One Year Later: Road to Recovery at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park

Efforts to repair and reopen damaged areas in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park continue as the anniversary of the 2018 Kīlauea eruption nears. Members of the park’s management team will share successes and challenges on the Road to Recovery: One Year Later, a special After Dark in the Park presentation on Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the newly upgraded Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium. The event is free, but park entrance fees apply.

An announcement from the park reads: The historic Kīlauea eruption and遭难 closure of 134 days last year due to unsafe, unpredictable, and unprecedented eruptive activity at the volcano’s summit. A hurricane, two tropical storms, and a wildfire on Mauna Loa added to the intensity of an unforgettable year, but park rangers continued to serve the public at locations outside the park, protect natural and cultural resources, and expand hours at the park’s Kahuku Unit. Most of Hawai’i Volcanoes is now open, including two-thirds of the popular Kīlauea Iki Trail, but some areas remain closed for safety.

Acting Park Superintendent Rhonda Loh said, “We invite our community to hear first-hand how we managed the extraordinary challenges this eruption created, and what we face moving ahead. The presentation will be about a half hour, and we welcome questions afterward.”

Until 2018, Kīlauea erupted almost nonstop from two locations with-in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park:

The Good News of Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

Mālama Hawai‘i Launches to Educate Visitors, Locals

Mālama Hawai‘i, a campaign to educate and remind visitors and kāmāaina to respect the islands’ natural resources, protect wildlife, and stay safe, kicked off in April. Department of Land and Natural Resources Chair Suzanne Case and Hawai‘i Tourism Authority Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs Kalani Ka‘anā‘anā launched the campaign at a news conference on April 23. They said, in coming days and months, it’s going to be hard to avoid the phrase Mālama Hawai‘i when flying, staying in a hotel room, watching TV, or enjoying the outdoors. Mālama Hawai‘i is their two agencies’ joint project.

Case explained, “Two years ago, we utilized state funding to support Hawai‘i tourism to commission the design and placement of 30 large Mālama Hawai‘i outdoor conservation messaging signs at key state parks and trail heads around O‘ahu. Now, we’re taking the very same messages on these beautiful signs and expanding them across a wide variety of communications platforms.

“We are most appreciative of the support we’re getting from the visitor industry, which recognizes the strong linkage between the health of our natural and cultural resources and the health of Hawai‘i’s biggest and most important economic sector. Clearly you cannot have one without the other.”

Ka‘anā‘anā said, “All of us have a responsibility to take care of our island home and ensure its sustainable future. Through this collaboration with DLNR and industry partners amplifying the message, the Mālama Hawai‘i campaign at a news conference in April.

Hawai‘i Hawksbill, World’s Rarest

Critically endangered Honu‘ea – Hawksbill sea turtles – are now considered the rarest population of sea turtles in the world, according to Lauren Kurpita, Director of the Hawk bill Recovery Project.

Addressing an audience of about 60 Ka‘ū residents at a recent Coffee Talk, Kurpita explained that these elusive creatures nest on ten beaches on the Big Island – all of which are located in Ka‘ū. During the nesting season, usually May to December, volunteers work in shifts to ensure that most of the beaches are patrolled every night and that the precious nests are protected from predators and vandals.

Monitoring takes place from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and involves searching for female turtles laying nests, or recently made nests. Volunteers document the nesting activity and where possible, identify the females involved. They also measure the turtles and note any injuries to the animal. Sometimes the volunteers have to move nests to a safer spot if the nests are in danger of being washed away.

Kurpita explained the long and hazardous process the dwindling population of Hawksbills must go through in order to reach maturity. Sometimes the volunteers have to move nests to a safer spot if the nests are in danger of being washed away.

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Lauren Kurpita, holding a Hawksbill model. Photo by Annie Bosted

Hawksbill, pg. 12

Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Pageant contestants all donned costumes as one of the judged categories. From top left: Helena Nihipi Sesson, Miss Ka‘ū Coffee; Bernadette Ladin, First Miss Ka‘ū Coffee; Kysha Manini Ka’apua, Miss Coffee Flower; First Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Flower and Miss Popularity, Adilynn Arnot; Helen Miranda, Second Miss Peaberry; Kendall Haddock, First Miss Peaberry; Miss Flower, Kysha Manini Ka’apua; Liliana Marques, Ka‘ū Peaberry.

Helena Nihipi Sesson

Crowned Miss Ka‘ū Coffee

Helena Nihipi Sesson took the Miss Ka‘ū Coffee 2019 title on April 27 at Ka‘ū District Gym. The Pāhala resident and daughter of Guy Sesson and Sherriane Nihipi-Sesson, is 17 and senior at Ka‘ū High School. She says she plans to become Miss Ka‘ū Coffee, pg. 7
Volcano Winery Owner Top Small Business Person of 2019

Volcano Winery’s Delwin Bothof is SBA Top Small Business Person in Hawai’i County, says the U.S. Small Business Administration. Bothof and his Volcano Vineyards, LLC will be honored May 3 at the 32nd annual statewide SBA Awards for Hawai’i in Waikiki. He operates Volcano Winery with his wife, Marie Bothof.

The Bothofs purchased Volcano Winery in 1999 from its founder, retired O’ahu veterinarian Lynn “Doc” McKinney, who started the winery in 1986, after years of research. Volcano Winery grows grapes, makes and ages wine. It offers a tasting room and a selection of unusual wines, some macadamia orchards and wild “ohia” trees. The Bothofs also grow a selection of teas and figs.

Volcano Winery, one of the businesses serving both locals and visitors in Volcano, kept its doors open during the 2018 Kīlauea Eruption, despite all the disruption from daily earthquakes lowering tourism numbers. In September, before the eruption was finally considered over, and weeks before Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park reopened, Volcano Winery hosted its fifth annual fundraiser for The Volcano School of Arts and Sciences. Despite the threat of tropical storm, a sold-out crowd raised $10,000 for the school, to go towards the purchase of a new van for learning trips.

Locals, Visitors Urged to Swim Safely Near Lifeguard Stands

The state and visitor industry partners have launched a new campaign to urge visitors and locals to swim near lifeguards and has launched a new website with their locations in order to help reduce ocean deaths and injuries.

HIOceanSafety.com
Respect our ocean and stay safe beach side

The state Department of Health’s Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch collaborated with Hawai’i’s Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee to produce the website. It notes that ocean drowning continues to be one of the main causes of death in Hawai’i, the fourth leading cause of injury related death for residents and the leading cause for visitors. Snorkeling is the activity most frequently associated with visitor drownings. Visitors comprise 55 percent of ocean drownings and suffer 81 percent of ocean-related spinal cord injuries. The trend of fatal ocean drownings among visitors is on the rise.

The website hioceansafety.com aims to decrease risk factors and increase “protective factors” for ocean goers through a link to real-time information on ocean conditions at beaches with lifeguards statewide. Also see hawaiibeachsafety.com.

The website documents ocean incidents, including a list of beaches (some of them newly popular tourist destinations) with the highest frequency of spinal cord injuries. Peer-reviewed studies based on good science will inform website content, says a statement from the collaborators.

Ralph Goto, co-chair of the Hawai’i Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee, said, “Choosing beaches with lifeguards who can respond quickly to those in the water can make a difference in lives.”

As part of the campaign, seven Mālama Hawai’i public service announcements will be available for Hawaiian Airlines guests to watch on board the carrier’s Airbus A330 aircraft on flights between the U.S. mainland and Hawai’i. The campaign kicked off in July 2018 with the PSAs playing over 500,000 times to Hawaiian Airlines guests each year.

