



Mail-In
Votes a
Boon in
Hawai'i

Page 1



Sports in
the Time of
COVID-19

Our community
chimes in on how
sports affect them
during this time.

Page 1



Bahay
Kubo
Repairs

Community In
Action highlights
the progress!

Page 4



Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

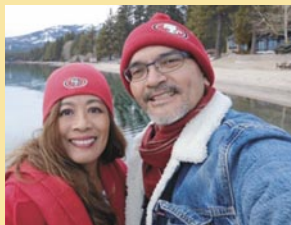
August 2020 • Vol 4 No 8 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside



Editor Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
deals with COVID-19
without sports.

p4



Jeny from this block!
Sakada Offspring looks
at this Super Woman.

p5



Eat a dragon like a fruit?
Pitaya makes a hit on Maui.

p15

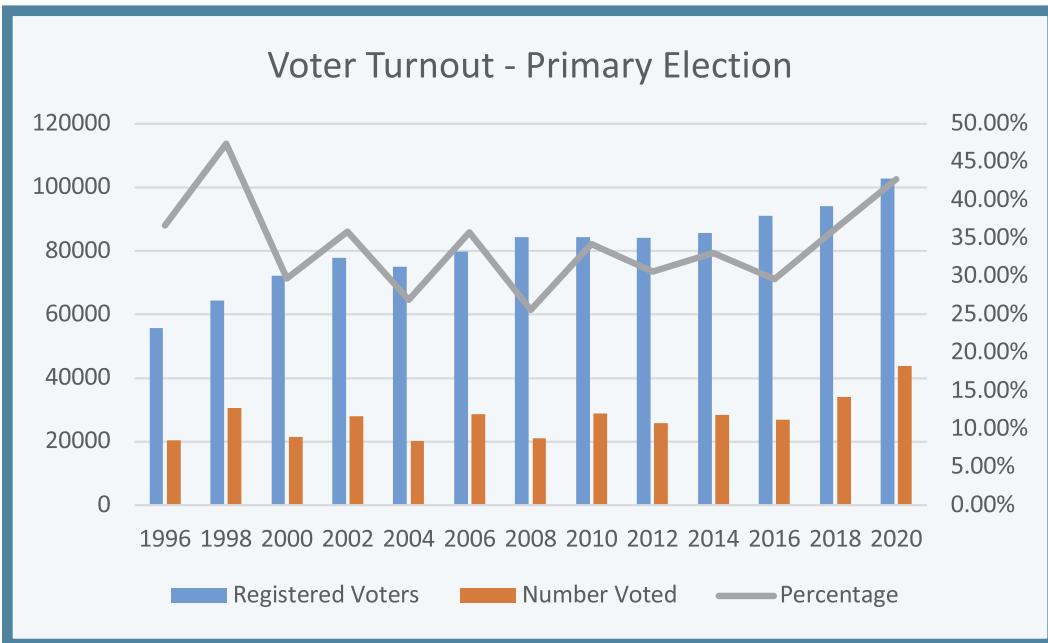
Vote By Mail Raises Turnout

COVID-19 Supports Name Recognition

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first Statewide all vote by mail election resulted in a higher turnout than in recent years with over 406,425 of the 795,248 registered voters returning ballots. Turnout in Maui County lagged behind the 51.1% statewide, with 43,873 or 42.7% of the registered voter rolls participating. Ballots cast were well above the 34,105 or 36.2% recorded two years ago in the 2018 primary; and the 26,993 or 29.6% recorded four years ago in the 2016 primary. The largest statewide Primary Election turnout was in 1994 (when then-Lt. Governor Ben Cayetano won the Democratic nomination for Governor) where 307,904 residents cast ballots (269,854 at the polls).

In local races, the most hotly contested legislative race involved sweet potato farmer



This graphic shows the progression of Maui's voters in the primary elections since 1996.

GRAPHIC: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

and State Rep. Lynn DeCoite who held on to beat longtime native Hawaiian and anti-

GMO and anti-TMT activist Walter Ritte, 3,243-3,152 for the East Maui, Lāna'i and

Molokai seat and will face Republican Robin Vanderpol and see PRIMARY next page



"Go Hurricanes!" Once upon a time in Miami, in what now seems like an alternative reality ...

PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA JOY DOMINGO

SPORTS: On Timeout, Postponed or (Gasp) Canceled?

Vanessa Joy Domingo

Even as we go to press, the situation for college and professional sports is unclear due to COVID-19. (In Hawai'i, most high school sports for the fall including football and basketball are postponed while the Mountain West Conference of which the University of

Hawai'i is a football member announced on August 10 it was postponing the fall football season.)



The Big Ten (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, which the University of

see SPORTS MANIA p.3

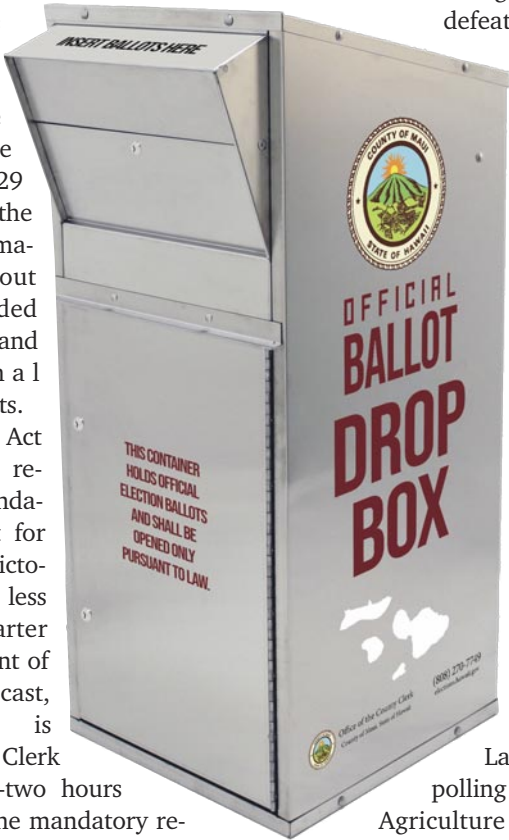
FREE

Primary ...

from p. 1

Aloha ‘Āina Theresa Kapaku in the general. District 13 Democratic primary voters favored DeCoite by a narrow 91 votes after the third printout. DeCoite led from the initial count of mostly mailed ballot received by Friday by 104 votes. The Maui ‘Ohana backed Ritte reduced the gap to just 29 votes after the second summary print out that included the walk in and additional mailed ballots.

Hawaii’s Act 135 (2019) required a mandatory recount for margins of victory of 100 or less or one-quarter of one percent of the votes cast, whichever is greater. The Clerk had seventy-two hours to conduct the mandatory recount and DeCoite increased her lead by one vote. There is also the situation of voters having five business days from the date of the election to correct any ballots that were unsigned or whose signatures did not match



their signature on file. None of the other legislative races held much drama as incumbents Troy Hashimoto (District 8 - Wailuku Waihe’e), Angus McKelvey (District 10 - West Maui), Tina Wildberger (District 11 - South Maui), Kyle Yamashita (District 12 - Upcountry) all handily beat challengers.

Hashimoto and Yamashita won their seats outright in the primary by defeating two progressive candidates supported by former Kaua’i State Senator cum anti-GMO activist Gary Hooser’s Pono Coalition, educator Ka’apuni Aiwohi and farmer Simon Russell (who was also backed by the Maui ‘Ohana). Winning 60% of the ballots cast, Yamashita enjoyed an easier night than the nail-biter Primaries he experienced in 2016 and 2018 against now-Mahi Pono consultant Tiare Lawrence, handily outpolling former Board of Agriculture member Russell, 4,133–2,874.

Yamashita nevertheless said it was hard to compare the three races. Known for particularly distinctive sign waving, he said, “We did more of

see PRIMARY p.8



Troy Hashimoto of District 8, Wailuku, Waihe’e, was one of the recent incumbets handily beating his challengers in the polls.



Incumbent Kyle Yamashita of District 12, Upcountry, was re-elected to his seat as State Representative.

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Gil Keith-Agaran enjoyed Yale's upset in the opening round of the 2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament. PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Alfredo Evangelista and his wife Basilia at the 2016 USC vs Notre Dame game. PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



UH Rainbow Warrior Men's Volleyball team fan Wilipaki Barbero enjoys going to the games. PHOTO COURTESY WILIPAKI BARBERO

Sports Mania ...

from p. 1

Rutgers, and Wisconsin) announced plans on August 11 to cancel fall college football and to play in the spring. The PAC 12 (Arizona, Arizona State, California, Colorado, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, UCLA, USC, Utah, Washington, Washington State) immediately followed suit. With two Power-Five Conferences cancelling fall college football, the others (ACC, BIG12, SEC) may also cancel. The movement #WeWantToPlay started by college football players including several prominent names obviously was not

enough as the college presidents heeded the medical advice. "In a year where both of my alma maters (Yale and Cal) are expected to have banner years, I am disappointed," said Gil Keith-Agaran. "But we are in the middle of a pandemic and safety remains key for us as a community to move forward. Until a vaccine and better understanding of the virus is understood, all activities will change especially the ability to have spectators and fans attending games in person." "I'm really saddened at the cancellation," said Alfredo Evangelista. "My USC Trojans were ready to have a great season and I was hoping to go

to Homecoming because one of the classes that is honored during Homecoming is the class that is celebrating its 40th reunion which would be the Class of 1980—my class. I was so looking forward to meeting my classmates at the game and bumping into Charles White, Paul McDonald, Brad Budde and Anthony Munoz." "I've been a USC fan since the Pete Carroll era. I've enjoyed watching Reggie Bush, Matt Leinart, and a high school classmate of mine, Kaluka Ma'ava," said Donnie Dadiz. "You always have the Trojans up there competing in a bowl game in hopes of a Monday night date for the National Championship game. #FightOn. It's tough

when there's the Big 12 Conference that has already canceled their season. On a side note I am also a fan of my Alma Mater, University of Hawai'i. I'm kind of bummed about the Mountain West Conference cancelling the season. Better safe than sorry." Cancellation of the fall college football season was not totally unexpected. Already, COVID-19 caused the 2020 Summer Olympics to be postponed to 2021 making it the first time in history that an Olympiad was postponed. **see SPORTS MANIA p.9**



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Thank you to everyone who entered our 2020 Monarch Butterfly Kit giveaway, sponsored by Bayer Hawaii and Sharing The Butterfly Experience. For those who received a kit, we hope you enjoy growing your own butterfly and learning about this amazing pollinator – known as the king or queen of butterflies. Pollinators are very important to farmers around the world. Learn more at hawaii.bayer.us.

