



The Lillian

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MARCH 2023

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 27, Number 3

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Lillian's Quicklooks

What's Missing in This Picture?



That's correct! The sunken, abandoned, destined to become a Perdido Bay "dead head" pleasure cruiser is gone! Nobody seems to know how or who as of presstime but who cares? It's gone ... or is it ... ?

Patience, Patience & Sound Advice

Lillian Fire and Rescue address U.S. 98 resurface nightmare:

Chief and Deputy Chief spoke with some of the individuals in charge of managing the traffic. Here are some things to note:

1. Why isn't construction done at night? The temperatures at night have been too cold. The material laid has to be above 45 degrees.
2. Traffic is being managed as best as it can. ALDOT and the contractor are aware of the delays and have heard the complaints.
3. Drive safely and slowly. Be patient. Impatience and frustration won't make it go any faster. We have responded to multiple accidents in the last several days because of the construction. Please be careful out there.

Let There Be Light!

And we have it. Progress continues at the Lillian boat launch as construction picks up with the good weather.

If you haven't seen proof, it's there: The lights are restored and automatically switch on as the sun sets into the west! Won't be long now.

SPRAWL WAR RAGES ON

The "Take Back Lillian" campaign prevailed in its bid to block a new subdivision on Highway 98.

More than 100 turned out for the Feb. 2 Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in Robertsdale to secure the denial of a zoning change for Timberland Trace. The 29 acres at Highway 98 and CR 91 is owned by Swift Land and Timber, LLC, and the developer is D.R. Horton.

"Here is a link to submit an opposition letter. It takes about 30 seconds to complete and send."

<https://forms.office.com/r/CmWm874uZ8>

Besides the huge crowd that showed up to fight the proposed 80-plot subdivision, the planning commission received hundreds of letters opposing the subdivision, said Planning Commission Chairman Steven Pumphrey.

(SPRAWL Continued on page 12)

William's Address Wins the Day

Highlights of the "Take Back Lillian" presentation to Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission, as compiled and presented by David Williams:



Baldwin County has paid Design Workshop \$45,000 to help with updating our Vision of the future for Baldwin County growth. Here are a few points from its public surveys and analysis:

* **Eighty-three percent** of the surveyed citizens were very concerned about (ADDRESS Continued on page 23)

BIRTH OF A PARK OR LAND GRAB?

One Neighborhood Struggles With Loss

If he had it to do over, Melvin Whitehurst never would have deeded over ten acres of family farmland to Baldwin County.

Of course, he did it with signed documents that the county would lease it back to Lillian's black community organization for \$1 per year. It was an agreement back in the early 2000's with Sam Jenkins, the only black commissioner in Baldwin County's history.

Today, the 10 acres of generational wealth they gave up would be worth a couple hundred thousand. But the money is not the point.

Whitehurst looks out his wrap-around picture windows across Highway 98 from the new Fields Crossing subdivision. When long-

time Lillians look at the cookie-cutter houses and tiny lots carving up the countryside, they can see in real time the gentrification so many saw coming.

And once those clock hands start spinning (PARKS Continued on page 12)



Dr. Melvin & Liz Whitehurst

Legion Ham Dinner Fundraiser set for Sunday, March 26

A big "thank you" to everyone who attended the Ham Dinner on February 26! Now, don't forget to place a reminder on your calendars for the ham dinners on Sunday March 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club Hall. The dinners are our fundraisers for the year and enable us to provide services to the community through veteran's assistance.

Along with the arrival of new residents in Lillian, the snowbirds have returned. As a result there are questions regarding the Medical Closet which is maintained by the American Legion, Post 48. One frequently asked question is "what are the costs relative to needed items?" The answer is very simple - there is no cost for any requested item. The other question is, "Is this available only to veterans?" Again, the answer is very simple, no. These items can be used by any member of the Lillian community. The Medical Closet contains many

items for use by the Lillian community: wheel chairs, hospital beds, raised toilet stools, shower stools, canes, etc.

The individuals to contact are as follows: Bill Burns at 251 962-4993 and Darrel Ochs at 251 961-1291. We are very fortunate to have this much needed service and we invite everyone to use it.

So if you are a veteran and current post legionnaire please support our ham dinner on Sunday March 26 and join our great organization, for a minimum yearly cost it helps our community and Veterans of every war. Isn't

"The focus has always been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans"

it time for you to get involved if you are a veteran, don't wait now is the time for all veterans to support an organization that works to help you.



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavalley,
Adjutant

The focus has always been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans.

Ask anyone of our veterans for an application.

If you cannot make the ham dinner, membership applications may be

and have a cup of coffee with us on Wednesdays - we'd like to meet you.

Every Wednesday morning 9 to 11 a.m. many of our members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48. The building is located next door to the Lillian Community Club, where the POW/MIA flag is flying.

This is a time when volunteers may be building ramps, re-working computers, helping with the landscape, or cleaning and restocking the medical closet. Why not drop by and join us!

All veterans who have served since December 7, 1941 are eligible to become American Legion Members.

picked up at the American Legion Building next to the Lillian Community Club on Wednesday mornings between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Come by

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Perdido Bay Residents,

Your bay is being used as a dump. International Paper is dumping chemicals into our bay. The water is toxic to larvae and is herbicidal. Testing by Friends of Perdido Bay has demonstrated the toxicity. Our government has not only allowed this to happen but has supported it. No longer do we see shrimp boats or crabbers in our beautiful bay. This million dollar fishery is gone. Paper mills are the problem. Restore Perdido Bay to its once prolific past. Join Friends of Perdido Bay with a \$30.00 annual membership. Send your membership (Name, Address and Telephone Number) to: Friends of Perdido Bay, 38 S. Blue Angel Parkway, PMB 350, Pensacola, FL

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There is Strength in Numbers

Thanks to Lillian resident David Williams who made a wonderful, informative presentation at the February Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. He explained the many reasons why the proposed 80-home project at US Highway 98 and County Road 91 should not be approved. The commission agreed and overturned the staff's recommendation for approval. The recommendation for denial of the rezoning request will be addressed at the March 21 regular commission meeting.

The main reason for denial is to halt urban sprawl in our rural neighborhood. If the rezoning is allowed, the project would provide seven to eight homes to an acre. This would affect drainage

and traffic in the area. It would also cause additional concern for the police and fire departments as well as local schools that are already overcrowded.

Williams is representing those in the community who wish to maintain our rural atmosphere which we all enjoy as opposed to urban sprawl that zoning like this would allow. He is also proposing an amendment to the zoning that would allow only one home to an acre, similar to one already approved for the Daphne area.

At the zoning meeting commissioners were impressed with the number of area residents who attended the meeting to support Williams. They also mentioned the many emails they received in opposition to the rezoning. There is strength in



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

numbers.

The Baldwin County Board will address the issue at their next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 21 in the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse County second floor Commission Meeting Chambers, 1100 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope. It would be great if we could get a large group to attend to show our support for denial. Please try to attend.

If you are unable to join us in Fairhope, contact the commission administrator by email, agary@baldwincountyal.gov. Your email will be distributed to all four commissioners.

Shepard of the Bay Blood Drive Rescheduled for March 16

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 12851 Perdido St., Lillian, will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on March 16, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

To make an appointment to donate, sign up online at redcrossblood.org, download the Red Cross Donor App, or call 800-733-2767. Please reserve your appointment in ad-

vance. This helps the Red Cross to plan.

With a simple blood donation, we have the ability to help save the life of someone who could be a coworker, loved one or neighbor. Blood is routinely transfused to patients with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients and trauma victims.

