



Moa'ula Coffee lands are in the Lehman Brothers properties that are the subject of negotiations for sale. Photo by Geneveve Fyvie

Coffee Land Security, Shelter, CDP, Lava & Food are Top Stories

Coffee Land Security, Shelter, CDP, Lava & the Business of Food are headlines as Ka'ū transitions from Year 2014 to Year 2015. Here are the top ten stories:

THE PLIGHT OF KA'Ū COFFEE GROWERS remains the top story in Ka'ū, with some 30 farmers transitioning from 2014 into 2015, with most of their leases expired after nearly two decades of work to build a new economy after the sugar industry shut down in 1996. The farms are within 5,800 acres offered for sale by Lehman Brothers Holdings, which foreclosed on a company that borrowed more than \$40 mil-

lion against the land and planned to subdivide and sell it. They promised that new owners of proposed coffee estates would allow the coffee growers to continue to farm around the houses the new buyers could build. The Project Unit Development that was approved for the subdivision, with numerous infrastructure requirements, is still in place.

However, new rules for approving PUDs were recently passed by the County Council, requiring more public review of the process before approval. In the past, as with the coffee lands, such subdivisions

could be approved with smaller than 20-acre lots for which the property is zoned.

Meanwhile, coffee growers thrive, many of them evolving from sugar workers to entrepreneurs, owning their own coffee businesses and homes, representing one of the most successful post-plantation, small business successes for local people in Hawai'i.

Some of these farmers are spreading their land security risk, realizing that new owners could evict them at Moa'ula and Pear Tree. A number of these Ka'ū Coffee

2014 Top Stories, pg. 3

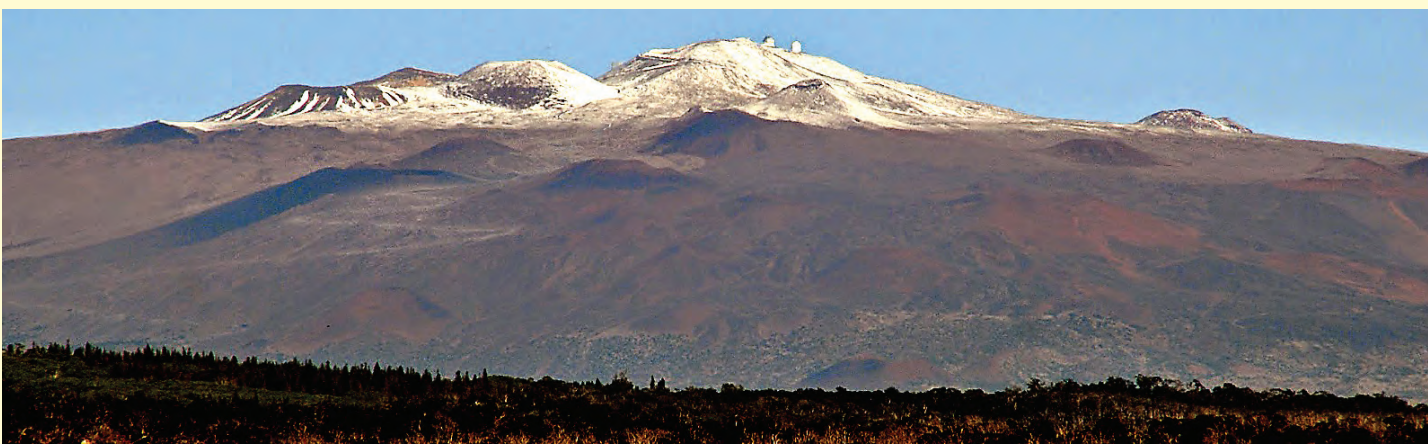
THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January, 2015

The Nature Conservancy Preserves Kahuku Iki Property



Winter snow on Mauna Kea as seen from Volcano.

Photo by Tom Peek

New Year Rings In with Snow & Wind

The New Year landed with a bang in Ka'ū with trees falling in a fierce wind-storm, knocking out power, blocking Hwy 11 and roads to neighborhoods and farms across the district. Heavy snow fell on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea summits as 2014 ended and 2015 began.

During the first weekend of 2015, powerful warm winds with little rain pushed through Ka'ū in starts and fits, cleaning dead wood from trees weakened by a long drought then thrashed by two hurricane-tropical storms this past summer. Some seemingly healthy trunks simply toppled over from their weakened root systems.

Charles Tobias, of Ocean View, reported that he helped remove trees from Highway 11 between his home and Nā'ālehu and witnessed fallen trees on



Coffee farmer Francis Marques removes huge albizia and eucalyptus trees from the road to Moa'ula to help Ka'ū Coffee growers reach their orchards. Photo by Trini Marques

Ocean View community roads. Coffee farmer Trini Marques reported growers clearing huge trees along the cane haul road between

Pāhala and Nā'ālehu where eucalyptus fell from Kamehameha School lands.

New Year, pg. 4

Kahuku Iki, a 222-acre property between Ocean View and Nā'ālehu, has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy. "Acquisition of the parcel, known as Kahuku Iki, prevents it from being developed and opens the possibility of a future partnership with neighboring Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park," said a statement from TNC in late December.

The land was acquired from the real estate company Hulu Lolo, LLC, for \$330,000, plus closing costs.

Triangular in shape, Kahuku Iki is zoned Agriculture. Its southerly, makai boundary extends 1.6 miles along Highway 11. Its northerly, mauka boundary is the abandoned old Māmalahoa Highway.

According to the state Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism, an estimated two million visitors a year drive past this parcel coming from both the Hilo and Kona directions.

"This is a small but very strategic piece of property that could have easily become an agricultural subdivision or strip mall," said Jody Kaulukukui, the Conservancy's director of land protection. "But with the Conservancy purchase, ag subdivision, clearing and development, which are permissible on agriculturally zoned lands, are no longer a threat."

Above Highway 11, the Kahuku Iki parcel is surrounded by the 116,000-acre Kahuku unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, which has expressed a strong interest in eventually having the property transferred to the National Park Service, the statement said.

Kahuku Iki, pg. 16

Royal Hawaiian Builds Drying Towers

Fifteen new drying towers in Pāhala have made Ka'ū one of Royal Hawaiian Orchards' tri-coastal locations for processing husked macadamia. The new metal towers each hold about 70,000 to 80,000 pounds of in-shell macadamia, which dry over about eight days, using heat generated by propane burners, according to operators of the factory.

After drying, the macadamia are poured

into shipping containers and sent to China where the nuts are cracked. After cracking, kernels are shipped again – this time to California for processing into various macadamia products.

Royal Hawaiian Orchards husks and dries macadamia in Pāhala, the nuts coming from from its orchards in Ka'ū and its orchards in Kea'au. Another 14 drying towers

Drying Towers, pg. 2



Fifteen towers dry 70,000 to 80,000 pounds of nuts each before they are shipped to China for cracking the shells off the macadamias.

Photo by Julia Neal

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Inserts: Island Market

KA'Ū BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

An Outlook on Making a Living through Farming in Ka'ū

Ka'ū's Hawai'i Farmers Union United Founding President and member Malian Lahey, who owns and operates a farm in Wood Valley, has released a New Year's message about agriculture in Ka'ū, her views on farming and the purpose of Hawai'i Farmers Union United and the new Ka'ū chapter.



Malian Lahey

HFUU Ka'ū Chapter Unites Organic and Conventional Farmers

As an organic farmer in Hawai'i, I am surely one of the rarer ones whose mentors are all conventional farmers. I can't help it. In Pāhala, where I live, most of



Drying Towers, cont. from pg. 1
may be installed in the future.

Royal Hawaiian, formerly ML Macadamia, LLC, sold macadamias nuts in the past to Mauna Loa Macadamia but has developed its own product line, promoting the healthy eating of macadamia and its non-GMO qualities.

Royal Hawaiian is one of the larger employers in Ka'ū, with more than 120 workers, including a regular staff all year and a larger crew during harvest time.

The Royal Hawaiian Orchards website touts the health benefits of macadamia oil, comparing it to olive oil. The company states that its macadamia products are gluten free, non-GMO. Royal Hawaiian puts forth such slogans as "Live long, Live well and Live aloha."

Products include unseasoned macadamias plus such creations as Mango Pineapple Macadamia Nut Crunch, Papaya Lime Macadamia Crunch, Sea Salt Macadamia, Sea Salt & Cracked Pepper Macadamia, Maui Onion Macadamias and Wasabi and Soy Macadamias.

In a website chapter called *Our Story*, Royal Hawaiian says,

the old timers use some kind of pesticide or chemical fertilizer. They have succeeded in their type of agriculture for more years than I have been alive.

They have also taken me under their wing, protected me, cooked fried eggs with smoke meat and rice for me. Their kind, open hearts opened mine. I still have a lot to learn from these farmers. They taught me which properties on the market were good for farming, what equipment to buy, how to space coffee trees, and the nutrient demands of coffee on the soil.

They introduced me to the NRCS, FSA, and USDA programs and coached me on how to navigate the incredible amount of bureaucracy involved in farming.

I'm not complacent. I have a lot to talk to them about. We've discussed the negative effects of pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers on human health, the soil, and the water. I've shared information about

"At Royal Hawaiian, we believe in the importance of finding balance in today's fast-paced world. This means the joyful sharing of life and aloha with your family and your community. It means honoring qualities like balance and simplicity. It means being thoughtful about the food you put in your body and respecting the nature that provides it."

See more at, www.royalhawaiianorchards.com

herbicide resistant superweeds and the way GM foods contribute to antibiotic resistant diseases.

Here's where it gets real: everyone is surviving in their own way. I don't have a right to tell other farmers how to work their own farm. I can farm my way on my farm.

In order to reasonably expect other people to change, I have to not only show that organic farming is better and that they can make a living at it, but I have to create a path forward for that to happen with some economic security. If I'm going to ask another

farmer to change their ways, I have some responsibilities to them.

