



# The Taylor Times



The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"

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## ***LIFE'S A BEACH***

Another year filled with struggles, expenses, pleasures and pitfalls. And through it all we live, we learn, we grow, we fall down, we get up, we travel, we read the news, we vote, we cry, we panic, we wonder, we worry, we eat, we sleep, we live, we learn, we grow, we..... forget.

### **FURNACE FAILURE**

For some time, over a period of maybe a year or two during the winter months, there had been an occasional smell of exhaust in our furnace room. It was only VERY occasional, maybe once every couple of months for a few hours. I knew it would be necessary to eventually have some work done on the furnace, but assumed it was a simple matter of cleaning

and adjusting. In February it happened again, this time with more exhaust smell than usual. Out of an overabundance of concern and caution I turned the furnace way down though didn't want to shut it off completely, this being the bleak mid-winter, and moved us into the back bedroom and shut the door. The next day I had a heating and ventilating company come out to inspect it. The verdict was not good. The furnace, original to the house in 1966, had a clogged and cracked heat exchanger, forcing them to shut off and red-tag the unit. Carbon monoxide levels, especially in the immediate area of the utility room, had gone through the roof. The problem was serious enough that the cost to repair the 30-year-old furnace, if



*Jeff and Donna at the Waimea Canyon Overlook on Kauai*

parts could even be found, would have exceeded that of a new furnace. The choice was obvious, so \$4000 and several cold days later, we had a new furnace. While I did take necessary precautions through the ordeal, it quickly became obvious to me that I should have had an inspection at the first sign of irregularity. Had the timing been different things could have been much worse. Consider this my public service announcement.

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## HEALTHWISE

After the two falls included in last year's newsletter, Donna had two more early this year, that resulted in either stitches or hospitalization. The first, another cut over her eye, required two

stitches, but healed quickly with little remaining evidence. Last year's damaged nerves had healed and her right arm started working again without the feared surgery, but she again rolled off her bed and did similar damage to her other arm with similar immobility resulting. Fortunately, after a couple more months the nerves again healed and returned everything to normal, though this second time required a six-day hospital stay. There is now a railing on her bed and so far no more falls. In late summer we each managed to break off teeth at the gumline. Donna will be getting a dental implant in a few months when the bone grafting has completely healed. I haven't yet decided if I will have one, but the opportunity is there with the repairs that have been done.

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## TRAVELS

### *Kauai, Hawaii*

Kauai is only about 25 miles across in any direction as the crow flies, but in order to get anywhere in that short a distance you'd have to be the crow. Renting a car was, despite the island's size, the only practical way to go.

Two weeks before leaving in late July, we were informed that the Worldmark Kapa'a Shores, on the east side of the island, was experiencing Legionaire's Disease in its water pipes and we were being relocated to a Wyndham property in Princeville on the north shore, Bali Hai. It turned out to be every bit as nice as the Worldmark, though not as centrally located. The island's main population center is on the east from Lihue (where the airport is located) north through Kapa'a. So to visit anything on the south shore from Princeville required driving through town, which was frequently congested with traffic, and around to the west again, but the destinations were well worth the effort, and allowed us to enjoy the sights and sounds



*Na Pali Coast, Kauai. Yes, it really does look like this!*

at Costco and Walmart along the way!

Among the attractions we visited were Wailua Falls west of Wailua, the Kilauea Lighthouse, Anini Beach, and the town of Hanalei, all near Princeville, and the Spouting Horn near Koloa in the south, which produced mini-geysers caused by ocean waves rolling under the rocks. We also visited the Kauai Coffee Plantation on the south shore, where we tasted many locally grown bean brews. And we could not pass on the chance to go to another luau as they always seem to be entertaining. This one included a first rate show depicting the arrival and establishment of the peoples from the South Pacific.

Visiting the western part of the island should be the goal of anyone wanting to visit the "Garden Isle". This is where you find the Na Pali Coast and, what Mark Twain referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific", Waimea Canyon. And I will attest it is aptly nicknamed. First was our excursion on Captain Andy's catamaran for a sunset dinner cruise along the spectacular Na Pali ("the cliffs" in Hawaiian) Coast, with several visits along to way by spinner dolphins playing around the boat. On another day we drove around the island again and up the road to Waimea Canyon, stopping at several lookout points along the way, each with amazing and different views including Waipo'o Falls and part of Na Pali from the land side. On one of our last days we took advantage of discounts provided by the resort and took the Sunshine Tours helicopter ride around the island. Neither of us had ever been in a helicopter before, and our pilot reminded us and everybody else of Owen Wilson, cowboy manerisms included, but we were impressed as much by his skill in taking us through the valleys, over the mountains, and along the coast, as we were with the scenery itself. Straddling the Halelea Valley are many smaller canyons filled with waterfalls. I've driven along the Columbia River through the Gorge and was taken by all the waterfalls there, but this was truly remarkable with a half dozen waterfalls up each canyon. These, of course, were not to be outdone by the aerial vision of Na Pali as we broke out over the mountains to the ocean. For those of us who spend most of our time



