Kīlauea Lava Lake Ignites Volcano VisitorBlitz & BioBlitz

Visitors in late April flocked to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park to witness the lava lake steadily rise and overflow onto the floor of Halema‘uma‘u crater at the summit of Kīlauea Volcano. Activity in the park promises to increase even more with the upcoming BioBlitz and Biodiversity & Cultural Festival May 15 and 16. See more about those events on page 14.

The lava lake began rising on April 21, when, according to Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, “an abrupt inflation started” at 4:30 p.m. At that time the lake surfaced was fluctuating between 100 and 130 feet below the rim of the Overlook crater, the floor of Halema‘uma‘u crater. On April 23, at 90 feet below the rim, “the level of the summit lava lake rose to what may be its highest level since October 2012,” HVO reported. The next day, at around 66 feet below the rim, it was higher than since March 2008. One week later, on April 28, the lava lake rose to the rim of Halema‘uma‘u Crater and began to overflow onto its floor.

To ease traffic once Jaggar Museum and Kīlauea Overlook parking lots filled up, rangers redirected vehicles during peak visitation hours to park at Kīlauea Military Camp’s ball field. From there, visitors could hike one mile to Jaggar Museum observation deck, the closest and best vantage point to view the lava lake.

Lava Lake, pg. 16

Ka‘ū Planning Sessions Focus on Ag, Coast & Development

Ka‘ū residents reviewed the draft Ka‘ū Community Development Plan at four speak-outs held throughout the district in April and have opportunities to attend focused discussions on important subjects this month. Two on Saturday, May 9 at Nā‘ālehu Community Center focus on agriculture at 9 a.m. and coastal management at 1 p.m. A proposed development is the topic at another discussion on Tuesday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at Discovery Harbour Community Center.

The open houses last month included seven stations with displays covering agricultural lands; coastal areas and Punalu‘u; mauka forests; Pāhala and Wood Valley; Nā‘ālehu, Wai‘ōhinu and Green Sands; Discovery Harbour, Mark Twain and South Point; and Ocean View.

Displays focused on how, for each location, the CDP achieves objectives set by Ka‘ū residents. Objectives covered at the speak-outs were advancing sustainable conservation and settlement patterns; protecting and enhancing natural and cultural resources; strengthening infrastructure, facilities and services; and building a resilient, sustainable local economy.

To advance, protect and enhance natural and cultural resources on agricultural lands, for example, the CDP guides stewardship of ag lands and watersheds to minimize nonpoint source pollution and advocates for funding for ag land conservation programs and the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Ka‘ū residents, second from left, was crowned Miss Ka‘ū Coffee 2015 on April 26. First Princess is Joyce Ibasan, third from left. Second Princess is Vivien Santos, left, and Third Princess is Jennifer Tabios, right.

Miss Ka‘ū Coffee is Maria Miranda

Maria Miranda, a college student and daughter of Ka‘ū Coffee farmers Berta and Jose Miranda, won the title of Miss Ka‘ū Coffee on April 26 at Pāhala Community Center after winning the Talent, Evening Wear and Speech competitions. First Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Princess is Joyce Ibasan, who took the Miss Congeniality, Photogenic and Popularity titles. Second Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Princess is Vivien Santos, and Third Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Princess is Jennifer Tabios.

More than $7,200 in scholarships was donated to students, public officials and community organizations at the pageant sponsored by the Ka‘ū Coffee Growers Cooperative. Miranda won the Talent trophy playing piano, accompanied by a show of photographs of Ka‘ū Coffee farms on stage. Ka‘ū Coffee farmers Annabelle and Franklin Orcino presented the trophy and $500 in scholarships, with $250 from Ka‘ū Specialty Coffee and Malian Lahey, $150 from County Council member Maile David and $100 from Pāhala Plantation Cottages and Julia Neal, Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Scholarship Chair.


Joyce Ibasan won the Miss Photogenic trophy presented by Ka‘ū Coffee farmers Maria and Roberito Miranda and a $250 scholarship from Rep. Richard Creagan. Ibasan won the Miss Congeniality trophy presented by Ka‘ū Coffee farmers Verna and Milton Dacalio and a $250 scholarship from Sen. Russell Ruderman. Ibasan also won the Miss Popularity trophy presented by Ka‘ū Coffee

Maria Miranda talked about responsibilities of citizenship and won the Miss Ka‘ū Coffee title.

Miss Ka‘ū Coffee, pg. 4

THE KA‘Ū CALENDAR

Volume 13, Number 5 May, 2015

Ka‘ū Planning, pg. 11

Photo by Pamela Taylor
Volcanoes National Park: $170 Million Flows into Local Economy

A new National Park Service report shows that 1,693,005 visitors to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park in 2014 spent $136,838,700 in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,672 jobs on island and had a cumulative benefit to the local community of $170,878,000.

The park’s 2014 visitation is up 6.9 percent from 2013 (1,583,209 visitors) and reflects a steady and rising trend of visitation to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park since 2009. The park, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016, shares two of Earth’s most active volcanoes, the Hawaiian culture and its native biodiversity with local residents and visitors.

“It’s heartening to again report an increase in both visitation to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and the significant economic impact park visitors have by spending money and creating jobs in our local community,” said Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando. “National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s clearly a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

Efforts to Restore Ka‘ū’s Ag Water Systems Boosted

Ka‘ū Agricultural Water Cooperative District elected new officers in April and learned of new efforts to complete legal contracts and renovation of the old sugar plantation water system between Kapāpala Ranch, Wood Valley, the stretch between Pāhala and Nā‘ālehu and into Wai‘ōhinu. Government contracts and approvals are necessary since all water, under Hawai‘i law, belongs to all the people of Hawai‘i. Ka‘ū farmers and ranchers have been meeting for a decade toward this goal.