First off, I have to respect their free will and choice. That means giving people the information and letting them make their own decision. I have to educate and build trusting relationships with farmers, so that I can share what I have learned about organic farming and how it works. It wouldn't hurt if they could see some models of successful organic farming to boot. If I'm so convinced that I am right, then I shouldn't be afraid of

Farming in Ka'ū, pg. 9

Enright Reappointed as Ag Chief

Scott Enright will continue as state Department of Agriculture chief. Enright, a veteran of the sugar industry, has been involved in stewarding rehabilitation of Ka'ū's old plantation water systems that were comprised of horizontal shafts dug into the side of Mauna Loa Volcano, where water would flow out into flumes used to carry sugar cane to the mills. The plan is to use the water for diversified agriculture, and millions of dollars have been approved and surveys completed for tunnels between Kapāpala and Wai'ōhinu.



Scott Enright

Enright has held the position since Jan. 1, 2014. Formerly deputy to Board of Agriculture Chair Russell Kokubun, he was the administrator of the state Department of Agriculture Divisions of Plant Industry and Agricultural Development, managed USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant funding program and directed Human Resources for the Office of the Chair. He also directed biosecurity programs and led initiatives to revitalize the state's livestock industry with special focus on developing the dairy and grass-fed beef industries.

Annual Minimum Wage Hike Begins

Hawai'i's new minimum wage law went into effect on Jan. 1, with minimum-wage earners receiving a 50-cents-per-hour raise. The state Legislature passed measures calling for more increases annually through 2018.

Act 82 increased the state's minimum wage rate to \$7.75 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2015; \$8.50 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2016; \$9.25 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2017; and \$10.10 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2018. It also raises the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2015, and 75 cents per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2016, as long as the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage.

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Correa Passes School Superintendent Torch to Keone Farias

Career educator Chad Keone Farias has taken the helm of the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa complex in the state public school system, succeeding Mary Correa, who mentored him for the position and retired Dec. 31.

Farias, 43, has spent his entire career on Hawai'i Island, most recently as Kea'au Elementary principal since 2008. Under his leadership, Kea'au Elementary was one of the pioneers in digital learning among its staff and students, boosting student achievement and lowering chronic absenteeism. Farias



Chad Keone Farias

previously served as vice principal at Keonepoko Elementary and his alma mater, Hilo High, where he held his first teaching job.

Hawai'i State Board of Education appointed Farias to the Complex Area post on Sept. 16 to be effective on Jan. 1.

Correa retires with more than 40 years in the state Department of Education, the last decade as the KKP complex area superintendent. She also served as an administrator at Ho'okena Elementary, Hilo Community School for

Adults, Pāhoa High and Intermediate and Hilo Intermediate schools. Early in her career, Correa taught at Waiakeawaena Elementary, Laupahoehoe Elementary, Waimea Elementary and Intermediate and Saint Joseph Elementary and Intermediate.

Correa is known for her phrase, "If can, can; if no can, how can," which challenged educators to overcome severe socioeconomic barriers and raise student achievement among what had been historically known as Hawai'i's lowest performing schools. The KKP complex schools have since emerged as a successful improvement model for the state after receiving targeted supports as

"Zones of School Innovation" in the DOE's Race to the Top federal grant. The KKP complex has close to 5,500 students in nine schools spread across the largest geographic region of any complex area in the state.

"Correa's leadership has been vital in recent months in weathering two hurricane threats that closed schools, and the Puna lava flow, which forced closure of Keonepoko Elementary indefinitely. She led her KKP team in ensuring a seamless education transition for 1,700 students and 300 staff to relocate to other schools within the complex," said a statement from the state Department of Education.

2014 Top Stories, cont. from pg. 1

growers have planted additional coffee farms on Olson Trust land at the mouth of Wood Valley.

Mayor Billy Kenoi and newly elected County Council member Maile Medeiros David have vowed to advocate for land security for the Ka'ū Coffee farmers.

REGIONAL SHELTER & GYM NEARS COMPLETION. Known as the biggest gym at one of the smallest public schools in the state, the soon-to-be completed Ka'ū gymnasium and disaster shelter will be operated by the county Department of Parks & Recreation for both the public and Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary and Intermediate schools. The nearly \$20 million facility will offer multiple playing courts for



Ka'ū gym and disaster shelter project was entering final phase of construction at the end of 2014.
Photo by Julia Neal

basketball, volleyball and other sports. It is built with the kind of hardening that allows it to be certified as a disaster shelter for the region. Whether air conditioning and air filtration for the larger gym and shelter, and solar voltaics to support them could be added, is still in question. The facility on county property adjacent to the Pāhala school campus was funded with "shovel ready" state

and federal money after the 2008 financial collapse in the U.S. economy.

KA'Ū COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN is in draft for public review and provides exhaustive detail on the geography and population of the district. The county-sponsored document, a primer for community members, school students and anyone desiring to know Ka'ū, can be read at www.kaucdp.info and in hard copy at local libraries and community centers. The Ka'ū Community Development Plan offers many maps, showing land use, agriculture and other components of Ka'ū's people and place. Community members can also reach out to county planner Ron Whitmore at 961-8137 or rwhitmore@co.hawaii.hi.us. The public may contact Ka'ū Community Development Plan Steering Committee members: Chair Leina'ala Enos, 929-9022; Patti Barry, 937-3124; Bob DaMate, 497-0384; Ron Ebert, 928-0027; Michelle Galimba, 430-4927; Loren Heck, 939-9454; Eldridge Naboa, 936-2189; Marino Ramones, 928-8240; Simon Torres, Jr., 928-6103; and John Cross, 987-4229.

Issues include a proposed quarter mile development setback along the Ka'ū Coast and future zoning for population and economic growth.

HAWAI'I VOLCANO OBSERVATORY, located on the edge of Ka'ū in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, took on the monumental task of predicting, documenting and studying a lava flow that started June 27 and is threatening Pāhoa and other lower Puna communities with destroying homes and businesses and isolating thousands by cutting off roads. By New Year's Eve, one



Sun silhouettes a Puna palm tree as lava approaches its trunk.
Photo from USGS/HVO

home had burned. However, the flowing fingers of lava stopped and stalled as a shopping center shut down and some businesses and families abandoned their buildings. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park worked with the county and state to open an escape route across an old road from Kalapana into the park that was previously covered with lava.

LOCAL FOOD COMPANIES TOOL UP FOR THE FUTURE. Punalu'u Bake Shop, having won a contract to provide its cookies to Hawaiian Airlines, is near completion of a new cookie kitchen on the grounds of its bakery and visitor center in Nā'ālehu. Royal Hawaiian Orchards installed 15 drying towers in Pāhala to remove moisture from macadamia nuts in the shell before they are shipped and cracked. Ka'ū Coffee Mill installed a new double drum pulper which can handle more 30,000 pounds a day. Work continued on a hydroelectric plant slated for completion in late 2015 on Olson Trust lands at the mouth of Wood Valley.



Ka'ū High Trojans are 2014 BIIF inaugural eight-man football champions.

Photo from Facebook

KA'Ū HIGH TROJANS WIN BIIF CHAMPIONSHIP. Ka'ū High School, with one of the smallest campus populations in the state from which to suit up a football team, found a way to be competitive. Athletic Director Kalei Kamohala and coach Kainoa Ke proposed eight-man football, a higher scoring faster paced game with fewer players than traditional football. The idea became a reality in 2013, and in 2014 the Trojans became the Big Island Interscholastic Federation champions.

A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL ACCEPTS STUDENTS IN KA'Ū. After several attempts over the years by various community groups, a hui led by Kathryn Tydlacka and Joe Iacuzzo won a state approved charter to open the Ka'ū Learning Academy. The first campus will be in the old Discovery Harbour Clubhouse, now op-

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KA PEPA PĀHALA

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

New Year, cont. from pg. 1

Albizia and eucalyptus crashed onto the unpaved road leading to Moa'ula orchards



Cattle graze among downed eucalyptus trees along the cane haul road between Pāhala and Nā'ālehu yesterday after the windstorm.

Photo by Julia Neal

during one of the heaviest harvests in Ka'ū Coffee history. Cloud Rest farms at Moa'ula were barricaded by fallen trees for two days, keeping pickers away from the heaviest har-

2014 Top Stories, cont. from pg. 3

erated as Gilligan's Café to raise money for the school. Applications are available online for students grades three through six for the 2015-2016 school year at www.kaulearning.com.



The clubhouse at Discovery Harbour will be campus for Ka'ū Learning Academy.

Photo from Ka'ū Learning Academy

com or call 808-213-1097.

ISELLE MAKES LANDFALL, FOLLOWS BY ANA. Hurricanes usually miss

vest in Ka'ū Coffee history.

Coffee pickers staying in Wood Valley were also blocked from going to work on Ol-

son Trust lands until trees could be cleared from Wood Valley roads.

Andrea Kawabata, of the University of Hawai'i Agricultural Extension Service,

was cut off as a bridge was destroyed and trees fell onto roads and powerlines. Coffee and macadamia farms suffered fallen cherries, nuts, branches and trees. Hurricane Ana also made landfall as a tropical storm, with more flooding.

MORE LAND INTO CONSERVATION was announced at the end of the year by The Nature Conservancy. The non-profit purchased Kahuku Iki, a 222-acre property between Ocean View and Nā'ālehu. "Acquisition of the parcel, known as Kahuku Iki, prevents it from being developed and opens the possibility of a future partnership with neighboring Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park," said a statement from TNC.



Government work crews were quick to clear dirt and paved roads to Wood Valley in the aftermath of Hurricane Iselle.

