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NOVEMBER 2023

Lillian, AL 3654
Volume 27, Number 11

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Smoke 'Em If Ya' Got 'Em

Members of The Lillian Community Club voted October 12 to continue allowing smoking in the lounge (bar) area and it's attached outside deck.

The Hall area remains a non-smoking area.

The 7 p.m. meeting was attended by just over 200 members in good standing. The vote required a two-thirds



majority (66 2/3) vote of "yes" to officially change the books to make the facility smoke free. A majority of "no" votes would maintain the status quo allowing members to smoke.

Officials at the club gave unofficial totals as 114 "no" votes to 89 "yes" to allow smoking. To change the rule.

Rule revision supporters reported that smoke from the lounge often drifts into the Hall irritating some.

The LCC is a private club and rules are set by members only.

THE SLOW SQUEEZE

Utilities Dodge Heat by Raising Rates Inch by Inch ... Pennies at a Time

By **ROBYN MONAGHAN**

The most Tara Policelli ever paid for electricity was about \$180 a month. So the Lillian beautician was gob smacked to see the amount she owed to Riviera Electricity last month was \$300.

"Sure, it was super hot, but was it that much hotter than last year?" She wonders.

But the electric bill was just the first blow of a double whammy.

For years, Policelli's water bill ran about \$30 for years. Last year it went up to \$38. Now it's about \$60.

"So now it's doubled," she said.

Lillian consumers have not been spared from the wave of alarming utility rate hikes sweeping the South.

Last spring, Riviera Utilities customers saw a rate hike of \$6 on the base rate, up from \$22 to \$28. The kilowatt per hour charge rose from 10.1 cents to 11.1 cents, a 10 percent boost. A penny doesn't sound like much to

worry about. But multiply that penny across meters spinning as air conditioners strain to keep up with blazing August heat - and you've got customers looking at bills approaching twice the high-



est they've ever seen.

Like utility companies across the country, Riviera blames rising

fuel costs and supply chain shortages for rising costs of doing business that must be passed on to the consumer. The company last raised rates in 2016.

"This year has seen unprecedented increases in the cost of purchasing and producing utility services we rely on every day. Utility companies nationwide are feeling the effects of rising fuel costs, material shortages, and an increased price for services. Because of this, a rate adjustment has become necessary," Riviera said in a September press release.

Riviera Utilities serves about 41,000 customers in the from Daphne to Lillian, according to rivierautilities.co

Lillian residents will be paying more for their water, starting this month too. Perdido Bay Water is raising its rates 50 cents per 1,000 gallons across the board.

While this year's 10 percent electricity cost surge is higher than most in neighboring areas, the rate we pay per kilowatt hour is still a bargain in comparison.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Legion Invites All Lillian Veterans to it's Nov. 11 Day of Celebration

"THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 48 OF LILLIAN CORDIALLY INVITES ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILYS IN THE LILLIAN COMMUNITY FOR A VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB HALL ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023, AT 11:00 AM. PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 10:45 A.M."

The program begins at 11 a.m. on the dot.

Hamburgers and hot dogs and side dishes will be served along with various beverages at no cost.

The American Legion Post 48 of Lillian wants to wish the Lillian Community a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know that:

We left home as teenagers for an unknown adventure, we loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives as we then said goodbye to family and friends and everything we knew, we learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the earth to find new friends and family, as we became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We didn't earn a great wage, nor did we ever know when or even if we were ever going to see home again. We grew up fast and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom as well as the freedom of others, some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't. Some of us dealt with physical warfare most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started a new home and some of us never came home as we have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We share an unspoken bond with each other that most people don't under-



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavallee

stand, we have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We speak highly of our own branch of service and poke fun at all the other branches, but we know however that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a veteran is something that had to be earned and can never be taken away; it has no monetary value.

People see a veteran and they thank them for their service, when we see each other, we give that little head nod or a slight smile knowing we have shared and experienced things most people have not,

So, from myself and all the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times but most importantly stand tall and proud for you have earned the right to be a Veteran.

'I'M A VETERAN AND I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN AND AGAIN.'

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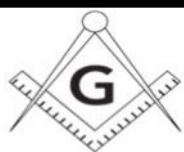
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Lillian Masonic Lodge is taking orders for 5 to 10 lb Boston Butts effective October 1 for delivery later in the month. Call Jeff Keener at 859-991-4619, or Joe Taylor at 251-753-6225.

Learning From Rejection

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) was an American writer best known for her young adult novel "A Wrinkle in Time" and its sequels, "A Wind at the Door", "A Swiftly Tilting Planet" and two others. But she also wrote short stories and books of poetry. She was also a devout Christian who frequently explored theological themes in her writing. L'Engle sought to explore complex theological concepts in a way that was accessible and engaging for readers of all ages. Her writing was notable for its emphasis on the spiritual journey, and for its willingness to grapple with difficult questions related to faith, doubt and the human experience.

L'Engle was born in New York City but was fortunate to have been raised all around the east coast as well as several places in Europe. Her education was boarding school and tutors and her great intellect left teachers regarding her as either very smart or impossibly dumb. She attended Smith College and then began to submit novels for publication. She received continual rejections. Eventually she married an actor and decided she would take other jobs so that her husband could pursue his dream. They moved around New York and the east coast, had several children and her husband had moderate success. L'Engle realized she could not quit writing, so she stockpiled her works sometimes submitting them for publications, always to be disappointed. She vowed she would stop writing at age 40 as that would be enough rejections. Instead, in 1960, she wrote, "A Wrinkle in Time" her first successful novel. L'Engle's writing began to fall into place after that first success.

By the end of L'Engle's life, she had received an extended list of awards and honors for her writings including many honorary degrees by universities where she was invited to speak as well as places where she was invited to serve as scholar in residence for a year. She was a guest speaker at the Library of Congress, and received awards from the American Library Association as well as the National Humanities Medal. She died in 2007 and is buried at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan.

L'Engle was raised in the Episcopal Church and remained a member throughout her life. She saw her faith as an integral part of her writing, and her work often explored the intersection of science and religion, the nature of God, and the role of faith in our lives. She also often explored the spiritual significance of the Eucharist and other sacraments, as well as the role of prayer and meditation in deepening our relationship with God. Her emphasis on the power of love and the universality of God's grace sometimes led her to be labeled as a universalist, although she never explicitly embraced this label herself.

