

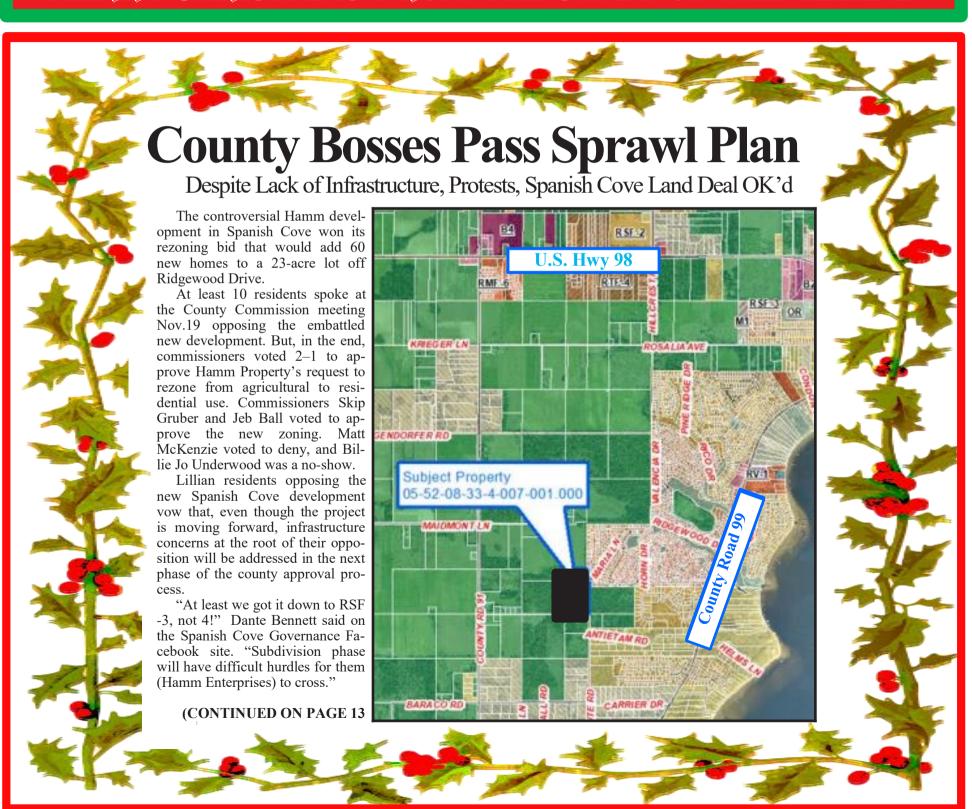
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DECEMBER 2024

Lillian, AL 36549 Volume 28, Number 12 FREE

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF OF THE LILLIAN



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Message: Keep Lillian the Way Its Hard-working Residents Want It

Editor's Note: FROM AARON FUNK BELOW. PLEASE SUPPORT IF YOU WISH BY EMAILING:

PLANNING@BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV SO THAT THE COMMISSIONERS ARE AWARE OF OUR COMMUNITY SUP-PORT. SUBJECT LINE SHOULD READ "HAMM AND OTHER MATTERS."

Dear Editor,

My name is Aaron Funk. I have lived in the Lillian area for many years, am a father of three in my late forties and work full-time. My wife is a mother of two and a first responder (RN) who works at PNS airport. We fully support the efforts of Tracey Gambill and others involved in the Rural Character Lillian group and the Keep Lillian Country group and while we would love to voice our support in person at county planning meetings, we are both unable to because of our work responsibilities. Sparing you my longer rant about how unfairly

skewed this is to tax paying hard working homeowners like myself that are totally unable to attend meetings during the work week, Tracey and I felt that a short letter with signatures from people like my wife and I could be read at the meeting to demonstrate that for every retired adult able to attend meetings in person, there are many, many more



who care just as passionately about keeping Lillian's growth pace to what we, the long-time full time residents of the community want, who are grossly underrepresented or totally unrepresented at county planning meetings.

As a relevant side note, I am an IT Direc-

tor and CTO with decades of experience in the tech sector and there is zero technical reason the meetings couldn't be broadcast and interactive, Baldwin County just doesn't seem to view that as a priority, but if they did, and we could eliminate the drive time, we might be able to attend important meetings remotely, but until that changes - if it ever changes, it's a moot topic.

By adding my name to the list below, I'm sharing my voice with others so that Baldwin County Commissioners and planners can see and hear from those of us where it's nearly impossible for us to abandon our business day duties to attend a meeting in person. My name also indicates alliance and alignment with Tracey's overarching group message to minimize development and density and keep Lillian the way we, its hard-working residents, want it.

Sincerely, the silent majority: Aaron J Funk - Lillian, AL Jennifer K Waid - Lillian, AL

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK PREVIEW PARTY DECEMBER 6

This year's Christmas in the Park officially opens on Saturday, December 7, but there will be a preview party on Friday, December 6.

The preview party, "A Coastal Christmas," will give partygoers a 'sneak peek' of all the lights and exhibits. The evening will feature food by Alabama Coastal Catering, complimentary wine and beer, a live auction featuring items like a beach house and beachfront condo weekends, and an incredible assortment of raffle prizes.

Tickets to the preview party are \$50, which includes food and complimentary wine and beer.

The evening will have a tropical, coastal flair and feature steel drum music by Mitch Rencher, the Steel Drum Guy.

"A Coastal Christmas" will be held from 5 to 9 pm. For tickets or more information, contact Lucy Smith, 719-494-7986.



December 6 - 5:00-9:00 pmChristmas in the Park Preview Party

December 7 - 3:00-7:00 pm

Christmas in the Park opens. Games and activities begin at 3.

Secret Santa Shop where kids can shop for family presents (typical price \$5) opens at 3. Santa arrives by helicopter at 4:15. Lights will be launched at 5:30, followed by fireworks. Lights will remain lit through December 31.

December 12 - 6:00 pm

Christmas Merry-Oke & Ugly Christmas Shirt contest.

December 19 - 6:00 pm
Candelight Christmas caroling and hot chocolate.

Lillian Recreational Park - 33914 Widell, Lillian www.LillianRecreationalPark.org (251) 962-2129

Keep Track of Zoning Changes in Your Neighborhood; Here's a Dec. Roundup

Greetings!

COMPATIBILITY is number one in the rezoning phase. Traffic and infrastructure, schools, roads, utilities, flooding, etc. are addressed in the subdivision phase.

Z24-40 Hamm Enterprises, 23 acres-Second rezoning request from RA to RSF-3 (Formerly Z24-10, RA to RSF-4 denied in May 2024) located adjacent to Spanish Cove. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING WAS HEARD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024, and AP-PROVED by the Baldwin County Commissioners 2/1. Commissioners Ball and Gruber voted Aye, Commissioner McKenzie voted Nay. Commissioner Underwood was not present. Next will be the subdivision phase and I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

Z24-37, Keifer Property (US Highway 98 and County Road 91 N)-The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 11.6 +/- acres from RA -Rural Agriculture District to RSF-1 -Residential Single Family District. Heard November 19, 2024, and AP-PROVED by the Baldwin County Commissioners 3/0, Commissioners Ball, Gruber and McKenzie voting Aye. Commissioner Underwood was not present. Next will be the subdivision phase and I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

ZVA24-59 May Brothers Property

9717 Co Rd 91

LILLIAN, AL 36549

Variance Request- 12564 County Road 99, Lillian, AL 36549-The applicant is requesting a variance from Sections 5.2.5 and 15.2.4(a) of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to reducing the side building setback requirement of 15' to 5'4" and reducing the number of required spaces for the proposed commercial business from 12 spaces to 8 spaces. Heard November 14, 2024, by the Baldwin County Board of Adjustment No. 2 was APPROVED 4/0 because there will be 12 parking spaces, even though four of them will be in the highway construction setback and the variance for the side building setback is minimal. Next will be application for site plan approval before the Baldwin County Planning Commission where appropriate land use will be considered. Date not set. The proposal is for a 2,000 sq. ft. building as a fireworks business. I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

December 5, 2024 Agenda:

Z24-49 Dwayne Smith-Notice is hereby given that the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing concerning a request submitted by Dwayne Smith on behalf of Sandra Johnson. The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 58 +/- acres from RA - Rural Agriculture District to RSF-2 - Residential Single Family District. The

public hearing will be conducted during the next regular meeting of Baldwin County Planning & Commission Zoning which is scheduled for Thursday, December 05, 2024 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Baldwin

County Central Annex at 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL.

December 17, 2024 Agenda:

Z24-41, Fernandez Property (County Road 97)- The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 3 +/- acres from RSF-E -Residential Single Family Estate District to RSF-1 - Residential Single Family District. Final hearing December 17, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, County Commission Meeting Chambers-2nd Floor, 1100 Fairhope Avenue, Fairhope AL 36532.

