

Island Beat

Your weekend guide to East Hawaii

May
26
2016



Little Mermaid
Waimea play, p2



Kaleidoscope
Dazzling dance, p5

Big screens, big fun

INSIDE • p6



Island Beat

May 26 2016

INSIDE:

4. Ballroom
Dance group hosts annual anniversary ball

6. BIFF
Selection of films, events return

10. Puzzles
Entertain your brain

12. Let's Go Out
Ono grinds

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PHOTO: FRANKLIN DEWAR

Mer-sisters, from left, Kenzie Nelson, Mako Yamamoto, Rona Lee, Kara Spaulding and Kaila Ishii-Manalo, try on their costume tails.

Waimea Community Theatre presents undersea musical

A curious mermaid, a handsome prince, a wicked octopus and a nervous crustacean will swim onto the Kahilu Theatre stage this weekend as Waimea Community Theatre presents “The Little Mermaid Jr.” at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There also will be encore performances at 7 p.m. June 11 and 2 p.m. June 12 at the Honokaa People’s Theatre.

Adapted from Disney’s Broadway production and the motion picture, “The Little Mermaid Jr.” takes place in a magical underwater kingdom where the young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above.

But first she has to defy her father,



Katie Young YAMANAKA
Big Island Vibe

King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and convince Prince Eric she’s the girl whose enchanting voice he’s been seeking.

Director Rhonda Simon says, “You’ll hear the same main songs from the cartoon movie like ‘Part of Your World,’ ‘Under the Sea’ and ‘Les Poissons,’ but also a couple of songs that are just in the Broadway version.”

One such ballad is a piece sung by Scuttle (a seagull), played by Jenni Bryson, who has help from 14 teenage back-up “seagull dancers.”

There’s also a ballroom dance titled, “One Step Closer” between Prince Eric and Ariel.

“Of course, the majority are the classic songs that you will want to sing

See **MERMAID** Page 11

Kolivas to headline 'Jazz in the Forest' at VAC

The "Jazz in the Forest" series returns with two performances Saturday featuring bassist John Kolivas, founder of the Honolulu Jazz Quartet, as the special guest.

Showtimes are at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the VAC's Niuulani Campus in Volcano village. Kolivas will be backed by the Volcano Art Center's Jazz Ensemble, featuring music director Volcano Choy on trumpet and keyboards, Reggie Griffin and Curt Warren on guitars and Bruce David on drums.

The wine and beer room will be open for attendees to enjoy before and after the concert and there will be a dance floor.

Tickets for each show are \$25 or \$20 for VAC members, and are available online at volcanoartcenter.org or at VAC's administration office in Volcano village, the VAC Gallery in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and at Basically Books in Hilo.

The last day to purchase advance tickets online or in person is Friday. If any tickets remain, they'll be sold at the door. Tickets purchased online will be at "will call" on the day of the show or you can pick them up from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. any day before the show at VAC's Niuulani Campus administrative office, today or Friday.



Courtesy photo

John Kolivas, founder of the Honolulu Jazz Quartet, will be the special guest artist at Volcano Art Center's "Jazz in the Forest" for two shows, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at VAC's Niuulani Campus in Volcano village.



May 2016 Planetarium Schedule Daily Shows

12 pm Skies Above Hawai'i: Live Sky Program
1 pm Maunakea: Between Earth and Sky
2 pm To Space and Back (3D)
3 pm Fragile Planet
10 am on Saturdays
Sesame Street: One World, One Sky
The daily general admission includes one planetarium show and entry to the exhibits.
FREE for members.

Evening Programming

Fri. May 6 at 7 pm
Led Zeppelin Planetarium Rock Show
Fri. May 13 at 7 pm
Led Zeppelin Planetarium Rock Show
Fri. May 20 at 7 pm
Maunakea Skies Talk
Fri. May 27 at 7 pm
LIVE Stargazing with the VIS

ImiloaHawaii.org



Fri, Sat, Mon & Tues -
May 27, 28, 30 & 31 at 7pm
Sun - May 29 at 2:30pm & 7pm

THE DARK HORSE (R)



DRAMA

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Directed by:

