

•TALES

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▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN
These children volunteered to help hold a Spider Banana Ball Python named Banana.

talk about each creature and answered questions from the children.

The first one presented was a tarantula named Charlotte. This large spider (Theraphosidae) uses its web to capture prey similar to the spiders we see locally. Most species of tarantula live in burrows in the ground and come out mostly at night to hunt. They are commonly found in warm areas such as South America, southern North America, southern Europe, Africa, southern Asia, and Australia. The biggest concentration lives in South America and females can live up to 30 years.

Charlotte commonly feeds on crickets in captivity, but in the wild, tarantulas feed on small insects and larvae. The front protrusions from the head are called chelicerae, and they hold the fangs, which are used to inject venom into their prey to liquify the inside so that they can feed. The venom

is not dangerous to humans, but the bite has been described as comparable to a wasp sting.

Next was Elmer, a Green-Cheeked Conure (Parrot) who is approximately 9 years old, but they can live up to 30 years in captivity. Elmer had bits of blue and red feathers along with green for camouflage, as these birds usually live in the upper tree canopy in the wild. There are many variations of conures, and their habitat is in Brazil.

They are approximately the size of a large parakeet and feed on fruits, vegetables, and seeds. They are lively, and as demonstrated, they do things their way. Elmer, instead of landing on the assisting child's finger, kept flying to the top of Grant's head.

Barry the Blue Tongued Skink was displayed next, and yes, they have a very blue tongue, thus the name. Barry was quite content to just lie in

Grant's hand as he was being shown around the room. This Skink is not poisonous and eats a large array of things, such as mealworms, crickets, leafy greens, or even mice.

Skinks do regulate their body temperature, so you must keep at least part of their habitat heated and overall, not below 70 degrees.

The one mammal in the program was named Max, a male Sugar Glider. Although they resemble small flying squirrels, they are not related. They have a pair of membranes on their sides called pagaia. It stretches between their front and rear legs and allows them to glide between trees safely.

Female Sugar Gliders have a pouch (like a kangaroo or koala) in which the babies are raised. A newborn baby sugar glider is the size of a grain of rice. They are nocturnal (night-time) creatures who eat fruits, vegetables, mealworms, and crickets. They are playful, require a lot



▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN
Grant is holding a Green-winged Macaw named Einstein. A very talkative bird.

of space and are social animals that need to be in a group.

Animal number five was a large male Green-Winged Macaw Parrot named Einstein, who is 50 years old and quite beautiful with his long colorful tail. These birds can live to age 70 or even 80 and are very intelligent. They are found in the Amazon Rainforest in South America, nesting in the top of the tree canopy. He was quite a chatty fella, making sounds as he was being shown to the audience. They eat fruits, nuts, and leafy greens, and require a very balanced diet to stay healthy in captivity. In the wild, they also ingest mineralized sand or clay, which helps to neutralize toxins in some seeds they eat.

The last was a reptile, a Spider Banana Ball Python named aptly Banana, because of his color which is a pale yellow. The reason a snake such as this flicks its tongue is to taste the air for danger or to find food.

These snakes, as with



▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN
Charlotte being shown to the crowd.



▲ PHOTO | PIXABAY
A Green-Cheeked Conure (Parrot) named Elmer.

other reptiles, require a warming light to keep them at the correct temperature and humidity to keep them healthy. Their diet consists of rats, mice, and birds, and they have approximately 100 teeth. The children happily lined up to touch Banana.

Animal Tales offers educational programs with a mission to educate, entertain, and inspire. Other

programs offered are Zoofari Earth, Creepy Critters, Animal Science, Reptiles, Scales & Tales, and Holiday Safari.

If you would like to know more about Animal Tales or schedule them for your event, go to <https://www.animaledzooocation.com/midsouth/>, where you can find out more about the programs they offer.

•FINANCES

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Wilson, Jerry Garmon, Terry Garrett, and Matt Gallagher. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Alley Bragg, Mayor Doug Smith, Judge/Executive Larry Wilson, and PJ Martin from The Herald-News. The only board member absent was Donna Caffee.

Chairperson Boswell brought the meeting to order. The minutes from the meeting held on June 16th were approved with the motions made by Garmon and seconded by Wilson.

Secretary Bragg presented the financial report for the period of June 18th to July 28th, noting that the last full payment was made by Pennington Stave of \$10,941.90, and the bank payment was then made to ESB of \$6489.18 principal and \$4,452.72 interest. The account was credited \$1.72 for interest on June 30th.

“July 24, the DLG 2026 registration fee of \$250 was paid electronically. We have to pay that every year. On 7/24, we had the KACo insurance payment of \$6261.75, which I mailed on 7/24,” stated Bragg.

Then on 7/24, Pennington Stave Company paid the new amount of \$6,866.70, which Bragg then paid to ESB for the loan, leaving an account balance of \$13,378.54.

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Gallagher, seconded by Garmon, and approved.

Bragg then added, “Alright, end of year, okay, that’s on the front page of your bank account ledger at the bottom right-hand corner. It has the end-of-year actual broken down in my little chart. I just need a motion to accept that, and I will enter it on the DLG website. After you all

approve it,” The motion to approve the year-end actual budget was made by Gallagher, seconded by Wilson, and approved.

Bragg then noted that she had provided the members with a copy of the FY 2025 budget in the meeting reminder email.

Chairperson Boswell then provided an update on the amendment with Chad Pennington, “So after much back and forth, and then I was gone, it is signed. I just need Rich Alexander’s (attorney) signature. Hopefully, I can take it into or meet up with him tomorrow, get him to sign it, and then I’ll have it recorded.”

Boswell stated, “... and I gave Chad the complete from the beginning current. He has the complete copy, and I have the complete copy of

everything to do this particular if anybody wants to see it or review it. You are more than welcome.”

“Any questions,

because this is a special call meeting, we cannot take on any new or additional work,” Boswell stated.

The motions were

made to adjourn.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Edmonton City Hall.

•MEALS

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nearly doubled last year’s 57,667 meals. “Our Summer Feeding Program, also called SUN Meals, was a huge success!” said Food Service Director Beth Miller. “Many of our families rely on school breakfast and lunch during the school year, so we are grateful that we can help ease some of the grocery burden during the summer months. This year, we were able to source more locally grown vegetables, including squash, zucchini, cucumbers, and sweet corn.”

Metcalf County Schools partnered with the Metcalfe County Public Library

to ensure all children who live in Metcalfe County could benefit from the program, not just students enrolled in the school system.

Superintendent Josh Hurt said, “I couldn’t be more pleased with our summer feeding program. What we did last year set an incredibly high bar, but this year we were able to crush those results. Congratulations to our entire Food Service crew for their hard work. They have once again proven that at Metcalfe County Schools, we will go above and beyond to help our community.”

The Summer Feeding Program is funded by

the USDA Summer Food Service Program, which is administered by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Hurt added, “I am so glad that we have been able to provide this service to the people of Metcalfe County. We know food needs don’t go away when we close the doors for the regular school year. I am hopeful federal funding will continue to allow us the opportunity to provide this invaluable program.”

