

Vol.16, No. 04

April 28, 2017

Solar Matters Bike Rides Underway



Cyclists gather for the first monthly bike ride organized by Solar Matters. The group was formed to promote a safe, night-lit pedestrian bikeway in North Kohala.

Story and photos by Lynda Wallach

Friday afternoon, March 31, was a beautiful day for a bike ride, as almost two dozen people gathered at the Kohala Village HUB parking lot in Hawi for the first of a monthly series of rides from there to Kamehameha Park, sponsored by Solar Matters. Solar Matters is the brain-

child of Carter Collins, who moved to Kohala in 2013. He explained, from the back seat of a tandem bicycle, "These rides will occur each month for the next year to promote and engage the citizens of North Kohala in support of the need for a safe, night-lit pedestrian bike way."

The Solar Matters organization

was formed to promote the construction of a solarized bike way for bicycles and pedestrians between Hawi and Kailua-Kona. The need for a bike path in was included in the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) but has never been acted upon.

The first bike path covered in

solar panels was built in the town of Krommenie in the Netherlands in 2014, and within the first six months the 230-foot test track was already producing enough electricity to power a home for a year. Then, in 2016, Poland installed a 330 foot self-charging, solar powered pathway

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Severe Little Fire Ant Infestation Confirmed on Ho`ea Road

Story by Little Fire Ant Survey Group

The purpose of this column is to establish a more accurate and current listing of where the outbreaks of LFAs (little fire ants) are in North Kohala; to provide treatment status, updated in each issue of the Kohala Mountain News to keep the public informed; and to provide more specific precautions and links to treatment information.

Current Locations:

Ho`ea Road: Confirmed severe uncontrolled infestation at the commercial nursery and tree farm (John Spies/Big Island Landscaping and Mo Jumalon).

This infestation has spread across Ho`ea Road and has become heavily established all the way down to the old salvage yard crossing Leikolu Road (where lower Hawi Hill Road tees into Ho`ea Road).

They are established on the farmstead northeast of the corner of Ho`ea Road and Leikolu Road. This infestation area was confirmed by multiple samples sent to the Department of Agriculture pest control branch in Captain Cook at the end of last month (on both sides of Ho`ea Road from 0.8 to 0.9 miles down Ho`ea Road from the

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Kohala Hospital Unveils New Wing and ER

Story by Anne Fojtasek

If you haven't visited Kohala Hospital recently, you're in for a surprise.

About 70 people gathered in front of the hospital on April 13 to celebrate some impressive upgrades, including a whole new wing with a four-bay emergency room. In addition to introducing the new facilities, the occasion was also a birthday party. Our hospital is 100 years old this month! A large sign festooned with the words "Kohala Hospital: Bridging the Past to the Present, 1917-2017" hung over the platform where the program unfolded.

Aunty Ilima Moiha spoke of coming to Kohala Hospital to give birth to her daughter at age 19. Remembering the old hospital and happy memories associated with it, she offered a blessing and gave thanks for the old and for the new. Hospital administrator Gino Amar commended his staff and remarked on their red and yellow shirts, designed with ali`i colors. The red is for passion and vitality, he said, and the yellow is for good cheer and intelligence. But today is "about much more than tee shirts for a 100-year birthday. We're about community, about taking care of our residents here." As he introduced Herbert Yim, a past administrator of the hospital, Gino remembered that Mr. Yim started right in on his new job by checking out the hospital restrooms. To which Mr. Yim replied

that he had checked out the restrooms on this trip as well. "The ones I saw today are all beautiful!" he told

the crowd. But what impressed him more was the number of people who

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Photos by Jenna Vega

Herb Yim (left), Pat Kalua (center) and Gino Amar celebrate the unveiling of the new Kohala Hospital emergency wing. Yim (1996-2003) and Kalua (2008-2012) are past hospital administrators, while Amar (2012-present) currently holds the position.

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came to support the hospital. He spoke of seeing Gino's potential as a future administrator and "shaking him out of his comfort zone" by sending him on a trip to Washington D.C. to learn more about hospital management.

The spirit of community has been evident all along, even as the hospital has undergone many changes. The Kohala Sugar Company originally owned the hospital and hired

the staff after its doors opened on April 1, 1917. Care cost \$1.50 per day. The hospital was relocated to the current structure in 1962, Gino said. It later became the second critical access hospital in Hawai'i. The North Kohala community has been very passionate about maintaining this facility, knowing what a boon it has been to our district. The Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation, established in 2001, has raised over \$285,000 to date to help provide

equipment, beds and now a new wing of the hospital.

After the speeches came the most interesting part of all: seeing the new emergency room. One young lady guiding a tour said she has worked in several hospitals; the one in Kohala is the smallest but also one of the most high-tech she has seen. Amazing! The new wing includes a large waiting room because patients in Kohala come in with their families and friends. It also includes a

nursing station, new exam rooms, a conference room and a triage area. Outside a new drive leads to the ER, and a covered walkway provides wheelchair access.

Many a small community in Hawai'i has lost its hospital or never had one. But Kohala Hospital has not only stayed in operation but has grown and improved. This hospital and the Kohala community have supported each other, and today we celebrate the benefits of this partnership.



Advanced medical equipment is seen in the new emergency treatment rooms at Kohala Hospital. The hospital opened its new emergency wing, concurrently celebrating 100 years of service to the community, on April 13, 2017.



Kohala Hospital Administrator Gino Amar (left) and Pastor Ilima Moiha embrace after the traditional blessing of the new hospital emergency room wing. Pastor Moiha, minister of the Gospel of Salvation church in Hawi, performed the blessing.

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highway and both sides of Leikolu Road).

Both properties on the east side of Ho'ea Road border the deep Lipoa Gulch.

If this infestation is not stopped soon, before it advances down and through Lipoa Gulch, it will be extremely difficult to stop, followed by the utter destruction of any property in its path as it continues to spread and blind pets! We just had a visit from a landowner from Kapoho (where the LFA infestation has reached full saturation) whose both pets have gone blind from tropical keratopathy, otherwise known as "LFA eye." He spends over \$1000 every month just in the chemicals

for barrier treatments around his dwelling and to bait (Provaunt) throughout his property and he still can't go outside to do anything on his property without wearing bee protective headgear and wrapping his neck and any exposed skin because of the excruciating multiple stings just from walking under or brushing against any plant material.

It is imperative that no plants, trees or green waste leave these properties, especially the Spies/Jumalon commercial nursery and tree farm, unless it has had the contact kill drench process and tested to be sure no LFAs remain.

Their large field stock trees are an even greater hazard because they can have millions of LFAs in the

canopies and they are loaded and hauled out on a large, open flat-bed trailer, potentially spreading the LFAs anywhere along their route as they drop off or get blown off the trees. Anyone who has purchased any nursery plants, trees or green waste from this property in the last five years should test their property for LFAs, particularly around the purchased plants.

Niuli'i: Confirmed (same as last month)

Makapala: Location(s) currently unknown

The Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) website, www.littlefireants.com, has a box of quick links on the left side of the home page that give detailed instructions on baiting, etc.

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that glows bright blue for up to ten hours in the dark.

Chicago also is beginning to consider installing a series of floating, solar-powered bike paths along the edge of the Chicago River.

The riders that Friday afternoon were happy to be out in the sun and participating in an activity that is not only fun but supports a cause they all believe in. As they took off for Kamehameha Park, smiling and waving, the hope was that even more people would join them for the April ride, starting at the HUB again, on Saturday, April 29, at 3:30 p.m.

You can find more information on Solar Matters at their website, www.solarmatters.org.



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Kalahikiola Church: An Interview with Kahu Tom Fernandez

Story by Helen Nahoopii

A gardenia-scented breeze sweetens the air as sunlight streams through the large arched glass windowpanes at Kalahikiola Church. Steam rises from the unusually cool earth's surface as people gather for Sunday worship.

Upon entry, the stark white walls are a beautiful contrast to the gold wooden pews and floor, which provide a refreshing newness to this historic church.

Kahu (Father) Tom Fernandez shares his genuine spirit of aloha, which is expected from a man of the cloth. Unexpected is his youthful appearance. He is a happily married father of three. He's fifty years old but looks thirty-something, dressed in casual attire, and respectfully removes his rubber slippers as he enters this house of worship.

He begins his service with a melodic Hawaiian chant. His steady tenor voice and rhythmic vibrato is accompanied by nature sounds; tiny thrush chatter, trees sway and you feel an intensity of the wind. Momentarily, it's easy to feel converted.

However, at Kalahikiola, there is no need to abandon your existing faith. Everyone is welcomed in this nondenominational place of worship. Today, over two hundred people arrive at the church

to embrace diversity. Hawaiians, Haoles, Filipinos, Japanese, Samoans, Tongans, African Americans and multi-generational groups of elders, teens, small children and visitors alike attend today's service.



Kalahikiola Church

Photo by Tom Morse

"When missionaries came here they wanted us to dress a certain way and be a certain way. Today, you see more cultural hulas in church and the reality is, God doesn't just show up when we are in trouble.

"Imagine that we are all in the canoe. We need to paddle together and we need to practice, together.

Being a member of a crew is more than just showing up to ride along; you make leis, go into the mountains to pick the flowers and greens and you return to assemble, together. If you have 'huhu' (bad attitude) outside the canoe,

finely woven lauhala mat, given to him from a chief in Samoa where he performed a wedding ceremony two weeks ago. He places it on the floor.

"Each of us is like a single strand in the weaving of this mat, which is a representation of our collective prayer and right, or 'pono,' actions. When woven together, with good intention this mat represents us, as a stronger and more enduring legacy as a people.

"Being a member of our church community is the same. We are in this life experience together. If one person is suffering, then we each suffer. As a member of our church community, you are welcome here and we are here to work together and to embrace one another. This is God's grace and we learn together and extend his grace to others. Here's a place that accepts all people; right where you are and this is where you can learn new skills and new ways of thinking and being. God meets people where they are, saying, 'Follow me and I will make you free.'"

After the service, everyone gathers together for a meal and to congregate and share in conversation in the community hall adjacent to the church.

To find out more about the gatherings and events at Kalahikiola Church go to www.kalahikiolachurch.org.








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DLNR Visit Sparks New Possibilities for Pololu Valley Lookout

Story and photos by Toni Withington

Ideas for fixing the problems of congestion and safety at Pololu Valley lookout flew around the room during a recent visit by officials from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). New possibilities came forward.

"While the situation is complex, with multiple agencies involved, the Kohala community has taken some big steps toward finding solutions," David Smith, Administrator of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), told a gathering of 21 people at Kamehameha Park.

