

HighLife

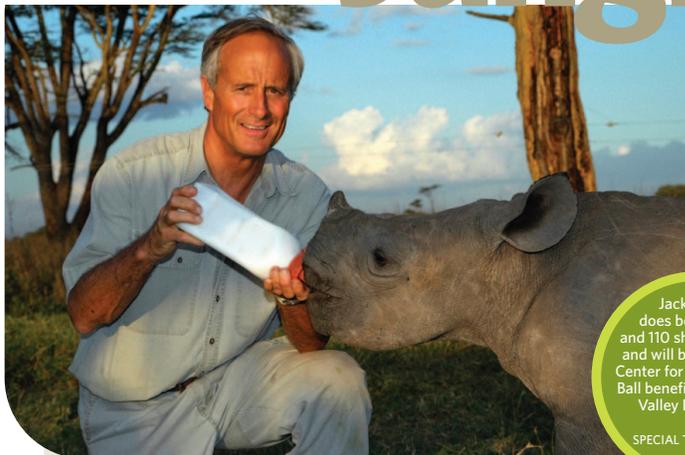
VAILDAILY SECTION B

MONDAY, 8 · 20 · 12

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GO WILD with Jungle Jack

Jungle Jack Hanna bringing his Into the Wild show to the Eagle Valley Land Trust's Evergreen Ball



if you go ...

What: The Evergreen Ball Goes Wild with Jack Hanna; international television star Hanna brings his show to town as a benefit for the Eagle Valley Land Trust.
Where: Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek.
When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.
Cost: Tickets are \$75 or \$50 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and younger. For \$150, you can meet Hanna and get prime seating.
More information: Go to www.theevergreenball.org, www.evlvt.org or www.vilarpac.org, or call the Vilar Center box office at 970-845-TIXS.

Jack Hanna does between 90 and 110 shows per year and will be at the Vilar Center for the Evergreen Ball benefiting the Eagle Valley Land Trust.

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

By Randy Wyrick
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Jungle Jack Hanna loves intimate theaters like the Vilar Center.

"That way if something gets loose, I can catch it," Hanna said.

Hanna is bringing his "Into the Wild ... Live!" stage show to the Vilar Center for the Eagle Valley Land Trust's Evergreen Ball. He'll bring nine wild animals, so they might get loose but not likely. They're mostly endangered species. There's a cheetah, a snow leopard, caracal, a sloth, a kangaroo, a baby white tiger, a clouded white leopard and ... get this ... there are six honey badgers in this country, and he's bringing one of them. Let's not forget the alligator, porcupine and anything else he can transport.

The video clips will be punctuated by stories and animals and more stories.

Hanna is America's zookeeper and built the Columbus Zoo into the country's top zoo. He's the star of syndicated television shows and author of a dozen books.

And he's hilarious.

Hanna is originally from Tennessee, and he and God's creatures have been working with one another since he was a lad.

He took his donkey, Doc, to college and left with his adorable wife.

"I didn't ask anyone; I just did it. I just tied Doc out behind the fraternity house and took care of him," Hanna said.

Doc became the cheerleaders' mascot and his future wife was a cheerleader, which worked out well because Hanna played a little college football.

"Doc was instrumental in getting us together," Hanna said.

They just got back from Zimbabwe, where they were filming.

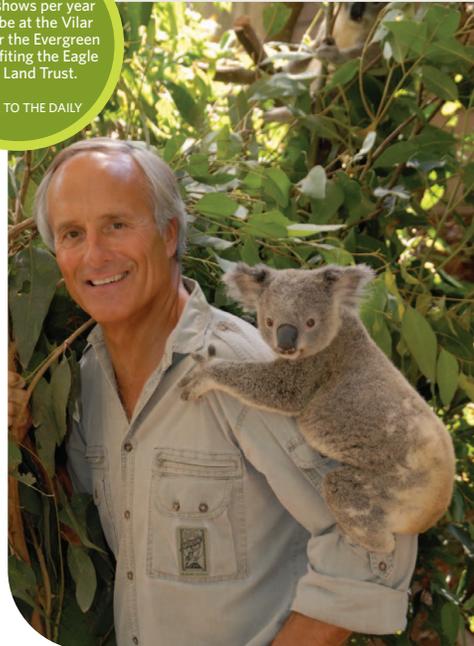
"Did you know you can now hang your body off Victoria Falls?" Hanna asked. "She did it. I didn't. She loves stuff like that."

They have three daughters and six grandchildren who think it's normal to feed a rhino with a baby bottle.

"The kids have been raised with it. It's normal," Hanna said.

He's not one of those gloomy singers in the End of the World Glee Club who preach that the apocalypse is near. It's not, he said.

"It's improving in many parts of the world," he said.



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