

Number of Ka'ū High Graduates Soars in Class of 2023

Ka'ū High's Class of 2023 numbered 72, the largest for many years, with more Marshallese and a growing number of students from the wave of Latin Americans moving here to work in the Ka'ū Coffee industry. The ceremonies for the small school on the big campus in Pāhala celebrated many achievements.

Principal Sharon Beck used the Hawaiian term 'A'ali'i Kū Makani to describe the stock of the families of the students. Beck explained that 'A'ali'i is a native plant and ku makani means strong wind. The words

"historically allude to the tough, independent nature of the people of Ka'ū and the beautiful tough land."

She noted that the words are also the inspiration for the 'A'ali'i Kū Makani sculpture in front of the main building on campus.

"Graduates be proud of being from Ka'ū and be proud of the skills and resilience you have developed over the years. With the hard work of our teachers and staff, our students have had some amazing opportunities." Beck described the Career

in Technical Education as a program that gives students real-world 21st-century skills in Arts and Communication, Business, Health Services, Industrial & Engineering Technology, Natural Resources and Public and Human Services. She noted that the state Department of Education "has a Goal for schools to have 68% of their graduating class to have completed a CTE program. Ka'ū High has surpassed that goal and has 77% of the class of 2023 completing a program."

Ka'ū High Graduation, pg. 3



Marshallese family with Ka'ū High graduate Ricehe Jorbon. Photo by Julia Neal

THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 21, Number 6

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

June 2023

El Niño Expected to Pump up Hurricane Season

El Niño is expected to engage with hurricane season, making Pacific waters warmer, powering the climate for hurricane development and strength. Central Pacific Hurricane Center predicted four to seven tropical cyclones during the 2023 hurricane season. The cyclones could become tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes and may or may not hit land.

The season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30 for the Western Pacific, north of the equator between 140 degrees West and the International Date Line, which includes Hawai'i.

Chris Brenchley, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Director of Central Pacific Hurricane Center, held a press conference and pointed out that hurricane season has been "very quiet for quite a few years and that may have lulled us into a sense of complacency." Brenchley predicted a greater than 50% chance for a busier-than-normal season and said, "It's more important than ever to review your emergency plan and supply kit now, so you will be prepared for the next hurricane threat."

The NOAA announcement came the day after Typhoon Mawar battered Guam and the Northern Marianas in the Western Pacific where typhoon season starts earlier, May 15 and lasts until Nov. 30, the same day hurricane season ends in Hawai'i. After lashing Guam, Mawar quickly strengthened on Thursday becoming a Super Typhoon with 175 mph winds, gusting to 210 mph, and headed toward the Philippines.

Congressman Ed Case said that the heavy impact of Typhoon Mawar "on our Guam, and Northern Marianas 'ohana, drive home yet again that we must assume and fully prepare for similar direct hurricane and other severe storm impacts on Hawai'i." Case sits on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security with federal funding and oversight authority over FEMA.

Case noted that as the President designates emergency assistance coordinated by

El Niño, pg. 10



Kamehameha School's Volcano Golf Course Tees Off for Kama'āina

Volcano Golf Course, with a recent hole-in-one by Janelle Akuna, see page 5, is reaching out to the community with kama'aina offers and special programs such as Tee & Taste, a collaboration with Volcano Winery. See Page 15. June is Women's Golf Month at Volcano. June 8 is Best Friends Day and June 17 is Father's Day, all with special offerings. Volcano Golf Course is owned by Kamehameha Schools and operated by Troon. See volcanogc.com and <https://www.facebook.com/VolcanoGolfCourse/>, with a link to its new online store.

Photo from Volcano Golf Course

Go for Broke Yonemitsu Celebrates 100 Years of Life

Iwao Yonemitsu is 100 years of age and celebrated at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji with a service and party in May. Yonemitsu was born on May 4, 1923, to Japanese parents who immigrated from Kumamoto Prefecture on Kyushu Island in southern Japan to work as laborers in sugar on the plantation at Pa'auilo, north of Hilo. He was the youngest of eight children. When Yonemitsu was an infant his parents moved to Ka'ū to work for Hutchinson Sugar Co. He has lived in Nā'ālehu ever since, except for a short stint at Honoka'a and consulting abroad, as well

as time away in the military and for college.

Yonemitsu graduated from Nā'ālehu School and Hilo High School and attended the University of Hawai'i in Honolulu. He was there when World War II broke out.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Yonemitsu signed up for the U.S. military to show his allegiance to the U.S., while many other Japanese across the country were pulled from their homes and jobs to detention camps in a climate of fear.

Yonemitsu 100, pg. 10



Iwao and Alice Yonemitsu, of Nā'ālehu, during a celebration of Iwao's 100th birthday. Photo by Julia Neal

Felicidad Villegas: Outstanding Older American for Hawai'i Island

Felicidad Villegas is Outstanding Older American Woman for Hawai'i County for 2023. The 76-year-old Pāhala resident, called Fely, was honored in May at Waikoloa with appointments to meet the mayor and County Council, before receiving more recognition during a trip to Honolulu.

Villegas retired from a career in culinary at Volcano House. The bio from nomination papers, submitted by



Retired Volcano House baker Fely Villegas with cookies for Pāhala Food Hub distribution of local made food. Photo by Julia Neal

Pāhala Nutrition Program and Senior Club, notes that Villegas joined the organization back in 2009. "She continues to be an integral part of our program. In addition to her daily duties at the Nutrition Center, she continues to spend many hours at the Pāhala Senior Garden, helping to grow fresh produce for our local senior citizens. She is a willing volunteer, no matter what the task, and brings a lot of enthusiasm to her work."

For years, Villegas has helped to bring seniors to the Center in the morning and back home after lunch. She assists with lunch pick-up and also helps with transportation for medical, shopping and recreation.

The bio says, "In addition, she often helps those who are in need by informally providing rides in her own personal vehicle. In a small rural area such as ours, this sort of informal transportation assistance can be key to maintaining the wellness of our community members."

Villegas, pg. 15

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Also in this issue:

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Mission Accomplished, Mizuno Store Blessed, Carries On

Mizuno Superette changed hands with a blessing and many maile lei on May 12.



Jane Ueda, a Mizuno family member who worked at Mizuno Superette when Pāhala Shopping Center first opened, is 97 years of age. At the blessing, she cheered on the transition that keeps Pāhala's only grocery store open.

Photo by Julia Neal

The Pāhala grocer transferred operations to 'Ohana Foods which also operates in Hilo and Nā'ālehu with its Wikiwiki 76 gas station and store. Members of the Mizuno family, including 97-year-old Jane Ueda, who worked at the store when the shopping center first opened, gave a thumbs up for the transition. Speakers also thanked Rochelle Hara, who



Pastor Troy Gacayan practices the tradition of oiling the entry to Mizuno as guests hold up their hands during the blessing for the opening.

Photo by Julia Neal

came to Pāhala over 33 years ago with her late husband Derek Hara. Rochelle operated Mizuno's for many years on her own until making the sale to Olson and turning over operations to 'Ohana Foods.

Longtime Mizuno workers with new responsibilities and titles in the 'Ohana Foods company received lei and congratulations from the chief of 'Ohana Foods, Carl Okuyama. He talked about the history of providing food in the village, with Mizuno's starting in the sugar cane camp in 1925. He said he plans to keep the name Mizuno and honor the history of the town, including production of a pictorial history at the entrance to the store and online.

Pastor Troy Gacayan, who also blessed the opening of Longs at Pāhala Shopping Center in 2013, gave the blessing for the Mizuno transition on Friday. He talked about the Mizuno family being steeped in the history of food in Pāhala. The store was important to his own childhood in Pāhala. He would go there often for snacks. It was the place where he could often find his grandfather sitting on the bench talking story with his friends.

Oldtimers who these days sit outside Mizuno in the early mornings came to the blessing and enjoyed free refreshments.

The blessing included rubbing a special oil on the main entry door of the store while attendees held up their hands for the blessing.

On hand were leaders of the Edmund C. Olson Trust, including Ed Olson himself who green-lighted the purchase of the store to keep it from closing down. CEO

Jeff Clark, OK Farms head Troy Keolanui, Real Estate manager Dan Aldrich, and Ka'ū Coffee Mill manager Lou Daniele joined in. Frank Lorenzo, Sr., who was born and raised in Pāhala and serves as manager of Ka'ū Farms Management for Olson, also joined in the blessing.

Olson Trust bought the main part of the shopping center in April of 2021, with its bank, post office, Longs and the addition of a hair salon and coffee shop.

Also at the blessing was Kona Moran, the real estate broker who praised all parties involved and the community for seeing that Pāhala kept its food store.

From the 'Ohana Foods family, were Carly Okuyama, Amy Okuyama and daughter-in-law Sherry Okuyama.

As a mahalo for caring about food for the community, Pāhala Food Hub gifted to



Assistant manager Carla Andrade accepts a poi pounder on behalf of retiring Mizuno owner Rochelle Hara. The poi pounder was handmade by retired Ka'ū High teacher Adrian Akau. It is a gift from Pāhala Food Hub to honor Hara's 33 years of dedication in providing food for the village.

Photo by Julia Neal

Mizuno's, pg. 3



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THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

The Good News of Ka'ū
June 2023, Vol. 21, No. 6
The Ka'ū Calendar
P.O. Box 940, Pāhala, HI 96777
Phone: 808-937-9965 (www.kaucaledar.com)

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or kaucaledarads@gmail.com
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Saturday Night at the Pāhala Theatre Author Returns to Inspire Graduates

Poet and novelist Lois-Ann Yamanaka shared with graduating seniors at Ka'ū High School her ideas of remaining idealistic, original, one-of-a-kind and off-beat throughout her life. She was keynote speaker at graduating ceremonies in the Robert Herkes Ka'ū District Gym on May 19. She said that even though she was not a notable scholar or athlete, not a distinguished graduate, and even considered herself "a donkey in a flock of sheep," at her own graduation she told herself, "I will change the world." She said she fought against corruption and was a risk-taker. She encouraged graduates to likewise forge their own paths of individuality and passion and to resist being placed into a box.