L'Engle's theological influences were varied, and included figures such as C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton, among others. She was also deeply influenced by the mystical traditions of Christianity, and frequently drew on the writings of mystics such as Julian of Norwich and St. John of the Cross in her work. L'Engle's writing has been influential in shaping the genre of Christian fiction, and has inspired countless authors to explore spiritual themes in their own work. Her legacy as a Christian writer is characterized by her commitment to honesty, curiosity, and a deep sense of compassion and empathy for her readers. Let me end with a few quote from Madeleine L'Engle that summarize her life.

This first quote speaks specifically about the church in which I am a minister. "The Episcopal Church is a church of both reason and faith. We believe in the power of the intellect to explore and understand the world, but we also believe in the power of the heart to connect us to God." This second quote speaks to my heart, perhaps it will speak to yours, "We are all strangers in a strange land, longing for home, but not quite knowing what or where home is. We glimpse it sometimes in our dreams, or as we turn a corner, and suddenly there is a strange, sweet familiarity that vanishes almost as soon as it comes."



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett



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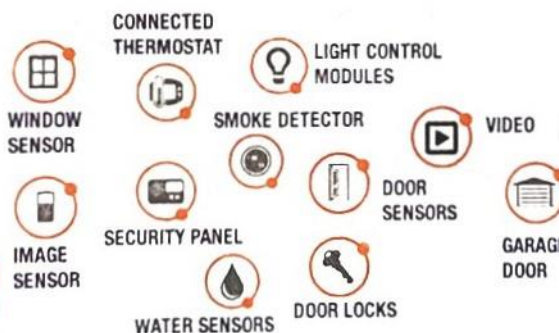
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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth 'Bettye' Little Grupe, 91

Elizabeth ("Bettye") Little Grupe, 91, passed away peacefully at home in Lillian, Alabama on Monday, October 2, 2023. Born Elizabeth Marie Little on October 27, 1931, in Jefferson County, AL, she was the second child of Benjamin and Viola Little.

Growing up, she lived on a farm around Jackson, MS, which she wanted to get away from. She did all kinds of stuff from modeling on TV, playing bridge, teaching kindergarten to going back to school around the age of 45 to become a dental hygienist. She ended up moving back to Jackson and working at the dental school, as manager for the 5th floor labs where the students learned basic techniques. She always loved reading books and finally bought a "Book Rack" store - which she just loved - and she made it prosper. When she retired, they moved to Lillian and Bettye became acquainted with bridge again and joined a club.

Bettye was preceded in death by her son, James Dean Gaylor (Anna) and her brother, Horace Little of Brandon, MS. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Harold Grupe of Lillian, AL and two daughters: Cheri Gaylor Orth (Fred) of Lillian, AL and Toni Gaylor Seales (Lyn) of Birmingham, AL; a brother, George Little of Houston, TX, and a sister, Ann Law of Ocean Springs, MS. Three grandchildren: Duane Heath (Melissa) of Dothan, AL, Angie Heath Woodall (Scott) of Scottsboro, AL, Jamie Gaylor (Kimberly) of Birmingham, AL and six great-grandchildren: Adrian Woodall (Ashley) of Scottsboro, AL, Megan Woodall who is a student at Auburn University in Alabama, and the four Heath sisters of Dothan, AL: Addie, Emmie, Andie, Evie; and lots of nieces and nephews.

Bettye was cremated in accordance with her wishes and a private memorial will be held by the family at a later date. If you wish to make a donation in her name, her 2 favorite charities were St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Ronald McDonald House Charities Alabama.



Delno Lee Bernard, 75, Lillian

Delno Lee Bernard, age 75, a resident of Lillian, AL, passed away September 16, 2023.

Delno was a native of Kentucky and a longtime resident of Mobile, AL. He relocated to Lillian 3 years ago and was the owner and operator of J & T Trucking, Inc. for 40 years. He was a member of the AVETS post 292 in Pensacola, FL, and a member of the Lillian Community Club.

Delno was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Bessie Bernard and his 1st cousin, Willie C. Turpin.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carolyn Bernard of Lillian, AL; son, James (Michelle) Bernard of Theodore, AL; daughter, Tammy Bernard Thompson of Mobile, AL; sisters, Mildred (Stanley) Sallee of Kentucky and Mary (Rusty) Anderson of Kentucky; and grandson AJ Thompson of Mobile, AL.

A visitation was held at the Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home in Lillian, Alabama, on September 21, 2023.



Loren F. Chambliss, 62

In loving memory of Loren F. Chambliss age 62, who passed away August 26, 2023 from COPD.

Loren will be remembered as a kind, compassionate and generous person who went the extra mile to help others.

Loren loved music, his all time favorite was Jimmy Buffett. Ironically Jimmy passed away seven days after Loren.

I'm sure they are drinking margaritas and having a cheeseburger in paradise.

I love and miss you babe.

Until we meet again.

DEATH NOTICES

Don Wheat, 71

Elberta AL
Sept 21, 2003

Ginny Cook

1915 Maria Lane
passed away
Thursday, Oct. 5

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The Lillian

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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
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 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 December issue of *The Lillian* will be November 22.

Anyone may 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.

LILLIAN ACTION COMMITTEE

President: Sally McKinney, Vice President Jackie Reid, Secretary: Nancy Scott, Treasurer: Florence McLendon, Board Members Gloria Cramp, Tammy Robinson and David Monaghan.

The Happiness Project

FOOD DRIVES

In this installment of the HAPPINESS PROJECT series, we consider how you can help by volunteering at a food bank or for a food drive. Remember, volunteering is one of the most powerful ways you can make a difference, help others, and, as research studies show, even make yourself happier

By Erin Attaway

In November, the holiday spirit fills the air, urging people to engage in acts of giving and support. The significance of volunteering in November specifically for food drives and food pantries is enormous, and our area is always in need of these lifesaving resources. By dedicating time and effort to such noble initiatives, volunteers play an integral role in combating hunger and promoting community support.

Food drives are instrumental in supplying crucial sustenance to individuals and families in need. November, often synonymous with Thanksgiving, presents an ideal time for food drives as it reminds us to be thankful for what we have and to extend our generosity to those less fortunate. Volunteering one's time during food drives offers the benefits of addressing hunger, promoting awareness, and building community.

Food drives collect non-perishable goods, supplying immediate relief but also long-term sustenance to individuals who may be struggling to put food on their tables. They raise awareness about the prevalent issue of hunger within their community, encouraging others to take action. And food drives bring diverse groups together, fostering a sense of community and solidarity among individuals who share a common goal of helping others in need.