*Waimea Canyon and Waipo'o Falls*

on terra firma, it really was a ride of a lifetime. Should you ever try this travel gem yourself, wear dark clothing as white shirts reflect off the inside of the cockpit glass and make for less than ideal photos. They don't tell you that one!

### *Puerto Vallarta, Mexico*

The Thanksgiving week saw another of our semi-regular visits to Puerto Vallarta. Our plan this time, was simply to relax for the week. Unfortunately, we were shortchanged right from the start by extenuating circumstances that forced us to rebook flights for the following day and reduce our vacation to just six days. Our stay was at Paradise Village on the Riviera Nayarit. The weather was perfect and the restaurants were always fabulous. One meal was at Tino's Laguna on the edge of a pond containing hundreds of turtles and one crocodile. We stopped at Garza Blanca and were able to retrieve Donna's cane that we had left behind the previous year. We also extended our Paradise Village ownership to allow better use of the points and take advantage of a travel discount program that we'll have to determine worthwhile at some time in the future as we make use of it.

Tickets were booked through Travelocity to get the best price, and meant flying American down and Westjet and Alaska Air back to Seattle by way of Calgary, but our flights were very efficient and after an early morning departure we were back in Seattle by about 4 in the afternoon, despite difficulty getting between gates in Calgary due to confusion with airport services, but we made it.



*At the front door of Kauai Coffee Co.*

## IN MUSIC

Music this year has been diverse. In February I finished a chamber piece called Vignettes for submittal to a local chamber music competition. The piece was originally conceived for a sextet of woodwind and string trios and some of it had been finished a number of years earlier. The new purpose brought a new orchestration and new life to it, though it did not get any recognition in the contest. In March the Eastside Symphony began rehearsals with flutist Lisa Hedley for the performance in May of the Concerto for Piccolo and Orchestra. The premiere was quite successful and there has been a lot of interest in it since. The plan is to get it published as soon as I've finished all final touchup

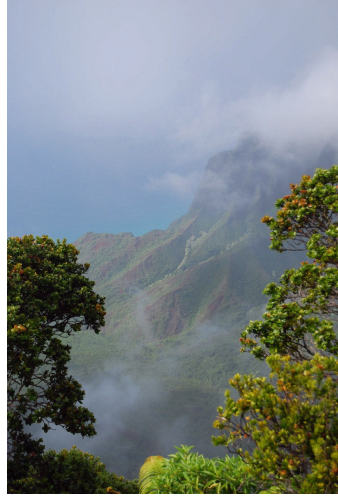
work. On July 1 a group of us from Brass Band Northwest performed live on KING-FM, the local classical music station. Among the pieces we played was a movement from The Age of Man suite that I'd written a few years earlier. The piece would ultimately be rescored for full brass band and performed by the band in concert in October. Also in that month, Of Kings and Queens, another earlier piece for brass, was arranged to include percussion, and performed by an ensemble of the Eastside Symphony. Other notes, during the summer I wrote 8 more etudes for tuba and edited quite a few others already in existence. Finally and most recently was the completion of a Scherzo for Piano started many years earlier. This in preparation for other more significant piano music.



*Sunset on Captain Andy's Sunset Cruise*



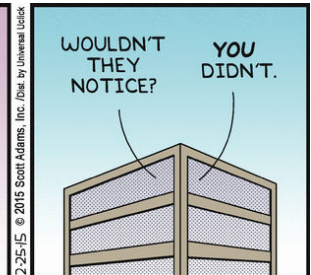
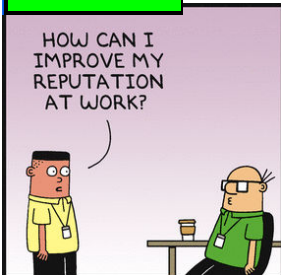
*Kilauea Lighthouse*



*Na Pali from Kalalau Overlook*

*Wishing You a Wonderful New Year!*  
*Jeff and Donna*

## DILBERT



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