The short amount of time it

takes to donate can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical condition.

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative and A negative.

According to the Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type that can be safely transfused to anyone, and is often used to treat trauma patients.

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Submit your news items, photos, and community interest pieces to *The Lillian:* email to lillianedi-tor@yahoo.com

Call Julie at 703-217-2874 to place your ad in The Lillian!



Pickleball Courts in the Works!

Progress is being made on the new pickleball courts being constructed at the Lillian Recreational Park. Thanks to a grant from Impact 100 Baldwin County, area pickleball players will soon have four dedicated courts to play on. Depending on weather, the courts are expected to open in either late March or early April. Check the Park's Facebook page for up-to-date information on the opening.

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Church Training	5:00 pm	Missions for girls grades 1-6	
Evening Worship	6:00 pm		
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Friday</u>	
Men's Breakfast	8:00 am	Women's Bible Study	10:00 am

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The Lillian

PO Box 1088

Lillian, AL 36549

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The Lillian newspaper is a monthly publication. Advertisements may be dropped off at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, mailed to *The Lillian* at PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549 or emailed to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Advertisement inquiries can be directed to Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 (cell) during the business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
 1/2 Page (horiz.) = 10" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/2 Page (vertical) = 5" wide x 11" tall
 1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall
 Business Card = 3.5" wide x 2" tall
 Classified = maximum of 40 words

The Lillian is not responsible for the factual content of ads or articles submitted to us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome but must be signed and include contact information should our staff have any questions.

No letters will be accepted regarding property owner associations' problems. All letters must be legible and limited to 300 words or less.

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and information from the community. Please submit by:

- Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549
- Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com
- Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library

DISCLAIMER

The content of articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor, the board of directors for *The Lillian* or the Lillian Action Committee.

We are also not responsible for the business practices of our advertisers.

POLICY

Thank you for your articles and news items, but due to space limitations, some submissions may not be included in this issue. They will be included in a future edition when possible. The editorial board has the right to deny any articles or ads not suitable for this publication.

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the March issue of *The Lillian* will be February 15.

Send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 or email chewlatta@yahoo.com for advertising information.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor: Sally McKinney
 Managing Editor: David Monaghan.
 Board Members: Nancy Scott, Gloria Cramp, Jackie Reid, Florence McLendon, Tammy Robinson.

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AMISH GRACE Still Offers Us a Deep Revelation of Forgiveness

My article this month is about the book, *AMISH GRACE: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* written by Donald Kraybill, Steven Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher. (Published March 2010) While the book is 13 years old and its topic is 16 years old, I believe it remains a story worth of today.

On Monday morning, October 2, 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish school in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. In front of 25 horrified pupils, the gunman ordered the male students and the teacher to leave. After tying the legs of the 10 girls who were remaining, the gunman prepared to shoot them using an automatic rifle and 400 rounds of ammunition that he brought for the task. The oldest hostage, a thirteen-year-old, begged the gunman to "shoot me first and let the little ones go." Refusing her offer, he opened fire on all of them, killing five and leaving the others critically wounded. He then shot himself as police stormed the building. His motivation? "I am angry at God for taking my little daughter," he told the children before the massacre.

The story captured the attention of broadcast and print journalism in the United States and around the world. By Tuesday morning some 50 television crews had clogged the small village of Nickel Mines, staying for five days until the killer and the children were buried. The blood was barely dry on the schoolhouse floor when Amish parents brought words of forgiveness to the family of the one who had slain their children. The outside world was incredulous that such forgiveness could be offered so quickly for such a heinous crime. Of the hundreds of media queries that the authors received about the shooting, questions about forgiveness rose to the top. Forgiveness, in fact, eclipsed the tragic



Moving Forward

By Rev. Tina Lockett

story, trumping the violence and capturing the world's attention.

Within a week of the murders, the idea of, "Amish forgiveness" was a central theme in more than 2,400 news stories around the world. The Washington Post, The New York Times, NBC Nightly News, CBS Morning News, Fox News, and dozens of other media outlets heralded the forgiving Amish. Three weeks after the shooting, "Amish forgiveness" had appeared in almost 3,000 news stories and over half a million web sites. Just days after attending the funerals to bury their own children, grieving Amish families accounted for half of the 75 people who attended the killer's burial. The gunman's widow was deeply moved by their presence as Amish families greeted her and her three children. The forgiveness went beyond talk and graveside presence: the Amish also supported a fund for the shooter's family.

The book, *AMISH GRACE*, explores the many questions this story raises about the religious beliefs and habits that led the Amish to forgive so quickly. It looks at the ties between forgiveness and church membership in a semi-cloistered communal society and ask if Amish practices parallel or diverge from other religious and secular notions of forgiveness. It also addresses the matter of why forgiveness became news. "All the religions teach it," mused an observer, "but no one does it like the Amish." Regardless of the cultural seedbed that nourished this story, the surprising act of Amish forgiveness begs for a deeper exploration. How could the Amish do this? What did this act mean to them? And how might their witness prove useful to the rest of us?

In many Christian denominations we observe a time before Easter Sunday as a season of Lent, a season of forgiveness.

This is a time when we seek to ask the Lord to forgive us of our sins, those things that we have done which have hurt God. Is this also a time when we can begin to forgive those who may have hurt us.

In the months and years since October 2006 a long list of shootings have occurred at school, malls, parks, churches. (In the months and years before 2006 a long list of shootings had already occurred.) We might ask ourselves if such a tragic event happened to us, could we, like the Amish, begin to offer forgiveness and grace?

American Legion

HAM DINNER

Sunday, March 26

11am to 1pm at

Lillian Community Club

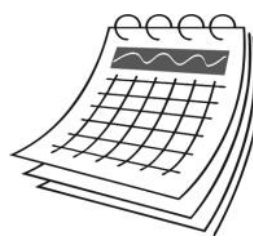
\$12 per plate - includes ham with raisin sauce, green beans, yams, potatoes, salad, rolls, dessert, iced tea/coffee



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Community Calendar



- March 7, 14, 21, 28 - ALANON meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m., Lillian United Methodist Church in the conference room.
- March 11 - Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)
- March 23-25 - Trash-N-Treasure Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., sponsored by the United Women in Faith Group of Lillian UMC, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.
- March 25 - Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)

SEND ITEMS TO
LILLIANEDITOR@YAHOO.COM

Time to Talk a Look at What's Going On With Alabama Taxes

It's time to talk about Alabama taxes. There is some happy news concerning Alabama taxes this year, if one can ever say anything from the Alabama Department of Revenue can make you happy! But yes, the state has a \$2.7 billion surplus and is looking at ways to give some of it back to us!

One of my sources note that Alabama legislators are considering an exemption of the first \$6,000 of taxable retirement income for those 65 and older. This would be a major tax savings for those who have to report and pay taxes on their retirement income (a maximum reduction of \$300 in tax). Happy news indeed!

It is mid-February as I write this article, and the Alabama forms are NOT yet ready for filing, so I can only report what I have read about in the Alabama booklet – there's not much new:

What's Going On For 2022:

Check out the updated website at www.revenue.alabama.gov for downloadable forms, fill-in-forms, instructions, and the most accurate up-to-date information available. The website also hosts links to on-line filing providers supporting the Federal/State electronic filing programs.

Refund Status: For the most up-to-date information concerning the status of your current year refund, call 1-855-894-7391 or check the website.

Identity Quiz: If you receive a notice to complete an ID Confirmation Quiz, it is not because you are suspected of ID theft. The purpose of the

quiz is to protect your identity as the filer and prevent loss of taxpayer dollars to thieves.

