunteers.

A work day was scheduled for Saturday, January 17, through the coconut wireless and three posters. Friends of Konea `O Kukui Gardens and the Svendsen family first started arriving at 7 a.m. By 9 a.m. 90-plus people had arrived carrying hand tools, rakes and

shovels, forming a continuous chain moving down the foot paths



Volunteer workers pause for a briefing during a Konea `o Kukui Gardens workday. The gardens were heavily damaged by the storms of December 2014 and January 2015.

into the garden. Ten leaders wearing green fluorescent shirts for quick identification assisted in directing helpers to completion of 85% of the enormous restoration

task. Family and friends showed up from Hilo; Kona; Vancouver,

of Wailea Village, Sharon Goodman of Waimea, Cyndi Punihaole, KTA, and others bringing a favorite dish.

A short and sweet hula and song shared by Rosa and Makaio reminded us of how work and play went hand in hand.

More people arrived in the afternoon from our neighboring ahupua'a, headed by Travis and Emil with friends from HIP Ag. By the end of the day a total of approximately 150 people came to give back to the garden.

The large uprooted banyan tree has been resurrected, the 100 yard auwai full of rocks and silt has been cleared, the foot bridge was restored and rock walls rebuilt.

Many thanks to the groups from Mana Christian Ohana, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lokahi Treatment Center in Kapa`au, Access Capabilities Hawai'i, the Kohala Center, HIP Ag, Hawai'i Johns, KTA and all the beautiful people who bless us.

CDP Action Committee Starts Year with Full Plate

By Lynda Wallach

On Monday, February 9, the North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee (NKCDPAC) held its first meeting of 2015. First on the agenda was a review of a letter to the Planning Director drafted by John Winter, AC Chair, which lists the Capital Improvement Projects prioritized by the AC for 2015. At the top of the list are improvements to the pavilion and restrooms at Mahukona, which have been a priority since 2013. Also included are upgrades to the aging pipeline infrastructure at Halaula well, a green waste facility for North Kohala and a separate chute and 100 yard container for green waste, potable water at Kapa`a and Mahukona beach parks, and solar electricity at Kapa`a. In addition, money has been requested for the new radio station and for maintenance to Pratt Road, which is being considered as an emergency bypass. The

letter was approved unanimously, subject to changes that may come as a result of a scheduled meeting of the Planning Department.

For anyone who wants access to the NKCDP documentation Rosalind Newlon, the Planning Department representative, announced that it is back on the CDP website in a format that is now approved as accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The website for the NKCDP is: <http://www.hawaiicountycdp.info/north-kohala-cdp>, where you can also find minutes, agendas and application materials.

Keoni McKillop of the Public Access Subcommittee reported that all of the coastline land between Hapu`u and Kapanaiia and Halelua is now for sale and that the North Kohala Community Access Group is looking for individuals and groups willing to assist with the purchase. He

also clarified that the access road to Kauhola Lighthouse that was reported to have been completed and then vandalized is a private subdivision road, not a public access road.

John Winter, reporting for the Parks, Water and Roads Subcommittee, said that he had presented the water report prepared by the subcommittee to the Water Board and it was very well received.

It included issues like the Halaula well and the moratorium on water meters. He also reported that Jason Armstrong of the Parks and Recreation Department has informed him that the County has hired a contractor to begin work on the Hisaoka Gym roof and that work will begin on March 2 and should be completed in ninety days. Lani Eugenio asked about how the Friends of the Park groups are responding to the surf damage at Mahukona and Kapa`a.

Lani Eugenio of the Agricul-

ture Subcommittee told the group that she has sent out about fifty letters to farmers and agricultural groups in Kohala hoping to increase participation in the subcommittee, however participation still remains small. The subcommittee is looking for information from the various groups on how they are working towards achieving the CDP goal of 50% food sustainability by 2016. Winter suggested that the subcommittee request that the groups submit semi-annual reports detailing their progress on meeting the CDP goals.

Finally, Winter stated that he had completed a draft of the NKCDP-AC Annual Report that will be published in the KMN soon.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AC will be on March 9 at 5:00 p.m. at the North Kohala Senior Center. The public is encouraged to attend.



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Kohala Middle School Attends Ka Moku `O Keawe Makahiki

By Jazz Francisco, 7th grade student
It was a cold, skin-chilling dawn at Waimea Park on the morning of January 17, 2015. Twelve Kohala Middle School (KMS) students were there to participate in the Kā Moku

when all schools gather to present ho`okupu (an offering). The KMS students and teachers were excited to be participating and sharing their new school chant called `O Kohala Ia. Everyone felt nervous and some

of this cultural experience. Our group felt it was great being together and feeling the ha`a of it all.

