

Airport hosts The Great Benjamin's Circus

Event featured jugglers, animals, clowns and more

BY JOSH JONES

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MT. VERNON — The circus has come and gone as Mt. Vernon Outland Airport hosted The Great Benjamin's Circus on Friday and Saturday.

There were a total of three shows over the weekend featuring a plethora of entertainment that included animals and more.

"We were really excited that we were able to host this particular circus," said Airport Director Chris Collins. "The board and I always strive to host events that we can welcome the families and the townspeople to the airport."

And there were plenty of activities to welcome the

community with as the circus featured, food, prizes and plenty of unique acts.

"Well, today's performance consists of jugglers, acrobats, daredevils, funny clowns, motorcycles in a big steel ball driving around with a lady in the middle," said John Davenport, manager of The Great Benjamin's Circus. "It is a good show. Kids will love it. Adults love it too. We try to look at every angle and we try make sure everyone has a

great time here at the circus."

"We have a dog that dresses up as an elephant and he walks around and plays dead," Davenport said.

Collins gave his reaction to the turnout for Friday's show, expressing that he was hoping that Saturday's would be similar.

"We had around 110 cars that we parked, so we probably had 250 people maybe 300 people for last night's [show]," Collins said. "It was

good for Friday night. So hopefully we will have better numbers today and tonight."

Davenport also enjoyed the turnout as he expressed his gratitude towards the airport.

"It was a great turnout and I want to thank the folks here at the airport for helping us bring the show into town," Davenport said. "For providing the lot for us, for provid-

ing water for the ponies, water for the performers."

As for Outland Airport hosting events such as the circus, Collins discussed the importance of hosting such events.

"Well, we are family friendly and we always want to try to host events that people can come and enjoy at the airport," Collins said.

Davenport mentioned what he enjoyed most about working in the circus that has been going on for five generations.

"It is a great feeling. I love it," Davenport said. "I have been born and raised in this business and I love it here, and I still wake up every morning having a good time."

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JUGGLING FUN — There were several different performances during The Great Benjamin's Circus on Saturday. Acts included clowns, acrobats and jugglers on Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.