


# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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## On the Lawn at Edgefield

Al Green brings his soul magic to the summer concerts on the lawn series at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale on Friday, Aug. 28, presented by the Oregonian A&E.

One of the undisputable faces of soul music and a legendary live performer, Green's career has spanned over three decades of hits, and influenced a whole generation of R&B and soul musicians, culminating with his Grammy Award win-

ning latest album Lay It Down.

Stills, Crosby & Nash will take their turn in the summer series on Sept. 12 and Heart appears on Sept. 25.

Tickets on sale via all Ticketmaster Outlets including the Crystal Ballroom Box Office, charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.com.

Al Green



## Good Times for Jackson Impersonators

### Fans pack the house in Vegas

(AP) -- Michael Jackson impersonator Frederick Henry had to go overseas to find steady work in recent years as the pop star's behavior got weirder and weirder. Many of his colleagues quit the business altogether.

But in the past few weeks, Henry's act at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas has become so hot that the hotel-casino had to beef up security to keep fans from swarming him after the show.

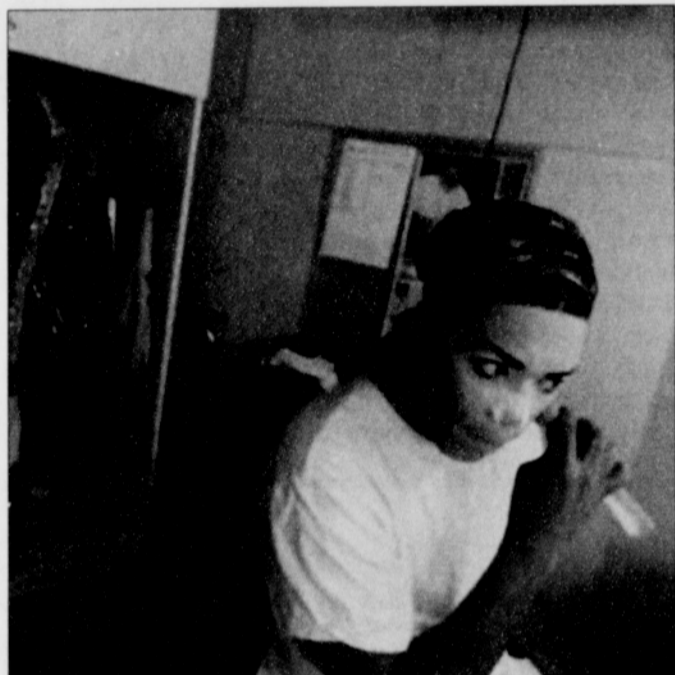
"It's been crazy," Henry said. "But it's all in fun — they're showing love."

The "King of Pop's" death has had an electrifying effect on business for those who make their living imitating Jackson in all his moonwalking, crotch-grabbing, tee-heeing glory.

One club proprietor hopes to launch a permanent Jackson show by the star's birthday in late August, and booking agents have seen surges in applications from would-be impersonators and calls for their services.

In a town in which guys made up like Elvis will marry you, serve as emcee at your business conference or sing "Viva Las Vegas" at your private party, Royal Talent, a booking agency for impersonators, said its Michael Jackson act is now the most requested.

Kenny Wizz, who has played the "King of Pop" since 1984, said: "It's a whole other ballgame. It's like wildfire now."



Frederick Henry prepares for a performance as a Michael Jackson impersonator during "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere Casino Hotel in Las Vegas.

The Stratosphere recently revamped its billboard and magazine ads for its American Superstars show to feature only Jackson, even though the show

includes five performers impersonating other music celebrities.

Henry became a full-time Jackson impersonator in 1995 and took the act overseas during

Everything changed when Jackson died June 25.

"Now is the time to shine again," Henry told fellow Jackson impersonators through a blog on MySpace. "It's been a

long time for some of us Michaels to survive."

They responded with pledges to step up their acts, practice harder and sing better out of respect for the star and his fans all over the world.