Hawaiian Airlines was the first carrier to agree to include the PSAs in its digital entertainment offerings on flights from the U.S. mainland. AirAsia X is beginning to play audio versions of the announcements. Discussions are underway with domestic and international carriers to show the 30-second spots. The PSAs will run in 27,000 hotel rooms around the state, reaching an estimated three million guests each year.

Hawaiian Airlines Flight attendant Louise Pacarro and her husband ran a non-profit dedicated to cleaning up beaches. “I hope that we are able to convey to our passengers how important it is to protect our natural resources here in Hawai’i,” Pacarro said. “I think people will really be attracted to the natural beauty depicted in the videos. I feel like most of our visitors and locals want to naturally protect things that are special and these messages help explain how to do that.”

The HTA funding also supports outreach and educational materials about preventing Rapid ‘Ohia Death, visitor surveys of Hawai’i State Parks, and the establishment of a carbon credit system.

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KAU‘U BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE
May 2019

The Good News of Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

Volume 17, Number 5

Page 2

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THE KA‘U CALENDAR

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Publisher & Editor: Julia Neal

The Good News of Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

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Kaʻū Coffee was back to Boston at the Specialty Coffee Association of America’s annual convention. This year, Hawaiʻi Coffee Association President Chris Manfredi returned with Kaʻū Coffee Mill’s Lou Daniele and Liko Keolanu, Rusty’s Hawaiian 100% Kaʻū Coffee’s Ralph Gaston, and Kaʻū Mountain Coffee Farm’s Alla Kostenko. They joined other Hawaiʻi coffee growers at the Hawaiʻi Coffee Association booth.

The convention was last held in Boston in 2013, with a large Kaʻū Coffee Mill contingent bringing flowers, macadamia nuts, Kaʻū Coffee and Hawaiian entertainment. Promoting Kaʻū Coffee were Ed Olson, Sammie Stanbro, the late Bull Kaialiiwa, John Cross, Julia Neal, Lee Neal, William Neal, Danielle, and Keolanu.

In 2019 convention news, Madeleine Longoria Garcia, who formerly lived and worked in the coffee industry in Kaʻū, was elected as Community Coordinator for the national SCAA organization. A post from the Hawaiʻi Coffee Association says, “She will work on bringing more recognition to Hawaiʻi coffee professionals, giving a voice to our local industry on a national level.”

The SCAA convention brings together coffee growers, roasters, marketers and providers of coffee milling equipment from around the world, with numerous classes on quality, barista competitions, and sessions on the economics of the industry.

Kaʻū in Hilo to Dance Hula, Ride in Merrie Monarch Parade

Kaʻū Coffee Mill joined the Hawaiʻi Coffee Association at the Specialty Coffee Association of America Convention in Boston. Left to right, promoting Hawaiʻi Coffee, are Lou Daniele, Tommy Greenwell, Hawaiʻi Coffee Association President Chris Manfredi, and other volunteers. Photo by Liko Keolanu

Madeline Longoria Garcia, with a longtime connection to Kaʻū Coffee, is the new Community Coordinator for SCAA. Photo by Alla Kostenko

Kaʻū was well represented at the 56th Merrie Monarch Festivities in April. Boy and girl students of Pāhala Elementary School danced hula, under the direction of Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder. They performed for the public at Merrie Monarch on Friday, April 26. The keiki take hula at school and dance for many community activities, including the recent Unity Fair; see page seven. Ryder also teaches her hālau members, from keiki to kupuna, after school at Pāhala Community Center.

Kaʻū’s Paniolo community also headed for Merrie Monarch after they gathered flowers and foliage, made lei, and loaded up horses to head for Hilo on Saturday, April 27. They rode in the annual Merrie Monarch Parade.

Among paniolo participating from this district were Kehau Ke, who represented Kauaʻi, wearing the purple color of the island, and Lori Lee Lorenzo, wearing the red color of Hawaiʻi Island. Escorts included Makana Gravela, carrying the Hawaiʻi Island banner, and Anthony Emmsley, with horse and rider bedecked in lei. Also riding were Kaʻū residents McKella Akana and Kircia Derasin, who rode as Panaʻewa Stampede Princess.

Clockwise from top left: Kehau Ke, representing Lanaʻi; Anthony Emmsley, representing Hawaiʻi Island; Lorilee Lorenzo, of Pāhala, representing Hawaiʻi Island; Kercia Derasin, as a Panaʻewa Stampede Princess; Michelle Akana, of Kaʻū, as a Panaʻewa Stampede Princess; and Makana Gravela, representing Hawaiʻi Island. Photos by Kamalani Kaluahine-Salmo

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[Image: Clockwise from top left: Kehau Ke, representing Lanaʻi; Anthony Emmsley, representing Hawaiʻi Island; Lorilee Lorenzo, of Pāhala, representing Hawaiʻi Island; Kercia Derasin, as a Panaʻewa Stampede Princess; Michelle Akana, of Kaʻū, as a Panaʻewa Stampede Princess; and Makana Gravela, representing Hawaiʻi Island. Photos by Kamalani Kaluahine-Salmo]
**Stars over Ka‘ū - May 2019**

by Lew & Donna Cook

**Planets**
Mars is low in the western sky in Gemini, the Twins, and sets around 9:30 p.m. Jupiter rises in the east about an hour and a few minutes before the time our chart is drawn for, which is 10 p.m. on the 15th of the month. Saturn will rise soon, at about 10:45 p.m. Venus is the bright morning star, rising about 4:30 a.m.

The Horsehead Nebula is shown in this photo. One star in this star cluster is easily seen by the naked eye: 4th magnitude sigma Orionis on the top edge. The Horsehead Nebula is shown in this photo. One thin dust and gas, but appears dark because the cloud is of immense size, compared to our perspective of dust clouds. The Horsehead is about 5 light-years at its maximum "height" and if we assume it is as thick as it is in silhouette, then that dust cloud is about 30 trillion miles "thick." But the dust doesn't need to look all that thick. If you were standing on Mauna Loa and you had a similar dust concentration as in the Horsehead Nebula, you would think that was the clearest day you had ever seen. You would be right.

Here's a beautiful shot of the Whirlpool Galaxy in Canum Venaticorum -- the Hunting Dogs. This galaxy is about 30 million light years away and can be seen, dimly, through binoculars. You can find it by looking for the end star in the dipper's handle. Then go southwest about three and a half degrees. It is the small fuzzy patch a third of a degree west of a 7th magnitude star. It is shown on the star chart as "M51" beside the big dot. As a guide, hold your arm straight ahead of your face and your fist covers about 5 degrees.

Did you hear that the astronomers working with radio telescopes across the globe have gotten an image of the shadow of a supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy? The team, named the Event Horizon Telescope Team, has captured an image of the black hole at the center of M87 in Virgo, shown on our chart as "M87" beside the dot. Their result is shown here. The event horizon is the boundary from which no light can escape. The radio telescopes atop Mauna Kea participated in the team.

Noteworthy in the sky this month are the southern constellations: the Southern Cross, Lupus the Wolf, and the Centaur. The Centaur is a mythical beast with the upper body of a human and, below the waist, the body of a horse. The Centaur is shown slaying the Wolf with a spear. The Scorpion has fully risen, and in the northeast so have Hercules and the Lyre. Approaching overhead are Virgo and Leo. The full Moon is in Pisces.