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

No Professional Sports to Watch During COVID-19 Lockdown ...



Suspension of professional sports initially left me disappointed.
IMAGE COURTESY OF [HTTPS://WWW.INSIDER.COM/FANATICS-TEAM-FACE-MASKS](https://www.insider.com/fanatics-team-face-masks)

When the suspension of professional sports was first announced at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic a few months ago, I was frustrated, disappointed, conflicted and like many others, in denial. The first thing that came to mind was “What do you mean? What am I supposed to do to relax during the weekend after a long week at work?” Watching sports is my way to unwind and what I have done for years. Instead, now I watch the Food Channel with my wife and end up putting on more pounds which I really, really do not need! Then, believe or not, I also watched Masterpiece Theater movies like *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*. Can you imagine me doing that? And most of all, now I don't have any good excuses for why the *Honey Do List* has not been done for so many months? But come to think of it, maybe it was not such a bad idea to be at home and not spend so much time watching sports. I started gardening again and even planted a few herbs, eggplant and some Hawaiian chili peppers. My

nephew also got involved and made a couple of planter boxes for my wife's vegetable garden. Actually, it is refreshing to be working together in our yard, tending to our little garden. Best of all we get to eat and enjoy what we have grown!

Come to think of it, what about making a list of activities you most enjoy, then placing them in order of priority. Next, get out your calendar and schedule these activities, especially on the weekend and other times when you would usually be watching sports. Keep a note to help you remember how it feels to be doing more, to be enjoying again some things you have neglected and make sure some of the people you have not been with for a while are included, even if only by phone or text or email. Sometimes we have to be prodded to regain perspective of what is truly important, right?

As the COVID-19 pandemic became more serious, I began to realize the decision to suspend the games was the right decision. Now that it has been months without sports to watch, I must admit I

see SPORTS ALTERNATIVES p. 6

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Editor's note: Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.com.
This month's column was compiled by Assistant Editor
Alfredo G. Evangelista.



The Bahay Kubo that sits at Kepaniwai Park in 'Iao Valley is a great testament to our Filipino heritage and way of life in the Philippines.

PHOTOS: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The renovation by the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation of the roof of the Bahay Kubo at Kepaniwai Park is essentially completed. The roof renovation project was funded by a grant from the County of Maui.

“The next phase of the renovation project is the interior walls, the railings and the flooring,” said Zaldy Ugalino, president of the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation. “The bridge will also need to be repaired and funds are still needed to complete the renovation.” Monetary do-

nations can also be mailed to Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, 32 Hapua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793. Donations of bamboo are also needed.

Work will continue each Saturday until completed. Volunteers who are skilled in carpentry are especially needed. Volunteers are also needed to assist with clean-up of the grounds and pond. Contact Ugalino at 280-9086 or Cherry Respcio-Urias at 478-9455 or fcurias07@hotmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. ✨



The third Bayanihan Food Distribution was held Saturday, July 25, 2020 at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The next will be held on the morning of Saturday, August 29. If you can help donate, please contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or email melencopy@gmail.com

PHOTOS: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

BINHI AT ANI

Binhi at Ani spearheaded the third #BayanihanFoodDistribution on July 25. It was another successful event with the numbers telling the story:

- \$6,650 in donations received
- 825 food boxes distributed which included
 - 1,205 plate lunches
 - 4,162 canned goods
 - 381 bags of rice
 - 8,990 pounds of produce

- 610 dozens of eggs
- 1,620 packages of noodles
- 726 spaghetti sauce
- 1,000 Pepsi beverages
- 825 rolls of Toilet Paper
- 3,294 snacks
- 1,000 pounds of Dragon Fruit

The donors for food, produce, canned goods and other items were Al's BBQ Pit,

see COMMUNITY IN ACTION p. 7



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Jeny Bissell



1979: The Ramos House. Sitting L-R Virgie Ramos, Rick Ramos, Jr. Standing L-R Mhel Ramos, Armand Ramos, Jeny Ramos, Encarnacion Ramos, Ricardo Ramos, Sr., Nick Ramos.



1971: Manila Airport. Jeny and Nick immigrating to Maui, Hawai'i.

This month's *Sakada* Offspring, Jeny Ramos Bissell has a special motto to live by "Let life live for you in kindness for life is short-lived." Jeny believes this motto resonates to her sincerest gratitude to her grandfather Juan Ganal Ramos (a 1926 *Sakada* who worked on Kaua'i for a short time and returned to the Philippines), her Uncle Gavino Ramirez Ramos (a 1946 *Sakada*) and all the other *Sakadas* who came to Hawai'i to seek better opportunities for themselves and for their families.

"I want people to remember me as an opportunist as well," says Jeny. "Like this virus, I don't discriminate, and I take every opportunity that comes my way with tender loving care, of course. There is no tender lov-

Jeny Ramos Bissell

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY JENY BISSELL

ing care in COVID-19." As a public health nurse, Jeny is currently involved with the State Department of Health's response to COVID-19. Jeny was born in Manila, Philippines. She attended part of her elementary schooling in the Philippines before coming to Hawai'i in 1971. She continued at Kamehameha III Elementary then on to Lahainaluna High School from 1974-1978. From 1978-1980, she attended the University of San Francisco (USF) School of Business and from 1980-1984, she attended the USF School of Nursing

where she received her Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree. She is currently enrolled with the California Inter Continental University in Doctor of Business Administration in Healthcare Management. Before Jeny decided to go into nursing, there were three women nurses who mentored and inspired her to be the nurse she is today. These women were her Aunts who came to the United States in the 1960s under a work visa and as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965: Angelita Coloma Marcajida, Valentina Rivac and Teodicia Ri-

vac Dadiz, who are now enjoying their retirement in California. Jeny is married to Michael Alexander De Guzman Bissell, a Project Manager with Arisumi Brothers, Inc. They have three children: Glen John Michael, Sean Robert, and Jacqueline Micaela and two grandchildren Zayden Kai and Izaiah Koa Bissell. Glen is a Logistics Coordinator with Amazon while his wife Michelle is an Assistant Creative Workflow Manager with Old Republic Title Company. Sean is a Landscaper with Sonny's Landscape see JENY next page



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MAHALO for your VOTES!

This election year is like no other in Hawai'i's history! Standing alongside a highway, holding a sign was one way I could connect with voters! I appreciated all of the waves, honks, and shaka signs I received!

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During self-quarantining, I started gardening again and even planted a few herbs, eggplant and some Hawaiian chili peppers.
PHOTOS COURTESY VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

Sports Alternatives ...

from p. 4

don't miss it one bit.

More recently, professional sports are negotiating how to begin their seasons, in spite of the health risks. The most respected medical expert on COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci (Director, National Institutes of Health), threw the first pitch in the opening game for Major League Baseball with the Washington Nationals. The National Basketball Association has already kicked off in Florida which is currently the epicenter of the pandemic. And not to be outdone, the National Football League is planning their kickoff in September. More and more, fans like me are beginning to see these actions as the height of irresponsibility, with widespread acknowledgment that these will result in spikes of sick people, lack of hospital beds and eventually a higher death rate, all totally unnecessary in the perspective of life versus entertainment. Furthermore, the athletes are the most at risk because these are contact sports and there's no way to play the game otherwise. Wearing facemasks and practicing social distancing? Not likely. Are we going to place the owners' financial interests above the health and safety of the players and fans? These competitions endanger players, accelerate the general spread of the virus and increase exposure to the most vulnerable. Let's all agree we can wait until the virus is no longer a threat. Perhaps the best attitude of athletes is expressed by Ryan Schwaner, a student who enrolled at the University of Denver to play golf, "When all the spring sports and state championships were canceled due to COVID-19, I was truly devastated because I felt that I missed out on the opportunity to show my hard work that I have put in the past four years, but at the end of the day ... has given me so many great friendships and memories, and for that, I will forever grateful ... So, thank you to high school sports."

Another kind of non-contact

competition is the election of officers for our local government. Campaigning has been directly impacted by COVID-19, eliminating the highly popular face-to-face experiences such as rallies, fundraiser meals and door-to-door canvassing. Don't you miss the chicken hekka and pork and peas gatherings, where the candidates fervently promised better health care for our *kūpuna*, affordable housing for residents and even those without shelter? Are you still waiting to win the bag of rice or toilet paper? What about the coffee hours where you talked more with the friends you had not seen for a long time instead of paying attention to the discussion? AND, of course, we are all participating in the *coconut wireless*, still the most used means of getting current information otherwise known as local gossip!

Social distancing prevents all these memory-making person-to-person contacts. Instead, candidates and supporters alike are adjusting to online and technological avenues such as social media, ZOOM, email messaging, or PSAs (public service announcements) on radio or TV. The candidate unfamiliar with these new modes of communication are at some disadvantage as are the supporters who still prefer a personal conversation while shaking hands, hugging and enjoying food together. However, it is also clear social media communications might be the forte and more comfortable medium for the candidate who is not a people person.

Finally, our hearty CONGRATULATIONS to the candidates who were winners in the Primary Election. As you move on to the General Election, we wish you good luck and thank you for choosing a life of public service. ✨

Vince Bagoyo

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

Sakada Offspring Cont'd from p. 5



2017: Wedding of Virgie's son, Hilo, Hawai'i. L-R Rick Ramos, Jr, Armand Ramos, Nick Ramos, Ricardo Ramos, Sr., Encarnacion Ramos, Jeny Bissell, Mhel Vieth, Virgie Choy.

Jeny ...

from p. 5

Maintenance and Jacqueline is a nurse.

When asked what accomplishment she is most proud of, Jeny responded: "My children and grandchildren. I think I did pretty good. Whose biggest fan, am I? My daughter who is also an R.N. She calls me Nurse Queen. She says to me and everyone else that I am her favorite person in the entire universe. We share many stories and we support each other especially now in this pandemic. We cry, we laugh, we get angry about our experiences as front line nurses. We probably can write a book or novels about my 30 plus years in the healthcare industry and she as a new Nurse."

Jeny's father Ricardo Ramirez Ramos arrived in Hawai'i in 1967. He was petitioned by his brother Gavino Ramos. Jeny's mom Encarnacion arrived in 1976.

Ricardo Ramos worked as a carpenter for three companies, Pacific Construction, Hawaiian Dredging Construction, and Ramos Builders, LLC, owned by his brother Gavino. Ramos Builders built many residential homes for their families, friends and others. The Ramoses were exceptionally talented business-minded carpenters and contractors, building their own and their families' homes as well as for investment purposes.