Photo by Julia Neal

the Big Island, so the legend goes, but Hurricane Iselle came ashore as a weak hurricane or heavy tropical storm on Aug. 8, with the eye passing over the Kamehame hawks-bill turtle preserve and Pāhala. Wood Valley

Page 4 January, 2015

urged farmers to document farm and structural damage and contact insurance providers. "Before you begin cleaning up, document all damages with (clear and focused) photos. Review your inventory and take note of anything damaged or missing. It's better to have more than not enough information and documentation when dealing with insurance claims," Kawabata advised. She circulated a photo of an uprooted macadamia tree at a

Pāhala Filipinos Name New Officers

Pāhala Filipino Community Association wishes everyone a happy New Year following its annual Christmas Party. Pres. Hilaria Panglao said the organization is a nonprofit, self-help association and accepts honorary members who enjoy the multicultural experience. The goal is to help members and their families, including school children and those bound for higher education.

Pāhala Filipino Community Association offers up to three higher education scholarships per year. "We help children, their families and others to build a stronger community," she said.

Panglao thanked outgoing officers: Vice President Gary Tomondong, Secretary Ella Louis and Treasurer Sally Louis "for their love and care to our association."

As returning President, Panglao also welcomed new officers: Vice President Jerry Villa, Secretary Alita Aurelio, Treasurer Suliana Mitsunaga and Advisors Pauline Enriques and Lita Eugenio.

U.H. research station.

Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative President Gloria Camba reported that after albizias fell across the road to Cloud Rest coffee farms, growers started cutting with their own chain saws. She said that coffee grower Francis Marques helped push the trees with tractor and bucket, trying to reach his bulldozer trapped on his farm. Bozo Lorenzo, Bong

New Year, pg. 8

Santa Eddie Andrade, flanked by Pāhala Community Association members Sec. Maria Aurelio, Advisor Lita Eugenio, Treas. Suliana Mitsunaga, Pres. Hilaria panglao, Advisor Pauline Enriques, Jerry Villa and keiki Chelsea Aurelio and Emerald Aurelio.

For more information and to join, call Panglao at 928-8261.



Bob Herkes receives a lei from Ocean View residents, Mayor Kenoi and former council member Brittany Smart for his help in funding the Ocean View well.

boundary extends 1.6 miles along Highway 11. Its northerly, mauka boundary is the abandoned old Māmalahoa Highway.

KA'Ū CHAMPION BOB HERKES passed away on Aug. 21 after a long stint

serving the district in the state Legislature. Herkes was known for bringing in funding for the Ocean View potable water well and the new Ka'ū Disaster Shelter, which will sport his name. He lobbied for a mobile medical van for Ka'ū that provides free medical care. He fought for mortgage reform, coming up with some of the strictest foreclosure

regulations in the nation. Herkes, a resident of Volcano, was a director of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and had a career in the hotel industry before turning to community service.

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CALENDAR

January 2015

Ocean View Neighborhood Watch meeting, Thu, Jan 1, 7 p.m., Ocean View Community Center.

Stewardship at the Summit, Fri, Jan 2 & 9; Thu, Jan 15; Sat, Jan 24 & 31; 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Volunteers meet at Kilauea Visitor Center to help remove invasive Himalayan ginger from park trails. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Ham Radio Operators Potluck Picnic, Sun, Jan 4, Manukā Park. All American Radio Emergency Service members, anyone interested in learning how to operate a ham radio and families are invited to attend. Dennis Smith, 989-3028

A Walk into the Past, Tue, Jan 6 & 20, 10 a.m., 12 p.m. & 2 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center and Whitney Vault in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Ka'ū resident Dick Hershberger brings Hawaiian Volcano Observatory founder Thomas Jaggar to life every other Tuesday.

After Dark in the Park: Updates on Kilauea's Two Eruptions, Tue, Jan 6, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist Matt Patrick presents an update on the Halema'uma'u lava lake, a brief overview on the first 30 years of Pu'u Ō'ō's eruption and an in-depth account of the current lava flow that has advanced toward Pāhoa over the past six months. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Ka'ū Scenic Byway Committee Meeting, Thu, Jan 8, 5 p.m., Nā'ālehu Methodist Church. Public invited. richmorrow@alohabroadband.net

Red Cross Volunteer meeting, Thu, Jan 8, 7 p.m., HOVE Road Maintenance Corp. office. For volunteers and those interested in becoming volunteers. Hannah Uribes, 929-9953

Atlas Recycling at South Point U-Cart, Sat, Jan 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Over & Under: More of His Nature, Sat, Jan 10 – Sun, Feb 15, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Original paintings by John D. Dawson. Opening reception Jan 10, 5 p.m. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Process Painting with Patricia Hoban, Sat, Jan 10, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. 967-8222

Ōhi'a Lehua, Sat, Jan 10, 9:30 a.m., Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Participants bring lunch and learn about the vital role of ōhi'a lehua in native Hawaiian forests, the many forms of the 'ōhi'a lehua tree and its flower. Free. 985-601

Palm Trail Hike, Sun, Jan 11 & 25, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's Kahuku Unit. This moderately difficult 2.6-mile loop trail provides one of the best panoramic views Kahuku has to offer. 985-6011 or nps.gov/havo

Sunday Walk in the Park, Jan 11, 12 – 2 p.m. Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park meet at Kilauea Visitor Center to explore Sulfur Banks & 'Ilahi Trails. 985-7373

Medicine for the Mind, Sun, Jan 11, 4 – 5:45 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. Buddhist healing meditation for beginners through advanced. Free. Patty, 985-7470

After Dark in the Park – Kilauea Volcano's Dual Personality: A Historical Perspective, Tue, Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i

entrance fees apply.

New Year's Wall Hanging, Wed, Jan 14, 3:30 – 5 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Grades K – 8 register Jan 5 – 9. Nona, 928-3102

Updates on Kilauea and Mauna Loa Activity, Wed, Jan 14, 6:30 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist Frank



Ka'ū middle school students will have access to learning instruments as band instruments are restored and Jr. Volcano Choy offers after school classes, a fundraiser planned for Jan. 31.

Photo by Julia Neal

Jazz Concert Supports School Band

Funds are being raised to restore instruments at Ka'ū High School for a music program for Pāhala Middle School students. Jr. Volcano Choy and Friends will host a fundraising outdoor jazz performance, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Pāhala Plantation House on the corner of Maile and Pikake Streets.

The event is sponsored by Volcano Art Center, which has received a grant from Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture & the Arts to bring back band music education to keiki of Ka'ū. The afterschool program for beginning brass band will be instructed by Jr. Volcano Choy, a highly experienced performing artist and educator who lives in Volcano, following a professional performing and recording career on the mainland.

A Hawai'i native, Choy noted that Ka'ū High school's music building is filled with all the instruments that are part of a full band program. Due to lack of a program, scores of instruments are rusting and non-functional. A statement from Volcano Art Center said, "These instruments need to come alive again. They are trumpets, trombones and more which all need TLC. The Afternoon Jazz Performance is an event to raise funds for repair and revitalization of these instruments."

Those attending are urged to bring a garden chair and the \$15 suggested donation.

For a weekend of Jazz with Jr. Volcano Choy and overnight accommodations, call Pāhala Plantation Cottages at 928-9811

Volcanoes National Park. USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist Don Swanson looks at what we know and don't know about Kilauea's temperament, which alternates between quiet effusion of lava and violent explosive eruptions. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Lei Hulu Demonstration, Wed, Jan 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center lānai in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Master lei maker Kilohana Domingo demonstrates the art of feather work. Free, park

Trusdell reports on the current status of Mauna Loa, offers updates on Kilauea's summit eruption and presents an overview of Kilauea's East Rift Zone eruption, including an in-depth account of the lava flow that has advanced toward Pāhoa over the past few months. 967-8844

Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū, Thu, Jan 15, 5:30 p.m. 929-9731 or 936-7262

Recycling at Nā'ālehu School, Sat, Jan 17, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Nā'ālehu School Gym. Redeem your HI-5 sorted by type; receive 5 cents per container and additional 20 cents per pound on all aluminum. Atlas Recycling donates 20 cents per pound on all aluminum redeemed to the school. 939-2413, ext. 230

Ka'ū Natural Farming Workshop, Sat, Jan 17 & 24, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Earth Matters Farm at South Point & Kama'oa Rds. Creating soil health & nutritional food. \$100 for both days includes garden lunch. 939-7510

People and Land of Kahuku, Sat, Jan 17, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This guided, 2.5-mile, moderately difficult hike over rugged terrain focus on the area's human history. 985-6011

Mushroom Cultivation with Zach Mermel, Sat, Jan 17, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. 967-8222

Hula Kahiko, Sat, Jan 17, 10:30 a.m., hula platform near Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes

National Park. Featuring Kumu hula Kekoa & Pelehonuamea Harman with Hālau I Ka Leo Ola o Nā Mamo.

Hi'iaka & Pele, Sun, Jan 18, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Participants discover the Hawaiian goddesses, sisters Pele and Hi'iaka, and the natural phenomena they represent through epic stories depicted in the natural landscape of Kahuku on this easy 1.7-mile walk on the main road in Kahuku.

After Dark in the Park: Watching Mauna Loa Shake, Tue, Jan 20, 7 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. USGS geophysicist Paul Okubo discusses the relationship between earthquakes and eruptions on Mauna Loa, including an update on the volcano's current status and how HVO's seismic network has evolved over the past century. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Storybook Reading & Coloring, Wed, Jan 21, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Pāhala Community Center. Grades K – 8 register Jan 12 – 16.

Hula Performance by Haunani's Aloha Expressions, Wed, Jan 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. This popular, award-winning hula hālau shares the aloha spirit with malihini on visiting cruise ships and at Hilo International Airport. They also entertain patients at many of Hilo's senior kōkua organizations and have performed at the park's annual cultural festival on several occasions. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Keiki Fishing Tournament, Sat, Jan 24, Punalu'u Beach Park. Ages 1 – 14 check in 8 – 9 a.m. for fishing 10 – 11:30 a.m. 'O Ka'ū Kākou provides poles, bait and free lunch. Registration available at local schools and businesses. 217-2253 or 937-4773

Kahuku 'Ohana Day, Sat, Jan 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Children of all ages join park rangers and experience medicinal values, cultural stories and uses of Hawaiian plants with Momi Subiono as she shares her knowledge of lā'au lapa'au. Register at 985-6019 by Jan 6.