**Local Attractions**
The ‘Imiloa Planetarium in Hilo Resaurant schedule:
Closed Mondays
Breakfast & Lunch, 7 AM - 4 PM daily
Dinner, 5 PM - 8:30 PM daily
Check for the schedule at imiloahawaii.org. Members are admitted free to the daily shows.

How to use this map: Hold this map over your head so that the northern horizon points toward the north on the Earth. For best results, use a red flashlight to illuminate the map. If you are looking east, hold it in front of you so that east is on the bottom. For south views, south at the bottom, and for west, west at the bottom. Use this map at the times shown on it in your local time zone. Keep this page handy and show it to your kids next month. They probably have bedtimes before the time of the chart shown here.

Check the colors of the stars with the color version at KauCalendar.com. The constellations are presented with their 3-letter abbreviations, with their common names shown in the margins. This does not include stars with no bright moon and the skies are clear of vog. The star charts are produced from a sky Atlas program written by Jerzy Hudson, who has given us permission to publish it. Thank you, Jerzy.

There is a night show once a month, when smaller telescopes on Mauna Kea are linked to the Planetarium where they show live shots of individual objects. Call the Planetarium at (808) 932-8901 for info on the schedule and ticket availability and membership prices. Please mention to the nice folks at the ticket sales desk where you got the inspiration to come, and that you are entitled to the 10% kama‘aina discount for membership.

**Friday Sunrise and Sunset times:**

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<td>May 10</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
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The times of sunrise and sunset are changing fairly quickly in April as the sun continues its move to the north.

**Moon Phases**

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<td>1:25 am*</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
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<td>Last Quarter</td>
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For the first time, astronomers have imaged the light emanating from the matter whirling around a black hole.

Credit: Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration

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The 'Imiloa Planetarium in Hilo Resaurant schedule:
Closed Mondays
Breakfast & Lunch, 7 AM - 4 PM daily
Dinner, 5 PM - 8:30 PM daily
Check for the schedule at imiloahawaii.org. Members are admitted free to the daily shows.

For the first time, astronomers have imaged the light emanating from the matter whirling around a black hole.

Credit: Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration

**Local Attractions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>5:52 am</td>
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<td>First Quarter</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
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Kianie Medeiros Dancel Signs with Pierce College Raiders

Kianie Medeiros Dancel has won a scholarship to play college basketball. A senior at Ka‘ū High school, she will join the Pierce College Raiders in Lakewood, Washington.

Dance holds a 3.8 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

When not on a horse at her family ranch, she volunteers for her community. She gave over 100 volunteer hours, mentoring 5th grade students from Pāhala and Nā‘ālehu Elementary schools. During the last two years, she helped students prepare for their annual fitness meet, and coached and refereed basketball for middle school students. She also received recognition for playing on the Division II All-Big Island Interscholastic Federation Championship First Team.

Trojans Girls Basketball Assistant Coach Jennifer Makaukanana provided the following biography:

Dance is a strong, passionate and ambitious young woman. After being with her hand in hand for the past four years, we have no doubt that she will become successful and we are extremely proud of her. She truly deserves it.

She didn’t have the perfect life. In fact it was far from it. She faced many struggles, loss, and for a long time she felt like life was unfair. Then at the age of 12, she was diagnosed with cancer. She didn’t have the perfect diagnosis. She didn’t have the perfect treatment. She didn’t have the perfect life. Then at the age of 12, the cancer went into remission. Playing the game she grew to love was the one thing that kept her on track.

Dance said, "When we first met Dance at the age of 13, the first thing she said to us was, "Are you the basketball coaches? Ooh, I’m gonna be playing for you." Our first impression was, "Wow... she’s confident and not afraid to show it.” First day of tryouts came and she played like she was proving a point. She wanted a spot on the varsity team and she wasn’t going to settle for less. She showed it in her attitude, level of effort, confidence, and abilities. At the end of the week, when the teams were determined and Dance was told she made the varsity squad, her face lit up, she smiled with pride, and all she said was, "Yesss... Thank you!"

After a few seasons came and went, Dance started to realize that the end was coming near – and too fast. She didn’t want to give up the one thing she loved the most; the game that saved her from her darkest days, the one thing that kept her on track and out of trouble. By her junior year in high school, she started reaching out to her coaches because the thought of not having another chance to play the game she was so passionate about would be heartbreaking. She started researching practice and game film to improve her skills. She started individual skills training, playing club basketball and doing all she could to become ready.

When not on a horse at her family ranch, she volunteers for her community. She gave over 100 volunteer hours, mentoring 5th grade students from Pāhala and Nā‘ālehu Elementary schools. During the last two years, she helped students prepare for their annual fitness meet, and coached and refereed basketball for middle school students. She also received recognition for playing on the Division II All-Big Island Interscholastic Federation Championship First Team.

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Trojans Boys Baseball mirrored the other Ka‘ū teams this Spring mirrored the other Ka‘ū teams this Spring was a game against the Kohala Cowboys on Saturday, April 11, 25 to 22.

Trojans Girls Softball had a slightly less disappointing Spring, winning three of their 14 games. The bright spot in their season was an away game against the Pāhoa Daggers, where they won 24 to 14.

Trojans Boys Baseball mirrored the other Ka‘ū teams this Spring, winning one of four sets in a game against the Kohala Cowboys on Saturday, March 9 where the Trojans won 5 to 3.

Trojans Track & Field scores are unavailable, but the team was at Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i on Saturday, April 20. Luke Watson competed in the 300 meter Hurdle. William Tabios competed in the 110 and 400 meter Hurdles.

Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Run Registration Open

Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Run registration is open Wednesday, May 1 through race day, Saturday, Sept. 21. The sixth annual race offers moderate to highly challenging 5K, 10K, and 1/2 Marathon courses through macnut and coffee fields along the slopes of Ka‘ū. Races start at 7 a.m. at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill above Pāhala. Chip timing is by RFID. Sponsored by Ka‘ū Coffee Mill, Edmund C. Olson Trust II, ‘O Ka‘ū Kākou, BioAstin, and County of Hawai‘i. Prices increase after July 9, Aug. 13, and Sept. 20. okakulokulokuloku.org, kaucoffeemill.com. Register at webscorer.com/register?raceid=166020.
Maliah Ababa, a junior at Ka‘ū High and Pāhala Elementary, is Island Scholar for 2019. She will represent the school during her senior year, as her "actions and principles represent the very best of Hawai‘i," reads the letter announcing her selection. "This one-of-a-kind recognition was developed to remind us all that there is more to success than grades, test scores, or how much money you will earn. In our Hawai‘i, we value our islands, our families, our communities, our cultures, and our character."

Ababa will travel to Kohala June 7 through 9 to attend a three-day Islander Scholars Academy. There, she will participate in hands-on activities on the ʻāina, discussions with distinguished mentors, community building with others from across the islands, and group excursions.

The letter reads, "Being an Islander Scholar is as much a responsibility as it is an honor. You are expected to return to your school and community in your senior year and act on the kuleana (responsibility) associated with this award."