"Uncle Gavino was a loving non-judgmental person," said Jeny. "He was well-liked by everyone who knew him even with other ethnic groups. He was a hard worker, a great role model for everyone. He was instrumental in petitioning his siblings to come to Hawai'i, that's including my family. We wouldn't be here today if it was not for Uncle Gavino. He was a very generous person with his time, talents, and treas-

ures. He helped all of us build our homes. Uncle Gavino's advice to all of us was: 'I don't expect anything from you in return, however, I would like you to give the same gift and kindness to your children, families and community. Help anyone who needs your help.'" Jeny has always taken her Uncle's advice to heart.

Jeny's dad also has a favorite saying: *Ti lagip iti napalabas nga ayan-ayat ken iti amin a panawen awanan ressat.* (The remembrance of a love past in all time and forever it shall last.)

Jeny's mother, Encarnacion worked as a Housekeeper/Lobby Porter and retired from the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa. "She was my biggest fan," says Jeny of her Mom who passed away last year. "Nang was strong, beautiful and selfless human being. She loved life!"

Jeny was with her Mom when the funniest thing happened to Jeny in San Francisco. "My Nang and I went to my tenant's house to water the plants. I parked on the driveway and started watering the plants in the backyard. I took some pictures to show my tenant she really needs to hire someone to take care of her yard on a regular basis. I also took pictures of my Nang watering the plants. I went back to our car

to pick up our bags for safety. Two SFPD cars parked on the road and one of the officers gestured with one hand on his gun holster and said, 'Come here, come here, sit here on the pavement.' I asked him why are they here. He responded, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'My tenant on Maui asked us to water the plants.' He said, 'Who else is with you?' I said, 'My mother who is in the back watering.' The other officer proceeded to the back yard and I told that officer to be sensitive and nice as she is an elderly and she doesn't speak English well. The inter-

see JENY p.10

"Uncle Gavino was a loving non-judgmental person ... He was instrumental in petitioning his siblings to come to Hawai'i, that's including my family."

— JENY BISSELL

Asian Mart and Fast Foods LLC, David & Imelda Balmores, Bentos by Bernard, CAA Market Place, Café O'Lei, Nichole Castro, County of Maui, Cupies Maui, Dani's Catering, Family Produce, Feed My Sheep, Four Sisters Catering, Friends of Stacy Helm Crivello, Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura, Girl Scout Troop 717, Hafa Adai Nengkanu, JMA Imports, Juan's Catering, Kehau Ka'awai 'Ohana, KPMW Radio, Maui Foodbank, Oby's Farm LLC, Marilyn Oura & Alfredo Romero, Pepsi, Pitaya of Maui, Orlando & Madelyn Quemado, Randy's Catering, Michelle Santos, Ryan & Nikki Saribay, Tokyo Tei, Michael & Joycelyn Victorino, Vidad's, VIP Food Service, Wailuku Seafood Center and Jeremy Zane.

Monetary donations were received from Levi & Pamela Aguinaldo, Romeo & Leni Alba, Arnel & Arlene Alvarez, Richard & Iola Balubar, Bayer, Blando's Landscaping, Cabanilla 'Ohana, Nikko & Krishna Casumpang, Evelyn Felix, Friends of Stacy Helm Crivello, Albert Garcia, Rowena & Rudy Gazmen, Good-fellow Bros Inc., Chris & Lily Gutierrez, Troy Hashimoto, Iola Balubar Hula Hālau, JMI Electric, Joey's Kitchen - Nāpili, Lahaina Fil-Am Golf Club, Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, Kris Marcello, Maui Tropical Plantation,

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The Fourth #BayanihanFood-Distribution will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until supplies are exhausted.

To volunteer on Thursday, August 27, Friday, August 28 or Saturday, August 29, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Vanessa Joy Domingo at (808) 727-0913 or vanessajoy@joymaui.com.

To donate, please contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or melencopy@gmail.com or any other member of the Steering Committee: Arnel Alvarez, Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, Emi Cortez, Vanessa Joy Domingo, Alfredo G. Evangelista, Florante Garcia, Chelsea Guzman, Arthur Latayada, Marilyn Oura and Jeanice Paa. Donations through Paypal can be made via Binhi's website: <https://binhiatani.org/donate/>

Binhi at Ani also announced it will be renting a portion of its parking lot to Food Trucks. A limited amount of spaces are still available as of press time. To inquire about the details, contact Agcolicol. ✨

TANTE & ARACELI URBAN FOUNDATION



The Tante & Araceli Urban Foundation recently presented \$1,500 scholarships to four 2020 high school graduates. The scholars needed to maintain at least a 3.50 grade

point average, score high in their college entrance exams, be active at school and in the community, and be a member of their high school's tennis team. The funds were

raised by the 2019 Tante's Maui Doubles Tennis Classic Tournament, which was co-sponsored by the County of Maui and the Wailuku Junior Tennis Club. ✨



Jaxon Chester is the son of Jeffrey Chester and Joyce Chin. Chester is a graduate of King Kekaulike High School and planned to attend University of California in Santa Cruz, California to major in Film and Digital Media. His high school tennis coach was Chan Ly.



Kiyo Christopher is the daughter of Kenneth and Rachel Christopher. Christopher is a graduate of Kihei Charter School and planned to attend Colorado University in Denver, Colorado to major in Business. Her high school tennis coach was Ian Cohen.

Brent Lacuesta is the son of Jingle and Yvonne Lacuesta. Lacuesta is a graduate of H.P. Baldwin High School and planned to attend Seattle University in Seattle, Washington to major in Pre-Business. His high school tennis coach was Cynthia Feike.



Dane Payba is the son of Shane and Denise Payba. Payba is a graduate of Maui High School and planned to attend the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California to major in Computer Engineering. His high school tennis coach was Michelle Luna.



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Incumbent Kahului councilmember Tasha Kama (left) beat Maui 'Ohana backed Carol Lee Kamekona (right) and Deb Kaiwi. Kama and Kamekona will face each other in the General election.

Primary ...

from p. 2

some things and because of COVID definitely less of others. No house to house, no mass canvassing, maybe a third of [yard signs] and a later start for sign waving.” He estimates he reduced campaign activities by perhaps 75% than in prior years.

Hashimoto garnered more votes than Maui ‘Ohana backed Aiwohi and retired Police officer Bobby Hill received combined, 4,930–1,122–486, collecting 74% of the ballots cast. “I truly appreciate my District 8 constituents from Waikapū to Kahakuloa for their continued support and confidence in me,” said Hashimoto. “I promise to continue working hard for our community at the State Legislature and will make sure Maui’s interests are heard in a sometimes O’ahu-centric body. No doubt, these are difficult times as we navigate through both the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 but we will only be able to determine the best solution by working together—that will always be my commitment.”

McKelvey defeated Leonard “Junyah” Nakoa III, 2,262-1,155 and will face Kanamu Balinbin (GOP) and Travis Gylstrand (Aloha ‘Āina) in November. Similarly, Wildberger faces Howard Greenberg (Aloha ‘Āina) in the General Election, after dispatching former South Maui Councilmember Don Couch for the second primary election in a row, 2,876–1,466. (In the 2018 primary, Wildberger scored 2,181 against Couch’s 1,505.)

The only Maui Senate seat up for election this year will be determined in November as incumbent Gil S. Coloma Keith-Agaran (Democrat), Ipo Keen (Aloha ‘Āina), and Christy Kajiwara Gusman (Republican) all won uncontested primaries.

In the Special Non-Partisan Council races, familiar names led the contested races. Both West Maui Councilmember Tamara Paltin and Ha’ikū-Makawao-Pā’ia Councilmember Mike Molina probably wish Maui followed the practice in other counties where

collecting more than half the vote settles a race in the Primary. They both collected more than their two opponents combined—Paltin capturing a commanding 65% of the vote while Molina collected a whopping 69.8%. Maui ‘Ohana backed Paltin doubled the tallies of her opponents Rick Nava and Sne Patel combined: 21,274–11,050–3,845; she will face second place Nava in the November runoff. (In the 2018 primary, Paltin tallied 15,242 while Nava posted 5,799, barely beating Balinbin’s 5,623. In the 2018 general, Paltin received 56% to Nava’s 28%—28,376 to 14,581.) Molina posted 25,506 votes to lead all Council primary winners in convincingly outpolling Maui ‘Ohana

For the vacant Lāna’i seat, Maui ‘Ohana backed Gabe Johnson topped the primary results. Alberta de Jetley outpolled Matthew Mano for the second general election spot.

backed Aja Eyre (9,154 votes) and Laurent Zahnd (1,865 votes) but will still need to beat Eyre again in the General Election.

Incumbent Kahului councilmember Tasha Kama beat Maui ‘Ohana backed Carol Lee Kamekona and Deb Kaiwi. 15,529–10,792–8,392. Kama (who was backed by Maui ‘Ohana in 2018) and Kamekona will be on the General Election ballot to settle that seat where the incumbent captured only 44.7% of the votes cast. (Kaiwi also placed third in the 2018 primary race—receiving 4,519 votes—behind Kama and former Mayor Alan Arakawa.)

For the vacant Lāna’i council seat, Maui ‘Ohana backed Gabe Johnson who lost the last two elections to term-limited G. Riki Hokama, topped the primary results with 13,195 or 40.2% of the ballots cast. Alberta de Jetley outpolled Matthew Mano 10,693–8,934 for the second general election spot.

The other council races in November will feature rematches between current Molokai councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and former councilmember Stacey Crivello (in the 2018 general, Rawlins-Fernandez received 22,134 to Crivello’s 20,643) and Hāna incumbent Shane Sinenci and Kamalu Carroll, whose father formerly held the seat (in the 2018 general, Sinenci outpolled Carroll 23,654–19,467). Kihei councilmember Kelly King faces longtime local con-



Many Hawai’i residents touted the completion of their civic privilege and duty after having cast and submitted their mail-in ballots by posting this artwork on their social media app-of-choice.

tractor Tom Cook. Incumbents Yuki Lei Sugimura (Upcountry) and Council Chair Alice Lee (Wailuku) will win their seats outright because they are unopposed in the General Election.

For the Congressional seat vacated by U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Big Island State Senator Kai Kahele easily won the Democratic Primary, tallying 100,735 votes throughout the second Congressional District (Rural O’ahu-Neighbor Islands). He will face Republican Joe Akana, who won in a crowded nine candidate field, as well as Jonathan Ho’omanawanui (Aloha ‘Āina), Michelle Tippens (Libertarian) and John Giuffre (American Shopping Party). Kahele collected 21,555 in Maui County Democratic votes.