John Cross, who was re-elected President of KAWCD, said the purpose of the cooperative is to restore and ensure that the water is shared, not stolen from the old plantation system. In addition to Cross, who works for Edmund C. Olson Trust and helped develop Ka‘ū Coffee Mill, new officers are treasurer Kapāpala rancher Lani Cran; secretary Jeremy Buhr, who seeks ag water for the Wai‘ōhinu area communities; and vice president Ron Self, who is an attorney and farmer representing Wood Valley Water Cooperative.

The water, coming from old horizontal shafts dug into the side of Mauna Loa volcano more than a century ago, will be used for agriculture, all agreements promise. The cooperative is seeking a memorandum of agreement with the state Agribusiness Development Corp., which seeks an agreement with the state Water Commission under the state Department of Land & Natural Resources.

The Agribusiness Development Corp., in turn, is expected to sign an agreement for the cooperative to manage water distribution.

Reporting to the cooperative will be representatives for each major water source with their own cooperative or other entity.
Hawai’i County Council’s Committee on Human Services and Social Services approved distribution of $1.5 million to county nonprofit agencies in March. The committee received 137 eligible applications requesting more than $5.5 million. Last year, 103 organizations requested slightly more, while the budgeted amount was the same.

Ka‘u Council member Maile David, who chairs the committee, said, “Although amounts requested by organizations far exceeded recommended award amounts, all applicants expressed their understanding and conveyed their determination to continue providing services to supplement the needs of our island communities and increasing population.”

Ka‘u nonprofits receiving funds include Boys & Girls Club, $10,000 for Out-of-School Fitness for Life in Pāhala; Ho’omalu Ka‘u, $3,000 for a native dry-land plants workshop; Ka‘u Rural Health Community Association, $25,000 for Ka‘u Rural Health Academy; and ‘O Ka‘u Kākou, $20,000 to be divided equally among its Family Fun Fest, Ka‘u Coffee Trail Run and ‘Ohana Day, Ka‘u Sanitation Program and Keiki Fishing Tournament at Punalu‘u.

Except for Boys & Girls Club, these organizations did not receive grants from this funding source in the past two years.

Other nonprofits with a presence in Ka‘u include Bay Clinic, which receives $35,000 for its mobile health unit; Big Brothers Big Sisters, $7,000 for one-to-one mentoring; The Food Basket, $20,000 ensuring capacity for East and West Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i County Economic Opportunity Council, $20,000 for drop-out prevention program and $35,000 for its transportation program; Hawai‘i Meth Project, $5,000 for meth prevention youth outreach; and Huī Mālama Ola Nā ‘Owi, $3,000 for 15th annual Ladies Night Out, $10,000 for its cancer program and $35,000 for Kokuhi Hali Health transportation.

HMSA’s Elisa Yadao praises KRHCAI and Blue Zones

Hawai‘i Medical Service Association’s Elisa Yadao, a former television newscaster in Honolulu, keynoted the recent 18th annual meeting of Ka‘u Rural Health Community Association, Inc. in Pāhala. She congratulated Jessie Marques, founder of the organization, and said: “All of you are such incredible examples of what a healthy, vibrant community looks like. Thanks to Auntie Jessie’s persistence, HMSA and the HMSCA Foundation have been able to be a small part of the good things that happen here.”

Yadao drew comparisons between Ka‘u Rural Health Community Association and HMSA. “Both organizations are committed to the health and wellbeing of community. Both organizations were founded by people who were motivated to help family, friends and neighbors.”

In HMSA’s case, social workers and nurses wanted to be sure that family, friends and neighbors would be able to access and afford healthcare whenever they needed it.

“For you, those folks who sustain the Ka‘u Rural Health Community Association understand that health is so much more than healthcare.”

Yadao pointed out that “a fundamental part of wellbeing is having the opportunity to make a living wage, provide for family and give back to community.”

She called both HMSA and Ka‘u Rural Health Community Association “innovative. In your case, you have a profound understanding that access to care means so much more than going to the doctor or hospital. And wellbeing goes far beyond physical attributes,” said Yadao. “Through your innovative efforts, you’ve been able to teach generations of health care industry professionals, simultaneously creating more access to care and offering opportunity to young people.”

Yadao praised Ka‘u Distance Learning Center and Ka‘u Rural Health Academy, both operated by KRHCAI, as “tremendous examples of community based programs that meet needs, create opportunities and turn what some might view as challenges into huge assets.”

She noted that HMSA Foundation contributed $40,000 to the Academy and said the investment paid off with: Chronic disease management training in Waima and at the Community Correctional Center in Hilo; Blood pressure screenings in Ka‘u, Pāhala, Nā‘ālehu and Ocean View “with 70 of your family, friends and neighbors identified with high blood pressure and referred to doctors; An internship at the Hilo Medical Center for high school students who participated in the Academy’s youth program.

Yadao pointed to HMSA’s online care providing access to doctors 24 hours a day, seven days a week via computer. “Here on the Big Island, where distances are great and doctors are lacking, that is a valuable service. Last year, on the Big Island there were 261 visits to health care providers through online care. While the numbers may seem small, I can tell you the convenience and security were big for the folks who got care that way.”