Mold Ceramics, Mon, Jan 26, 3:30 – 5 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Grades 3 – 8 register Jan 12 – 16. Nona, 928-3102

HOVE Road Maintenance board of directors meeting, Tue, Jan 27, 10 a.m., St. Jude's Church. 929-9910

After Dark in the Park – Pāhoehoe Lava: The Ebb and Flow of Molten Rock, Tue, Jan 27, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. University of Hawai'i at Hilo geologists Ken Hon and Cheryl Gansecki use time-lapse and recent videos to explain how and why pāhoehoe lava flows advance, stall and inflate. Free; park entrance fees apply.

Ocean View Food Basket, Tue, Jan 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. 939-7000

Super Bowl Football Windsock, Wed, Jan 28, 3:30 – 5

Calendar, pg. 6

Ka'ū Farmer's Market

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Jan 3.....	Ukulele Boyz
Jan 9.....	Lucky Lizardz
Jan 10.....	Mike Bowers
Jan 16.....	BlueTattoo R&B
Jan 17.....	Solomon and Tiger
Jan 23.....	Lucky Lizardz
Jan 24.....	Nicole McCutcheon
	acoustic R&B
Jan 30.....	Mike Bowers
Jan 31.....	TBA

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Calendar, cont. from pg. 5

p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Grades K – 8 register Jan 20 – 23. Nona, 928-3102

Ocean View Community Development Corp. meeting, Fri, Jan 30, 5 p.m., Hawaiian Ranchos offices.

Empowered by the Pen with Tom Peek, Sat, Jan 31, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village.

Pu'u o Lokuana, Sat, Jan 31, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. This moderately difficult 0.4-mile hike to the top of the grassy cinder cone features the formation and various uses of the hill over time and a breathtaking view of lower Ka'ū. 985-6011

EXERCISE & MEDITATION

Pāhala Pool Schedule: Water Fitness Mon/Wed/Fri 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.; Adult Lap Swim Mon/Wed/Fri 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Tue/Thu 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Public Recreational Swim Mon – Fri 1 – 4:15 p.m.; Public Recreational Swim & Lap Swim Sat/Sun 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1 – 4 p.m. Closed Thu, Jan 1 & Mon, Jan 19. 928-8177 or hawaiicounty.gov/pr-recreation

Iyengar and Yin Yoga, Mon/Wed/Fri, 10 – 11:30 a.m.; Ocean View Community Center. Mats and props provided. Stephanie, 937-7940

Free Play Sports & Games, Mon – Fri, 1 – 4:30 p.m., Kahuku Park. For ages 6 – 12. Teresa, 929-9113

Boys & Girls T-Ball Baseball, Mon/Wed, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Kahuku Park. Ages 5 – 6 register Jan 1 – 9. Teresa, 929-9113

Track & Field Practice, Mon – Thu, 3 p.m., Nā'ālehu Community Center. Ages 6 – 14 register Jan 3 – 9. Richard, 939-2510

Instructional Tennis, Mon – Thu, 3:30 – 4:45 p.m., Nā'ālehu Community Center. Richard, 939-2510

Boys & Girls T-Ball & Coach Pitch Baseball, Mon – Thu, 4 p.m., Nā'ālehu Community Center. Register Jan 5 – 16. Richard, 939-2510

Track & Field Practice, Mon – Fri, 4 – 5 p.m., Kahuku Park. For ages 6 – 14. Teresa, 929-9113

Basketball Instruction, Mon – Thu, 5 – 7 p.m., Nā'ālehu Community Center. For ages 14 and above. Richard, 939-2510

Afternoon Sports & Games, Mon – Fri, 1 – 5 p.m., Kahuku Park. Teresa, 929-9113

Adult Walk for Fitness, Mon – Fri, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Kahuku Park. Teresa, 929-9113

Exercise for Energy, Mon/Wed, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Center. DVD instructions; bring your own band, ball and mat. Free w/donation of non-perishable food. Becky, 345-4334

Zumba Fitness, Mon/Thu, 5:30 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m., New Hope Christian Fellowship in Volcano. Certified instructor Linda Fanene, 990-3835

Zumba, Mon/Thu, 6 – 7 p.m., Nā'ālehu Community Center. Certified Zumba instructor Erin Cole, 938-4037

Adult Volleyball, Mon/Wed, 6 – 8 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Register Jan 5 – 9. Nona, 928-3102

Aikido, Mon/Wed, 6 p.m., Old Pāhala Clubhouse. Alan Moores, 928-0919 or artbyalan2011@gmail.com

Boys & Girls Coach Pitch Baseball, Tue/Thu, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Kahuku Park. Ages 7 – 8 register Jan 1 – 9. Teresa, 929-9113

Age Group Basketball, Tue/Thu, 6 – 8 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. For ages 11 – 12 and 13 – 14.

Beginning and Intermediate Yoga, Tue/Thu, 8:30 – 10 a.m. Noa's Island Massage in rear entrance of Ka'u Realty across from Hana Hou. Please come 10 minutes early. \$10 a class or \$80 for 10 classes. 756-3183

Track & Field Practice, Tue/Thu, 3:30 – 5 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Ages 6 – 14 register Jan 5 – 9. Nona, 928-3102

Belly Dance Classes, Tue; beginners, 5:30 p.m.; intermediate, 6:30 p.m. Farasha, 990-3835

Karate, Tue/Fri, Pāhala Community Center. Cliff Field, 333-1567

Karate Classes, Tue/Thu, 6 – 7:30 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. Instructor Peter Lubke offers free classes for all ages. 939-7033

Self-Guided Yoga, Wed, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Cooper Center, Volcano. Calabash donations. Debra Serrao, 985-7545

Gentle Senior Yoga, Wed, 3 – 4 p.m., Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Senior price \$10 for 10 sessions. Stephanie Peppers, 937-7940

Meditation, Wed, 4 – 5 p.m. Nā'ālehu Hongwanji.

Velvet Replogle, 936-8989

Beginners' Yoga, Wed, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. \$5. Rob Kennedy, 985-9151

Hula Kahiko, Thu, 4 – 6 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Hall. Ka'ū School of the Arts, 854-1540 or info@kauarts.org

Western Line Dance Classes, Thu, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Hall.

Gentle Yoga, Fri, 8 – 9 a.m., Cooper Center, Volcano. For those who wish to deepen their yoga practice or begin. \$7 a class or \$30 for six-week session. Debra Serrao, 985-7545

DAILY & WEEKLY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Volcano Farmers Market, Sun, 6 – 10 a.m., Cooper Center. Fruits and veggies, swap meet and more. EBT welcome.

Ocean View Community Center computer lab, Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – noon. Members \$2/hour, non-members, \$4/hr. 939-7033 for information on computer classes.

Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool, free classes Mon/Wed, Nā'ālehu Community Center; Tue/Thu, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Pāhala Community Center. 929-8571

Niaulani Nature Walks, Mon, 9:30 a.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. These one-hour nature walks travel through a portion of old-growth Hawaiian rain forest on an easy, 1/7-mile loop trail. Free (calabash donations welcome). 967-8222 or volcanoartcenter.org

Pāhala Senior Center: Lunch served Mon – Fri, 10:30 a.m. for residents aged 60+. Julie, 928-3101

Nā'ālehu Senior Nutrition Center (Hawai'i County Nutrition Program), Lunch served Mon – Fri, 10:45 a.m. for residents aged 60+, greater Nā'ālehu area. 939-2505

Ocean View Nutrition Site and Senior Club hosts activities at St. Jude's Church on Mon/Wed/Fri from 8:30 a.m. and provides lunches 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for seniors 60+. Donations requested. On Thu, the program takes seniors to Kailua-Kona for doctors appointments, grocery shopping and to pick up prescriptions. Program closed Tue. Dick Hershberger, 989-4140

Zhineng Qigong, Mon, 2 – 4 p.m., Cooper Center in Volcano Village. \$10 suggested donation. alohachigong@gmail.com

Kanikapila Jam Sessions, Mon, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village. 967-8222

Ka'ū Community Chorus Rehearsals, Mon, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Hall; Ka'ū School of the Arts, 854-1540 or info@kauarts.org

Duke Researchers Suggest Protecting Spinner Dolphins for Tourism Industry

Importance to tourism is a strategy suggested by a new study outlining dangers to spinner dolphins and how to preserve their populations in Hawai'i. The study from Duke University attempts to find ways to reduce pressures placed on dolphins as the number of visitors increases to Hawaiian bays that dolphins use as safe places to rest.

According to the researchers, a combination of federal regulations and community-based conservation measures is the best way to protect Hawai'i's wild spinner dolphins in Hawai'i. Community-based conservation efforts involve local residents working together to manage the bays and discourage human behaviors that can harm dolphins. Educating and reaching out to the

South Side Alateen meeting, Mon, 7 p.m., St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Ocean View. Sandy, 557-9847

Ka'ū Driver License Office, Tue/Wed by appointment. 854-7214

Movie Matinee, Tue, 2:30 p.m., Nā'ālehu Public Library. Free, family-friendly movies for all ages plus free popcorn. 939-2442

Ka'ū Farmers Market, Wed/Sat, 8 a.m. – noon, Shaka's Restaurant in Nā'ālehu. Produce, Hawaiian, arts and crafts, fresh baked goods.

Nā'ālehu Market, Wed/Sat, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Ace Hardware. Produce and locally made products.

Community Bookstore, Wed, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Kauaha'ao Church in Wai'ōhinu. 938-0411

Sumi-e Japanese Brushstroke Painting, Wed, 1 – 3 p.m., Nā'ālehu Hongwanji

Free 'Ukulele, Slack Key and Steel Guitar classes, Wed, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Olson Trust Building in Pāhala; Fri, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Nā'ālehu Methodist Church. Keoki Kahumoku. Call Tiffany at 938-6582 for details and to confirm.