Food pantries are essential in maintaining a sustained support system for individuals experiencing food insecurity. By assisting in food pantries, volunteers contribute significantly to the well-being of their community. The benefits of volunteering at food pantries include:

Providing Direct Assistance: Food pantries distribute donations to individuals, families, and community organizations, directly reaching those most in need. Volunteers play an active role in organizing, cataloging, and distributing these resources efficiently.

Supporting Local Economies: Food pantries often prioritize procuring supplies from local farmers and businesses, bolstering the local economy and ensuring fresh, nutritious food options for those in need.

Nurturing Compassionate Communities: By volunteering in food pantries, individuals can inspire others to understand and empathize with the hardships faced by food-insecure individuals. This fosters a compassionate and supportive community.

The November food drive and food pantries initiatives showcase the true spirit of the holiday season. By dedicating time, effort, and resources, volunteers contribute not only to those experiencing food insecurity but also to the well-being of their communities.

Check with your local church or Prodissee Pantry, Baldwin County's food bank, to see how YOU can help.



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Around Town

Picture (right top photo) is Lillian Perdido Bay Library patron Maraie Nogueira visiting with library President Betty Bovat at the recent 30 year anniversary of the organization.

Pictured (right center photo) St. Joseph Catholic Church Altar Society recently elected new officers. From left are Secretary Sally McKinney, Treasurer Margaret Wilcox, Vice President Nicole Todd and President Dianne Carroll

Pictured (right bottom photo) are original library volunteers Mike Russell, Wilma Spivey and Lois Russell joined their neighbors in celebrating the 30 year anniversary of the Lillian Perdido Bay Library.



Autumn Brings a Trip Down Memory Lane

Every year I travel north in the beginning of October to visit my family in the Chicago area. This year I delayed a few days in order to be there for a Great Granddaughter's birthday and my 70th high school reunion.

The birthday party was a lot of fun. I got to see three of my Great Grands and got caught up on their lives. They are all perfect and super smart, of course.

The next day my daughters drove me to Niles, IL to celebrate with former graduates of The Immaculata High School in Chicago. We were so fortunate to have a school that was located near Lake Michigan, just west of Lake Shore Drive. Opened in 1921, the school was designed by Barry Byrne, who worked under Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1983, the school complex received Chicago Landmark status and was re-opened as the American Islamic College.

I made it through the four years of high school without much trouble from the BVM nuns. I did manage to step across the line a couple of times. Those of you who know me are shocked, I know. During our delicious luncheon the five others from my class who attended recalled some of the fun times.

On display was a gym class uniform. Yes, the button-up-the-front one-piece yellow outfit that girls today would never think of wearing. There was a doll on display with the navy-blue serge uniform we were required to wear. On special days we had to wear it with a white collar. Of course, some of us forgot the collar, so Kleenex was a "good" substitute.

One of the great benefits of the school on Irving Park and Lake Shore Drive was it was close to Wrigley Field. We could get in free after school let out to catch the last few innings. Some days the boys from Loyola Academy would drive by, some to pick up girlfriends; others just to look. Nothing anyone had to worry about because the nuns walked us to Broadway every day so we could get public transportation to our homes that were located all around the area. Some of us stopped at the Buffalo Ice Cream Parlor to get a Coke and fries before we headed home.

One of the women at our table was a member of the band and orchestra, as was I. We reminisced on some of the concerts and music we played for the annual drama performances. My aunt always wondered why she came to the concerts, as she said she could never see me. Did I mention that I played sousaphone in the band and tuba in the orchestra? My tablemate played the clarinet, much easier to take home for extra practice. My friend who talked me into the music classes sometimes had her father pick up her sousaphone so she could practice on the weekend.

It was great fun to reminisce and I highly recommend attending a high school reunion if you can. Probably the most noteworthy event was that two graduates from the 1942 class attended. They were both 98 years old. The sad news, though, is the school closed in 1981. However, the school will soon be part of a senior-living complex according to a plan that was proposed in 1922.



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Statewide, electrical rates increased 3.7 % last year, averaging 14.24 cents per kilowatt hour, up from 13.73 cents a year ago.

Throughout the East South-Central region, rates have also increased over the past year, up from 12.35 to 12.87 cents per kilowatt hour.

Mississippi increased from 12.13cents per kilowatt hour to 13.14 cents per kilowatt hour. Kentucky's rates increased from 12.09 cents per kilowatt hour to 12.63 cents per kilowatt hour, and Tennessee increased from 11.60 to 11.94 cents per kilowatt hour.

Nationally rates increased from 13.76 to 14.77 cents per kilowatt hour last year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

But wait. here's a new way to push through a classic slow squeeze. Without much fanfare, Baldwin County Sewer Service imposed a unique technique to eek a bit more from customers. The rate didn't increase – but the method with which you pay went up for those with autopay.

Letters went out in October letting BCSS customers that those who pay conveniently through debit or credit cards automatically deducted from their accounts now must pay a \$6 per month fee for the privilege. The only way to get around the small hike is to cancel payments using your debit card or credit card – through a phone call or in writing – and provide the routing number and account number of your bank accounts for direct withdrawal payments. This creates another revenue stream without input, bypassing any regulatory agencies

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Ways to Find Calm During Anxiety



Health Corner

By Donna Chetta, RN

With all the uncertainty with higher prices along with the rising temperatures outside, it is no surprise there is an increase in anxiety. As someone who has suffered from years of paralyzing episodes of anxiety, I know the feeling all too well. Anxiety is fueled by “what if” thoughts that are disconnected with the present moment. Usually “what if” thoughts are shrouded in the worst-case scenarios that begin to conjure up inside the mind. Social media does not help with doomsday predictions of “what ifs”.

Anxiety can be a normal reaction to a stressful situation but most of the time people who suffer from persistent and intense anxiety episodes can experience a wide range of physical sensations such as a fast heart rate, rapid breathing, sweating, and feeling tired. Anxiety is a fear-based prelude to a thought or stressful event that may seem out of control at the time. It puts the body into a fight or flight mode and releases a cascade of chemical reactions that keeps the body working into overdrive. This is why it is important to prevent the on-set of a full-blown anxiety attack because it takes a few hours to get the body back to a relaxed state. Ever noticed the lingering effect of an anxiety attack? It can be very exhausting and immobilizing.