Credits: Certain tax credits are now required to be pre-approved through My Alabama Taxes (MAT) at www.myalabamataxes.alabama.gov. See the credit instructions in the Booklet and Schedule OC instructions.

Standard Deduction & Dependent Exemption: Acts 2022-292 and 2022-297 increases the standard deduction \$1,000 for married taxpayers & \$500 for all others, and changes the threshold for the \$1,000 dependent exemption from \$20,000 to \$50,000 allowing more taxpayers to qualify for the larger exemption amount.

There is a new storm shelter credit. Act 2021-540 provides a credit of the lesser amount of \$3,000 or 50% of the cost of a storm shelter constructed or acquired and installed at your primary residence.

Some of the basics for filing an Alabama return include:

Check whether you have to file an Alabama tax return. For both full and part year residents, if you are Single and your gross income is **less than** \$4,500, Head of Household \$8,200, Married Filing Jointly \$11,500 and Married Filing Separately \$5,750, you do not have to file. When calculating gross income, you do **not** include Social Security or retirements from the Federal Government or the Military. Also an employer or a Union established and paid for you, are also not includable as Alabama gross income.

Alabama did not suspend miscellaneous deductions as the Federal government did. You can take some employee expenses not reimbursed by your employer, union dues, small tools, uniform maintenance, travel, transportation, or meal expenses for your job. Also, other expenses like tax preparation fees, safe deposit rental, certain legal and accounting fees, IRA custodial fees, and financial management or advisory fees are still itemized deductions in Alabama. These expenses are subject to a 2% Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) threshold before they can be claimed.

Alabama also allows deductions for Casualty Losses due to theft, vandalism, fire, storm, and car, boat, and other accidents or similar causes. Of course, these losses are still limited to amounts over 10% of your AGI less \$100.

You can deduct expenses to retrofit/upgrade your home to resist wind or flood damage. You may deduct from gross income the lesser of 50 percent of the cost or up to \$3,000 to upgrade your home. You must have a certification as prescribed under Chapter 31D, Title 27, *Code of Alabama 1975* or the Alabama Residential and Energy Codes Board, so make certain you select a reputable company to make these changes.

For folks new to Alabama, who have not owned or purchased a home ten years prior to the purchase of the first-home may take a deduction for contributions to a first-time home buyer savings account. Individuals must open an account with a financial institution, and the account must be



Let's Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs
CPA, EA

designated as a First-Time and Second Chance Home Buyer Savings Account.

For those of you who are uninsured or underinsured for a specific loss, you can make deposits to a Catastrophe Savings Account to prepare for such a loss. You may deduct from Alabama gross income the amount of your deposits for the year. The maximum deduction is \$2,000 if your insurance deductible is equal to or less than \$1,000. If the deductible is greater than \$1,000, the amount of your deduction from your Alabama gross income is the lesser of \$15,000 or twice the amount of the insurance deductible. If you choose not to obtain insurance for a specific loss, then the deduction is the lesser of \$250,000 or the value of your legal residence.

If you have a mortgage on your property, your mortgager will not allow you to self-insure.

By the way, wait at least 90 days for your refund – this hasn't changed from prior years.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any specific questions or areas of interest you would like addressed in future columns (leave out your personal information), my email is carolpkovacs@aol.com. Use "Let's Talk Taxes" as the Subject.

Easter Sunrise Service Set at Pirates' Cove Marina

Baldwin County District Attorney Bob Wilters is set to speak at the April 9th Sunrise Service at Pirates' Cove. Everyone is invited to come early to watch the sunrise and have coffee and pastries before a short Easter service at 7 AM. Music will be provided by the Josephine Singers. In case of a big crowd, bring a folding chair. For more information, call or text Caolyn Armstrong of Josephine Baptist Church at 251-269-0484. Come worship the Savior in the most beautiful place in the world!





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Frosted Flakes: Best Winter Breakfast

All kidding aside, these winter months create the perfect weather for snuggling up and staying inside our homes. This is also a great time to get outside and see if you can spot any homes made by insects in our bushes and trees. Especially for this critter, the gall wasp. This insect makes very weird homes!

The gall wasp, also incorrectly called gallflies, are in the wasp superfamily *Cynipoidea*. There are about 1,400 species of this very small creature (0.25 to 0.30 inch) worldwide, with about 360 species in Europe and nearly 800 species in North America, 600 of which are small, black and shiny.

Gall wasps have the distinctive wasp body shape with the pinched waist. The antennae are straight and consist of two or three segments. The wings are typically simply structured. The female's egg-depositing ovipositor is often seen protruding from the tip of the *metasoma*, which is a fancy, scientific way of describing an invertebrate's rear end.

Male gall wasps are rare. Reproduction usually occurs by *parthenogenesis*, which means that the larvae develop from unfertilized eggs. This breeding change may have happened over the course of time due to many generations being infected with Wolbachia bacteria. This bacteria spreads by *Significantly Altering* the reproductive cycle of their host. Could you imagine?

Gall wasps won't sting people or animals. Their stinger isn't designed for attack, it's a long tube that lays eggs. It can pierce through the woody tissue of trees and bushes to insert their eggs. After the egg hatches into a larva, it begins to secrete materials that cause the plant tissues around it to begin to grow faster than normal, creating a *gall*. Their common name comes from the galls they cause on plants!

Galls are formations on the stems, leaves, or bark of plants. They range in size from as small as a bead, to as large as a golf ball. They can be waxy, or hairy, or spiny, or smooth, or blend in with the surrounding area so seamlessly it is hardly even noticeable!

What actually triggers the formation of the gall formation is largely unknown. Scientists love to speculate as to the cause; is it chemical, mechanical, and/or viral? Some combination? The hatching larvae nourish themselves with the nutritive tissue of the galls. They are well-protected from external environmental effects. The gall increases in size as the larva grows. The larva transforms into an adult within the gall. The young wasps will chew their way out leaving visible round exit holes.

The host plants, and the size and shape of the galls, are specific to the species of gall wasp, with about 70% of the known species parasitizing various types of oak trees. Galls can be found on nearly all parts of such trees, including the leaves, buds, branches, and roots. Other species of gall wasps live in eucalyptus trees, rose bushes or maple trees, as well as many herbs. Each wasp is usually specific to a single host plant species. This is because the process required to trigger gall formation is unique to each plant species.

For example, the citrus gall wasp will only infect citrus trees. Other plants and trees will not be infected by it. If no citrus tree is available, the citrus gall wasp will not be able to reproduce. Originally, it only infected finger lime, but when other citrus trees were introduced, it infected those, too.

Although galls are basically tumors on plants, most do not affect the vegetation in a detrimental way. The gall makers take particular care not to kill their hosts, as the amount of plants that will allow them to inhabit their tissue is limited to a single species. The only major harm galls pose is one of degrading the aesthetic value of the plant. Galls also cause no real economic injury to humans.

Interestingly, some galls are useful to human culture. The *Cynips gallae-tinctoriae* has been used as a source of ink. These galls contain 50 to 65 percent tannic acid and are very useful as ink or in dyes for wool. The Greeks used the *Cynips theophrastea* gall for lamp fuel. Honeydew producing galls are used to attract bees and flies in the agricultural industry. Some galls have been used for food and even medicine!



Know Your Critters

By Celeste
Hadley-Champion



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R.I.P. DEXTER

Hi-ho, the Derry-o ... The Cheese Stands Alone!

