

# Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

One of my favorite topics to share with young people is on the subject of time. While it is hard for them to grasp the con-

cept of the brevity of time, I try to help them begin to see its value. And the older I get, the more valuable time becomes.

I recall, even at this moment, a friend of mine who is dying of cancer. He is educated and wealthy by most standards and

yet his one desire is not more education or monetary possessions. It's time. That's why (I tell young people) to be on time and to be prepared. If you do not do both, you have wasted – even stolen – the most valuable thing a person has. I think freedom could also be included in the category of the most valuable things we have. Once again, if I have wealth but no freedom to use it, what good is it? Or, if I have multiple degrees and do not have the freedom to pursue my call, what use is the education I have received? No, to ask the wealthy or educated prisoner what their greatest desire would be; it would be freedom. But if being late or unprepared steals time, what steals another's freedom?

I think we would all admit that laws always stifle free-

doms. And the more laws that are in place, the more freedoms we lose. I'm thankful that when America was formed it was not formed with the idea of control but with the idea of freedom. American's love freedom and the idea of freedom's being lost is what causes most of us to vote a certain way. We fear a law that might be put in place that would hinder our freedom.

In the same way for the Christian, we desire freedom, and that is good. It's also what God desires for us as well. It was the Apostle Paul who said, "For freedom Christ has set us free." It's like asking someone "Why did you set that person free?" and them answering, "So, they can be free!" Freedom has its own benefits. It is both the action and the result of the action, and it is seated deep

within the soul of every human, everywhere. But if there is this longing, does it mean there is the existence of its fulfillment?

To paraphrase C.S Lewis, does the fact a baby feels hunger, prove the existence of food? Or because a duckling wants to swim; does it mean there is such a thing as water? I think it does, and I also think that freedom is a longing that all men have but only Christ can fulfill. It was Paul again that said, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." This must mean, where the Spirit is absent, so is real freedom. But what is it replaced with? The law of course. And just like every other part of our life, the law will never produce the liberty we long to enjoy. Only grace will – and has. gary@outdoortruths.org



A representative with the Zoo Mobile entertained children at the Durant Public Library on Tuesday, June 27, with a variety of animals and information about their environment and eating habits. Shown above, participants watch a live demonstration with a Screech Owl. (Photo submitted)



On Thursday, June 29, teens at the Durant Public Library enjoyed learning about the style of painting called Bubble Painting. Teens are pictured with their handiwork of bubble painted gift bags. (Photo submitted)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINE: 4 P.M. FRIDAY

### BALDWIN CHAPEL SET FOR USHER PROGRAM

Baldwin Chapel M.B. Church in Cruger will have its Annual Usher Program on Sunday, July 16 at 2 p.m.

7-6,13

### ABLES FAMILY REUNION SET IN COXBURG CENTER

Descendants of Phil and Mamie Ables will have a family reunion on Sunday, July 16 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Coxburg Community Center.

All family and friends are invited to attend.

7-6,13

### PASTOR CELEBRATION SET AT DURANT MBC

Durant M.B. Church will host its pastor and wife's celebration for Dr. Nathaniel and Dora Christian from Tuesday, July 11 through Thursday, July 13 at 7 p.m. with a different speaker each night.

7-6,13

### FAMILIES FIRST SET FOR GRAND OPENING

The Families First Resource Center in Durant will hold its grand opening and ribbon cutting on Monday, July 31 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

7-13,20

### MALE CHORUS EVENT SET AT WALDEN CHAPEL

The Goodman Male Chorus 25th Silver Anniversary Celebration to be held on Sunday, July 23 at 3 p.m. in Walden Chapel UMC. All performance groups are invited to attend.

7-13,20

### MS VALLEY ALUMNI TO MEET ON JULY 16

The Holmes County MVSU Alumni Chapter will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, July 16 at 4 p.m. in the former circuit clerk building next to Fred's Dollar Store in Lexington.

7-13

### MAGIC AND FOREST FRIENDS SET AT LEX. LIB.

The Lexington Public Library is continuing in its summer youth activities.

On Thursday, July 13 at 3 p.m. Noah's Ark Animal Workshop will present Build a Forest Friend program for children.

On Thursday, July 20 at 3 p.m. Tara Howell from Mississippi State University Home Extension Service will present LoveU2 Program for children.

On Thursday, July 27, at 3 p.m. Dorian the Magician! will present a magic show for children.

All programs are part of the Build a Better World Summer Library Program. These programs are sponsored by a 2017 Margaret Murray Grant and Friends of the Lexington Public Library. American Library Association 2017 award-winning children's books that will be available for check out during the program are also provided by the grant. Weekly programs are geared to children 6-12. Children under 9 years of age who attend the programs must be accompanied by a parent or responsible child caregiver and the caregiver must be at least 12 years old or older. For further information please call the library at 662-834-2571.

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