



Shannon Rackowski dances at the SPRD luau on Thursday.

LUAU: Event is a summer tradition through SPRD

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when he met Jack De Mello, a well-known writer, producer, and orchestra leader. De Mello made Hawaiian music work for talents like The Brothers Cazimero, Nina Kealiwahamana, and Michael Dane.

“Jack wanted them to shape Hawaiian music in their own way,” Rackowski said.

When Dane relocated to the Pacific Northwest, he fell in love with Oregon and became the headliner for Salishan Resorts on the Oregon coast for 15 years, then in 1997 he became the headliner for Gracie’s Sea Hag in Depoe Bay and has been performing there for 20 years.

“I met Michael over 25 years ago at the Salishan and we have been performing together ever since,” Rackowski said.

Dane’s wife, Connie, and her dog, Momi, sat near the stage to watch husband Michael perform.

“The first thing Michael will do is chant a Hawaiian blessing for everyone here,” Rackowski announced to guests.

Dane was holding a 200-year-old bamboo flute,

“This ancient Hawaiian musical instrument, ohe hano ihu (pronounced oh-hay hah-no ee-hoo) is played through the nose and not with the mouth. It’s played with the nose because Hawaiians believe the nose is pure breath,” Dane explained.

Musician Kurt Silva, lead singer from Dry Canyon

Stampede, plays everything from country to Motown, but he has a special place in his heart for Hawaiian melodies. Silva performed with hula dancers Tanya Hackett, Shannon Rackowski and the Halau (Hula) Uhane dance group.

“This is really wonderful that I’m getting a dancer for every song I’m performing this year!” Silva said.

Rackowski dedicated a song, “White Sandy Beach of Hawaii,” to her brother, Samson, who passed away two years ago.

There wasn’t a dry eye in the house as guests watched Rackowski hula while Dane played the melodic song written by the late Hawaiian vocalist Israel Kamakawiwo’ole.

“This was the song that I danced to when I took his body back home to Hawaii. He had come here to be with me for the last 17 years of his life before passing,” Rackowski said.

Rosemary Miller, dance instructor for Halau (Hula) Uhane dance group, a non-profit organization from Redmond, had her Hawaiian dance group, ages ranging from 18 months up to adult, ready for some Polynesian dancing.

“We have two new songs to dance to this year,” Miller said. “The Canoe Dance, with the song from the movie ‘Moana,’ and a traditional dance, Holoholo Ka’a, a driving dance when the automobile first came to Hawaii.”

The luau festivities captured the spirit of the Hawaiian culture in that every luau is authentic when there is a gathering of people who want to enjoy food, fun, and one another.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
1 Cook Easter eggs
5 Notice
9 Annoying
14 Singer Paul ____
15 Steak orderer's request
16 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
17 “Moonlight Sonata” composer
19 “It’s all ____ to me”
20 Curvy letter
21 Endings for lime & lemon
22 Throws
23 Bullring shout
24 Uttered
26 Skillful bravery
30 Walloped
35 Merits
36 Sick-looking
38 Saint topper
39 Finger or toe
40 ____ McClanahan
41 Locations
42 As wise ____ owl
43 ____ out; delete
44 Wonderland visitor
45 Like a speech by a windbag
47 Thin straw-filled mattresses
49 Too hasty
51 Trigger’s rider
52 “Put up ____ up!”
56 Press clothes
58 Fore and ____
61 Dads
62 Reasonable
64 Chris of tennis
65 Charitable gift
66 Not naked
67 Small salamanders
68 ____ A personality; go-getter
69 Evergreens
- DOWN**
1 Ruth or Didrikson
2 Small bills
3 Eisenhower and Turner
4 Virgil’s lang.
5 Wears away
6 Rescue
7 Squeeze
8 Tokyo’s dollar
9 Asian temple
10 Is off
11 Notices
12 Patella’s place
13 Asian bovines
18 Most vigorous
22 Magazine title
23 Possessing
25 Snoozing
26 Ride a bike
27 Salary increase
28 Heart or liver
29 Aerosols
31 Cool
32 TV’s Couric
33 Vote into office
34 Amounts to swallow
37 Diving seabird
41 Beauty parlors
43 “____ does it!”; cry of outrage

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 8/16/17

— Last Week’s Puzzle Solved —

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A	N	T	S		S	L	O	T	S		H	E	R	S

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- 46 Has confidence in
48 Stir up
50 Unlike flatland
52 Daytime sign on a shop door
53 Rant and ____; carry on
- 54 Gush forth
55 Male red deer
57 Freeway exit
58 Up to the task
59 Defect
60 Koppel & Cruz
62 Mrs. Nixon
63 Like slick winter roads

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