Yamanaka has long been acknowledged for bringing attention and respect to the pidgin spoken throughout Hawai'i, illuminating the texture and complexities of life among immigrant sugar plantation families.

She grew up in Pāhala, where her dad

was vice-principal at the school for many years. She was immersed in the pidgin way of talking.

She told the graduating students and their families and friends that she and her sisters know that Pāhala was the best place they ever lived. She told the graduating students about her memories of Ka'ū, baby turtles, glass floaters, and the old windmill at Kalae. She recalled going to Pāhala Theatre and using toilet paper to wipe off the seats covered with soot from the sugar mill.

While here for the Friday commencement ceremonies, she was able to stay in one of the old teachers' cottages where she said she was conceived.

Yamanaka earned her high school degree in Hilo and bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and became a teacher and author. Her first book was *Saturday Night at the Pāhala Theatre*.

Her books delve into pidgin, revealing the "utter complexity, ferocious beauty



Dexasilyn Navarro, who teaches at Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary, with her classmate from years ago, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, author and expert in pidgin dialect widely spoken in Hawai'i. They sit on the stairs of an old Pāhala school teacher cottage where Yamanaka's parents lived. Yamanaka was commencement speaker at Ka'ū High on Friday, May 19.

Photo by Julia Neal

and sometimes absurdity of our ethnic relationships here in the islands. The way we language about each other and with each other in 'talk story' communities resonates in me with every word I write," she said in a Wikipedia quote.

Yamanaka has written five novels and one young adult novel. In addition to

Saturday Night at the Pāhala Theatre, her works include *Wild Meat and the Bully Burger*, *Blu's Hanging*, *Heads by Harry*, *Name Me Nobody*, *Behold the Many*, and *Snow Angel*, *Sand Angel*. She has won numerous book awards and writing grants from foundations.

Ka'ū High Graduation, from pg. 1

Beck also explained the HOSA Future Health Professionals program at the school. It is a nationwide, student-led organization supported by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of the Association for Career & Technical Education. "We have 16 seniors who are members with nine participating in the HOSA Competitions. Five made States and three not only qualified for States but qualified for the National Competition. HOSA students were able to complete the OSHA health certification, CPR HeartSaver and First Aid Certification and the HIPAA Certification through Hilo Medical Center." She named the HOSA standouts as Rutha Lamille, Tayler Rasmussen and Sean Ancheta.

Beck recognized students who have excelled in the visual arts. Kaira Pensula won an Honorable Mention for the youth division in this year's Hawai'i Nei exhibition, in addition to a Silver Key award in this year's Scholastics Art & Writing Competition. Crystal Quigley won one Gold Key and Silver Key Awards in this year's Scholastic Art

& Writing Competition, and was awarded a scholarship by the Windward Artists Guild for these artworks. "Both Kaira and Crystal were also honored by the House of Representatives for their awards and exhibition in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition by State Rep. District 5."

The Principal noted that "Athletics is an important way for students to learn teamwork, goal setting, and how to manage their time to ensure they are keeping their grades in good standing. Thirty-four of our graduates are athletes." Athletic Director Jaime Guerpo announced the following awards: Male Scholar-Athlete - Patrick Riehle, Male Senior Award - Collin Hanshew and Female Senior Award - Hulali Baji. Beck said that KHPEs esports club provides students with a safe environment to compete against other high school teams at the state and national level in competitive video games, such as League of Legends, Overwatch, Valorant, Rocket League, and Super Smash Brothers. Senior members include Patrick Riehle, Marcky Tamayo, Ivan Ramos, Rylan Perлата, and Chloe Gabini. Together, they came

in second place in the Vanta Hawai'i State High School Valorant Championships, losing to Castle High after defeating Iolani and Kea'au in the playoffs.

Future Farmers of America has been re-established at Ka'ū High, noted the Principal. "They were able to raise \$5,000 in their fundraising to take students on three field trips and to the District and State Convention. Three seniors have completed a range of projects on our school farm. Ka'ū's chapter also secured a \$500 scholarship for one of our seniors." She named standouts Collin Hanshew, ShaniaLee Silva, and Jance Kajiwarra-Ke.

Beck also noted an agreement and partnership with Hawai'i Community College. Ka'ū High students are able to concurrently earn dual high school and college credits through the Dual Credit Program. Students enrolled in Spring 2023 courses were Caius Jenson, Crystal Quigley, ShalniaLee Silva, Kaira Pensula, Kawai Smith, Riley-Ann Brown, Hulali Baji, Catherine Quigley and Rutha Lamille.

Another component of education at the school is The Ka'ū Global Learning Lab Internship Program that Beck described as "internships/work-based learning with an expert mentor in a field of the student's interest; students complete an authentic experience that benefits both the student and the mentor's worksite." She pointed to four Student Interns, two Student Ag Workers, and Five Afterschool Student Tutors. She named Riley-Ann Brown, Caius Jenson, Candace Keohulua, ShaniaLee Silva, Jance Kajiwarra-Ke, Sean Ancheta, Rutha Lamille, Catherine Quigley and Crystal Quigley.

Beck also announced two recipients of the new \$800 Hawai'i Civic Club of Ka'ū Memorial Scholarship in memory of Kupuna Jeanette Kaulani Akiu Howard. They are Candace Keohulua and Kawai Smith.

The Principal pointed to more student accomplishments and proclaimed to the class of 73 graduates, "Ka'ū High and Pāhala Elementary may be small but we are mighty."



Olson Trust CEO Jeff Clark and Ed Olson, who purchased Mizuno Store to keep it open under the stewardship of Carl Okuyama who also operates his Nā'ālehu food store and gas station as part of 'Ohana Foods.

Photo by Julia Neal

Mizuno's, from pg. 2

Rochelle Hara, Ed Olson, Carl Okuyama and Kona Moran, poi pounders carved from stone by retired Ka'ū High School teacher Adrian Akau.

For now, the hours remain the same, *The Ka'ū Calendar*

6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Sundays.

Okuyama said he is interested in hearing suggested services and items to carry. Suggestions can be dropped off at the store.

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Ka'ū Future Farmers Relaunched with Greenhand Degree

Future Farmers of America held its first Ka'ū banquet in more than 15 years and presented awards and certificates to high school student members. The event on Friday, May 5, was staged in the Robert Herkes District Gym Multipurpose Room with families, students and alumni attending.

During the FFA banquet, Ka'ū High agriculture teacher Kaweni Ibarra, Jessie Denny, Cynthia Emmsley, and Janelle Cardenas, who are all advisors for Ka'ū High's newly relaunched FFA, helped facilitate the event with the chapter officers.

FFA chapter officers summarized their accomplishments for the year and members who participated in the FFA Greenhand Degree program received certificates of recognition.

The Chapter Star Greenhand title went



David Fuertes, guest speaker at the Ka'ū FFA banquet. Photo from Kahua Pa'a Mua

to Jacelyn Jara. The Chapter Star Farmer title went to Pomai Kajiwaru-Ke. The Spark Plug Award went to Nicoli Makuakane, and the All the Way Award to Ezekiel Kaawa-Kamimura. Pomai Kajiwaru-Ke was also awarded a scholarship from Ka'ū FFA Alumni Marvin Min and his company Hawaiian Earth Products.

Future Farmers of America nationwide considers itself "the premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture."

Guest speaker was David Fuertes, the retired agriculture teacher and FFA advisor from Kohala, who operates Kahua Pa'a Mua, a nonprofit that teaches people to farm in order to earn a living and feed their families, with a focus on traditional Hawaiian crops and Korean Natural Farming.



Ka'ū High Ag teacher and FFA advisor Kaweni Ibarra, FFA student member Jance Kajiwaru-Ke, and advisor, Jessie Denny hold three awards for Ke including Star Farmer. He also received a scholarship. Photo From FFA

He is also a leader in establishing certified kitchens for farmers.

Fuertes spoke on the innovation and persistence of agriculture in Ka'ū, following the 1996 shutdown of one of the first

and the very last sugar plantation on the island. Fuertes highlighted the successful careers of many Ka'ū Future Farmers of America alumni.

Hawai'i Police Department Launches Continuous Recruitment

Hawai'i Police Department launched continuous recruitment in May, announcing that it may start new recruit classes as often as quarterly. It's "part of our recruitment efforts to make it easier for individuals to serve as police officers," said the HPD statement.



Hawai'i Police Department has launched continuous recruitment. This is the 96th graduating class from Dec. 30th, 2022. Pay starts at \$69,940 per year. Photo from HPD

Previously, those interested in becoming a police officer could only apply

twice a year during a ten-day application window. Now, applicants for an entry-level police officer can apply year-round via the County website: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/countyhawaii/>.



As part of the new recruitment process, Hawai'i County Department of Human Resources offers monthly tests for qualified applicants. The first test is slated for June 26. About a week before the test date, county Department of Human Resources will close the continuous recruitment to finalize the list. The Police Officer Recruit job announcement will immediately reopen with new test dates for each subsequent month.

Starting salary for Police Officer I positions is \$68,940 a year with benefits, including paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, military leave, health insurance, group life insurance, uniforms and equipment stipend, automobile subsidy, and retirement.