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June Events

Gallery Events

Up Close: Marian Berger, continues through 6/5

Cordage: Taupouri Tangaro & Keali'i Reichel
Opens June 11: Reception at 5pm

Aloha Fridays on the Porch

Hula Arts June 18

Hula Kahiko with Kumu hula Iwalani Kalima
with Hālau Kou Lima Nani E

Nā Mea Hula with Loke Kamanu and 'ohana

Niuulani Campus

6/1 -7/6 ~ Fun w/Clay (Preschoolers)
6/2 - 7/7 ~ Hand Building w/Clay Afternoons
6/9 ~ Rivers & Tides: Film w/discussion
6/10 & 11 ~ Volcano Pottery Sale
6/16 ~ Stained Glass Workshop
6/18 ~ Zentangle: Basics
6/18 ~ Fabulous Gourds
6/19 - 7/24 ~ Sunday Clay: Guided Open Studio
6/25 - 7/10 ~ Ka'u & Kilauea Reflections
6/25 ~ Ira Ono: Business of Art

Call 967-8222 or visit
www.VolcanoArtCenter.org



PHOTO: LOVINA SABNANI

East Coast swing dancers are, from left, Russell Kaneko, Lisa Javier, Martin Gomes, Shirley Gomes, Howard Ishida, Lynn Otsubo, Arlene Takara, Lloyd Tada, Bryanna De Lima, Jake Galves, Diane Brucato, Andrew Iwashita, Joyce Iwashita (choreographer) and Joe Hawthorne. Not shown is Tina Beleno.

Get into the swing of things

HBDA hosts 27th Anniversary Ball

The Hawaii Ballroom Dance Association East Hawaii chapter invites the Big Island community to its 27th Anniversary Ball at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Hilo Elks Lodge.

A ticket, which cost \$20, includes admission to the ball, a delicious dinner prepared by Hilo Elks Lodge staff and desserts provided by chapter members. Semiformal attire is requested.

A highlight of the evening will include the presentation of the Kaya Award. This award honors the most enthusiastic new chapter member. Chapter members and instructors will be performing an energetic East Coast swing routine and a bachata line dance.

The swing routine was choreographed by rotating instructors Joyce and Andrew Iwashita.

HBDA is a nonprofit corporation with a mission to provide the people of Hawaii a ballroom dancing experience that is fun, affordable and promotes healthy

minds and bodies.

The 2016 officers are Owen Nishioka, president; Dawn Sumida, vice president; Bryanna De Lima, secretary; and Judy Shimabukuro, treasurer.

Classes are Wednesday evenings at Waiakea High School. Throughout the year, the chapter offers classes such as cha cha, waltz, rumba, samba, tango, swing and fox trot in the American social style of dance. No partner is required to attend classes.

For tickets to the ball, contact Owen at 935-8974.



Courtesy photo

“Kaleidoscope of Dance,” will feature more than 100 dancers in performances slated for Friday and Saturday.

‘Kaleidoscope’ a dazzling display of dance

By **KATIE YOUNG YAMANAKA**
Special to the *Tribune-Herald*

More than 100 dancers will take to the stage for Island Dance Academy’s variety show, “Kaleidoscope of Dance,” at 7 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the University of Hawaii at Hilo Performing Arts Center.

“The ‘Kaleidoscope’ performances began in 1996 as a way for graduating high school seniors to have one last show to perform in before leaving for college,” explains Island Dance Academy owner and director Suen Hughes. “They have since evolved into a forum for young choreographers to hone their skills, alongside the more experienced teachers and

choreographers at the academy.”

This year’s show features 24 original ballet, jazz, tap and modern pieces.

Olivia Sandstrom, a pre-med/dance major from Chapman University, choreographed 13 of these dances.

“My challenge was making each dance unique and different, so that each can be memorable on its own,” Sandstrom says.

First-time choreographers Tatiana Ferreira, Zoi Nakamura and Rebekah Rapoza also contributed pieces with contemporary flair.

They are also joined by Grace Wyman, Airi and Kaia Broomell, who created a dance paying tribute to Gene Kelly through tap and acrobatics.

“The uniqueness of our show comes in our short, snappy dances

and the wide variety of dance styles and ages performing them,” says Hughes. “There will be a classical ballet followed by a Broadway tap followed by a Disney tune danced by 4-year-olds. I’ve always either run the sound or watched as an audience member, so I like things to move along quickly.”

In addition to learning the art of creating a dance piece, these choreographers are involved in the process of selecting costumes and accessories to enhance their work, as well as choosing their own lighting effects.

“For young choreographers, this experience may start them on the road to a career in dance or choreography,” explains Hughes. “It gives them an outlet to express their own individuality and interpretation.”

Advance tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors 60 and up, and \$8 for children ages 12 and under, available at The Most Irresistible Shop and from Island Dance Academy dancers. Tickets will be \$2 more at the door.