Z24-42, Howle Property (US Highway 98)- The applicant is requesting approval to rezone .45 +/- acres from B-2 - Neighborhood Business District to B-4 - Major Commercial District. This is located on Hwy 98 where Bay RV was located eastward in Lillian. Final hearing December 17, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, County Commission Meeting Chambers-2nd Floor, 1100 Fairhope Avenue, Fairhope AL 36532. Improvement in process -Modifications to the Baldwin



Keeping it **Country**

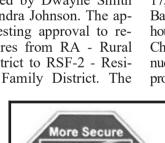
By Tracey Gambill



County Subdivision Regulations heard October 1 were tabled until January. These improvements are very good for preserving the visual and practical aesthetics of new development. Support Landmark District Lillian and/or Unincorporated Elberta - Support for Lillian and/or Unincorporated Elberta becoming Landmark District(s) in order to avoid/prevent being annexed by any municipality.

Your support can be sent to either tbird32507@gmail.com or using the OR Code above to fill out the form:

Wisdom: "It's far easier to have compassion for others when you first have compassion for yourself."



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The Southern Red Spider Mite is found in 7 Countries on 4 Continents

December is such a great month! All the holidays, the general cheer, the extra bit of patience and grace for our fellow humans (well, mostly) and All of the DECORATIONS! Trees, wreaths, candles, statues, flowers, I confess, I am of the "More is More" mentality when the Christmas season hits! Except for Holly - sharp, pointy, painful, poisonous Holly!

Holly can trace its origins back to Northern Europe. Druids wore it as ceremonial head wear. Romans used it as an offering to Saturn. Christians placed it above doors to prevent the entry of terrifying specters. Why is the holly always in a good mood? It was root-ed in Christmas cheer!

Wouldn't you know, the Southern Red Mite, *Oligonychus ilicis*, is a pest of broad-leaved evergreens like Holly, boxwood, cranberry, eucalyptus and many others. In fact, it feeds on more than 34 plant species in 15 different plant families. The Southern Red Mite is called the Coffee Red Mite in Brazil because it is also a coffee plant pest!

The Southern Red Mite is found in seven countries on four continents! It can be found in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, California, Massachusetts, and Virginia. It was first recorded in 1917, found on American holly (*Ilex opaca*), in South Carolina. It is probably widespread on broad-leaved evergreens in the Eastern United States. "Probably" because there hasn't been a focused scientific effort to map the extent of this insect. What did one Southern Red Mite say to the other as they sat in the Holly? I'm feeling berry good this season!

Southern Red Mites are dark red, and darker than most red spider mites found on woody ornamentals. Even with their eight legs spread out, these mites would just cover the period at the end of this sentence. Males are smaller and slimmer than females. Females have rounder bodies, all the better for laying eggs! The eggs of these mites are red or brown, round and a little flattened. They have a tiny hair-like "stripe" that sticks up in the center.

The larvae of these mites are slightly larger than the eggs and have six legs instead of eight. The life cycle of a Southern Red Mite is relatively short. Female mites lay eggs within 24 hours of feeding. The eggs hatch in 2 to 3 days, and the nymphs go through three developmental stages before becoming adults. It is possible to see all the life cycle stages of this insect on a single leaf!

Southern Red Mites are called cool weather mites because they seem to do most of their damage in the spring and the fall. They use



their piercing mouth parts (similar to a mosquito's mouth parts) to puncture plant cell walls and suck out the vital fluids those cells contain. This initial damage will appear as stippling on the leaves. Stippling looks like small dots of



Know Your Critters By Celeste Hadley-Champion

dark or yellowish colors on the green leaves. The destruction of the cells, called Mesophyll collapse, results in reduced photosynthesis, growth reduction and defoliation. What did one leaf say to the other? I'm falling for you!

In our home gardens, pay attention to stippling. If you see small dots discoloring the leaves, tap or gently shake the leaves over white paper to dislodge any mites. Count mites, as well as the beneficial insects and predaceous mites. You may need a magnifier with 10x



magnification to see the finer details. Predaceous mites have longer legs than the Southern Red Mites and move much faster. Look for red overwintering eggs on the lower surface of leaves from November through early spring.

It's important to catch mite infestations early to reduce plant stress. Many spider mite species thrive on plants stressed by drought or heat. Drought makes it harder for plants to defend themselves and heat shortens mite development time, so populations grow faster. Always avoid over-fertilizing plants. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the amount of fertilizer needed for your type of plants, because extra fertilizer makes plants more nutritious for spider mites and increases mite reproduction too!

Which side of the tree has the most leaves? The outside!

Happy Holidays to you and yours for every celebration this month. Let's hope 2025 finds us all a little kinder, a little more patient, and a little sillier. Silly people are happy people, and everyone deserves to be happy!



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 infor-

mation 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 January issue of *The Lillian* will be December 18. Anyone may send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 or email lillianadvertise@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.



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POLICE BLOTTER

Burglary - Residential

33600 Block Rosalia Ave Lillian, Al 36549 reported on 11/15/2024 at 8:37 p.m. responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

2000 Block Maria Ln Lillian, Al 36549 Reported on 11/14/2024 at 11:12 a.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

3100 Block Pinewood Cir Lillian, Al 36549 Reported on 11/09/2024 at 2:44 p.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

33000 Block Collier Rd Lillian, Al 36549 Reported on 11/06/2024 at

1:24 p.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Domestic Verbal

CFS Address: 2700 block of Pine Ridge Dr, Lillian, AL 36549, USA A 911 Call for Service(CFS) was received on 10/27/2024 17:11. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Assault

33900 Block Us-98 Lillian, Al 36549 Reported on 10/26/2024 at 10:51 p.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Domestic

2200 Block Perdido Cir, Lillian, AL 36549, USA 6 p.m. 10-25-2024

Assault

24500 Block Hand Ave Perdido Beach, Al 36530 Reported on 10/25/2024 at 6:52 p.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

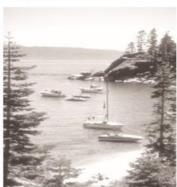
Assault

10500 Block Rte Rd Lillian, Al 36549 Reported on 09/21/2024 at 03:17 a.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Assault

10500 Block Coleman Ln Elberta, Al 36530 Reported on 10/05/2024 at 02:41 a.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office





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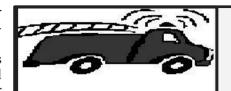
Lillian Firefighters Reach Out to Current and Newest Residents for Donations

Chief Dewhurst reported that the Department responded to 73 alarms for October. Additionally, the membership had responded to a couple of very challenging calls and, as always, the membership had risen to the challenges.

Our annual donation letters have been mailed but there are always issues with everyone receiving it. Should you have not seen our mailer, please feel free to use the coupon posted here. We respectfully request a \$75 donation per household (\$6.25 per month) and \$150 donation for every business. Of course, we understand that not everyone may have this capability, and anything contributed is always greatly appreciated.

There are a lot of new residents in our community, and many may ask why we do this. We receive a set amount of ad valorem funds annually. The State has very specific regulations on how this money can be spent. It can be applied to fire fighting vehicles, equipment, training, fuel, insurance and building maintenance. Unfortunately, the most ineligible expenditure for these funds is for medical training, recertification, supplies and equipment. Over 65% of our responses annually are EMS related, and we need to replenish the supplies used

Finally, as our community expands, so does our need for additional support. New housing has brought many more families to the Lillian community resulting in increased call volume. We are always in need of new volunteers to join our ranks. You do not need to be a firefighter to give back to your community. We will provide the necessary training if you are only interested in the EMS side of our responses. We welcome all individuals from all backgrounds. If you are interested in learning more, you can reach out and message us on our Face Book page (Lillian Fire Rescue) or call us at 251-962-2696 and leave a message. We would love to have you as part of our team. Thank you all for your continued support and have a glorious joyous holiday!



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Andrew Normandeau

LILLIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

11331 Co Rd 91 S. Lillian, AL 36549

ANNUAL 2024-2025 DONATION REQUEST

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Resident Address in Lillian

Contact Phone #

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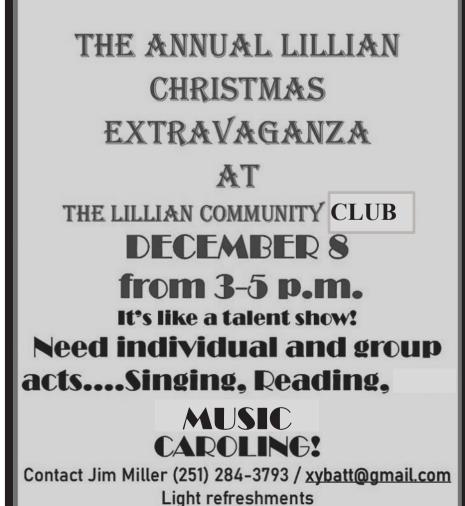
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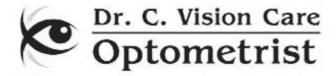




COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING



The Lillian community gathered at the Lillian Methodist Church for the annual Thanksgiving Gathering sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Each year a Lillian church hosts the worship and fellowship event. Pastors from all Lillian churches are invited to participate. Back row from left, are Rev. Greg Brown, Bayside Baptist Church; Rev. Josh Thompson, First Baptist Church of Lillian; Rev. Dean Conkel, Lillian Fellowship Church and Rev. Nathan Van Prooyen, Eternal Life Church. Front row are Rev. Calvin Bartle, Eternal Life Church; Optimist Club of Perdido Bay President Robin Newell, Rev. Paul Wargo, Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church; Rev. Tina Lockett, Episcopal Church of the Advent and Rev. Daniel Randall, Lillian Methodist Church.