The students want to thank their teachers Chris Michaelis and Simone Weber for chaperoning the event and driving students there. Mahalo to Mrs. Nickl for organizing the paperwork and Aunt

Randee for teaching the chant. Ms. Weber shared that she enjoyed the Makahiki and seeing the pride for Kohala that the participants radiated all day.

"I loved being there with our phenomenal students," she said. We all hope to participate in Ka Moku `o Keawe again next year.



Photo by: Simone Weber

Members of the Kohala Middle 2015 Makahiki Team, from left to right and front to back: Aukea Kai Ka`aekuahiwi, Mekaila Pasco, Joseph Jiminez, Brianna Wehi Ryder, Kyle Weyrick, Blake Lapitan, teacher Simone Weber, Jazz Francisco, Keanu Pahio, Sadey Alip, William (Kanoa) Birdsall, Ilopepa Carvalho, Nicholas Quinn and Ali'i Kai Ka`aekuahiwi

`o Keawe Makahiki Games held each year to celebrate the Hawaiian god Lono. This annual celebration includes games, cultural demonstrations, live music, `ono Hawaiian food and health and fitness information. Schools from across the island attend.

The morning activities started at 7:00 a.m. with a Protocol Ceremony,

of us had butterflies in our stomachs. We chanted with strength and felt like we were able to connect and represent Kohala well.

There are twelve different games of skill and strength that are offered. Each of the KMS Makahiki Team members did from one to four games. These students are congratulated for placing in the following events:

- Kyle Weyrick (6th grade): 4th in Uma and Hakamo
- Aukea Kai Ka`aekuahiwi (6th grade): 4th in Kukini
- Blake Lapitan (6th grade): 3rd in Huki Papa
- Ali`ikai Ka`aekuahiwi (6th grade): 2nd in Pa Uma
- Brianna Wehi Ryder (7th grade): 3rd in Konane
- Keanu Pahio (7th grade): 4th in Kukini
- Joseph Jiminez (7th grade): 2nd in O`o Ihe

We had a good time meeting people from other schools. Participants liked being able to experience what Hawaiians did before current times. Students enjoyed being part of a team and part



Photo by: Simone Weber

One of Kohala Middle School's 6th graders, Kyle Weyrick, proudly participates in uma (arm-wrestling) while his fellow Hawks support him from the sidelines.

KCAA Sports in Action

Story and photos by Tom Morse

The playing seasons are underway for T-ball/pitch ball (boys and girls ages 5-8) and Boys Basketball (ages 9-13).

The baseball program has 66 players in total on seven teams; basketball has 62 players on five teams.

Community members volunteer to coach and mentor the children.

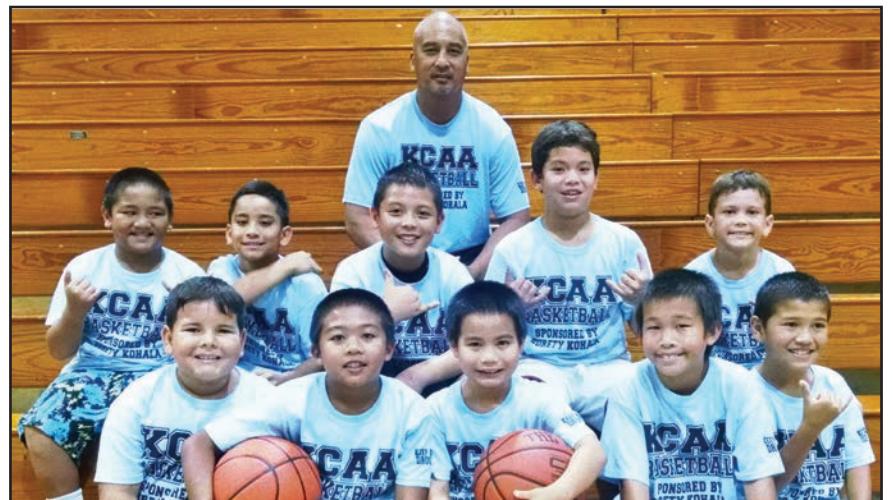
There is no charge for these programs.

Uniforms are provided thanks to Takata Store and Surety Kohala.

Girls Basketball (ages 9-13) will be next up with registrations February 24 and 26, 4:00-5:00 at the Hisaoka gym. Practices start in mid-March; games begin the first week of April and go through mid-May.