While HMSA is not planning on building schools, opening grocery stores or developing housing, said Yadao, “We do see that these things are connected and all influence our health and wellbeing.” She explained Blue Zones, “areas in the world with the highest concentrations of people...”
Ka‘ū Coffee Recipe Contest adult winners took home as much as $300 each in late April at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill during the Ka‘ū Coffee Festival. Miss Holly K., of Native-FM, was DJ, and Keoki Kahumoku and Makana provided music. Masako Sakata took first in the Adult Pupu category with Ka‘ū Coffee Beans, a mochi with ham and coffee. She donated her $300 to the Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Scholarship Fund. Melia Taganas took home $150 when she came in second with Tortilla & Coffee Dip, and Peggy Kilkenny, taking home $75, came in third with Ka‘ū South of the Border Enchilada Sauce.

Haber won first place and $300 with her Ka‘ū Coffee Macnut Tart. Tianna Hauanio came in second and earned $150 with Ka‘ū French Macaroons. Suneere Quevedo’s Ka‘ū Coffee Panna Cotta and Melia Taganas’ Kahlua Coffee Cheese Cake tied for third and $75. Student winners each earned $150 – Melia Okimoto with her OMG! It’s Mocha-Tastic in the Dessert category and Lorilee Lorenzo with Ka‘ū Coffee Pulehu Steak in the Pupu category. All prizes were provided by Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.

Masako Sakata

Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Amery Silva and DJ Miss Holly K present the first-place prize in Adult Dessert category to Cathy Haber.

Adult Entrée first place was Peggy Kilkenny with Pig Pickin in Paradise winning her $300. Melia Taganas took home $150 with her second-place Teri-Coffee; and Austin Kilkenny created Ka‘ū Coffee Rubbed Short Rib Spicy Noodle Trifle to take third and $75.

In the Adult Dessert category, Cathy Haber won first place and $300 with her Ka‘ū Coffee Macnut Tart. Tianna Hauanio came in second and earned $150 with Ka‘ū French Macaroons. Suneere Quevedo’s Ka‘ū Coffee Panna Cotta and Melia Taganas’ Kahlua Coffee Cheese Cake tied for third and $75. Student winners each earned $150 – Melia Okimoto with her OMG! It’s Mocha-Tastic in the Dessert category and Lorilee Lorenzo with Ka‘ū Coffee Pulehu Steak in the Pupu category. All prizes were provided by Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.

Student winners each earned $150 – Melia Okimoto with her OMG! It’s Mocha-Tastic in the Dessert category and Lorilee Lorenzo with Ka‘ū Coffee Pulehu Steak in the Pupu category. All prizes were provided by Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.
International Art Exhibit, daily except Sunday through May 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Volcano Art Center’s Na’ailani Campus in Volcanos Village.

Through the Artists’ Eye, daily through May 31, Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. VAC’s first-ever invitational exhibition focusing on native plants, animals and minerals found in the park.

May Day is Lei Day, Fri, May 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. VAC’s first-ever invitational exhibition focusing on native plants, animals and minerals found in the park. Two lei makers demonstrate how to sew the perfect lei using hundreds of fragrant blossoms and plant materials and share the proper protocol of giving and receiving a lei and more. Wes Awana teaches a few local favorites on the ‘ukulele.

Stewardship at the Summit, Fri, May 1 & 8; Wed, May 20; Sat, May 30; 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.

Pa’u o Lokuna, Sat, May 2, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Kahuku unit of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Participants learn about formation and various uses of this grassy cinder cone and enjoy a breathtaking view of lower Ka’ū on this moderately difficult 0.4-mile hike to the top.

Mushroom Workshop, Sat, May 2, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Volcano Art Center’s Na’ailani Campus in Volcanos Village. Zach Mermel teaches the basics of fungal biology. $40 members; $50 non-members plus $25 supply fee. 967-8222

Palm Trail Hike, Sun, May 3, 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

Ham Radio Operators Potluck Picnic, Sun, May 3, Na’ukaukaukau 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

Summer Fun Registration, Mon – Thu, May 4 – 7, 7 – 7 p.m., Pāhala Community Center. Program runs Mon – Fri, June 8 – July 17, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. $90, Nona, 928-3102

Ka’u Scenic Byway Committee Meeting, Mon, May 4, 5 p.m., Nā’ālehu Methodist Church. Public invited. richmorrow@alohabroadband.net

Cinco de Mayo Buffet, Tue, May 5, 5 – 8 p.m., Kīlauea Military Camp’s Crater Rim Café in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, Adult $18; child $9. 967-8356. Open to authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply; 967-8371.

After Dark in the Park – Hawai’i’s Scenic Roads: Paving the Way for Tourism in the Islands, Tue, May 5, 7 p.m., Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Historian Dawn Dunning’s new book examines the political, economic, social and environmental history of the state’s most renowned scenic drives.


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

Manukē Bay Cleanup, Sat, May 9. Hawai’i Wildlife Fund is a co-sponsor. RSVP to kahakai.cleups@gmail.com

Ka’ū CDP Focused Discussions, Sat, May 9, 9 a.m. $1 p.m. Morning session topic is Agriculture; afternoon, Coastal Management. 961-8137 or ron.whitmore@hawaiicounty.gov

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

People and Land of Kahuku, Sat, May 9, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park’s Kūpukō‘u Unit. This guided, 2.5-mile, moderately difficult hike over rugged terrain focuses on the area’s human history. 985-6011

Mother’s Day Buffet, Sun, May 10, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Kīlauea Military Camp’s Crater Rim Café in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Entrees include prime rib, shrimp Alfredo with mushroom and spinach, Asian-infused Hawaiian ono and vegetable stir-fry with black bean sauce. Adult $28; child $14.50. Call 967-8356 for seating times. Open to authorized patrons and sponsored guests. Park entrance fees apply; 967-8371.