If you are prone to experiencing anxiety it is important you find ways to keep calm.

Slow Down - Deep breathing and meditation slows the body down and helps change the focus of fear-based thoughts. Stopping to take a few deep breaths has a calming effect.

Ground Yourself - Sit or walk outside barefoot. The natural rhythm and vibration of the earth will keep you well-paced. The beach is a favorite place of mine to refocus my thoughts.

Color - One of the best techniques I found in the evening to stop anxious thoughts is using colored pencils and coloring. It is hard to focus on anything else but coloring inside the lines, so it shuts down the anxious intrusive thoughts.

Exercise - Move your body. Yoga and stretching are very beneficial to managing anxiety.

Pray - Communicate with your higher power about what is bothering you and then let it go.

Self-care is so important these days where temperatures are hot and social media produces a lot of negative information. Learn to unplug and find ways to find calm during anxiety. It takes practice to find ways to decrease anxiety so start with taking small steps to include these tips in your daily routine. Always talk to your doctor about your anxiety and remember to be kind to yourself. Donna Chetta, Certified Health Coach, Certified Health Educator & Fitness Trainer.



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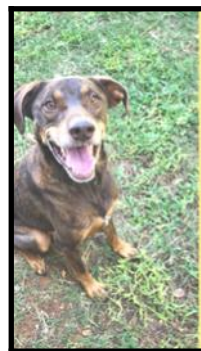
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Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Evangelism Study and Dinner 5:00 pm

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner
Adult prayer meeting in the FLC
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Optimists Sponsor Multi-church Thanksgiving Service

Members of the Lillian church community participated in the 2022 annual Community Thanksgiving Service. This year's event will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 in Immaculate Mary Hall of St. Joseph Catholic Church. From left are Rev. Josh Thompson, First Baptist Church of Lillian; Rev. Calvin Bartl, Eternal Life Church; Rev. Paul Wargo, Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church; Optimist President Dodd Bouchillon; Rev. Dean Conkel, Lillian Fellowship Church; Rev. Tina Lockett, Episcopal Church of the Advent; Rev. Daniel Randall, Lillian United Methodist Church; and Rev. Greg Brown, Bayside Baptist Church

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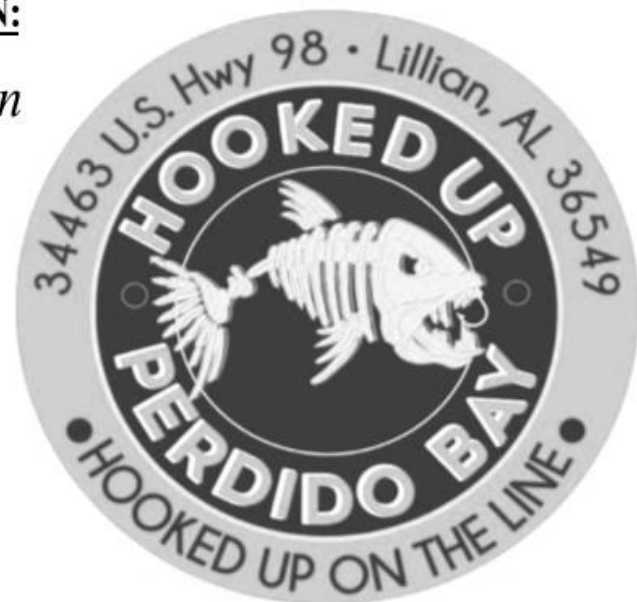
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Nothing Says Soft-bodied Mollusks Like the Slug

What is the definition of a slug? A snail with a housing problem! Even though that is a joke, it is sort-of true. Slug is a common term used to identify a soft bodied mollusk that has either no shell or has an *internal* shell. A snail is a soft bodied mollusk that has a coiled shell large enough to retract their soft body parts into it.

Slugs are not insects; they are soft-bodied mollusks, the same group that includes octopuses and oysters. Unlike clams or oysters, these land bound critters are equipped with a lung, not gills. This lung is called the “pneumostome”, which looks like a hole in the right side of the body when it’s open, and impossible to see at all (without a microscope) when it’s closed. The number of times this orifice opens and closes is directly linked to how moist the slug is! It opens and closes more often as it dries out!

Slugs have two upper tentacles that protrude from their foreheads. These “antennae” are used for sight and smell. Their eyes are on the tips and are retractable! The tentacles can be extended or withdrawn depending on the slug’s needs. If they are broken off, they can be regrown! The shorter, lower tentacles extending down from their heads are used for touch and taste. They are highly sensitive receptors that help slugs find food, mates, and avoid potential hazards.

Slugs mouthparts are called “radula”, which is basically a tongue covered with teeth, 27,000 teeth! That is more teeth than a shark, and just like a shark, a slug can regrow teeth that are lost. They use this tooth covered ribbon to scrape surfaces for food particles. Yes, that can

include human skin! It’s less like a bite and more like getting smudged by a fine-toothed sander.

The word mollusk, in true American fashion, is spelled mollusC by the rest of the English-speaking world. American English is a crazy, nonsensical, hodge podge of words straight up stolen from other languages – “restaurant” being my favorite example (it’s French). Either way it’s spelled, the word comes from the Latin root “molluscus” meaning “thin shelled”. Do you ever wonder what we would all sound like if Latin had fallen with the Roman Empire? No? Me either.

Slugs are classified as gastropods, with “gastro” meaning stomach and “pod” meaning foot. The name sums up their anatomy well. Voracious eaters, they slide along on a muscular “foot”. This muscle constantly secretes mucus, which eases their movement and later dries to form the silvery slime trail that reveals their presence! These slime trails serve as markers to and from food sources and hiding areas.

Slug populations are highest in warm (hot!), moist and humid climates. Coastal regions in the United States, along the Pacific and Atlantic areas, tropical and subtropical Hawaii, and Florida are especially prime regions. But even gardeners in cooler, northern climates are threatened by these pests: from Maine to Minnesota, slugs and snails simply wait during winter, hiding in spots that protect them from freezing. In areas with mild winters, such as South Alabama, slugs can be active throughout the year. During hot, dry periods (like now!) snails “estivate”, which means hibernation during hot weather, by sealing themselves off



with a parchment-like membrane. They often attach themselves to tree trunks, fences, or walls.