Ka'ū 'Ohana Band Rehearsals, Wed/Thu, 4 p.m., Ocean View Community Center. Instruments provided; no experience necessary. Ka'ū School of the Arts, 854-1540 or info@kauarts.org

Game Night, Wed, 6:30 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Center. Lucy Walker, 929-7519

Ka Lae Quilters, Thu, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Discovery Harbour Community Center. 238-0505

Desperately Seeking Serenity AFG meeting, Thu, 5 p.m., St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Ocean View. Sandy, 557-9847

Art Fridays, 1 p.m., Kahuku Park. For ages 6 – 12. Teresa, 929-9113

Women, Infant, Children Services, Fri (except holidays) at various locations. 965-3030 or 934-3209

Aloha Fridays, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery porch at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Variable hula art offerings. Everyone welcome. Free; donations welcome; park entrance fees apply.

Live Entertainment at Hana Hou Restaurant, Fri, 5:30 p.m. in Nā'ālehu. 929-9717

Live Music Fridays at South Side Shaka, Nā'ālehu. 929-7404

Ocean View Farmers Market, Sat, 7 a.m. – noon, Pōhue Plaza.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings: One Day at a Time Group, Sat, 6:30 p.m., Cooper Center; Friday Night BBQ Meeting, Fri, 5 p.m., Wai'ōhinu (929 -7674); Happy, Joyous and Free Group, Mon/Thu, 7 p.m. and Sat, 5 p.m., St. Jude's in Ocean View. West Hawai'i Intergroup, 329-1212 or the Hilo office, 961-6133



Spinner dolphins rest in Hawai'i's bays, where tourists go to interact with them. Photo from wikipedia

at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, said, "A combination of management approaches is needed immediately to make interactions between humans and dolphins sustainable. Neither top-down mandates nor bottom-up stakeholder efforts are the sole answer to this problem."

The Ka'ū Calendar

M

ahalo to the many hardworking volunteers & generous donors this past year! Looking forward to another year of opportunities to care for our Ka'ū 'ohana and the community we love.

OKK members McKenzie and Dakota Buhr, and Jay Starbird plant one of two new coconut trees at Punahū; replacing those felled earlier in the year.

Heartfelt wishes to all for a fabulous 2015

Join 'O Ka'ū Kākou & make a difference; It'll make your heart smile!

For membership, to volunteer or to receive our email updates, contact Nadine Ebert at 928-0027, or email ebertn004@hawaii.rr.com. 'O Ka'ū Kākou, P.O. Box 365, Pāhala, HI 96777.

KA'U SPORTS REPORT

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

Annual OKK Fishing Tournament in Full Swing Jan. 24

'O Ka'ū Kākou is starting 2015 with a big mahalo for all those who volunteered during 2014 and looking ahead to many projects, said Pres. Wayne Kawachi.

The first for the New Year is the 'O Ka'ū Kākou Keiki Fishing Tournament, the largest shoreline annual event in Ka'ū. This year it takes place on Saturday, Jan. 24. The keiki tournament draws hundreds of families for a day of friendly competition at Punalu'u Beach, with every keiki participant ages 0 to 14 receiving a prize. The fish and release competition also includes marine education. Participants are urged to pre-register, and forms are available from members and at area businesses.

This event is the start of a slew of projects that OKK, a 501(c)(3) non-profit community service organization, plans for the improvement and wellbeing of Ka'ū and its residents, Kawachi noted. Reflecting on 2014, Kawachi said, "It has been a rewarding year for OKK and definitely took help from the community and others for our success. We would like to thank all who helped."

Some of those projects included the first annual Ka'ū Coffee Trail Run, which debuted in September drawing competitors

from around the world to a half marathon and shorter races on trails above Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

Kawachi mentioned OKK's help with the annual Fourth of July parade down Hwy 11 in Nā'ālehu and Family Day at Nā'ālehu Park. OKK improved and continues to maintain seven cemeteries and provides public toilets at South Point and Punalu'u. A new project included collaborating with the Edmund C. Olson Trust II, Ka'ū Andrade Contracting, Inc. and members of the Nā'ālehu Catholic Church to erect a stone wall fronting the church property.

In addition to giving scholarships for individual students and monetary donations to community groups, from athletic teams to other non-profits, OKK provides manpower to numerous community events, including the Ka'ū Coffee Festival, Ka'ū Coffee Pageant and Ka'ū Plantation Days.

In December, OKK assisted Hana Hou Restaurant in serving the community a free dinner and celebration at the annual Keiki Christmas Party.

OKK members can be seen all over Ka'ū lending a hand from highway and Punalu'u pond cleanups to assisting seniors with home



Punalu'u Beach tidepools and shoreline are the site of the annual Keiki Fishing Tournament that draws nearly a thousand people each January.

Photo by Nālani Parlin



Joe Buyuan caught the most fish in the 2014 Keiki Fishing Tournament.

Photo by June Domondon

repairs and installing guard rails. OKK Senior Bingo events continue to be a hit, and OKK members have expanded their support to individual seniors including yard work and roofing projects.

"Senior projects were plentiful throughout the year," said Kawachi. One story involved the Rev. Lona Lyons, of Ocean View, who broke her ankle in three places and was trapped in her house due to the steepness and difficulty of the path from the street to her house. Lyons said she had to be carried from her house to the car for doctor appointments. OKK helped Lyons redeem her independence by creating a new path on which she could easily use her walker right to her front



Hezekiah Baji, Aleayah Abellera and Janslae Badua won in the Largest Aholehole division last year.

Photo by Nālani Parlin

door. "Yes, there were tears of joy, but more than anything, I was so touched by the generosity and kindness of your organization. In a world where only 'bad news' captures the headlines, it is good to be reminded that there are such beautiful souls who give selflessly of their time and energy to help others," Lyons told OKK members.

The work of OKK has inspired many people living in Ka'ū and away to donate time, money and supplies to support its projects. Anyone wishing to become a member or to donate can contact the organization by emailing info@OKauKakou.org, visiting www.okaukakou.org, or writing to P.O. Box 365, Pāhala, HI 96777.

Trojan Girls' Basketball Starts Season Strong with Win over Pāhoa

Ka'ū High Trojan Varsity basketball team is currently tied for 2nd place in the Big Island Interscholastic Federation season play. Trojan's beat the Pāhoa Daggers 59 – 41 and Kealakehe Waveriders 55 – 28; and fell to the Waiakea Warriors 32 – 51. Against Pāhoa, Bridget Pasion led the Trojans with 15 points. Against Kealakehe leading the Trojans were Denisha Navarro with 22 points and Kerielynn Domondon with 13 points. Trojans



Ka'ū High School Girls Basketball team march in parade.

will match up with the Kohala Cowgirls on Wed. Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. at Kohala High School Gymnasium.





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WINTER SPORTS CALENDAR

Girl's Basketball

w/ Coach Cy Lopez:

- Sat, Jan. 3, Kealakehe @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Wed, Jan. 7, Ka'ū @ Kohala, 6 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 10, Hilo @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 13, Ka'ū @ Honoka'a, 6 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 16, Ka'ū @ Kea'au, 6 p.m.
- Wed, Jan. 21, Ka'ū @ Kona, 6 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 24, HPA @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 31, Ka'ū @ Kamehameha 6 p.m.
- Fri, Feb. 6, DII – Semi-Finals
- Sat, Feb. 7, DII- Finals @ Kona
- Feb. 10 – 13, HHSAA Finals

Boy's Basketball:

w/ Coach Daryl Shibuya

- Tues, Jan. 6, Ka'ū @ Kealakehe, 6 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 9, Waiakea @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Wed, Jan. 14, HPA @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 17, Ka'ū @ Pāhoa, 6 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 20, Ka'ū @ Hilo, 6 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 23, Kohala @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 27, Kona @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan. 29, Kea'au @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Wed, Feb. 4, Ka'ū @ Kamehameha, 6 p.m.
- Wed, Feb. 11, Honoka'a @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Sat, Feb. 14, St. Joe @ Ka'ū, 6 p.m.
- Fri, Feb. 20, DII –Semi-Finals @ Hilo Civic
- Sat, Feb. 21, DII – Finals @ Hilo Civic
- Feb. 24 -27, HHSAA

Boy's Soccer:

w/ Coach Crystal Mandaquit

- Sat, Jan. 3, Konawaena @ Ka'ū, 3 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 6, Ka'ū @ Pāhoa/HAAS, 3 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 10, Ka'ū @ Kealakehe, 3 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 13, East Pac @ Ka'ū, 3 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 17, Ka'ū @ HPA, 3 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 20, Kamehameha @ Ka'ū, 3 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 24, Ka'ū @ Kohala, 3 p.m.
- Tues, Jan. 27, Hilo @ Ka'ū, 3 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 31, Parker @ Ka'ū, 3 p.m.
- Tues, Feb. 10, DII- Quarterfinals
- Thur, Feb. 12, DII – Semi-Finals
- Sat, Feb. 14, DII – Finals
- Feb. 26 -28, HHSAA Finals

Wrestling:

w/ Coach Greg Rush

- Sat, Jan. 3, Ka'ū @ Kamehameha, 10 a.m.
- Sat, Jan. 10, Ka'ū @ Hilo, 10 a.m.
- Sat, Jan. 17, Ka'ū @ Kealakehe, 10 a.m.
- Sat, Jan. 24, Ka'ū @ Kea'au, 10 a.m.
- Sat, Jan. 31, Ka'ū @ Kona, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Feb. 7, Ka'ū @ Waiakea, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Feb. 21, BIIF @ Hilo
- Mar. 6 -7, HHSAA Finals

Ha'aheo Kakou 'O Ka'ū

Ka'ū Trojans Boys Basketball Team Places Third in St. Joseph Tournament

Ka'ū High School boys basketball placed third in St. Joseph's tournament held Dec. 19 - 21. Thursday, Dec. 19, Ka'ū beat St. Joseph's 63-59, with Alexis Alejo and Chance Emmsley scoring 12 points, Larry Navarro with 11 points and Brian Gascon with five points. On

several farms, including those operated by Camba, Aquino and Wally Young.