In their first year on Hawai’i’s Open Primary Election ballot, throughout the State the Aloha ‘Āina Party attracted 5,208 votes in the Primary, behind only the dominant Democratic and Republican parties. In Maui County, 744 chose the Aloha ‘Āina Primary ballot. 36,654 Maui residents picked the Democratic Party ballot while 6,754 took a Republican ballot. In contrast, more established third parties Libertarians had 1,757 in their primary statewide and the Greens had 1,010.

Those two established parties ran no candidates for legislative races in Maui County. Republicans did not field candidates in four of the seven legislative races. Further, Republican Balinbin was out-pollled by blank votes in his West Maui primary 426–795, East Maui-Lāna’i-Molokai Republican Vanderpool received only 304 votes while 488 were blank; GOP State Senate

candidate Gusman only collected 40 votes more than the blanks, 1,203–1,163.

Elsewhere in the State, the Primary Election was a night for Democratic Filipino women candidates. The State Senate may add two more Filipino women Senators to a roster that includes veterans Lorraine Inouye (Hilo) and Donna Mercado-Kim (Moanalua-Foster Village). Mercado-Kim was unopposed in her re-election bid. In Puna, for the seat vacated by State Senator Russell Ruderman, State Rep. Joy San Buenaventura romped over Smiley Burrows, 8,067–2,231 for a General Election showdown with Ron

In their first year on Hawai’i’s Open Primary Election ballot, throughout the State the Aloha ‘Āina Party attracted 5,208 votes in the Primary, behind only the dominant Democratic and Republican parties.

Ka-ipo of the Aloha ‘Āina Party. State Rep. Rida Cabanilla Arakawa beat John Clark, 4,543–2,671, for the right to face the only Republican in the State Senate Kurt Fevella (Ewa-Ewa Beach).

House Majority Leader Della Au-Belatti (HD24) advances unopposed to face Andy “Uri” Sexton, Jr. (Aloha ‘Āina) in the general. The Mililani seat will feature a battle of Filipinas as the second time was the charm for health advocate Trisha La Chica who beat former Representative Marilyn Lee, 4,210–2,934, for the Democratic nomination to face Pinay Republi-

can lawmaker and educator Val Aquino Okimoto (HD36). In West O’ahu, Rose Martinez won the Democratic primary for another shot at unseating incumbent Republican Bob McDermott (HD40).

The *Pinoys* had mixed results in state legislative races. Longtime fixture at the Legislature and Honolulu City

see PRIMARY p.12



Kobe at the Staples Center (2015).
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Lakers fans hope LeBron brings home another championship.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Lakers play in the NBA Bubble.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Donnie Dadiz at the Staples Center.



Michelle Santos hopes the NBA will continue to play.



Jason Arrocena met his closest friends through basketball.



Lakers fan Aldrin Calilao said basketball challenges him physically and mentally.

Sports Mania ...

from p. 3

poned. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) cancelled its March Madness men's Division I basketball tournament along with other winter and spring NCAA championships—literally amongst the pandemic madness echoing throughout the world. Men's volleyball was also canceled in the spring.

UH Rainbow Warrior Men's Volleyball team fan Wilipaki Barbero enjoys going to the games. "Family members and I have attended and enjoyed Men's Volleyball matches at the Stan Sheriff Center. Men's Volleyball attendance records are the largest in the entire country. They generate larger crowds than Football, Basketball or Baseball at UH. The energy levels from the fans are incredible! The matches are a fun-filled and entertaining event for the entire family complete with Pep Band, Cheerleaders, Dancers and Jumbotron entertainment, encouraging crowd participation with live competitions, contests and giveaways during half-time and breaks in between games." Barbero feels the energetic college atmosphere at the games. "All this energy from the fans is quite contagious and is easily transferred to the athletes who in turn are motivated to put out outstanding performances in their game." He feels athletes should continue playing although Barbero recognizes it is not a good time for him to travel and watch the games in person.

In March, an NBA player affected

by COVID-19 caused the National Basketball Association (NBA) to suspend all games. On July 30th, the NBA restarted with the NBA testing players for COVID-19. As of August 5th, there were zero positive test results since July 29th although a few players decided to opt out and not play the remainder of the season. Teams have been playing in the NBA Orlando Bubble—where players are required to undergo testing before being allowed to compete. Fans are not allowed and there are cut-outs in the stand.

"As some or many of you know, I'm a die-hard Los Angeles Lakers fan which dated back from the Showtime era. One of my favorite basketball players of all time was Kobe Bryant," said Dadiz. "It's so amazing to be able to watch my Lakers play inside the bubble in Disney World. Got to give it up to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and his team to have the season resume following the hiatus. This year would have been the second consecutive season my family and I would watch a live Laker game at the Staples Center. The virtual fans are a bright idea especially because there are no fans in attendance. Let's go Lakers! If the NBA had to shut down due to COVID-19, I would feel bummed because there wouldn't be any basketball to watch on TV. We would be stuck watching reruns of sporting events."

Michelle Santos, a Lakers fan, hopes the NBA will keep playing. "I love watching sports rather than TV shows and movies. I miss the competition and the thrill of the win."

see SPORTS MANIA p.13



Rick NAVA

Maui County Council

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I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020.

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October 19, 2019: Passing of Encarnacion Ramos, Matriarch of the family. The Ramos Family Home.



October 19, 2019: L–R 1st Row Virgie Choy, Jeny Bissell, Mhel Vieth. L–R 2nd Row Rick Ramos, Jr, Armand Ramos, Nick Ramos, Ricardo Ramos, Sr.

Jeny...
from p. 6

view continued and this time an unmarked car arrived and interviewed me asking the same questions three times. I answered and showed the texts from my tenant. He said he will keep my phone for now. And I said, okay. My *Nang* came out from the backyard and said in a loud voice, broken English, ‘That is my daughter and this is her tenant’s house.’ Then the neighbor came out. I left the police officer and introduced myself to the neighbor. He looked a little confused but we shook hands and greeted each other. The detective called me back to continue the interview. In the meantime, I told my *Nang* and the officer to please have my *Nang* sit on the covered porch since it is hot and she is on cancer treatment. Then a man came out of my tenant’s house. I heard that he was the one who reported us to SFPD and that he happens to be a Police rookie from another county. Then, I was puzzled or confused and don’t remember my tenant saying anything about having someone staying at her house. I asked the detective for my phone, called my tenant but no answer. I read her text and the driving directions again. And I thought I was going to

“We were in the wrong house! I was so embarrassed, I apologized, and my *Nang* was laughing so hard.”

– JENY BISSELL

have a heart attack. We were in the wrong house! I was so embarrassed, I apologized, and my *Nang* was laughing so hard. The officer gave me directions to my tenant’s house, we got into the car, I asked the officers if they wanted to escort us to make sure we get to the right house. They declined. We got to the right house, watered the plants, met my tenant’s neighbor, the right neighbor and told him what happened. We laughed, took pictures and my *Nang* and I went to our favorite restaurant in Half Moon Bay. That was the most embarrassing moment in my life. I was also worried about the story reaching my friends at the Maui Police Dept. What will they say, what will they think? But then again, they will probably say, that’s Jeny for you and will have a big laugh.”

Jeny gives thanks to her family and friends for their support and for being the pillars in her crazy life. “I guess you have to be resilient and crazy to be in this profession.”

Jenny’s five siblings are Nick Gazzingan Ramos, a maintenance supervisor at the Kā’anapali Maui at the Eldorado, who is married to Araceli Ramos, a housewife; Armand Gazzingan Ramos, a night auditor at Ruby & Sons Hospitality, LLC.; Aurea Cortez Ramos, a banking representative at Bank of Hawai’i; Mhel Ramos Vieth,

an interior designer at Design Line Studio, whose husband Mark Vieth is the *Lahaina News* editor; Rick Gazzingan Ramos, Jr., a mechanic at the Grand Wailea Maui; and Virgie Ramos Choy, a nurse at Straub Medical Center, whose husband Rodney Choy is a nurse at Queens Medical Center.

Jeny has a very rich work experience. She has worked at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center in San Francisco (July–Sept. 1984); Professional Bureau in San Francisco (Sept. 1984–Jan. 1986); Veterans Administration Medical Center (Feb.–May 1986); St. Francis Memorial Medical Center in San Francisco (May 1986–1987); and Maui Memorial Medical Center (Aug. 1987–Dec. 1989).

For over thirty years, Jeny has been with the State Department of Health. Currently, she is the Family Health Services Division Administrator for the State of Hawai’i Department of Health in the tri-islands of Maui County where her responsibilities include administrative supervision of 12.5 FTE staff and maternal and child health programs in Maui County; budgetary expenditures for the Maui District Family Health Services; and planning and organizing services to meet the needs of the family and maternal child health population for Maui County. Jeny is also the immediate past Co-chair of the Prevent Suicide Maui

see JENY p.14



January 2020: Lake Tahoe vacation, Michael and Jeny Bissell.



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It’s back to school month. Did you buy all your school supplies on the list according to your grade level? Oh wait, we are still not sure if the children are going to school or not. How will our school system bring our kids back to school? How are children going to be educated during this

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

pandemic time? What will be the new consider homeschooling? Or are you normal? Virtual learning? Will you sending your child (ren) to the

school? Will you have peace of mind or worry about the welfare of your child(ren) while in school? In the end, I hope our children will get the education they deserve. Let’s see what’s going on with Michael and Angel, this month and where they will be going next, shall we?

MICHAEL SAT IN HIS *LUGAN* (CAR) for a while.

How do I find Angel in this kalibutan (world)? San o (Where) does she live? Sino (Who) can help me?

Michael turns his *kotse* (car) on and let it idle for a minute to think of a new plan. He lay his head back, pushing it into the headrest. Michael closes his eyes. In the still of darkness and as the radio in the background fades away the rear of his unconscious, a familiar sound of laughter takes control of the silence. And as the laughter slowly settles in, a familiar voice questions him.

“*Palito?* Why are you sitting in your *lugan* (car) like a creeper?” the voice says as she begins to laugh again hysterically.

Rossssiiiiieeeee! Yes, Rosie can help me find Angel. Opening his eyes and jumping in his seat, he hits his head on the steering wheel and bumps the horn a bit.

As he grips the steering wheel, Michael turns on his headlights and pulls into Hāna Highway. He is so excited and drives back to town with a big *timan* (smile) on his *rupa* (face) and then suddenly ...

Swwooooooshhhhhhhhhhhhh ...

Hani (What) happened? His *sakyanan* (car) is pulling to the right and now starting to vibrate. How come my *lugan* (car) is slowing down?

Looking around to see if there are any vehicles coming, Michael pulls on the side of the road and inspects his vehicle. He looks at his *harapan* (front) tire, then his rear. Everything looks fine. He makes his way past the trunk, the passenger side rear tire is fine. As he lifts his head to wince and focus his eyes, there it is, a flat tire driver’s *arubang* (front) tire blown out.