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The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies had their Veterans' Day gathering at Jade Garden restaurant in Foley. Our hostesses were Karen Brady and Candy Reed. Karen gifted each lady with a sparkling bag of treats and a Christmas ornament. The birthday girls, Judy Wargo and Karen Brady, wore the crowns and received their gifts from Candy, including homemade fruit jams, pickled green beans and natural perfumes. From our Charity Account we will be giving \$100 each to the Food Pantries at St. Joseph Catholic and Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran churches. Additional donations will be given to Gunny Cole and Cajun Navy 2016 for their help to needy in times of natural disasters. Our Christmas Gathering on December 10 will be hosted by Tyra Williams, Jan Willoughby, and Deb Pifer. Look for us in the Lillian Christmas Parade and join us helping to decorate the Lillian Community Park for their Christmas festivities



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Free breakfast buffet for first time visitors.

Lillian Optimist Christmas Parade December 14, 1:00 p.m. LCC



Breakfast with Santa December 21, 9:00 a.m. LCC

December 14 - Breakfast Program-Parade Preparation 8 a.m.

December 16 - Optimist Fun Night, The Front Porch 5:00 pm

December 21 - Breakfast with Santa— 9:00 a.m.

December 28 - No meeting, Happy Holidays!

Join us! For more informationoptimistclubpb.org president.ocpb@gmail.com 402-677-3944

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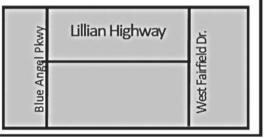
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Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am Worship Service: 10:30 am

Evangelism Study and Dinner 5:00 pm

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

Children Grades: K-5 Bible Activities

Youth Grades 6-12 Bible Study & Activites

*Free childcare is provided during all Bible Studies and services at our church.

> Pastor: Josh Thompson Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson Children's Director: Debbie Sweppenhiser

Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

34421 Barclay Ave ~ PO Box 178 ~ Lillian 251-962-2180 LillianBaptist36549@gmail.com

Night Sky December 2024

December 1: New Moon

December 4: Moon near Venus

December 7: Jupiter at opposition

December 8: Moon near Saturn;

lunar occultation of Saturn

December 14: Geminid meteor show-

er peak

December 14: Moon near Jupiter

December 15: Full Moon

December 18: Moon near Mars; lunar

occultation of Mars

December 21: December solstice

December 22: Ursid meteor shower

<u>peak</u>

December 25: Mercury at greatest

western elongation

December 30: New Moon

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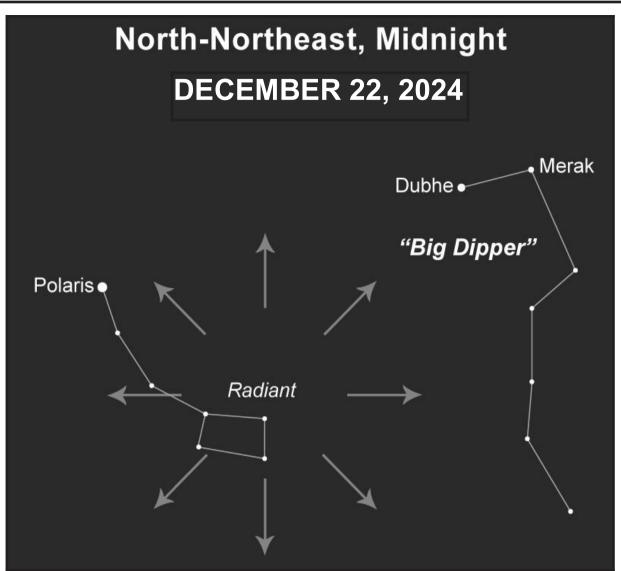
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The Ursid Meteor Shower Radiates From Constellation Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper

This low-key meteor shower — which always peaks around the solstice—is somewhat overlooked due to the holiday season. Its hourly rate is lower than that of the Geminid shower, which peaks over a week before. The last quarter moon may interfere in 2024 — but if you block out the moon—the Ursids are worth a look!

Predicted

Peak: is predicted for 5:22 UTC on Dec. 22, 2024.

When to watch: Watch for Ursid meteors in the early morning hours of December 22.

Duration of shower: Ursids range from December 13 to 24, so you might see some intermingling with the Geminids'peak.

Radiant: Circumpolar at northerly latitudes.

Nearest moon phase: A last quarter moon occurs at 22:18 UTC on December 22. So the moon – at 54% illumination – may interfere with the Ursids after midnight until dawn. Try to block out the moon after it rises around midnight.

Expected meteors at peak, under ideal conditions: Under a dark sky with no moon, the Ursids offer perhaps five to 10 meteors/per-hour.

Note: This low-key meteor shower — which always peaks around the solstice — is somewhat overlooked due to the holiday season. Its hourly rate is lower than that of the popular Geminid shower, which peaks over a week before.

Ironically, Commissioner Skip Gruber, who represents the Lillian area District 4 voters, said it may be time to update the master plan, drawn up in 2006. It isn't fair to deny a property owner's right to develop an investment property bought with the intent of making a profit, he said.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Compatibility is the top issue officials consider in the rezoning phase, local activist and Keep It Country leader Tracey Gambill said.

"Traffic and infrastructure, schools, roads, utilities, flooding, etc. are addressed in the subdivision phase."

The Baldwin County Commission in May rejected on a tie vote Hamm Development's bid for rezoning that would have allowed 80 new homes on 7,500 square-foot lots in Spanish Cove. Last time around, commissioners Jeb Ball and Billie Jo Underwood voted to approve Hamm's request, while Matt McKenzie and Skip Gruber, who represents the Lillian area in District 4, voted to deny.

Hamm then revised its lot size by 2,500 square feet and put it back before the county.

The Planning Commission, which makes rezoning recommendations to the county commissioners recommended 8-1 to deny the Hamm rezoning request on grounds that it did not meet health and safety guidelines outlined in the county's master plan.

Ironically, Commissioner Skip Gruber, who

represent the Lillian area in District 4 voters, said it may be time to update the master plan to be more favorable to property owners who seek to invest, not necessarily neighboring residents.

"Sometimes the master plan outgrows itself," he said. I think our master plan needs to be redone and looked at."

"We are a property owners' rights state, and I take that seriously," Gruber said.

It isn't fair to deny a property owner's right to develop an investment property bought with the intent of making a profit, he said.

But property owners who live nearby spoke at the meeting about ways the new development would infringe on their investment and way of life.

Elizabeth Sullivan said that when she bought her neighboring property two decades ago, she was told what is now the proposed Hamm development site was intended as the site of another pool, recreation facility, or club house for the Spanish Cove community.

Other neighbors cited flooding, foul odor, water quality and sewage issues, referring to Alabama Department of Environmental Action involvement regarding existing problems with sewage in Spanish Cove.

"It was supposed to be a pool, recreation center or community center. It was not supposed to be housing," said neighboring property owner Andrea Andrews. Andrews lives directly off CR 91.

"They just want the money," she said. "They don't want to do what was proposed by the original settlers and citizens."



Billie Jo Underwood was absent.



'Swim Where It's Monitored' Program Trains Focus on Perdido Beach Park

Mobile Barkeeper will test Perdido Beach Park (off the end of CR 97 going south from US 98) weekly as part of our SWIM (Swim Where It's Monitored) Program. Here, along with other locations, we test for Enter-ococcus and E. Coli. While Enterococcus and E. coli in and of themselves are not necessarily dangerous, they are indicators that other more dangerous pathogens may be present. If you swim in water with high levels of these bacteria, it could potentially cause some serious health issues.

We have a whole team of people dedicated to investigating and tracking the root causes of pollution in our waters. We work toward real and measurable change to keep the waters we love healthy.

If you're not already on our mailing list, please join us to stay informed and up to date on all our initiatives. https://mobilebaykeeper.org/newsletter.

LILLIAN FELLOWSHIP

A Reformed Congregation Together for the Gospel of Jesus Christ

11737 COUNTY ROAD 99 www.lillianfellowship.org

Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.

Drive In Service at 9 a.m. via radio at 90.1 FM Rev. Dean Conkel







www.gloriasims.com



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December Music

Friday, December 6th. RIPTIDE . 7-11 pm Friday, December 13th · Knee Deep · 7-11 pm

Friday, December 20th · Blackwater Country · 7-11 pm

Sunday, December 22nd · Gary Story · 3-7 pm

Friday, December 27th • Three Bean Soup • 7-11 pm











Friday, December 13th, 5-7pm · Hoffman Hall (All food provided by the Club)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - 7 PM NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND- 3 PM BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - 7 PM

LOUNGE HOURS:

Sunday thru Thursday: 11:00 am-10:00 pm Friday & Saturday: 11:00 am - 11:00 pm \$2.75 Bloody Marys ALL DAY Sunday

ANNUAL LILLIAN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 14th | 1:00 pm Starts at Lillian Community Club

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY



in the parade: Contact Robin Newell at president.ocpb@gmail.com

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 21st, 9-10 am
Saturday, December 28th, 8 am in Hoffman Hall Visit www.optimistclubpb.org for details

Help us ensure that every child has

a Merry Christmas by donating to TOYS FOR TOTS. Collection box located in the Lounge.