'The Mouse Takes The Cheese and The Cheese Standalone'

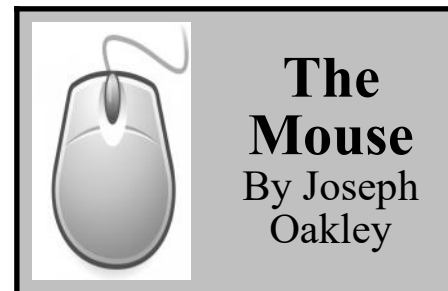
What is a "Standalone Workstation"? In short A computer that is not connected to a network.

The word network is defined as: a group or system of interconnected people or things. A computer network is defined as: a set of computers sharing resources located on or provided by network nodes. The computers use common communication protocols over digital interconnections to communicate with each other. Simply put if your computer can access the Internet, it is on a network which is called a Wide Area Network (WAN). If your computer is connected to other devices, nodes and not on the internet is on a Local Area Network (LAN). Most of us use the Wide Area Network WAN in part to access our e-mail, shop on line and more beyond the walls of our home.

The local area network can be combined with the wide area network through a router.

The standalone workstation cannot be compromised by outside intrusions because it is not on a network. This in itself makes it more secure. Printers, scanners and other peripherals have to be physically connected to the workstation. This keeps it separated from any outside communication and connections.

Until next time. Remember, Standalone for total privacy.



The Mouse
By Joseph Oakley

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ENTERTAINMENT

Original Works That Really Work

You probably won't be singing along with Jonathan Puzan.

You aren't likely to hear a lot of songs you know. But that doesn't seem to bother anybody in the standing-room only crowd on a recent Friday night at the Paradise Beach Fillin' Station. Everyone seemed to be just fine with that.

You likely haven't heard his tunes before - unless you've seen Puzan at one of the many venues from coffee shops to honky tonks he plays all around the Pensacola-Gulf Shore-Mobile area. Yet his sounds will be soothingly familiar.

The drizzle of warm southern rain in the bayou blues of *Deluge*.

The gritty bitter ballad *Criminal* reverberating with the irony and the anguish of addiction.

The catchy upbeat ditty based on brotherhood and barroom brawls in *Known By Numbers*.

The pretty music box chime of the instrumental *Here Comes the Rain*.

Puzan's sounds and lyrics are compelling, but not intrusive. They're delightful without being demanding. You can tune in to the insightful lyrics, tap a toe and sway to the comfortable rhythms or carry on a conversation with a date.

Puzan picked up a guitar and started writing songs when he was 13 growing up on the tropical shores of Guam. He came to the States at 18 to shape a life around his passion for audio engineering, playing music and writing songs. Now 28, he continues to "seek expression, impact, knowledge, connection, and understanding through music and art," as he puts it.

"Passionate" is the word that keeps reappearing when talk turns to Puzan's music.

He's a "passionate" musician who can play



almost any instrument," one critic wrote.

"I have ever to face the challenges and navigate through tomorrow with passion, honor for my memories and motions, and believing in myself," Puzan says about his musical journey.

The founder of Honeybee Music Studio in Pensacola, Puzan is more than just a singer-

songwriter. He is also an independent live sound technician and studio recording and mixing engineer. You can hear his sound production savvy in instrumentals that seem sometimes other-worldly, mysteriously pleasing. They defy description, leaving the listener wondering "What is that? How did he make that sound?"

"Feel good, easy-listening music coming from this guy. A little bluesy, a little rock, but unlike anything you've ever heard," another music writer said.

Puzan will be playing at the Paradise Beach Fillin' Station March 3, 10 and 17.

"Puzan's sounds and lyrics are compelling, but not intrusive. They're delightful without being demanding"



Bayside Baptist Hosts Gospel Bluegrass Band Sunday March 19

We are hosting the Sandspur Band at Bayside Baptist Sunday, March 19, at 6 p.m. Come enjoy the Gospel Bluegrass Band performing music that is "Guaranteed to stick to your Soul". At 33677 Hwy 98, Lillian, Al 36549. More information, 812-371-2323

(SPRAWL Continued from page 1)

"All of these [letters] are requesting that it be denied," Pumphrey said at the meeting. "We understand there's a large majority here tonight all in opposition."

The commission voted unanimously to deny recommendation to rezone the land for Timberland Trace as well the application for the subdivision. The land is now zoned B4, to allow major commercial facilities such as big box stores. The rezoning to RSF2 would have made it acceptable for single-family residential.

"The infrastructure is not set up for this amount of growth," Williams said.

"The zoning that's there now is wrong," said planning commission member Brandon Bias. "Even making it better is not the right zoning."

The final decision will lie with the Baldwin County Commission, which rules on zoning and subdivision approvals.

Last year the tract was approved for zoning that would allow a 206 lot RV park. Planners warned it would be difficult to stop that project if the subdivision was denied.

Lillian neighbors argued that the subdivision would strain already overtaxed infrastructure and destroy what spokesperson David Williams described as the "peaceful, rural way of life." He cited infrastructure inadequacies in schools, highways and police and fire service (see side bar, page 23).

"The infrastructure is not set up for this amount of growth," Williams said. "Our water and sewage system already has issues and, to my knowledge, has not changed anything to support this growth and prevent further damage to our land and waterways."

Farmers who have worked the land for generations said the plot for Timberland Trace is wetland they know is too soggy to farm. Adding residential drainage to the ecosystem would ruin acreage now yielding crops, they said.

"They're going to drown us out," said farmer Henry Cassabaum.

Pointing to the way Swift and DR Horton has "stripped the hills of vegetation," Lillian resident John Havendar called them "devouring monsters."

"We need you to help save us from these two corporations that just devour land," Havendar told the commission. "These are two corporations that are in opposition to thousands of people."

County Commissioners will rule on the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial at the regular March meeting at 8:30 a.m. March 21 at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, 1100 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope.

(PARKS Continued from page 1)

forward, they can be pretty hard to unwind.

Whitehurst, pastor at Olive Manor Church of Christ in Pensacola, is an elder of a community of about a dozen black families that has lived and farmed on the land just east of Highway 97 for so many generations they've all lost track. These families, living on the western edge of Lillian, were mostly vegetable farmers and always had a lot of kids and livestock running around the acreage.

Nearly 40 years ago, the community thought it would be nice for the kids to have a park to play softball and to hold family get-togethers. So the families sold chicken dinners to buy about ten acres for a neighborhood park with a community organization dubbed the Lillian Recreation Center located at 32545 U.S. Highway 98, Lillian. (The Lillian Recreational Park on Widell Ave. in Lillian would come years later.)

In time the families built a cook shack where they, to this day, dish up treats and meals for birthday parties, Easter egg hunts, family reunions, funerals and softball games. More chicken dinners raised \$23,000 for state and federal matching grants to build a fence around the park, a basketball court, lights, put in playground equipment and bleachers. Everyone pitched in to mow and maintain it.

As the years went by, the dads aged into grandpas, many of the sons moved away and the park center organization was struggling to maintain the grounds. In the early 2000's, Whitehurst reached out to Jenkins at the county for help with maintenance and mowing. The county couldn't put its machines on the property unless it owned the land, commissioners told him.

"They told us we could deed the land to the county and they'd maintain it," Whitehurst said. In return, "he assured us they would lease it back to us for \$1 per year," Whitehurst said.

Whitehurst still has all the documents and receipts confirming his account of the park over the years.

But there were strings attached to their deal with the county the community did not foresee. Signs with county park rules sprung up. Park closes at dark. No alcohol allowed. But most devastating - the community was barred from locking park gates at night.

