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Local News

HonoluluAdvertiser.com
June 12, 2005



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Posted on: Sunday, June 12, 2005

HAWAII BRIEFS

Water advisory for weekend

Advertiser Staff

The Board of Water Supply is asking Wahiawa residents to continue to conserve water throughout the weekend after a pump failure Friday night.

"Cooking, drinking and personal sanitation only," said board spokesman Wanda Yamane. "Showers, baths, toilets are fine."

Yamane said water supply workers tried to start the pump and it failed to work. They hope to have it fixed before tomorrow morning.

Other pumps are functioning, Yamane said. The caution against overuse is to protect the remaining system from overload.

Canoe races called off today

The Lokahi Regatta outrigger canoe races scheduled for today at Ke'ehi Lagoon have been canceled because of concerns that participants might be stung or bitten by mysterious marine organisms.

Several paddlers sustained stings or bites during regattas held at Ke'ehi Lagoon the past two weeks. State officials have not been able to identify the source, so officials from the Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a paddling organization voted yesterday to cancel today's regatta.

"We're doing what's in the best interest of our paddlers," Hui Wa'a vice president Tambry Young said. "And until we get word that it is completely safe to be in that water, we won't go back in it."

More than 1,000 paddlers had been expected to participate.

There are more regattas scheduled to take place at Ke'ehi Lagoon this summer.

"If we have to look at relocating, we'll do that," Young said. "There are a lot of questions out there right now and we'll continue to meet and decide what's best for us as an organization."

Another paddling event — the King Kamehameha Regatta — will take place today at Kailua Beach. That regatta is run by the O'ahu

Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

Three schools to get access upgrades

The state will spend \$1.1 million to make improvements at Farrington High, Lunalilo Elementary and Waimanalo Elementary schools to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act and allow physically challenged students to comfortably attend school.

At Farrington High, improvements to the cafeteria restrooms will include interior work and providing accessible routes to the toilets. The \$222,000 project is expected to be completed by July 2006.

At Lunalilo Elementary, work will provide accessibility to the administration building, cafeteria, library, playfield, outdoor assembly area and a designated classroom. The \$481,000 project is expected to conclude by June 2006.

At Waimanalo, improvements include creating an ADA transition plan and safety work in the library. The \$90,400 project is expected to conclude by July 2005.

Okinawa prayers set for June 23

June 23 is a day of prayer and remembrance in Okinawa for the more than quarter-million lives lost at the close of the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. The majority were Okinawan civilians.

An evening of reminiscences by survivors, Okinawan music and dance, and education on the legacy of war in Okinawa is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. June 23 at Jikoen Hongwanji, 1731 N. School St.

Refreshments will be provided. Parking is free.

In Okinawa, all war dead are honored on June 23, particularly the unsung civilian casualties who often suffer the brunt of war.

Army history focus of event

The rich history of the U.S. Army will be celebrated by soldiers and volunteers on Thursday in Waikiki.

The Hawai'i chapter of the Association of the United States Army, a private nonprofit advocacy group, will commemorate the battles and events that shaped the Army since the Revolutionary War. The

Army was created by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 — 230 years ago — and the first commander was Gen. George Washington.

The formal event, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, will also recognize Hawai'i-based soldiers who have returned from or are still deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many soldiers and their families will be sponsored guests. Donors can sponsor a guest for \$50 or sponsor a table of 10 for \$500. For more information, contact chapter president Donald Birdseye at 626-3316 or at dkbirdseye@aol.com.

County to outline baseyard plans

KAUNAKAKAI, Moloka'i — The Maui County Department of Parks & Recreation will hold an informational meeting Wednesday to discuss plans for a baseyard at the Duke Maliu Regional Park. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Mitchell Pauole Center in Kaunakakai.

The project includes construction of a 5,000-square-foot, pre-engineered steel building mauka of the existing pavilion and kitchen building in the center of the park, and a paved and fenced parking area for county vehicles and equipment.

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