State Representative Cindy Evans confirmed that preliminary outreach by the community calls for a continuation of a wilderness experience, rather than a new park.

"The lookout at the end of Akoni Pule Highway has seen a large increase in visitor use in the past several years. It serves as three things: a lookout, a parking area and a trail head. What's most lacking is space to move around and restrooms," she said. Separating these functions to locate them in different areas would greatly improve the situation."

"There is only so much room at the trailhead. Acquiring additional land is inevitable," said Smith, whose division administers the lookout and the valley trail through the State's Na Ala Hele Trail System. But DOFAW is not set up to take care of restrooms and parking for a larger lookout, he admitted. He suggested partnering with the County.

This goes along with the recommendations of the four subcommittees of the North Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP), which have been conducting a multi-year effort, started in 2011 by the CDP Community Access group and culminating in a six-month effort to gather community ideas for the future of Pololu. Their report, issued in February, calls for incremental changes that would eventually lead to a separation of the viewing lookout from the trailhead, with off-highway parking and restrooms.

It was the subcommittees that invited DLNR and Rep. Evans to come to see the crowded conditions of the lookout and trail. The April 12 meeting was preceded by a hike of the trail with Smith and Steven Bergfeld, Hawai'i Island branch manager of DOFAW; Clement Chang and Jackson Bauer of the Na Ala Hele Trails staff; Rep. Cindy Evans and staff member Joana Da Silva; Debbie Chang and Keith Wallis of E Mau Na Ala Hele, as well as John Winter, Steven Hedlund, Mike Gomes, Eddie Lewis and Beth Robinson. A lunch for the hikers and Pololu residents was hosted by the subcommittees at the Mekanikahio home of Steven and Yumi Hedlund.

Cheryl Sproat, who lives next to the lookout, said at the meeting that she, like many others, was not in favor of expanding the lookout until the recent explosion of visitors.

"The bathroom situation is criti-

cal," she said. "It is a serious public health issue. Getting toilets in the area can motivate us to working with the County."

Smith also recommended getting the County involved, noting, "They can take care of parking and restrooms. They have experience in this field. We don't." Another partner he recommended in a project would be the Department of Transportation, which administers the highway up to the lookout.

Rep Evans suggested the State could build the infrastructure for a new lookout, restrooms and parking then turn it over to the County to maintain.

"We would have to have more land. It could be a 3- to 5-year project, but if we don't get started, it will not happen for a long time," she said.

Bill Shontell of Surety Kohala Corporation, which controls much of the land around the lookout, both mauka and makai of the highway, said timing is critical if the project needs to acquire land. Surety has announced plans to sell off its holdings within several years.

"I have seen many proposals in the past and nothing has taken place," Shontell said. "I want to see something happen this time. The question is who can make it happen." He indicated Surety is open to some kind of land arrangement.

Smith said that DOFAW has an engineering department that can

put together plans if the community can come up with ideas in conjunction with the County. "We have other places in the state with little county parks by trailheads. They are not meant to attract more people, but to meet the needs of the users of the trail."

Debbie Chang said she thinks the will of the community is to do something to accommodate the growing number of people who want to use the lookout and the trail, but not to attract additional traffic.

Susan Fischer, chairperson of one of the CDP subcommittees and also a member of the County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission, said that it might be possible to use County Open Space Funds or State Legacy Land funds to purchase additional land at Pololu, if development of facilities is limited to primarily supporting the viewing of the valleys and the trail.

"Get a goal and push for it," Smith encouraged those at the meeting.

The four subcommittees of the Community Development Plan that are sponsoring the community conversation about Pololu's future are the Community Access Group and the subcommittees on Parks, Water, Roads; Growth Management; and Power, View Planes and Erosion Control. Currently, there are 48 Kohala people on the Pololu email network. To join the conversation contact imuakohala@gmail.com.

In the heart of historic Hawi Town is a community-based hub for education and gathering. The Kohala Village HUB works to feed Hawai'i food, arts, culture, and ecology. The HUB strives to enrich the lives and wellbeing of everyone in rural North Kohala through its diverse offerings:

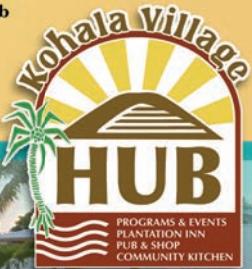
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Letters

A Shout Out To NKCRC!

Dear Editor,

I recently took a group of KHS choir students on a fantastic trip to the Hawai'i All-State choral festival on Oahu.

Before moving to Hawai'i, I taught a middle/high school choir program in California and participated each year in supporting students in attending regional, state and national honor choirs. Knowing how beneficial this was for my California students, I searched for similar opportunities for Kohala High School choir students and found Na Leo Hou festival.

I was excited at the idea of our choir students having this experience, but quickly realized how daunting this would be financially, as it involved plane tickets, hotels, ground transportation, meals, registration and music fees!

You can't charter a bus to O'ahu from the Big Island! Knowing there were not enough cars to wash nor cookies to bake to cover the costs to take a group of students without some substantial financial help, I reached out to Christine Richardson at North Kohala Community Resource Center, told her about the event, time frame and cost and asked her if she felt there was any way this choir trip could become a reality.

Ms. Richardson was so positive and helpful!

With the help, expertise and big-hearted-love-of-kohala-NKCRC-kine support, money was raised and the students were able to attend this wonderful event! Thank you NKCRC!

Over the years I have been fortunate to be able to offer projects for our community kids – such as a summer theatre camp and providing music classes in our elementary school – that were either helped make possible or entirely made possible by the work of NKCRC. The actress that recently played the lead in the Disney movie Moana, made her theatre debut at my theatre camp in 2010 and was able to attend because of funds secured through NKCRC!

I have been surprised to find that some people don't understand what NKCRC is and does, thinking they are an organization that gives money!

NKCRC does not have money to give. NKCRC's value is the knowledge they have developed of potential funders, donors and grants that may support a specific project.

Much like the high school counselors who help seniors find scholarships for college, NKCRC spends countless hours making calls, researching and writing grant requests on behalf of the wonderful variety of projects in the Kohala community.

NKCRC charges a well-deserved fee of 8% for their grant writing services, which is a bargain if you have ever tried to write a grant request.

NKCRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity which allows smaller organizations and projects to be "umbrella-ed" under them so that the smaller group can receive grants or funding that would only be given if the funder were able to receive the tax benefits of donating to a 501(c)(3). Wonderful concept. As a project organizer I have also solicited donations and worked as a team with NKCRC, but have found that even though those smaller contributions add up and help, my projects would not have come to fruition without the kind of help NKCRC was able to secure.

Mahalo to the funders for the All-State Festival Trip: Nanea Foundation, Dorrance Family Foundation, Hawai'i Cultural and Enrichment Foundation, Lions Club, Karen Miller, Steven Kaplan, Jane Colson, Diana Moriarty, Natalie Liebmann and Wendy Hindley.

I feel so fortunate and am so very grateful for NKCRC. They are consummate professionals with a heart of gold and great love and support for all of Kohala!

Truly,
Adrienne Cherry
Music Educator

Mahalo for Support of Robotics Program

KHS Robotics Program, a.k.a. Kohala Kowbotics, graciously wishes to express huge appreciation for the community's support of our award-winning afterschool program. KHS Robotics began its journey in 2007 at Kohala High School and entered its first competition in 2008. Its success has resulted in the expansion to Kohala middle and elementary schools. The program began with high school FIRST: For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology, then grew to include VEX, which now includes grades 6-12 in such programs as VEX iQ, VEX EDR, MicroRobots and Botball.

Kohala Kowbotics VEX robot-

ics programs have had exceptional success. For the second time in a row, Team 2460 Na Paniolo is the ONLY Big Island high school team to earn one of five slots to the World Championships in Kentucky. Of the approximately 15,000 VEX teams worldwide, only 5% are eligible to compete at the World Championships!

Nine of ten years, Kohala high has had representation at the World Championships and has placed or earned awards in 5 of those. As we participate in this year's World Championships from April 18-22, we reflect on how much we are supported by families, business and others in the community.

Because our program is a year-round comprehensive after-school program, we find the challenges for funding increase. This makes us work harder and also increases our gratitude to those who are always stepping in to financially support our robotics program at Kohala High.

While we always hope to bring home an award from Worlds, the truth is that participation at Worlds is a big award for our Kohala youth.

Again, we wish to express tremendous appreciation to all who support us.

Mahalo nui,
Ms. Fern White

Michael Fundraiser Update and Thank You

Dear Kohala,

We are more than three months into the planning and fundraising of my project prior to the big bazaar-like event that I mentioned in my article back in February, and we have raised more money than we could've hoped for. With the help of our most generous community, our fundraising has proven to be successful for passive income leading up to the event. Despite raising a lot of money, it is only a small percentage of what we need to raise in order to fulfill the cost of Michael's treatment.

In addition, we have a locked in date and time, and location of the fundraiser. The event will be held at Kohala High School's gym and field on May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will have a car show, raffles, food trucks, a silent auction and live music. We are looking for as much help, from both student and adult volunteers, as we can get. We are looking forward to the event and can't wait to see how successful this will turn out.

Furthermore, I'd like to give a big thank you to Rose Mae Watterson and Mrs. Pasco, my mentor, for helping me coordinate this whole project. I'd like to give a huge thank you to Arakaki Store; CSC; Nakahara Store; Sunshine True-Value Hardware; and Kohala Elementary, Middle and High Schools for being open to monetary collection containers. I especially want to thank our caring and generous Kohala community in supporting Michael Bartolome's fight against leukemia.

Sincerely,
Jaycie Lewis

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.

May deadlines:
Ads and News: 5/12/17
Publication date: 5/26/17

June deadlines:
Ads and News: 6/9/17
Publication date: 6/23/17

Kohala Mountain News

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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

Plastics Pollute the Ocean

Dear Editor,

My name is Kona and I attend Kohala Middle School. I'm writing to inform the public about plastics in the ocean. There are seven different types of plastic and all end up in the ocean. The estimate amount of plastic in the ocean is eight million pounds. Did you know that there is a trash land almost the size of Texas? It's going to keep increasing if we don't stop polluting the ocean. Most of the trash on that island is plastics. It kills me to go to the beach and see trash floating in the ocean. I hope you guys take this letter to heart and if you see trash pick it up! Please help save our oceans.