Participate by donating a NEW & UNWRAPPED toy for a local child in need. Donations accepted until December 10th Cash donations are also accepted.

BARTENDERS/EMPLOYEES CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH @ 6:30 PM From all of us at the LCC We will be closed Wednesday, December 25th

RING IN THE DECEMBER 31ST, 2024 IN HOFFMAN HALL \$25 PER PERSON | HALL DOORS OPEN AT

CHRIS WEST & ONE MORE RIDE 8 PM TIL 1 AM

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PETITION FOR LANDMARK DISTRICT LILLI-AN AND/OR UNINCORPORATED ELBERTA Please scan the QR Code at Let's Keep it Country on Facebook to fill out the form for your support of becoming a Landmark District(s), Lillian and/or Unincorporated Elberta, to prevent annexation by any municipality. Please address any questions to tbird32507@gmail.com



Let's Keep it Country

by Tracey Gambill Protect the rural character of Baldwin County Follow us on Facebook @ Let's Keep it Country

Planning and Zoning Commission

Baldwin County Central Annex Auditorium 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL 36567

1st Thursday of each month @ 4 pm

Attend meetings or watch meetings online at https://baldwincountyal.gov/ or on YouTube.

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Baldwin County Commission

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What Should You Know About Mandatory Withdrawals?

You may spend many decades contributing to your IRA and 401(k), but eventually you will likely need to take the money out — in fact, you *must* take the money out or face penalties. What should you know about these mandatory withdrawals?

Here are some of the basics:

- What are they called? Mandatory withdrawals are technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs.
- When must I take RMDs? If you were born before 1951, you've probably already begun taking RMDs. If you were born between 1951 and 1959, your RMD age is 73. And if you were first RMD until April 1 of the year after you reach your RMD age, bborn in 1960 or later, your RMD age is 75. You can postpone accepting your ut this will result in two RMDs for the year. After you take your first RMD, you must take subsequent ones by December 31 of each year.
- What penalties will be assessed if I don't take all my RMDs? For every dollar not withdrawn, the IRS will charge a 25% penalty, but this can drop to 10% if you subsequently withdraw the correct amount within two years.
- Which accounts have RMDs? RMDs apply to traditional IRAs, as well as other types of IRAs, including SIMPLE and SEP IRAs. RMDs don't apply to Roth IRAs. RMDs also apply to traditional 401(k)s, but not Roth 401(k)s.
- Can I withdraw more than the RMD for any given year? Yes, you are free to take out as much as you want. However, if you take out more than the RMD for one year, you can't apply the excess to the RMD for the next year.
- How are RMDs calculated? Typically, your RMDs are determined by dividing your account balance from the prior December 31 by a life expectancy factor published by the IRS. Your financial professional

should be able to perform this calculation for you.

• If I have multiple accounts, do I have to take an RMD from each one? If you are taking RMDs from a traditional IRA, you must calculate each RMD individually, but you can take the total amount from one or more IRAs. If



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon of Edward Jones

you're taking RMDs from a 401(k) or similar plan, you must take the RMD from each of your accounts.

- How are RMDs taxed? You are typically taxed at your income tax rate on the amount of the withdrawn RMD. You may be able to avoid taxes in a particular year if you transfer your RMDs to a qualified charity in what's known as a qualified charitable distribution.
- If I inherit an IRA or 401(k), am I subject to RMDs? Yes. When you take RMDs from an inherited account, you generally must withdraw all the funds within 10 years, as opposed to over your lifetime, which is the RMD window that applies to your own accounts. The rules are somewhat different if you inherit an IRA or 401(k) from your spouse. In any case, though, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor about how to take RMDs from an inherited account.

If you're already subject to RMDs, be sure you've taken them before the year ends. And if you haven't yet started taking RMDs, learn as much as you can about them — because the more you know, the more likely you'll make the right moves at the right time.

For questions please contact Jason Kozon or Chantz Blackmon at 251-943-3399, located at 22394 Miflin Road in Foley.

Look for Our Legion Float in the Christmas Parade Dec. 14

All veterans are invited to join Post 48 and become a part of the largest Veteran organization in the United States.

The American Legion is your voice in congress, they need membership numbers when they go in front of the VA and all concerned. The focus has been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans.

The American Legion stands as a beacon of inclusivity and camaraderie, offering a welcoming embrace to veterans and their families from all walks of life. Thank you to all Veterans and their families as well as the Lillian Community for participating in the American Legion Post 48 Veterans Day Celebration.

The American Legion Post 48 wants to wish the Lillian Community a very safe and happy Holiday season. We hope you will all come out and see our float at the Christmas parade this year. See page 14.

MEDICAL CLOSET: Post 48 would like to reaffirm to the Lillian Community that the Medical Closet is for all Lillian citizens and there is absolutely no charge.

Many items are available, such as walkers, hospital beds, and more.

The only requirement is the return of said items when no longer needed.

The individuals to contact are Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 and Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084.

Every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Legion members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48. The building is located next door to the

Lillian Community Club, adjacent to the POW/MIA flag.

Come and join us for a cup of coffee or a soda, and good conversation.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Lillian Community Club Hall. Come



Lillian American Legion

and join us and become one of the millions of Legionnaires still serving.



Beware the Dolphin Boats —A Lesson from A Lillian Native Son

We were cruising across Perdido Bay, heading toward The Wharf in Orange Beach for dinner and a movie. Going to a movie theater by boat is just the way we roll. As we approached Hatcher Point, we came upon a bonafide aquatic traffic jam. In case you're geographically challenged, Hatcher is the undeveloped, wooded point along the Intracoastal Waterway about halfway between Pirate's Cove and Barber's Marina. The channel markers (green #69 and red #70) are set so close together that two barges can't pass through at the same time. It's even freakier when idiot boat owners with more horsepower than IQ rip through there at full tilt.

On that particular evening there were three 40-foot-plus boats idling in place with their boy shrimping skiff floating quietly in the middle of the armada. Some local dude was picking through his net, probably wishing he had some privacy. It was not to be. An audience of 100 or so dolphin gawkers were leaning over the bow rails, hooting like Alabama fans and watching bottlenose dolphins munch on the bycatch the shrimper was discarding.

I felt sorry for the guy. He looked like a seasoned waterman with a regular seat at the Pirate's Cove bar. He was out there trying to relax, drink a cold beer and catch a shrimp dinner for his family. Instead, he was in the cross hairs of goofy tourists. I figured the dolphin tour boats should at least give the guy 10 percent for the feeding exhibition.

I'm not against capitalism but it shouldn't include harassment.

We slowly navigated past the scene and waved at the shrimper. He just rolled his eyes. The event did not endear me to dolphin tour boats. Truth is, they've always irked me. They're loud and, worst of all, they churn up the bay with tsunami-like waves.

In recent years, they've developed a sure-fire method to entice the dolphins, which does not involve creeping on innocent shrimpers. They line up next to each other and create wakes that clash into one supernaturally humongous wave. The dolphins leap and frolic and have the most fun of their lives (except when they're having sex). The tourists squeal with excitement, buy more booze and end up tipping big. My problem is that those monster wakes eventually crash into the shore or worse, I hit them at high speed and threw my wife out of the boat. That has not happened...yet.

Back in the day, we'd have thought someone was downright dumb to pay \$30 just to see a few dolphins. We saw them every time we went for a boat ride. Still do. Nowadays it's weird if we don't run across a few dolphins.

Despite my personal disdain for dolphin tours, the good news is that Perdido Bay and our neighboring waters have an extremely healthy population of bottlenose dolphins. Estimates of several thousand to as many as 10,000 bottlenoses live along the gulf coast from Florida to Texas. They thrive in the mullet-rich environment, and I have witnessed the rascals stealing speckled trout and redfish from my favorite fishing holes. Nature can be cruel sometimes.

If you include the saltier and deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico, there are nine dolphin species inhabiting our area - striped, spinner, Atlantic and pantropical spotted, rough toothed,

Risso, Clymene and Fraziers. The only way to encounter anything other than bottlenose is to blast offshore into the gulf's blue water. When I sailed across the gulf to the Mexican Yucatan years ago, we saw spinners and spotted dolphins as far as 300 miles offshore.

Even after more than six decades of boating on Perdido Bay, I still get tingles when I see dolphins.



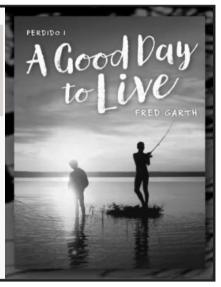
There's truly something magical about them. However, there are a couple of critical things to remember. One, dolphins are not fish, They're warm-blooded mammals, like us.