Maliah Ababa with Ka‘ū High School Principal Sharon Beck. Photo from Ka‘ū High

Harmony Education Enrollment to 55 in Ka‘ū

Harmony Education homeschool enrollment reached 55 Ka‘ū students this school year. Laura Roberts, parent of four Harmony students and organizer of Ka‘ū Home-school Co-Op, said she is proud of the achievement. The homeschooling program "is a perfect fit for the more isolated district of Ka‘ū." She said Harmony "provides a unique and flexible homeschooling program while partnering with local charter schools islandwide." Harmony is free of charge and fits into a variety of different parent schedules, she said.

According to Roberts, who is also Startup Manager for the Ocean View Options Day site, Harmony offers "local keiki strong academic options as well as a once a week teacher-led electives day where students come together to learn Hawaiian culture, music, art, lego robotics, STEM, cooking, sewing, and more. It’s so important to have the social skills incorporated when doing school from home."

Roberts homeschools four children in grades K-9 and runs a business from home. "Life is busy and crazy, but I know that my kids are receiving the best education possible without it being overbearing, and I love having them home with me." Five Options Day sites are offered to Harmony students in towns across Hawai‘i Island.

Diedra Stephens, who has two students in the Harmony program, said, "Options Day is my girls' favorite part of the week."

Harmony Education provides social interaction and schedule-friendly homeschooling. Photo from Harmony Education

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Harmony Education provides social interaction and schedule-friendly homeschooling. Photo from Harmony Education

Alisha Young, mom of six, said, "I can’t believe that we have something like this out here in Ocean View, it’s been such a blessing."

Harmony supplies curriculum, additional educational resources, and resource funds for private lessons, books, park passes, and other educational items. Families choose the curriculum for each child and have their choice of whichever curriculum that they would like to use. Mentors answer questions and provide support. "The families involved are also a great support network," said Roberts.

Julie Leonard, who said she was looking for something different for her son, said, "Harmony has been a game changer for us."

Layne Mills, who teaches Music and Art of the Masque of Harmony, said he is "so glad to be a part of the community of homeschoolers and their families here in Ocean View. It has given me so much joy to be able to share my expertise in music and fine arts with the students and the community of homeschoolers and their families here."

According to Roberts, the Harmony program beyond the Harmony program, Roberts offers the Homeschool Co-Op gathering every other Monday free of charge. It encompasses all age groups, from infants to teens. Field trips include whale watching, Dolphin Quest, beach cleanup, art projects, and clothing swap days.

For questions about the Harmony program or the homeschool Co-Op, call Roberts at 406-249-3351. To sign up for Harmony, visit harmonyed.com/hawaii. Harmony will contact new families in May with official enrollment packets.

The Ka‘ū Calendar
The Student Collective Produces 3rd Kaʻū Unity Celebration

Unity was the theme of the celebration and educational event on Saturday, April 13 at the Kaʻū District Gym. The Collective, a group of students aided by nonprofits and government agency representatives, as well as local businesses, brought together health, social service, and youth opportunity organizations, accompanied by hula, music, and food from the culinary class of Kaʻū High School.

Mayor Harry Kim and major sponsor frame plans to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserve. She plans to receive her bachelor's in hopes of becoming a paramedic. Dancel also plans on transferring to a university to continue her education and complete the Kaʻū District Gym. Other scholarships were provided to Edmund C. Olson, who has provided the top scholarship for the winner of the Miss Kaʻū District Gym. Other scholarships were provided by state Rep. Richard Onishi, Kaʻū Valley Farms, and the University of Hawaii Federal Credit Union, Kaʻū Valley Farms, Punalu‘u Bake Shop, Pacific Quest, Big Island Toyota, and County Council member Maile David.

Miss Kaʻū Coffee: from pg. 1

A police officer "to keep my community safe." She sang in Spanish, accompanied by her own ukulele stylings. Lilianna Marques, age six, of Pāhala, took the Kaʻū Peaberry title, winning Talent with an original song about coffee picking written by her family. Daughter of Shawn and Kaʻuʻulei Marques, Lilianna said she wants to become a cosmetologist.

Ed Olson attended the third annual Kaʻū Unity Celebration. Outreach included opportunities to apply to attend Kamehameha Schools programs, sign up for Summer Fun, and to become a Youth Ranger with Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park.

Mayor’s community police officer Shawn Irrata and retired community police officer Bill Doar photographed children and issued their free Keiki IDs. Ka‘ū High’s culinary class, led by ‘Ai’īna Akamu, cooked for the crowd to raise funds for a trip to Japan in June. Kuru hula Debbie Ryder presented her Pāhala students’ dancing.

Health organizations provided free blood pressure tests, new opportunities to receive medical care, family planning, and veterans assistance, and counseling.

Miss Flower Kysa Manini Kaʻupu, First Princess Adilyn Aetonu, along with sponsor Ka‘ū Valley Farms representative Lloyd Nakano. Miss Popularity, across all categories from ages 4 to 17, is five-year-old Adilyn Aetonu, of Pāhala, with a $200 scholarship. The title is based on support she received from the community.

In the Miss Kaʻū Coffee category, Ka‘ū High School Sophomore Bernadette Ladue won Swimsuit and Gown. Graduating Senior Helena Sesson took Interview, Career, and was named Miss Kaʻū Coffee, from pg. 10

Dancel, from pg. 5

A better player, student, and person. She was also the Varsity team captain and she wanted to lead by example. Her work ethic, effort, dedication, and passion grew stronger than ever.

Her senior year approached quickly, and she was more focused and driven. Her hanai parents, Daryl and Gen Shibuya and family, supported her and her dream. With motivation from her family, coaches, and team mates, she led her team to a very successful season. They made their first appearance in Div. II BIF game in January 2019 and earned their state berth for the first time in school history. Despite their loss to University Lab on Day 1 at the State Tournament, Dancel played an incredible 32 minutes and was immediately contacted by Turner Sports Recruiting, LLC - a recruiter that connects Hawaiʻi student-athletes with college coaches.

From her hotel room, she started finalizing her college applications and drove to the coast to attend a recruiting camp and meet potential coaches. She had already identified her top two choices - a recruiter that connects Hawaiʻi student-athletes with college coaches. From her hotel room, she started finalizing her college applications and getting everything together she needed to get the ball rolling. The light at the end of the tunnel was shining bright and she realized her dreams were becoming a reality.

After receiving several offers, she weighed her options and made her decision. On April 15, 2019, Dancel signed her letter of intent and committed to Pierce College in Lakewood, Washington. She will be the second player from Kaʻū High to play under Raider’s coach Arissa Wilson, after Demetra Navarro.