Aloha,
Kona

Apathy Has One Solution

Dear Editor,

What is the single biggest problem we face today? Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all: teenage apathy, or apathy in general. Apathy is the lack of interest, concern or emotion. Apathy is when people don't care or when they feel so helpless that they don't try to change or fix things. If this continues the world will never survive. There is no solution except for trying. So try and try again! Never give up and you will succeed, rather than never trying to never succeed.

Sincerely,
Neo Marcom-Robinson

Depression Can Lead to Self-Harm

Dear Kohala,

I'm Lucy and in seventh grade at Kohala Middle School. Many people these days suffer from depression, which commonly leads to self-harm. People self-harm in many different ways. Some will burn themselves (sometimes a symptom of pyromania), cut themselves, pull out their hair (which is a different disorder called trichotillomania) or pick at their skin and old scabs (which is also a different disorder and is called excoriation). Cutting is the most common of all the self-harm methods, so I will be focusing on that.

Cutting yourself causes endorphins and dopamine to go to your brain. Endorphins and dopamine are chemicals that cause a person to be happy. These "happy chemicals" cause cutting to become quite addictive, which means it is very difficult to stop doing.

I, myself, have wondered what the big deal is with cutting, considering that many people will get tattoos and piercings, so cutting, over-all, is not life threatening. Then, as I researched more, as people cut, they become more inclined to go deeper, which can go to a point where they will most likely hit an artery in their wrist.

Any type of self-harm is very serious and should not be taken lightly. If you or anyone you know self-harm, please look into talking to a licensed therapist and psychiatrist.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Lucy R. Hernandez

Holoku Pageant Thank You

On Saturday, April 1, Na Kupuna `O Kohala and the North Kohala Kamehameha Day Committee presented their second annual Holoku Pageant, and we want to thank the North Kohala community for helping to make this event such an overwhelming success. There are so many people and organizations that gave of their time, energy and financial assistance, that listing them all would take more room than the paper is able to give us. However, there are a few who deserve special mention.

First of all, our thanks go to the Rocha family for allowing us to once again share the beautiful holoku designed and made by Rebecca Rocha. We also thank the Kohala Village HUB for donating the space, technical help and staff support via their nonprofit FEED Hawai'i. Takata Store, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel and the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel provided services and donations. Joan Channon and the folks at the Bamboo have been especially supportive of Na Kupuna, providing help in multiple ways. Then there are those who provided the tables, chairs, stage and tents and those who took photos, set up the sound system and, of course, the many hands involved in preparing the delicious food.

Sustainable Kohala collected compost and recyclables, minimizing the amount of actual trash. The evening would not have been the same without the music of the Kupuna Ukulele Group, Mila Polevia and Ho'aloa. Special appreciation is extended to all the models and their escorts and to those who helped them with their hair, makeup and training.

Finally, none of this would have happened without Kauai Nakamura, who originated and planned this event... whose unflagging energy kept us all going... and whose amazing ohana has always been there to support us.

Mahalo nui to you all!!

Na Kupuna `O Kohala and
the North Kohala Kamehameha Day Committee

Plastic Trash Kills Marine Animals

Dear Everyone,

I'm a seventh grader at Kohala Middle School. I've been seeing a huge problem with our oceans. It seems as if absolutely nothing is being done to eliminate the plastics in the ocean. Over 10,000 marine animals die every year from plastics. I was so saddened to go down to Kapanai'a and see trash everywhere. Most of that trash is plastics. The sad thing is that the plastics will be there for 1,000 years or even more! The amount of plastics in the ocean is increasing. This year there will be over 10,000 tons of plastics in the ocean. Ways to help see a change in the world is to take your trash home. Use less plastics and if you see trash on the ground pick it up. Even if it's one piece of trash, you will still be saving a marine animal.

Sincerely,
Leiana Carvalho

Kohala Elementary Wins BZP Approval

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate Kohala Elementary School on becoming Blue Zones Project Approved. They are the first public school in North/West Hawai'i and the second public school in the state to become approved. Hats off to Principal Danny Garcia and his team for their great work!

Sincerely,
Megan Yarberry
Project Manager
Blue Zones Project



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Letters

Gratitude for an Exceptional Young Woman

Kohala senior Anela Syn- crier Rabang did not know what taiko was at the age of nine. She joined Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) Kohala on August 9, 2008. Anela started with the taiko club as a fast learning "pink." (Pinks are kids aged thirteen and under.) She first learned taiko on a paranku drum, as all beginners do in RMD. Paranku drums are small, hand-held drums the size of a tambourine.

With hard work and dedica- tion, she has grown into a power- ful odaiko drummer. Odaiko drums are large drums made from a tree trunk stretched with hide.

As a very young student, she set her intentions to be a leader and an outstanding performer, and it came to pass.

Helping her fellow odaiko students with their learning and our paranku students as well came very naturally to her, coming from a family where she is the eldest child. Anela became a "red and gold" odaiko drum- mer at the age of fourteen, and with this advancement came more responsibility. She truly stepped up to the plate for RMD Kohala.

Accepting the job and title of head instructor, she has con- ducted free weekly classes on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at James Walker Hall with young odaiko drummers while balancing a busy and successful high school career. The RMD taiko club fos- ters mentorship and Anela has been a treasure to us as one of these mentors.

It has been a pleasure to watch Anela grow into this exceptional young woman. We are thankful for her being such an integral part of RMD Kohala. We congratulate Anela on her graduation from Kohala High School! The sky is the limit!

Ippei nifee deebidu!!!
Lisa Andrews for RMD
Kohala



Photo courtesy of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko - Kohala
Anela Rabang performed as one of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) - Kohala's two original "pinks," the designation given to members under 13 years of age.

Front row: Anela Rabang, Jenna Nickl, Nathan Carvalho

Second row: Wendy Nickl, Cecilia Alaimo, Kathy Matsuda, Sadie Young, CJ Kenyon-Suzuki, Evelyn Jittu, Donna Oba

Third row: Saravady, Sovana, Manju, Tepi

Mahalo for Successful Earth Smart Camp

Dear Editor,

The Spring Break Earth Smart Camp held at the Kohala Village HUB in March provided a variety of fun learning experiences for 40 local youth, ages 5-13. The weeklong day camp focused on gaining skills through hands on experiences, including being introduced to jiu-jitsu, creating ceramic pots, putting on a puppet show and learning how to ride and care for horses.

Mahalo nui loa to the many hands who helped make this event a success. Especially appreciated are volunteers Virginia Fortner, Janet and John Pelmolder, Carla Orelana and Leo Guitang from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Their support to the younger youth and their collaborative efforts to complete projects with groups of kids was very helpful. Also appreciated is Jack Boyle, who taught participants to



Photo courtesy of Kohala Village HUB
Marcy Elizondo picks up son Luca Scelza, age 5, with his 3 year old brother Valentino. They are taking home products of the camp on the last day.

create a papier-mâché group art display to animate a story the participants learned relating to native migration.

Shay VanZandt and her volunteers from 4-H and the Kohala Wild Ride Club were a highlight for some of the kids, like Luca Scelza, age 5, who learned how to care for, lead and ride a horse for the first time. He also shared that he liked the martial arts class taught by Kahana Cordeiro, which helped the kids learn how to focus and center themselves.

This spring camp is one of the weeklong experiences offered throughout the year during school breaks by the HUB's nonprofit FEED Hawai'i, in collaboration with the Kohala schools' 21st Century grant and a variety of community partners.

With appreciation,
The Kohala Village HUB

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County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Tim Richards

Food Self-Reliance

As Hawai'i County looks towards more self-reliance, we have to consider our food self-reliance. Sustainability is a buzzword that is often used but is not encompassing enough of the concerns in my mind. Self-reliance implies sustainable, but also gives a measure of being able to address a capacity need. For the County of Hawai'i, what is that need? What is the measure of food consumed here thus giving us a measure of production we need to consider?

Looking to fairly recent national statistics, the average American consumes about one ton of food a year. Doing the math, this roughly translates to five pounds of food per day per person.

For our Big Island population of approximately 200,000 people, that roughly translates to 1,000,000 pounds of food being used each day in our county. (Please understand this is a blended average of total pounds of food and not meant to specify any one food.) To put

this in scale, in order to meet this demand it would take 1,000 farmers producing 1,000 pounds of food each per day!

We have set a goal of producing 50% of our food. That is still a thousand farmers producing 500 pounds of food each per day. I do know a number of farmers that can approach this but I do not know a thousand of them. If we as a county and state embrace the need for self-reliance, we must have the public policy and public support for agriculture.

All agriculture: conventional, organic, large and small scale. There is room for all. More importantly, there is a need for all. The requirement for the ability to produce food for any society is a given. To be more self-reliant we must be more self-sufficient.

Currently the only two agricultural production units that approach meeting our county needs within the County of Hawai'i are the beef and dairy industries.

They are strong, but fragile. I have worked as a rancher and/or a livestock veterinarian with the beef industry my entire life and with the dairy industry on and off for the last 30-plus years. I can say without hesitation that the vast majority of those producers are excellent animal and land stewards. Recently, one of our island dairies has come under scrutiny for potential wastewater management concerns. The investigation and review is currently underway. I did tour the facility and can say that the management of the dairy, as well as the concern and effort put into the herd health and well-being of the cows, is exemplary. We as a society and elected officials need to seek and demand excellence in and from our agricultural production units. When we find it, we must then embrace it and be supportive of the efforts.

The County of Hawai'i has enviable tracts of land and water resources. Given the right public

policies and support, many forms of agriculture can grow into strong economic drivers while better feeding our county and stewarding those resources. The market demand is there. The challenge is to produce what we need at a price point our communities can afford. That price point will be set by efficiencies in production and economies of scale. Again, a healthy agricultural sector in all sectors is what is needed.

As chairman of the Council Committee on Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability, I recently convened a roundtable discussion on agriculture. This was an initial meeting to start the conversation to take us in a direction for growth. In the coming months, more stakeholders will be invited to the table to give insight and input as how we will plan for the success of Hawai'i County agriculture.

Aloha!
Councilman Tim Richards
Hawai'i County Council
District 9

HI State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative Cindy Evans

The Legislature is heading into its final days of the 2017 session. I am hopeful the Legislature will pass the following two bills that will improve the way state government responds to invasive species and will provide one more solution to address the opioid abuse problem.

Senate Bill 776 SD2 HD1 restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Special Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture, to coordinate implementation of the Hawai'i Interagency

Biosecurity Plan and to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement and outreach programs.

Senate Bill 505 SD1 HD2 requires prescribing healthcare providers to adopt and maintain policies for informed consent to opioid therapy in circumstances that carry elevated risk of dependency. It also establishes limits for opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions.