“Ah,” he sighs. “Just my luck,” as he rubs his *kamot* (hand) around the tire, searching for clues of *ano* (what) could be the culprit. As he continues his *lima* (hand) inspection, finally he feels a bump in between one of the deep treads in the rubber.

“Aha,” Michael says. Squinting in the dark, the faint light coming from the Lower Pā’ia restroom is just enough to spot the metal lag head sticking out from the tire. “How the heck is this possible?” he mumbles.

| English | Pilipino | Ilokano | Cebuano | Ilonggo | Ibanag | Kapampangan |
|----------|------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Front | Harapan | Sango | Naa Sa Atubangan | Sa Atubangan | Arubang | Keng Harap |
| Hands | Kamay | Ima | Kamot | Kamot | Lima | Gamat |
| Car | Sasakyan | Lugan | Sakyanan | Auto | Kotse | Saken |
| Stop! | Tigil! | Sardeng! | Paghunong! | Untat! | Magimmang! | Patugut! |
| What? | Ano? | Ana? | Hani? | Ano? | Anni? | Nanoyin? |
| World | Mundo | Lubong | Kalibutan | Kalibutan | Bida | Yalu |
| Gross | Kadiri | Naaryek | Kadiri | Ang Kabilongan | Neppallo | Makadiri |
| Who? | Sino? | Cinno? | Kinsa? | Sin o? | Sinni? | Ninoymi? |
| Where? | Saan? | Inno? | Aha? | San o? | Sitaw? | Nokarin? |
| Go away! | Umalis ka! | Pumanaw ka! | Lakaw! | Halin 'to! | Manaw! | Mako! |

Oh man! Flat tire? Of all the times that I am on a mission of doing something, I get a flat tire. Great! Now *anni* (what)?

“*Ano* (What) do I do? I never changed a flat tire before. I always had dad or my uncles help me all of my life,” thought Michael. For every problem at the dormitory at the college campus, Michael’s dad would help with repairs. His *saken* (cars) were always sent to the mechanics of the family which would be all of his uncles. He could just call any of them and help would be on the way. As for himself, he never lifted a finger. He never took auto in high school, he was a simple book worm and part-time video gamer. He never had a knack for tinkering with equipment or machines. Once, he tried to change his oil with uncle Ray and oil got all over the driveway and he nearly drowned himself in 10w30. Him changing a flat tire? Ha! Where would he even start?

“Who am I going to call this early morning? I know everybody is up and doing something in their houses but which Uncle should I call? Uncle Sonny? Uncle Boy? Uncle Ray?” Michael had a lot of choices and he couldn’t even pick one.

He reached for his pocket

and ... “where’s my phone?” He freaks out, grabbing his chest, forcing his *gamat* (hands) into all of his pockets. He goes inside the *auto* (car) and searches for it. He looks all over the passenger seat and it’s not there. He opens the middle compartment—not there. He moves the driver seat all the way back and peeks underneath—not there. He starts to panic and throws things around like a wild man.

He holds down the power button and that’s when the signal of battery death comes on the screen—0%. ... Emotionally spent, he throws his kamay (hands) in the air and starts to cry.

“Where did I put my phone? Agh!” he shouts to himself.

Michael is frustrated and pouting like a young boy not getting the toy he wants from the store.

He sits in his *sasakyan* (car) so as to not create a big scene.

He looks up “There it is! I just didn’t see it sitting on the dash—duh, in my face,” he gasps while reaching for it. My mom would have said “Look with your eyes Michael and not with your mouth.”

Michael hits the power button on his phone and nothing. He tries it again and again, blank screen. He holds down the power button and that’s when the signal of battery death comes on the screen—0%. Fumbling through his things, he searches for a charger. Nothing. Emotionally spent, he throws his *kamay* (hands) in the air and starts to cry.

“Crying is so childish. *Ana* (What) am I doing? I’m a grown man.” Gently wiping his eyes, he realizes he didn’t wash his *kamay* (hands). “Oh, I have hand sanitizer somewhere.” He opens the middle compartment and sees his car charger sticking out next to his sanitizer bottle. He quickly plugs his phone and charges it.

All of a sudden, he hears a loud knock on his window.

Knock ... knock ... knock.

Outside his window Michael sees a homeless guy hovering over him. Scruffy looking, and obviously hasn’t taken a shower in a while, Michael can make out his voice but he hears only a muffled sound. Michael slowly leans away from the window.

Nanoyin (What) does this guy want? “Leave me alone!” Michael says.

The man knocks again. Muttering something and spit splashes on the glass.

“Ew, *kadiri* (gross)!” Michael says to himself as he makes a bitter face. “No, I have no money. *Umalis ka!* (Go away!)” He tries to explain while doing his best making *ima* (hand) gestures. Suddenly, another homeless man is knocking on his passenger window. Michael is frightened to the point where his fair skin is turning pale. A million things race though his mind. “These guys are trouble. They are going to hurt me. They are going to rob me. They are going to rob me and hurt me. They are going to rob me and kill me! *Pumanaw ka!* (Go away!)”

“Oh no!” Michael whimpers. “*Tigil!* (Stop!) I don’t want to die!”

“Mommy!” Michael howls at the moon.

Suddenly, the two men are gone and he hears his trunk open.

“Oh no! I’m going to die!” his sobbing grows worse and he clinches his eyes.

Clanking outside, Michael refuses to open his eyes.

More clanking and more clanking. Michael finally builds the courage to open his eyes and takes a look outside. As he peeks out the window he sees one man jacking the *sakyanan* (car) up and the other untightening the lug nuts.

Primary ...

from p. 8

Hall Romy Cachola (HD30) fell in a rematch with lawyer Ernesto (Sonny) Ganaden, 1,553–877. Given Cachola’s reputation for skillful use of absentee and early voting, the gap was surprising in this first All Vote By Mail election. Ganaden faces Tess Quilingking (R) in November. Former Big Island Councilmember Gregor Ilagan won the primary for House District 4, upsetting progressive favorite Eileen Ohara, 3,679–2,284. Ilagan faces Alohalani Carmel (R) and Desmon Haumea (Aloha ‘Āina) in the general election. Incumbent Kunia Democratic lawmaker Ty Cullen (HD39) will face Austin Maglinti (R) while Democrat Henry Aquino (HD38) was unopposed and won another term in Waipahū. In Waianae (HD44), Joseph Simpliciano, Jr. (Aloha ‘Āina) will meet Democratic incumbent Cedric Gates and Maysana Aldeguer (R) for the seat. Gates defeated former Rep. Jo Jordan, 2,222–782 in a rematch of their close primary two years ago. In Wahiawā (HD46), Aaron Agsalda was over-matched in his Democratic primary with teacher Amy Perusso, 2,198–1,775.

On Kaua‘i, fourteen Council candidates proceed to the general election including *Pinoys* Addison Bulosan and Mike Dandurand, who ranked 9th and 14th (only seven will be elected). On O‘ahu, with three term-limited *Pinoys* on the Honolulu City Council (Joey Manahan, Ron Menor, and Kymberly Marcos Pine), incumbent Brandon Ele-

**“Hawai‘i’s first
Vote By Mail
Primary Elec-
tion went rela-
tively well in
the sense that
for a first run
with this
process, we
saw a nice in-
crease in voter
participation.”**

– KATHY KAOHU

House Judiciary Chair Chris Lee

it was unclear what percentage of the ballots cast were represented in the first report. Posts on social media criticized the television reporters for not asking Nago that precise question. Honolulu Mayoral candidate Colleen Hanabusa (who was third in the polls) even guessed there were some 80,000 uncounted votes. But in the end, the subsequent reports would not significantly change the first report; the second report would include a portion of the walk-in votes; while the third and final reports would include the final collected mailed or dropped votes that first had to have their signatures verified.

“Hawai‘i’s first Vote By Mail Primary Election went relatively well in the sense that for a first run with this process, we saw a nice increase in voter participation and 99% of the partici-

ipation was conducted by mail, with 1% conducted in person at a Voter Service Center. All voters and voters-to-be, should be proud to exercise their right to vote,” said Maui County Clerk Kathy Kaohu. “Throughout the process I’ve been noting observations that could be looked at or amended for November’s General Election, and are unique to Maui County’s three-island demographic. Continuing with outreach and voter educa-

tion will be something we will stress between now and the General. Please voters, remember to read and sign the affirmation box on the outside of the postage-paid return mail envelope. Not comfortable mailing the envelope back? then simply place into a larger envelope and mail back to us, or hand-deliver to the Clerk’s office, Voter Service Center, or ‘Place of Deposit’ also referred to as a ‘Ballot Drop Box.’ When in doubt, call our office at (808) 270-7749.”

Despite the White House’s remarks over the last few months that an all-mail election was problematic, Hawai‘i became the fifth state (along with Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Utah) to vote by mail. While the final bill that became law as Act 136 on June 25, 2019 was authored by House Speaker Scott Saiki, many versions of the bill had been passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee then chaired by Senator Gil Keith-Agaran only to not



Senate Judiciary Chair Karl Rhoads



Maui County Clerk Kathy Kaohu



This year the signs along Lower Main Street were a little sparse.

PHOTOS: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

have funding by the money committees (House Finance and Senate Ways & Means). A pilot project for Kaua‘i elections only in 2020 was eventually approved in 2018 until the Legislature decided last year to require all-mail voting throughout the State. Sen. Keith-Agaran sat on the conference committee that approved the final language for Act 136.

“Having vote by mail in place for this election is probably one of the on-

ly happy coincidences during this pandemic,” Keith-Agaran said. “Since passing no excuse absentee mail voting and then permanent absentee mail voting, more and more people were taking advantage of the convenience of voting early.”

“It has worked much better than I expected it to,” said Senator Karl Rhoads, who shepherded the law through the Senate. As for changes to

see PRIMARY p.19



Jan Paa and family at the Staples Center to watch the Lakers play.
PHOTO COURTESY JAN PAA & FAMILY



Cherry Respicio Urias and her family at Dodger stadium.
PHOTO: CHERRY URIAS



Pat Sensano, #54, at the 2017 Pro Bowl tailgating pre-game with close friends.
PHOTO COURTESY PAT SENSANO

Sports Mania ...

from p. 9

Jason Arrocena of Kihei says his all-time favorite sports team is the Los Angeles Lakers and met his closest friends through basketball. “We always talk about the memories we made through it. Also, it’s a good reason to gather lots of family and friends to watch and be competitive with each other.” Arrocena is hoping the basketball season continues and feels athletes should continue to play. After attending several NBA games on the mainland, Arrocena knows he will miss the intensity of being there in person.