When they reached their farms,

Friday, Dec. 20, Ka'ū lost against Hilo. Scores were 23-59, with Larry Navarro and Franklin Orcino, Jr. scoring five points each. Ka'ū boys basketball team will kick its regular season off on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Kealakehe.

the growers found most coffee trees intact, with some windbreak trees and branches down. One Norfolk Pine fell but missed the historic Pāhala mill weigh station building that Francis and Trini Marques moved to their coffee farm after the sugar company shut down in 1996.

Up the steep side of Moa'ula gulch, shredded albizia trees appeared trashed in the forest, some down and many split apart. Toward Nā'ālehu, cattle grazed in broken stands of eucalyptus.

Closer to Pāhala, trees blocked numerous roads to pastures and agricultural plots, including the one to the Hester family farm.

Even after the winds subsided, some trees kept falling around Ka'ū. Hwy 11 was blocked again and re-opened about 2 a.m. on Jan. 4.

New Year, pg. 9

Palakiko-Leffew Represents Trojans in Inaugural Life Champion Senior Bowl

Ka'ū High School's very own Kupono Palakiko-Leffew represented the Trojans to play in the inaugural Life Champion Senior Bowl, which was held at Kamehameha's Paiea Stadium Saturday.

The Big Island Interscholastic Federation and state Department of Education played no part in this event.



Kupono Palakiko-Leffew, at left, joined other Hawai'i seniors Patrick Keamoai-Strickland and Preston Dudoit for the Life Champion Senior Bowl.

Photo from Ka'ū Trojans

over 200 colleges across the country through scoringlive.com and welcomed by about 1,500 fans across the state.

The event brought 86 seniors to play from across the state's five leagues and even a player from Guam. Coaches split the players into two teams. The players of each team were given freedom to choose a name together. Through this, the teams were known as Aztec Coqui Frog Bags and Shmoney Squad.

Palakiko-Leffew gained yardage in the first quarter alongside quarterback Jordan Taamu. The teams were pretty much tied for the duration. By the end of the fourth quarter, with the score 28-28, a sudden-death overtime decided the final score. Within the first play of overtime, the Aztec Coqui's Keanan Luis scored the final touchdown, settling the game at 35-28.

As described by one of the players, "The experience was great, and even though we'd only known each

New Year, cont. from pg. 8

During the storm, wind speeds topped 140 miles an hour on the highest island summits, a 75-foot-long sailboat washed up near Four Seasons Resort in Kona with first mate missing, and electricity outages led to water



Document farm damages with focused photos, advises UH Agricultural Extension Service.

Photo from Andrea Kawabata

other for a few days, we all became a family." The players were together since Wednesday, staying in the same building, practicing together and getting to know each other. (Story by *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper intern Kaweni Ibarra.)



Ka'ū Trojans eight-man football team honored with certificates of merit at West Hawai'i Civic Center on Dec. 17.

Hawai'i County Council Honors Ka'ū Trojans

On Dec. 17, Ka'ū High's Trojan eight-man football team was invited to be presented with Certificates of Merit by the Hawai'i County Council at the West Hawai'i Civic Center in Kailua-Kona. The team was honored for their performance in the 2014 season and for achieving the title of eight-Man Varsity Football champions. Beyond the team being honored, head coach Kainoa Ke, his wife Tammy Ke, assistant coaches and athletic director Kalei Namohala were also honored for their dedication to the team. In addition to the coaches being honored, Kupono Palakiko-Leffew was also brought up to be recognized for his participation in the first inaugural Senior Bowl which took place on Saturday, December 6, 2014. (Story by *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper intern Kaweni Ibarra.)

See story above for more on the Senior Bowl.

conservation measures in Waimea after power outages.

Hawai'i Electric Light Co. issued a statement, noting damage around the island with trees severing lines and power poles leaving thousands without power. HELCO first concentrated on stabilizing the cross-island transmission system, the backbone of the electric grid, and followed up by making repairs in neighborhoods. In Ka'ū, they included Volcano, Ocean View, Lorenzo Road and Wai'ōhinu.

A water restriction advisory went into effect for Wai'ōhinu area customers on Jan. 4. Kanani Aton, of the county Department of Water Supply, said it was due to a main break on South Point Road, which reduced source water output. Customers in Wai'ōhinu mauka, Discovery Harbour mauka and along South Point Road had no water service.

The advisory requires those affected to:

Keep water use to an absolute minimum.

Water should be used for essentials only (cooking, drinking and sanitation).

New Year, pg. 10

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Farming in Ka'ū, cont. from pg. 2

an honest discussion of the facts among friends.

Second, I have to work with them, the government, and nonprofit sector to help them build their path to a different way of farming. They will need new equipment and infrastructure as well as education. They need money to buy materials and support from their extension agents. That means change in all of those agencies, as well.

Most of the conventional farmers I know are solving problems with conventional methods that they don't know how to solve otherwise. Even if I blame corporate agriculture for spreading misinformation, it's not fair to ask regular people to change unless we have an effective alternative to solve that

Farming in Ka'ū, pg. 11

NŪPEPA NĀ'ĀLEHU

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015



Drake Fujimoto with his eleventh annual Keiki Christmas at Hana Hou. Photo by Julia Neal

Eleventh Year of Keiki Christmas

Drake and Patty Fujimoto and many volunteers, including members of 'O Ka'ū Kākou, the Edmund C. Olson Trust and many more, put on a community Christmas dinner and party on the grounds of Hana Hou restaurant in Nā'ālehu in December.



Hawai'i County Police Department photograph children to make I.D. cards for them to carry. Photo by Julia Neal

The eleventh annual Keiki Christmas party was hosted by Fujimoto and wife Patty at their popular eatery. Many bicycles were given to children. Families enjoyed a free Christmas dinner. Hawai'i Police Department photographed children to make I.D. cards. Keoki Kahumoku and friends sang and played Christmas music throughout the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Bobby and Phoebe Gomes, posed for photographs with keiki and their families.

Nā'ālehu Park Kiosk & Scenic Byways Guide

Ka'ū Scenic Byway Committee has completed design of the Nā'ālehu Park kiosk and is awaiting approval from County Parks & Recreation Department.

A graphic of an underwater cliff at Ka Lae from Frank Trusdell at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has been approved for inclusion on the information panel.

Committee member Rita Pregana announced at the committee's December meeting that she has retired from Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Keola Awong is replacing her on the byways committee.

The committee has removed graffiti damage from signage at the Ocean View turnout. Graffiti on metal posts was removed with a solvent, scratches in the frame were painted over, and paste wax used to fill etched damage on panels themselves.

Chairman Rich Morrow has been working on posting the byways guide on the website. The committee gave its approval to move forward and link to The Ka'ū Calendar's website.

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New Year, cont. from pg. 9

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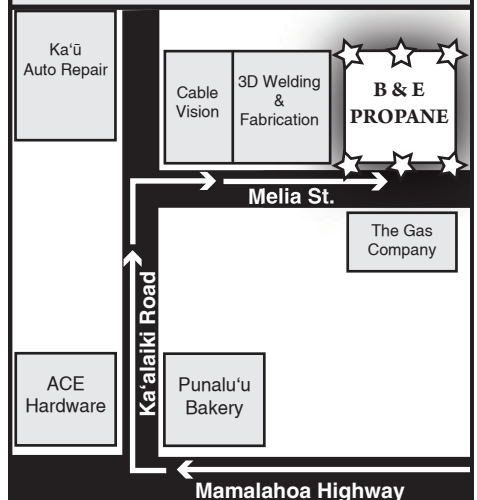
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KAHUKU TO MILOLI

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

Farming in Ka'ū, cont. from pg. 9

To me, it seems obvious that a large-scale transition to organic farming will require an enormous amount of dedication,



Earth Matters, which provides a Community Assisted Agricultural program through which residents can pick up produce weekly at the farm near the corner of South Point and Kama'oa Roads, is a member of the Ka'ū chapter of Hawai'i Farmers Union United.

focus and energy, not to mention money. The biologically beneficial systems like organic, biodynamic, Korean Natural Farming, and permaculture are based upon entirely different foundations and an entirely different attitude. That means that building bridges is the biggest part of the work.

The Hawai'i Farmers' Union United Ka'ū chapter is dedicated to the success of small farmers. We have about 50 percent organic farmers and 50 percent conventional farmers in the Ka'ū chapter right now. All of us share certain problems that the HFUU is committed to solve. HFUU priorities include:

*Creating legal protection for Hawai'i origin products and place names, so that small farmers can earn a better profit for specialty products that are unique to their region.

*Simplifying Food Safety certification and making it more efficient and cheaper for the small farmer.

*Legalizing industrial hemp to be grown for fiber, fuel and food.

*Affordable Farming Land Trusts, in which the land can never be sold, and that will give long-term leases to farmers and allow them to live on their farm.

All of this serves the small family farmer. And rightly so. Small family farms are better for local economies, because they spend more money at other local businesses instead of sending all the money to the top dogs of some big company. Small family farms are also more efficient in their use of resources, such as water and fuel. Small farms that grow food tend to let the vegetables ripen naturally, which makes them more nutritious, and they get to market using less fuel and labor. This means that they are better for human health, the environment, and the economy.

Not only that, but Ka'ū's conventional farmers are, by and large, Hawaiian or Filipino. They are frugal, hard-working and self-

sufficient. It doesn't seem right to have an organic revolution that displaces these dedicated, skilled people out of agriculture altogether, which would only perpetuate a history of colonial oppression. These farmers hold a

way to honor the best in each other.

It's time for us to think about what it would mean for Ka'ū to have a vibrant, healthy local economy where more families can run their own businesses and keep the benefits for themselves. We can continue to improve the situation for those who are already successful, while building partnerships to bring the others along.

What would it mean if more people here could succeed as their own bosses and become healthier, happier, and more prosperous? What would it take to achieve that vision? All these questions can only be answered if we all put our heads together and cooperate. That's the purpose of the HFUU Ka'ū Chapter.