Dancel will major in Fire Command and Administration and minor in Emergency Medical Services. After receiving her Associates degree, Dancel plans on transferring to a university to continue her education and receive her bachelor’s in hopes of becoming a paramedic. Dancel also plans to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserve.
Exhibit - On Sacred Ground by Dino Morrow, 6th Annual Kaʻū Coffee Trail Run Registration, Kaʻū Coffee Festival: Kaʻū Mountain Hike & Open Mic Night, COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Volcano Art Center. Hands-on lei making demonstrations, live music and hula. Free; park entrance fees apply. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Hula Voices w/Musician Chris Leinaʻala Lasister, Wednesday, May 1, 1-6 p.m. – 7 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery. Described as smooth modern Hawaiian music. Free; donations welcome. 967-7565, volcanoartcenter.org

Kilauea Coffee Festival: Kaʻū Coffee & Cattle Day, Friday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., Aikane Plantation Company Coffee Company. $25; includes BBQ buffet and hula performances. Reservations required. 927-3225, aikanoplanetion.com

Cinco de Mayo, Fundraiser, Friday, May 3, doors open 5:30 p.m., dinner served 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., St. Judiʻs Episcopal Church, Ocean View. 5:30 p.m., Kahuku Coffee Festival, 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Kahuku Village. Free. 928-0550, kaucoffeemill.com. kaucoffeefestival.com

Kāʻiuku Coffee Festival: Kaʻū Star Gazing, Friday, May 3, 3:30 p.m. – 10 p.m., Makaua summit. $8, $5 for two, $20/family. kulaokakou.org

The Great Kilauea Eruption of 2018 and What Happened Next, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Kahuku Coffee Festival, 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Kahuku Village. Free. 928-0550, kaucoffeemill.com. kaucoffeefestival.com

Parenting Class & Saturday School, Monday, May 6, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. 939-7033, ovcahi.org

Keiki Science Class, Saturday, May 4 – 1st Saturday monthly – 11 a.m. – noon, Ace Hardware Stores islandwide; NāʻAlehu; 9-3030 and Ocean View, 923-7935. Free. acehardware.com

Flint in the Forest, Monday, May 6, Apr, bar opens 4 p.m., dinner 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Cooper Center, Volcano Village. Free. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Keiki Science Class, Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. – noon, Kīlauea Community Center. Free. 928-3102, hawaiicounty.gov/pr-recreation

Kāʻiuku Coffee Festival: Kaʻū Coffee College, Sunday, May 5, 9 a.m. – noon, Pāhala Community Center. Coffee industry professionals come to Kaʻū to share their knowledge with coffee professionals and enthusiasts. Free; donations welcome. kaucoffeefestival.com


Stewardship at the Summit, Monday, May 6, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., Kalapana. Free. 929-9113, hawaii.gov/pr-recreation

Ocean View Volunteer Fire Department Mtg., Monday, May 6, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. 939-7033, ovcahi.org

Family Engagement Night, Tuesday, May 7, 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. Sponsored by NāʻAlehu Elementary School. 939-7033, ovcahi.org

Keʻiki Coffee Growers Mtg., Tuesday, May 7, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. 939-7033, ovcahi.org

Hawaiʻi County Council Mtgs., Tuesday, May 7 (Committees), Wednesday, May 8 (Council), Kūʻau residents can participate via video-conferencing at NāʻAlehu State Office Building. Agendas at hawaiicounty.gov


Hawaiʻi Disability Legal Services, Friday, May 10, 9 a.m. – noon. Ocean View Community Center. Free. donations accepted. hawaiicounty.gov/pr-recreation

Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū, Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, NāʻAlehu. Pres. Berkeley Yosida, 747-0197

Hawaiʻi Disability Legal Services, Friday, May 10, 9 a.m. – noon. Ocean View Community Center. Free. donations accepted. hawaiicounty.gov/pr-recreation

Community Dance, Friday, May 10, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m., Cooper Center, Volcano Village. Minors allowed with supervision only. Alcoholic-free event. Variety band to provide live entertainment. Free. 967-8080, thecoopercen.org

Pancake Breakfast and Raffle, Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. To volunteer; call 939-7033, ovcahi.org

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Search result page for "Hawaiian Civic Club of Kauai, Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, NāʻAlehu. Pres. Berkeley Yosida, 747-0197".

Log in as a new user, log in as an existing user, post comments, or report content.

Feedback is available.
Wonderful World of Wine & Watercolor, Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., Volcano Art Center. $30/VAC members, $35/non-member, plus $17 supply fee. Learn to transfer a photo onto watercolor paper while sampling several wines from Grapes in Hilo. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

After Dark in the Park – Nā Wai Chamber Choir in Concert, Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Musical journey that honors the music of both historic and modern-day maile wainīhu. Honolulu-based Nā Wai Chamber Choir is a professional vocal ensemble that preserves, propagates, and innovates the legacy of Hawaiian choral music. Hilo native Dr. Jacque Kahoikolu-Saplan leads ensemble on animal kaona- lau tour. Free; park entrance fees apply. 965-4011, nps.gov/vac

Ocean View C.E.R.T. Mtg., Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. Emergency Response Team monthly meeting and training. 959-7039, ovolahi.org

Ulu Kahiko – Kumu Hula Waihauakeinui Merca- do de waimana (students) of Ke Ana L’ahumoe Keauhou Charter School, Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., a platform near Volcano Art Center Gallery. Hula performance. Free; park entrance fees apply. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Ocean View Community Association Board of Directors Mtg., Wednesday, May 15, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. 939-7039, ovolahi.org

Kīlauea Drama & Entertainment Network. Meet at Kīlauea Visitor Center Tuesdays in May: 7, 14, 21, 28, at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. Each performance is about an hour. See nps.gov/havo.

Walk into the Past with Thomas A. Jagger
Take a walk back to 1912 and meet the founder of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, Dr. Thomas A. Jagger, at the edge of Kilauea Volcano. Dressed in period costume, Ka‘u actor-director Dick Hershberger brings the renowned geologist to life. Dr. Jagger leads a tour of his tiny lab located below the Volcano House, showing original seismograph equipment and other early instruments. Learn what motivated Dr. Jagger to dedicate his life to the study of Hawaiian volcanoes, and how his work helps save lives today. Space is limited; pick up free ticket at Kilauea Visitor Center’s front desk the day of the program. Program includes climbing stairs and entering a confined space. Supported by the Kilauea Drama & Entertainment Network. Meet at Kilauea Visitor Center Tuesdays in May: 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. Each performance is about an hour. See nps.gov/havo.

Stained Glass Basics I, Saturday, and Sunday, May 18, 25, and June 1 and 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center. $30/VAC members, $35/non-member, plus $17 supplies fee. Advanced registration required. Limited to 6 adults. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Ocean View C.E.R.T. Mtg., Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. Emergency Response Team monthly meeting and training. 939-7039, ovolahi.org

Nā Mēa Hula w/Awana, Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery. Kahiko performance. Hands-on cultural demonstration. Free; park entrance fees apply. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Nā Mea Hula w/Awana, Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery. Kahiko performance. Hands-on cultural demonstration. Free; park entrance fees apply. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Arts & Tea Culture Workshop Series #1, Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Kona Coffee Farmer’s Market. NPS photo

NPS photo

Kīlauea Community Children’s Council, Thursday, May 23, 7 p.m. – 4 p.m., Classroom 35, Building F, Nā‘ālu‘u Elementary School. Provides local forum for children in grades 6-12 to learn about and present their community projects. Pre-pandemic event organized as equal partners to discuss and positively affect multiple systems’ issues for the benefit of all students, families, and communities. Note speaker: Lt. Col. Loreto Borce, Jr., Commander of Pohakuloa Training Area. Open to all authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply. 967-8371, kilaueamilitarycamp.com

Kīlauea Military Camp’s Kīlauea Theater. Kīlauea Drama & Entertainment Network. Selections will include scenes and songs from a variety of Broadway musicals. Note speaker: Chad Domingo, director of Pahala Kā‘ū Elementary School. Open to all authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply. 967-8371, kilaueamilitarycamp.com

In case of rain ceremony will be moved indoors. Park entrance fees apply. 967-8371, kilaueamilitarycamp.com

Pre-event for A Taste of Tea Pottery Fundraiser on August 25. Workshops designed to be attended as a series; 82 set for May 18, 73 set for July 27. No experience necessary. $65/VAC member, $75/non-member for series. Individual workshop, $25 each. Registration limited. 967-8222, volcanoartcenter.org