“Most high school seniors begin dancing with me at the age of 4, so this is a culmination of 12 years of dance with the studio and the lifelong friends they’ve made from many different schools on our island. It’s also my way of saying ‘bon voyage and best wishes,’” says Hughes.

For disability accommodations, contact Hughes at 961-3622 or Dori Yamada at 933-3334 prior to the event.

For more information, call Hughes at 961-3622.

Attendees watch a screening
at the 2015 Big Island Film Festival.

Courtesy photo



B I G

Island Film Festival

Annual event opens today with 58 entries

Fifty-eight feature-length and short films have been selected for the big screen at the 11th annual Big Island Film Festival.

Everything from sci-fi to romance, comedy to action, a little zombie suspense, family-friendly flicks and even a film by a 7-year-old Austrian filmmaker will play on outdoor screens at the Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii and The Shops at Mauna Lani. It's a five-day affair that runs today through Monday.

The schedule includes free opening night and family films at The Shops at Mauna Lani, daytime movies and screenings under the stars at Plantation Estate, celebrity social events, screenwriting workshops, an awards brunch and the "Best of the Fest" closing night concert featuring Hapa.

"I am so impressed with the quality of films this year," says BIFF executive director Leo Sears. "Picking the official selections was very difficult. The features are excellent, and the shorts are so good that we added an extra film block so we could show six more."

Sears says many of the daytime movies are good enough to be shown in the prime festival venue, but there was only so much space.

The feature films screened at the Fairmont Orchid's Plantation Estate Friday lineup include a tale of a stay-at-home mom who leaves a rewarding career



Courtesy photo

Filmed on the Big Island, "Throuple" is a comedy that addresses some deeper issues about relationships.

("The Bad Mother") and a story of a conflicted young couple, a polyamorous trio and murder ("Throuple").

On Saturday, "Winter's Dream," a futuristic sci-fi drama, pairs with "Plan Z," a gripping trip through the zombie apocalypse. On Sunday, "The Closer" is an intense drama about super high stakes real estate during the boom and bust of Brooklyn's subprime meltdown.

Among the films with Hawaii ties this year is "Throuple," a comedy that addresses some deeper issues about relationships. Filmed on the Big Island, "Throuple" is directed by Phillips Payson, founder of Larkin Pictures, and was written by his partner in art and life, Zoe Eisenberg. It's the first film the two will be showing at BIFF.

"Throuple" premiered at the Honolulu International Film

Festival and people were responding to it well," Payson says of the first feature film he's directed.

Adds Eisenberg, "There was a lot of laughter, which is always good."

"Throuple" begins with a couple who has just moved into a new neighborhood and they discover a polyamorous trio living next door.

"Zoe and I had always wanted

FILMS From page 7

to explore polyamory in a relatable way on film,” Payson says. “The idea stemmed from looking at trust and what trust means in a relationship. How can trust be developed between more than two people?”

Eisenberg, an author, writer, filmmaker and co-founder of Larkin Productions, says it was a project years in the making. “You have to really love an idea to commit a minimum of three years to it. We shot this film in 2013. But it was an idea that just stuck in our heads.

“When we started playing around with this idea for a film, we didn’t see that many positive representations of it in mainstream media. But since we made the film, that topic seems to have blown up in the last year.”

Payson, who received his degree in transmedia film production from Syracuse University in New York, says they want people to see “Throuple” and question how they define “normal relationships.”

“We want it to be a conversation starter,” he says. “Any relationship takes work and every relationship is different. I think it’s true no matter how many people are involved in the relationship. We are hoping the film will remove the stigma but also engage people and start a conversation about (these types of relationships).”

Payson and Eisenberg say they are excited to be showcasing their film at BIFF, especially because it was shot on the island that they call home.

For filmmaker Derek Frey, the natural mystery of the Big Island itself was inspiration for his film, “Green Lake,” a horror film inspired by the Green Lake in Kapoho.

“I’ve always been inspired by the beauty of the Big Island,” says Frey, whose home base is London. “I’ve also shot a couple of other

Kate McKinnon, of “Saturday Night Live,” is interviewed at a previous BIFF by Maui filmmaker Brian Kohne.

Courtesy photo



short films in and around Hilo. It’s my favorite place to go to re-energize.

“I had heard of the Green Lake, but I didn’t know many people who had been there. When I finally went, I was so struck by the beauty of this place, but also its power ... and I felt there was a little bit of a darker side to it, too.”