Aldrin Calilao, also a Lakers fan, shares his hope the NBA will continue playing. “Growing up on Maui, I’ve always been around the basketball environment—playing in South Maui Youth Basketball League to late night pick-up games at Kalama Beach Park. This sport has allowed me to be active, create relationships with friends and challenge myself physically and mentally for a lifetime.”

“If the NBA suddenly cancels, I would be devastated,” said Jeanice “Jan” Paa. “My family and I are big Laker fans and it would be like losing Kobe again! We watched a game in November 2019 and we hope to go to many more NBA games in the future.”

Major League Baseball (MLB) re-

opened training camps on July 1st and began their 60-game schedule on July 23rd. In less than two weeks—the league’s season was hit with schedule changes due to COVID-19 cases. According to CBS Sports, there were 20 members of the Miami Marlins that tested positive for the COVID-19, including 18 players. The St Louis Cardinals are the second team to be dealing with an outbreak with over a dozen members that have tested positive. MLB commissioner Rob Manfred insisted there was “no reason to quit” the 2020 season and aims to push the league forward.

“The San Francisco Giants are doing better than expected but then this is an Even Year. I hope they can finish this sixty-game schedule,” said Keith-Agaran. “My wife and mom have certainly enjoyed going to San Francisco for games when we visit the Bay Area. The atmosphere and energy of a live game is just different from watching a game at home or at an adult beverage outlet.”

Evangelista, a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, says MLB was unfair to the Dodgers with hardly any punishment against the Houston Astros who cheated their way to win the World Series against the Dodgers in 2017. “I’m hoping the season continues so the Dodgers and other teams can keep beating the Astros.”

“As a fan I would be disappointed if the MLB canceled the remaining

season, especially since the Los Angeles Dodgers are in first place,” said Cherry Respicio Urias. “Watching the Dodgers play is a family tradition and we look forward to our annual summer vacation to watch them play at Dodger Stadium. This year we were supposed to attend the All Star Games which was to be hosted at Dodger Stadium for the first time since 1980!”

Meanwhile, the multi-billion dollar National Football League (NFL) hopes to start their regular season on September 10th. In April, the NFL Draft was held remotely for the very first time. Since the start of training camp, 56 players tested positive according to the NFLPA website. So, who knows what will happen to the NFL season?

“IT SUCKS,” said Pat Sensano, who is a Chicago Bears fan. “Before all of this happened, I loved watching sports. I’m a huge sports fan. And it’s just not the same anymore. Sports is a form of entertainment. When you have a personal connection to a team, you have a loyalty to them and want that team to win. When you have friends that root for other teams, that’s when you can have fun. You talk smack to each other and just have fun. People want to have a release from all the bad news going on in the world. I don’t want to see bad news every day. I’ve gone to about 20 football games—college and pro sports in the past 15 years.”

“RAAAAI-----DERRRRRS!” yells Ed

Evangelista. “If there wasn’t an NFL season this year, it would be another thing lost in 2020. As a Raiders fan, I was looking forward to traveling to the new Allegiant Stadium and watching a game. I was curious to compare the old and new. I wanted to feel the brotherhood and energy of the fan-filled stadium. It would have given me a chance to reconnect with friends I made while tailgating before a game at the Oakland Stadium in 2015. Raiders tailgating was Wild! I’m wondering what the new tailgating environment will be. Much like many NFL fans, this season was loaded with optimism. The Raiders’ season was no different. With all the new talent of draft picks and free agents coupled with the current roster, Raiders fans can hardly contain their excitement for this season. RN4L!”

“As a football fan, it will just be a major disappointment if they decide to cancel the season,” said Philadelphia Eagles fan Jovy Magbual whose favorite Eagles players are Randall Cunningham and Reggie White. “I know that’s selfish but 2020 has already been an awful year. Give us something to cheer and look forward to whether it’s at a bar or your home. Also, there will be no Fantasy Football.”

“Sports is something that bonds my family together, especially football,” said Urias. “We look forward to the games, largely because we all support

see SPORTS MANIA p.16



Ed Evangelista said “As a Raiders fan, I was looking forward to traveling to the new Allegiant Stadium and watching a game. I was curious to compare the old and new.”
PHOTO COURTESY ED EVANGELISTA



“As a football fan, it will just be a major disappointment if they decide to cancel the season,” said Philadelphia Eagles fan Jovy Magbual.
PHOTO COURTESY JOVY MAGBUAL

You Give Them Something To Eat ...

Making our lives a moral and spiritual lesson, a parable, for others to know and follow.

John A.H. Tomosot



The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recount Jesus' parable called the Feeding of the Five Thousand. What should it mean for us?

Why did Jesus teach in parables? Parables are simple stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. In the Sacred (Hebrew and Christian) Scriptures, there are words full of imagery and analogy, storytelling and nuance. Jesus knew the Scriptures well and He was well-aware of how enriching the words, even in their unspoken intent, had great meaning for the people. Jesus was certainly well-versed in the rich tradition of scriptural (biblical) imagery and deep meaning of words that literally jumped out of the page and into the heart and soul. The parables told and taught jumped out at the people who heard and pondered them. The parables of Jesus acted as filters. Some people only heard simple stories while others got the deeper meaning. These parables became for many, portals to discipleship, belief in something not seen but tangible out of faith. They also served as somewhat clarion calls to truth, understanding and commitment. These parables continue to serve us well in the present age.

I recently had the opportunity to deliver a homily on the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand in the Gospel of Matthew. This story of the feeding of many, out of what little there was, must have been deep in the memory of the disciples because all four evangelists record it in the Gospel they wrote. I think that one reason for this was that so many later theological themes about Jesus converged in the story as it was told and retold. The three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are close in detail and the fourth Gospel, John, expands this story—an event of epic proportions—to make it the basis for many of the theological themes that Christians know and live with.

Now this story is not really in the canon of the Parables of Jesus. After all, it is about what Jesus did, as he went about His ministry here on earth; going about and being compassionate with the people who crowded around Him, wherever He went.

What I posit to you now is how this story becomes our own parable; of how we are to conduct our lives. In

The parables [Jesus] told and taught jumped out at the people who heard and pondered them.

this story, as the writer of Matthew tells it, the compassion of Jesus led Him to spend the whole day attending to the people. Apparently, His disciples felt it was their duty to remind him that night

that the crowd had not eaten. While the disciples perceived nothing more than the approach of night, Jesus, in His wisdom and understanding, saw that the hour had come for Him to say something as He was being moved by compassion. He eventually said to the disciples “you give them something to eat.” At this moment in the story, Jesus through His own words and actions, turned it into a parable. He was inviting His disciples to do what He had just done, to follow his example of unsparing generosity, to give away everything they had even as they

feared they had too little to offer. You see, this story is about how we are to live the “Parable of You and Me.” It is a parable of being compassionate, generous and of feeding, or nurturing. Jesus said at that hillside place, with thousands of hungry people, “you give them some-

thing to eat.” Isn't Jesus saying this to us now, in this time of our pandemic and COVID-19?

The Parables of Jesus are examples of how to access the spiritual dimensions of our physical experience, to seek meaning beneath the surface of things. Beneath the surface of this story, there is a moral and spiritual

see PARABLES p.18



January 2020. Castello di Amorosa, Napa Valley. Fulfilling my plan to visit castles around the world

Jeny...

from p. 10

County Task Force.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeny is in the midst of the State's response team. “I have been repurposed as many of my nursing colleagues across the globe,” she says. “I am a core team member of the State of Hawai'i Dept of Health COVID-19 Case and Contact Investigation. We are like forensic detectives or forensic science technicians going ‘upstream’ and ‘downstream’ of the infectious disease. We are collecting demographic data, behavioral actions, people's activities, etc. and use scientific methods such as laboratory and clinical symptoms of our client to mitigate and slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in our state. We input this information in a national database system called Maven Surveillance and Disease Outbreak Management System, a repository of information. For the most part, my COVID clients are cooperative and pleasant but there are moments when I feel like ‘throwing the towel’ and say ‘nuff already.’ I've cried, laughed, smiled, lots of sleepless/disruptive sleep, eating, and excretion patterns, not necessary in that order. My biological clock is out of whack. My friends and family often remind me to pace myself and self-care. I am thankful that we at DOH and our community partners

are incredibly supportive of one another.”

Jeny describes how she has evolved. “I used to not want to share my knowledge or be very protective and afraid that people will steal my ideas and profit from it. Their gain, my loss mentality. But over the years, I guess I am more matured now that I now do not have a problem and in fact love sharing my toolbox with others. I am also very transparent. I'm not afraid to tell people that I made mistakes and I don't have all of the answers but I will try and find the answer.” She recognizes how folks want to know. “In this pandemic and any other past disease outbreak I've been a part of since the '80s (HIV epidemic while working in San Francisco as a new Nurse) the public has been very demanding about their request for information. They need to understand that we have privacy laws, code of ethics, nurse-patient privilege, that we must follow. I can't even share specifics to my immediate family. We are asking for their trust, patience and confidence in this pandemic. And most of all, to do their part. Together in unity and solidarity, and I will quote my former boss (he was my boss at Lahaia McDonald's in the early '70s) our beloved and honorable Mayor Michael Victorino, ‘We will come out better than we came in.’”

Jeny is a well-connected and an see JENY p.17

A Closer Look at Dragon Fruit aka Pitaya

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Growing up in the Philippines, I have not heard or seen this exotic looking fruit called Dragon Fruit, also known as *Pitaya*. It was only when I arrived here on Maui that I got introduced to them.

How about you? Are you familiar with Dragon Fruit? When was the first time you have eaten one? Did you like it? Do you like Dragon Fruit now?

Initially, I was a fan of Dragon Fruit only for the way it looks. It is quite intriguing with its brilliant colors and unique shape and texture. However, I found it to be a bit bland. Maybe I just haven’t tasted the right species yet that would please my palette. It has a mild flavor that has a hint of passion fruit (*lilikoi*), watermelon and raspberries flavor.

From my research, I learned there are various species and one of the species is actually sweet. There is this Dark red (magenta) variety from Nicaragua, there is a white flesh species from Vietnam and there’s the bright pink (fuchsia) from Israel. Interestingly I learned there are now many Dragon fruit Farms here in Hawai’i and a few of them are here on Maui.

I started learning more about *Pitaya* and I found out it is a “super food” and there are many benefits to eating *Pitaya* regularly.