There is much discussion on the decline of revenues for this year. We may be seeing more tourists

visiting our islands, however, they are not spending the same amount of money as in previous years. In addition, the governor is negotiating salaries and benefits with the different bargaining units that will increase the fixed costs of running your state government.

The time is now for you to weigh in on bills that are entering final stages of negotiation between the House and Senate. If the bills pass both houses, they will go to the governor for action.

Please write or call my office at (808) 586-8510 or at repevans@

capitol.hawaii.gov. To contact the governor with your thoughts on bills that may become law, go to <http://governor.hawaii.gov/contactus>

We do appreciate your viewpoint. I believe we are making strides in the right direction to address the problems that our community faces. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,
Cindy Evans
Hawai'i House of Representatives
District 7

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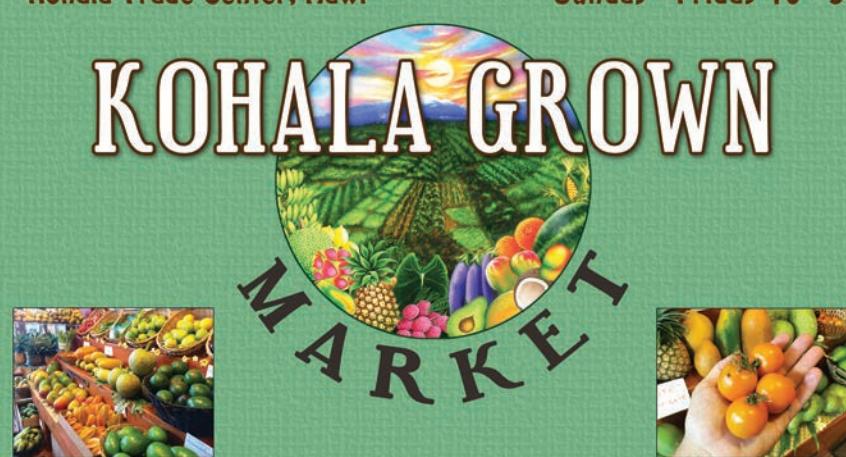
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Eagle Scout Project Promotes Renewable Energy Efforts

Thanks to Daniel Groves of Boy Scout Troop 56, the Kohala Welcome Center now hosts an electronic slideshow about renewable energy programs in Kohala and on Hawai'i Island... all powered with renewable, solar energy.

The display is the culmination of Daniel's project to earn Eagle Rank. Daniel says the idea came to him about a year ago, inspired by his passion for renewable energy.

Daniel designed and installed a kiosk with an iPad slide show, powered by a solar unit on the roof of the Welcome Center, with help from fellow Troop 56 scouts Carl Rich and Blake Lapitan, as well as hands-on guidance from his dad and assistant scoutmaster, Steve Groves, a renewable energy professional and owner of SkyQuest Energy.

The photovoltaic system is portable and not connected to the HELCO grid or the electrical system for the Center and provides enough energy to power the iPad.

Visitors and residents are



Photo by Christine Richardson
Steve Groves, left, helps his son Daniel Groves install a solar-powered slideshow about renewable energy at the Kohala Welcome Center, part of Daniel's efforts toward earning an Eagle Scout badge.

encouraged to view the show – on display on a wooden stand crafted by Daniel – on the front lanai of the Welcome Center in Hawi. The kiosk is marked by a sign made from a windmill blade by Daniel's Uncle Bill Davis, owner of M3 Messenger in Seattle. It is available for viewing during the Center's normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement attainable in the Boy Scouting program. The requirements necessary to achieve this rank take years to fulfill. Scouts have to earn a minimum of 21 Badges for Eagle Scout and pass through six Scout Ranks. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. There are nine scouts in Troop 56, which historically has a high percentage of Eagle Scouts.

Congratulations to Daniel and Boy Scout Troop 56, sponsored by St. Augustine Episcopal Church under the leadership of Scoutmaster Boyd Bond.

Light, Love and Music

Story by Eila Algood

Having listened to community radio in Chico, California, Pamela Huggins was familiar what it offered its listeners. Since the beginning of Kohala's own radio station, KNKR, in July, 2014, she's been toying with the idea of creating a radio show. There was a moment in 2016 when she felt the timing was right and began Plush Lounge as deejay P-Love with tremendous encouragement from friends.

Pamela's energetic enthusiasm was ignited as she spoke about her love of music. "Music has been speaking to me my whole life and when I come here (to KNKR), I get to share it."

As a dancer and chore-



Photo courtesy of Eila Algood
Pamela Huggins hosts the Plush Lounge show Friday evenings on KNKR, 96.1 FM.

ographer, Pamela is most at home when she moves her body to music. A few years ago, life threw a curveball her way when the love of her life died. It was music that paved the way for healing her grief. "It's a powerful anti-depressant," she said.

Pamela values forgiveness and compassion with a focus on bringing light and love into the world. Plush Lounge is a venue for her to share upbeat melodies with evolved lyrics. She smiled as she stated enthusiastically, "This radio station is magic."

Tune in to 96.1 FM or stream on KNKR.org on Friday evenings from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. to hear the encouraging melodic sounds of Plush Lounge.

Conversation on Tiny Houses Coming to Library

The Tiny House Movement is active at all levels of Hawai'i legislature, from County Council to State House to State Senate and the Governor's Office.

Learn about current legislative actions and details on HB2, the House Bill submitted by Representative Cindy Evans.

What are the positive implications of this innovative legislation and the potential barriers to implementation?

Community conversation convened by the Hawai'i Tiny House Initiative to be held on

Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kohala Public Library.



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Experience with Possibility Kupu A'o: Learning Experiences

Story by Michael Foley

Hula is an integral part of our community. It's woven through our lives wherever and whenever we gather to celebrate life, death and the history of Kohala. There are all sorts of reasons dancers will give you for why they dance hula. Among the kupuna with whom I dance, these

called Kupu A'o: Learning Experiences. A group of Kumu Keala's own students from Kona joined members of three Kohala hālau hula to learn ancient and modern style hula, Hawaiian language and chanting. Our own dear Kumu Kauai Nakamura of Na Kupuna O Kohala coordinated the event, arranging

chanted their way closer and closer to Kohala students who responded in kind. Is this hula? Yes! Our visitors were dancers from Ka Pa Hula Nā Wai Iwi Ola and Nā Wai Puna O Kona, all following traditional etiquette by greeting us with chant. With gusto! Kohala folks responded (also with gusto!) with our welcome

of kupuna knees!

Kumu Leia taught us a hula kahiko she choreographed for a chant she wrote about King Kamehameha, how he surfed at Kapanai'a, and built a road there; and Halawa, where he grew taro: 'O Kamehameha Ke Ali'i Nui 'O Hawai'i. You can hear these things



Photo by: Lynda Wallach

On March 4, more than fifty hula students of all ages gathered at King Kamehameha Park for Kupu A'o: Learning Experiences. Led by Kumu Keala Ching, the dancers assembled to learn ancient and modern style hula, Hawaiian language and chanting.

reasons range from exercising your body to increasing your brain cells. Maybe it looks easy, a few steps right, left, wiggle your fingers like it's going to rain, but believe me, there's more to it. I know, because it took me a year just to get the feet movements. It's really important to grasp that hula as an expression is transmitted through teachers who can trace their style, their knowledge through a long line of teachers who came before, maybe back hundreds of years. Those of us who dance hula, therefore, are accountable, responsible, respectful, to our teachers, to the way we were taught hula. And then we give it away.

It's also important to grasp that hula is not static, right? Hula does not stand still! So when the opportunity was presented to those of us who seek out hula to spend a day learning more hula, we embraced it. Saturday, March 4, at King Kamehameha Park in Kapa'au, Kumu Keala Ching led more than fifty hula students of all ages in an event he

the site and, with Kumu Leia and Kumu Mana'olana, providing lunch and snacks.

Kumu Keala Ching is the guiding force for nine hālau hula in Hawai'i, California, Oregon, Japan and Switzerland. He heads Nā Wai Iwi Ola Foundation. Every month, one of his chants is published in Ke Ola magazine. Four years ago, Kumu Keala was asked to help advance to kumu level three students of Kohala's beloved Kumu Raylene Ha'alelea Kawai'ae'a, who passed away March 9, 2012. Two of these students are now very active Kohala kumu hula, who brought their own students to Kupu A'o: Kumu Leia Lawrence, with Hula Hālau O Kukui Aloha O Kohala and Kumu Mana'olana Keawe, with Hula Hālau Mana'olana O Kohala.

Kumu Keala didn't waste any time getting us on our feet and chanting in Hawaiian before our day of hula workshops and language even started. Outside the Intergenerational Center, Kailua-Kona students

and respect.

After the pule, we split into four groups, one for each teacher. We rotated through three classes throughout the day, skipping our own kumu. That way, I learned hula kahiko, ancient style, from Kumu Leia, then Hawaiian language and chant from Kumu Keala and towards the end of the afternoon, hula 'auana from Kumu Mana'olana.

I know I will always treasure my first experiences learning hula from Kumu Leia and Kumu Mana'olana. For one thing, I've known them in the community over the years as Leia and Hope. Now they transformed before my eyes into masterful kumu hula. Of course, their teaching styles are different. One is more apt to show, over and over and then move closer to individual students to fine tune the moves. The other is more talk-story through each verse, explaining, then dancing, then moving on. Both were so gracious and respectful, especially

word of mouth, or read about them, but nothing compares to expressing these stories in dance and chant yourself. To learn to do this in an hour and a half was for me a personal achievement. Kumu Leia shared with us how she came to write the chant, how she lives in the ahupua'a where the story takes place. Her passion shone through.

Kumu Keala's class focused on Hawaiian language, in particular the building blocks of words, the vowels and their names, their sounds. Even the way we learned was in chanting style and finally Kumu shared a chant about Kohala he had written with student help that morning. It was expertly simple, acknowledging Kohala and at the same time emphasizing the very vowels in the order we learned them, line by line. We went outside and facing the ocean we chanted the chant, beginning "A 'Āpa'apa'a ē!"

Kumu Mana'olana said to me

See Learning, Page 11

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Learning, continued from Page 10

later, "Kumu Raylene liked the old mana`o, you should go out and share. And be respectful in receiving." That Saturday, by the time I got to her hula `auana class I was tired. How grateful I was, then, to dance the beautiful and gentle mele "Lei Ho`oheno," written by Kainani Kahaunaele and sung by Weldon Kekauoha. Several of our kupuna were grateful, too, since it brought back fond memories of Kumu Raylene. Such a song can loosen strong emotions for many. I heard the words, "E ku`u pili aloha, ku`u lei," and the tears came.