It wasn't long, according to Whitehurst, before people began squatting, camping and vandalizing the grounds. One interloper allegedly ran electrical lines and a hose to an adjacent property to pilfer park electricity and water. When commuting members reported the abuse to county officials and police, Whitehurst said, nothing happened.

"We could lock the building, but as fast as we locked the door, they broke them down," Whitehurst said.

For a few years, the county allotted \$100 per month to the Lillian Recreational Center to pay for maintenance. Then those funds dried up and basic upkeep dwindled away. Neighborhood volunteers cleaned and repaired the park after Hurricane Sally. Lately, Whitehurst says he has been paying for cleaning the bathroom and cookhouse out of his own pocket and doing basic repair as best he can himself. The county proposes razing the building, now in questionable repair, and replacing it with an open-air pavilion.

"That means when it rains or it's cold, we're out of



business," said Whitehurst's wife, Elizabeth. "We've been fixing meals for family gatherings there for years."

Now all the Lillian Recreation Center organization wants is to reclaim control of the acres they signed over two decades ago.

"A lot of people around here are mad at me for what I did - deeding the land over to the county - and I don't blame them," Whitehurst said. "I'm mad at myself."

Several times they've petitioned the county to stand by the original lease agreement without open gates at night, without prohibiting alcohol and maintaining the structure, but it was a no go. The community organization is working with Foley attorney Mary Murchison to hammer out some sort of deal.

"It all came to a legal dead end," Murchison said. "It just doesn't seem to be a priority for the commission. It's a big county. But it seems they ought to be able to work something out."

County officials are silent on the issue and did not respond to questions about the Lillian Recreation Center, why the maintenance stipend ended and the legal reasons they couldn't stand by the original terms of the lease - without restrictions - or sell it back to the community. Inquiries made to county media contact Director of Public and Government Affairs for Baldwin County Sherry-Lea Botop, remain unaddressed and unanswered.

As the community struggles to regain family land they gave over to the county all those years ago, they watch with apprehension the changes that are sweeping across the countryside. The Whitehursts' tell about the first-ever flood last July when waters surged up on their carport just after new neighbors began settling across the road in Fields Crossing. They worry about inadequate police and fire services.

"We've lived here in Lillian peaceably all these years without any crime or problems," Whitehurst said. "Once you start to lose control of your neighborhood, it's a losing fight to get it back."

He remembers wistfully about the days back when the park was still the community's own land. They knew who came and went. They could protect their own building.

"It's a damn shame," Whitehurst says. "They're stealing that park from us."

He shakes his head and purses his lips. They'll sell chicken dinners again to buy the land back if they have to, he says.

"They never gave us a nickel for it, but if we have to pay to get it back, we will do it," he said.

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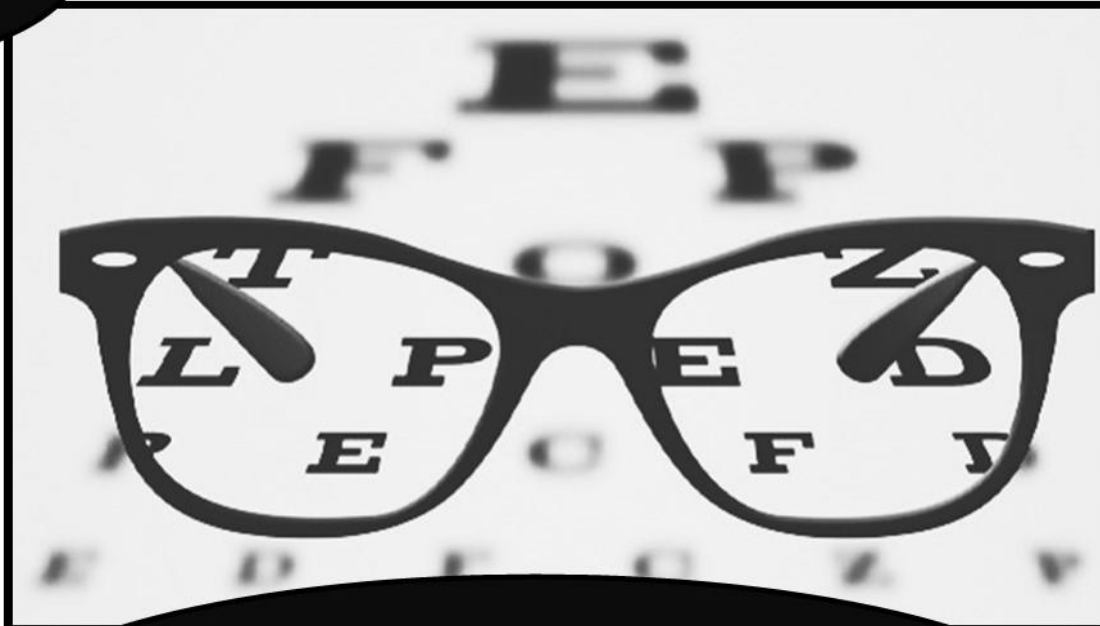


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**Lillian Perdido
Bay Library**
By Betty Bovat



Elvis was in the building when Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast hosted the third annual Be My Valentine Draw Down. He presented Sally McKinney with one of his scarves to keep as a remembrance of fun times in support of the shelter.

March 19 is 'Read to Me' Day

February was our Book Sale month and our library membership month. What a great sale we had! Everyone enjoyed purchasing a bag of books for \$3.

The next book sale will be in the whole month of August, so mark your calendars and take advantage of going home with a bag of books! Even though our book sale month is over, we continue to have books for sale throughout the year.

Thank you so much for the generous donations we received from our members.

March 19 is International "Read To Me" day, so come on over to the Lillian Library to check out some books for that particular day.

Books bring magic to life and reading can take you around the world!

If you have some books to donate that the copywrite is five years old or newer we would accept them. The older books can be given to The Waterfront Mission; they will even come out to your house to pick them up.

The Lillian Library is open five days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Mary's Shelter Hosts Draw Down

Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast hosted its third annual Be My Valentine Draw Down event recently in Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church parish hall. Winner of the \$10,000 payout was Margaret Bishop. The event also included lunch and silent and live auctions and a performance by the Gulf Coast's own Elvis, Shane Tucker.

Opened in 2006, Mary's Shelter has housed dozens of moms, their new babies and older children. The 24-hour facility provides a safe home as well as counseling to help the residents set goals for their future. Volunteers help with transportation to doctor visits, jobs and classes to provide better job opportunities. Others help with babysitting and upkeep of the facility. Volunteer opportunities also are available at Gulf Coast Thrift Store in Elberta. For more information visit the website, maryssheltergulfcoast.org or call 251-986-6200.

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Best Defense Against Uncertainty is to Let Your Loved Ones Know How You Feel About Them Often

There was a fairly good turn-out at the zoning board meeting last month by Lillian citizens who have had about enough of the takeover of Lillian land by developers. U.S Highway 98 is starting to have the appearance of a Mobile to Pensacola urban extension. The attraction of Lillian and surrounding area will quickly lose its rural asset if these builders are allowed to continue with their land grab.

God gave us the gift of beautiful land to cherish, not to cover every inch with concrete, pavement and as much stick and brick housing that can be shoved into every acre.

Like the song goes, they paved paradise to put up a parking lot. We all know how that goes. Strip malls that are abandoned to build more strip malls.

I'd rather see crops or wild flowers growing, even cows or horses. How about you?

Don't stop fighting for Lillian yet, the argument now goes to our commissioners and some aren't quite so caring about our land.