Orange Crush T-ball team (All left to right) Front row: Ezekiel Cookman, Kiah Viernes, Kalia Marquez
Second row: Nicole Drew, Saphira Cambra, Taylor Souza, Mia Hayes, Chawai Dunhour, Miyo Cookman
Coaches: Kiwini Viernes, Hauoli Alcoran, Joey Giltner



Boys Basketball, ages 9-10 (All left to right) Front row: Kayzen Ittner, Damien Padilla, Ryzen Bautista, Easton Hoshida, Skyler Carvalho
Second row: Karmelo Ramos, Isaiah Castillo, Keale Valenzuela, Trever Figueroa, Joshua Silver
Coach: Lawrence Kauka

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Kohala High Students Have Option for College Courses

By Fern White

Kohala High School (KHS) is happy to report that the first Early College High School (ECHS) course, Sociology 100, is currently in session. The first cohort of twelve students began the course on the same day as the university spring 2015 semester: Tuesday, February 12. The school staff is excited to offer their students the opportunity to take college level courses while in high school and is extremely proud of their students who accepted this challenge.

This ECHS program at Kohala High is a collaborative partnership with University of Hawai'i-Hilo (UHH) and Hawai'i Community College (HCC), along with funding partners Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and Hawai'i P-20. Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education is a statewide collaboration led by the Executive Office on Early Learning, Hawai'i Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i System with the goal of improving educational outcomes for Hawai'i. The goal of Hawai'i P-20 is to enable 55% of Hawai'i's working-age adults to have a two- or four- year college degree by the year 2025.

This dual credit program enables students to earn both a high school diploma and credits towards a cer-

tificate or an associate's degree at no cost. The intent of Kohala High School's ECHS program is to make college accessible to students who are capable of thriving in a college setting, but are traditionally under-represented in post secondary education. The curriculum is accelerated, college-level and rigorous. Participating Kohala High students are provided with the support necessary to be successful.

While instructors from UHH and HCC teach college courses on the KHS campus, KHS-ECHS students are allowed to continue participation in high school activities. In the future, time conflicts may need to be addressed depending on when ECHS college courses and services are offered.

A well-attended meeting for the upcoming summer English 100 course was held February 9. Students and their parents were able to complete applications to UHH and HCC. Specific dates for the course are yet to be determined. In addition, there will be a course offered each semester next school year: fall 2015 and spring 2016. Eligibility for the courses align with UHH and HCC requirements.

For more information on KHS - ECHS call 889-7117.

PATH Bike Ed Teaches Safety to Young Cyclists

People's Advocacy for Trails Hawai'i, or PATH, came to Kohala Elementary School on February 6 to teach the keiki bike safety. Before even allowing riders on the bikes, instructors helped students adjust their helmet and bike fit. Students learned how to check the safety of the bike, including

brakes and chains.

Through actively riding an instructional course, students practiced multiple aspects of safe riding, including right of way rules, how to signal a turn and how to navigate among multiple cyclists. There were even first-time riders who learned to ride in one lesson



Photo by Maureen Garry

Students at Kohala Elementary School practice safe cycling during a drill on stopping at a stop sign. Bike safety instruction was provided by People's Advocacy for Trails Hawai'i, which travels across the Big Island educating keiki on how to be safe cyclists and pedestrians

Sunshine Hardware Grand Re-Opening Coming Soon

On February 27 and 28, the transition of Sunshine Hardware from its original Kapa'au location to the long-awaited expanded location in Hawi will be marked with a Grand Re-Opening celebration.

The Kapa'au store, located on Akoni Pule Highway a short distance from Kamehameha Park Road, has been in business since 1975. It has been part of the True Value coop since 1985, giving it increased buying power with large manufacturers. With the community expressing a clear desire for more products and a greater selection, owner Greg Chilton decided to expand the store. After the expansion Greg plans to lessen his involvement, eventually retiring and handing the reins over to his son Jake, who has been working at the Kapa'au store with his father.

Joining Jake will be the long-time staff members Bill Price (23 years), Caryl Lindamood (10 years), Rolf Dean (8 years), Junior Allejandro (22 years) and newcomers Brydin Poliahu-Suliban and David Pickering. Jake's wife, Carmel, is the store's bookkeeper. The new location has approximately twice the square footage of the old one, increasing from about 3,000 to about 6,000 square feet. These dimensions take into account all the nooks and crannies, including upstairs space, in the old Kapa'au establishment.