Medicine for the Mind, Sun, May 10, 4 – 5:45 p.m., Volcano Art Center’s Na’ailani Campus in Volcanos Village. Buddhist healing meditation for beginners through advanced. Free. Patty, 985-7470

Senior ID Cards, Mon, May 11, 9 – 10 a.m., Pāhala Housing Center and 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Nā’ālehu Community Center. For ages 60 and over. 928-3100

Ka’ū CDP Focused Discussion: Discovery Harbour, Tue, May 12, 10 a.m., Discovery Harbour Community Center. 961-8137 or ron.whitmore@hawaiicounty.gov

A Walk into the Past, Tue, May 12 & 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. & 2 p.m., Kīlauea Visitor Center and Whitney Vault in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Ka’ū resident Dick Herbstberger brings Hawaiian Volcano Observatory founder Thomas Jaggar to life every other Tuesday.

Hī: Kūkui Nut Tops, Wed, May 13, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Kīlauea Visitor Center Ilinau in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Hawai’i Pacific Parks Association staff members share their knowledge and love of one of Hawai’i’s popular traditional arts.


Red Cross Volunteer meeting, Thu, May 14, 7 p.m., HOVE Road Maintenance Corp. office. For volunteers who choose to become in-service volunteers. Hannah Uribes, 929-9953

BioBlitz and Biodiversity & Annual Cultural Festival, Fri, May 15, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sat, May 16, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For BioBlitz, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, students and the public join forces to discover and inventory as many living plants and creatures as possible in the park. The Biodiversity & Cultural Festival offers hands-on science and cultural exhibits, food, art and entertainment, plus the opportunity to meet individuals and organizations at the forefront of conservation, science and traditional Hawaiian culture – and learn how to join their efforts. Park entry fees waived.

Hula Arts & Hawai’i’s Butterflies, Fri, May 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Noe Noe Kekaulali‘a presents hula and Laniaya Deily focuses on butterflies.

Recycling at Nā’ālehu School, Sat, May 16, 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

Nā Mea Hula, Sat, May 16, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, with Loke Kamanu and ‘ohana.

Hula Performance, Sat, May 16, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., hula platform near Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park.

Book Making, Sat, May 16, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m., Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park with Charlene Asato.

Plan for Ka‘ū Future in May

Ka’ū residents can attend focused discussions on important Community Development Plan subjects this month. Two on Saturday, May 9 at Nā’ālehu Community Center focus on agriculture at 9 a.m. and coastal management at 1 p.m. A proposed development is the topic at another discussion on Tuesday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at Discovery Harbour Community Center. See story on page 1.
New efforts are underway to complete legal contracts and renovation of Ka‘ū’s old sugar plantation water system. Photo from state Department of Agriculture.

Also attending was Melanie Bondera, representing The Kohala Center, which is offering grant-funded sessions on conflict resolution to help prevent any future problems between water users, the groups and government agencies. She said there is also funding to help organization of cooperatives for each management area, though some groups might form a different type of organization, like limited liability corporations. It is up to each management area group to decide what type of organization to form, Bondera noted.

The meeting was attended by numerous other ag stakeholders in Ka‘ū, including Bonnie Schoneberg, of Royal Hawaiian Orchards; Tyler Johansen, a rancher and representative of Ka‘ū Royal Hawaiian Coffee & Tea, LLC; Jeff McCull, a farmer and Ka‘ū farm-land owner; Joel LaPinta, who represents Lehman Brothers Holdings and its 5,300 acres, including Mo‘aula and Pearl Tree coffee lands; rancher Steve Baczkiwicz; coffee farmer Brenda Domondon.

Visitors and local residents explored the old plantation water system during two days of hikes sponsored by Ka‘ū Coffee Mill as part of ten days of activities during the Ka‘ū Coffee Festival. Links to the water systems between Kapapāla Ranch and Wai‘ōhinu are in the planning by the Ka‘ū Agricultural Water Cooperative District.

**Photo by Jesse Tansion**

It was the first meeting of the Ka‘ū Ag Water Cooperative District since February 2014. Cross described it as very productive.
Ka‘ū High School senior Denisha Navarro signed a letter of intent last month for an athletic scholarship to play basketball for Pierce College Raiders in Tacoma, WA.

Serving as student body president, being a member of the National Honor Society and playing multiple sports, Navarro knows what hard work and dedication is. After nine years of training and practicing, she said she is thrilled to receive the scholarship.

Immediately after her final basketball season, Head Coach Cy Lopez, Jr. received a phone call from Pierce’s recruiting coach asking about Navarro. He had many great things to share after coaching her at varsity level for the past three years. Days later, they reviewed a video of Navarro and requested a visit from her. This past spring break, Navarro went to the campus to show her skills, see if this is what she wants and where she wants to live for the next four years. At the end of her trip, the coaches decided they’d like to offer her a scholarship.

Navarro is planning on getting her associate’s degree in diagnostics and health. She plans on transferring to Seattle University to get her bachelor’s degree in athletic training.

“My passion has always been sports, and I’ve been inspired by our school’s athletic director, Kalei Namohala. After shadowing and learning from her this past year, she has become one of my role models and someone I look up too.”

Navarro also said that her basketball coaches, Cy Lopez, Jr., Jennifer Makuakane and April Jara, have made a big impact in her basketball career and life.