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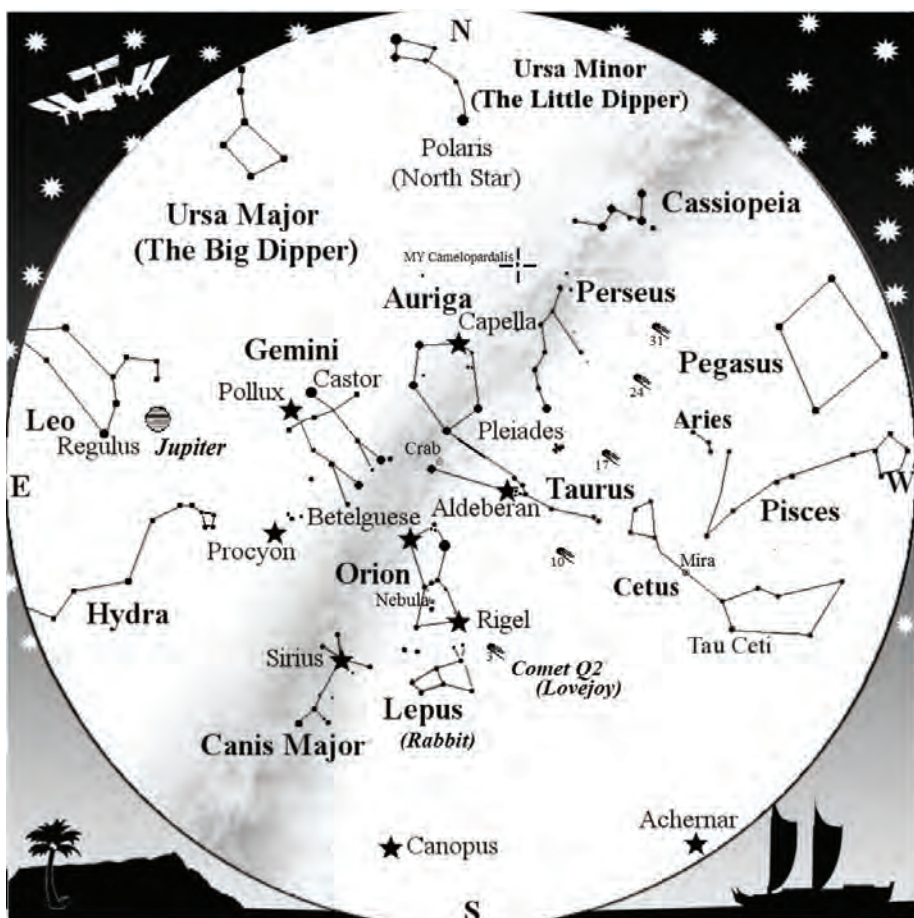
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How to use this map: Hold this map over your head so that the northern horizon points toward the north on the Earth. For best results, use a red flashlight to illuminate the map. Use this map at about 9:00 p.m. early in the month, 8:00 p.m. mid-month, and 7:00 p.m. late in the month. *Map provided by Bishop Museum Planetarium. Pre-recorded information: (808) 848-4136; Web site: www.bishopmuseum.org/planetarium. Podcast: feeds.feedburner.com/bishopmuseum; Email: Hokupaa@bishopmuseum.org

Stars over Ka'ū - January 2015

by Lew Cook

As we welcome the new year, the sun approaches as close to us as it will get this year. It is odd that what passes for winter in Hawai'i occurs at the time when earth reaches perihelion (closest approach to the sun) in its orbit. But consider those who reside in the southern hemisphere. The peak of the summer happens to coincide with Earth's perihelion. And six months later, the opposite happens: Earth is farthest from the sun during our summer while in the south, it is winter.

After sunset, when does it get dark? The Federal Aviation Administration turns on airports' beacons when the sun is just below the horizon. In most jurisdictions, the police require you to turn on auto headlights when the sun is six degrees below the horizon. That is the end of civil twilight. You can still see clearly, but aided by lights, you can see better. After that is nautical twilight, when the brighter stars are visible, and so is the horizon. This enables sailors to see both their navigation stars and the horizon. Finally, we enter astronomical twilight. Most of us consider the sky dark then, but the faintest stars aren't quite visible, nor are the nebulae that professional and amateur astronomers like to study. Astronomical twilight lasts from the time that the sun is 12 degrees below the horizon – the end of nautical twilight – until the time the sun is below the horizon by 18 degrees.

The length of twilight – whichever one you mean – depends upon your latitude. Its duration is shortest in the tropics and lengthens toward the poles. Here is an example for January 15:

Pāhala

Begin civil twilight6:35 a.m.
Sunrise..... 6:58 a.m.
Sunset.....6:05 p.m.
End civil twilight.....6:28 p.m.
Anchorage, Alaska
Begin civil twilight9:01 a.m.
Sunrise.....9:58 a.m.
Sunset.....4:22 p.m.
End Civil Twilight.....5:18 p.m.

Enough with the boring stuff! There has been an important discovery about a pair of stars that will merge into a whopper of a star. The stars are already massive (heavy) but quite young. Most high mass stars are thought to have been formed by merging lower mass stars, but these stars are 32 and 38 times the mass of the sun. They are in a close pair of stars whirling about each other in only 1.2 days. After they merge, MY Camelopardalis (its name) should be a huge star – around sixty times the mass of our relatively puny sun – but don't try looking for it. It is so far away from us that it is fainter than you can see with your naked eye. Even with binoculars, there are so many stars in that part of the sky that you couldn't find it without a detailed chart. Its position is marked on our sky map, just so you'll know where it is. Its position is marked with a plus sign. Camelopardalis is a faint constellation near Auriga, Perseus and Cassiopeia. The stars are not shown on our map.

Astronomers have discovered that stars in their infancy are variable in brightness. Because these baby stars have recently condensed from clouds of gas and dust, the dust surrounding them dims their light, but not

as much in the red and infrared as in the blue and green. So they are brighter in the infrared. They are also associated with dust and gas that the stars are shining on, driving it away from the star. Maybe planets have formed in the dust cloud, maybe not.

Speaking of planets, the king of planets (in our solar system, at least), Jupiter appears in the night sky after its absence since June. It appears in Leo, who protects it from further attack by Cancer, the crab (not to be confused with the Crab nebula discussed last month). The Crab nebula is shown on the south horn tip of Taurus, the bull.

Finally, Comet Q2 Lovejoy is in the sky, visible with binoculars. I've plotted the approximate position for every Saturday night on our chart. It starts the month out in Lepus (the rabbit) and travels north-westward through Taurus, ending the month west of Perseus. The dates are shown in

small numbers below the comet symbol. If numbers below the comet symbol.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
Jan. 2, 2015	6:56 am	5:56 pm
Jan. 9	6:58 am	6:01 pm
Jan. 16	6:58 am	6:05 pm
Jan. 23	6:58 am	6:10 pm
Jan. 30	6:57 am	6:14 pm

In the Moon Phases table are respective rising and setting times.

Moon Phases	Moon Rise	Moon Set
Full Moon		
Jan. 4	5:56 pm	6:25 am
Last Quarter		
Jan. 12	-----	11:47 pm
New Moon		
Jan. 20	6:59 am	6:45 pm
First Quarter		
Jan. 26	11:49 pm	-----

Lew Cook www.lewcook.com/pahala.htm

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KEEPING HEALTHY IN KA'Ū

Volume 13, Number 1

A Journal of Good Health, Food and Fitness

January, 2015

Ka'ū Rural Health Floats Lanterns to Remember Loved Ones

Floating lanterns set sail in the near-shore waters along the Punalu'u shoreline at dusk, Nov. 30. Decorated with art and messages, the rafts and their candles carried thoughts for loved ones who passed

sored by Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, its founder Jessie Marques and its president Donna Kekoa. Money raised from donations for the floating lantern ceremony will go to nursing scholar-



Lanterns with their messages for those who have passed fill a pond at Punalu'u at sunset.

Photos by Julia Neal

away. Tiny boys remembering their late father and a daughter remembering a mom who lived nearly a century were among those who participated in a ceremony spon-

ships, said Marques.

KRHCAI's stated purpose "is to support and promote community empowerment, capacity building, collab-



Jessie Marques, left, started the Floating Lantern Ceremony at Punalu'u in 2011.



Ella Louis remembers her late husband Ralph.

orative partnerships and a healthy community by focusing on Health, Education, Research Opportunities and Economic Sustainability."

Participants at the ceremony received dinner and tools to decorate their floating lanterns. The ceremony began at Punalu'u

in 2011, and plans are to continue next year. Participants represented the hearts of Ka'ū from every cultural background. Music and praise came from Demetrius Oliveira, Keoki Kahumoku and friends.

For more on Ka'ū Rural Community Health Association, see krhcai.com.

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• Volcano Assembly of God.....	967-8191	• United Methodist.....929-9949
PĀHALA		• Christian Church Thy Word Ministry
• River of Life Assembly of God	928-0608	936-9114
• Holy Rosary.....	928-8208	Nā'āhelu Hongwanji, Sundays 10 a.m.
• Pāhala Bible Baptist Mission.....	928-8240	OCEAN VIEW
• Pāhala Hongwanji.....	928-8254	• Kahuku UCC.....929-8630
• Wood Valley Tibetan Buddhist Temple & Retreat.....	928-8539	• Ocean View Baptist Church.....430-8268
NĀ'ĀLEHU		Worship Service: Sunday, 1 p.m. Ocean View Community Center. All are welcome!
• Assembly of God.....	929-7278	• OV Evangelical Community Church.....939-9089
• Iglesia Ni Cristo.....	929-9173	• St. Jude's Episcopal.....939-7000
• Jehovah's Witnesses.....	929-7602	• Divine Faith Ministries 929-8570 (non-denominational) meets
• Kaua'ā'ao Church.....	929-9997	Ocean View Community Center 10 am Sundays, Children, Youth, Bible Study. Call for more information.
• Latter Day Saints.....	929-7123	• Church of Christ.....928-0027
• Light House Baptist.....	939-8536	Back to the Bible! 9 am, Bible class studying Romans. Worship 10A.M. Expository lessons from N.T. Books
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KA PEPA VOLCANO

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

Volcano Awareness Month Promotes Understanding

In 2010, Hawai'i County Mayor Billy Kenoi proclaimed January as Volcano Awareness Month "as a way to promote the importance of understanding the volcanoes on which we live," reports *Volcano Watch* from the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. HVO selected January as the official month, largely because January 3 is the day that Kīlauea's East Rift Zone (Pu'u 'Ō'ō) eruption began in 1983.