Frey started looking into local legends about the area and was prompted to do a film about preserving nature, but also about the consequences of venturing into areas you shouldn’t go.

“It’s been classified as a horror film, but I’d like to think there is something more poetic to it as well,” he says. “I went with the vibe I felt there. I think it’s something you feel in a lot of places that are off the beaten path in Hawaii. There are areas with tremendous beauty but also that have a haunted feeling. You get into areas where

you feel like you shouldn’t be there.

“Industry is treading on a lot of these secret little places, and Green Lake is certainly a place like that. It’s important to protect and preserve it.”

Frey, whose used a cast of locals from East Hawaii, says he hopes people will be entertained, get a little scared, but also tap into the emotion of the story.

“Green Lake” just started making the film festival rounds this past month. “We got into 10 or 12 festivals ...

and we won Best Horror Film at the LA Independent Film Festival,” Frey says. “A song that appears in the film, written by Hilo band Technical Difficulties, also won for Best Original Song. At HIFF we won a gold award and have been nominated for other awards at other festivals, too, so we’re off to a good start.”

Frey says that while it seems like everyone is doing

film festivals now, BIFF is regarded as one of the top 25 film festivals that filmmakers want to get into.

“It’s not just because the beautiful setting, too, it’s because they take great pride in what they do and so they attract great talent,” he says. “BIFF puts a lot of effort into making the festival part of the community. As a filmmaker, you just want your film to be seen, so to have it in a place where people can gather together outdoors is fantastic.”

A limited number of ballots will be given to audience members during each movie screening. Votes are tallied at the end of the festival, to determine the audience-choice feature and short to be screened at Best of the Fest on Monday.

“This is a great selection that any movie-lover will enjoy and we hope everybody will come and support indie films with us,” Sears says.

A major draw for festival-goers, aside from the films, are the celebrity guests.

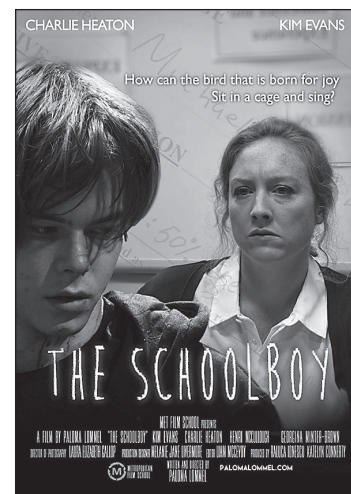
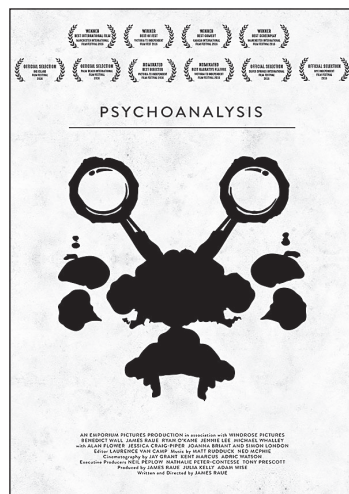
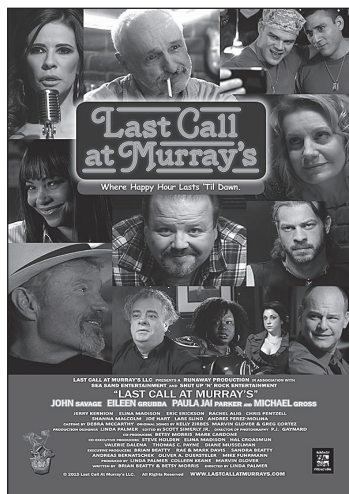
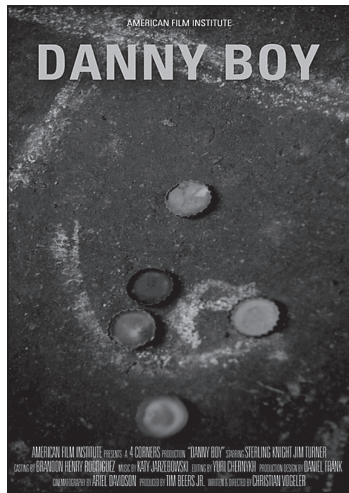
Bellamy Young, who plays ambitious an first lady on “Scandal,” will be honored at BIFF with a salute and reception on Saturday. Her TV credits also include, “Criminal Minds,” “CSI: Miami,” “Scrubs” and the NBC soap opera “Another World.”