Hain Radio Mtg., Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. ovolahi.org

Ka‘u Little League Benefit Concert, Sunday, May 19, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., The Terrace at 92-1885 Princess Kīaulani Blvd., Ocean View. Lopaka Root and D-Tech Solutions, Live. Tickets, $10 in advance, $15 at door, park entrance fees may apply. Sponsored by Criminal Justice Solutions and Kahuku Park Block Watch. Gabe Morales, gnomatives2020.com, Kalli Griffin, kalli.grif- fith@gmail.com

Hawai‘i County Council Meetings, Monday, May 20 (Continues from previous Tuesday, May 19, 9 a.m.) Council. Hilo. Ka‘u residents can participate via video-conferencing at Nā‘ālu‘u Bafe Office Building. Agendas at hawaiicounty.gov

Summer Musical Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Flower Drum Song Auditions, Monday, May 20, and Tuesday, May 21, the Kīlauea Military Camp’s Kīlauea Theater. Kīlauea Drama & Entertainment Network. Parts for all ages and abilities. Cold read auditions. Parts for some roles on stage, be prepared to sing a song that best shows vocal range. Show to run July 12, 2022. Park entrance fees may apply. 967-7344, iden75@aol.com

Arts and Crafts Activities: Memorial Day Le‘i Hanging, Monday, May 27, 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Ka‘u Park, Kīlauea. Pahala Community Board. 969-1612, 965-1317. Free. 929-9113, hawaiicounty.gov/o-pr-recreation

Arts and Crafts Activities: Memorial Day Star Helping, Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., multi-purpose room, Ka‘u District Gym, Pahala. Register keiki grades K-6, May 16-21. Free. 928- 3102, hawaiicounty.gov/o-pr-recreation

Ka‘u Community Children’s Council, Thursday, May 23, 7 p.m. – 4 p.m., Classroom 35, Building F, Nā‘ālu‘u Elementary School. Provides local forum for children in grades 6-12 to learn about and present their community projects. Pre-pandemic event organized as equal partners to discuss and positively affect multiple systems’ issues for the benefit of all students, families, and communities. Note speaker: Chad Domingo, director of Pahala Kā‘ū Elementary School. Open to all authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply. 967-8371, kilaueamilitarycamp.com

Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 27, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Pāhoa Ridge Park, Pāhoa, Kona. Nadia Joye, speaker; Lt. Col. Loreto Borce, Jr., Commander of Pohakuloa Training Area. Open to all authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply. 967-8371, kilaueamilitarycamp.com


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Quebec Engineers Test Sand & Plastic Sorter at Kamilo Beach

Hoʻola One came to Kaʻū and its student inventors tested the machine’s ability to sort sand from microplastics at Kamilo beach. The engineering students from University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada built it, winning national awards for its design to help solve the problem of plastics in beach sands around the world. Kamilo has earned international attention for the plastics that wash up there, despite its remote location on the Kaʻū Coast.

A video released by the state Department of Land and Natural Resources at bigislandvidnews.com/2019/04/25-video-hoola-one-microplastic-removal-machines arrives-on-hawaii shows the first test of the Hoʻola One machine. The engineering students worked on the machine daily at Kamilo through the end of April. Hawai’i Wildlife Fund, which continually leads volunteer cleanups along the Kaʻū Coast, helped sponsor the effort to bring the machine to Hawaiʻi Island. Megan Lamson, of HWF, remarked, “So far, so good. Hoʻola One has arrived to the beach. We’re super blessed that it came alongside nine of the 12 engineering students from Sherbrooke… It’s not working quite as well as they had hoped, but that’s to be expected: a couple little fixes to get the vacuum perfect and then we’re good to go.”

She said that once microplastics are removed at Kamilo, she hopes Hoʻola One can travel to Maui… Oʻahu… The application in the state of Hawaiʻi and around the world can be huge.” Lamson said that methods of sorting sand from microplastics have involved using涉及到的trays and attempting to float the plastics. She said the Hoʻola One invention will be a lot more efficient.

Megan Lamson, DLNR photo

First Miss Kaʻū Coffee Bernadette Laulau wins the gown competition. Photo by Julia Neal

Miss Kaʻū Coffee, cont. from pg. 7
Outfit, Photogenic, and Talent to become Miss Kaʻū Coffee 2019. She takes home a $1500 scholarship from Edmund C. Olson and $400 for winning four categories in the competition, with scholarships provided by Pacific Quest, County Council member Maile David, state House of Representatives members Richard Onishi and Richard Creagan, and state Senator Russell Ruderman. First Miss Kaʻū Coffee takes home a $1000 scholarship from Kaʻū Mahi and $200 in scholarships from Rep. Richard Onishi.

In the Miss Peaberry category, Helen Miranda took Evening Gown and became Second Miss Peaberry, with a $530 scholarship from Pacific Quest and a $90 scholarship from Rep. Richard Creagan. Kendall Haddock took Talent and became First Miss Peaberry, with a $650 scholarship from CU Hawaiʻi Federal Credit Union and Rep. Richard Onishi, who also provided a $90 scholarship for Talent. Lilianna Marques won the Miss Peaberry title, taking Character Outfit and Photogenic. She takes home an $850 scholarship from Punaluʻu Bakeshop and Rep. Richard Onishi, as well as two $90 scholarships from County Council member Maile David, Sen. Russell Ruderman, and donors.


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First Miss Kaʻū Coffee Bernadette Laulau wins the gown competition. Photo by Julia Neal

Page 10 May, 2019
The Good News of Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi

Quebec Engineers Test Sand & Plastic Sorter at Kamilo Beach
Ocean View Classic Car and Bike Show Fundraiser

A Classic Car and Bike Show fundraiser for Ocean View Community Association March 30 drew more than 200 attendees. Organized by OVCA, the event displayed 23 classic and vintage cars, and 13 very fancy bikes at Ocean View Community Center.

The show proved to be a lucrative fundraiser for OVCA. The crowd enjoyed cars and bikes, live music, food, and raffle prizes.


Two new grants will benefit Miloli’i. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs Kūlia Grants Program recently approved $74,000 for Pa’a Pono Miloli’i to complete a Department of Health, certified kitchen at the Miloli’i Community Enrichment and Historical Center. This will allow Miloli’i Community Center to host the charter school with food services, and allow the community to prepare food for the Hawaiian village and to eat.

The Miloli’i grant is among ten Native Hawaiian grants reviewed by OHA’s Native Hawaiian grant reviewers processed 51 application, scoring them on organizational capacity, scope of services, experience, project plan, service delivery, and budget. OHA’s Chief Executive Officer Kamana’opono Crabbe said approved programs range from culture and education, to healthcare and housing, and will help Native Hawaiians across the state in the communities in which they live. It is important to OHA that we support projects that kōkua where they are most needed.

The community kitchen is part of a larger $1 million Miloli’i project, on Miloli’i’s Beach Road, to develop 918 acres. The community center is part of the larger Miloli’i Ho’opola Community Development Plan, presented to the state Department of Land & Natural Resources in 1984. The plan - with a name that includes Miloli’i’s ahupua’a of Ho’opola - was developed by Miloli’i’s village residents to include the future of land use, residential construction, and economic, recreational, cultural, and historical resources. It plans for a community center, picnic area, visitor center, library-museum, and canoe hale.

