

Elvis rocks crowd at Stanfield Moose Lodge

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Stanfield Moose Lodge couldn't help falling in love with Elvis impersonator Mark Stevenz.

Stevenz performed to a full house on Saturday night as part of the lodge's effort to attract new membership and raise money for the charitable causes Moose International supports, from Christmas baskets for local families in need to Mooseheart, a children's home in Chicago.

Stevenz started his career as an impersonator 12 years ago, when he sang an Elvis song at a karaoke bar in Vancouver, Washington. A local theater group was there, and approached him about playing Elvis in an upcoming play.

"They said 'Try to look like Elvis,' so I started growing out my hair and grew these little bitty sideburns," he said.

Stevenz loved the experience so much he started moonlighting as the King at weddings, nursing homes and birthday parties. Eventually he booked enough gigs to quit his day job in construction, and moved on to performing at resorts and casinos, including a two-year stint in Cancun, Mexico. He even appeared on the television show "America's Got Talent," and he and

his wife Nicky were featured in an episode of House Hunters International.

"Elvis is my hero," he said. "I get to portray one of my heroes in life, and make people happy doing it."

Stevenz said he watches at least one Elvis video per day to "stay sharp" and has picked up a lot of moves and tips for hair and makeup from fellow impersonators at Elvis competitions over the years. While he has placed in several competitions, he said his favorite award has been the "Heart of the King" at the Penticton ELVIS Festival in British Columbia, Canada.

"I'm really proud of receiving that from my fellow Elvis brothers," he said.

On Saturday night he performed a two-hour show at the Stanfield Moose Lodge, complete with the sideburns and white fringed jumpsuit. The show mixed rock and roll classics like "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Jailhouse Rock" with soulful ballads like "Kentucky Rain" and "In the Ghetto."

He worked the crowd, making jokes between songs and frequently leaving the stage to kiss hands, cheeks and babies or pose for a photo. During "It's Now or Never" he handed out long-stemmed red roses to women in the audience.

"You've been a fantastic audience, and I really



Above, professional Elvis impersonator Mark Stevenz performs at the Stanfield Moose Lodge Saturday. Below, Stevenz hands out roses during his performance.

appreciate it," he told the crowd.

Beverly Stewart, a member of the Women of the Moose for 35 years, was the one who got Stevenz to come to Stanfield after her granddaughter told her about seeing him perform.

"I thought, 'I've got to get him to the Moose Lodge,'" Stewart said. "I called him up and he was all for it."

During intermission she said she thought he had done a wonderful job so far.

"I'm telling you, everyone loves him," she said.



Construction firms face fines after failure to clean up fuel spill

BOARDMAN — Two out-of-state construction companies each face a fine of \$18,303 for not cleaning up a fuel spill last summer in Boardman.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reported an employee of Valentine Welding Services Inc. was driving a truck with fuel barrels on July 17, 2018, for a construction project in Board-

man when two unsecured containers fell from the truck.

One container spilled about 50 gallons of diesel and the other 35 gallons of gasoline on the 100 block of Southwest Front Street, Boardman.

Eastern Constructors Inc. owned the fuel, according to the DEQ's written statement, and both companies were working on the

construction project.

However, neither company took responsibility for cleaning up the spill, forcing the state regulator to hire contractors and cover the costs of cleanup.

The city of Boardman assisted the state agent with oversight of the cleanup.

The DEQ reported the diesel and gas flowed from the spill into a storm drain that discharges to a pond

in the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

"The fuel did not reach the pond," the state reported.

"DEQ's spill responders cleaned fuel from the catch basin and several storm pipes, excavated and removed contaminated soil beneath the road and took soil samples to monitor for additional contamination."

Oregon law requires

the immediate reporting and cleanup of petroleum spills to minimize threats to waterways, wildlife and human health.

The DEO also reported it could decrease the fines if the two companies pay for the cleanup and oversight costs.

Valentine Welding Services and Eastern Constructors have until April 9 to appeal the violations.

March sets new record for cold in Pendleton

East Oregonian

Pendleton's winter held as long as it could in 2019, as evidenced by a new monthly climate summary on March from the National Weather Service.

According to the summary, March 2019 wasn't just colder than average at the Pendleton airport, it was the coldest March on record.

The month's 35.6-degree average was 9.4 degrees below the normal temperature while also surpassing the all-time March record: 38.7 degrees in 1955.

The average highs and lows were also well below average, culminating in a low of 1 degree on March 5.

After a snow-packed February, the moisture slowed down in March, bringing in 1.2 inches of precipitation, which was slightly below average.

But overall, Pendleton's water season is going strong.

The 10.1 inches of precipitation the weather has generated in Pendleton since October is 2.2 inches above normal.

Although the first few weeks of March brought unseasonably cold weather, by March's final days, temperatures frequently exceeded the average.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center is anticipating that trend to continue into April.

The center is predicting above normal temperatures and precipitation in April, a month where the normal high is 66 degrees the normal low is 42, and the average precipitation is 1.2 inches.

Governor proposes more money for National Guard facilities here and in Salem

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

While much of the local focus on Gov. Kate Brown's budget has been on her proposals for education, tucked away in the Oregon Military Department budget is millions of dollars allocated for the Oregon National Guard's facilities in Pendleton.

Under Brown's public safety budget, the department would spend \$9.9 million for enhancements at aviation facilities in Pendleton and Salem during the 2019-21 biennium.

Roy Swafford, the department's director of installations, said the money would go tougrading the aviation facilities to protect them against emergencies, including seismic structure improvements and backup power sources.

While the money is currently split between Pendleton and Salem, Swafford said the department would decide how to divide the money after it's allocated.

The governor's other allocation is targeted for the 2023-25 biennium, a time

when her office wants to spend \$5.2 million for a "life extension" on the Pendleton armory alone.

Swafford said the state would try to pair its expenditure with federal dollars to provide the facility with repairs and replacements for things like its roof, heating, ventilation, air conditioning

system, and windows.

Nothing in the governor's budget is final since the Oregon Legislature controls the power of the purse strings.

Brown and the military department will find out whether lawmakers include the facility requests in their budget before the end of the legislative session June 30.



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4:40 7:10
ED 9:40

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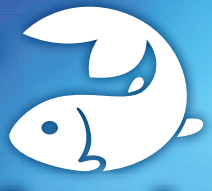
Wonder Park (PG)
4:30 6:50 8:50

Captain Marvel (PG13)
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4:20 6:40 9:00

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Friday Meals

Dinner served April 5th
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Cedar Wrapped Salmon
\$7.50 Adults
\$7.00 Seniors & Children
Served with a baked potato and vegetable of the day

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Clam Chowder
Bread Bowl
\$4.25 – Single Cup \$1.50

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Pizza Bar
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.....

 **CHI St. Anthony Hospital**
2801 St. Anthony Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

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HealthyMC.org



Public Class

with **Tom Sanders,**
Respiratory Therapist

Thursday, April 18th
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Pioneer Memorial Clinic
Conference Room
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Heppner, OR 97836

More Information
Call 541-676-2930

CPR can be the difference between life and death, yet too many adults are apprehensive about stepping in during a medical emergency, either because they fear handling a victim or lack the knowledge of giving CPR.



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