Grocery shopping is something we have to do but don't always enjoy, especially now since it costs us double of what we paid two years ago? The price of two bags of groceries, which doesn't include meat, shouldn't be one hundred dollars.

Something is wrong with this scenario. We'll all have to go on a diet. I



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

don't mean eating healthy. Have you seen the prices of the good stuff? No, I mean cutting back on how much we eat so we can shrink our grocery list. Maybe we'll have to go on a diet of bread and water.

I wonder if I could stretch a jar of peanut butter out by skimping a little bit. I can't live by bread alone. Just saying.

Here is something to think about: A London A and E doctor (ER in the U.S.) who has seen many severe injuries and fatalities during his career said that everyone should tell their loved-ones that they love them every day because we never know what may happen to them or to ourselves at any time.

How true. This has always been my philosophy and I have known people who have regretted not saying those words to a special person in their life before a tragedy hit.

"Who is wise? He that learns from every one. Who is powerful? He that governs his passions. Who is rich? He that is content. Who is that? Nobody." Benjamin Franklin.

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'Love Your Enemies'

In Matthew 5 Jesus instructs, "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." A little girl wrote to her pastor: Dear Pastor, I heard you say to love our enemies. I am only six and do not have any yet. I hope to have some when I am seven. Love, Jennifer. That may be your attitude. "I don't have any enemies. I love everybody and everybody loves me." Maybe so, but there may be persons who we secretly harbor ill feelings toward that we have never thought to classify under Jesus' definition as enemies, yet in a sense, they are enemies. Some enemies may arise because we try to do the right thing. Jesus never said, "Do not have enemies." Both Mother Teresa and Billy Graham, as respected as they were, had enemies. We can't help having enemies, but we can help how we respond to our enemies spiritually! There are three ways you can respond to an enemy. You can retaliate, resent, or release.

First, we can retaliate. A man was informed by his doctor that he had rabies but he had waited so long to go to the doctor

that nothing could be done about his condition. After telling the sad news, the doctor left. Later, he stopped back by to check on the patient who was writing something on a piece of paper. "Are you writing a will?" the doctor asked. "No," said the man, "I'm making a list of all the people I'm going to bite!" Spiritually, retaliation is unholy and deadly. Retaliation does permanent damage not only to our enemy but to us as well.

Second, we can secretly harbor resentment. The problem with harboring negative feelings toward someone else is, what those feelings do to us. Resentment is known as the "Emotion of Justice," as it is usually accompanied by the sense that we need to hold on to our resentment in order to take a moral stance on unacceptable behavior. To give up our resentment can often feel like we are letting the other person off the hook or condoning their behavior. Two distinguishing features of resentment are that it causes us to go over and over the situation in our minds and that it lingers over time. We are often initially so shocked by what has happened to us that the disappointment, frustration, or anger we feel becomes lodged and it's difficult to move on. That

resentment literally eats at us and leaves us bitter and leads to an erosion of our physical, emotional & spiritual health!

Third, Jesus says there is a better way to deal with our enemies, we can love them and release the hurt we carry. For our own sake, that is the only way we can deal with our enemies. When Kenneth was eighteen years old his father died. After his father died his mother and he tried to run the service station. As he worked, he noticed a large file of debts that had accumulated through the years. Since his father had died, people were refusing to pay what they owed on credit. Statements were sent and they were ignored. After a year and a half Kenneth and his mother sold the service station and got out of the business. They kept that file of debts, in hopes that those who owed them would do the right thing someday pay. One Sunday afternoon Kenneth's mother walked into the room with that file of debts in her hand and announced. "Son there is something that is eating at me about these debts, and I have decided to do something about them." Kenneth asked, "What are you going to do?" She said, "I am going to forgive them." "She then carried the file out into the backyard and gathered some sticks and made a fire on an old cook-out grill. Then



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

she took one out, read their name out loud, tore the debt in half and said, "I forgive you," and dropped it into the fire. She looked at Kenneth and asked, "Son, would you want to try it?" Kenneth said, "I don't think I can." His mother said, "Son, you don't have a choice about it, if you want to be forgiven, you must forgive them." Kenneth stood there in silence watching her burning those debts. Finally, he slowly reached into the file, got out a debt, read their name out loud, tore it up and dropped it into the fire. It took a good thirty minutes to complete the task, but when it was finished it was as if a heavy burden had been lifted. As he forgave, he was forgiven. "Because of this demonstration in forgiveness," says Kenneth, "that phrase in the Lord's prayer, '...forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...' has taken on a whole new meaning."

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And The Winner Is: Janet Silar!

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 80 calls dispatched by the 911 operators in January: 43 Medical Assistance; 10 Public Assists; 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents/Clean up; 1 Vehicle Fire; 3 Brush Fire; 4 Cancelled en route; 10 False Alarm/Miscellaneous; and 2 Aircraft Stand By.

LVFD would like to thank everyone who has sent in their annual donations for 2022/2023. Around October/November we usually see the vast volume of donations; however, we are pleased to say we are still seeing

checks being sent in weekly. If you haven't already sent yours in yet or, lost the solicitation letter, we have supplied a form with this article to fill out with your donation. Again, thank you all for your continued support of your local fire department.

During early February LVFD had a chili cook-off. All of the community was invited to join in the tasting and select their favorite chili. We had nine firefighters cook their favorite chili and were judged on the color, aroma, consistency, and taste of their chili. We are pleased to announce Janet

Siler one of our newer members came in first place and Walter Moll came in

Lillian Volunteer Fire Department
By Goretta Lysek

second. Thank you very much for all who participated.

Over the last few months we have recruited several new members to the fire department and we would like to introduce each of them to the community over the next few months.

This month I will introduce our chili winner, Janet Siler. Janet is married to Derek Siler and they have

two young girls named Savannah and Lilly. Janet currently teaches fifth grade at Foley Elementary.

Janett has already been on many calls and really enjoys helping people. We all welcome her to the department and we thank her for her dedication and commitment to the well being of the community.

Your donation is **Tax Deductable**. We are requesting a donation of \$75 per household or unit of property and for Businesses to contribute \$150.



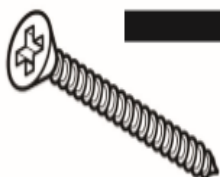
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The Happiness Project

The Ripple Effect of Volunteering

In this second installment of the HAPPINESS PROJECT series about the benefits of volunteering, we explore the value of its "ripple effect." Just like ripples created when you drop a stone in water, volunteering can set off a wave of positive chain reactions, in your life and in the community.

By Erin Attaway and Lucy Smith

Many Lillian organizations and churches rely heavily on volunteers. Most of the events you enjoy in Lillian – the festivals, the parades, the sporting events – would not occur without volunteers. Volunteers are our community's superheroes.

Join us! And become a superhero, too.

Volunteering may be part of a faith journey, or an exercise in compassion and leadership. Whatever brings you to volunteer, it builds a sense of connection and purpose, a way to use your skills or share a passion. No matter your age or any physical limitations, there is a place for you.

How do you make a difference? If you love to garden, volunteer to plant trees at the park. If you enjoy working with kids, become a coach, teach them to fish, or read. If photography is your thing, volunteer to take photos at community events and use the pictures to promote next year's event. When you capture the essence of what you enjoy, others will see it and want to join in.

The ripple effect of volunteering can change lives in ways you might not even realize.

When you stock shelves at a church food pantry, that simple act creates a

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

Volunteering to help with small, everyday things can make a big difference in someone's life. A friendly cup of coffee at church reduces the sense of isolation. A book you read to a child opens their imagination and the elderly neighbor you help with a yard project is immensely relieved. The small contribution of time or effort makes a huge difference.