Ocean Robbins of Food Revolution Network shared many of the many benefits of *Pitaya*. Here are some of them:

- 1 It contains prebiotics which are good for your gut health. Prebiotics play the role of fertilizer for the good bacteria in your digestive system. Red flesh dragon fruit contains an abundance of *oligosaccharides*, which are a type of prebiotic.
- 2 It’s good for your digestion. One cup of *pitaya* contains seven grams of fiber. This is almost one-quarter of your recommended minimum daily fiber needs.
- 3 It boosts your immune system. Dragon fruit pulp is rich in antioxidants like vitamin C which is great for your immune system. Antioxidants help your body stave off cell damage and degenerative diseases.
- 4 It helps prevent and fight cancer. Dragon fruit contains antioxidants called *hydroxycinnamates* which can help prevent cancer. It also contains *lycopene*, a powerful compound also found in tomatoes which has been shown to be beneficial in

protecting against chemical and natural toxins.

- 5 It helps stabilize your blood sugar. Not only is the fiber in dragon fruit great for your digestive health but it also maintains blood sugar balance. Adding *pitaya* to your diet could help steady your blood sugar after



The Pitaya of Maui LLC farm can be found on the slopes of Waihe’e.
PHOTO COURTESY PITAYA OF MAUI LLC

eating other glucose-spiking foods.

- 6 It’s heart healthy. Dragon fruit is a good source of flavonoids which are antioxidant pigments that have a positive impact on heart health. And dragon fruit with red pulp is particularly high in *betalains* which provide its color and can reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol levels.

And there are more benefits but we’ll stop with six for now. If you are interested, I encourage you to research more about *Pitaya* and you’d be amazed!

Before I continue sharing about *Pitaya*, I should answer a question that’s probably in your mind right now. So what really is its name, Dragon Fruit or *Pitaya*? The answer is both. It is used interchangeably. The name Dragon Fruit had been used since 1963 resulting from the leather-like skin and prominent scaly spikes on the fruit interior. Apparently, when the fruit made its way to Vietnam from Central America, it was called *thang loy* which translates to Dragon Fruit in English. The name *Pitaya* (also *Pitahaya*) was derived from Mexico and in Central and South America, possibly relating to the *Pitahaya* for names of tall cacti species with flowering fruit.

Did you know there is a Dragon Farm Fruit on Maui called *Pitaya* of Maui LLC which is owned by a Filipino family? Angelo and Rowena Mariano started this *Pitaya* Farm back in 2014. It’s an impressive *Pitaya* Farm organically and meticu-

see PITAYA p.19



A slice of this dragon fruit *pitaya* exposes the saturated magenta color within.
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

Mabuhay, Maui County!

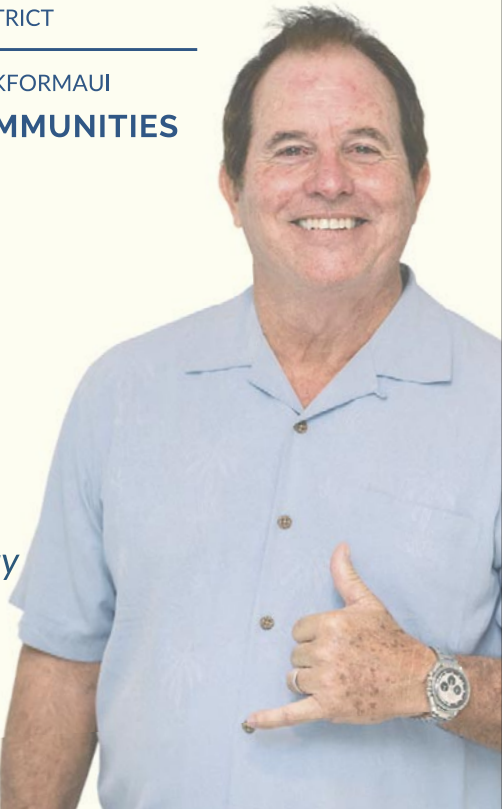


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"If the NFL season gets canceled, it would be a downer but not a surprise," said Stacy Woodson shown here with son Jevon. "I'd be bummed if the NFL season didn't happen but I'd be more bothered about community spread and a slaughtered economy."

PHOTO COURTESY STACY WOODSON

Sports Mania ...

from p. 13

different teams—the Seattle Seahawks, the newly relocated Las Vegas Raiders and the Chicago Bears! As a long-time Patriots fan, I am looking forward to seeing how the team play would this season, post Tom Brady. We respect and support the league and players in the decision, whatever that will be."

"The L.A. Rams was—and remains—my favorite NFL team since I was just a kid," said Lawrence Pascua. "I was bummed when they went to St. Louis in 1994-95 because for me, it disrupted the whole West Coast tradition and pride that went with my being from the wild-wild west, here in Hawai'i. However, they took the Super Bowl XXXIV against the Tennessee Titans in 2000. That's when my "Sauron's" eye went back to the team. I went crazy—in my own mind—when the Rams came home to roost in L.A. in 2016. They fought hard and had a great season in 2018 when they were in Super Bowl LIII but history repeated itself as they lost to the NE Patriots just like they did during Super Bowl XXXVI (2001). I hope the NFL finds its way through this COVID-19 pandemic now in 2020 and beyond. God bless us all! While I love the Rams and watching Pro-Football and following my team, I would be disappointed if the NFL couldn't return for a season due to COVID-19 but would be more relieved, knowing that lives are being saved by having to sacrifice my love for watching the sport."

"I've always looked forward to football season, for all levels, pop warner, high school, college and the NFL. But aren't we all getting used to the closures by now? Sigh! For the NFL, I'm

a Niners fan, stuck with me since I was a kid. I would root for them because my brothers would root for them. And when you follow a team over time you tend to get attached, like they can hear you from the other side of your TV, LOL. Watching the last Super Bowl was quite unpleasant. Justin is from Kansas so it was the first time he was cheering against my Niners in a big game. Ooh it made me so *nuha*," said Stacy Woodson. "If the NFL season gets canceled, it would be a downer but not a surprise. I think we're all prepared for that to possibly happen. I do not think I would be sad, or mad about it... maybe more concerned. Another closure to stall our economy. We're stuck between a rock and a hard place, so yeah, I'd be bummed if the NFL season didn't happen but I'd be more bothered about community spread and a slaughtered economy."

Keith-Agaran was realistic for his team "As for the NFL, I'm a Cincinnati Bengals fan so I can wait on pro ball." Rod Antone was more emphatic: "All hail the Raider Nation!"

Vanessa Joy Domingo is a graduate of Maui High School and is employed by the County of Maui and Coldwell Banker Island Properties. When she attended the University of Miami in 2009, she attended several football games even though the Hurricanes were not very good at that time. She did however, at least dress up for the occasion. Now, when she has free time, she loves to go fishing, go to the gym and practice aerial silks.



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Is Not Everything...

The COVID-19 Continuation of Sports

Alexis Joy Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

Across the country and even within our state of Hawai'i, as case numbers continue to rise, many are eager to resume sports. With the total amount of COVID-19 cases nearing five million, nearly a fourth of all COVID-19 cases worldwide, national sports leagues such as the National Basketball Association and the National Football League are starting to resume their seasons amidst the raging pandemic with proper testing and sanitation.

High school athletes in Hawai'i though are not as fortunate as the professional athletes competing at the national level. As of August 5th, the Hawai'i High School Athletics Association announced all fall sports will be postponed to January. This rule excludes low-risk sports such as air riflery and bowling. What do the student-athletes and coaches of Maui think of this? Two athletes and a coach explore this question.

Jeremy Peros, Maui High



School Varsity Boys Basketball player and Track and Field athlete, shares his take on the pandemic's effect on his Senior season. "I don't like to be pessimistic but as a senior athlete, I believe the pandemic will severely diminish my senior season for all the sports I play. If we don't get a season at all, of course I'll be very disappointed." Though COVID-19 is taking the biggest toll on Fall Sports, Peros' track season this past spring was already tainted by the virus. "I do track and field in the spring. We had our first two practice meets but due to COVID-19 and quarantine, our season got postponed and later canceled after only two practice meets," Peros says.

Early on, it was hard to see how big the virus would become. Peros was hopeful to return but he soon saw there was no end to the tunnel. "When I first heard the news, I was bummed but hopeful. I knew we were going to miss a couple of crucial weeks of training but I believed that we'd be able to come back before the final state meet. However, when spring sports were officially canceled statewide, I was really disappointed because I wanted to try to make states as well as enjoy one last

season with the now-graduated seniors."

Looking forward to his last season of basketball, Peros is still unsure of how he and his teammates will be able to participate safely. "I don't know how basketball might be played because as a player it would be tough to wear a mask and you definitely can't socially distance. I think, at the very least, if basketball games are held, there will be little to no fans allowed." Peros further analyzes the concerns of athletics at such a risky time in history. "If one athlete catches COVID-19, how can we make sure that they don't give it to any other athletes or coaches who may potentially spread it to their families and friends? And if we were to test every day for example, how will we cover those additional costs?"

Still, Peros tries to remain optimistic about what could come. "Even if we do get a season though, even if the pandemic is completely eradicated, I think it will be in a limited fashion—shorter seasons, fewer practices, little to no travel. Hopefully, though, we'll get a full last year of sports and one last hurrah!"

Kylee Valdez, former Maui High



School Varsity cheerleader and current cheer coach, also offers her opinions regarding the continuation of sports. As a new Maui High School alumna, Valdez already felt the effects of the pandemic on sports. Though she was able to ride out her full seasons of cheer during Fall and Spring, her Spring practices and showcase were not as fortunate. "Coronavirus has affected my participation in sports because practices were canceled. I was also planning on having a showcase performance but due to coronavirus, we couldn't have it, so all the material we learned couldn't be performed," Valdez says.

Valdez was looking forward to a good end to her high school cheer career. "I was bummed because I didn't expect my last cheer season to end like this. Although we did have our competition, it was still sad to hear that our year would be cut short. I also felt disappointed because

see CONTINUATION p.18



December 2016, Wailea Maui Hawai'i. The Ramos-Bissell Family welcoming their first grandson. L-R: Glen Bissell, Michelle Bissell, Zayden Kai Bissell, Ricardo Ramos, Sr., Encarnacion Ramos, Jeny Bissell, Michael Bissell, Jacqueline Bissell, Sean Bissell.

Jeny...
from p. 14

active member of the community, especially in the Filipino community. She serves on more than 25 Coalition/Ad Hoc Committees at the local, state and national level. Her greatest passion is to advocate for the health and wellness of Hawai'i's people especially those who are not able to speak for themselves or challenged by the overly complex system of care. She has been described as the go-to person because of having a such a strong pulse, care, compassion and deep connection to her community.

Jeny enjoys participating in activities that her family/children are involved in. She enjoys dancing, hiking and singing especially with families and friends.