The extra space has allowed an expanded selection in lawn and garden supplies, live plants, power tools, fasteners, cleaning supplies and other existing product lines. In addition, new store areas for pets, arts and crafts, and housewares

have been added. In total, they are offering approximately 30% more products, including free, freshly popped popcorn on Fridays and Saturdays.

The business focuses on serving families in the community, not professional contractors. The knowledgeable, seasoned staff can help anyone from the weekend do-it-yourselfer navigating the challenges of home ownership to a creative tutu wanting to enjoy crafting with her granddaughter after school. They are always looking for feedback on their inventory, striving to carry what the community wants and needs.

Although the Hawi location's doors opened in November 2014, the staff has been busy moving stock and making sure all flows smoothly before officially announcing the move is complete. And it is. The old Hawi Gym, built in the 1930s, has been repaired and converted, although a basketball hoop and the original gym floor remain. Jake notes that many a customer has reminisced about games played on that floor. The Chilton's wanted to leave physical reminders of the glory days intact to help keep the memories alive.

The Grand Re-Opening will include food, pony rides, music from John Kiawe and David Gomes, Taiko drummers and a lion dancers traveling through the store in recognition of Chinese New Year. In addition, opportunities to win big prizes including a lawn mower, grill, pressure washer and patio set. The staff looks forward to serving the community for even more decades to come.



Photo by Maureen Garry

Bill Price, Jake Chilton, Caryl Lindamood and Brydin Poliahu-Suliban welcome the community to the new Sunshine Hardware store, located in the old Hawi Gym. The store will be holding a Grand Re-Opening Celebration on February 27 and 28.



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Kohala Robotics' Newest Team Wins Most Prestigious Award

The Annual Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day was held on January 24 at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Usually, the Kohala VEX middle school teams attend under the guidance of mentors Alvin Kawamoto and Cheryl Cabrera. This year, however, there was a shift. Instead of team members at the event merely browsing, Kohala VEX entered the newest addition to its program, VEX IQ grade 6 students Grace Todd and Elijah Delostrico as team 2460P, into the TMT VEX IQ Challenge. The tournament was a state-tournament-qualifying competition between 19 teams from the Big Island, O'ahu and Maui.

Team 2460P emerged with top honors as recipients of the Excellence Award—the most prestigious of any VEX tournament. The Excellence Award is calculated on ranking in qualifying rounds, presentations to judges, ranking in programming skills, ranking in robot skills and overall gracious professionalism as scored by judges. Although a rookie team, Todd and Delostrico double-qualified for the Hawai'i State VEX IQ Challenge, which will be held on O'ahu February 22 at Pearl Ridge. Winners at States will qualify for Worlds.

The VEX IQ Challenge, pre-

sented by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, is a brand new STEM (science, technology, education and math) program for elementary and middle school students (ages 8-14). With



Celebrating Kohala Robotics Team 2460P's win of the VEX IQ Competition Excellence Award at the 2015 Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day are (left to right) Elijah Delostrico, Astronaut Koichi Wakata, Grace Todd, Mentor Rebecca Weisz and Program Director Fern White.

guidance from their lead mentor and Kohala Elementary School teacher Rebecca Weisz, students are tasked with building a robot using the VEX IQ robotics platform to solve an engineering challenge presented in the form of a game. This year the game is called "Highrise." In the game two

robots work collaboratively, as an alliance, to score points in Teamwork Challenge matches of 60 seconds in length. Teams can also participate in two additional challenges: the Robot Skills Challenge,

where one robot takes the field to score as many points as possible under driver control, and the Programming Skills Challenge, where one robot scores as many points as possible autonomously, without any driver inputs.

In addition to building robots, the VEX IQ Challenge will encour-

age students to actively learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics with a STEM-themed research project that consists of a written or media presentation. Teams must also make an oral presentation of their research.

The VEX IQ Challenge provides an opportunity for students, with the guidance of an adult mentor, to explore and solve exciting STEM challenges. Students develop valuable knowledge, skills and experience—and a tremendous sense of accomplishment—in building a robot and developing a STEM research project to compete in the VEX IQ Challenge.

Mentor Weisz is assisted by Melody Delostrico in documentation and Alvin Kawamoto in programming. A comprehensive program, Kohala VEX Robotics is comprised of students in grades 6-12 with two high school and two middle school teams. The teams meet after school at the Old Bond Memorial Library two to four times weekly. Contact Program Director Fern White for more information or to donate in support of student travel to state competition or purchase of robot parts and motors. Call 896-0316 or Kohala High School at 889-7117.

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