

The Voice of Kapolei

Second To None...

Kapolei Complex Drama Club and the Performing Arts Center of Kapolei present:

Annex Jr.

Call for show times and tickets

Kapolei High School Forum
October 21, 22, 28, & 29

224-5314

\$5.00 pre sale preferred seating
\$7.00 at the door

Serving the Families of Honokai Hale/Nanakai Gardens, Kapolei, Makakilo, Kalaeloa and Ko Olina

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Island Pacific Academy

BY VOICE OF KAPOLEI STAFF

“Good teaching is like theater,” said Island Pacific Academy’s headmaster Dan White. “It’s about moving the audience.”

This is what White and his new faculty have set out to do as they developed the curriculum and school culture for this new non-sectarian private college prep school founded in 2004—the first of its kind in Leeward Oahu.

“Come into our classrooms, and

you will see kids asking questions, working in pairs or groups as they consider a piece of literature or a math problem, experimenting, fully engaged in the joy of learning,” said White. “In fact, at IPA we do serious work joyfully.”

The school began its second year of operation in September with 370 students, up from an opening enrollment in 2004 of 191. There are two sections of pre-kindergarten for four year olds with 20 students each and, because of demand, the school

changed its business plan and added a third section of kindergarten, each section also limited to 20 students. Ultimately, the elementary school will house three sections of every grade, filling the 28,000 square foot building two storey building.

Middle School on the move

White noted that the growth of the elementary school will move the middle school (grades 6-8) into the new 38,000 square foot

three storey building now under construction at the Haumea Street campus. Kiewit Pacific is once again the general contractor and Central Pacific Bank has loaned the needed construction funds.

The middle school now has an enrollment of more than 100 students and will top out at 180, again with maximum class size of 20 students.

“It has been a tremendous opportunity to design something different in tone and feel, and to integrate what is developmentally

appropriate for kids, especially in the middle school,” said White, explaining that brain research shows that children in the 6th to 8th grades are second only to infancy in terms of the pace of change in brain development.

“Middle schoolers are all about identity and wanting to know where they stand in relation to the rest of the world,” he said. “It has been exciting and gratifying to see our middle school students assume greater responsibility for

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Firefighters Honored!



Campbell Estate’s CEO Steve MacMillan (third from left) and HECO’s CEO Michael May (third from right) present a gift of appreciation to HFD Chief Attilio Leonardi (center) for Oahu firefighters. Mayor Mufi Hannemann (center rear) and Fire Commissioners were present for the presentation ceremony.

BY VOICE OF KAPOLEI STAFF

Hundreds of City and federal firefighters, and military and civilian pilots on Oahu battled the recent rash of brush fires that burned hundreds of acres in Leeward Oahu.

Their massive efforts successfully contained and extinguished the worst brush fires ever seen on the Leeward coast.

In a gesture of gratitude, Campbell Estate and Hawaiian Electric Company joined to give every firefighter on Oahu a gift of appreciation. About 1,250

personnel received a supermarket certificate worth \$20. They include about 1,100 Honolulu Fire Department personnel, 30 federal firefighters, and more than 100 military and civilian pilots who provided air support.

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Abe Realty Opens for Business in Kapolei!

BY VOICE OF KAPOLEI STAFF

A new realty company opened their doors in the Kapolei community last month.

September 5th was the grand opening for Abe Lee Realty’s new office located in Kapolei.

“We are glad to be in Kapolei,” Abe Lee said. “We

feel strongly that the west side of the island is going to have tremendous growth. So, we invested our money

in setting up a real nice office to service the clients” who live on that side of the island.

“We are really excited about the prospects,” Lee said. “With the services that we provide and the training and education that we provide that this is going to be a phenomenal advantage for our clients.”

Lee, owner of the company, received his broker’s license on June 24, 1980. In the year 2000, he opened an office in the Ala Moana Pacific Building, Suite 1533.