Did you know that the average garden contains upwards of 15,000 slugs?! No wonder our plants get nibbled or even destroyed. Slugs found in compost heaps help with decomposition, speeding the process along. Organic matter not only serves as a food source for slugs but also provides shelter from the environment and natural predators. There are also lots of slugs that have no interest in vegetables and prefer to eat things like algae instead.

To be fair, slugs will feed on almost anything in the garden. Look for holes and ragged edges on leaves and stems. The holes should have irregular shapes due to the slugs’ file

like mouthparts. Small seedlings can be consumed entirely. Slugs can digest tissues from most plants, but you might find them especially liking plants with broad, delicate leaves, like beans, lettuce, cabbage, bok choy, and tomatoes.

Most people would say the way to kill a slug is pour salt on it. That works. The salt dries the slug out and it dies from dehydration. But if you pour salt over your garden beds, you will be hurting your own plantings. It is better to pick off a slug when you see it, yes, with your fingers, and toss it where it can be eaten by a bird, lizard or frog.

What’s the difference between a snail’s eye and a slug’s eye?

Not much, they are nearly eye-tentacle!

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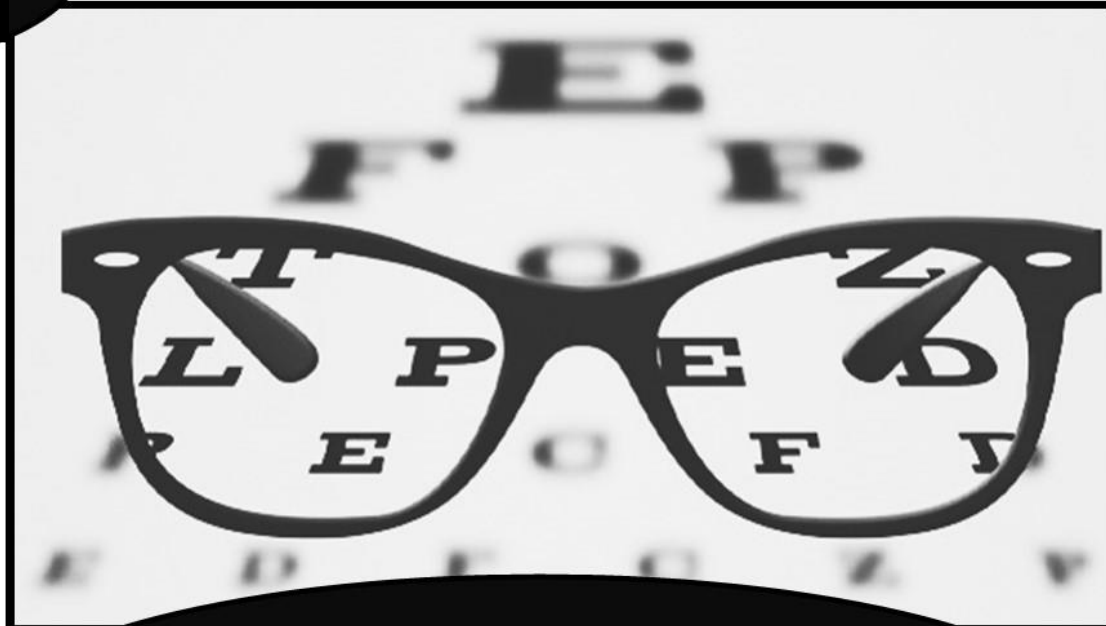


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Library Chalks an Open House Success

The 30th Anniversary Open House was quite a success!! The day was beautiful, large and small balloons were hung all over, with over 50 congratulatory people stopped by and the refreshments were a hit.



Lillian Perdido
Bay Library
Corner
By Betty Bovat

The Lillian Perdido Bay Library is open on Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The library will be closed on Thanksgiving weekend, November 23, 24 and 25.

We have a computer lab with five computers and two printers which are all for public use, for a small donation. Charlie Clark is our computer tech and he keeps all the electronics in working order.

Thank you for your support and patronage. We appreciate each and every one of you and feel so fortunate to provide services to our community.

HAPPY GOBBLE, GOBBLE DAY!!!

**Saint John's Country Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 18
from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Magnolia Springs, Alabama
Seafood Gumbo and Shrimp Creole
available by the quart. Cost \$18. "Basket of Cheer" donated by the Fish
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More info: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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Local Ordinances Text Amendments TA-23001

for Lillian and Unincorporated Elberta. The public hearing held October 17th deferred the text amendments matter to **December 5, 2023**, 322 Courthouse Square, Bay Minette, AL 36507, at 10:00. There were two parties that spoke at the hearing stating that they had just learned of the amendments a few days before and that the amendments would affect their plans. We are going to meet with them to see if we can resolve the issue.

CRAIN RV PARK CSP23-28 Appeal was denied by the County Commissioners. This is the final decision.

ALDOT Traffic study results have confirmed that a stop light at Hwy 98 and County Road 91 is necessary. Now the process is for ALDOT to work with the Baldwin County Highway Department to acquire adequate funding for the project. No timeframe has been given.

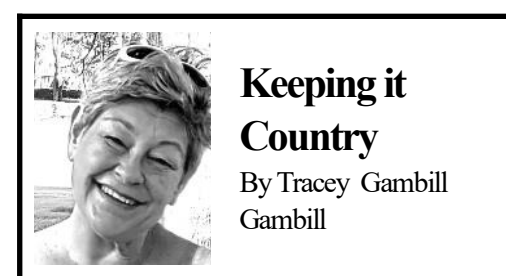
Flashing beacon for the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department at the entrance of US Hwy 98 from Santa Piedro Street remains in progress.

FLOODING ISSUES ongoing examination.

WONDERS: Now forming a committee of local citizens to volunteer to begin addressing our infrastructure needs. Please submit your number one issue. So far we have THREE volunteers. Please contact me if you wish to be on the committee. The current plan is to meet monthly with an hour or so of work by each member between meetings. *Wonder* who will step forward?

NATURAL WONDERS: Find a happy medium between over-caring and under-caring. I, for one, am grateful to be here. I will keep you updated in The Lillian each month ... please consider subscribing! Do you have a natural wonder you would like to share? Please submit *your* natural wonders to my email below ...