Although Jeny is a very busy person, she still finds time to serve the church and the community. She is the 2020-2022 President of St. Theresa Catholic Club of Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs. She is also a member of the St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church Pastoral Council and the Secretary of the Philippines Nurses Association of America - Maui Chapter.

Jeny's version of the Golden Rule is the "6 Cs, Care, Compassion, Communication, Courage, Commitment, Competence. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Treat other people with concern and kindness you would like them to show toward you." Jeny's deep religious beliefs are embodied in her life: "God is present in all of us and

in our actions. We must help God take care of ourselves, one another and our community. Blessed for the time, treasure and talent I have. Continue to inspire our children and youth to live life to the fullest with gratitude, humility, perseverance, pursue higher education and give their time, treasure and talent to God and their community. Tough times don't last; but tough people do. The challenge for each person facing life's situations the rare opportunity to test one's flexibility, adaptability, and resiliency to not only survive the changes but to flourish personally and professionally from them."

For Jeny, the journey of life continues. ✨

Lucy Peros is a retired school teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



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Aghuto Tanya!
"Let's Cook!"
Pinoy Recipe of the Month
COMPILED BY Lucy Peros



This month's
recipe is by
Precila Peros



Ono Poi
Cascaron

Precila and her five year old grandson A.J. Perez enjoyed making the cascaron together.

Ingredients

- 1 12 oz. bag poi
- 2 16 oz. box mochiko flour
- 1½ cup white sugar
- 2 13.5 fl. oz. coconut milk
- 1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut
- Cooking oil

Procedure

Heat 1 inch deep cooking oil in a wok or skillet at 300° F. Mix mochiko flour with the poi, shredded coconut, sugar, and coconut milk. Blend together. Drop the balls of dough in the hot oil and fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towel. In a paper bag, shake the cooked cascaron balls with the white sugar. Yields 95 balls. Enjoy!

Salamat for sharing
our Filipino recipes.



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Jesus' disciples acted on their faith in Jesus that what He provided would be enough to feed the five thousand followers.
IMAGE COURTESY [HTTP://CONCORDPASTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://CONCORDPASTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM) AND AKENSIDEPRESS.COM

Parables ...

from p. 14

lesson. Can we imagine, through the actions and words of Jesus, what can happen to us, if we are sitting on a hillside and it's getting dark and we're hungry? Our heart moves out ahead of our mind to ask what stories await us if only we first imagine them, then explore how to make them happen. So, it is with the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand which becomes a veritable parable for the conduct of our lives through which we see truth, understanding and commit-

ment and action. Remember our Lord's words. "YOU give them something to eat." Then, our lives through imagery and analogy, storytelling and nuance will become a moral and spiritual lesson, a parable, for others to know and follow. ✨



John A. Hau'oli Tomoso is a Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i and a retired Social Worker, with 42 years of licensed practice. Born and raised on Maui, he lives in Kahului with his wife Susan D. Tomoso, who is a retired Educator with 30 years of teaching experience.

Continuation ...

from p. 16

I worked on choreographing the showcase that was supposed to happen but because of coronavirus I won't be able to show everyone what I've worked on."

Although she is looking forward to being a cheer coach for her first year, she acknowledges that in the end, the safety of athletes comes first. "Being a coach, you would want a season but you always put the kids' health first. What concerns me is the risk of more cases and the spread of the virus. I don't think it would be a good decision unless all precautions are taken such as temperature checks, being tested, and sanitizing/wearing a mask."

When it comes to what she expects the new version of cheer to look like, Valdez sees a need for social distancing precautions and alterations to traditional practices. "For cheer, we might have to stop stunting and we might have to buy more mats so we could have more space to spread everyone six-feet apart." While it may be the temporary end of stunting, the spirit of cheer will live on. "We might not have a competition this year but we will still cheer for our school's teams and be filled with school spirit."

As a former athlete, Valdez offers her empathy for those who will not be able to participate in sports in the way they wanted to. "The athletic program was such an amazing experience for me and it hurts to see that these students don't get to have the full experience that I had. I feel bad because they couldn't have the same opportunities that I encountered. I'm hoping they stay safe and are being healthy," Valdez says. In these tough times for high school athletes, Valdez shares her words of encouragement. "To anyone who is feeling discouraged or feels distressed, just remember your goals and keep your head high!"

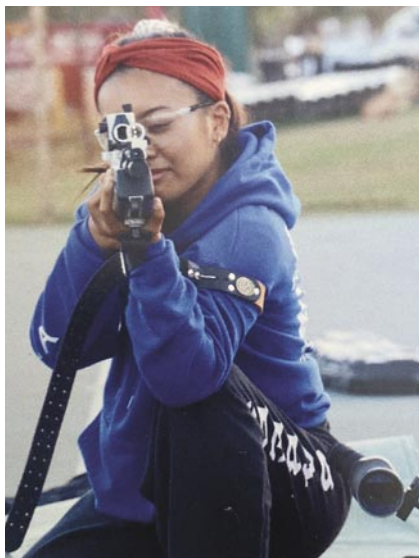
Like cheer, marching band has a crucial role in filling school sports events with spirit and showcasing their talent through the course of their many performances. Maui High Marching Band drum major **Gwen Jaramillo** shares how the COVID-

couldn't start marching season on time and I couldn't go on all of my trips as planned but I eventually came to terms with the situation and am glad that not only our band but the whole school is taking the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe."

This school year, Jaramillo has already seen a huge setback in the band program. "COVID-19 has already affected this year's band term drastically. Usually our school's marching band would've started rehearsals in June and by now we would've gotten a portion of our show done along with getting our members ready for our first show in September. Now, there's a possibility that there won't be a marching band season this year," Jaramillo says. Though a full season is unlikely, the marching band's leadership is still preparing for any possibility. "Leadership is working hard to be ready for our members for what may come."

Aside from the marching band, the school's symphonic band is also preparing for what changes they must endure. "As for symphonic band, our band director has come up with plans for us to learn virtually and maybe even put up a concert virtually too." Though times are unusual and tradition has been strayed away from, Jaramillo stays hopeful. "Everything is just very different and a little more difficult since we can't see each other. It's really hard to learn/teach how to blend with the band since we can't play or understand each other's parts in person. Although this year is very different, I know our program can get through this without doubt."

This topic is a special one for me as I have been a member of Maui



Alexis Joy Viloria

High's Air Riflery team for the past three years. Seeing how much COVID-19 affected other sports helps me to appreciate the nature of my sport and its ability to limit transmission between athletes and coaches. This does not mean I am completely unconcerned with the continuation of my sport. Wearing masks while having to wear safety glasses may affect shooting, the implementation of social distancing may affect the close relationships between team members and coaches and the state championship is still in the unknown. I also feel for those who may be in sports that are considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission because I know there are others who have

see CONTINUATION next page



19 has affected Maui High School's band program thus far. Initially, Jaramillo was displeased at what the pandemic has done to her season but is grateful for the measures taken for the safety of her and her peers. "At first I was a little upset since we



Mahalo!

Keep safe!

From my 'Ohana to yours, mahalo for your continued trust and support in the Primary Election. Please look for your General Election Ballot by Mail in mid-October.

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Primary ...

from p. 12

the elections by mail law, “I think we should consider a hard deadline where if it’s postmarked by a certain date it counts.” His counterpart, House Judiciary chair Chris Lee said, “We not only broke Hawai’i records but no other state has seen this kind of increase in voters even when moving to voting by mail. It’s incredible.” Lee thought there could be a few tweaks to the existing law. “I’d like to add a few more drop boxes in more communities next election.”

While many will be focused on the local and state elections in the general, many more will be focused on the Presidential race featuring incumbent Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, who served as Vice President under President Barack Obama.

Will the Presidential politics spill

over into the state races—the Trump-Pence Republicans versus the Biden-Harris Democrats? Or will local non-partisan Council races featuring Maui ‘Ohana backed candidates dominate? We will find out in less than three months. *Vote and stay tuned.* ✨

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980) where he majored in Political Science, and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 36 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.



Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Cont’d from p. 11

Michael unlocks the car door and is about to open the door when his phone rings.

“An idiot is attempting to call you ... an idiot is attempting to call you ” his ring tone goes on ...

Find out who’s calling Michael and keep an eye out for my article every issue.

Visit us on our facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at www.facebook.com/Fil-AmVoice.

I’m Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let’s laugh, let’s *makinig* (listen), and *Let’s Talk Pinoy!* *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!) ✨

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College and her Bachelors of Science in

Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai’i—West O’ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial



Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is now part of the Travel Club of Saladmaster and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancun, Mexico with the

love of her life, Paul Manzano. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.

Continuation ...

from p. 18

committed so much to their sports and are not able to participate the way they wished. Nevertheless, I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to ride out my last season.

Any situation within this pandemic regarding the interaction between any member of society has its implications, including sports. To return to the state of sports and activities we all wish for, we must be able to address the pandemic head-on. By wearing masks, social distancing and taking proper precautions to stay safe, Seniors will no longer have to miss out on their last seasons, students will be able to show their school spirit at games and the fun time we know as high school will be memorable for a reason other than a pandemic. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month’s guest columnist is **Alexis Joy Viloria**, a Senior at Maui High School.



She is the founder and President of Maui High’s Saber-Scribes journalism club, and Vice President of the Silver-sword Chapter of the National Honor Society. Alexis is a part of Maui High’s air riflery team and is also a committed member of HOSA-Future Health Professionals as the Secondary Representative of the Hawai’i HOSA State Council and a HOSA state gold medalist and international finalist. Alexis hopes to one day become a Pediatric Physician. She is the daughter of Alex and Juvy Viloria.

Pitaya ...

from p. 15

lously maintained by Angelo and his workers. Their Pitaya can be found in various locals stores on Maui, Asian Mart and Fast Food LLC is one of them. Their Pitaya produce can also be found at Mana Foods, Down to Earth and ABC stores. They are also a supplier for VIP Foods and Kula Produce. As we all know, it is good to buy locally grown produce because it is fresher and you are also supporting the local farmers.

Are you interested to find out more about Pitaya of Maui LLC? Check out the Facebook Page at Pitaya of Maui www.facebook.com/pitayaof-maui. It’s fascinating to see the photos of the farm. You can also follow their Instagram at @pitayaofmaui. They occasionally announce a free farm tour when the Pitaya are ready for harvest so it is good to follow their posts.

Pitaya is good to eat by itself. However, there are many ways to serve it as well: blended in smoothies, added to topping of açai bowls, sliced into salad, made into salsa, and I even saw a recipe for a Dragon Fruit Poke! How do

you like to eat your Pitaya? Let us know! ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s lived on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui.

Liza is currently the Interactive Media Strategist with Wailea Realty Corp.



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