In addition to the 32nd anniversary of the ongoing East Rift Zone eruption, January 2015 marks the 55th anniversary of another notable Kīlauea lava flow that impacted the lower Puna District. The eruption began on Jan. 13, 1960, and by the time it ended 36 days later, relentless lava flows had devastated Kapoho village and part of Koae village despite valiant efforts to divert the flows with bulldozed barriers. An account of this eruption is available at <http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov/kilauea/history/1960Jan13/>.

"The new year also marks the 60th and 65th anniversaries of two other significant eruptions in Hawai'i: the February 1955 Kīlauea East Rift Zone eruption, which was the first Kīlauea eruption to impact an inhab-

ited area (lower Puna) in more than 100 years, and the June 1950 Mauna Loa Southwest Rift Zone eruption, which sent three lava flows across the highway south of Ho'okena. The first of these Mauna Loa flows traveled from the vent to the ocean, a 15-mile journey, in less than three hours, destroying the village of Pāhoehoe along the way.

"These Kīlauea and Mauna Loa eruptions are just a few reminders of why it's important to better understand how Hawaiian volcanoes work. Accordingly, HVO, in cooperation with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i County Civil Defense, is offering a series of volcano awareness presentations during the month of January.

Weekly *After Dark in the Park* programs



Native 'ohelo berries are found in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Photo from NPS

Awareness of Hawaiian volcanoes is possible throughout the year by visiting HVO's website. Webpages provide daily eruption updates for Kīlauea, including maps and photos of the lava flow's advance toward Pāhoā, as well as status reports for Mauna Loa and other active volcanoes in Hawai'i. Daily Kīlauea lava flow updates are also posted on the Hawai'i County Civil Defense website at <http://www.hawaiiicounty.gov/active-alerts/>.

For more technical awareness, *Characteristics*

of Hawaiian Volcanoes, written by current and former HVO staff and collaborators to commemorate HVO's 100th anniversary in 2012, is now available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1801/>. This 10-chapter volume reviews HVO's research history and presents our current understanding of Hawaiian volcanism, along with new data on eruption dynamics, hazards and more.

Details about Volcano Awareness Month presentations, including dates, times, locations and synopses, are posted at <http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov>. The talks are free and open to the public; park entrance fees apply for the *After Dark in the Park* programs.

National Park & Nat Geo Team Up for BioBlitz

National Geographic Society and the National Park Service at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park announce BioBlitz and Biodiversity & Cultural Festival, Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, 2015. During the free event, teams of scientists, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, students and the public join forces to discover and inventory as many living plants and creatures as possible in the 333,086-acre national park. "Expert-led inventory teams will be dispatched through the park to explore the biodiversity that thrives in recent lava flows and native rainforests from coastline to the summit of Kīlauea volcano," the park announced. Entrance fees are waived both days.

Themed *I ka nana no a 'ike* (by observing one learns), the park BioBlitz will be part scientific endeavor, part cultural festival and part outdoor classroom. It will provide a unique opportunity to work alongside leading experts to discover, count and document the living creatures in the park; to contribute to the park's official species list; to explore interconnectedness of plants, ani-

BioBlitz, pg. 15

in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park will feature talks by HVO and UHH volcanologists on Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Topics include updates on Kīlauea Volcano's ongoing eruptions, explosive versus effusive Kīlauea eruptions, the relationship between earthquakes and Mauna Loa eruptions and how pāhoehoe lava flows work. Additional updates on Hawai'i's active volcanoes will be presented at UHH on Jan. 7, in Ocean View on Jan. 14 and in Kailua-Kona on Jan. 28."

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A cooperative project by Recycle Hawaii, County of Hawai'i Dept of Environmental Management, State of Hawai'i Dept of Health and private businesses on the Big Island.

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ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY IN KA'Ū

Volume 13, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2015

Dry Season was Wet in 2014

Hawai'i's dry season was the wettest in the last 30 years despite late August and early September dryness, according to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. Most of the state had near to above average rainfall from May through September, and the Big Island had near to above average at most locations.

NOAA said this is one of the rare cases in recent years where the state is in relatively good shape in an El Niño wet sea-

son, which usually allows some heavy rain events to impact the state.

El Niño is projected to be weak.

Probabilities favor below average rainfall through spring but not as dry as 2009 – 2010 and 1997 – 1998.

Some drought development expected early this year and will mainly affect the agriculture sector and those with catchment systems.

BioBlitz, cont. from pg. 14

mals, the environment, traditional people and our daily lives; and to help protect the biodiversity and rich culture found in the park.

The park is expanding its 35th annual Cultural Festival to include biodiversity in 2015. At the festival, visitors of all ages will discover how native Hawaiians, as keen observers, lived closely to the land by embodying *I ka nana no a 'ike* principles that continue today. The festival will offer hands-on science and cultural exhibits, food, art and entertainment plus an opportunity to meet individuals and organizations at the forefront of conservation, science and traditional Hawaiian culture — and learn how to join their efforts.

Treecycle for Holiday's End through Jan. 17

Holiday trees can be left through Jan. 17 at designated areas at any of the county Solid Waste Division facilities, including Volcano, Pāhala and Wai'ōhinu, during normal business hours. Miloli'i and Ocean View are not accepting trees.



Trees should be free from all decorations, stands, lights, tinsel and ornaments. Artificial and flocked trees are not accepted. Any flocked trees, artificial trees or trees with tinsel are not recyclable and may be disposed of in the regular trash chutes.

Solid Waste Facility attendants will direct the public to the proper drop-off point. For more information or a map and directions to drop-off locations, go to <http://www.hawaiizerowaste.org/facilities/>.

Also recyclable are Kadomatsu decorations, which are normally a combination of bamboo, pine and flowers. Kadomatsu is a tradition that began 600 years ago in Japan as a way of offering luck in the New Year.

"Explorers" of all ages are needed. BioBlitz base camp and the Biodiversity & Cultural Festival will be located at the Kahua Hula overlooking Halema'uma'u Crater near Kīlauea Visitors Center. All events are free and open to the public; however, advance online registration is required to secure a spot on a BioBlitz inventory team. The Biodiversity & Cultural Festival does not require advance registration. To learn more about the BioBlitz, see www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz or call 800-638-6400 ext. 6186. For more information, see www.nps.gov/havo.

Tune Up Solar Hot Water Systems

Hawai'i Energy will offer solar water heating tune-up rebates of \$150 each through May 31. According to reports from the ratepayer-funded energy conservation and efficiency program, it provided 826 tune-up rebates to residents totaling \$123,900 during last year's four-month, limited-time offer.



Hawai'i Energy

To qualify, systems must be at least three years old, and the tune-up must be performed by a participating Hawai'i Energy contractor.

Maintenance every three to five years to check for normal wear and tear and make repairs can help solar water heaters last 15 years or more.

Hawai'i Energy said it also offers \$1,000 instant rebates when purchasing solar water heating systems. See more at hawaiienergy.com.

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LOST & FOUND

REWARD FOR STOLEN GENERATOR - Small, new, red Honda, 1,000 watt generator was stolen on Tues, Jan. 7, 2015. The name Jimmijo and phone number were on the generator along with a sticker of a black octopus. Reward. Call 929-8134.

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Kahuku Iki, cont. from pg. 1

“Acquiring this small parcel would provide the park with greater flexibility in providing a safe and scenic access to the Kahuku unit,” said Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando. “The park would also explore working with the state to develop a parking area for a few cars off the Old Māmalahoa Highway as a trailhead to the 1868 lava flow and rare native dryland

tions jointly purchased the 116,000-acre Kahuku Ranch for addition to the park, which became its Kahuku unit. The purchase was the largest land transaction in Hawai‘i history and increased the then 217,000-acre park by fifty percent.

Any future sale to the Park Service would be subject to available federal funding and is at least two to four years down the road, Kaulukukui said. For now, the land will be managed as a Nature Conservancy preserve.

Conservancy surveys have found that the property sits on the boundary between excellent lowland mesic and lowland dry forest habitat, which is increasingly rare in Hawai‘i.

Native plants found at the site include ‘ōhi‘a, ulei, pukiawe, hoawa and a‘ali‘i. Native birds include the Hawaiian hawk (‘io) and two honeycreepers (‘apapane and ‘amakihi). It is believed that the native Hawaiian hoary bat (‘ōpe‘ape‘a) is also in the area.



Hawaiian rock walls and dryland forest are features of Kahuku Iki.

Photo from TNC

forest, as well as a potential trail following the historic Kahuku-‘Ainapō Trail alignment to connect other trails in lower Kahuku.”

The Nature Conservancy has a long history of cooperation with Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. In 2003, the two organiza-



The property may be added onto the Kahuku section of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park.

Photo from TNC

Because no conservation management has ever occurred on the property, portions of it are significantly impacted by mouflon sheep and Christmas berry, an invasive weed, stated The Nature Conservancy.

Kahuku Iki is located nine miles from the Conservancy’s 8,089-acre Kona Hema Preserve and 5.25 miles from its 3,511-acre Ka‘ū Preserve. The land is part of 15,000 acres that the non-profit manages on Hawai‘i Island. Together with its partners, the Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres across the state.




Hoawa, Native Hawaiian plant at Kahuku Iki


Photo from TNC

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