Therefore, their safety is under the supervision of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. That means that harassment, hunting, killing or even feeding dolphins is a federal crime that can result in fines of more than \$30,000, a year in jail and the loss of your boat. It may seem innocent to feed them, but it changes their natural behavior and, like I said, it's against the law...

If you want a guaranteed encounter without booking a ride on a tour boat, try dragging the shrimp net and see what happens. Just don't be surprised if you become a part of the show.

Growing UP Lillian

Get this or any other book by Lillian son and adventurer Fred Garth on Amazon ... This account (pictured right) of early life in Lillian can also be purchased at Oakley's Wine Cellar, 25016 State St., Elberta AL 36530



Park Welcomes in the Season With Lights Extravaganza, Secret Santa Shop

Get into the holiday spirit at this year's holiday lights spectacular, Christmas in the Park, which opens at the Lillian Recreational Park on December 7. Come see how the Park has been transformed into a Christmas wonderland, with thousands of twinkling lights, an 18' Wonderland Tree, and festive exhibits around the Park.

This year's celebration will also include a Secret Santa Shop, a special shop where kids can shop for Christmas presents for family members. This kids-only shopping paradise is designed for kids aged 13 and under, with most items \$5 or less.

There will also be a giant Christmas card contest. Businesses and organizations were asked to create giant 4'x8'plywood Christmas cards to be displayed around the Park's walking trail. The cards will be judged and prizes will be given in three categories: Most Creative, Most Holiday Spirit, and Community Favorite, during opening ceremonies. People will have a chance to vote for their favorite on Facebook and at the Park until noon on December 7.

This year's Christmas in the Park celebration will be hosted by WKRG news reporter, Debbie Williams. She

and Fran Thompson, publisher of the Mullet Wrapper, will judge the Christmas card contest.

Christmas in the Park officially opens at 3:00 on December 7 with games and activities and a special Secret Santa Shop where kids can shop for Christmas presents for family members.

Santa will arrive by helicopter at 4:00 and is bringing a few of his favorite elves with to help hand out goodie bags.

A variety of children's activities will start at 3. Make an ornament, have a snowball fight, play games like "Pin the nose on Rudolph," or write a letter to Santa are just some of the activities that will be offered that afternoon. There will also be music by Curt Cantrell, face painting, hot chocolate and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The "Launching of the Lights" will be at 5:30. Fireworks will conclude the evening.

Organizers are excited this year about this year's offerings. "Christmas in the Park is so much fun! It truly has become a family favorite. Last year, over 10,000 people visited our month-long lights display, with many people coming multiple times just to sit and enjoy the lights. We

are really excited about adding the Secret Santa Shop this year. It will be a great place for kids to shop for Christmas presents for their family and since their presents will be wrapped for them, they won't have to worry about anybody peeking!

"We're also excited that Merry-Oke will return this year and look forward to having added an Ugly Christmas Shirt contest to the evening. Then on the 19th, we'll have a fun evening of candlelight Christmas caroling. This is going to be a wonderful way to kick-off the Christmas season," said Lucy Smith, Christmas in the Park volunteer.

This holiday season, treat yourself and your friends and family to this festive display of lights. The lights will be on for everyone to enjoy, weather permitting, through December 31. Admission and parking are free. Golf carts will be available opening day to transport anyone with mobility issues

The Park is located at 33914 Widell Avenue in Lillian. For more information on Christmas in the Park, visit the Park's website LillianRecreationalPark.org or call the Park, 251-962-2129.



Congregation"

LILLIAN METHODIST CHURCH

12770 South Perdido Street Lillian, AL 36549 (251) 962-4336 office@LillianMC.org LillianMC.org

Rev. Daniel W. Randall, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:00 AM Children's Church & Nursery during 10:00 AM Worship for children birth to second grade

> Sunday School For All Ages Sunday Mornings 9:00 AM

View Online at LillianMC.org

AA & ALANON Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Healing Hope Grief Support Group December 5 1:00 PM

Christmas Choir Cantata December 15 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Community Christmas Potluck Supper December 16 5:30 PM (Bring side dish for 8.)

Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group December 19 1:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service December 24 5:00 PM

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE SINCE 1980

When Love Was Born



The Methodist Message By Rev. Daniel Randall

A woman was shopping at a local flea market when she came upon an antique Christmas manger scene. The price was too good to be true. When she questioned the owner, she verified that it was the correct price. "You can have it for a dollar," she said. "It's all there except Jesus." No wonder the price was so low! A manger is incomplete without the Christ child. That's the centerpiece, the most important part. That's what Christmas is all about. That is all it is supposed to be about! That wondrous story about shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So, they hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. This truly is the

greatest story ever told!

Christmas began in the heart of God. "Love came down at Christmas," wrote the poet, and it's true God's love came down to us in the manger of Bethlehem. Christmas began in the heart of God. When we reflect on the manger, we see God has come to us in the flesh, the word made flesh. That is why Christmas brings out the best in us. The New Testament teaches us that the very nature of God is love. In the glow of Christmas, we know ourselves to be loved, and we are led to love others.

Christmas is about hope. It is no accident that Christmas comes at the darkest time of the year. We don't know when Jesus was born, so when the date was set for Christmas, it was to symbolize the words of Isaiah that the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. Christmas represents hope. There is no finer symbol of hope than the birth of a child. This baby born in Bethlehem represented humanity's most profound hope. Jesus Deliverer, Savior. Isaiah gave him other names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Christmas comes from the heart of God. Christmas is about hope. Christmas is the best news this world has ever received. An angel had the privilege of first announcing the news to the shepherds. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." What a powerful message. History was being profoundly shaped as Mary held her newborn son in her arms. Not only the history of the world, but your history and mine. Christmas comes from the heart of God. Christmas is about hope. Christmas is the best news this world could ever receive.

Christmas is the message that our lives are to proclaim! Mark Shultz shares these beautiful words in his Christmas song, "When Love Was Born": "Starlight shines, the night is still, shepherds watch from a hill, I close my eyes, see the night, when love was born. Perfect child gently waits, a mother bends to kiss God's face, I close my eyes, see the night, when love was born. Angels fill the midnight sky, they sing Hallelujah, He is Christ, our King, Emmanuel, Prince of peace. Love comes down for you and me, heaven's gift, the holy spark, to make the way inside our hearts. Bethlehem, through your small door, Came the hope we've waited for, the world was changed forevermore, when love was born. I close my eyes, see the night, when love was born."

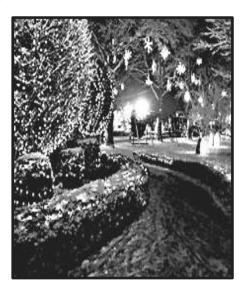
I pray you experience the Love of God this Christmas as you reflect on the precious gift of Christ our Lord!

Lillian's Parade, Park Events Make Our Christmas Spectacular

Sometimes you make a decision that changes your life. We've all gone through it. One of our major decisions was to move to Lillian, AL. Friends of ours had a camper in The Dells in Wisconsin. Many of their friends summered there and wintered in Lillian. They told our friends about the wonderful area in the south and suggested our friends check it out. Of course, none of us were ready to retire, so we put that suggestion on the back burner.

Some years later, we checked it out and made that life changing decision. "What? You're moving to where? Lillian, Alabama? Is that even a place? Why?" Many of our friends and family didn't even realize Alabama had a coastline. They conjured up visions of rural Alabama as depicted in books and movies. After hearing our glowing reports, some of them even followed us.

What a smart decision that was. We have the beautiful Gulf beaches,



but we're not in the middle of the craziness of the in-season traffic. We have everything we need within a not -too-far drive. But what we have closest are our wonderful neighbors, many of whom are just like family.

And we have great events all year long to bring us fun and fellowship.

We are now in the busiest time of that special time, Christmas. The month begins with our Lillian Recreational Park bringing all the fun of the holiday without the snow. Christmas in the Park begins at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 with special family activities featuring a Secret Santa Shop, Santa arriving by HELICOPTER!!!, the very wonderful tree lighting and fireworks! The lights will be turned on every night during the month so you can be wowed a zillion times, if you want.

The next day the Lillian Christmas Extravaganza will begin at 3 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club, featuring church choirs and individuals to sing us into the season.

Next up is the Christmas Parade sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. The fun steps off at the Lillian Community Club to U.S. Highway 98, then north on 6th Street (County Road 99) to Barclay, then west to



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

Santa Piedro Street and back to the LCC. Don't forget to bring your collection bag, because there will be tons of candy and stuff that will be distributed by the parade participants to take home.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be the featured guests at the breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 21. The doors open at 9 a.m. for Moms, Dads, Grandparents, and of course, boys and girls, for the famous Optimist Club breakfast. Then Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive to visit and pose for pictures with the children from birth to age 12. Each will receive a Christmas gift, too.

Rev. Daniel Randall Named Grand Marshall of Christmas Parade

Robin Newell, president of the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay in Lillian, has announced that Reverend Daniel Randall would serve as the 2024 Lillian Optimist Christmas Parade Grand Marshall.