"In addition, we will soon begin hiring new officers early through a pilot program with the County," says Chief Ben Moskowitz. "Once potential new officers have

completed the background check, polygraph, psychological, and medical aspects of the process and are ready to be hired, we will be extending job offers, with recruits officially starting their one-year probation when they start the academy.

"This is different than before, when new recruits used to have to wait until a recruit class started, sometimes several months after they applied. By using this early-hire model, we hope to get people ac-

climated to the department's culture, help them to find a mentor in the department, and get them physically working out with the existing recruit classes. Then, their one-year probation period will begin when the recruit class starts.

"We'll also be increasing the number of recruit academy classes per year," adds the Police Chief. "Once the department has between 10 and 20 candidates to fill a recruit class, roughly every four months,

Police Recruitment, pg. 15

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 21, Number 6

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

June 2023

Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo Returns in July

Rodeo will take over the Ka'ū Roping & Riding grounds in Nā'ālehu for the weekend of July 8 and 9, to honor Fourth of July, the search is on for Rodeo Queen, age eight to 18.

Sponsorships for belt buckles and arena advertising, as well as contributions to the nonprofit Ka'ū Roping & Riding Association are welcomed. The group is raising

money to purchase land to expand the rodeo grounds to include more parking. For more information and to nominate a young lady for Rodeo Queen, call or text Tammy Kaapana at 808-854-7917.

The annual rodeo starts with Slack Roping at 8 a.m. on both days, with competition beginning at noon at Nā'ālehu Rodeo Grounds.



Roping events will highlight the July 8-9 rodeo in Nā'ālehu. Photo by Brenda Iokepa Moses

Paniolo will vie for the titles of All Around Cowgirl and All Around Cowboy. Working paniolo and kupuna compete. Events include: Open Dally, Kane-Wahine Dally, Century Team Roping, Ranch Mugging, Double Mugging, Rescue Race and Po'o Wai U, Tie Down, Wahine Breakaway and Youth Barrels.

Events for keiki include: Goat undecorating and dummy roping.

Ka'ū Roping & Riding is considered the organization that puts on one of the most traditional family-style rodeo experiences in all of Hawai'i.



Po'o Wai U is a traditional Hawaiian competition that evolved from catching cattle in the wild and tying them to trees while gathering the rest. Photo by Leilani Esperanza



Miloli'i-Ka'ū Volleyball Club's bright shirts with native design light up Robert Herkes Ka'ū District Gym in May. Photo by Julia Neal

Miloli'i-Ka'ū Hosts 16 Teams in May Volleyball Tournament

For the Miloli'i-Ka'ū Volleyball Tournament in May, 16 teams from eight clubs from as far away as O'ahu came to Ka'ū for the games organized by Kaimi Kaupiko and crew. Miloli'i-Ka'ū Girls won the 16s category. In the 14s category, Mauloa Girls won, with second going to AMP.

The clubs were Miloli'i-Ka'ū, Keaukaha, Pu'uki, AMP, Maunalani from O'ahu, Ho'opa, Mauloa and Hi Intensity.

Maunalani's coach, who hosts the club at Kamehameha School gym on O'ahu with team members from Kapolei and other parts of Honolulu, said she looks forward to the event becoming an annual tournament with more students from around the state traveling to Ka'ū.

Akuna Nails a Volcano Hole-in-One

A hole-in-one at Volcano Golf Course was scored by Janelle Akuna, reports Volcano Golf Course General Manager Dawn Crozier. She said Akuna accomplished the feat on Hole #3 on April 23, using a hybrid club from the forward tees approximately 105 yards to the hole. This was Akuna's first HIO.

Akuna said, "In a nutshell, I hit the ball and it looked as though it went over the green. We looked everywhere for the ball. Someone said, "Look in the hole!"

and lo and behold there it was! I ran to the hole in disbelief-looked at my husband and said, "Do you still love me?" as he hasn't had a hole in one yet-and he's played years



Janelle Akuna, after her Hole-in-One at Volcano Golf Course. Photo from Volcano Golf Course

longer than me." Akuna is a resident of Hawaiian Paradise Park and she and her husband Angel are frequent players at the course.

Volcano Golf Course is owned by Kamehameha Schools and operated by Troon, which manages nine courses in the Hawaiian Islands, including Mauna Lani. Troon operates more than 665 courses worldwide.

Volcanogc.com gives the description: "For over 100 years at Volcano Golf Course, guests have been treated

to panoramic views of both Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea while playing alongside endemic 'ōhi'a trees that bloom vibrant red, Akuna's Hole-in-one, pg. 15

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

EAST HAWAII SUMMER 2023

FREE to All Registered Users

- *Open to ages 12-17
- *Must have swimming skills
- *Able to run/swim for 200 yards non-stop 100% effort with no assistance
- *Qualifying swims will be held on Saturday, June 17th

This is NOT a learn-to-swim program!

One-week course will familiarize participants with ocean safety and beach rescue skills

Introduction to Water Safety- Team Work- First Aid- CPR- Surf Rescue Techniques- Beach/Ocean Hazard Awareness

REGISTRATION & Swim Test

June 17th 9:00am

(Registration Locations For All Sessions)

HILO: Richardson's Beach Park
KAU: Punalu'u Beach Park

-Parent or guardian must be present to sign waiver form at time of registration

-Registration is on a first come, first served basis

-Limit of 25 students per session. However, limit may be adjusted based on instructor availability

Schedule

SESSION 1: June 19th thru June 23rd 9:00am - 1:00pm (Hilo & Kau)

SESSION 2: June 26th thru June 30th 9:00am - 1:00pm (Hilo & Kau)

SESSION 3: July 10th thru July 14th 9:00am - 1:00pm (Hilo Only)

SESSION 4: July 24th thru July 28th 9:00am - 1:00pm (Hilo Only)

BIG ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP @ Hapuna August 5th

Please remember to bring fins, athletic shoes, swim shorts/bathing suit, lunch, drinks, towel, and sunscreen each day

For donations or more information call East Hawaii Ocean Safety at 808-339-5204

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KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

Ka'ū Grads In Tune with Bountiful Environment

Ka'ū High Valedictorian Tayler Rasmussen plans to go to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and its pharmacy school. In her speech to the 73 graduating seniors on May 19, she encouraged her classmates to keep meeting challenges and accomplishing their dreams. "Over these past four and more years, we've dealt with a plethora of obstacles and mishaps. Whether it was a magnitude 4.9 earthquake, or making it to our advisory classes, we have stood by each other, similar to how we stand here at this moment."



Ka'ū High valedictorian Tayler Rasmussen plans to go to Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo. Photo by Julia Neal

somewhere hidden in the rocks that reads, 'You can not because you are from Ka'ū.'

"There is only me telling you right now that I know that all of you are entirely capable of anything you desire to do, but only if you contribute continuous time, perseverance, and raw devotion to your goal. What I said is much easier said than done, but it is necessary to your success, and the future success of our community."

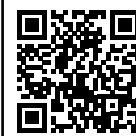
"My dad whom some of you might know as your math teacher, once told me, 'You can't assume

anything.' And while he was referring to my expectation that my physics teacher would grade my assignments before mid-quarters, that phrase is applicable to any and all of your aspirations. Nothing is ever gained through passiveness, through waiting for that change that should have already been granted. It might be unfair,

but your only choice of action that induces progress is to fight for what you want and more importantly what you deserve. Advocating for intentions is not only entirely possible but your responsibility."

See more on the Ka'ū High School

graduation in Saturday's *Ka'ū News Briefs*.



Read Ka'ū News Briefs Daily at kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com



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Many Receive Honors at Ka'ū High Class of 2023 Graduation

Student awards were plentiful during graduation for Ka'ū High Class of 2023 on Friday, May 19 at Robert Herkes Ka'ū District Gym.

The Real Trojan Awards went to Catherine Quigley for English Language Arts, Caius Jensen for Mathematics, Riley-ann Brown for Science, Sephsen Lakjohn for Social Studies, Jance Kajiwarra-Ke for Career in Technical Education and Collin Hanshew for Electives.

Salute the Graduates Awards went to Sean Arken Ancheta for Scholastics, Jance Kajiwarra-Ke for Leadership, Crystal Quigley for Literacy & Artistic Performance, Tayler Rasmussen for Information Technology and ShaniaLee Silva for Athletics.

Senior Class President was Sean Arken Ancheta, Vice President was Toby Kekoa-Burgos. Secretary was ShaniaLee Silva and Treasurer was Patrick Riehle.

Ancheta, who is 2023 Summa Cum



ShaniaLee Silva received a Salute the Graduates Award for Sports and also served as Secretary for the Class of 2023. Photo by Julia Neal

Laude thanked Wikipedia, Air-Drop and Google for helping the students make it to graduation. He celebrated the cultural diversity of his classmates, from Hawaiian to Filipino, Marshallese to Portuguese. He praised the diversity of the student body from ethnicity and outlook to abilities in sports to esports. He praised the students' tenacity in making it through Covid, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, along with earthshaking world events.

Ancheta urged students to "Be true to yourself.... Embrace your unique quality," and remember that "Relationships are the foundation for success."



Collin Hanshew, who earned Magna Cum Laude and a Real Trojan Award for Electives, shown here after graduation, standing with his mom Carma Hanshew, a staff member at Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary. Photo by Julia Neal



Many lei and many fans praised the 73 who graduated from the Class of 2023 at Ka'ū High. Photo by Julia Neal



Family and friends portraits after the graduation. Photo by Julia Neal



Graduates Alexis and Gabriel Miranda with their grandpa, who came to the U.S. years ago from El Salvador to seek the American dream. The family has become successful in Ka'ū Coffee farming and retail. Photo by Anita Miranda



Sean Arken Ancheta, Senior Class President and Summa Cum Laude, won a Salute the Graduates Award for Scholastics.