“My coaches have helped me out a lot throughout the past three years, especially this year,” Navarro said. “Not only with basketball but helping me prepare for my future and life after high school. My cousin Wyshya has also been a big inspiration in my life. She has helped motivate me to be a better player and is probably the toughest on me and keeps me going.”

Navarro leaves for Washington in July to start her journey. She hopes to come back to Hawai‘i and be an athletic trainer for one of the state’s high schools.

Jennifer Makuakane contributed to this story.

Navarro Signs for Pierce College Basketball Scholarship

Registration is now open for Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Run, celebrating award-winning Ka‘ū Coffee. All proceeds raised by the event, sponsored by ‘O Ka‘ū Kākou, stay in Ka‘ū to benefit the Ka‘ū community, said OKK secretary Nadine Ebert.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, runners will have a second annual opportunity to run through a trail and view Ka‘ū’s prized coffee fields and coffee trees. The Half Marathon follows the community. Last year’s race allowed $1,500. This year’s OKK scholarship program by $1,500.

“Awards go to top three men and women in age groups from 19 and under to 70 and over. All runs, starting at 7:30 a.m., begin and finish at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill. Race packets are available by mail or pickup on Friday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Walmart in Hilo or on race day between 6:30 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.”

Registration is now open for the second annual Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Run.

Calling Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Runners

Registration is now open for the 2015 annual Ka‘ū Coffee Trail Run. Photo from Taylor’s Treasures Photography listed on the race program.

Ebert said the race is OKK’s biggest fundraiser of the year. “The funds we raise help us to continue our community programs and widen our supportive reach into the community.” Last year’s race allowed OKK to do more senior projects, provide more help to local high school athletic and community teams, as well as increase this year’s OKK scholarship program by $1,500.

Awards go to top three men and women overall (overall winners do not win top age group awards) and top three men and women in age groups from 19 and under to 70 and over.

All runs, starting at 7:30 a.m., begin and finish at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.

Race packets are available by mail or pickup on Friday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Walmart in Hilo or on race day between 6:30 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. at Ka‘ū Coffee Mill.

Registration at race360.com/21357.

May, 2015

Call for Contributions
Charter School Passes 80 Percent Enrollment

Kaʻū Learning Academy still has openings for students to begin classes July 29. The charter school’s enrollment is currently above 80 percent, and the final lottery takes place June 30.

Academy staff includes two recently hired teachers.

Kalika Kastein joined the Peace Corps in 2011 as a computer literacy educator and immediately fell in love with teaching, later becoming an arts electives teacher as well. When she wasn’t teaching primary or secondary school, she worked on computer lab, library and microscope acquisition projects for local schools. After her service, Kastein worked for a community relations department at a Girl Scout World Centre in India before becoming a part of educational nonprofit WorldTeach in early 2014. With WorldTeach, she worked as an admissions coordinator and later as a field director in Chuuk, Micronesia where she not only trained and managed a team of 27 volunteer teachers but also acted as an administrative assistant, substitute teacher and occasional bus driver for a local public school. She is a current Teach for America corps member working on her master’s in education from Johns Hopkins. She will teach English Language Arts at KLA.

Kalena Roark is a recent graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, where she majored in elementary education and learning behavioral disabilities. Throughout her time at Eastern, Roark was extremely involved within her campus and her community. She served as vice president of several collegiate honor societies and, in her senior year, was elected president of Kappa Delta Pi Teacher’s Honor Society, where she devoted her time to volunteering and improving the educational experience of others.

Roark was recognized for her outstanding achievements, being awarded the Outstanding Four-Year Member Award from Student Alumni Ambassadors, also receiving awards for being the most involved and most dedicated ambassador. Her devotion to education is apparent through four consecutive years of placement on the Dean’s and President’s list, as well as honors she received upon graduating. At KLA, the current Teach for America corps member will teach Social Studies. See kaulearning.com for more information.

Miss Kaʻū Coffee, cont. from pg. 4

Kaʻū Coffee farmers Trini and Francis Marques and a scepter presented by Miss Peaberry 2014 Madison Okimoto. Her $2,500 in scholarships: $1,000 presented by Sammy Stanbro and Olson Trust; $500 from CU Hawaiʻi Federal Credit Union presented by Lester “Mako” Okazaki; $500 from Pacific Quest; $250 from Punaluʻu Bake Shop presented by Connie Koi; and $250 from Kaʻū Chamber of Commerce presented by Donna Masanai.

The Miss Kaʻū Coffee Pageant Committee is comprised of pageant chair Kaʻū Coffee Growers Association President Gloria Camba; teacher and county community planning liaison Nānāi Parlin, who serves as pageant director; and The Kaʻū Calendar newspaper publisher Julia Neal, who serves as scholarship chair.

Judges for the pageant included:
Rose Y. Bautista, who works as the Immigration Information Specialist for the County of Hawaiʻi, providing U.S. Immigration information and serving as liaison to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
Boys Volleyball Season Ends; BIIF Play Begins

Finishing their regular season with nine wins and four losses, Kaʻū High boys volleyball team begins Big Island Interscholastic Federation play Friday, May 1 at 2:30 p.m. at Hilo Civic Auditorium.


Both teams won their only home matches in April against Wai‘akea Tuesday, April 21. Junior varsity scores were 25-20 and 25-22. Varsity went to a fifth-set tie-breaker, 25-8, 22-25, 25-20, 20-25 and 15-12.

Cameron Enriquez made 29 kills, with nine in the fifth set, and Brian Gascon made 12 kills, three of them in the fifth set.