Reverend Daniel Randall, pastor of Lillian Methodist Church was born in Eight Mile, Alabama. At sixteen years of age and a sophomore in high school,

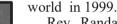
Daniel surrendered to the call of ministry the Lord had placed on his life. He graduated from Vigor High school in 1991, where he played football for the back-to-back State 6A Championship.

Daniel earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with major in Religion, from

Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL, in 1995. In his senior year he was granted his first pastoral appointment, the Lee Circuit in Lee County, AL.

In the six-and-half years he served there he married his wife, Tay in 1996.

He completed his Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in 1998 and he and Tay welcomed their son Dan into the



Rev. Randall was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 2000. In his almost thirty years of ministry, he has served three churches in Lee, Ashford UMC June 2001. First UMC of Grand Bay and Lillian Methodist Church from July 2011 to the present. In his prior pastoral ministry Rev. Randall served as youth minister of Eight Mile UMC in Eight Mile, AL, Trinity UMC in Phenix City, AL and St. James UMC in Montgomery.

In every community Rev. Randall has been appointed he has served not only his church but also the community.

He has served on the Lee County Boy Scout Council, President of the Beauregard AL Ministerial Alliance, President of the Ashford Ministerial Alliance, Ashford Lions Club treasurer, President of the Ashford Ministerial Alliance, Ashford Chamber of Commerce and President of the Grand Bay Ministerial Alliance.

When Rev. Randall moved to Lillian, he joined the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay and has been a faithful volunteer and leader ever since. He has volunteered, chaired numerous programs and projects, served as President of the club from October 2020 to September 2022.

He currently serves as the Vice President of Programs and gives support and leadership to all Optimist Club of Perdido Bay projects and programs.

Two Festive Evenings of 'Singing in the Season' Debuts December 12

Join us to "sing in the season" at two festive evenings of song and music at the Lillian Recreational Park. Add your voice to all your holiday favorites and experience these joyous celebrations.

The first one is a Merry-Oke night and Ugly Christmas Shirt contest on Thursday, December 12. Featuring all your Christmas favorite songs, you can sing alone, in teams, or, if you'd prefer, as part of the whole-community sing. Prizes will be

awarded for the ugliest of Ugly Christmas shirts, too, so come dressed accordingly.

Then on December 19, the Park will host an old-fashioned caroling party! Join us for a festive evening of candlelight and singing your favorite Christmas carols.

There will be a bonfire, hot chocolate and cookies, and lots of fun. Bring a friend, your family and encourage everyone you know to join us at

the Park and sing your heart out surrounded by the awesome Christmas in the Park lights.

There will be old favorites, new favorites – something for everyone!

Merry-Oke and the Ugly Christmas Shirt contest will begin at 6 p.m. on December 12 and the Candlelight Christmas Caroling will begin at 6 on December 19 at the Lillian Recreational Park, 33914 Widell in Lillian.

St. Lucy – a Light in the Darkness of Winter

Saint Lucy's Day, is a Christian feast day observed on 13 December. The observance commemorates Lucia of Sicily, Italy, an early-fourth-century martyr.

According to the traditional story, St. Lucy was born of rich and noble parents in the late 1280's. Her father was of Roman origin, but died when she was five years old, leaving Lucy and her mother without a protective guardian. Although no sources for her life story exist St. Lucy, whose name Lucia refers to "light" (Lux, lucis), is known to have been a Sicilian saint who suffered a sad death around AD 310. Lucy was devout Christian who had taken a vow of to enter a convent. Her mother, suffering an illness and fearing for her daughter's future without a secure husband, betrothed Lucy to a wealthy pagan man. Lucy was seeking help for her mother's long-term illness at the shrine of Saint Agatha when the saint appeared to her in a dream beside the shrine. Saint Agatha told Lucy that the illness would be cured through faith, and Lucy was able to convince her mother to cancel the wedding and donate the dowry to the poor. Enraged, her suitor then reported Lucy to the Roman governor for being a Christian. According to the legend, she was threatened to be taken to a brothel if she did not renounce her Christian beliefs. She would not. They stacked wood for a fire around her and set light to it, but she would not stop speaking, insisting that her death would lessen the fear of it for other Christians and bring grief to non-believers. One of the soldiers gouged out her eyes in an attempt to force her to comply, but her eyes were miraculously restored. Saint Lucy was able to die only when a sword was taken across her throat.



Over the years stories. About St Lucy rose. In one story, she was working to help Christians hiding in the catacombs during the terror under the Roman Emperor, and in order to bring with her as many supplies as possible, she needed to have both hands free and lost to a wreath or hardward.



Moving Forward By Rev.

Tina Lockett

needed to have both hands free. She solved this problem by attaching candles to a wreath on her head.

St. Lucy is also popular among children in some regions of Italy where the tradition says that Lucy brings gifts to good children and coal

to bad ones the night between 12 and 13 December. Lucy arrives in the company of a donkey and her escort, Castaldo.

Children are asked to leave some coffee for Lucia, a carrot for the donkey and a glass of wine for Castaldo. They must not watch Santa Lucia delivering these gifts, or she will throw ashes in their eyes, temporarily blinding them.

In some eastern European countries, a popular tradition on Saint Lucy's Day involves planting wheat grains; nowadays this serves as symbol of the new life born in Bethlehem, with a candle sometimes placed in the middle of the new plant as a symbol of the Light of



Christ that Saint Lucia brings. Wheat grains are planted in a round dish or plate of soil, and then watered. If the planter is kept moist, the seeds germinate and the shoots are ideally several inches high by Christmas. The new green shoots, reminding us of the new life born in Bethlehem, may be tied with a ribbon and put under the Christmas tree.

The real reason wheat was and is planted at this time is because the density, color and richness of the shoots will foretell how the upcoming crop will be.

For my part of the story, on December 13, 2011, a litter of cocker spaniel puppies was born. We adopted one of those puppies and began to consider names. As we were living in cold Pittsburgh at the time, our little puppy was a light in the darkness of winter, we named her Lucy and she has been our ray of light for almost 13 years now.

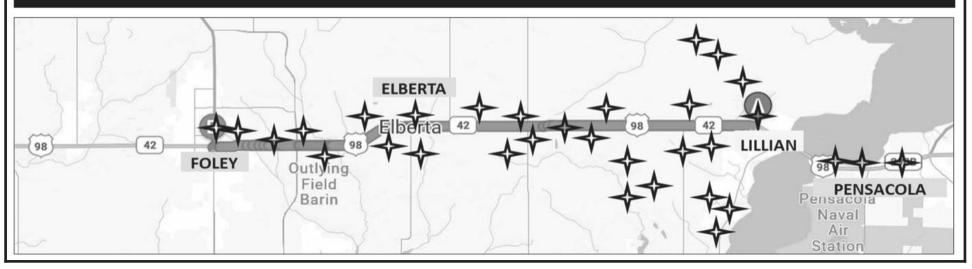
If you want to know about other saints of the Church or any aspect of the Christian faith, come visit us Episcopal Church of the Advent. Sunday Service is 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. "Loing business without promotion is like winking in the dark — you know what you're doing, but nobody else does." — Lavid Ogituy - Clawertising



'WHERE THE HECK CAN I PICK UP THE LILLIAN???'

- * Mannings Jewelry, 207 W. Laurel Ave., Foley
- * Foley Library, 319 E. Laurel Ave., Foley 36535
- * Bobes Garage, 30135 US-98, Elberta 36530
- * Moore Fasteners, 12958 Deer Acres, Elberta
- * Black Eyed Suzies, 32021 US-98, Lillian 36549
- * Elberta Animal Hospital, 27817 US-98, Elberta
- * Elberta Farmers Co-op, 13320 CR 83, Elberta
- * Eberta Grocery, 25250 US-98, Elberta 36530
- *Kaechele Motor Service, 25203 State St., Elberta
- *United Bank, 34354 US-98, Lillian 36549
- *Chevron Lillian, 33780 US-98, Lillian 36549
- * Dolar General Lillian, 33880 US-98, Lillian
- * Lillian Veterinary Hospital, Lillian 33940
- * Lillian Pharmacy, 34023 US-98, Lillian 36540
- * Johnny B's Front Porch, 33925 US-98, Lillian

- * Dr. Kammer Chiropractic, 12839 6th St., Lillian
- * Nu Volei Salon & Tanning, 12831 6th St., Lillian
- * Wendy Vix, CRNP, 12839 6th St., Lillian 36549
- * Encore Rehabilitaion, 12831 6th St., Lillian
- * Crazy Horse Café, 13110 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola
- * Farmers Barber, 13120 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola
- * Greer's Pensacola, 12255 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola
- * Kane-9 Pet Supplies, 34423 US-98, Lillian
- * R'Reileigh's Café, 34291 US-98, Lillian
- * Circle K, 34531 US-98, Lillian 36549
- * Perdido Beach, 9212 CR 97, Perdido Beach
- * Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian
- * KOA, 11650 CR 99, Lillian 36549
- * Spanish Cove, 2129 Club House Dr., Lillian
- * The Woodlands Clubhouse, CR-99, Lillian



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 December go out to Margaret "Mudgie" Hepp Landreth, Shannon Price, Juanita Hubacker, Stan Everett, Lois Price, Dan

Randall, Laurel Hixson, David Ives, Sue Eldred, Gary Birchard, Ernest Hasselback, Charles Farrow, Dennis Roach, John Morton, David Brown, Dorothy Jones, Marcy Carmichael, Joanne Kish, Eleanor Stewart, Ken Miller, Carole Hayden, Don Joffrion, Stephen Stork, Bill Krueger, Cheryl Hoffman, Bob Johnson, Lois Lindt, Jackie Reid, Priscilla West-

gate, Nancy Nagan, Bob Walter, Bob Donnenwirth, Gene O'Connor and Richard Libby.

