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By Julie Clements

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## Coutts Museum hosts open studio night

The Coutts Museum of Art hosting an open studio night once a week

Those wanting to get creative but lacking the space at home have a new option with a program started by the Coutts Museum of Art in El Dorado.

The museum has begun holding an open studio night at the museum from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday, located in the classroom across the alley.

"The goal is just to provide a place people in the community can come and do a project," said Rod Seel, Coutts Museum director. "They can make a mess and we have supplies and materials they may not have."

During this time, people can work on a project they already have going or get involved with something else.

Seel said there was no pressure, no structure and no skills needed to attend.

They also will have museum staff and area artists there to offer help with projects and periodically will hold a more organized class people can attend.

During a recent session, artist Richard Albright was on hand to show those who wanted to give it a try how to make a chair out of an aluminum can.

"I just like all arts and crafts," Albright said. "I've done it all my life. I appreciate the Coutts opening this up to people."

Barbara Steckline also was at the class.

"I get to come down and get away from where I normally work and I enjoy it," she said, as she worked on creating her chair before getting to work on her gouache, or water-based, painting she had brought down. "These are wonderful people here with all kinds of skills."

Another person taking advantage of the space was Jack Sanders.

He was working on a colored pencil drawing of a bird.

"I told my grandchildren if they named a favorite bird, I would draw it for them," he explained.



PHOTO/ JULIE CLEMENTS

Richard Albright helps Terri Scott with the aluminum can chair she is making.

That left him with projects drawing everything from a Purple Finch and Meadowlark to a Blue Jay and Bald Eagle.

"It kind of makes me get busy and come down here," he said. "I get started doing something and not put it off."

He also enjoyed associating with everyone else there.

"It is a quiet place to sit and work," he said.

The group was joined by Terri Scott, who works at the museum and does art as well.

"I always think after the first of the year I will get all these projects done," she said.

This provides her the motivation to get them done.

"It gets kind of boring by yourself," she said. "I thought it would be fun to be around other people and get inspired. I think you're more motivated than by yourself."

For more information on the program, call the Coutts at 316-321-1212.

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