If you think you have no special skills or time, something as simple as putting stamps on the envelopes for a shelter's fundraiser allows that event to become a success. There is no effort too small.

ripple to families in need. Those children, well-fed from loving hands, sleep better and do better in school the next day. Such a small contribution flows across the community and creates ripples of health and happiness all around.

Like ants, each tiny person builds a great kingdom.

Volunteering can ripple through your own family, too. To build a sense of connection with your children, volunteering to improve your community creates opportunities for them to learn and grow and see you as an inspiration. Show your kids how much fun it can be to volunteer and how easy it is to make a difference. Not only will you have a stronger bond, but you'll have great memories to talk about for years.

Maybe the ultimate ripple effect is the one it has on your health. Studies show that volunteers are happier, feel more connected, and are less depressed and stressed. Decreasing your risk for problems such as heart disease, depression, anxiety, obesity, addiction and even boredom. The phrase "volunteer for life" takes on a whole new meaning.

But don't take our word for it. Become a community volunteer and see what we mean. Email us at LillianVolunteers@gmail.com and explore how you, your friends and your family can create some ripples of your own.

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CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with a wide variety of events like birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits.

Happy birthday wishes in March go out to Andy Gauci, Ivy Pitard, Eric Goff, Jean Legg., Edward Heiner, Edi Langlois, Elaine Grounds, Marcia

Allen, Rita Roth, Joan Rugg, Bill Weaver, Bob Davidson, Tootsie Farrell, Sarah Wigton, Ted Bennett, Lynn Corker, Cliff Ledbetter, Patricia Heiner, Don Hartman, Inez Parker, Jerry Skates, Julie Moore, Dee Woodford, Louise Greenley, Joanne Bold, Ron Morris, Chuck Townsend, Ed Rugg, Jim Avera, Jean Bartlett, Christine Clark, Joe Keller, Jana Widener,

Kelly Varret, Brooks Foster, and Catherine McNeill.

Celebrating a wedding anniversary in March are William and Sara Laibe, John and Peggy Blalock, Jim and Blanch Crandall 1961, Richard and Carolyn Holt, 1963, Jim and Mary Morris 1972, Dennis and LindaeRoach 1975, Bob and Sharon Linda 2004 and Joanne and Brooks Fos-

ter 2019.

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549.

Additionally, you may place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library. Deadline for the April issue is March 22.

FRIENDS of ZION



Bible Verses

Yeshua Said Whosoever Shall Confess Me Before Men, Him Shall the Son of Man Confess Before the Angels of God.

Luke 12.8

P.O Box 164 Lillian AL 36549

March 2023

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The Lillian

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 HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Submit your news items, photos, meeting notes and community interest pieces by email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

OBITUARIES

Lorraine Sanzotera, Lillian

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Lorraine Sanzotera of Lillian, Alabama, who passed away on January 22, 2023, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

She was predeceased by: her husband Ted Sanzotera; her parents, Fred Byl and Juanita Byl; and her siblings, Donald King, John Byl, Steve Byl and Fredricka Lapham.

She is survived by: her children, Lorraine and Angela Sanzotera (Jody Stough); her grandson James Tidmore; her siblings, George Byl and Carolyn Holt; and her sister-in-law Cecelia Zeiher (Scott). She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held on Friday, January 27 2023 at 11 a.m. at the Barrancas National Cemetery (1 Cemetery Rd, Pensacola, FL 32508). In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the DAV (or similar veterans' charity) or the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department in her memory.

**Esther 'Nadine' Adams, 82**

Esther "Nadine" Adams, age 82, a resident of Elberta, passed away Sunday, January 22, 2023 surrounded by her loved ones.

Nadine loved spending time with her grandchildren, fishing, gardening with her husband and reading a good book.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Adams; sister, Anna Adcock.

She is survived by her daughters, Susan (Leonard) Kichler, Pam (Tony) Moreno; sons, Jerry (Mary) Adams, Tim (Cindy) Adams, Jeff Adams; grandchildren, J.W. (Jessica) Adams, Hudson (Karen) Adams, Justin Adams, Michael Adams, Stephen (Dawn) Adams, Leah Adams, Rachel (Bart) Smith, Wayne (Katie) Kichler, Sarah (Robby) Ray, Antonio Moreno, Jr., Ryan (Lauren) Moreno, Mercedes (Blake) Griffeth, Adria Adams, Kara Mund, Tiffany (Edmon) Motes; 25 great-grandchildren; brother, James Foley; sisters, Pat Finney and Arlata Cloud; many other loving relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Nadine's Life was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 26, 2023 at Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home, Foley Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Bax_Strong Foundation, <https://baxstrong.networkforgood.com>

**Van Damme, 86, Lillian**

Richard Joseph Van Damme, age 86, a resident of Lillian, AL passed away Sunday, January 29, 2023.

Richard was an avid artist specializing in restoration of antiques and artwork.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Carolyn Van Damme, his parents Victor and Jeannett Van Damme.

He is survived by his sons, Dale Van Damme of Lillian, AL, and David (Anna) Van Damme of Elberta, AL.

Grandson, Brandon (Lynn) Van Damme of Daphne, AL, great grandson, Ryan Van Damme, granddaughter Isabelle Van Damme, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Graveside service was held at Spanish Cove Community Cemetery, Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10 a.m.

The family received friends Thursday, February 9, 2023 at the chapel of Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home in Lillian, AL from 5pm until 7p.m.

**Judith 'Judy' Ann Merchant, 83**

On January 31, 2023, Judith "Judy" Ann Merchant, passed away at the age of 83 in her home in Elberta, Alabama.

She was a loving wife, caring mother, wonderful grandmother, and great grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, Donald Wayne Merchant; her three daughters, Ruby Merchant Lee (Tommy), Phyllis Katrina Merchant, and Lisa Jane Evans (Robert); eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Patricia Ward, Sandra Williams, and Joan Kressler.

Judy loved caring for her family and never let anyone leave her home without making sure they were fed and had a drink. She enjoyed working on her flower beds and helping her husband in the garden.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 11 a.m. from the Chapel of Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home in Foley.

**Barbara 'Frances' Bush, 71**

Barbara "Frances" Bush, age 71 and resident of Elberta, AL, passed away January 29, 2023 surrounded by friends and family.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Bush, companion Mike Jeter, her brother Gene Salzmann and her parents, Joe and Pauline Salzmann.

Her survivors include her daughter Genevieve (Brent) Hutfless of Daphne, AL; son Eddie (Susan) Strauss of Loxley, AL; son Kevin Bush of Laguna Niguel, CA; grandchildren Rylan, Madison Kamryn, Rowan and Kayla; great grandson Damien; her brother Paul (Kathy) Salzmann of Elberta and many other living relatives and friends.

A celebration of life will held in the Spring.



DEATH NOTICE

JOHN WILLIAMS

1688 Santa Cruz Drive

passed away

Monday, Feb. 6

Funeral arrangements to come.

Wealthy or Not, Avoid These Estate-Planning Mistakes

When many people hear the words “estate planning,” they assume it’s just for the wealthy. But that’s not the case because everyone can benefit from an estate plan. And when you’re creating one, you’ll want to avoid some common mistakes.

Before we look at those mistakes, let’s go over what estate planning is designed to accomplish. Essentially, an estate plan allows you to pass on your assets in the way you desire. But it can also specify other actions, such as naming someone to care for your minor children if you were no longer around. In creating an estate plan, several key documents are involved, including a will, a trust, a financial power of attorney and a medical power of attorney or a health care directive.

