

arts & entertainment news

LOCAL NEWS

Gemstone Dancers To Give Final Performance Today at Brownwood

After almost nine years of delighting audiences, the Gemstone Dancers are putting away their dancing shoes. The 12-member resident dance troupe under the direction of Lynn Robinson will give its final performance as part of the Strawberry Festival at around 6 p.m. today at Brownwood Paddock Square. "We want to go out on top and have a really great show," said Robinson, of the Village of Fernandina. —Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun



TONIGHT AT **SPANISH SPRINGS TOWN SQUARE**

Jerico

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Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Comedian Bill Engvall Entertains With Anecdotes

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer



Ron Johnson | Daily Sun

Comedian Bill Engvall performs at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center at Spanish Springs Town Square.

Bill Engvall and his wife went on a three-week vacation to Africa. Engvall endured nine shots, a 25-hour plane trip and a 7 a.m. tour the next morning to the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre in South Africa. "Well, there's a great way to start your vacation," joked Engvall, a comedian known for "Here's Your Sign" and "Blue Collar TV."

Engvall did two stand-up shows at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Thursday, where he joked about his trip to Africa, his family and more.

Genocide Centre, Engvall and his wife hiked up a muddy mountain to see some gorillas. "Everything was slicker than snot on a glass door knob," he said.

When they finally made it to

the gorillas, a young gorilla sat next to him and then slapped him in the chest. Engvall was unlucky in the animal department at night, too. With funny animal impressions, Engvall explained how his night's sleep in a canvas tent was broken up with the sounds of lions roaring, hyenas screaming and hippos wading in a pond.

"I don't know if you've ever heard a hyena scream, but it is made up of every childhood nightmare you've ever had in your life," he said.

The arrival of his first grandchild and his recent enrollment into college has added to Engvall's material since he last performed at The Sharon in 2018.

He tried going to college after high school but didn't earn a degree because he didn't go to class.

"My freshman year of college was 1976," Engvall said. "My first semester grade point average was 0.76."

He said that this time around, he's doing better.

"It's amazing how much easier it is to make grades when you're not drunk and horny 75% of the time," he said.

Engvall's audience was large and enthusiastic.

Coby and Richard Vierra, of the Village of Springdale, had never seen Engvall perform live and were excited.

"I love when he talks about his daughter and how she knows how to use a charge card," Coby said.

"And his comedy is clean," Richard added.

Darlene Eaton, of the Village of Country Club Hills, and Gary Shinabery, of the Village of Duval, came to the show because Darlene won tickets in a chance drawing at a Lions Club event.

"We maybe would've come anyhow, because he's very well known," Darlene said. "He's funny."

Engvall joked that he's always getting himself into situations, and that's what a lot of his comedy focused on.

From a story about getting himself locked in an airplane bathroom to one that ended in him accidentally stabbing himself in the chest with his son's pocket knife, Engvall's show was hilarious and his delivery felt personable, as if he was talking to a group of close friends rather than an audience of more than a thousand people.



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