At Ehukine Wednesday, April 15, Kaʻū won in three straight sets with scores of 25-19, 25-17 and 25-16. Kamahameha School Hawai‘i Warriors took Kaʻū teammates prisoners on Monday, April 13. JV scores were 17-25 and 9-25. Varsity’s were 13-25, 19-25 and 25-27.

Miss Kaʻū Coffee, cont. from pg. 8

She practiced law in Washington State, representing clients in the areas of family-based and employment-based immigration, deportation, asylum and refugees.

Lori Lei Shirakawa, who lived in Waiʻōhinu, Kaʻū for many years, where she raised her two sons Tyler and Noah. Both are adults now, and she is also a grandmother to four-year-old Taevan. She is Kumu Hula for Waiʻōhinu Hula Studio, which she opened 25 years ago. She later opened Lori Lei’s Hula Studio in Hilo in 1993. She received her Kumu Palapala from Hula Master George Na‘ope and Kumu Hula Rae Kahikilaulani Fonseca.

Dr. Norman Q. Arancon, an Associate Professor of Horticulture at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in Agriculture with a major in Crop Science from Xavier University Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City, the Philippines. He was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Studies from the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, after an award from the Rotary International Foundation.

Judo
w/ Coach Glen Hashimoto
- Sat, May 9, HHSAA at UH-Manoa

Track & Field
w/ Coach Jacob Findlay
- Sat., May 2, Kaʻū @ Kamehameha, 9 am
- Fri., May 8, BIIF Trials at Kona 3 pm.
- Sat., May 9, BIIF Finals at Kona 3 pm
- May, 15-16, HHSAA- MILINANI

Tennis
w/ Coach Hiilani Lapera
- May 7 – 9, HHSAA Tournament

Boys’ Volleyball
w/ Coach Joshua Ortega
- Fri. May 1, DII Semi’s Waiakea
- Sat. May 2, DII Finals
Sign Up to Float or Walk in Annual Fourth of July Parade

"O Ka‘ū Kākou is calling all interested participants to sign up by Monday, June 1 to be in this year’s annual Fourth of July parade in Nā‘ālehu. Contact Debra McIntosh at 929-9872 to register floats or walkers.

Last summer, 59 different groups and individuals marched into town in the parade, including clubs, civic groups, churches, pā‘ū riders, motorcycles, cars and the kiddie train.

Following the parade, senior bingo will be held at Nā‘ālehu Community Center, and there will be a kids’ day in the park with inflatables and shave ice.

“The event draws the whole community to celebrate our nation’s history,” said OKK secretary Nadine Ebert. “We expect the parade to be bigger and better this year.”

This is the sixth year OKK has volunteered to organize the parade. OKK also held a senior bingo last month with 62 senior players. “A great time was had by all!” Ebert said.

In January, OKK celebrated another successful Keiki Fishing Tournament with 292 registered fishermen and over 700 lunches served. “We thank everyone for their support,” Ebert said.

OKK also takes care of the environment and additional community support with their continuous road and Pu‘alau‘u pond clean-ups, numerous cemetery maintenance projects, help to Ka‘ū senior citizens, restoring Pāhala Hongwanji and providing setup and breakdown help at the Ka‘ū Coffee Festival and security at the recent Miss Ka‘ū Coffee Scholarship Pageant.

To become a member or support OKK’s community efforts, call Ebert at 938-5124 or email ebertn004@hawaii.rr.com.
Ka’ū Planning, cont. from pg. 1

Ka’ū residents discuss a display with Ka’ū CDP staff. Photos by Ron Johnson

The need for increased access to forests for cultural and subsistence hunting purposes as well as for protection of watersheds.

Longtime Ka’ū resident and former sugar plantation supervisor Iwao Yonemitsu said his areas of interest are agriculture and mauka forests and that he enjoyed reviewing the displays on those topics.

Several Ka’ū residents encouraged their friends and neighbors to attend the speak-outs. Many said the information helped them understand the draft and inspired them to study it more.

At Ocean View Community Center’s speak-out, one Ka’ū resident said his main concern for ag in Ka’ū is vast tracts of land being used to grow products that are not intended for local consumption.

Another comment was, “With regard to land use in Ocean View, I think the commercial center should be restricted to the existing area designated as urban expansion.”

Access to the coastline and Pōhue Bay was the topic of several comments.

The Pāhala speak-out presented community and planner ideas for the future of the village and surrounding conservations and agricultural lands. Proposed general plan amendments would increase the amount of urban land within Pāhala village to accommodate places where there has traditionally been or could be urban use in the walkable community. Displays also showed community comments. Some Pāhala ideas included encouraging variances to maintain town character, prioritizing rural street standards and historic streetscape on Ka’u Mani Street and community-based efforts to retain town character and document local history.

Pointing to unique culture, an objective in the draft Ka’ū Community Development Plan is to “establish and enforce standards for development and construction that reflect community values of architecture, beauty and distinctiveness.”

Several comments regarding local planning and agriculture reflected differing views on farmland. One community member said that farmers should be allowed to live on farmland. Another said that housing on farmland could introduce speculation and make land too expensive for real farming, contending that the Pāhala model of living in town where there is childcare and facilities with

Ka’ū Planning, pg. 14

The Discovery Harbour display attracted many residents who offered views on a proposed residential, resort and commercial development there.

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**SERVING THE KA’U AREA OVER 25 YEARS**
Stars over Ka’ū - May 2015
by Lew Cook

Three bright planets are visible this month. Venus is in the west at sunset, and higher in the sky is Jupiter and its moons, while at the time for which our chart is drawn (10 p.m. midmonth, an hour later at the beginning of the month and an hour earlier at the end of the month), Saturn is just starting to rise in the eastern sky within the claws of the Scorpion.