Now, let’s consider a few estate-planning mistakes

- *Not communicating your plans.* You’ll need to inform your family about whom you’ve chosen as executor – the individual who will administer your estate – and whom you’ve named as the trustee – the person who will manage your trust’s assets. (You can also choose a trust company to handle this duty.) And to help avoid unpleasant surprises when your estate is being settled, consider letting your children or other close relatives know who will be receiving what.

- *Not reviewing your plans periodically* – Once you create your estate plans, don’t forget about them. Over time, your personal situation may change – you may experience a remarriage or bring in new children. Your interests may change, too – perhaps you’ll become deeply involved in supporting a favorite charitable organization. Given these and other potential changes, you’ll want to review your estate plans once in a while to see if they need to be modified.

- *Not updating beneficiary designations* – Every so often, you may want to review the beneficiary designations on your life insurance policies, investment accounts and retirement assets. As mentioned, changes in your life, such as remarriage and the addition of new children, may affect your beneficiaries. Beneficiary designations are powerful and can even supersede your will, so you’ll want to update them as needed. Also, if you have a 529 education savings plan, you’ll want to name a successor owner – someone who can take over your 529 if you were to pass away.

- *Not re-registering assets placed in a trust* – A living trust offers you many potential benefits, such as the ability to bypass the time-consuming and highly public process of probate when it’s time to settle your estate. However, just establishing the trust, by itself, may be insufficient – you likely also need to re-register assets, such as your investments, so they are officially owned by the trust, not by you. This is essential for the trust to work as you intended.

- Here’s one other mistake – not getting the help you need. Estate planning can be complex, so you’ll want to work with an attorney, and possibly with your financial advisor and tax professional, too.

- By avoiding mistakes and working with a team of professionals, you can create and maintain an estate plan that will help you leave the legacy you desire. For questions, contact Jason Kozon of Edward Jones at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, 251-943-3399.



Financial Focus
By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones



Baldwin County Heritage Museum Slates Saturday, March 4 Fundraiser

The Baldwin County Heritage Museum will host a fundraiser on Saturday, March 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Museum is located at 25521 US-98 east of Elberta. The Jambalaya meal costs \$10 and all proceeds support the non-profit Museum's mission "to preserve the heritage of the family and early rural culture of Baldwin county." For more information contact BCHM at 251-986-8375 during its regular hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is FREE! <http://www.bchm.gulftel.com>



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Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am
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Submit your news items to
The Lillian by email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Native Son's Return Sparks Gig

By Jacqueline Reid

If you were lucky enough to be at Johnny B's Front Porch on Dec. 28, you would have had the pleasure of hearing Lillian's own, Guthrie Trapp, finesse his guitar into melodious magic. As word got around of this unexpected gig, standing room only became the norm.

Guthrie is the son of proud parents, Mary and Joe Trapp of Lillian who have always been supportive of their son's musical prowess. At the age of seven, Guthrie's uncle Jerry Trapp introduced him to the harmonica and the boy was hooked on music. It wasn't long before his uncle instructed Guthrie on the guitar. Some of his many early accomplishments were when he placed third during the Tellu-

ride Bluegrass Festival in the flat-pick competition at the age of 14 against adults and won the Alabama guitar and mandolin competitions at the ages of 15 and 16.

I first heard him play the mandolin at about the age of nine when he performed at the Big Lagoon State Park and I was mesmerized by his talent then.

Now, at the age of 43, he is a well-known and respected musician who lives and works in Nashville.

Vince Gill said, "I first got to know Guthrie's talents when he was playing with Patty Loveless and realized right away that he had that 'thing'."

If you have heard Guthrie play, you know about that 'thing' Gill is talking about.



Guthrie Trapp

Trapp's friend and bandmate, John Oates said, "He is without a doubt one of the greatest soloists I've ever heard, fluid, technical, inventive and soulful."

Yeah, us Lillianites get a bit ex-

cited when we know Guthrie is around and we can hear him play.

Thank you, Guthrie Trapp, for performing at Front Porch while you were home for the holidays.

'Preciate' it.

Hello,

Spring

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(ADDRESS Continued from page 1)
 loss of rural lifestyle, unplanned and unregulated growth while 92 percent of citizens agree that tools to protect rural areas of the county are needed.

* 91% of citizens agree that there needs to be growth limitations and standards for developments in rural areas

* The number one concern is traffic congestion.

In November and December 2022 there were **six** accidents and **two** fatalities on Highway 98 near the proposed development.

* Based on community input, growth should mostly occur within municipalities within jurisdictional planning areas, zoning regulations and community services within areas that have adequate roads that are not prone to flooding.

* Highway 98 is identified as a road of scenic which 78.7% of citizens think is important to maintain

The intersection of Highway 98 and CR 91 is identified as a "rural crossroads center."

* It identifies this as a moderate development, which is five houses per acre. In fact, the new development would exceed what is identified as medium densi-

ty.
 * During our four-day cold snap in December, the majority of residents in this area had numerous power outages for extended times with loss of water.

If we keep adding without improving, we will just continue to negatively impact more and more people.

* Our volunteer fire department has more than 1,000 calls per year, the highest for any volunteer fire department in Baldwin County.

* Elberta High School was set up to relieve overcrowding at Foley High School. Today, the school is already overcrowded with about 33 students per class. The student-teacher ratio is 19-1, higher than the state average of 17-1.

If we add 80 more students (homes in proposed subdivision), it would give us a student-teacher ratio of 22-1.

* Leslie Gahagan, from Wolf Bay Watershed said "With all the development, it does tend to show there are some water quality issues. So it's not a perception of a problem. It's an actual database, she said."

* This proposed rezoning is the opposite of what Design Workshop discovered and recommends in the analysis for future land use in Baldwin County.



Bob & Estelita Donnenwirth



Jane & Ken Foster



Mike & Marilyn Blankenship

Optimist Appreciation

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay held a special St. Valentine Dinner for the community to let them know what the group does in the area. The evening included a steak and shrimp dinner, music and dancing.

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 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian, AL 36549
 Office Hours: Mon.-Fr. 8A.M.—11A.M. Office (251) 962-3366 & Lounge (251) 962-3966
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Music: Big Jake

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Yams, Potatoes, Salad, Roll, Dessert
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- Robert Broom March 5
- Big Jake March 10
- High Cotton March 17
- Gary Story March 19
- Sothern Breeze March 24
- False Identity March 31

A \$5.00 COVER CHARGE FOR NON MEMBERS



Red Letter Day as Red Hats Celebrate Valentines Day

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies had their delicious Valentine Luncheon on February 14 at Vallarta's Restaurant on Sorrento. Hostess Karen Brady supplied each lady with a heart shaped box of chocolates and a set of white embossed stationary cards. Hostess Ann Cox made personalized needle point tissue holders for our birthday girls: Sandra Jurries and Este Donnenwirth. The ladies enjoyed sharing poems that they had written for the occasion. Door prizes were won by Mary-Margaret Ayres, Lorraine Standish, Este Donnenwirth, and our newest member, Bonnie Cleveland. Hostesses for March will be Sandra Jurries, Lorri Roit, and Lorraine Standish.

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MARCH 2023

<p>Potlucks & Candy Bar Bingo every Wednesday @ 6pm</p>	<p>Piyo yoga March 15th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, & 30th @ 7:30 am</p>
<p>Spring Break Bash on March 25th</p>	<p>St Patrick's Day Golf Cart Parade and Green beer 3/17 @ 3 pm</p>

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