Families and friends joined the graduates outside of the gym for the lei and balloons festivities. Photo by Julia Neal



Zane Rodrigues and family after graduation. Photo by Julia Neal



Principal Sharon Beck presents the diplomas. Photo by Julia Neal

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MU'OLAULANI HULA PERFORMANCE will be on Friday June 2 at 2:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Public Library, 95-5669 Māmalahoa Hwy. Mu'olaulani is a contemporary Hawaiian dance company with Kumu Hula Michael Pili Pang. The 45-minute program is for all ages. Sponsored by Friends of the Library and 2023 Summer Reading sponsors. Call 808-939-4422 for more.

PALM TRAIL HIKE on Saturday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a 2.6 mile loop along an old ranch road that leads to volcanic features from the 1868 eruption. Discover relics of the ranching era and learn about huihiihā (catastrophic change) and kūlia (restoration). Enjoy panoramic views of Kahuku and the Ka'ū coast. This is a 3-hour program.

REALMS & DIVISIONS OF KAHUKU is the program on Sunday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Discover the classification system, the realms and the vertical and horizontal land divisions that have been used in Hawai'i for centuries. This is a moderately easy 1 mile, 1.5 hour hike on Kamakapa'a Trail.

OPEN MIC AT TIKI MAMA'S on Sunday, June 4 noon to 5 p.m. 92-9122 Hawai'i Belt Rd, Ocean View.

THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY: A JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE is the talk at After Dark in the Park on Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium. The Battle of Midway, June 4 - 7, 1942, marked a turning point in World War II. U.S. Navy and Imperial Japanese Navy stood toe-to-toe battling for control of the Pacific. From the first decoded messages to the strategic decisions that would alter the course of history, Ben Hayes, historian and program manager for the park's Interpretation & Education team, explains this epic conflict from a different perspective. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

THE KA'Ū FIELD SYSTEM: FARMING THE ROCK is a hike on Saturday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m. Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Walk along an old ranch road to the remnants of the field system. Learn how pre-western-contact Hawaiians intensively farmed this area and fed the large population of Kahuku. This is an easy 1/2 mile, 1 hour hike to kipuka kā'opapa and back.

HALAU HULA O MANA'OLANA O KOHALA performs at the pā hula in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on Saturday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by Volcano Art Center. Also performing will be Na Kupuna 'O Kohala, Kohala and Hula Kalaniumi a Liloa, both under the direction of Kumu Kauī Nakamura.

ŌHIA LEHUA IS AN EASY WALK WITH INTERPRETATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11 at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn about the vital role of 'ōhi'a lehua in native Hawaiian forests, the many forms of the 'ōhi'a tree, and the threat of a new fungal disease, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Identify the many differences of the most prominent native tree in Kahuku during the one-mile (or less), one-hour walk.

ULANA LAUHALA DEMONSTRATION on Wednesday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at the 'Ōhi'a Wing, across Crater Rim Drive from Kīlauea Visitor Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn to weave lauhala with practitioners from 'Aha Pūhala o Puna. Hawaiians have used hala (pandanus) tree to create many useful and beautiful items for centuries. Take home a small piece of lauhala art. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's ongoing 'Ike Hana No'eau, Experience the Skillful Work Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

SAVING WAHI PANI IN KA'Ū is the Coffee Talk on Saturday, June 17 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Wahi Pani are the storied places. PONC Commissioner Alexandra Kelepolo and La Crivello will explain how the PONC program and tax dollars are used to preserve Public access, Open space, and Natural and cultural resources through the Commission.

JAZZ IN THE FOREST on Saturday, June 17 at Volcano Art Center Nīaualani Campus JP Thoma & the Jazztones will feature music of

jazz trumpet virtuoso Miles Davis and much more. Tickets are \$25 for VAC members and \$30 for non-members. See <https://volcanoartcenter.org/events/>
PU'U O LOKUANA CINDER CONE is a hike on Sunday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. On the 0.4 mile loop, learn how a cinder cone is formed and uses of this hill over time. Enjoy a breathtaking view of lower Ka'ū from its peak. Why is (and was) it considered a kumu waiwai (a source of wealth) by the many different inhabitants of Kahuku?

UĒKAHUNA, THOMAS A. JAGGAR MUSEUM & HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY is the After Dark in the Park talk on Tuesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. For decades, Jaggar Museum has welcomed people from all over the world, sharing volcano science and Hawaiian culture adjacent to the awe-inspiring view that is Kīlauea volcano. The earthquakes of the 2018 eruption and summit collapse damaged the foundations of the historic buildings beyond repair. Join Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura, Ph.D., on a journey through the past of this sacred place known as Uēkahuna. The evolution of the area will be shared on the eve of the park's efforts to restore a more natural landscape and provide a dramatic viewing area and rest stop for locals and visitors alike. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

BERT NAIHE HAWAIIAN CONCERT on Wednesday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Born and raised in Hilo, Naihe enjoys the art of Hawaiian music and performs with Hālau o ka Ua Kanilehua and Kumu Hula Johnny Lum Ho. Naihe's first CD, *You're the One*, was released in 2014 and features his own catchy versions of long-time favorites. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's ongoing Nā Leo Manu Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

THE EVOLUTION OF KAPĀPALA RANCH is the talk at Thursday Night at the Center on June 22. Venue is Volcano Art Center's Nīaualani Campus in Volcano Village. It begins at 6 p.m. with Lani and Bill Petrie covering the ecosystem through time of the lava and soil on Kapāpala. Lani will discuss the Great Mahele and what it meant for the Kapāpala area and the history of the ranch, starting with the plantation days. The ranch house was built in 1860 making it one of the oldest standing structures in Ka'ū. She will talk about the role of the National Park, State Forest Reserves, Public Highway, Ohaieka and Kipuka Ki and their relationships to Kapāpala Ranch.

BIRTH OF KAHUKU EXPLORES GEOLOGIC HISTORY on a moderate 1.5 mile, 1.2 hour hike, traversing the vast 1868 lava flow on Saturday, June 24 at 9:30 a.m. from Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. See different volcanic formations, including the Southwest Rift Zone of Mauna Loa. Learn about the Kānāwai o Pele, the natural laws of land building that govern Pele's realm.

PĀHALA HONGWANJI TAIKO PRESENTS PEACEFUL FOREST ENSEMBLE with Takumi Kato and Family on Saturday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Free admission.

HI'IAKA & PELE IS A MODERATE HIKE on Sunday, June 25 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The trail leads to discovery of two fascinating Hawaiian goddesses, sisters Pele-honua-mea (Pele) and Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-o-pele, and the natural phenomena they represent. Visitors will experience the sisters through the epic stories depicted in the natural landscape of Kahuku on this moderate two-mile, 1.5 hour hike.

June Calendar, pg. 9

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Lā'au Letters: Native Plants of Ka'ū

Welcome to *Lā'au Letters: Native Plants of Ka'ū*. Read about Ka'ū's native plants and their mo'olelo (stories), uses, preferred habitats, and opportunities to adopt them for stewardship. This column seeks to encourage making new plant friends and to reunite with others.



Kauila (*Colubrina oppositifolia*)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

Kauila (*Colubrina oppositifolia*)

Description: Sure, I get excited about all native plants, but this one is really special and fun to talk about. Kauila, or *Colubrina oppositifolia*, is an endemic tree species in the Rhamnaceae or Buckthorn family that is recognized as endangered. Its cousins include *Alphitonia ponderosa*, which is also referred to as kauila or kauwila (but is not endangered) and three endangered species of *Gouania*. As the species name *oppositifolia* implies, the leaves grow in pairs opposite of each other along the stems, and the next pair form perpendicular to the prior pair. The bark is brown to gray and tends to flake off of the trunk, and the new twigs emerge reddish, changing to light brown when they mature. The smooth-edged leaves are relatively thin and oval shaped, growing about 2-4" long and 2" wide, coming to a pointy end at the tip. The light green leaf veins can be clearly seen, and the leaf stems are about 1" long and reddish in color. Flower clusters form where leaf stems grow from the branch, and the small (1/4" diameter) flowers bloom greenish yellow in bunches of about 10. As with all Rhamnaceae, the fruits form with three visibly-parted capsules or berries. The ripe and woody brown seed pods are dehiscent (a fancy word for explosive) and can scatter seeds several feet away.

Uses: Kauila has an impressive multitude of uses. Being one of the hardest of all Hawaiian woods (kauila is so dense that it will even sink in water.), kauila was used similarly to metal (prior to the introduction of metal to Hawai'i). For example, kauila was used by Kānaka Maoli to make 'ō'ō (digging sticks), kāhilo poles (feather stands), as well as for spears, daggers, and bait sticks for fishing. Kauila wood was also used in many aspects of the creation of kapa (bark cloth), including as lā'au kahi wauke (prepping boards for kapa), and for kapa beaters and grooving tools, and the leaves and bark produce a lovely bluish kapa dye. Kauila wood was also used in games and sports, including 'ō'ō ihe (spear throwing) and kaka lā'au (spear fencing). Hōlua sled runners were also made from kauila wood. The wood was also crafted into ka lā'au (hula sticks) and 'ūkēkē (musical bows). Medicinally, kauila was used for kūhewa (heart failure due to strokes). Remember, because kauila is endangered, it is protected by State and Federal laws. So if you do come across a wild kauila, take home only memories and photographs.

Habitat: Kauila is rare throughout its natural range and is restricted to remnant dry to mesic forests on O'ahu, West Maui, and Hawai'i Island. It was historically found as low as 700' and up to about 3,000' elevation. Unfortunately, habitat loss and degradation has contributed to the decline in kauila populations. To highlight its rarity, Hawai'i Island has the most remaining trees (~500, mostly in North Kona), while O'ahu has 50 and Maui only has one wild tree left. In Ka'ū, kauila lives on in mo'olelo (stories). In another form, Kauila was the name given to the legendary honu of Punalu'u because her eggshell resembled the dark wood of the kauila tree.