Kumu Kauai also talked to me about sharing, how it's one thing to share our dancing with the community. And our kupuna share our dances in public all year long, island wide.

But it's another thing, said Kumu Kauai, to share with each other. She told me when Kumu Keala first asked her to put together the Kupu A`o workshops, she felt so honored. Talking about Kohala, she said this is a small community and when someone of Kumu Keala's reputation and stature comes here to teach, it's quite an honor. Since she's my teacher, I didn't get to learn Kumu Kauai's hula auana, choreographed by her when she was 16 years old. Maybe she will teach that hula to our kupuna one day! These days we are about to begin learning our dances for this year's Kupuna Hula Festival in September. The mele she chose for Kupu A`o was "Ka Wai Lehua `A`ala Ka Honua," written by Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, who happens to be Kumu Keala Ching's teacher. See how everything in the hula world is connected?

Finally, our entire group assembled inside the Intergenerational Center and each kumu led presentations in a ho`ike. It was amazing looking across the room at all the students, dancing and chanting in full force something they had learned for the first time that day. Wonderful too, seeing the faces of our kumu light up as we shared our learning experiences with them, for them, for all of us. What a day! Kumu Mana`olana called it "experience with possibility." A couple of days later, talking about hula and sharing, she thought a bit, and then, with arms wide and a big smile, she said, "It's not something hidden!"

Masa Kawamoto Recognized by Obama and Abe

Story by Lani Eugenio

December 7, 1941 was described by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as "a date which will live in infamy." Within an hour of Roosevelt's 7-minute "Infamy Speech," Congress passed a formal declaration of war against Japan, which brought the

most highly decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and time in combat." She goes on to say that "it is their wounds (and their generation's [wounds]) which were healed most by that historic event in December."

Among the remaining WWII veterans invited to this significant event

tion from immigrant parents, Masatsu Kawamoto, born in Kohala on July 10, 1922, was of the sansei (third) generation. His parents were Masato and Kiyono Kawamoto, both also Kohala-born. Masa went to the 10th grade (which was considered a good education at that time), then went to work



Photo courtesy of Eunice Kawamoto
Masa Kawamoto was nicknamed "Cowboy" as a cook in the Army.

United States into WWII.

On December 27, 2016, President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe put 75 years of resentment behind them and came together to remember Pearl Harbor, the site of the surprise attack that took 2,400 American lives. Abe said, "As the prime minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and lasting condolences to the souls to those who lost their lives here." He also stated that the Japanese had taken a solemn vow to never again wage war.

Stacey Hayashi, author of "Journey of Heroes," a historically accurate novel about the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, contacted WWII veterans to meet Abe at a reception on December 26, which preceded the historic meeting the following morning at Pearl Harbor. According to Hayashi, "The AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry), once suspected because they looked like the enemy, became the



Photo by Stacey Hayashi
President Obama shakes Masa Kawamoto's hand as a fellow veteran from I Company, Harold Watase, looks on. Roberts Lee holds the 100th/442nd novel for Obama to sign. Masa wears his original uniform from WWII.

was 94-year-old Masa Kawamoto, who proudly wore his military uniform, laden with medals. Masa was known as "Cowboy" in the "Go For Broke" Regiment. His wife, Eunice, grandson, Dean Snelling and daughter, Principal Janette Snelling, accompanied him to the ceremonies. He also has a son, Maverick and another grandson, Dylan Snelling.

While many of the Japanese soldiers were of the nisei (second) genera-

tion for Parker Ranch, where his father was also employed.

In March, 1943, Masa volunteered to serve in the Army because his uncle was sent to an internment camp and he wanted to show that as a "sansei," his national loyalty was to America. He was assigned to I Company of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), a fighting unit composed almost entirely of American soldiers

See Masa, Page 12

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Masa, continued from Page 11

of Japanese ancestry who fought in Europe, primarily in Italy, France and Germany.

In the book, "And Then There Were Eight," about the men of I Company 442nd RCT, Sadaichi Kubota writes about "Our Ever Resourceful Cook." They didn't know how Masa became a cook, as he was a cowpuncher from



Photo by Lani Eugenio
Mr. Kawamoto was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Campaign, WWII Victory and the European-African-Middle East Campaign medals. He was also given the Presidential Unit Citation, the cold War recognition certificate, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button

Kohala. "Maybe he influenced our CO [commanding officer], Capt. Ralph Graham, that he knew how to prepare 'mountain oysters' (bull's testicles)." Kabota states that when Masa finished training as a cook, "he became proficient in his trade and ever more versatile in preparing chow for us 'buddaheads' from Hawai'i and for some of the 'kotonks,' our Mainland counterparts."

Before Masa became their cook, the soldiers' chief staple was mainly potatoes and the men were always hungry. As the Company mess sergeant, Masa and his crew wanted to help keep up the morale of the fighting men. They contributed by trying to keep them healthy with food they were accustomed to eating in Hawai'i. The main food that was needed was

RICE.

In order to provide this, Masa said, "I used to trade with the haole [Caucasian] companies. I gave them our rations of potatoes and cheese and they gave me their rations of rice. When we got overseas, I began to trade with the local Italians and Frenchmen. At times, I would sell the extra rations to the civilians and purchase fish, tako [octopus] and rice at the market."

On one occasion, Masa purchased approximately 225 wowo (a mullet-type fish) and his staff cleaned every fish. "We were able to serve fried fish to each member of the Company," he proudly proclaimed.

According to Kubota, due to Masa's "smarts" in bartering for food and doctoring the menu to suit the Oriental palate, the Company was able to eat well. "I believe he did this without seeking authorization. However, in due time Regimental CO Colonel Pence, sensing our need for rice, authorized rice for the Regiment."

Masa's cowboy instincts produced some playful memories. One time, he and Smitty Koga were riding around Italy's countryside and as they were passing a farm they saw a gaggle of geese. He bet Smitty that he could catch one of the geese.

A true cowboy always carries a rope and "Cowboy" Masa made a lasso. "Smitty drove slowly by the geese and I lassoed one by the neck. The only problem was that the goose made a whole bunch of noise and the Italian farmer began screaming as loudly as the goose.

We quickly decided to let the goose go before we got into trouble. Smitty and I laughed about this incident for years to come."

Another incident vividly recorded by Sadaichi Kubota was when they were having tactical exercises in an open field. "On the crest of a hill...I saw a white ox grazing. The following morning the creature was gone," Kubota wrote. "A few days into actual combat, we surprisingly received fresh sandwiches heavily laden with greens and a tasty looking, thick piece of meat in between. With mouth watering, I took one healthy bite--my uppers and lowers didn't come together. At that moment, I thought

See Masa, Page 14



Photo by Janette Snelling
Masa Kawamoto is joined by (left to right) Representative Mark Nakashima, Stacey Hayashi, wife Eunice Kawamoto and grandson Dean Snelling

WEEKLY EVENTS IN MAY 2016

MON	9AM		KOHALA SENIOR CLUB MEETINGS - AGE 55 PLUS	OLD COURTHOUSE	895-2094
	5:30PM	6PM	INSANITY CLASSES WITH ROSS PAGAT	SOLID ROCK NORTH CHURCH	989-0966
	6PM	6:30PM	FREE RMD TAIKO CLASSES	HISAOKA GYM	895-2025
	7PM		AL-ANON MEETING WITH LAURA	KOHALA MISSION SCHOOL CAFETERIA	
TUES	7PM	8PM	REFUGE RECOVERY - BUDDHIST PRINCIPALS TO RECOVERY FROM ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES OR BEHAVIORS	CLAY HOUSE (BEHIND THE HUB)	464-4411
	9AM	10:30AM	CHAIR YOGA	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	880-0583
	10AM	3PM	HAWI FARMERS' MARKET		
WED	5PM	6PM	MEDITATION COURSE (STARTS APRIL 11)	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	917 293 3427
	2PM		AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUB : MAY 3: WII GAMING MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY CRAFTS MAY 17: LEGO BUILDING MAY 24: MOVIE, "THE JUNGLE BOOK"	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
	6PM	6:30PM	FREE RMD TAIKO CLASSES	WALKER HALL	895-2025
	6PM	7:30PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	
	7PM		ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	WYLIE HALL, 'OLE ROAD, KALAHIKIOLA CHURCH	889-6703
THURS	3:30PM		NA 'IMI IKE: HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE STUDY GROUP	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
	5:30PM	6PM	INSANITY CLASSES WITH ROSS PAGAT	KAMEHAMEHA PARK COMPLEX	989-0966
	5PM	6PM	MEDITATION COURSE (STARTS APRIL 11)	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	917 293 3427
	6PM		TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	889- 1099
FRI	7PM	8PM	NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS - 12 STEPS & TRADITIONS	LOKAHI TREATMENT CENTER	
	10AM		PRESCHOOL STORY TIME FOR AGES 2-5	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
SUN	10AM	11AM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HAWI FARMERS MARKET (IF SUNNY)	
	6PM	7:30PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY - HOSTED BY ADAM & MELINDA ANAKALEA	SOLID ROCK NORTH CHURCH	640-8590

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Kohala Sports

Keiki Rodeo Season Coming to End as Cowboys and Cowgirls Prepare for District Finals

Story by Donovan Aiona

The Hawai'i High School Rodeo Association will be holding the District Finals Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, at the Parker Ranch Rodeo Arena in Waimea. Prepare yourself for a two-day event starting at 8:00 a.m. on both days. Each participant will be given starting times according to their individual event and not age groups, so Cowboys and Cowgirls will be thrown into the mix from ages kindergarten thru high school. Keiki Rodeo is something to see. There will be a concession, too, so go and support our Kohala Keiki as they bring home the big prize! Hep! Hep! Yee Haw!



It's Flag Football Time!

Story by Donovan Aiona

KCAA sponsors another action-filled activity for our young and aspiring football stars.

The Kohala Community Athletic Association (KCAA) Flag Football Season sign-up ended on April 24 and games can be seen at Kamehameha Park on weekday afternoons throughout April and May.

Big mahalo goes out to the parents and coaches that dedicate their time to educate our keiki on good sportsmanship and dedication. Thanks Kohala Pacific Realty for uniforms, and for giving back to the amazing keiki of our Kohala Community!

For more info, call Tom Morse at 345-0706 or go to kcaa.online.

