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# The Maui News

Maui's Newspaper Since 1900

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## Increase in water bills may pay for upgrades

Maui County eyes rate hike for system growth and repairs

By MELISSA TANIGUCHI  
Staff Writer

WAILUKU — Maui County water users could see 6 to 8 percent increases in their water bills next year so that the Department of Water Supply can perform maintenance and upgrades of aging systems and issue more water meters, a department official said Thursday.

Deputy Water Supply Director Paul Meyer explained to the Cost of Government Commission that it will be up to the County Council to determine how it will fund the maintenance and expansion of the water system. The options are rate increases, hiking the price of water meters or bond issuance.

"How do we fund this growth?" will be the question the council will have to answer, he said.

The council this month passed its budget for fiscal 2013, which contained higher water rates. On average, rates went up about 4 percent, he said.

Meyer also told commission members that the department is making headway in alleviating the backlog of people on the Lipoatory water meter waiting list. Meyer's presentation was made at the commission's meeting Thursday morning in the Mayor's Conference Room at the Kalana O Maui building.

Commission members also heard from scientist and Kula resident  
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## Timing right for inspiration

This year's Maui Film Festival features range of styles, voices

By RICK CHATENEVER  
For The Maui News

WAILUKU — Maybe the Mayan calendar got it right — but we got the Mayan calendar wrong.

That's the premise of "2012: The Beginning," the documentary that opened the 2012 Maui Film Festival on Wednesday.

The festival, featuring some 45 movies of all shapes, sizes, genres and styles, will continue this afternoon through Sunday night at Wailea's outdoor Celestial Cinema and in Castle Theater at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center.

Dire prognoses that the world will end on this year's winter solstice, attributed to the Mayan calendar, have been making their way from so-called New Age sources in to the mainstream media as the date approaches.

But the gloom and doom are products of today's sensationalizing media rather than the calendar itself, according to the film's director.

"That's our interpretation," said filmmaker Shannon Krieg. "Burt Her film shows that that date actually signifies the end of an era — 'buk'tan' in the Mayan language —

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"2012: The Beginning" writer/director/producer Shannon Krieg Buset and cinematographer Gabriel Hobbs are seen on location at the Classic Maya ruins of Copan, Honduras. The documentary opened this year's Maui Film Festival.



The Maui News / MATTHEW TRAYER photo

Following Thursday's Maui Film Festival screening of her short film, "Le Petit Nuage," at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, filmmaker Renee George receives an invitation to show her work at the Durango Independent Film Festival by the event's director, Joanie Fraughton. George's whimsical movie is a black-and-white love story set in Paris. Top photos from right: Margarita Temple, located 65 feet under Temple 16 at the Classic Maya ruins of Copan, Honduras, dates back to the year 435 A.D. It is one of the rarely or never-before-photographed sites featured in "2012: The Beginning." Ac-Tah is a Maya spiritual leader and descendant of the Yucatec Maya of Mexico. The Maya city state of Palenque flourished in the 7th century.

**Mahalo Nui Loa**  
*Living Memory of*  
**'Bu' LV Kaa'uamo**  
July 26, 1982 - June 15, 2011

still in the healing process and the at unexplained moments, but with Christ, all will be well. Kaula's Aloha with us through all the memories of pictures we have of him. These memories of Kaula are immeasurable and

Dhana - Francis, Nalani, Jr, Elia, Kulia, Waialoha and Waikani - express our heartfelt mahalo to each of you for extending your emotional and spiritual sympathies and

Pastor Fred & Apostle Linda Wilson  
Pastor Pearl Pahu'oa  
Hueu, Luat-Hueu, Kaulu'wai, Aloy, Damas Ohana  
Redo, Hoopai, Kailaka Ohana  
Kaa'uamo, Pua, Akina Ohana  
Pilius Ohana  
Kano'ho Ohana  
Viela Ohana  
Taboada, Sinenoi, Fuentes, Shamblin Ohana  
Perry, Kaina, Estocado, Cosma, Graycraft Ohana  
Julie Rodriguez & Sissy Frame

less acquaintances, friends and to list, but never forgotten and all those that have not received a ou to date... you too have not been

## Festival

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not unlike a millennium on Western calendars.

"Every time there was a change of buk'tan, there was a major change in their society," said Buset, a former chef with cooking schools and a national cuisine series on PBS before she moved to the Guatemala-Honduras border and started a new life for herself. This documentary is her first film.

Buset will be one of the participants in a filmmaker's panel titled "Soul in Cinema" at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

When the Maya began a new buk'tan, "the people were participants in that change," Buset said. "They questioned where they were going. They asked, 'Where are we? Where do we want to go as a people collectively?'"

Any parallels between changing eras on the Mayan calendar and our own are purely intentional. Many of the festival's films, including tonight's epic, wordless, world-traveling documentary "Samsara," screening at 8 at the Celestial Cinema, have similar themes.

"I didn't want to be aligned with 'New Agers,'" laughed filmmaker Buset, who described herself as "a girl from Wisconsin who had never made a film before."

But, she said, "It's not about me. It felt as though I was guided. When these amazing opportunities came, I felt it was just time to tell these stories."

While the Wailea screenings, parties and events put the emphasis on star power from Hollywood and elsewhere, the Castle Theater screenings showcase a wider diversity of filmmaking voices.

A program of shorts Thursday afternoon revealed a spectrum from around the world and in styles from animation to informational, emphasizing themes from environmental awareness to romantic love to pure whimsy.

Two selections from Hawaii — "Until the Sun Sets" and "Changing Tides" — took their places in the global world of cinema, and the range of emotions in the program.

While a variety of languages could be heard or read in the subtitles, one of the most effective was silence — or at least, wordlessness, accompanied by music.

Renee George, who had served as a member of the lighting crew on this year's Oscar-winning best picture, "The Artist," turned the equation around when she shot her own romantic comedy, "Le Petit Nuage" ("The Little Cloud") in black and white, without dialogue, like an old silent movie. "Working on 'The Artist'

was a fantastic experience," she said. "A French film crew came to tell a Hollywood romance. I thought how great it would be to go to Paris to tell a French romance."

Once she got the idea, all the pieces just fell into place — crew and actors all saying yes, right up to the film's cellist, whom she met on her return flight from Paris.

She described the making of the film as "incredible and magic," all the way to its world premiere at the Maui Film Festival.

"It was our first shot out of the gate. We felt lucky to be selected."

Being able to communicate without words, in black and white, "draws you in. It makes the audience work a little harder." The reaction it produces "feels like what we've been missing somehow. And it shows the global language of gesture," she said.

It has inspired her to expand the project to seven stories of love, each in a different country, each in black and white.

"Black and white is the new color," she laughed.

For the complete schedule and more details on the Maui Film Festival, visit [www.mauiFilmFestival.com](http://www.mauiFilmFestival.com).

■ Rick Chatenever can be reached at [rickchatenever@gmail.com](mailto:rickchatenever@gmail.com).