Growing and Purchasing: Again, because kauila is endangered, please resist the temptation to collect seeds (which have a very low germination rate), and seek out kauila from your favorite nursery that is certified to sell endangered species. While I have never seen a kauila for sale, if you happen to legally purchase one, let your kauila get used to the conditions where you live for about a month before you plant it (and please let me know where you found one.). They will be happy with full sun and require good drainage, so put them in an area amended with cinder or organic soils. Once your kauila becomes established, be sure not to over water it. Unfortunately, kauila tend to be impacted by a black twig borer, *Xylosandrus compactus*, so be vigilant and check your tree often for small holes in the stems. If you are just itching to find a kauila to admire, please contact the author for some ideas of where to visit one in a protected forest.



Joan Yoshioka

About the artist: Joan Yoshioka says she is a conservationist at heart and has dedicated her life to preserving the native plants and animals of Hawai'i through her work with federal, state, and private organizations over the past 30+ years. She describes herself as an outdoor-lovin' optimist, biologist/botanist, and habitual creator of art-stuff. She says the key to our most fundamental and truest part of ourselves is found in nature and she constantly draws on it for inspiration.

About the author: Jodie Rosam says she has a deep love for native plants and a passion for exploration, with over 15 years of experience in working in the restoration of Hawai'i's forests. As a mother and an educator, she says the next generation has the power to lead the world to a sustainable future, and is committed to teaching her children (and others) from a place-based perspective.



Jodie Rosam

JUNE '23

June Calendar, from pg. 8

OPEN MIC AT TIKI MAMA'S on Sunday, June 25, noon to 5 p.m. 92-9122 Hawai'i Belt Rd, Ocean View.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ANDY WARNER, A *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST SELLING COMICS JOURNALIST, returns with an After Dark in the Park talk on Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Warner will present the creative mind behind the art. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the National Parks Arts Foundation. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY

PICKLEBALL at Kahuku Park in Ocean View on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. To learn more and register, contact Jaquie Woodmansee at (808) 929-7092.

YOGA at Kahuku Park in Ocean View on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 - 10 a.m. To learn more and register, contact Trisha Meyer at +1 (208) 353-3594.

NET RECOVERY PATROL on Mondays with Hawai'i Wildlife Fund. The team and core volunteers conduct marine debris recovery efforts targeting large debris items, including derelict fishing net and line bundles, that are especially hazardous to marine wildlife. Contact kahakai.cleanups@gmail.com for more info. Check <https://www.wildhawaii.org/> with its HWF calendar for more opportunities to get involved with its bi-weekly net recovery patrols.

KUPUNA YOGA gather for 77-minute group class Tues at 9 a.m. & Thurs at 1 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji Mission. Engage your mana'o, kino & akua for stress relief, increased breath/blood flow & regenerative energy. Limited mats. Money donation or heart-based trade for teacher & temple appreciated. Sign up 11 minutes before start time.

ST. JUDE'S SHOWER MINISTRY open to the public on Saturdays and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon with last check in at 11:30 a.m. Offered are hot water, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and clean towels. Masks and social distancing are required before and after showering. The public shower service is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i's Commission on Mission Beyond Church and St. Jude's own outreach fund. Location is 8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Members of the congregation built the facility.

ST. JUDE'S COMPUTER LAB open Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Work-Station Laptops will be provided. Printing and shredding is available. Training sessions on Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and assistance with setting up email accounts, Facebook, Zoom, and more are provided. Assigned times are available for individual help. Game playing is limited and no streaming is allowed. Privileges can be suspended by Administrator or Lab Coordinator.

WAI'ŌHINU YOGA at the Wai'ōhinu Park every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., weather permitting. Laurie Boyle offers the practice of yoga of all levels. Donations appreciated. No reservations needed. For more information, contact Boyle at ezmerelda5@gmail.com.

FREE HELP WITH FAMILY HISTORY in Ka'u is available 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday. All are welcome to the Family History Center. The aim is to "Come Discover Your Past."

says the statement from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which hosts the weekly sessions at 95-5682 Hawai'i Belt Road in Nā'ālehu. The drop-in assistance includes free Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, and other online resources.

KAHUKU RANGER GUIDED HIKES, Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Join a Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park ranger to learn about the history, geology, and ecology of Kahuku while hiking through varied landscapes. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station.

EXPLORE KAHUKU UNIT OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK Thursdays through Sundays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for eight self-guided hiking trails. Join monthly Coffee Talk second Saturday of the month, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Take a guided trek with rangers on Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a ranger presentation on fourth Sunday of the month. Kahuku entrance is on mauka side of Hwy 11 near mile marker 70.5. See www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/kahuku.htm.

EXPLORE THE SUMMIT DAILY at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park for an easy one-hour, ranger-led walk from Kīlauea Visitor Center through the rainforest out to Kūpina'i Pali on the crater's edge. Walks are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Meet at Kīlauea Visitor Center lanai. Visit Kīlauea Visitor Center for other ranger-led programs.

OUTDOOR MARKETS

VOLCANO EVENING MARKET, Cooper Center, Volcano Village, Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with live music, artisan crafts, ono grinds, and fresh produce. See facebook.com/Volcano-Evening-Market-105888795330870.

VOLCANO SWAP MEET, 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Large variety of vendors with numerous products. Tools, clothes, books, toys, local made healing extract and creams, antiques, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, food, music, plants, fruits, and vegetables. Also offered are cakes, coffee, and shave ice.

VOLCANO FARMERS MARKET, Cooper Center, Volcano Village on Sundays, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., with local produce, baked goods, food to go, island beef and Ka'u Coffee. EBT is used for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps. Call 808-967-7800.

'O KA'Ū KĀKOU MARKET, in Nā'ālehu, Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Nadine Ebert at 808-938-5124 or June Domondon 808-938-4875. See facebook.com/OKauKakouMarket.

OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY MARKET, Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kona St. and Māmalahoa Highway, \$10 booth fees, no reservations needed. Contact HOVEMarket@gmail.com with any questions.

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OCEAN VIEW MARKET & DANCE PARTY with Ka'u Radio from 3 p.m. until pau. \$10 booth fees, no reservations required.

Classical Concert on Woodley White Guitar

Internationally acclaimed classical guitarist William Jenks will perform at Nā'ālehu United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 25 at 4 p.m. The venue is located at 95-5664 Hwy 11. Featured are compositions of Luis Milan, Johann Sebastian Bach, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Francisco Tarrega, and more. Suggested donation is \$25 but all are welcome.

Jenks will play a concert guitar built by luthier Woodley White, who also is the pastor of Nā'ālehu United Methodist Church.

Jenks has performed solo concerts and duets throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. He is President of U.S. Classic Guitar.

U.S. Classic Guitar's website describes the handmade guitars by Woodley White:

"Pu'uwai is the Hawaiian word for heart and heart is what it is all about. Not only does the rhythm of the guitar and the 'ukulele replicate the heartbeat but when pursued with passion music can find its



William Jenks will play a handmade guitar built by Woodley White in a concert in Nā'ālehu on June 25. Photo from U.S. Classic Guitar way into the soul. Handmade instruments have that extra depth of character and quality of sound that can touch the deepest place in our being."

Kona St. and Māmalahoa Highway. Contact HOVEMarket@gmail.com.

OCEAN VIEW SWAP MEET at Ocean View makai shopping center, near Mālama Market. Hours for patrons are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Vendor set-up time is 5 a.m. Masks required.

THE BOOK SHACK is open every Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Kauaha'ao Congregational Church grounds at 95-1642 Pinnao St. in Wai'ōhinu.

FOOD

FREE MEALS IN NĀ'ĀLEHU are served Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Volunteers prepare the food provided by 'O Ka'ū Kākou with fresh produce from its gardens on the farm of Eva Liu. Other community members also make donations and approximately 150 meals are served each day. A donation of \$1 is suggested per meal.

ST JUDE'S HOT MEALS are free to those in need on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until food runs out, no later

than noon. Volunteers from the community are welcome to help and can contact Karen at pooch53@gmail.com. Location is 96-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View.

KA'Ū FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. - Pau. St. Jude's Episcopal Church above Kahuku Park in Ocean View. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

'O KA'Ū KĀKOU PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, June 27, 10 a.m. - Pau. Ka'ū District Gym in Pāhala. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

COOPER CENTER COMMUNITY PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Wednesday, June 28, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Located at 19- 4030 Wright Road in Volcano. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

SACRED HEART: LOAVES & FISHES FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Thursday, June 29, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at 95-5558 Hwy 11 in Nā'ālehu. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

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NŪPEPA NĀ'ĀLEHU

Volume 21, Number 6

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

June 2023

Yonemitsu, from pg. 1

Yonemitsu and other volunteers gathered at what is now the big garage for the macadamia company in Pāhala and shipped out from Hilo Harbor to Honolulu and Schofield Barracks. Next was Camp Shelby, Mississippi and on to Italy, landing in Naples as a member of the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which would become famous for its warriors in WWII. Its slogan was Go for Broke. Among its heroes was the late Hawai'i U.S. Senator, Dan Inouye.

Yonemitsu served in a 60-meter mortar squadron that fought first in Italy, helping to liberate Tuscany, and sailed to Marseilles, moving overland for the liberation

of Bruyères and to rescue The Lost Battalion from Texas in one of the hardest fought battles in World War II.

See the March 2023 cover story in the *Hawai'i Herald* at: <https://tinyurl.com/3x6w48r5>, which documents people of Bruyères and surrounding villages still commemorating the efforts of the Japanese American soldiers from Hawai'i who liberated them in WWII. There are talks at the schools and other venues and a new song of Aloha, written in honor of the American Japanese soldiers from Hawai'i.