Wallace Ching - Kohala's All-Around Cowboy - Wins with Giving Back in Mind

Story by Donovan Aiona

Meet Kohala's All-Around Cowboy, Wallace "Wally Boy" Ching

Kohala Cowboy Wallace "Wally Boy" Ching was named All-Around Cowboy with the highest combined score at the 51st Annual Honaunau Rodeo. "When they announced my name the next week, I was shocked!" says a humble Wallace. With a rancher's lifestyle growing up on the north shores of both O'ahu and Hawai'i, Kohala's Wallace Ching attributes his success to the time he puts in practicing his rodeo skills on a daily basis. "All it takes is focus and practice," says Wallace very passionately. "Mentally too, I prac-

watching his dad, John Ching, and his dad's partner, Stemo Lindsey, rope calves after work. Wallace says, "They would rope calves until they had to turn the car lights on to light up the arena!" It was times like these that motivated Wallace to become a rodeo cowboy around the age of ten.

The Move Home to Kohala

His dad had found work as a welder on the island of O'ahu, where he met his wife, Pat. The move home to the Big Island was decided upon by a visit to Kohala when he and his family bunked up with his grandpa, the late Ah You Ching. They were so captivated by the beauty of Kohala that he begged

an excited Wally Boy. "He basically taught me how to survive! 'You catch the pig, you hang the pig and skin 'um...you like learn, you come watch, then you know how...'" says my Uncle Wallace. We're blessed to live here in Kohala...we work from sun up to sun down...sometimes I take my boots off at nine o'clock at night!" Nevertheless, Wallace feels so lucky to live in Hawai'i. Wallace expressed his gratitude to his elders that showed him the way, like his uncle, the late Hamo Lum, who was married to his Grand Aunt Ida Lum. He is also thankful to Alvin Kawamoto, who had an arena above the Ching family ranch in Union Mill, for teaching and allowing Wallace to practice in his arena.

Giving Back to the Keiki of Kohala

An all-around outdoorsman working by making fence, tending cattle and horses, operating heavy equipment or even coaching the up-and-coming cowboys and cowgirls of Kohala, Wallace Ching is doing what he knows...working hard! "My Grandpa (Ah You Ching) told me to work hard while you are young!" Aside from working with his sons, Owen and Travis Ching, and his nephews, Micah and Railen Ching, Wallace devotes his time to giving practice tips to Kohala's children. "One day I just went down [to Ride Wild's practice at Lighthouse] to help Shay [Van Zandt] with the keiki. I turned away from the girls for a moment to talk to Shay and when I turned back, those cute little cowgirls were looking at me with eyes wide open waiting for me to teach them...from that time, I was hooked! It's all about passing it on." Wallace just explained the essence of working with Kohala's keiki by sharing his experience. Working with his own family in Micah, Railen and Zyan Carvalho, Wally also finds the joy in mentoring on a daily basis. His mentoring has led to rodeo success on both the local level (Micah) and the national level (Railen). It's so great to see Wallace passing on the traditions via his lifestyle to all of Kohala. Wallace Ching, truly one of Kohala's finest!



Photo courtesy of Johnelle Ching-Kainoa
Micah Ching (left) and his Uncle Wallace Ching with their winning buckles from a recent team-roping event...carrying on the family tradition.

...tice every day...I practice the right way! I'm serious when I practice! I've been doing this all my life... it's like a baseball player taking his swings!"

Wally Boy's Beginnings

It all started for Wallace as a youngster on his dad's north shore ranch in Pupukea on the island of O'ahu. Being the oldest son of John Ching and "Honey" Pat Ching, he carried his weight by helping his dad when his dad was both at home and at work. Wally Boy loved

his dad to stay. To satisfy Wally Boy, his dad made a promise: "Finish the year at school and you can go back to Kohala." Little did he know, that promise is what brought his family, including Wally's siblings Amoo, Shane and Pake, back home—thus the beginning of their life in Kohala.

Wallace's Love for Kohala

He attributes his love for the mountains and the ocean of Kohala to his late Uncle Wallace. "He taught me everything I know about hunting and fishing!" says

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Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Fried Rice, Fruit, Coffee

Donation: \$6.00

Masa, continued from Page 12

my teeth had crumbled. The meat was like tough, processed leather. But the sandwich was good—so good! The more I chewed into it, the tastier it got. It took a while to finish that sandwich, but it was GOOD! The battle continued with me holding onto and chewing into that memorable sandwich.”

Kubota later learned the amazing story behind the making of his sandwich. Masa and his crew member, Taka Aragaki, had seen the ox that same day. “Early that evening, they approached the peacefully grazing animal. Masa took along an ax.

As the ox grazed, moving its head from side to side, Masa swung a well-aimed ax (the blunt side) onto the creature’s forehead. One hit and it dropped to the ground....Masa gutted, skinned and quartered the animal and they both brought the pieces down to the kitchen. The kitchen crew prepared the sandwiches.”

The meals from the ox may have lightened the spirits of the fighting men, but the owner of the ox was fighting mad! He came into the camp “screaming and demanding payment for his loss. The problem was ami-

in Hilo, was 19-20 years old when he worked with Masa. He remembers taking food to the soldiers every day, hiking up the Alps in France, near the Italian border. “For the first few days, it took two hours to get up there and almost as long coming down. But after four to five days, it took only one hour to walk up.

The mules packed all the goods, the rations and hot food for lunch and dinner. We took another route going down... longer, but it was easier and we got to ride the mules.”

Kubota praised Masa’s warm concern for his fellow soldiers’ welfare. “Having hot coffee and turnovers brought to us in the midst of battle in that forbidding Vosges Mountains of Northern France continues to be etched in my consciousness. That Masa, a non-combatant cook, kept risking his life to bring hot kitchen-prepared stuff during those chill-filled days of November, 1944, surely cannot be forgotten.”

“For developing from being a paniolo roasting “mountain oysters” to becoming our first-class cook dedicated to helping others, Masa Kawamoto can never be thanked enough,”



Photo by Stacey Hayashi

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe greets Masa Kawamoto as former United States Senator Daniel Akaka welcomes the guests to Hawai`i.

cably solved, however, with Masa giving the farmer a lot of our canned goods, mainly luncheon meat. Masa’s resourcefulness was certainly appreciated,” wrote Kubota.

When the Company was assisting with rescuing the “Lost Battalion,” Masa and his kitchen crew served the ox as fried meat with musubi (rice balls) to the men on the front line.

Take Aragaki, now 93, who lives

said Kubota.

Masa ended with, “The war brought hard times and some bad experiences; however, I also have some fond memories of that time in my life. I made a lot of lifetime friends. Though some have already passed away, I think of the times that we were able to spend together.

After all of these years, I am still the “Cowboy” in Kohala, raising cattle.”

Hamakua-Kohala Health Welcomes New Physician

Last fall Hamakua-Kohala Health conducted an important community survey and, as always, is responding to the medical needs of our community. Hamakua-Kohala Health’s Mission is to provide quality healthcare that is responsive to our patients’ and communities’ needs, and to serve patients struggling to access healthcare regardless of their ability to pay.

We are proud to introduce Dr. Jocelyn Chang, DO, who recently joined Hamakua-Kohala Health at the Kapa`au clinic. Dr. Chang studied at the University of Hawai`i and the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, then went on to graduate medical school in West Virginia before returning to her home in Hawai`i,

where she now sees patients of all ages at the Kohala Clinic.

As Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Chang is licensed to practice the full scope of medicine like any doctor, but also has additional training in techniques for hands-on manipulation of the musculoskeletal system. This is often used in family practice, sports medicine and emergency medicine, as well as the special needs of our kupuna.

Also a practitioner of Integrated Holistic Medicine, Dr. Chang has been a former board member of Hui No Ke Ola Pono (Native Hawaiian Healthcare System) and a member of the ‘Ahaui o na Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians) and provides comprehensive and culturally mindful treatment.



Photo courtesy of Hamakua-Kohala Health

Jocelyn Chang, DO, is Kohala Clinic’s new physician. Her training includes not only the traditional medical school curriculum, but includes hands-on manipulation of the musculoskeletal system.

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

NKCRC extends a warm Mahalo to these funders for their generous support of our projects:

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The Future of Health in Kohala: Challenges, part 2

Access to health care impacts everyone in Kohala. The Health Roundtable at the North Kohala Public Library in March identified many needs, challenges and planned and potential improvements in our local health care system. Urgent concerns identified as the greatest barriers to improving health care include: 1) attracting and retaining nurses and doctors; 2) the absence of mid-level health care workers; 3) high costs and lack of capital available to help doctors set up private practices; and 4) the lack of patient access to and participation in primary and preventative care. Participants at the forum represented Kohala Hospital, Hamakua-Kohala Health, Ardolf Associates, Hawai'i Blue Zones Project, North Hawai'i Hospice and Same Canoe 'Food is Good Medicine' Project.

Last month's Health Forum article covered an unexpected impact of the island's housing crisis that directly prevents improved medical care. Kohala's serious shortage of affordable rentals and houses for sale discourages and prevents doctors and practitioners from choosing Kohala as their home.

In addition to housing, access to care is another critical problem the forum addressed. Many residents do not realize our rural clinic is funded to serve people with or without insurance - everyone can be served. Other barriers may be cultural, socio-psychological or transportation.

Barriers. Having actual physical access to primary care - the means to reach the doctor - is an invisible factor not widely recognized. Sharing a car or arranging rides with others inhibits reliable access. Local

cultural and socio-psychological factors (including shame) are hurdles to asking for and receiving health care, even at Kohala's rural clinic that is funded to serve any patient, including those unable to pay.

Access can turn a life around. North Hawai'i Hospice shared an access story of a remarkable reversal in a terminal diagnosis. They witnessed a patient, who had not had adequate primary care, enter hospice care and, by receiving close attention for the first time - including nutrition and lifestyle support - unexpectedly be able to 'graduate' out of hospice care and return to their home with improved health and a renewed chance for life.

Education. Another factor that influences availability of health care is education. Few Hawai'i residents interested in health care careers

are proceeding past the medical assistant or LPN (licensed practical nurse) level to the higher registered nurse (RN), registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) or physician's assistant (PA) levels. This widening gap inside health care delivery is compounded by the high number of Kohala's RNs currently retiring.

The solutions to these challenges that are in place and on the horizon will be the topics of forthcoming articles on the Future of Health in Kohala. A sneak peek at solutions: Mentoring future nurses, expanding clinic and hospital built environments, creating a viable transportation system, reaching under-served communities to overcome cultural barriers to health care and creating a Wellness Campus, including housing for the health care professionals we urgently need to attract and retain.

Little Free Pantry Opening Soon

Kohala will be joining other communities across the nation in a small-scale charity movement in providing "little free pantry" boxes in our town.

