At the library

The Calhoun Memorial Library is more than halfway through its summer reading program, everyone, but there is still plenty of time to dive into a good book, or take part in the library's summer reading program activities.

On that note, if you haven't already done so, mark July 31 on your calendar for River Valley Raptors will be stopping by at 10:30 a.m. during the Calhoun Memorial Library's children's storyhour. The interactive program lasts 45 minutes to an hour and attendees will learn about hawks, falcons and owls and each raptor's unique adaptations, such as how a hawk's talons are so strong, they can pick something up that is nine times its own weight, while owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees. Another interesting fact? Falcons have reached 242 mph while diving for prey. The birds are such fearsome predators that humans have used falcons for hunting for more than 3,000 years.

Besides learning about each bird's distinctive features, River Valley Raptors, which is based out of Buffalo City, Wis., discusses conservation of these amazing birds and what people may do to help them thrive. The program is free and open to the public.

Beneficial Bites meets at 1 p.m. July 24 at the Calhoun Memorial Library. The topic is tempeh, a traditional Indonesian food made from soybeans. Tempeh is high in protein, probiotics and is often used as a meat replacement for vegetarians. Stop in to learn all of tempeh's many health benefits. The event is free and includes food samples.

For more information about the library or its programs, visit calhounmemoriallibrary.org or check out our Facebook page.

New fiction

"Nothing But the Bones," by Brian Panowich. Since his teens Nelson "Nails" McKenna has been an enforcer for Gareth Burroughs, the crime boss of Bull Mountain, Ga. Nails doesn't particularly enjoy his job as an enforcer, but once in the Burroughs crime family, you are in for life. Despite his size and occupation Nails does have a softer side, rarely seen, but it's there and one night at the local bar Nails defends a woman against her abuser. Nails loses his temper, and kills the man in front of witnesses and not even Burroughs can get him out of this mess. He does, however, instruct Nails and Dallas, the woman he rescued, to head for Jacksonville, where arrangements have been made for the duo to disappear. Easier said than done. Dallas is the kind of person who has a history of making bad decisions, many of which has made her more than one enemy. Dallas is unlike any woman Nails have ever met, and despite the danger, vows to protect with his life. Yet, with so many people wanting the couple dead making it to Jacksonville is near impossible. Backs to the wall, and nothing left to lose, the two outcasts plan to run the gauntlet. Nails and Dallas know the score; it's either live free, or die hard.