

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

I say the same thing every year at this time. “It’s hot!” I guess it’s supposed to be, but this year seems to be especially dry and excessively hot. Outside work is relegated to early mornings and late evenings, and I hate that! If you just look outside from the comfort of your own living room, you think, “What a beautiful day! I think I’ll work around the yard.” Then, you open the door and are smacked back into reality from the backhand of a sweltering heat wave. So, you just stare out as if you are under Mother Nature’s house arrest. I don’t want to wish away the next two months, so I’ll just pray for a unique summer arctic blast or a day or two of steady rain. In my area, we definitely have all four seasons. It seems, however, the most extreme ones always seem the longest. Spring and Fall are never long enough. While my area has pronounced seasons,

other areas have less distinct lines. Winters in these zones amount to shoes and a light jacket and summers in some places amount to nothing more than a long vacation in a warmer climate. Nevertheless, these places have seasons too. As long as the axis of the earth tilts, and the earth rotates around the sun, these differences will always take place.

One of the Outdoor Truths that has always been paramount is the one that explains how nature points to God. While I always knew this, I never fully embraced it until I began talking to hunters and fishermen. I also never knew it until I read in the Bible that God created nature to give people our first evidence of the existence of God. This means when one makes analogies about nature, God, and man, he is not making things up as he goes. If the Bible says God uses creation to point

people to him; that means, well it means that nature is analogous to some very important spiritual things. Not only things like the evidence for the existence of God, but clues about his nature, power, and will. And even clues about you and me and life. One of those clues is found by looking at the seasons. Seasons give us a clear picture of the periods of life. Spring brings new life, summer and fall point to the days of growth and harvest, and winter to a period of death and dormancy. This is the picture of our life but also, for Christians, our hope. Because just as sure as winter buries us in snow, new life in the spring will push its way through the earth to live again. And just as sure death will come to all people, Jesus has promised a resurrection to a new life, a new body, and a new beginning. I hope you see it, but more so, I hope you have it.

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Telemarketers

Telemarketers may just cause the collapse of my Southern Belle charm. Never a day passes that we don’t receive at the least five to ten of these aggravating nuisance calls. And, yes we are listed on the “no call” registry. My grandsons



Peggy’s Take

love to play around with the calls so if they are here, I have no chance to just hang up on them. Sam will pretend he is a small child and cannot understand what they are wanting. He just says over and over, “Who are you? What you want?” and the caller becomes so agitated that he will shout, “Let me speak with an adult!” At that time the call is ended. I had one to call me one day trying to give

me a credit card. I was very polite and explained that I did not need another card. She was gracious enough to say okay and hang up. Several minutes later her supervisor called and I explained to him that a very nice Indian speaking lady had called me and I had declined the offer. He immediately says, “How do you know she was of this culture? Are you prejudiced against Indians?” I politely explained that I was not but

I could also tell that he was a fool without seeing him either. I believe the best one I have ever heard came from our son, Marc. He was working at one of our stores one day and someone called him taking some type of

a poll. He said, “You will have to bear with me I’m working a homicide at this second.” He covered the phone and asked to nobody really, “Will you please mark of this body so we can move it and try to get up some of this blood, it’s making a mess.” As he picks up the phone conversation the caller hangs up on the call.

I have won cruises, cars, my long lost wealthy relatives have been found, wanting to leave me lots of money, I have won prizes from Amazon, my credit card’s rate has been reduced, and I have even been called by the IRS telling me if I don’t send the money I owe I will be handcuffed and incarcerated! I assure you I have been summoned by the IRS and they do not call you, they come to your door flashing a badge!

This seems funny to some of us but I have friends and family who have had their elderly kinfolk fall for these bogus calls and have actually sent money to the callers. This is a serious concern and I really don’t know what or how to stop the foolishness. I heard once if you were listed on the “no call” register, you could keep up with the calls – time, date, person calling – and contact an attorney and could be paid so much money per call. If this is true, be sure to wave at me as you pass me in my new gold Mercedes.

Breakfast is my very favorite meal and I love playing with recipes to make some really scrumptious new things. Here is a new one.

Easy Blueberry Skillet

Ending by Design



Durant Public Library ended its summer library programs with a presentation of certificates and awards along with a Design-A-Shirt program. Pictured with their T-shirts are (from left): first row, Marcus Hogsett, Erica Simmons, Brooke Hicks; second row, Antonie Helm, Emeri Stewart, Cole Allen, Skylar Ashley, Conley Bryant, Jagger Daves, Maryanna Trotter; and top row, Adrianna Simmons, Aliya Helm and Lily Daves.

(Photo submitted)

•State tax free

(Continued from page 1.) many items total are sold at that time, according to the state guidelines.

“For example, a customer purchases two shirts at \$50 each, a pair of slacks at \$75 and a pair of shoes at \$110. No sales tax is due on the sale of the two shirts and the pair of slacks at a cost of \$175.00, even though the

combined cost exceeds the one hundred dollar (\$100) threshold. However, Sales Tax is due on the entire \$110.00 for the shoes since they exceed the one hundred dollar (\$100) threshold,” according to the guidelines.

Retailers may offer store discounts and store coupons to reduce the price of an eligible item to or less than \$100 in order to qualify for the holiday.

With the popularity of online shopping on sites such as Amazon and Ebay, “sales of eligible items that were placed or ordered by mail, telephone or the internet are not subject to sales tax

if the purchaser orders and pays for the items during the Sales Tax Holiday and the items are less than \$100,” said MDR.

Examples listed for eligible items include baby clothes, caps, blouses, boots, bras, coats and wraps, dresses, golf clothes, hats, jeans, nightgowns, pants, pajamas, panty hose, raincoats, religious clothing, shoes, shorts, socks, swimsuits, ties, tights, work clothes and work out clothes.

For the full list of eligible items go to <http://www.dor.ms.gov/Business/Documents/2018%20Sales%20Tax%20Holiday.pdf>

Coffee Cake
¼ stick of butter,
2 T. light brown sugar
one 12 ounce tube of buttermilk biscuits,
1 cup of blueberries fresh or thawed frozen

Cook the butter and brown sugar until melted and arrange biscuits in a single layer in an iron skillet. Scatter the blueberries overall and sprinkle streusel top Streusel Topping – ¼ cup of pecan pieces, ¼ cup of sugar, ¼ stick of butter, 2 ½ T. of flour, 1 t. cinnamon Combine pecans, sugar, butter, flour and cinnamon in a food processor until crumble Bake 375* for about 30 minutes.

* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.



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IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Fred Horton from Tchula is doing pretty good. Right now he is in a rehab in Yazoo City. His mother Mrs. Katie Horton went to see him Thursday, July 5th. He told her to stay at home and get some rest. I guess she did what he said. She said these last few days she has been feeling much better.

The young lady/girl who hung herself was funeralized Saturday, July 7th.

Mr. Albert Wright is doing pretty good. He gets around in a wheelchair.

Mrs. Austray Kirklin’s

granddaughter’s house burned. Morris Morgan’s house burned. He lost everything. This is the second time he has lost a home to fire.

The seniors at the senior citizens feeding site in Lexington celebrated seven birthdays in a combined birthday party Thursday, July 12th.

Pray for this writer’s brother. He had his second kidney removal surgery on Thursday, July 12th. Now he will remain alive by the help of God and dialysis. I hope he can get on the donation list for a kidney/kidneys.



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