Michael Gross, best known as Steven Keaton, Michael J. Fox’s TV dad in “Family Ties,” will also attend BIFF as an honoree. Gross stars in the new feature “Last Call at Murray’s,” showing Sunday night.

Audiences will have a chance to participate in an in-depth interview with Young and Gross, led by Peter Caranicas of Variety magazine, on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The interview will be followed by a sunset cocktail reception.

Filmmakers and screenwriters also can learn something new at several festival workshops taught by top entertainment industry professionals Friday and Sunday. Topics include telling and selling your story, harmony of music and cinema, and the 10 biggest mistakes in writing and submitting scripts, as well as the 10 best tips for writing comedy. Advance registration is required.

Tickets are required for the Celebrity Salute and Reception from 5-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (\$35), Awards Brunch from 10 a.m.-noon Monday (\$50), and “Best of the Fest” from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Monday (\$45 general, \$35 kamaaina presale). Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 883-0394. Films screened at the Fairmont Orchid’s Plantation Estate also include a no-host bar and snacks. Beach chairs are welcome. For complete schedule information and tickets, visit www.bigislandfilmfestival.com.



Selections from this year's Big Island Film Festival include a wide variety of genres.



A scene from "Blue Borsalino."



Filmmaker Derek Frey says his horror film "Green Lake," scene shown above, was inspired by the Green Lake in Kapoho.

MERMAID

From page 2

along with,” says Simon, who leads a cast of more than 100 performers — almost half of which are children.

“I normally like to work with a large cast of 75 to 110 people,” says Simon. “I think you can really take it to the next level for the audience and have multiple stories going on at the same time. Plus, it makes it visually exciting.”

More than 160 people showed up for “The Little Mermaid Jr.” auditions, and while Simon says she hasn’t worked with so many children in one production before, she decided to give it a go.

“It’s working out very well,” says Simon, who has cast the keiki as jellyfish, sharks, turtles, rainbow fish, and seagulls. “Kids at that age (the youngest is 5), are already naturally in the play mode. They don’t have those natural inhibitions.

“So if you can tap into that and help them hone those skills, it just makes them that much more confident as performers. And there aren’t that many opportunities for these kids to become skilled in the performing arts.”

This is the first community theater play for Della Stallsmith, 11, who was awarded the largest children’s role in the production as Flounder, Ariel’s best fish friend.

“My mom had been in one of the recent Waimea Community Theatre plays, ‘Shrek,’” says Stallsmith. “She had a lot of fun so I decided I wanted to try it out.”

“My favorite part about being Flounder is I get to sing a song with the Mersisters,” says Stallsmith. “I think that the audience is going to love the show. It’s playful and fun. I think the benefit of having young kids in a play is that it may inspire other kids to try acting. I also think it makes the play more exciting!”



Amy Mills, left, as Sebastian, rehearses a scene with Victor Friend, Ethan Tyau, Krish Renauer, Kari Waldhaus, Rich Givens and Michelle Maile Boger.

PHOTO: FRANKLIN DEWAR

John Victor-Rebeiro will portray Prince Eric, and while he hasn’t had a lot of prior acting roles, Simon maintains that he has a lot to offer.

“John was a very strong auditioner,” says Simon. “I look for the ability to portray numerous characters, and he has a raw ability to bring that masculinity we were wanting for Eric. He is varied in his abilities and he has a range of expressions, which are the things I am looking for in a lead performer.”

Stage veteran Kat Reuss, who received her B.A. in vocal music from Bradley University, will play Ariel. She previously appeared as the Sugar Plum Fairy in “Shrek” last year and is a member of Cirque Ohana, a non-profit circus organization.

“Kat brings that innocence,” says Simon. “And yet,

she has the maturity to bring the character to life. It’s such a huge role, emotionally. She has to express every emotion, from fear to sadness, anger, love and independence. She doesn’t talk until almost the end.

“So, it takes a really strong actor to make that character come alive. Everything has to be done with facial and body expressions.”

But Reuss welcomes the challenge. “This is my first leading role since I was 16,” says Reuss, who also teaches aerial silks and acrobatics at Kahilu Theatre. “I’ve always been cast as a goofy character. Leading roles can often be boring characters, but Ariel has a wide-eyed wonder I appreciate and admire. Plus, the fact that she’s a fish and not a human is a fantastic movement challenge.

“I love the exploration she has between her two forms. It’s fun for me to move as an underwater creature and then as a human who has never had legs before. I really like physical comedy, so the ‘brand new leg’ scene is one of my favorites.”