The Kūlia Grant builds on $200,000 released April 10 by Gov. David Ige, which funds another nonprofit called Kalanihale. West Ka’u Sen. Dru Kanuha, whose district includes Miloli’i, thanked the governor for supporting “this very special community. Throughout years of change, Miloli’i has stood as a community with an unshakable commitment to its own unique traditions and way of life. This Community Enrichment and Historical Center will afford the opportunity to share their tradition with residents and visitors. We look forward to a center in Miloli’i as enriching and inspiring as the community it represents.”

Ocean View Classic Car and Bike Show Fundraiser

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Ocean View Classic Car and Bike Show Fundraiser
Forests on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and Kaua‘i are critical forests.

The march of the Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death Fight Takes to the Air

The Hilo-based operation of Arizona State University is exploring this mystery. The team flies a turboprop equipped with equipment to detect and map Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death in the forests on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and Kaua‘i. The team surveyed the only visible sign that a nest has been created, so our volunteers have to carefully monitor the beaches to find this evidence before they are obliterated and then protect the nest by enclosing it in a cage. The cages keep away predators, such as rats, feral cats and mongoose, and also alert people using the beaches to stay away.

The eggs incubate for about 55 to 70 days, depending on the ambient temperature of the sand. The leathery eggs are about the size of a ping-pong ball. When the time is right, the eggs hatch and the little hatchlings work together to push their way through the sand, using their agile front flippers. They emerge at night. They instinctively scuttle across the beach and towards the water, likely attracted by the reflection of the moon on the ocean.

“This light cue is very important for them, but it also makes beaches near human development unusable for nesting, as, if the hatchlings see an electric light, they may go towards that light and never reach the ocean. Once in the ocean, the tiny hatchlings must negotiate waves and currents and avoid predators.”

Kurpita explained that Hawksbills live exclusively in the deep water just off shore of the islands, feeding on sponges. This is in contrast to the Green Turtle, which feeds on algae on the rocks, and regularly rests on beaches.

Little is known about their lives as they grow from hatchlings to adulthood, but Kurpita’s team of about 25 interns and volunteers are studiously using various methods of documenting this critically endangered species.

Kurpita said, “We have been tagging turtles since 1991. Since then, we have been diligently reading the tags of all the nesting females we see on the beach and recording this information. Working from this data we have, over the years, established the identity of 166 nesting females.

Unfortunately, we have not seen some of them in many years, which means we have no clear estimate of the female breeding population. We have one female who was tagged in 1993 and she is still nesting.


“We generally only see the females when they come ashore to nest and lay eggs,” said Kurpita. “If we are unlucky and miss seeing them on the beach, we can’t read their tags and so that turtle’s visit is a mystery. Our best season was in 2015 when we identified 25 Hawksbills, of which 12 were retumees and 13 were newly tagged. This was in spite of the fact that four beachings in Ka‘u were not monitored at night, so no data was collected there, although nests were identified during the day.

“We have absolutely no clue as to how many males are out there. The best we can do is to analyze the DNA of dead hatchlings and try to work out how many males there are in the genetic pool. I have never seen a male turtle in the wild.

“Recently we have been inserting tiny microchips in their rear flippers – the same kind that pet owners use to identify their dogs and cats. This may, in the future, make identifying them a bit more reliable. We can use epoxy glue to attach satellite transmitters to the turtle’s hard shell, which gives us invaluable information on where the turtle may go and where it lives. Unfortunately, these transmitters are bulky and are often knocked off and lost. But while they are attached, they give us data we could not get any other way. These animals live in deep water, so just finding them is difficult, and observing them for any length of time would be almost impossible,” explained Kurpita.

The Hawai‘i Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project is partnered or supported by Hawai‘i’s Volcanoes National Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawai‘i Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Three Mountain Alliance, Hawai‘i County, Nani Kahuku ‘Āina, Hawai‘i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

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Photo from DLNR

Home to the rarest population of sea turtles in the world.

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Kaʻū High & Pāhala Preschool: Health, Games, Fitness

Get Your Spring On Kaʻū Wellness Fair
On Saturday before Easter drew many providers to the Kaʻū District Gym annex, offering medical, dental, mental health, healthy living, and preventative care services.

Organized by Kaʻū High School teacher, track coach, and events organizer Angie Miyashiro, the gathering of children and families offered blood pressure and diabetes screening, strength and exercise analysis, and opportunities for outdoor experiences.

The day included an Easter Egg hunt and many educational games for kids as well as reading with Friends of the Kaʻū Libraries.

Among those on hand were Bay Clinic, Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes UH-Hilo, Phi Delta Chi Pharmacists, Hawai‘i State Teachers Association, United Healthcare, Keiki ID, Blue Zones, Children’s Community Council, PATH, Tūtū and Me, Project Aware - Mental Health First Aid, and Ocean Awareness & Safety.

Pāhala Preschool also drew droves of keiki on Easter, with an Easter Egg Hunt and many games.

Eddie Andrade – well known for his role as Santa during 40 years of Christmas Parades – brought out his many wooden games for children. The Easter celebration featured songs from musicians Calvin Ponce, Makana Kamahelo, and Guy Sesson, with food for all.

Angie Miyashiro is the organizer of the annual health fair.

Unity, cont. from pg. 7
reach Specialist, shared a vast array of veterans programs from health care initiatives to golf, tai chi, yoga, art, poetry, and equine therapy to paddle boarding and veteran fishing groups, with the next outing June 22 and a tournament Aug. 3.

Kupono McDaniel, Youth and Volunteer Programs Coordinator at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, presented the history of the Youth Ranger Program, in its tenth year providing training and work for Kaʻū High School students.

Dolly Kailiawa presented art from Boys & Girls Club members, inspired by diversity of the community and Kaʻū’s Special Places.

Nona Makuakane, of the county Parks & Recreation, helped to sign up keiki for this year’s Summer Fun program.

PARENTS, Inc. presented Restoring Hope programs, with group meetings for children and teens and their caregivers.

Bay Clinic presented its many medical and dental services, and handed out educational materials along with free pedometers, to help keep track of the number of steps taken for exercise.

Tūtū & Me explained its mobile classroom for keiki 0-5 and their families.
Experience Volcano Hawai‘i Festival to Help Revitalize Volcano Village

Experience Volcano Hawai‘i announced a new festival to help revive the economy of the community devastated by last year’s volcanic disaster. The event on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28, at multiple locations in Volcano Village, aims “to celebrate and share this thriving community of artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and cultural practitioners,” said a statement from Experience Volcano.

Over the course of the weekend, residents and visitors will enjoy art, food, music, and performances. Events will be held from Akatsuka Orchid Gardens to Volcano Winery, with a concentration in the heart of historic Volcano Village. Restaurants will feature special menus. Attendees are invited to create artwork through “make and take projects” at Volcano Garden Arts. Volcano Art Center will offer demonstrations at its Nī‘aunāli’i Campus, Live, local music will be on the menu at Lava Rock Cafe all weekend.

All events will be free. Experience Volcano urges those visiting to “take advantage of the many lodging opportunities Volcano has to offer.” For more information on Volcano, visit Experience Volcano at experiencevolcano.com.

Park Trails Reopen After Nesting Nēnē Raise Chicks

Over 25 percent of all endangered species in the U.S.—including nēnē— are native to Hawai‘i. NPS photos

New Preschool, Early Learning Center Funded

Funding for a new preschool and early learning center at Volcano School of Arts & Sciences was released by Gov. David Ige in April. East Ka‘u Sen. Russell Ruderman shared the acceptance letter from the governor’s office, which shows $450,000 is issued for the Capital Improvement Project. Said Ruderman, “Excited to announce the first Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding release from Governor Ige.”