After the war, Yonemitsu was shipped to Charleston, South Carolina and Camp Carson, Colorado. He was discharged and returned to Ka'ū to work in sugar where he began as a garage clerk and rose to Crop Control Superintendent. He married school teacher Alice Yonemitsu and raised a family in Nā'ālehu.

In 1962, C. Brewer, owner of Ka'ū Sugar, sent him to Puerto Rico to advise on

sugar. The company also provided its sugar consulting services to Iran and Iraq.

Following his retirement, Yonemitsu continued volunteering with Nā'ālehu Hongwanji, helped with *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper, and gave talks on the history of the sugar plantations and about World War II and citizenship in classrooms at Ka'ū High School and at public events.

For the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, he and Alice sponsored the creation of a new lectern at Nā'ālehu School crafted from koa and other local woods by Thomas King. The Yonemitsu's remain active, including handling the banking for Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. They live in their own home with their daughter Hope.

Yonemitsu's long-time friend, the late Toku Nakano, also of Nā'ālehu, was also a 442nd member. The two traveled to Washington, D.C. in 2011 to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.



Iwao Yonemitsu, left, and the late Toku Nakano, both members of the famed Japanese American 442nd that fought in Europe in World War II. Photo by Julia Neal

Online Community Information Meeting for Nā'ālehu Solar

Nexamp, a community-based renewable energy developer and operator, is holding a virtual meeting to provide information about a proposed shared solar project to be located south of Māmalahoa Highway. The solar project will generate clean power and help lower electricity costs for qualified low- to moderate-income subscribers.

Thursday, June 22, 2023

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Scan to register:



Register at:

<https://bit.ly/NexampNaalehuSolarMeeting>

To learn more, visit:

nexamp.com/naalehu-solar

Nā'ālehu Drama Club Launches First Keiki Production

Nā'ālehu Elementary Drama Club launched its first play in May, before school let out for Summer. The play was *The Wizard of Oz*, the remix.

The production included students performing the drama, as well as a rap. Soloists who performed *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* were Tagataoletuiatua Palu-Soares, Chalana Hao and Kenneth Jello.

Hannah Bernard directed the play. Laisani Kivuyo and Cassidy Ellis played Dorothy, Shaire Blanco and Julieann Miller played the Wicked Witch. Rylan Castaneda and Heavenly Jara played Glinda. Ethan Hiebler and Taivyn Hu-Jara played Scarecrow. Tagataoletuiatua Palu-Soares and Leighanna Oliveira-Farias played Tinman. Dalton Brumaghim and Lexa-Marie Mayo played Oz.

Guards were played by Melissa Sal-



The Wizard of Oz was the first production of Nā'ālehu Elementary Drama Club.

Photo by Amy Kivuyo

dona, Jacee Amaral, Jochelle Koi and Chalana Hao.

Mahealani-Rose Lee played Auntie Em. Lennox Naboa-Duque played Uncle Henry.

The Lollipop League players were

Lydia Gherity, Arhiana Bivings, Maile Pestana, Azariah Kala-Bosque, Mycah Salmo and Isaac Salmo.

Students read proverbs from the cultures represented at the school. Kenneth Jello read the Marshallese, Chalana Hao the Hawaiian, Tagataoletuiatua Palu-Soares the Samoan, Shaire Blanco the Filipino, and Mia Miranda the Spanish.



Nā'ālehu Elementary Drama Club goes to Oz. Photo by Amy Kivuyo

El Niño, from pg. 1

FEMA for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to address Mawar, Hawai'i is involved in Hurricane Preparedness Week to highlight the importance of preparedness by residents throughout these islands. The disaster shelter for Ka'ū is the Robert Herkes Ka'ū District Gym in Pāhala, with the Red Cross running this county Parks & Recreation facility when needed.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center continuously monitors weather conditions in Hawai'i using satellites, land-and ocean-based sensors and aircraft reconnaissance missions operated by NOAA and its partners. These observations are fed into com-

plex computer models that run on NOAA's supercomputers. Forecasters at the Center use that information to develop storm track and intensity forecasts and provide critical decision support services to emergency managers at the federal, state and county levels.

This summer, NOAA will increase its supercomputing capacity by 20%, allowing for more detailed, higher-resolution forecast models, advanced physics and improved data assimilation. Once implemented, the computing system will be able to perform 29 quadrillion calculations per second. The expansion will allow for forecast model upgrades for years to come, starting with United Forecast System's

Hurricane Analysis and Forecast System.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center will extend the forecast range of the Tropical Weather Outlook from five to seven days this season. The seven-day outlook will provide emergency managers and communities with more time to prepare for tropical activity and creates a seamless suite of products when combined with the two-week Global Tropical Hazards Outlook from the Climate Prediction Center.

Check for watches and warnings on the Central Pacific Hurricane Center's website throughout the season, and visit FEMA's Ready.gov for additional hurricane preparedness tips.

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Across Playground Area of Nā'ālehu Elementary School
Top of Long Driveway

OV, KAHUKU, MILOLI'I

Volume 21, Number 6

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

June 2023

Ocean View Skatepark Grinding to Success with New Contractor

Ocean View Skatepark Association reports that a new contractor has been hired for the Environmental Assessment of the location at Kahuku County Park. County Director of Parks & Recreation Maurice Messina has named Bow Engineering, which is also involved in the Hilo skatepark. A statement from Skatepark Association says the next step is to hold a meeting with Bow Engineering, the community, and potentially skatepark designer Grindline to gather final input.

The Association also came up with a

list of ideas to incorporate into the park to encourage community involvement and support.

Since EA funding is secured and its completion accelerated, fundraising for construction is the primary focus with the project closer to groundbreaking and construction. Excavating, labor, and material donations are needed, and a licensed contractor must be present on-site. Other volunteers do not need to be licensed or specifically associated with the contractor, according to Skatepark Association. To help, contact Treasurer and Community Outreach Coordinator Laura Roberts at 406-249-3351.

The organization reports that the current savings balance for the project is \$18,801. In addition to donations and funding, money is being raised through the sales of tank tops and t-shirts available at events and for sale at Lisa's Kahuku Gift Shop in Ocean View.

"Advocacy for Ocean View



County Director of Parks & Recreation Maurice Messina (right, back) with Skatepark advocates. Photo from OV Skatepark Assn.



Location of the upcoming Ocean View Skatepark at Kahuku County Park.

Image from OV Skatepark Assn.

Skatepark has been ongoing for over a decade, and the project is now gaining significant momentum," notes the Association, which also released the following ideas to incorporate into the park:

Walking/Bike Trail; Community Garden/Food Forest; Picnic Tables; Shade Areas/Shelters; Small Outdoor Gym Fixtures; Platform for Events; Rubbish and Recycling Stations; Small Roller Skating Rink; Point of Interest Wall or Plaque Honoring Contributors; Disc Golf Course; Water Features; Ninja Park; Bouldering Resin Rock for Climbing.

To donate and for more info, see www.oceanviewskatepark.org

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Wildlife Fund: Ten Scholarships for Ka'ū

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund will provide scholarships for Ka'ū students and recent graduates looking to pursue their passions in college or a career technical school. Preference is to high school seniors, but juniors and recent graduates may apply. Applicants must live in or go to school in Ka'ū, or have other relevant ties to this moku.

The application form is relatively simple and requires submission of a one-page essay (400-500 words recommended) focusing on a favorite native wildlife species (plant or animal) that lives in or transits through Ka'ū. Bonus points will be given

for describing how the applicant and others can help protect the favorite wildlife species, and why the plant or animal is important to Hawai'i lifeways. Applicants can be pursuing any career or college pathway they desire, but it might be helpful to include any connections that might exist between this species and the future career goal.

Awardees will be given the opportunity to work with the HWF mentors and project advisors and gain hands-on experience in the conservation field. Those who do not receive a scholarship may be offered other opportunities. HWF prioritizes local stu-

dents in volunteer and internship programs, too.

Applications are being accepted immediately and with rolling deadlines throughout the summer. Scholarships will be provided until funds run out. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund anticipates providing at least ten \$500 scholarships. See more info about HWF and this opportunity at www.wildhawaii.org/ contact.

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Ocean View Well Repaired

Ocean View potable water well is repaired. Normal water usage from the water spigots and HOVE standpipe facility for commercial water haulers reopened in late May. County of Hawai'i's Department of Water Supply issued a statement saying, "The Department sincerely acknowledges the community's efforts to reduce water usage while the emergency well repairs were underway. Mahalo for your kokua!"

The well shut down for repairs on Feb. 13 to fix a broken pump. The County hauled water to the water tank at the facility to keep the spigots available so that people could

fill up their water containers for home use at no cost. The County asked the community to limit consumption. The commercial standpipes where customers pay for water were unavailable during the breakdown and reopened on Monday, May 22.

Call (808) 961-8790 for additional information or email dws@hawaiiidws.org.

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Bag Limits, Size Restrictions Considered for Local Fishing

Bag limits on uhu and kala, extending closed season for Kona crab and minimum sizes for fish as small as manini will go to public meetings around the state. The state Department of Land & Natural Resources made the decision for more meetings after hearing pro and con testimony in May concerning approvals sought by its Division of Aquatic Resources for its proposed new Rules Regulating the Taking and Selling of Certain Marine Resources.

Under the proposed regulations, non-commercial fishermen would be allowed to take a maximum of two uhu-parrot fish and two kala-bluespine unicorn fish per day.