Today, Lee has 90 agents and seven support staff. There is also an attorney and public relations specialist.

“We are in the ‘Top 10’ among all Oahu real estate



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Abe Realty Open for Business

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offices, and there are about 1,000 of them," Lee said.

When asked about the importance of building this company, Lee said, "It's like any other business. You want to do the best at what you do. It's very important to me that my clients get the best service, and that they are always protected in their real estate transactions."

Abe Lee Realty buys and sells not only houses for clients, but also properties from their own account.

"We also have a strong development arm, and we do real estate developments for our clients," Lee said.

In order to become a real estate agent, a person must go to school and take the state exam. A real estate agent must also complete continuing education classes to maintain their license every two years. The pre-licensing and continuing education classes are located in Abe Lee Realty office in the Ala Moana Pacific Building, and Lee teaches both types of classes.

There are also training meetings and weekly business meetings where the agents are taught about different aspects of the business. The agent assumes the responsibility to know all the rules in order to properly service the clients.

The company has a service on the Internet called brokerseye.com. Every day Abe Lee Realty takes a picture of every listing that comes up in the Multiple Listing Service. Therefore, the website offers instant pictures of new listings so that clients and agents do not have to drive to the location. All they have to do is look at the pictures and call for an appointment.

"It saves tremendous driving time," Lee said, "and we do this every day for the clients. If a client is looking for any type of home or land, then we can send them thumbnail pictures through e-mail and they can view the pictures through our website. We are the only realty company that does that."

There is another service on the Internet called mortgage-freeamericans.com where the clients are taught how to

become financially independent by learning to pay off the mortgage faster.

"If you buy right, then you have a great investment,"

interest rate hikes are going to force prices to go down. If you want top dollar for your property, you better sell before the market goes

contain some accurate information. It's important to look at Hawaii's real estate industry in its entirety rather than basing a decision to buy or

Honolulu's urban core. Young families are finding "more house" for less.

- The approval of a general excise tax increase to pay for rapid transit. This will ease traffic concerns, which have been a major source of irritation to west side residents.

- Campbell Estate and the city of Kapolei's commitment to high technology, including fiber optic cables, satellite communications and state-of-the-art infrastructure is continuing to come on stream every day.

- Mortgage interest rates have remained relatively low despite some recent increases. While the Federal Reserve may or may not continue to raise rates, the slight increases over the past year or so have had little affect on Hawaii's market.

- A number of businesses are now calling Kapolei "home." From Mayor Mufi Hannemann's headquarters to the Honolulu Advertiser's production facility, and from Home Depot to hundreds of small businesses, Kapolei has attracted business. With that business, comes foot traffic from people who are more and more inclined to cut the commute from town and move out to the west side.

"Essentially, if you're a homeowner in Kapolei, you might just own one of the most desirable pieces of island real estate today," Schweitzer said. "How much and for how long will this trend continue? It cannot be predicted.

"Whether you are on the buying or selling side of Kapolei's real estate equation, it is important to be fully up-to-speed on the many ramifications of Hawaii's fast-moving real estate market. Do not make the same mistake that we see so many others making: moving forward on a real estate transaction without knowing all the facts," said Schweitzer.



Lee said. "We try to teach our clients how to invest wisely and become financially independent through real estate investments"

When asked if real estate

down," according to Schweitzer. While others may say the opposite view, "the military takes up most of Hawaii's available housing and that will continue. If

sell on a brief discussion."

"After a 25 percent increase in property values over the past year, Hawaii's second city is still expected to grow into the foreseeable



prices are going up or down, there are various answers to that question, according to Julie Schweitzer, public relations specialist.

Some people say "the

you're going to buy, you better do it now. Prices are only going up."

"Who should you believe?" Schweitzer asked. She continued, "Both views

future," Schweitzer said. Listed below are her reasons:

- Real estate prices are still, on average, lower on the Leeward side than they are in