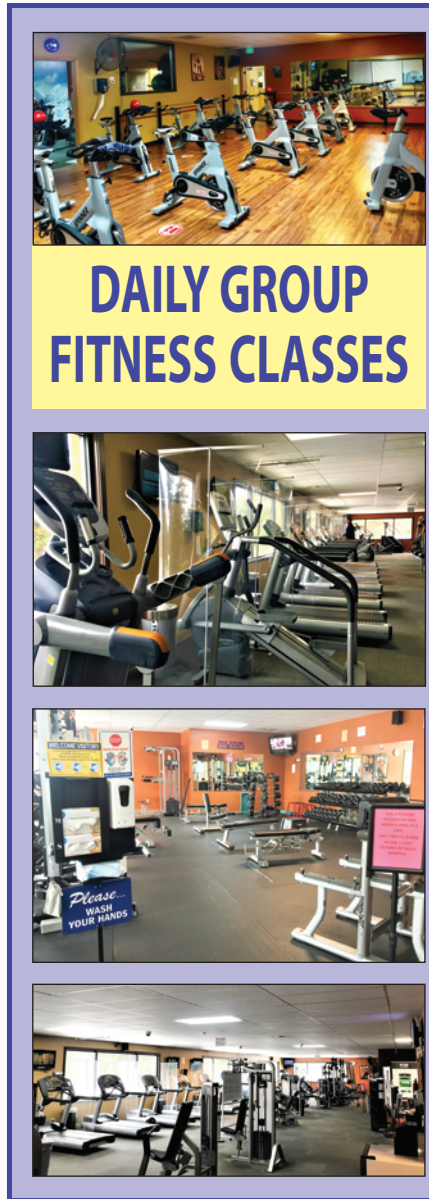


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**Elvis tribute artist Steve Sogura rocks Cle Elum this Saturday**

by Jim Fossett  
 jim@nkctribune.com

CLE ELUM – Saturday, Oct. 30, Steve Sogura headlines a special 8:00 p.m. performance at the Eagles Club in Cle Elum.

Lizzie SunChine, a popular Aretha Franklin tribute artist, joins him on stage for what the Eagles Club bills the Halloween Weekend King & Queen Show.

The Eagles Club is located at 220 Pennsylvania Avenue across from the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets are available at the club. Be sure to act now, the performance usually sells out. Patrons are advised this is an event for ages 21 and over.

**Enter the contest**

The night of the show, Cle Elum's Kim Lohnes is sponsoring an Elvis costume contest offering a \$250 prize to the winner.

"I just thought it would be fun to see if anyone out there wanted to get creative and dress up like Elvis for the night," she said.

"Steve is such a talented man. I just love watching him year after year. It never gets old!"

**About Steve**

Sogura is no stranger to Cle Elum. He's performed here several times – always to a sellout crowd.

In a story the *NKC Tribune* published in October 2016, his parents, Cle Elum's Michael (Mick) and Margie Sogura, friend and promoter Shirley Person, and wife Jamie shed



some light on this popular entertainer.

**Stories about Steve**

Said Person, "I remember the first time I hired him to perform. It was for an event at Bruce Coe's Hidden Valley Ranch. That was 17 years ago and since then we've done a dozen or so gigs together.

"Today he works for the Tahoma School District and performs on the side.

"He's raised two girls. One of them worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Cle Elum, though I'm not sure if she's still there.

"Over the years he's won contests and gotten a lot of recognition.

"He won the *Images of Elvis* contest in Las Vegas. And a few years ago, he won the Elvis competition in Penticton, Canada, against 30 other contestants who hailed from all over the United States and Canada. That same year he won three other regional contests in the United States.

"Much like Elvis, his music and talent are timeless.

"He has a gift that he shares with everyone lucky enough to see and hear him perform.

"I know him as a sweet, personable, kind, and very humble, almost shy man. If you met him on the street, you wouldn't recognize him, but on stage he's dynamic."

According to his parents

Sogura's singing talent was a secret for a long time.

Said dad Michael, "One of our friends told us our son had a fantastic voice and I had to ask, 'Which son?!' We had no idea. He was very shy.

"When he turned 21, he had to be dared by a friend to sing karaoke in a westside club and when he got up to perform he stood behind a column or something so nobody would see him. When he finished the crowd exploded. He brought the house down."

Laughed wife Jamie, "That dare, followed by the applause and encouragement, put him on the hunt for a jumpsuit and a wig. Then he entered Elvis contests, which he won, and that got him booked in shows all over the country and on cruise ships."

Mom Margie had this to say, "He was born at Enumclaw Hospital and raised in Ravensdale, over by Maple Valley.

"He was a very sensitive child, caring about everything, and he was into music. That was his thing.

"We had him learn the accordion. He was always in his bedroom practicing. He adored animals as he does today, and he's always had a great sense of humor.

"His first show in the Upper County was in Roslyn at what was once the Miners Café.

"In those early days he also spent time singing karaoke at the Eagles Club in Cle Elum. He competed in contests around Seattle and won first place several times.

"Then he went on to Las

Vegas for a contest and the fellow who ran Legends in Concert hired him on the spot.

"He's very devoted to the two girls, and he's got a 1957 Chevy he rebuilt. That's been a hobby of his for years. All my kids love old cars."

Margie said the Sogura family has several roots in the Upper County.

"My other son Mike owns property here. A cousin of Steve's, Jonelle Drazich Wilson, has a place on the river.

"Steve's grandfather Mike Sogura [wife Jenny] was a coalminer. His name is on the Coal Miners Memorial in Roslyn, along with Steve's uncle, Joe Drazich."

Sogura once told a reporter that from the beginning he was drawn to the sounds of Elvis and the Beatles.

"I remember, sometimes as a little kid I would go into a culvert because of the echo and belt out *Treat me Like a Fool*, later thinking, 'Oh God. I hope no one heard me.'"

Columnist Laddy Kite interviewed Sogura several years ago and asked him why he paid tribute to Elvis.

Sogura's response was short and to the point: "It's the music. It's all about the music."

Kite went on to ask, "So how does a young man born and raised in the shadow of Mount Rainier transform himself into arguably the most iconic musical figure of modern times?"

With that, Sogura laughed, "People who knew me back when would have said, 'No way ... not Steve Sogura.'"

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