Whether non-commercial or commercial, fishing for all uhu would be off-limits when the fish spawn, February through May. Fishing for the more threatened uhu

'ele'ele (Terminal-phase Redlip Parrotfish) and uhu uliuli (Terminal-phase Spectacled Parrotfish) would be off-limits to everyone all the time.

Minimum size for uhu pālupaluka (Non-terminal-phase Redlip Parrotfish) and uhu 'ahu'ula (Non-terminal-phase Spectacled Parrotfish) would increase from 12 to 14 inches. A minimum size of 10 inches would be set for all other uhu.

For uhu, commercial fishers would be limited to catching 30 per day, the legal size between 14 inches and 20 inches. Commercial fishers would pay \$100 a year for a permit and show previ-



Uhu are parrot fish slated for bag limits and size limits for commercial and home fishing. Public meetings will be announced for input on new rules proposed by the state Division of Aquatic Resources for taking these, other fish and Kona crab. Photo from 2016 Environment Hawai'i story on likely overfishing of uhu. See <https://www.environment-hawaii.org/?p=7868>

ous year catch and sales of at least 340 pounds of uhu. Annual catch limit would be 34,000 lbs. for the statewide uhu commercial fishery.


For kala, non-commercial fishers would be limited to two per day.

Minimum size would be 14 inches whether for home or commercial. Commercial fishers would be limited to 50 kala per day. The annual catch limit would be 10,000 lbs for the statewide kala commercial fishery. Each fisher would be required to pay \$100 per annual permit and prove catch and sales of at least 100 lbs. in the previous year.

Fishing Bag Limits, pg. 15

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Catchment Cleaning & Flushing House Lines 101

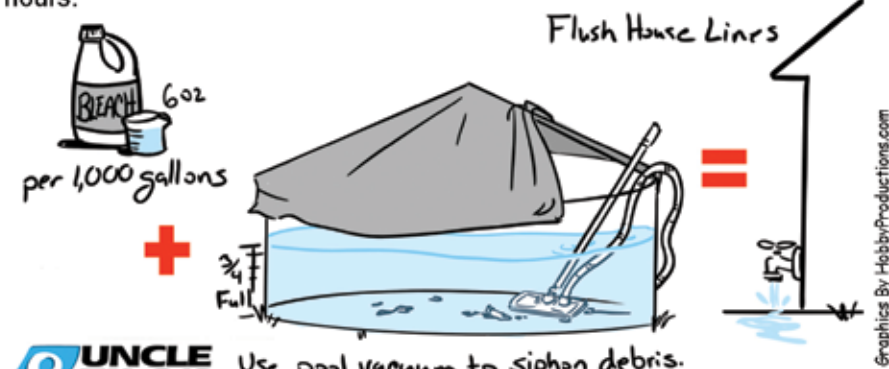
News you need to know

Catchment cleaning is more than just removing the sediment on the bottom of the tank. Flushing the house lines, doing a bleach treatment, adding minerals and replacing filters with new ones are activities that a thorough tank clean involves. After all, this is your water supply! Cleaning the debris can be achieved by siphon method with a swimming pool vacuum attached to a hose. It is best to have more than ¾ full tank. Depending on how much sediment is in the tank will determine how much water will be withdrawn. It is never a good idea to drain your tank, get inside, and scrub the vinyl liner. This is a waste of water resources and hard on the integrity and lifespan of the liner.

To disinfect the tank water, start with enough chlorine to hold 3 ppm solution in your tank for at least two hours.

Start with 6 ounces of bleach per 1000 gallons of water. Stir the water to spread the chlorine around the tank. Only use plain, unscented household bleach and test every 30 minutes to add more chlorine if needed. Chlorine off gases quickly.

Flush House Lines: By removing the carbon filter temporarily and running the water at the kitchen and bathroom sinks, tubs, flushing toilets inside the home, and don't forget outdoor faucets for a minute or two will allow chlorine to flush the house lines. Let chlorine set in house lines for about 40 minutes. Remove the aerators in bathroom and kitchen spigots. This will allow the built-up debris in the houseline to flow out. This is also a good time to run a load of laundry using hot water, in order to flush both your washing machine pipes and your hot water tank.



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Six Weeks of Kaukau 4 Keiki, Food for Ka'ū

Sign up for Kaukau 4 Keiki, which will provide seven days of USDA-approved shelf-stable foods and fresh produce to families in Ka'ū for six weeks beginning June 19, running through July 28. The aim is to give families breakfast and lunch menu items each week of the program.

Vibrant Hawai'i and Resilience Hubs in Volcano, Pāhala, Nā'ālehu, Ocean View, and Miloli'i will service the Ka'ū area. There are 33 other Kaukau 4 Keiki distribution sites islandwide.



Kaukau 4 Keiki registration begins Monday, June 5. Photo from Kaukau 4 Keiki

The weekly pickup will be at Cooper Center in Volcano at 19-4030 Wright Road; Pāhala Hongwanji at 96-1123 Pa'a'au Place; Nā'ālehu Hongwanji at 96-5695 Highway 11; in Ocean View at 92-1421 Princess Kaiulani Blvd; and at Miloli'i Halau, 89-1825 Miloli'i Road.

Starting Monday, June 5th at 8:30 a.m., registration for the Kaukau 4 Keiki program will officially open. Register at www.vibrant-hawaii.org/kaukau4keiki. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mayor Roth Stresses Importance of Ka'ū Rural Health

Mayor Mitch Roth articulated his support and history with Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association on May 26 when he spoke at its annual meeting. He recalled his days as an elected County Prosecuting Attorney, coming to Ka'ū often to work in crime prevention in Ocean View and other communities.

The Mayor recalled the founding of Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association. He praised Jessie Marques, founder and Chair of the organization. He later posted: "A huge mahalo to Auntie Jessie and the

Board of Directors at the Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association for having me at your Annual Membership Meeting & Conference this morning in Pāhala.

"I remember sitting around a table with some of the founders back when I was a community prosecutor. It's amazing to see how far you folks have taken what was then just an idea. This organization has always been driven by an unwavering love of community. Mahalo, Auntie, for your relentless pursuit of health for the Ka'ū Community. You are a shining example of aloha, and I am honored to be able to support your great work. #RuralHealth #AuntieJessie #KauStrong."

Also giving a presentation was Derek Kurisu, who founded the Mountain Apple Brand of local fresh foods at the KTA stores. Kurisu has been commencement speaker at several Ka'ū High gradua-

tions and is known for his cooking show on television and his food demonstrations. Gov. Josh Green provided a virtual message.

New boardmembers are Hannah Canosa, Shona Compoc, Rochel Davis, Akira Edmondson, Richard Escabilo, Krystalyn Gascon, Billie Hiraishi, Michelle Hiraishi and Maria Lemus. Outgoing boardmembers are Stacy Sakuma, President; Donna Kekoa, VP; Suzan Shrethsa, Treasurer; Angie Miyashiro, Secretary; and Directors

Ka'ū Rural Health, pg. 16



Jessie Marques, founder of Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, sits with Mayor Mitch Roth and other health advocates.

Photo from Mayor Roth

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Air Tour Management Planning for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Air tour planners for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park seek public feedback. National Park Service and Federal Aviation Administration have published their Draft Air Tour Management Plan and environmental assessment. They encourage anyone with interest or concern about air tours over Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to review and comment through the project website and during a Zoom public meeting on Wednesday, June 7 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Zoom Link will be <https://tinyurl.com/yc4n8uam>. Passcode: 246810. A Google Form for Questions is at <https://tinyurl.com/m85yssev>.

The proposed plan would: Authorize up to 1,565 air tours per year over Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on three defined routes; designate Wednesdays for quiet-technology flights only during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; designate no-fly days on Sundays and establish specified flight times of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for non-QT flights and 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. for QT flights.

Public feedback can be submitted through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website through June 16 at 8 p.m. NPS and FAA will consider comments to help inform the final ATMP for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. See <https://tinyurl.com/2ajrx263>.

Ten operators reported 13 flights a day with an average of 11,376 flights per year at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park between 2017 and 2019. NPS and FAA are working towards completing the air tour management plan for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park by Dec. 31. The schedule is part of a plan approved by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for the agencies to comply with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000.

A statement from Hawai'i Volcanoes says, "An important part of the process is the inclusion of Native Hawaiian groups



Air tours over Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park are promoted in this photo from hawaiiitours.com.

and individuals. The agencies are consulting with Native Hawaiian organizations and other groups that have lands adjacent to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and with

Kūpuna (elders) and individuals who attach historic and cultural significance to resources within the park."

Volcano Readies for Fourth of July Parade & Celebration

Following Memorial Day in May with the raising of flags to half staff at Kīlauea Military Camp, Volcano community is preparing for the next patriotic holiday with the Fourth of July Parade and day-long celebration at Cooper Center.

The annual parade along Old Volcano Highway and Wright Road begins at 9 a.m. on July 4 at Volcano Post Office and moves to Cooper Center, with food, en-



Kīlauea Military Camp in Volcano flew its flags half staff until noon on Memorial Day to remember those who risked lives for the country, many of them dying in combat. At noon, KMC raised the flags to full height. The next patriotic holiday welcomes the Fourth of July Parade in Volcano.

Photo by Jandy Pontin/KMC

tainment and craft fair open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cooper Center President Linda Ugalde said that vendor booths are sold out. "Expect a wide variety of foods, arts and crafts musical groups and more." She said the silent auction features many items this year and will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participation in the parade is open to the community and often features riders on horseback and floats, classic cars and bikes, and walking groups from Hawai'i County Band to public officials, community service clubs, performing groups, animal sanctuaries, schools, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Volcano Fire Department.

There will be no parking at Cooper Center, except for handicapped permitted automobiles by reservation. Any questions, contact Ugalde at 808-936-9705, or kilaueatutu@gmail.com.