These small boxes mounted on a post will be located in several areas in Kohala. There is a door on the front but no lock. Anyone can take what they need or donate goods 24-7. There are no forms to fill out.

This service does not take away from our wonderful Sacred Heart Food Pantry, which has been serving our community endlessly for many years.

This will help in between and also give people in the community the ability to drop off items at any time. Boxes are normally stocked with non-perishable food items, toiletries and personal care items for all ages.

A handful of community members; faith-based organizations, including Kohala Baptist, St. Augustine and Solid Rock North; and Tutu & Me Home Visiting Program have initiated this movement.

Anyone interested in helping or more information can call Sadie at 889-6298, Lani at 895-5753, Lisa at 896-3354 or Kyler at 345-3585.

Organizers hope to have several pantries up and running by the next issue of the Kohala Mountain News. Donations and volunteers for building of the boxes are also welcome.

More information can be found at the Pantry's Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and search for "Kohala Little Free Pantry" in the search box on the upper left of the screen.

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SATURDAY JUNE 17 & MONDAY JUNE 19
10AM - 3PM

MONDAY JUNE 19
2PM - 4PM





Provided by the Ohio Air National Guard 178 Medic Group in partnership with the Hamakua-Kohala Health & AlohaCare, Special mahalo to West Hawaii Community Health Center for their kokuu.

KOHALA MONTHLY CALENDAR MAY 2017

	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
1	MON	6 PM	7 PM	GROWTH MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE	MEETING	BANK OF HAWAII BUILDING	
1	MON	6:30 PM		SIMPLE JEWELRY CRAFT	WITH SID NAKAMOTO	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
3	WED	4 PM		COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	MEETING	SENIOR CENTER	
5	FRI	4PM	7PM	KHS FIRST FRIDAYS	CRAFT AND LOCAL FOOD VENDORS	KHS	889-7117
8	MON	3 PM	5PM	NORTH KOHALA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP	SUPPORTED BY N. HAWAII COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL	KINGS VIEW CAFE	989-4894
8	MON	5 PM		NKCDP AC MEETING	NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE	OLD JUDICIARY BUILDING	323-4770
8	MON	6:30 PM		BOOKWEEK POSTER CONTEST AWARDS		NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
9	TUE	11 AM		ADULT READING DISCUSSION	RISE OF THE ROCKET GIRLS - BY NATHALIA HOLT	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
9	TUE	5:30PM	8:30PM	KAHANA NOEAU HOIKE	CONTACT ERICKA	KHS	884-5838
9	TUE	6 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	6PM POTLUCK, 7PM PRESENTATION. FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED IN GOOD FOOD, NOT JUST FARMERS	THE HUB	889-5715
13	SAT	9AM		21CCLC SPRINGFEST	CONTACT MANA	KHS	889-7117
14		7AM	10AM	LIONS CLUB MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST	DINE IN OR TAKE OUT, DONATION	KHS CAFETERIA	
15	MON	6:30 PM		ONE ISLAND PROGRAM	TBA	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
16	TUE	10 AM		ADULT & TEEN WRITER'S GROUP		NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
17	WED	5:30 PM		AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE	MEETING	SENIOR CENTER	
18-21	THU - SUN			POI BOARD WORKSHOP	FINISH YOUR VERY OWN POI BOARD UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF DANIEL AND HIS CREW.	HIP AGRICULTURE FARM	HIPAGRICULTURE@GMAIL.COM
20	SAT	2PM		KOHALA HIGH COMMENCEMENT	CONTACT MS WHITE	HISAOKA GYM	889-7117
20	SAT	4:30PM	6:30PM	FREE GRINDZ HOT MEAL	KOHALA BAPTIST CHURCH	BANYAN TREE	
22	MON	6:30 PM		LIFE BALANCE WHEEL	WITH SOPHIE SCHWEITZER	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY	889-6655
27	SAT	10 AM	12 PM	THRIFT SHOP	AT ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH	NEXT TO WALKER HALL	889-5390
27	SAT	11 AM	12:20 PM	COMMUNITY MEAL	AT ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH	WALKER HALL	889-5390
27	SAT	3PM		BIKE RIDE	FROM THE HUB TO KING KAMEHAMEHA PARK	THE HUB	SOLARMATTERS.ORG
30	TUE	5 PM	6PM	CDP SUBCOMMITTEE	POWER, VIEWPLANES, & EROSION CONTROL, CONTACT SUSAN FISCHER	OLD COURTHOUSE	882-7611
31	WED	4 PM	5:30 PM	RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA, CERTIFIED YOGA THERAPIST, BY DONATION	THE HUB	889-5151
31	WED	5 PM		PARKS, WATER & ROADS SUBCOMMITTEE	MONTHLY MEETING	OLD COURTHOUSE	882-7611

EMAIL CALENDAR LISTINGS TO KOHALACALENDAR@GMAIL.COM



Kohala Churches

Kohala SDA Church
 WHERE FRIENDSHIP MEETS FELLOWSHIP
 Saturday Services:
 Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
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 55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway, Hawi HI
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Kalahikiola Congregational Church
 Service every Sunday Morning at 9:30 followed by pupus & fellowship
 Prayer time Tuesdays at 11:30
 Iole road of Akoni Pule Hwy. in Kapa'au 1/4 mile past the statue
 www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com
 889-6703

Gospel of Salvation Kohala
 Kokoiki Road
 Service: Sunday 9:00 AM
 Adult Bible Study: Monday 6:30 PM
 Prayer Meeting: Friday 6:30 PM
 Pastor Ilima Moiha
 www.gospelofsalvationkohala.org

Kohala Baptist Church
 Across from Makapala Retreat
 'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'
 (Matthew 11:28)
 Sunday Services
 Adult Bible Study/Kids on Mission 9 am
 Worship Service/Sunday School (for children of all ages) 10:30 am
 Pastor Steven E. Hedlund (808)889-5416
 Follow us on Kohala Baptist Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
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 Masses: Saturday 5 pm
 Sunday 7 a.m. • 9:30 am
 Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday at 7 am
 Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm
 Rev Elias Escanilla
 Deacon Thomas Adams
 Telephone 889-6436

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
 Kapa'au, North Kohala
 Sunday Services:
 7am - Holy Eucharist (quiet Mass)
 9am - Holy Eucharist
 Children's Sunday School & Fellowship Brunch
 Thrift Shop Hours:
 Weds: 12 - 3:30pm • Thurs: 4 - 6pm
 4th Saturday: 10am - 12pm
 Free Community Meal:
 4th Saturday of each month: 11am - 12:30pm
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Imperfect Paradise

By Kaialuna I. Scarpetta-Lee

Lavender clouds and azure skies
 intertwine and weave over rolling hills of happiness,
 far away from the impurities of metal and smoke.
 Birds twitter, thoughts flutter away in this imperfect paradise.

Giving Credit Where Due

Acquisition of the 2017 Dreamstarter Grant, which was reported on page one of our March 24 issue, was facilitated by Megan Solis and Christine Richardson of the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

Did you know?

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Chair Yoga: Get Fit While You Sit

By Diann Wilson

If yoga brings to mind only young supple bodies twisted into impossible poses, you need to check out the Tuesday morning yoga class at Kamehameha Park in Kapa`au.

Chair yoga is offered weekly and is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair and standing using a chair for support if needed. Chair yoga classes are held every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Kohala Intergenerational Center, which is located on the north end of the park.

The class is taught by Georgena Williams, a North Kohala resident who has been a yoga instructor for 20 years. The benefits of this unique yoga class include improved strength, flexibility, increased balance and fun!

The Tuesday morning class is for both men and women and is

geared to those who are 55 years of age or older.

In addition to a good flexibility enhancer, Georgena leads the class through a series of dynamic twists, hip stretches and other poses that can soothe aching joints and improve elasticity and range of motion. Students can safely learn many different kinds of adapted yoga postures, breathing techniques and calming meditation in the security of, and with the aid of, a chair.

The class has been held for the past 11 years and is now being offered as part of the Parks and Recreation program. There is no need to register in advance, just show up and enjoy.

For further information, contact Georgena through her yoga studio, Kohala Yoga Community Center in Kapa`au, at 889-0583.

June 11 Celebration of King Kamehameha Being Planned

Story by Randee Golden

Preparations are currently being made for North Kohala's annual Kamehameha Day celebration on June 11 to honor King Kamehameha in the district of his birth. The community's annual lei draping ceremony at the statue, pa`u parade and community ho`olaulea with food, entertainment and educational displays and activities will be offered once again, due to a group of dedicated volunteers working hard to preserve this Kohala tradition.

The theme this year is Kūkulu Kahua `O Kohala "Na Paniolo" - Establishing our Kohala Foundation "Ranching." The focus was selected for a few reasons. Though the tradition of ranching began after the reign of Kamehameha I, it was his gift of cattle from George Vancouver that was the catalyst for the development of this practice and paniolo culture. Also, a special reunion for Kahua Ranch is being planned for June to honor the history of this place and our local ranching families.

As June 11 falls on a Sunday this year, the scheduling of events is being adapted to accommodate morning church service traffic, with the road closure and parade start time of 11:00 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. The parade route will be the same as in years past, from Hawi to Kamehameha Statue, then around the hospital loop and back to Kamehameha Park.

Ceremonies at the statue will still begin at sunrise and extend throughout the morning, with various halau sharing their dance and Hawaiian societies sharing their ho`okupu. The road in front of the statue will close early, with traffic detoured on the hospital loop from 5:30 a.m. Lei can be dropped off by anyone wanting to make an offering from 7:00 a.m. at the lei tent. The use of natural materials is preferred and most lei are around 22 feet.

Besides making lei, participation in Kamehameha Day is

still possible in a variety of ways. Applications for both food and crafts booths are being accepted to May 11. Those interested can contact Event Chair Kauai Nakamura at 333-0628.

People wanting to participate in the parade can contact Shay Van Zandt at 756-4192 or Amoo Kainoa at 895-2545. Only entries that are on hooves or wheels are accepted. No walking is allowed due to distance and time constraints.

Applications to participate as an educational exhibitor or cultural practitioner in the gym are also being accepted. Exhibitors must provide their own tables and chairs. Those interested can email Ekela Kahuanui at HaleOlaKamehameha@gmail.com. Please contact her by June 1. Exhibits will be at the ho`olaulea from 10 a.m. til 2:00 p.m.

Entertainment at Kamehameha Park is scheduled for the full day, with a varied group of local and out of town artists. Included in the lineup are Diana Aki, John Keawe, Kanani Enos, Lady Ipo from Kauai and Ho`aloha, with Tony Manantan, Terry Toyama and John Keolanui. More music is pending.