Anniversary congratulations go out to Catherine and Homer McNeill II (2003), Bruce and Nelda Clements, Al and Stella Hart (1975). Billy and Pat Bonner (1992), Richard and Carolyn Libby (2018) and Catherine and Homer McNeill II (2003).

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 January issue of The Lillian is December 18.





Thank you for 75 Years!









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LOCAL PET CARETAKER: Perdido Pets is your hometown and reliable choice for your pet's care! Call Lee for rates and quotes 901-568-6491.

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HELP WANTED: Automotive Paint & Body Technician with tools needed. Colasanti's Classic Cars Body Shop. 850-512-0300, Bob.

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The Lillian

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Elberta Middle School Chapter of FCCLA Inducts New Members, Officers



The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Inducts 36 Members and 6 New Officers in October. (Pictured above are the students inducted.)

ABOUT FCCLA:

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective student-led nation-based organization supporting youth on their journey to become the leaders of tomorrow and helping them address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over 240,000 members and more than 5,200 chapters across the nation.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical intracurricular student organization with a central focus on careers that support families. Participation in national FCCLA programs and chapter activities aids members in becoming strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities. For more information on FCCLA, please contact Alyssa Corbitt at acorbitt@bcbe.org.

Free Tax Preparation Opportunities Are Out There

Yes, it is true I have retired from preparing taxes and my business closes on December 31, 2024. In the September issue of "The Lillian", I asked for volunteers to help me establish a free tax service here in Lillian through the IRS's VITA program. Alas, no volunteers for that task, so I dedicate this article to providing suggestions for you to find a free tax preparation opportuni-

If you are comfortable using a computer, then my first suggestion is to prepare your own taxes using the IRS Free File. If you are a little leery of the IRS and its instructions, keep last year's tax form available for reference. Unless you have had some major change in income, last year's tax return will tell you on which lines your information belongs. Here are some details about Free File.

IRS Free File

The IRS Free File Program is a public-private partnership between the IRS and many tax preparation and filing software industry companies who provide their online tax preparation and filing for free. It provides two ways for taxpayers to prepare and file their federal income tax online for free:

Guided Tax Software provides free online tax preparation and filing at an IRS partner site. They deliver this service at no cost to qualifying taxpayers. Taxpayers whose Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$79,000 or less qualify for a free federal tax return. Look at last year's tax form to find your Adjusted Gross Income. (Line 11 on SR-1040).

Free File Fillable Forms are electronic federal tax

forms, equivalent to a paper 1040 form. You should know how to prepare your own tax return using form instructions and IRS publications if needed.

It provides a free option to taxpayers whose AGI is greater than \$79,000. I do not recommend sending completed forms to the IRS. Even when completed properly, you have no guarantee that the IRS help will key the information correctly. They make mistakes, trust me

If you are not comfortable attempting to do your own taxes, look for a free tax preparation sevice. Here are some other options.

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- •People who generally make \$67,000 or less. This may increase for 2024 taxes.
 - •Persons with disabilities; and

Limited English-speaking taxpayers

In addition to VITA, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS has a VITA locater service on its website www.irs.gov. Just type in VITA in the search box and the locator option will appear as well as the current year income limits.

VITA/TCE services are not only free, they are also a reliable and trusted source for preparing tax re-



Taxes By Carol Kovacs

CPA, EA

Let's Talk

VITA/TCE volunteers who prepare returns must take and pass tax law training that meets or exceeds IRS standards.

AARP Tax Preparation

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program annually provides volunteer in-person and virtual tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low-to-moderate income. Although, there appeared to be no income or age limit for 2023 tax preparation. There are about 5,000 sites nationwide. AARP membership is not required to use the free service. You can call the toll-free numbers for more information as the tax season approaches. I found two numbers: 1-888-687-2277 and 1-888-227-7669. The AARP website might also help www.aarpfoundation.org.

Where You Might Go

Some VITA & AARP sites for 2023 taxes were: United Bank (in Lillian & Foley), United Way of West Florida, GP Thomas Senior Center in Robertsdale, BC Council on Aging in Robertsdale, Foley United Methodist Church, Orange Beach Senior Center, to name a few. You might try other senior centers in Foley, Fairhope or Daphne.

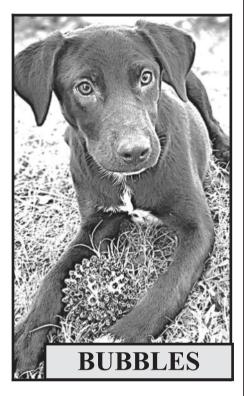
Well folks, I hope this helps you to find someone to do your 2024 taxes

READY FOR ADOPTION NOW!

Baldwin County Animal Shelter bcas@baldwincountyal.gov 251-972-6834







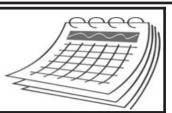






Visit the Baldwin County Animal Shelter County Road 49, Summerdale, AL 36580

*The*Lillian Calendar



December 3,10, 17, 24 & 31 at 7:00 PM - ALANON meeting at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL

December 3,10, 17, 24 & 31 at 7:00 PM - AA meeting at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL

December 3,10 & 17 at 11:00 AM & December 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 10:00 AM - Ageless Grace Exercise for the Body & Brain at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630, no class on 11/28.)

December 5 at 1:00 PM - Healing Hope Grief Support Group at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (If you are navigating the pain of loss, please know you are not alone. Join us for grief support in a safe space to share your experiences, receive compassionate listening, and find healing alongside others who understand. This group meets on the first Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

December 8 at 3:00 PM - Lillian Community Christmas Extravaganza at the Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL (Come hear church choirs and individuals as we sing in the season, reception following. For more information, contact Jim Miller at 251 -284-3793.)

December 14 at 8:00 AM - Join the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay for a free breakfast at the Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL (No reservation needed & guests eat for free! To learn more about our organization, go to OptimistClubPB.org.)

December 14 at 1:00 PM - Annual Lillian Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Parade starts and finishes at the Lillian Community Club 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL (See the parade route in paper.)

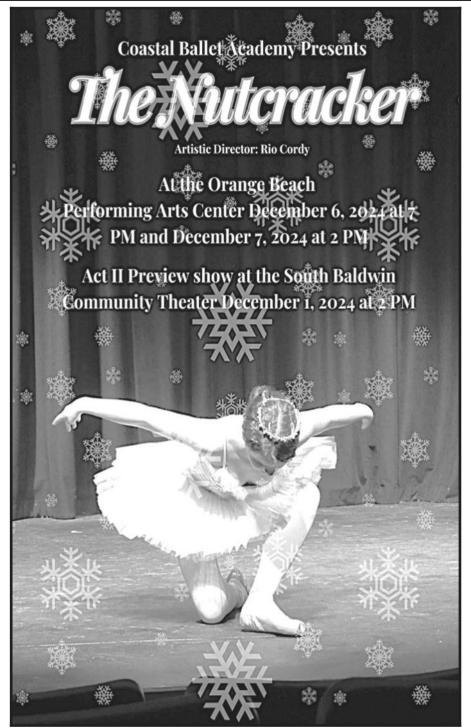
December 15 at 8:00 & 10:00 AM - Christmas Cantata at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL

December 19 at 1:00 PM - Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (This group meets on the third Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

December 21 at 9:00 AM - Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Opimist Club of Perdido Bay at the Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL (Every child 12 years and under will receive a gift from Santa.)

December 24 at 5:00 PM - Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (To learn more about our church, go to LillianMC.org.)

AAA—In Lillian go to gulfcoastaa.org. There is a list of meetings at easternshoreaa.org. Pensacola meetings are at aapensacola.org.



CHRISTMAS TRADITION



Christmas Parade Set for Dec. 14

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay will host the annual Lillian Christmas Parade at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 14. The parade will follow a route from the Lillian Community Club (LLC) to US Highway 98 and then north on 6th Street, west on Barclay then south on Santa Piedro and back to the LLC. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to participate. Contact parade chair Robin Newell for more information, 402-677-3944 or email robinnewell3@gmail.com.

The Lillian

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Wednesday

Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 pm

Friday

Women's Bible Study 10 am

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK www.baysidebaptistlillian.org www.bbclillian.com

DEATH NOTICE

RITA MASEK

Formerly of Pensacola Drive, Spanish Cove, Lillian Passed Away Monday,

Nov. 4.

