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Jackson Zoo to Host Gospel, Jazz and Blues Sundays

On any given day, visitors to the Jackson Zoo can hear the whooping and hooting of the gibbons as Cookie sings his love song to mate Sugar. And if you're lucky, cougar Shelby will approach the edge of her enclosure, look you dead in the eye and meow so convincingly you'd swear she was just an oversized house cat. Perhaps Rosie and Juno, the two 8,000 lb. African elephants, decide a loud trumpet is in order for the day.

Those are just a few of the sounds that make the Jackson Zoo such a unique place, and this spring and fall they will be joined by celebrated and award-winning local Gospel, Jazz and Blues musicians the first three Sundays of April, May, September, October and November.

The lineup for April is:

April 6th

Triumph – Come enjoy four joyous voices performing contemporary and traditional Gospel.

April 13th

Barry Leach - Award-winning Jazz guitarist will be performing Jazz standards and selections from his CDs.

April 20th

Jesse Robinson - Jackson's own and Mississippi's legendary Blues man will play traditional and contemporary Blues.

The performances are included with regular admission and will be performed from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Wildlife Amphitheatre.

“We have such a rich and diverse community of local musicians here in Jackson, and we thought it would be such a great treat to have them perform at the Zoo,” said zoo director Beth Poff. “We encourage folks to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and spend a Sunday afternoon with us.”

“Zoo Gospel, Jazz and Blues Sundays” is sponsored by the Jackson Free Press and WJSU 88.5 FM.

Visitors are encouraged to check out the new frog exhibit, “Froggy Bottom,” while they are here as well. Froggy Bottom features over twenty species of frogs and salamanders from Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, North America and Australia.

2008 has been declared the “Year of the Frog” to highlight the serious extinction crisis facing 1/3 of all amphibian species world-wide.

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Take a ride on the endangered species carousel or ride the train for a charge of \$2.00. Zoo admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$5.40 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2, and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free of charge.

The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.

The Jackson Zoo is located at 2918 West Capitol Street and is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Jackson Zoo, call (601) 352-2581 or visit www.jacksonzoo.org.

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