This event is supported by a grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the HUB's non-profit FEED Hawai'i and the North Kohala Community Resource Center. Tax-deductible donations from community members are always appreciated to cover the multitude of costs and can be made out to the NKCRC, noting it is for Kamehameha Day.

This annual community celebration day in honor of Kamehameha continues only because of efforts by the volunteers on the celebration planning committee. Mahalo to members of this team - Kauai Nakamura, Shay Van Zandt, Lehua AhSam, Ekela Kahuanui, Keala Kahuanui, Hala Acob, Michelle Kawai, Amoo Kainoa, CJ Yamamoto and Laddie Shim. For further information check out the Kamehameha Day website at www.kamehamehadaycelebration.org.

Workshop to Examine Life Balance Slated

North Kohala Public Library in Kapa`au will present "The Life Balance Wheel: Uncovering Priorities for Success and Happiness," a workshop with Sophia Schweitzer, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22.

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving," Albert Einstein said. The Life Balance Wheel provides a road map for that bicycle — a simple tool inviting people to notice the big picture of their lives and make deliberate choices. Sophia will assist participants to create their wheel coupled to practical steps forward; she will also share some

background. What is balance, for example? What is success? The evening is about evaluating what is important to us — so we may respond with clarity.

Through professional certification at Erickson College, Sophia helps people to become better leaders for themselves and their organizations. Learn more about her at www.spacebeyondwords.com.

Call the North Kohala Library at 889-6655 for more information. Program schedule is subject to change.

Contact the library 15 days in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is required.

Notice Anything New?

Our March issue was printed on a higher quality paper.

The text and ads are sharper and clearer, because the paper used is whiter. We will use this improved paper from now on. Also note, ad prices will remain the same, as they have for the last ten years.

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The Hawai'i Wildlife Center's History and Path Forward



In June 2008, Hawai'i Wildlife Center founder Linda Elliott (third from left) led dignitaries in the Center's groundbreaking ceremony. The construction period culminated with the opening of the Center in November 2011.

Photo courtesy of Hawai'i Wildlife Center

Story by Rae Okawa

April 2017 marks 10 years since the dedication of the site on Lighthouse Road that would become the home of the Hawai'i Wildlife Center facility. Back then, all that existed was a 3D-printed model of the facility produced by a Kealahou High School student, commitment of the land use by Surety Kohala and building plans generously donated by architects committed to making the Hawai'i Wildlife Center (HWC) facility a reality.

The site was blessed in 2007 by Larry Ursua and a performance by Halau Hula Ka Hana No'eau No Kalaniami. The project championed the slogan "Build it and they will fly," an acknowledgment of the impact the wildlife hospital will have for Hawai'i's native winged wildlife as well as a

metaphor for the growth to come. Reported in 2007, Representative Dwight Takamine shared that, "So much of this [project] is about kokua. All these people are here because they believe in what the project is about."

Fast forward to June 2008. A crowd gathered back on the same site on Lighthouse Road to witness a blessing by Danny Akaka, Jr., and celebrate the official groundbreaking ceremony kicking off construction of the Hawai'i Wildlife Center facility.

The same month, students from Kohala Middle School's UPLINK after school program painted a sign marking where the center will be built. After a year of navigating the building permitting process, construction began in 2009 and a flurry of activity followed. During

this time, HWC founder Linda Elliott also found herself being pulled to Michigan to respond to wildlife affected by a major oil spill in the Kalamazoo River. In the meantime, work continued on the HWC facility on Lighthouse Road and Linda returned home from the Michigan spill determined as ever to complete the HWC construction and create an emergency response resource for Hawai'i. The early months in 2011 were spent putting some final touches on the grounds. More than 100 volunteers from the community – many of them students at Kohala Middle School – gave their time to plant native Hawaiian plants in the garden and on the grounds.

Six U.S. Marines of the Marine Wing Support Squadron

171 helped carry and place the basalt slabs that would become the native garden benches, thus eliminating the need for expensive heavy lifting equipment.

Then, halfway through 2011, an anonymous donor generously gave the rest of the funding required to complete the facility and the date was set for HWC's grand opening. The HWC grand opening was on November 19, 2011. Over 400 friends, dignitaries, supporters and community members turned out in force to celebrate this milestone with Linda and the HWC Board of Directors. Kumu Raylene Ha'aieiea Kawaiaea chanted a blessing for the new center and Halau Kalaniami Alilou o Hawai'i Nei made a hana hou performance, once again

See Wild, Page 19

THE COQUI CORNER

The Coqui Hotline is heating up with the warm spring weather! The Coalition is responding to 3-4 calls a week, along with the ongoing efforts in Keokea and Niulii.



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Wild, continued from Page 18



Photo courtesy of Hawai'i Wildlife Center
Using from wood and steel, construction workers frame the Hawai'i Wildlife Center building.

honoring the crowd with their dance. The theme of the day was mahalo: honoring everyone who supported the project and who helped make the opening a reality. After the grand opening, the center had to complete its preparations to begin accepting patients. Aviaries were constructed in the recovery yard and the necessary permits were acquired from state and federal wildlife agencies.

The Hawai'i Wildlife Center accepted its first patient – a juvenile red-footed booby flown in from Kauai – in September 2012. Since then, each year the intake numbers at the wildlife hospital has grown, in addition to the number of calls from community members seeking rescue assistance. So where is HWC headed? In addition to growing wildlife hospital operations and conservation programs, with the opening of the new Ho'opulama Science and Discovery Center there are now more opportunities to grow education and outreach efforts as well.

The new exhibits give you an opportunity to view and diagnose wildlife x-rays, learn about what patients eat (and that a lot

of their favorite foods are similar to our favorite foods), get up close to lifelike native honeycreeper models, test your native species knowledge, take a virtual tour of the facility and watch videos of past patients and success stories. Come and spend some time at the center and learn about native wildlife, wildlife medicine and rehabilitation! HWC also has a retail shop with native bird- and bat-themed items and sales support the operations of the center. The Hawai'i Wildlife Center has come so far since that day in 2007 at an empty lot on Lighthouse Road.

The young seedlings and starters planted by the 100 volunteers in 2011 have thrived in the planters and native garden and now provide ground cover and shade to the approximately 1,000 annual visitors to the center. As we fondly reflect on the journey that has shaped us into who we are today, HWC recognizes that it is thanks to the Kohala community that HWC exists at all. Mahalo Kohala and we look forward to growing with you in the years ahead! For more information, including Science and Discovery Center hours, visit our website www.hawaiiwildlifecenter.org.

Celebration of Life for Mary Ann Neula Lim

Mary Ann Neula Lim, 81-year-old matriarch of the renowned musical and hula-talented Lim Family, passed from this lifetime on March 29, 2017. She was a resident of the land of her ancestors, North Kohala, Hawai'i Island.

She was also a devout member of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church. Mary Ann was a beautiful singer and recording artist, along with her late husband, Elmer K. S. Lim, Sr., and her children. Her daughters are noted hula dancers and kumu hula.

The next generation continue the legacy of music and hula of this gracious woman.

She is survived by her only living sibling, brother, Lawrence Lolena Neula (Lisa); her

children, Donna Mae Leialoha Lim Amina (Melvin), Nanette Nani Lim Yap (Edward), Charmaine Lim Davis (Sam), Elmer K. S. Sonny Kohala Lim Jr. (Donna Marie), Lorna Kapualiko Lim, James K. H. Kimo Lim (deceased); 13 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Celebration of Life will be as follows:

May 19: 5:00 p.m. Wake at Mary Ann Lim's residence, Kohala

May 20: 8:30 a.m. Visitation at Mormon Church, Kohala Ward; 11:00 a.m. Service; 1:00 p.m. Interment at Hawi County Cemetery; 2:00 p.m. Pa'ina at The HUB

Contact: Donna Amina at 808-630-0258 or donnaamina@gmail.com.



Photo by Donna Lim Amina
Mary Ann Neula Lim passed away on March 29, 2017.

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Beach Clean-up Volunteers Haul 830 Pounds of Debris From Pololu

By Stacey Breining

The Pololū Valley beach clean-up on March 28 was one of the first in a statewide clean up initiated by waterman Kai Lenny (Red Bull athlete) to raise awareness about the effects of pollution and marine debris on our oceans. Kai Lenny's goal to hydrofoil or stand-up-paddle across the state and participate in clean ups at each island was a huge success, in part due to the hundreds of volunteers who showed up along the way. This event was coordinated by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) and Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i (O'ahu) and others involved included local Kona gal, Alison Teal (of Alison's Adventures), 5 Gyres (California) and Surfrider Foundation members. This coalition continued to clean beaches from Kaua'i to Hawai'i, Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i and O'ahu. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund was involved on Hawai'i, Maui and Lāna'i clean-up events.

At Pololū, 69 volunteers hauled out 830 pounds of marine debris that washed up from the ocean in the remote valley, including several



(Left to right) Kanoë Phillips, Mason Myrmo, Karen Rosen and Kathleen Crabill surround a fishing net washed onto the shore at Pololu beach. Volunteers hauled the net out of Pololu Valley during the recent beach clean-up day, part of a six-island campaign initiated by waterman and athlete Kai Lenny to clean up beaches across the Hawaiian islands.

Photo by Andy Baker

large boat fragments and derelict fishing net bundles. Approximately 200 pounds of this debris was saved for recycling with Parlay and TerraCycle and to be used by local Kohala artists Karen Rosen and Mason Myrmo.

HWF works diligently to remove about 15 tons of marine debris from

Hawai'i Island's coastlines every year. Marine debris is any man-made object that ends up in our ocean or waterways. Marine debris in Hawai'i is mostly comprised of plastics, which do not biodegrade and are negatively impacting our oceans. HWF continues to remove debris from along our nearshore

coral reefs and coastlines to prevent future such entanglement and ingestion hazards with native wildlife.

Megan Lamson, HWF Program Director, says: "HWF is committed to removing marine debris from along our shorelines and working with local residents, businesses and government representatives to reduce the amount of plastic that finds its way into the ocean. Plastic pollution is a serious problem that now impacts most life forms that live in the ocean or use the ocean as a food source. But, it's a problem with an obvious solution. We must start reducing our usage of plastics, especially single-use plastics in order to protect the health of the ocean and the health of the wildlife and

people who depend on the ocean - all of us!"

HWF invites the community to join the quarterly cleanup efforts on Hawai'i Island and Maui and to learn more about their mission by going to www.wildhawaii.org or emailing kahakai.cleanups@gmail.com.

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