The evil sea witch Ursula will be played by Annie Herring, King Triton will be played by Rick Turnbo, Sebastian the crab is portrayed by Amy Mills, and Chef Louis will be played by Simon’s husband, Kurt Simon.

There’s also the trouble-making eels, Flotsam and Jetsam, played by Konale Block and Angie Yagong.

The actors and actresses hail from all over the island, says Simon — from Kona to Waikoloa to Waimea and the Hamakua Coast.

“There are surprises at every turn in this show,” she says. “The individual characters bring so much fun and entertainment.”

Reuss says she thinks what Waimea Community Theatre created on and off-stage for “The Little Mermaid Jr.” is inspirational.

“Come see the play, do something different, and be inspired,” she says. “This island can feel small at times, but we’re really offering some world-class entertainment elements here.”

Tickets for “The Little Mermaid Jr.” are \$30, \$20 and \$15; children 11 and younger are half-price at Kahilutheatre.org. Tickets for the Honokaa performances will be available at the door and at Taro Patch Gifts in Honokaa.

Email Katie Young Yamanaka at BIVHawaii@gmail.com.

Let's Go Out

12 Thursday, May 26, 2016

Hawaii Tribune-Herald



A pork belly BLT served with french fries and pickle at Queen's Court Restaurant at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

HOLLYN JOHNSON/
Tribune-Herald

3 questions: Queen's Court Restaurant

Q: What's new at Queen's Court Restaurant?

A: Let me tell you about Father's Day. As usual, we will offer a brunch and dinner buffet, but this year, we are switching up the selections to offer a more "manly" menu. We will feature barbecue items such as baby back ribs, different types of sausages, chili and more. Rest assured, our signature items such as the steamed crab and suckling pig will still be served as well. To top it off, we're including all of our draft beer selections. It's all about making it fun and a memorable experience.

Q: What types of new beers are you serving on Father's Day?

A: In addition to our House Draft, we will offer five more beers on draft

for Father's Day. We have local beers by Hawaii Nui Brewing, Big Island Brewhaus and Maui Brewing Co. From the mainland, we currently feature beers from New Belgium Brewing and Deschutes Brewery.

Q: What's something most people don't know about the Wai'oli Lounge & iCafé?

A: It is one of the best-kept secret spots for a power lunch or meeting. Wai'oli Lounge & iCafé offers a variety of homemade sandwiches and salads, as well as other delights including fresh locally sourced coffees from the Hilo Coffee Mill. Wai'oli Lounge & iCafé is a full-service, air-conditioned establishment showcasing views of Hilo Bay. And did I mention the free WiFi?

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On Tap This Week

FRIDAY

GONE COUNTRY BAND

Where: Lava Lounge, Kilauea Military Camp, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

When: 6 p.m. Friday

Details: Time for fun music and dancing in Volcano. See ya there, ya'll.

Contact: Lou Ann Gurney, 982-6012

KALEIDOSCOPE OF DANCE

Where: University of Hawaii at Hilo Performing Arts Center, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo

When: 7 p.m. Friday

Details: Island Dance Academy presents a variety show featuring 24 ballet, jazz, tap and modern dance pieces choreographed by the academy's more experienced teachers and student choreographers. Advance tickets are \$12 general, \$10 seniors 60 and older, \$8 children 13 and younger; available at The Most Irresistible Shop and from IDA students. Tickets \$2 more at the door.

Contact: Suen Hughes, 961-3622, islanddanceacademy@yahoo.com

"BEAR'S CHOICE"

Where: Hilo Town Tavern, 168 Keawe St., Hilo

When: 9 p.m. Friday

Details: Dave A'Bear from Jerry Garcia Band performs. Full band including members from JGB. Two sets. Advance tickets can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com or at Hilo Town Tavern and CD Wizard. Cost is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Contact: Chuck Deleonardis, 505-681-7919, cdp808chuck@gmail.com

SATURDAY

REQUIEM TIMES TWO

Where: First United Protestant Church, 1350 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo

When: 3 p.m. May 28

Details: Hilo Community Chorus will present a concert featuring Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" (with instrumental ensemble) and Luigi Cherubini's "Requiem in C minor." Dr. Daniel Mahraun from Kailua-Kona will be guest conductor for the Forrest piece. Rachel Edwards will be guest soloist. Admission is \$10. Tickets available from chorus members or at the door.

Contact: Tom McAlexander, 985-7192, tommac@hawaii.rr.com

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