KEEPING IT COUNTRY! Ruralcharacterlillian@gmail.com



Keeping it Country

By Tracey Gambill
Gambill

RONNIE WILLIAMS

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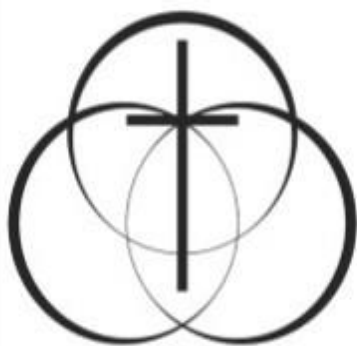
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Wednesday Adult Bible Study at 9AM

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(Click on the Worship or Bible Studies tab to view.)

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS:

Veterans Day Optimist Breakfast & Program
November 11 8:00 AM Lillian Community Club
Guest speaker Dr. E. Gaylon McCollough

**Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver
Support Group November 16 at 1 PM**

**Community Thanksgiving Service at
St. Joseph Catholic Church at 4:00 PM**
12688 Santa Piedro St., Lillian, AL 36549
Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE SINCE 1980

By Who's Authority?

In Matthew 21:23-32 the Pharisees become angry with Jesus because they felt that He threatened their long-held authority. They feared Jesus' popularity, His ability to heal and to perform miracles. In their eyes, Jesus was preaching heresy and leading people away



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

The Pharisees wanted to expose him as a fraud, and it was in this context that Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Son, go and work today in the vineyard." The boy immediately said, "No" and later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to his other son and said the same thing. This one answered, "Yes" but he never got out to the vineyard. Then Jesus asked a simple question: "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Then Jesus delivered the punch line, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him." I imagine Jesus heard some gasps and "How dare he!" from the crowd that day. Who does he think he is!!!! It was unthinkable to compare the righteous Pharisees to blatant sinners like the tax-collectors and prostitutes. Didn't he know that the Pharisees were too good to be lumped together with the likes of them? Didn't he know that only those people with the right "credentials," so to speak, would make it into the Kingdom of God? What was Jesus talking about and why was he excoriating the best people in town? There is an Old Japanese Legend that tells of a man who died and went to heaven. Heaven was beautiful, full of lush gardens and glittering mansions. But then the man came to a room lined with shelves. On the shelves were stacked piles of human ears! A heavenly guide explained that these ears belonged to all the people on earth who listened each week to the word of God, but never acted on God's teachings. Their worship never resulted in action. When these people died, therefore, only their ears ended up in Heaven. Jesus is dealing with a bunch of "earless" religious folk in this passage, and it would be to our benefit to listen in on the conversation.

It's so easy to mistake self-righteous attitudes for true belief in Jesus as Savior. Any one of us can be guilty of it. This passage packs a powerful message because God's Grace is shocking. Jesus is showing a whole new view of God that breaks down the boundaries of everything they think to be true. Jesus is talking about what types of people are acceptable to stand before a holy, holy, holy God. And he passes over the religious professionals in favor of the worst of sinners. Has he lost his mind? Or could it be that our self-righteousness doesn't earn us many points with God? Maybe God isn't a Cosmic Scorekeeper, tallying up our moral hits and misses. Maybe we don't have to earn God's love. Because God loves us even when we fail. God's arms are open to everyone, from every race and nation and tribe and tongue, from every walk of life, from every circumstance.

We're really missing something extraordinary when we put boundaries on God's grace. The Pharisees wanted perfection as a prerequisite to coming to God and they were good at putting on a show! Jesus knew that is not the way to bring hurting people into the kingdom of God. He did it with love and acceptance. He takes us and our brokenness and makes a blessedness. He did it by living out God's amazing, startling, absurd grace and Jesus expects us to live this way! We are to be grace-filled. We are to see beyond others' faults and care for their deepest needs, even if they are hostile to our love and grace. We are to value all people as worthy of acceptance, and we are to introduce them to the Jesus who died in their behalf, and in our behalf. No one is left out of God's grace, and no one is excluded from the Kingdom of God! Jesus said that the tax collectors and the prostitutes would enter the kingdom before they did. The tax collectors and the prostitutes didn't carry the baggage of religiosity. All they knew was that they were forgiven and washed clean. Jesus simply widened the boundaries of the kingdom. Of course, the Pharisees were part of it, but so were the people that the Pharisees would never accept as equals. The Pharisees wanted a kingdom that was reserved for themselves and their kind. Jesus wanted a kingdom that was big enough for everybody. I believe when we get to heaven there will be a few righteous souls. But these few righteous will be outnumbered by the billion times a trillion like me who have not been all they might have been, or should have been, but they've been healed by the wounds of their Master, Jesus who forgave their confessed sins and set them free! This greatness of God's grace is that salvation cannot be earned, it is a free gift of love offered to all who will accept it and fully surrender their eternal life to Jesus. Please do not be like the Pharisees let your perceived goodness get in the way of Jesus' righteousness. Don't let your sanctity overshadow Jesus' sacrifice.

Believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and claim your place in the Kingdom of God today. Do more than Say Yes like the second son and then do nothing, follow through and follow Jesus!

Consider Financial Gifts for Grandchildren; Here's How to Do It

If you have grandchildren, you probably enjoy spending time with them and watching them grow. And to help them achieve a bright future, you might like to make some financial gifts — but which ones?

You have several options. Let's look at three of them:

- **529 plans** – When you invest in a 529 education savings plan, any earnings growth is distributed federally tax free, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes, plus a 10% penalty.) And in-state residents who invest in their home state's 529 plan may also receive state tax incentives. A 529 plan can be used for college, approved trade school programs, qualified student loan repayments and even some K-12 costs. And if the grandchild you've named as a beneficiary of a 529 plan decides to forego further education, you can generally switch beneficiaries to another

immediate family member. You can contribute up to \$17,000 in 2023, per grandchild, to a 529 plan without incurring gift taxes. Furthermore, as of the 2024–25 school year, grandparent-owned 529 plans won't affect financial aid eligibility. However, tax issues for 529 plans can be complex, so consult with your tax advisor about your situation.

- **Roth IRA** – Any earnings growth in a Roth IRA is distributed tax free, provided the owner is at least 59½ and has had the account at least five years. If your grandchildren earn money from babysitting or a part-time job, they can open a Roth IRA with the help of a parent or other adult. You could “match” your grandchildren's contributions, possibly on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to provide them with an incentive for saving. In fact, you could fully fund the Roth IRA, up to the annual contribution limit, which is \$6,500 or the amount of your grandchild's taxable compensation, whichever is less. (The annual limit is \$7,500 for

those 50 or older.) And your grandchildren can withdraw the contributions — not the earnings — at any time to pay for college or anything else.

