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It pays to be lightning fast
BY JASON STAHL

One afternoon, just before lunchtime, my crew members around me suddenly dropped their tools and raced wildly for the maintenance vehicles. Standing there dumbfounded, I watched as some piled into the Cushman, others into the dump truck. The only vehicle that remained empty was an ugly orange thing we called the “UV,” short for utility vehicle.

Forty minutes later, when I finally arrived back at the shed for lunch, I realized why no one had wanted to drive the UV. It stood no chance in a race versus one of those kiddie cars at the carnival. It made crossing busy Lake Road like a game of Frogger, except this frog had two broken legs. Only one other time did I get stuck driving the UV that summer — I got hip-checked at the last minute by a kid twice my size. Soaking wet from a rain storm (the UV not only was slow but had no top), I arrived back at the shed only to see my fellow workers doubled over from laughter...

(Watch for my next installment coming soon)

WOOD WOULD BE GOOD

Sure, you know your plants but do you know which woods work best for various hardscape projects? According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, these woods work best:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doors</th>
<th>Birch, oak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siding</td>
<td>Western red cedar, cypress, redwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td>Cedar, cypress, redwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fence posts</td>
<td>Black locust, Osage orange, white oak, cedar, cypress, redwood, catalpa, chestnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gates &amp; fences</td>
<td>Douglas fir, western larch, southern yellow pine, redwood, white oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decking, outdoor steps, porches</td>
<td>White oak, locust, redwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elvis was alive and well at a Las Vegas reception that was part of the recent ALCA Executive Forum. Landscape Management executive editor Sue Gibson (center) and Stano Landscaping’s Mitch Rolsky (right) pose with two Las Vegas locals and their favorite Elvis impersonator/landscape contractor, otherwise known as Chris Kujawa of Kujawa Enterprises, Milwaukee (left center). Gibson noted Kujawa’s Elvis was “surprisingly good, in a town full of Elvis wannabes.”
Only the weeds will know you’ve been there.

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