Impersonators aren't the only ones hoping to profit from the outpouring of fan interest after the singer's death. A probate judge has signed off on a movie deal, and Jackson's estate want to put trading cards, calendars and other memorabilia on the market.

Some say Jackson's estate could be as lucrative as Elvis Presley's, which earned \$55 million last year.

A recent show at Stratosphere went on with typical Vegas kitsch. A sweaty Elvis wearing gold and sequins serenaded a middle-aged audience member, and fans watched as a scantily clad Britney Spears impersonator tousled a man's hair. The tension peaked when the lights dropped and "Billie Jean" came on.

Out of a cloud of stage fog and spotlights, Michael Jackson materialized in a red jacket, white glove and thick eyeliner. Fans hooted as he did the moonwalk. They sang along on some of the choruses. They were enthralled when he descended from the stage and summoned a 10-year-old girl to dance with him as he sang in a soft falsetto.

Colleen, Fremont and Alex Courson of Dallas said they came to see both Jackson and Elvis and agreed both stars have Vegas staying power.

*"It's a whole other ballgame. It's like wildfire now,"*

*- Kenny Wizz, who has played the 'King of Pop' since 1984.*

## Inventor Paul Changed Music

### With electric guitar and multitrack recordings

(AP) -- Les Paul, the guitarist and inventor who changed the course of music with the electric guitar and multitrack recording and had a string of hits, many with wife Mary Ford, is being remembered after his death at the age of 94.

Paul, who died Aug. 13 of complications from pneumonia, helped bring about the rise of rock 'n' roll and multitrack recording, which enables artists to record different instruments at different times, sing harmony with themselves, and then care-

fully balance the "tracks" in the finished recording.

With Ford, his wife from 1949 to 1962, he earned 36 gold records and 11 No. 1 pop hits, including "Vaya Con Dios," "How High the Moon," "Nola" and "Lover." Many of their songs used overdubbing techniques that Paul the inventor had helped develop.

"I could take my Mary and make her three, six, nine, 12, as many voices as I wished," he recalled. "This is quite an asset." The overdubbing technique was highly influential on later recording artists such as the Carpenters.

The use of electric guitar gained popularity in the mid-to-late 1940s, and then exploded with the advent of rock in the 1950s.

"Suddenly, it was recognized that power was a very important part of music," Paul once said. "To have the dynamics, to have the way of expressing yourself beyond the normal limits of an unamplified instrument, was incredible. Today a guy wouldn't think of singing a song on a stage without a microphone and a sound system."

A tinkerer and musician since childhood, he experimented with guitar amplification for years before coming up in 1941

with what he called "The Log," a four-by-four piece of wood strung with steel strings.

"I went into a nightclub and played it. Of course, everybody had me labeled as a nut." He later put the wooden wings onto the body to give it a tradi-



Les Paul changed the course of music with the electric guitar and multitrack recording.

tional guitar shape. In 1952, Gibson Guitars began production on the Les Paul guitar.

Pete Townsend of The Who, Steve Howe of Yes, jazz great Al DiMeola and Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page all made the Gibson Les Paul their trademark six-string.

Over the years, the Les Paul series has become one of the most widely used guitars in the music industry.

Performing at



**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO**

Spirit Mountain Casino  
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August 21st @ 9pm  
**The Kirk Green Band**  
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August 27th @ 9pm  
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Rainsdrops Night Club

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## Jewelia's II VIP Lounge

### AUGUST EVENT CALENDAR

- Friday, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> **Julian's Ride** 50 Cover  
PORTLAND'S KENNY FUNK ROCK KINGPINS...BELIEVE IT!
- Saturday, Aug 8<sup>th</sup> **DJ Hot Jams**
- Friday, Aug 14<sup>th</sup> **DJ Hot Jams**
- Saturday, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> **Ocean 503** 50 Cover  
LIVE! R&B, FUNK, SOUL & BLUES
- Friday, Aug 21<sup>st</sup> **Lena B Connection** 50 Cover  
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