- **Custodial account** – You can open a custodial account, also known as an UGMA or UTMA account, for a grandchild, and fund it with most types of investments: stocks, mutual funds, bonds and so on. For that reason, it can be a good way to teach grandchildren about the nature of investing — risks, returns and the value of holding investments for the long term. Plus, there's an initial tax benefit to custodial accounts: The first \$1,250 of your grandchild's investment income (dividends, interest, capital gains) is tax free, and the next \$1,250 is taxed at the child's rate. Anything above that amount is taxed at the parents' marginal tax rate. However, once your grandchildren reach the age of termination — usually 18 or 21, depending on where they live — they take control of the



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

account and can do whatever they choose with the money.

So, while a custodial account could be considered as a funding source for college, it might alternatively serve as a gift that could eventually enable your grandchild to fulfill another desire or goal — take an overseas trip, pay for a car or maybe even start on a path to entrepreneurship.

Making financial gifts to your grandchildren can be rewarding — for them and for you. So, consider the possibilities carefully and put your generosity to work.

For questions, please contact Jason Kozon of Edward Jones located at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, 251-943-3399.



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Lillian Volunteers Report High Turnout for Election Meeting

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 66 calls dispatched by the 911 operators in September: 41 Medical Assistance; 2 Public Assists; 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents/Clean up; 0 Brush Fire; 3 Structure Fire; 10 Cancelled en route; 5 False Alarm/Miscellaneous.

We had an extremely high turnout for our Annual General Membership and Election of the LVFD Board of Directors and Officers. Clayton Smith and Josh Heisler were nominated and accepted to continue as Directors for another two year term. In addition, two new board members, Andrew Normandeau and Waynette Brown were also nominated and selected for a two year term. Goretty Lysek continues as Treasurer; Kathleen Clarke was selected as Vice President; and Laura Wells selected as Secretary.

On our next General Membership meeting we will be discussing the 2024 budget for LVFD. This meeting will be changed to the second Monday, November 13th, due to unavailability of several members. If you wish to attend, the venue is: 11331 CR 91S. Everyone is welcome!

LVFD would like to thank Lt. Nick Dosh for his exemplary dedication to the fire department. Not only is Lt. Dosh a major asset as a volunteer for the department, he just completed his Fire Officer III certification-and this is no easy task. Lt. Dosh has been with the fire department for over five years and his commitment to the department is commendable.

Although he has a full time job and a baby on the way, Dosh continues to support this community without reservation.

Thank you Dosh for all you do!!!

Again, we would like to mention October 1st is the beginning of our 2024 fiscal year and our annual solicitation letters will be mailed out during the



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Goretty Lysek

month of October. The mailing addresses will be provided by Baldwin 911. However, as of previous years, some of the addresses may not be accurate due to residents moving. The envelopes will read the name provided and "or Current Resident". In the situation that you don't receive a letter, we will provide a mailing form each month through the Lillian Paper-as provided below, or you can go on line to "Lillian Fire Rescue" and make a payment on line.

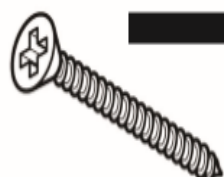
The amount requested will be the same as previous years: Residents \$75 and Businesses \$150. All your contributions are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

These donations go toward the acquisition of medical equipment, fuel and the upkeep of the stations.

Last year we hit an all time record and we want to sincerely thank each of you for your generous donations.



Lt. Nick Dosh, received "Fire Officer III certification" November 2023 - LILLIAN



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The Lillian

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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 birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits.

Happy birthday wishes in November go out to: Price Legg, Richard C. Holt, Steve Greer,

Martha Kreamer, Carolyn Holt, Sue Dickson, Gail Stewart, Allyson Greer, Peggy Bingle, Dick Rice, Brandon Williams, Aubrey Verret, Linda Andrews, Gene Fell, Evelyn Duckworth, Bill Burns, Hannas Hayles, Annette Culpepper, Gladys Morris, Mac McMorris, Gerald Jackson, Jim

Peale, Joan Fletcher and Rose Vargo.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in November are; Ron and Barbara Parks 1963, Cliff and Mary Collier 1974, Brannen and Megan Hall 2010.

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 or place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the December issue of The Lillian is November 22.

St. Joseph to Host Optimist Sponsored Yearly Thanksgiving Service On November 12

Refreshments Served

St. Joseph Catholic Church will be the host for this year's annual Community Thanksgiving Service that is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. The event will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 in Immaculate Mary Hall, 12688 Santa Piedro St., Lillian.

Refreshments will be served following.



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MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted - Looking for community residents that see the positive side of things, expect things to turn out well and believe they have the skill and ability to make good things happen. Must be able to work with others. Contact robinnewell3@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Bayside Baptist Church (across from the Chevron station, Hwy 98) is in search of a Music Director/Song Leader. Call 251-978-8586 for information, or send resume to: Bayside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 533, Lillian, AL 36549..

HELP WANTED -Bayside Baptist Church (across from Chevron station, Hwy 98) is in search of a Pianist. Call 251-978-8586 for information, or send resume to: Bayside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 533, Lillian, AL 36549.

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Entertainment, Travelers & Tourist Visitors Guide



of Lillian, Alabama

Reservations are now on-going for the Spanish Cove Annual Craft Fair, sponsored by the POASC Activities Committee.

The Craft Fair will be held November 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the main clubhouse.

The cost is still \$5 per table.

You may request inside or outside, and if you are outside then you may place a tent over your table.

If you have questions, please call Denise Porter, Activities Coordinator 251-961-1130

Lillian Methodist Church

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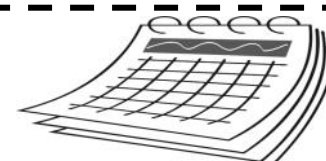
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Warrior Chefs at the Sweet Potato Cook Off

Elberta Middle School hosted its annual Sweet Potato Cook Off, and 22 students entered. Emma Franks won first place with her Sweet Potato Dumplings, and Clara Timmons won second place with her Sweet Potato Casse-roses. Both represented Elberta Middle at the Baldwin County level competition on September 27. Franks placed first and Timmons placed second in the county.



The Lillian Calendar



November 1 - 21 – Annual Community Ecumenical Ministries Food Drive. Non-perishable food items may be dropped off at Lillian Methodist Church or Spanish Cove property owners' office. Sponsored by the Perdido Bay Optimist Club. For questions call 251-234-1122.