North to south, we are looking at the constellations of Ursa Major, which contains the Big Dipper, Leo the lion to the west and Bootes, the herdsman, to the east. Next we find Virgo. Look pretty empty? In our galaxy, it is. But it has a host of galaxies. Corvus the crow dangerously perched atop Hydra the water snake, Centaurus and finally the Southern Cross, called Crux.

What is in interstellar space – the area between the stars? If you answered, “Nothing,” then in some ways you are right. In other ways you are wrong. At its least dense areas, those where it is very hot and atoms are split into two or more parts – the proton and an electron in the case of hydrogen. In the case of some warm areas, there may be less than one atom per cubic centimeter. Now that is what I call a real vacuum! In denser areas, the interstellar medium can exceed a million molecules per cubic centimeter. That sounds like a lot, doesn’t it?

The interstellar medium is a better vacuum than we can produce in a lab. Even the dustier regions in interstellar space contain a million molecules per cubic centimeter. A person could be excused for thinking, “A million! That’s a lot!” and you’d be right. But a high performance lab vacuum chamber at its best will have over a billion molecules in the same volume. Interstellar space will occasionally have dust clouds where there are large volumes of very thin dust. The dust particles are about the size of that in cigarette smoke. What the dust lacks in density, it makes up for in volume – so much so that it blocks out optical light from the stars behind it. It has two times the mass of the sun spread over a volume that has half a light year in diameter.

Pictured here is one of these dark blobs – Barnard 68. The dust in Barnard 68 isn’t very thick, but there’s lots of it! Deep infrared studies have shown that the apparent lack of stars is only an optical illusion. It only looks like there are fewer stars in the area, but these studies have shown there are a similar number behind it as surrounding it. Barnard 68 is about 500 light-years distant.

This is astronomer Lew Cook’s 108th contribution – 9 years’ worth – to The Ka’ū Calendar. “It is a continuing pleasure to write these articles,” Cook said. The Ka’ū Calendar sends out a stellar Mahalo to him for encouraging Ka’ū residents to appreciate their dark night skies.
“People live here and they live together. They’re shepherds or fishermen. Their preferred mode of transportation is walking. These folks are very connected to their families and their communities. Generations live together and old people are revered and make meaningful contributions throughout their lives. Those who wake up every day with a strong sense of purpose. They generally eat food grown where they live, with a strong plant slant. They have a time for work and a time for play. Many of them enjoy a glass of wine in the evening. A large number of them have a strong faith.”

“Kind of sounds like Ka’u doesn’t it?” asked Yadao. She noted that in Blue Zones, “more of these folks live to 100 years of age than anywhere else. And they die well too, quick passings due to old age rather than painful, disease ridden endings.”

She said the National Geographic researcher wanted to know if Blue Zones “were healthy choices, easy choices?” The researcher, with a strong foundation of science and research, attempted the first Blue Zone in Albert Lea, Minnesota. He had the support of government and civic leaders, restaurants and grocery stores, employers, educators, etc.”

Hawaiʻi Bans E-Cigs Where Smoking is Illegal

According to DOH, use of e-cigarettes in existing smoke-free locations has had the potential to expose non-smokers and vulnerable populations, such as children and pregnant women, to aerosolized nicotine and other toxic substances, which could be dangerous to one’s health. Studies have found that there is enormous variability among e-cigarette devices in terms of their design, operation, contents and emissions of carcinogens, other toxicants and nicotine.

“These products currently are not regulated, and many of the hazardous components in cigarettes are also found in e-cigarette emissions,” said Director of Health Dr. Virginia Pressler. “Just as we found that smoking was dangerous after many years of unrestricted use, we could be unintentionally harming people as a result of not including e-cigarettes as part of our smoke-free laws.”

In a report issued this month on workplace tobacco policies, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health warn about secondhand exposure to nicotine from e-cigarettes. Nicotine is addictive and toxic, and harmful even at low doses. It is an acute irritant and capable of causing headache and nausea. For pregnant women, nicotine can transfer to and harm the developing fetus.

Yadao reported: “What resulted was lowering of health care claims and an increase in physical activity. Less people smoking and more people eating healthfully. Higher productivity at work.” She said Blue Zones are happening in California and Iowa, Oregon and Texas.”

HMSA is taking up the program for the Big Island; open to all residents. “We know that we need to incorporate and complement all of the good work already being done by folks like you.” Yadao noted that People make communities healthier “people who engage in their own health, who look out for their families, who care for their neighbors. That’s where the real change is made and that’s how lasting change is sustained.”

For more, see hawaii.bluezonesproject.com.

Hawaiʻi Department of Health applauded Gov. David Ige, members of the Legislature and partners statewide for passing and signing Act 19 (HB 940), which restricts use of electronic smoking devices, or e-cigarettes, in all locations where smoking is illegal.

Act 19 upholds protections created by Hawaiʻi’s Smoke-Free Workplace and Public Places Law enacted in 2006. The signing of this legislation makes Hawaiʻi the fourth U.S. state to have passed such a bill, after North Dakota, New Jersey and Utah.

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For more information about tobacco prevention and control in Hawaiʻi, see http://health.hawaii.gov/tobacco/.
An endemic ōnehē feeds on indigenous naupaka kahakai in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, which holds BioBlitz and its Biodiversity & Cultural Festival this month. NPS Photo by Janice Wei

Together, they will be dispatched across the park’s 333,086 acres to explore and document the biodiversity that thrives in recent lava flows and native rainforests of Kīlauea volcano.