Whale Tales: Education in Belly of a Cetacean

Marine education through storytelling was on the agenda of area schools in April when children sat in the belly of an inflatable mama humpback whale, calf at her side. Storyteller Mark Jeffers and his Storybook Theatre visited Pāhala, Volcano, and Kamehameha school campuses to make the presentation on the importance of clean oceans and respect for marine creatures.

Jeffers employs humor in presenting his 40-foot long show, called Russell Da Rooster. Led by puppet friends, the show educates children in a wide array of areas, including native species, solid waste management, and greater environmental awareness.

In its 20th year, Russell Da Rooster airs on OC16 on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays at 2 p.m., Thursdays at 6:30 a.m., Fridays at 7 a.m., and Saturdays at noon. See storybook.org and facebook.com/StorybookTheatreOfVolcano.

In its 20th year, Russell Da Rooster airs on OC16 on Sun-

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May 4 – And movement of molten rock – including a magnitude 6.9 on May 4 – and movement of molten rock towards the lower Puna community. More than 700 homes were destroyed by lava, and more than 2,000 people were displaced. At the summit, lava disappeared from Halema’uma’u and, 60,000 or so earthquakes damaged park buildings, roads, trails, water systems and other infrastructure through the summer. Most of the park closed May 11, 2018 to Sept. 22, 2018. Currently, Kilauea is not erupting and there is no molten lava on the surface, but the volcano remains active and is closely monitored by scientists. Park staff are at work to repair and reopen trails and roads, assess and monitor unsafe areas, and welcome the public back to a landscape forever changed by last year’s epic volcanic activity.

Calendars, from pg. 9

Reserve best seats, $25 cash, recticupula@me.com and at door - cash or check only. Overnight accommodations, 967-8556, kilaueamilitarycamp.com

HOVE Road Maintenance Board Mtg., Tuesday, May 28, 10 a.m., HOVE Road Maintenance office. hovroad.com, 928-9915, gm@hovroad.com

Ka‘u Food Pantry, Tuesday, May 28, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., St. Jude’s Episcopal Church in Ocean View. Volunteers welcome. Dave Breskin, 313-4973

After Dark in the Park – Hawai‘i’s Landfill Crisis: From Hopelessness to Hopeful, Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Speaker: David Plouffe, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Speaker: David Plouffe, Director of Finance. 928-8177, hawaiicounty.gov/cp

Kalua Kupuna Project, Wednesday, May 29 – last Wednesday, monthly – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., St. Jude’s Episcopal Church, Ocean View. Senior Services 60+

Roads, trails, water systems and other infrastructure through the summer. Most of the park closed May 11, 2018 to Sept. 22, 2018. Currently, Kilauea is not erupting and there is no molten lava on the surface, but the volcano remains active and is closely monitored by scientists. Park staff are at work to repair and reopen trails and roads, assess and monitor unsafe areas, and welcome the public back to a landscape forever changed by last year’s epic volcanic activity.

ROD, from pg. 12

Dr. Greg Asner leads the team that operates the airborne observatory. This year was its third time surveying forests to collect data on symptomatic trees. Asner said, “Our January 2019 mapping update on suspected ROD trees will be coming out shortly, which will extend our total coverage of the Big Island for three consecutive years. We’ve also added parts of Maui and Kauai along the way. Altogether, the mapping will continue to increase our knowledge of the rate, pattern, and overall threat level of ROD in the Hawaiian Islands. We are very proud to be working closely with DLNR, the USDA Forest Service, and all the organizations that depend on island-wide mapping results.” DLNR and its partners conduct regular “sketch mapping” aerial surveys of o‘hi‘a forests across the state to detect new disease outbreaks. These surveys are done from helicopters, but the data collected by ASU’s high-altitude aerial platform is much more precise and provides highly accurate location data on trees suspected to be infected with ROD.

Rob Hauff, State Protection Forester for the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, said, “The HTA support has helped expand our outreach to visitors who could potentially move ROD from island to island and allowed us to utilize state-of-the-art forest monitoring technologies to better map the disease.”

Over the past year, Hawai‘i Tourism has provided more than $400,000 in funding support for numerous ROD initiatives, including: $20,000 for trailhead sanitation stations and signs, $20,000 for bio-sanitation workshops for eco-tour operators, and support for the annual ‘Ohi‘a Love Fest in Hilo. DLNR Chair Suzanne Case remarked, “The support from Hawai‘i Tourism is invaluable in helping get the word out about what each of us can do to help stop the spread of this insidious tree disease.”

Words From The Locals:

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Local and Great Customer Service
Love that your local and have great customer service. Aloha!
A concert to raise money for stewardship of the Kaʻū Coast will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 6 p.m. at Pāhala Plantation House on the corner of Maile and Pikake Streets. The concert is one in a series of performances during the Hawaiʻi International Music Festival, in its third season in the islands. The series is called **Of Water**.

The recital features internationally acclaimed artists Metropolitan Opera Soprano Amy Shoremount-Obra and 2018 International Bach Competition Prize Winning Pianist Andrew Rosenblum. They will perform works by Turina, Mahler, Fauré, Rachmaninoff, Duke, and more. Donations accepted at the event go to Kaʻū Coast nonprofit stewardship organizations, including Nā Mamo O Kāwā, nmok.org; Kaʻohana O Honuʻapo, honuapopark.org; Ala Kaʻahakai Trail Association, alakahakaitrail.org; Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund, wildhawaii.org; and Hoʻonalu Kaʻū, hoonaluca@gmail.com.

In addition to the opportunity to donate to coastal stewardships, an opportunity to support Hawaiʻi International Music Festival is available by reserving best seats for $25 each. They are available at recitalpahala.bpt.me and at the door – cash and check only. See the concert schedule for other islands at himusicfestival.com. For overnight accommodations, contact Pāhala Plantation Cottages at 928-9811.

**Public Invited to Prepare for Wildfires at May 10 & 11 Workshops, Pāhala & Kāwā**

Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization and Nā Mamo O Kāwā invite Kaʻū residents to learn to protect homes and communities from the increasing risk of wildfires.

The sessions begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10 at Pāhala Plantation House, with a free and family-friendly educational ReadySetGo! Wildfire Preparedness Workshop.

Participants will learn how to use proper landscaping techniques and home structure modifications to protect family and property from wildfire, and to work as a community toward the common goal of fire protection.

Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization will share information on how to develop a clear, achievable family emergency plan, what actions to take during a wildfire, and proper evacuation procedures. Each attendee will also receive a free copy of the ReadySetGo! Hawaiʻi Wildland Fire Action Guide, which can be used as a step-by-step tool for carrying out the recommended actions.

The next day, Saturday, May 11, participants are invited to use new wildfire preparedness knowledge to join a volunteer work day to reduce wildfire hazards and restore the native habitat of Kāwā. The work day will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers will meet at the Northern entrance for Kāwā for sign-in, safety briefing, and opening protocol. Bring a water bottle, lunch, closed-toed shoes, long sleeved t-shirt, and pants. Tools, gloves, water, and light refreshments provided.

To sign up for both sessions, contact Pablo Akira Meimler at pablo@hawaiiwildfire.org, hawaiiwildfire.org, or 808-885-0900.