LILLIAN RESCUERS JOHN TOY DRIVE



LASAR Christmas Toy Drive – As part of the state Search and Rescue Squads Toy Drive, the local organization is collecting toys for the estimated 3,000 children, ages infant to 17, affected by hurricane damage in Tennessee and North Carolina. Collection will run through Dec. 16 and will be delivered by Dec. 20 to the state collection site. All donations are tax deductible. LASAR is open from 1 to 6 p.m. daily. LASAR is located at 34247 Barclay Ave., Lillian AL.

YOUR OPINION MATT

Public hearings take place on proposed subdivision regulation amendments. Call for updates: Baldwin Co. planning and zoning for info 251.580.1655.

Comment now at BaldwinOurVision.com on Draft Future Land Use Plan. Check https://www.baldwinourvision.com/ for times

GO TO BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV, click on PUBLIC NO-TICES every week to stay informed about upcoming ANGENDA Email your support or opposition to: planning@baldwncountyal.gov and copy to: RuralCharacterLillian@gmail.com

ATTEND MEETINGS WHEN POSSIBLE

Lillian Veterinary Hospital

Beth Williams, DVM

Small Animal Medicine & Surgery

33940 US Hwy 98 Lillian, AL 36549

251-962-2304

LVHclientinfo@gmail.com



Life is a Mixture of Ups and Downs

Over the past month I've been running into individuals I knew from 20 to 30 years ago. They're mostly from old Lillian families.

It felt good, a bit grounding after seeing so many unfamiliar faces in our community. At one time, no matter where you were in our cozy lower Alabama (LA) area everyone was a neighbor so you'd get a wave or a 'hi, how are you'. It didn't matter if you knew them or not, it was just friendly, 'southern' Lillian.



Bits and **Pieces**

By Jackie Reid

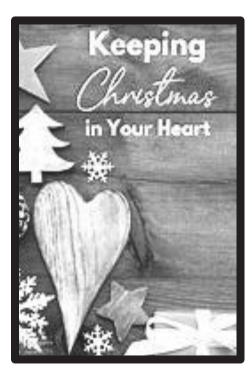
I guess what many of us are afraid of is that with all of these new faces some of that warmth will not survive and that would be sad because in essence, our familiar Lillian may lose its charm.

One of the things I like about the holidays and Christmas in particular is that most people become more friendly and thoughtful. It's a time to come together and enjoy the company of others.

I still send Christmas cards and if the receiver is one who we both use this once-a-year time to fill each other in on what's been happening in our lives over the year, it becomes more than just a card.

This part of the year is a festive time of decorations and lights and a great time to start the festivities is the tree lighting at the Lillian Recreational Park on December 7. Everything is so beautiful and we can always use more beauty in our lives. See more information on this event on page two of this issue.

It's believed by many that more suicides occur during the Christmas holidays. Apparently, that isn't the case as June has the most deaths by



suicide and December has the least. That's what studies by the experts have shown.

One self-inflicted death is too many but unfortunately suicides in America averaged about 49,000 for the year of 2023, so it will probably be the same this year too. A high percent of American Indians and Alaskan Natives are amongst this number with about 50 percent of the U. S. total being male.

Increases are beginning to be seen in people of ages 85 and older, teens and women. It seems that about covers everybody, sad.

As crazy as this sounds, psychiatrists claim that teenagers are not looking to die, only to escape bad situations or painful feelings. With bullying, youth see suicide as a way to get away from what they perceive as torture.

Life is a mixture of ups and downs, good times and bad, love and loss. Without these lessons we don't grow, we don't learn. These experiences help us see the differences of both sides, happy and sad. We learn from these contrasts. That is what life is all about. You are responsible to make the right choice from what you learn, taking your life is not a choice, it's a cop-out.

If you are so depressed you can't cope—Get Professional Help!

I never saw the pleasure in drinking oneself into oblivion. You can't really be having fun if you can't remember anything or you're barfing all over the place. It could ruin your life and maybe someone else's if you are stupid enough to drink and drive. Be smart and be safe, that's the best way to enjoy to the holidays.

"If your view of Life is cloudy, maybe your windows need washing." Unknown.

What Do Alabama Water Watch Testers Do?

By Janet Larson

You may be wondering what the Alabama Water Watch volunteers test for when they are out on the water. They are performing both water chemistry and bacterial tests. These are recorded and reported monthly to a statewide database. In this article we are discussing water chemistry tests and their importance. These tests include temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, alkalinity, and pH. Each of these tests are important for the health of our watershed and are interrelated.

Water Temperature

One of the first things monitors test is the air and water temperature. The temperature of the water is important because it affects the metabolism of aquatic organisms. It also affects the levels of dissolved oxygen in the water.

Dissolved Oxygen Level

Dissolved oxygen is essential for the survival of fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic organisms. A high concentration of dissolved oxygen indicates good water quality. The safest level of dissolved oxygen for aquatic life depends on the species, but a level above 5 mg/L is considered a healthy level for most aquatic life, supporting growth, reproduction, and overall health.

Dissolved oxygen and water temperature have an inverse relationship, meaning that as water temperature increases, the amount of dissolved oxygen decreases. This is because oxygen is less soluble in warmer water. Higher temperatures also increase the metabolic rates of aquatic organisms, which in turn increases their oxygen consump-

tion. This can further reduce the available dissolved oxygen in the water.

In warmer conditions, water bodies can become stratified or layered. The warmer, oxygen-poor water is on the surface and cooler, oxygen-rich water is below.

Salinity

Water testers monitor salinity in brackish water for several reasons. Brackish water, which is a mix of fresh and saltwater, supports unique ecosystems. Salinity levels influence the types of plants and animals that can thrive in these environments and many species are sensitive to changes in salinity. Sudden shifts can stress or harm fish, crustaceans, and other organisms. Salinity also affects other water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen levels and the presence of certain nutrients and pollutants. Monitoring salinity helps in assessing overall water quality and identifying potential issues.

Salinity increases during high tide when seawater intrudes into the estuary and decreases during low tide when freshwater flows dominate. The tidal charts are compared to salinity at the time of testing and reported with the data.

Turbidity

Water testers measure turbidity to assess the clarity of water, which is an important indicator of water quality. High turbidity can indicate the presence of suspended particles such as silt, clay, organic matter, and microorganisms. These particles can harbor pathogens and pollutants, affecting water quality. High turbidity can reduce light penetration, affecting photosynthesis in aquatic plants and

disrupting the food chain. It can also clog fish gills and smother fish eggs. We have recently discussed the adverse effects of turbidity on the growth of sea grass.

You may have noticed that the water seems clearer during the winter months. During winter, vegetation is often dormant or has shed leaves, which reduces the amount of organic matter entering the water. This contributes to clearer water with lower turbidity. Colder temperatures also slow down the metabolic rates of aquatic organisms, reducing the amount of organic matter and waste they produce. This decrease in biological activity helps maintain lower turbidity levels.

pH and Alkalinity

Water testers measure both alkalinity and pH. While pH and alkalinity are closely related, they measure distinct aspects of water chemistry. pH measures the concentration of hydrogen ions (H⁺) in the water, indicating how acidic or basic the water is on a scale from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral, below 7 is acidic, and above 7 is basic (alkaline). Alkalinity measures the water's ability to neutralize acids, which is its buffering capacity. It primarily comes from dissolved bicarbonates, carbonates, and hydroxides.

Alkalinity acts as a buffer, helping to stabilize the pH of water. A stable pH, supported by adequate alkalinity, ensures a healthy environment for fish, plants, and other aquatic life. In the future, we will be discussing bacterial cultures and what they mean. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to test, please feel free to contact us at the Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association at wpbwac@gmail.com

Edward Jones

edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

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MONDAYS KARAOKE 5-9

TUESDAYS DAMIEN 2-5 WEDNESDAY (LBA) JAY 2-5

THURSDAY WIRE & CO 3-6

THURSDAY OPEN MIC GARY STORY, 6-0

FRIDAY DONNA SLATER 3-6

SATURDAY ALABAMA FOOTBALL BUCKETS BEER / 15 WINGS

FEATURED MUSIC

NOVEMBER

FRI 22 SUGARCANE JANE 6-9
SAT 23 BRANDON GILES 6-10
SUN 24 KYLE WILSON 4-8
TUE 26 THE HEAT 5-9
WED 27 T BONE, BO & MARK 5-9
FRI COWBOY & CO 6-10
SAT 30 TBA

DECEMBER

SUN 1 JOHNNY & BRITT 4-8
TUE 3 COWBOY & CO 5-9
WED 4 BAT BENNETT 6-9
FRI DEC 6 AI & CATHY 6-10
SAT 7 TBA
SUN 8 RYAN BALTHROPE 4-8
FUE 10 THE HEAT 5-9
WED 11 TBONE BO MARK 5-9
FRI 13 BAT BENNETT 6-10
SAT 14 BRANDON GILES 6-10

TOYS FOR TOTS PICK UP DEC 7th

COWBOY JOHNSON FIRE BENEFIT SAT DEC 7 12-6

LIVE MUSIC DAILY