November 2, 9, 16 & 30 at 10:00 AM - Ageless Grace (Exercise for the Body & Brain), at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.

For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630. (No class on 11/23)

November 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7 PM - AL-ANON. Meetings are held in the conference room at the Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.

November 11 at 8:00 AM – Community Veterans Day Breakfast & Program at the Lillian Community Club. Guest speaker, Dr. E. Gaylon McCollough, local plastic surgeon, and author of Victory in the Game of Life, When Patriots Rally: America's Most Powerful Weapon Against Our Enemies, Foreign and Domestic and Tomorrow in America: The Battle for the Souls of Our Children will share a message of patriotism honoring our veterans. Dr. E. Gaylon McCollough has humble beginnings as the only son of a south Alabama plumber who overcame inherent limitations and setbacks; then proceeds to the realization of never-expected accolades as an Academic All-American on Coach "Bear" Bryant's 1964 National Championship team, draftee of the Dallas Cowboys, world-renowned Facial Plastic Surgeon, mentor to the next generation of appearance and health enhancement physicians and surgeons, and inductee of the State of Alabama's Sports (and Senior Citizens) Halls of Fame. This breakfast and program is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. No reservation is needed, and guests eat for Free!

November 12 at 4:00 PM – Annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, located at 12688 Santa Piedro Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Father Alwin Legaspi will deliver the sermon, area pastors will share in the service and the special music will provide. The service and reception following will be in the Immaculate Mary Hall. The Annual Community Thanksgiving Service is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. To learn more about our organization go to OptimistClubPB.org/.

November 16 from 1:00 -3:00 PM – Monthly Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

November 25 at 8:00 AM – Regular Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. Join us as we eat, fellowship and learn about upcoming events and activities provided by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)

Entertainment, Travelers & Tourist Visitors Guide

Fall Fest Was a Blast! Onward to the Holiday Celebrations

Did everyone have a great time at the annual Fall Fest this year!? Mother Nature came through for us by bringing in a bit of crispness to the air. So many activities, great music, exceptional food, an increased number of attendees, plus a special thanks goes out to the volunteers.

Together they made it happen. Wow, they were awesome!

The next great event coming up at the Park on November 18, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. is our Holiday Market. Anticipation before the holidays is palpable. Family and friends start to compare calendars for fun events they want to attend. Make sure to put the Holiday Market, the Christmas in the Park Preview Party, and the opening day (December 2) for the month-long celebration of Christmas lights in

bold lettering on your calendars.

If you are interested in being a vendor or have questions about the Holiday Market, contact Nickie at lillianrecreationalpark@yahoo.com. Want to get into the holiday spirit and help with the Christmas in the Park setup, contact Lucy at LRA28west@aol.com.

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Nutcracker Season

By **ROBYN MONAGHAN**

It's Christmas Eve 1908 and the 11 Swift Children flock to the Great Hall for the Yuletide family festivities.

The Swift-Coles Mansion is decked with candles, tinsel, and sparkling orbs. Sweet treats cover silver platters and brightly wrapped gifts beckon invitingly beneath the towering Yule tree.

What is inside that glittering wrapper?

Believe it, Christmas kids of all ages! Yes, Clara, there is a Nutcracker.

Clara takes to her toes as the Sugar Plum Fairy comes to life to pirouette round the tree. A Russian doll bursts forth in Caprioles across the hall.

Madame Rio Cordy and the Coastal Ballet are bringing the legend of holiday magic to a turn-of-the-century setting reminiscent of the one that originally backdropped Tchaikovsky's iconic Christmas ballet.

Clara, the Nutcracker, and the Sugar Plum fairy took their first curtain calls in the 1890's. The Swift family made its fortune in the lumber business and completed it's palatial Mansion in 1908. This holiday season, Coastal Ballet brings the iconic Christmas tradition to a real-life stage that may look extraordinarily like the celebrations in the Swift family's lavish home.

"It's just so nice to be back at it Swift-Coles again," said Madame Cordy, artistic director at Coastal Ballet.

"The atmosphere is wonderful, especially as one of the

Coles was a male ballet dancer, she said. "They have historically supported the arts.

Swift-Coles Historic Home has a rich history that dates to 1882 when Thomas Gavin, a local Creole fisherman, built the four-room dog-trot style cabin on the banks of the Bon Secour River. Charles and his brother, Ira owned and operated three sawmills- two of which were located a few miles north of the home. Swift Lumber would prosper in the years to come and is still in operation today.

In 1898 the lumber baron Charles Augustus Swift and his wife Susan Platt Roberts Swift bought the cabin and moved into it with their seven children.

By 1908 the Swift family had grown to 11. It had added an entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, bathrooms and porches to the west side of the home.

Charles Swift passed away in 1912 and Susan lived in the home until her death in 1932. The Swift Supply lumber company is still one of the largest businesses in Baldwin County.

Norman Nicholas Coles bought the grand home in 1976. Coles was an entrepreneur who owned the Friendship House Restaurant and an antique store. Coles traveled the world collecting antiques and artifacts, many of which are still on display in the home.

Coles bequeathed the home to the Baldwin County Historical Development Commission on death in 2007. The home was opened to the public in 2009. Since then, people have enjoyed the home as a place of celebration as well as a place to take a stroll through history.

"What says Southern Christmas like the Nutcracker

ballet in an iconic antebellum mansion?" Cordy asks.

"The beautiful grounds lend itself to being transported back in time."

Historians are unable to verify accounts of warring mice and toy soldiers and, other than Coastal Ballet's holiday appearances, tales of dancing dolls and candy. But you may see characters from the classic Christmas Nutcracker legend come to life at the Swift-Coles Mansion.

The Swift-Coles tea event, at noon - 2 p.m. Nov. 10, is a prelude to Coastal Ballet's annual Nutcracker Ballet production. Coastal Ballet will also host a tea at the Copper Kettle in Foley at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 18.

Coastal will perform excerpts from the Nutcracker at 2 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3, at the South Baldwin Community Theater and the entire production Fri. Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Orange Beach Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$20 and available at SBCT.biz. for the Gulf Shores performance and at orangebeachal.gov. for the Orange Beach performance.



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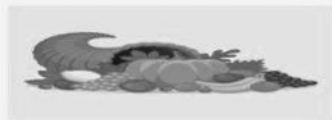
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