VOLCANO ART CENTER
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JUNE EVENTS

Exhibit: A Celebration of 50 yrs. Exhibiting with Daniel Van Zyle continues through July 9th at VAC gallery in HVNP

Exhibit: 2023 Volcano Wood Show Exhibition continues through June 10th at the Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village

6/6 - Keiki Drawing Class with Ken Charon

6/10 - Soft Pastel On-Site Landscape Painting with Patti Pease Johnson

6/12 - 6/16 - Liko A'e Summer Camp 1

6/16 - Movie Night: Red Obsession

6/17 - Jazz in the Forest

6/22 - Thursday Night at the Center: "The Evolution of Kalapapa Ranch" with Lani & Bill Petrie

6/23 - Movie Night: Sour Grapes

6/24 - Experimental Catalyst Abstract Watercolors with Patti Pease Johnson

6/30 - Movie Night: Bottle Shock

Hula Kahiko: Featuring Kumu Hula Mana'olana Keawe with Halau Hula o Mana'olana o Kohala in HVNP

Niaulani Gallery in Volcano Village & VAC Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park are OPEN! Visit our website for current hours

Office in Volcano Village:
(808) 967-8222

Gallery in HVNP:
(808) 967-7565

volcanoartcenter.org/shop

Evolution of Kapāpala Ranch

A ranch sharing a long border with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park will be subject of a free presentation on Thursday, June 22 at Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus. Lani and Bill Petrie will give their talk, *The Evolution of Kapāpala Ranch*, at 6 p.m, featuring history of the ground from lava to soil, the Great Mahele and the ranch house built in 1860, making it one of the oldest standing structures in Ka'ū.

They will also discuss relationships between the ranch, state and federal government and community.



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Akatsuka Gardens is an annual participant in Experience Volcano Hawai'i Festival, set for July 29 and 30. Photo from Experience Volcano Hawai'i

Fourth Experience Volcano Accepts Volunteers, Vendors for July 29 & 30

The Experience Volcano Festival July 29 and 30 is a celebration of the culture, people and traditions that make the diversity of the Volcano Area unique. This two-day festival throughout venues in Volcano Village showcases music, Hawaiian culture, artists in action, tours, demonstrations, kids and 'ohana activities, happy hours, restaurant specials, food trucks and much more. Almost all events are free to the public.

Sign up to be a vendor for \$80 at www.experiencevolcano.com/vendor-form. Experience Volcano is accepting new members and volunteers for the event. Sponsor opportunities range from \$300 to \$1,000. Also, see www.experiencevolcano.com. With questions, email experiencevolcano@pb06.wixemails.com.

Volcano Golf Course & Winery Offer Tee & Taste for Kama'āina, Visitors

Tee & Taste is the new offering from Volcano Golf Course and Volcano Winery. Volcano Golf Course, at 4,000 feet elevation, is Hawai'i Island's first and oldest golf course. It has partnered with Volcano Winery to create an exclusive package for locals and visitors, pairing golf play with a tasting of the finest of local wines. Kama'āina rates are offered.

"We love to explore new partnerships that support Volcano community members and businesses," said Volcano Golf Course General Manager Dawn Crozier. "Volcano is known for its natural beauty and uniqueness, and this collaboration allows us to share this special place through its golf and wines."

Every Tee & Taste package includes five holes of walking play at Volcano Golf Course, as well as a certificate for a tasting of six wines and two estate teas at Volcano Winery. The tasting certificates can be redeemed anytime at the



Tee & Taste is the new offering from Volcano Golf Course and Volcano Winery, with kama'āina discount. Photo from Volcano Golf Course

winery, which is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tee & Taste packages can be purchased for \$25 for kama'āina and \$35 for visitors at the Volcano Golf Course check-in.

Volcano Golf Course has been a gathering place for the community since its opening in 1921 as a three-hole course on pasture lands. Today, the 18-hole, par-72 course spans 156 acres adjacent to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. "Since the return of the property to Kamehameha Schools in 2020, the landowner has focused its efforts on making necessary investments to enhance the golf experience while prioritizing the continued stewardship of 'āina and the native wildlife and plants that make this place so unique," says a statement from the golf course.

"The Volcano Golf Course has served the Hawai'i Island community for over 100 years," said Crozier. "Our kuleana is to steward these lands in support of Kamehameha Schools' educational mission, as well as ensure this cherished course continues to serve the needs of the greater community."

A two-minute drive away from the first tee at the golf course, Volcano Winery features several signature wines, including the Volcano Red, Hawaiian Guava-Grape, Volcano Blush, and Macadamia Nut Honey Wine. Founded in 1986, the winery produces three grape wines, three fruit blends and two honey meads. In addition to the wines and teas, Volcano Winery also offers gift items from local vendors, including cookies, butters, salts, coffee and artwork.

"Among numerous similarities between our brands, we share a commitment to providing memorable experiences for Hawai'i Island residents and visitors alike," said Alex Wood, vice president of Volcano Winery.

To book tee times, swing lessons and to learn more about the Tee & Taste package, call (808) 319-4745 or visit www.volcanogc.com.

Villegas, from pg. 1

"Fely has served as our Nutrition Site President/ Representative for over seven years now, taking on all of the responsibilities required by that role, particularly serving as back-up for the Hawai'i County Nutrition Program site manager. She helps with the morning set-up and clean-up, and generally keeps things running smoothly on a daily basis. She is the kind of volunteer that makes life easier for everyone around her, noticing when something needs to be done and just doing it."

Villegas is on the Board for Pāhala Senior Club, serving as Secretary from 2010 to 2019 and is now Treasurer. The bio describes her as "a very creative person" with a special fondness for singing and play-

ing 'ukulele, performing with Pāhala Senior Center music group. She also enjoys painting and sewing."

She volunteers at her Holy Rosary Church and with making New Year's mochi for Pāhala Hongwanji. She can also be seen volunteering for the Entrepreneurship Program at Ka'ū High School. During Covid, she assisted with Pāhala Food Hub, making food items with the help of students to be included in the bags of food distributed throughout the community.

The bio says, "Fely Villegas is high energy and always willing to share a laugh and a helping hand. Generous with her time and talents, her fun-loving, helpful nature makes her outstanding in the eyes of her friends and peers..."

Hawai'i Police Recruitment, from pg. 4

police officer recruits will undertake six months of academy training five days a week. After successful completion of academy training, recruits will transition from an academic setting to four months of field training where they are paired with an experienced officer and gain hands-on experience, forming the foundation of their career.

"While we're making it easier to apply to be a police officer, the department remains committed to its rigorous screening and training program that graduates highly qualified officers," added the Chief.

Interested applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Graduated from high school or obtained a GED.
- Knowledge of grammar, spelling, and word usage.
- Possess a valid driver's license.

Be at least 20 years of age at the time of filing, and at least 21 years of age by the time of graduation from the Police Academy.

Be qualified to carry and/or possess firearms or ammunition in accordance with state and federal laws.

Must not have any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence convictions.

Meet the health and physical condition standards deemed necessary and proper to perform the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodations, such as have a correct ratio of weight to height; possess good eyesight and good physical condition and agility according to standards set by the County of Hawai'i.

For more information, visit the Hawai'i Police Department's Police Officer Recruitment page at www.hawaiipolice.com. Hawai'i County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Akuna Hole-in-one, from pg. 5

and the nēnē, Hawai'i's state bird that nests throughout the property. This 18-hole golf course is set at the rim of the active Kīlauea volcanic crater, 4000 feet above the sea, making it a truly unique golfing experience."

In regard to Kamehameha Schools stewardship, the website says, "KS holds a great kuleana, or responsibility, to sustainably care for, nurture and enhance our lands for communities of today and tomorrow."

Volcano Golf Course is offering Tee & Taste, a collaboration with Volcano Winery. June is Women's Golf Month at Volcano. June 8 is Best Friends Day and

June 17 is Father's Day, all with special offerings.

Volcano Golf Course offers an All You Can Play Yearly Membership for \$329 per month. Pay \$3,290 in advance to receive a \$658 discount. A 30-day All You Can Play Pass costs \$349. A Ten Round Punch Card costs \$359. A Twilight 30-day pass for unlimited play with tee time starting at 1:30 p.m. is \$150.00. Driving Range passes are \$10 per month. See more at volcanogc.com and on <https://www.facebook.com/VolcanoGolfCourse/>, with a link to Volcano Golf Course's new online store.

Fishing Bag Limits, from pg. 12

Proposed amendments also include:

- Increasing the minimum size for manini (Convict Tang) from five inches to six inches;
- Establishing a minimum size of five inches for kole (Goldring Surgeonfish);
- Allowing the take of female pāpā'i kualoa (Kona crab) without eggs;

Extending the current closed season (May-August) for pāpā'i kualoa (Kona crab) to May-September;

Making other non-substantive housekeeping amendments for clarity and consistency with other chapters including adding new definitions, amending old definitions, and other stylistic and grammatical corrections throughout the chapter.

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- Stereo components (no speakers)
- Items **NOT** on this list will **NOT** be accepted for recycling.



Incoming and out-going board members of Ka'u Rural Health Community Association.

Ka'u Rural Health, from pg. 13

Brynn Alcine, Otis Salmo, Jennifer Shrestha, Brenda Martin and Michelle Hiraishi. Agencies and nonprofits who presented

Photo from KRHCA

at the meeting were Hui Mālama Ola Nā Ōiwi, Hawai'i Island Community Health Center, Hawai'i County Parks & Recreation, Hawai'i Police Department, Brain Health Hawai'i, CU Hawai'i Federal Credit Union, Laulima Therapy, Alzheimer's Association, Hilo Medical Center, Ka'u Hospital & Rural Health Clinic, Department of Education, and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.



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