“We are honored to host BioBlitz 2015,” said Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando. “BioBlitz provides an unparalleled opportunity to work alongside leading scientists and cultural practitioners to discover, count and add to the park’s species list; to explore the interconnectedness of plants, animals, Hawaiian people and our daily lives; and to protect this amazing biodiversity and rich culture in our park.”

In connection with the BioBlitz opportunity, the park is moving its 35th annual Cultural Festival from July to May this year and expanding it to include biodiversity. At the two-day festival, visitors will discover how native Hawaiians lived closely to the land as it was stewards, embodying I ka nana no a ‘ike principles that continue today. The Biodiversity & Cultural Festival will offer hands-on science and cultural exhibits, food, art and entertainment, plus the opportunity to meet individuals and organizations at the forefront of conservation, science and traditional Hawaiian culture – and to learn how to join their efforts. The festival is free and open to the public.

The Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park BioBlitz is the ninth in a series of 10 BioBlitzes co-hosted by National Geographic and the National Park Service’s centennial in 2016. Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park BioBlitz is leading scientists and cultural practitioners at the forefront of scientific exploration in Hawai‘i and around the globe.”

“BioBlitz, pg. 15

Keiki examine insects with an entomologist in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Photo from NPS

Reading the Ka‘u Calendar Daily at www.kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com
Lawmakers representing Ka‘ū attended last month’s blessing and seed planting ceremony for the Hawai‘i Industrial Hemp Research Project on O‘ahu. Sen. Russell Ruderman and Rep. Richard Creagan support re-introduction of hemp as an emerging industrial industry that can employ Hawai‘i’s latitude and climate as the center for breeding to recover and reconstitute hemp varieties.

Sen. Russell Ruderman said hemp was once a mainstay of our nation’s agricultural industry in the past. “One of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, believed that ‘hemp is of first necessity to the wealth and protection of the country,’” Ruderman said.

A bill at the state Legislature calling for research of industrial hemp has passed through required House and Senate committee and awaits a final vote.

Simon Russell, Vice President of Hawai‘i Farmers Union United, which has a chapter in Ka‘ū, submitted testimony in favor of the bill. “Farmers should not have to wait years for permission to grow hemp,” Russell said.

“He’s a good animal feed. Poultry farmers will benefit from this crop. Hemp seeds are a large part of commercially available birdseed. Hemp is good for revitalizing the soils as well, so crop diversity and soil health will be positively impacted if this proposed legislation passes.”

Russell is a gubernatorial nominee for the Board of Agriculture. The Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Ruderman, approved Gov. David Ige’s choice, and the Senate still must vote.

“Under current U.S. law, hemp is legal to grow for research purposes. It has some 25,000-plus known uses and will create jobs. There is much research to do, and farmers need to start doing it, and the sooner the better if you please.

“Our producers will have a multi-year hybridization process to go through to develop viable hemp seeds for our various micro-climates across the state. Waiting more years is not going to be helpful, as there are a number of U.S. states and many countries around the world growing hemp for industrial purposes. The U.S. competition for hemp production is on, and Hawai‘i’s farmers have not even approached the starting line.

“Hemp is a good animal feed. Poultry production is on, and Hawai‘i’s farmers have some variety of animals to feed. "Hemp is a good animal feed. Poultry feed manufacturers have asked for hemp seed. But there is a lot more to do, a big industry in the making.

BioBlitz, cont. from pg. 14

A longtime partner of the National Park Service, the National Geographic Society helped draft legislation to establish the Service in 1916. It has given many grants to create and sustain national parks across the United States and has extensively covered the parks in its media for nearly a century.

The BioBlitz program is the latest successful collaboration between the two partners. The first BioBlitz took place in 2007 at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. Smaller-scale events take place throughout the year at various national parks across the country. For more information, see nature.nps.gov/biology/biodiversity/

To learn more about BioBlitz and the festival, see nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz or call 800-638-6400, ext. 6186. For more information about the park, see nps.gov/havo.

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“The Good News of Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

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Lava Lake, cont. from pg. 1

“Visitors should come prepared to ensure a safe and enjoyable park experience,” said Superintendent Cindy Orlando. “We encourage people to avoid peak hours and arrive after 10 p.m. and before 4 a.m. if possible, or they will likely wait in line for parking.”

The park remains open 24 hours a day.

In late April, the National Park Service offered more tips for optimal viewing of the lava lake:

Be prepared to hike one mile each way between Kīlauea Military Camp ball field and Jaggar Museum observation deck on Crater Rim Trail. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring rain gear, water, binoculars, a flashlight and extra batteries.

Carpool if possible to reduce the number of vehicles in parking areas.

As a courtesy to other visitors, tailgate parties in Jaggar Museum or Kīlauea Overlook parking lots are prohibited. Choose another picnic location so others have a chance to view the eruption.

To observe viewing and weather conditions, monitor USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory’s webcams. The KI camera provides a panoramic view of Halema‘uma‘u Crater from HVO.

High levels of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas and volcanic ash can be blown over Jaggar Museum by southerly winds. These gases are a danger to everyone, particularly to people with heart or respiratory problems, young children and pregnant women. Kīlauea Visitor Center offers updates on air quality 24 hours a day, and visitors can monitor SO2 at hiso2index.info/

In addition, the public is reminded that park entrance fees apply and that the use of unmanned aircraft (drones) is prohibited in all national parks.