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FEBRUARY 2023

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 27, Number 2

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Lillian Updates

FLIP-FLOP-FLIP: Lillian to Elberta Resurface

If you don't know by now, here's the bad news: The County has finally begun work on the resurface project between Elberta and the Lillian bridge on Hwy. 98 - again swapping out plans of a night shift for the work originally slated for 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. to full daytime hours. According to sources, the single-lane delays range from 15 minutes to 45 minutes ... depending. After hours, the workers sometimes stage their equipment at the northeast corner of CR99 and Hwy. 98 and sometimes at the boat launch. The project will include the striping of the bridge which hosts an estimated 13,000 vehicles per month.

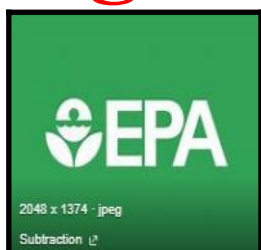
The project is expected to be done "before summer."

Shoreline/dock Repair

Black Diamond Construction is in full swing repairing the shoreline and dock in Lillian and the County Park boardwalk at that facility off the east side of CR99 between KOA and Hwy. 98. No estimate yet on a target for completion.

Well Radium Dilemma

Legal Limits \neq **Safe Limits**



**What You Need to Know About How Our
Water is Tested, Rated and
Reported and Two Opposing Methods That
Put Cancer Risk Against Cost**



The Spanish Cove well #3 remains shut down as Perdido Bay Water grapples with spiking levels of radium in its drinking water supply.

Last year, radium 226 and 228 readings from water flowing from Spanish Cove faucets peaked at 7.22 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), well above the legal maximum limit of 5 set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). That reading followed levels of 6.22 and 6.74 taken in the first two quarters of 2022.

Radium finds its way into groundwater as a byproduct of decaying biomatter such as roots, soil as well as rocks, construction and heavy industry, according to information from the EPA. Perdido Bay Water Director Mark Bohlin gave no response to questions about why radium levels might be skyrocketing around Well #3 in Spanish Cove and not its other two wells serving the Lillian region.

Ironically, Baldwin County Sewer operates a waste water holding/transfer facility less than one-half mile east of the well and a half-mile just northwest of the well is more than a 120-home

subdivision still under construction.

Well owner Perdido Water test reports, and Bohlin, cite the test level cause as decay of natural materials.

The EPA's maximum legal limit



for radium 226 and 228 - established nearly a half-century ago in 1976 - At 5 pCi/L - was based not on health risks, but largely on costs for radium removal at that time.

But the body of scientists and doctors contributing to the Environmental Working Group (EWG) target outdated legislation, harmful agricultural practices and industry loopholes for that legal limit.

The EWG scientists and doctors focused on health risks rather than pocketbook issues. The EWG sets .05

the maximum safe level for radium in drinking water at .05, 100 times the EPA's 1976 maximum legal limit.

"Legal does not necessarily equal safe," says info on radium in drinking water from the EWG. "Getting a passing grade from the federal government does not mean the water meets the latest health guidelines."

"This limit (5 pCi/L) does not fully protect against risk of cancer to radium exposure," the EWG concludes.

According to the EPA figures, if a million people were to drink two liters of water containing 5 pCi/L of radium for 10 years, one person would die from cancer as a result.

Increasing the concentration from five to 10 pCi/L would double the risk to two fatal cancers per million.

The EWG comes up with a different set of figures when calculating the increased risk of cancers caused by radium.

According to its guidelines, drinking radium-tainted water at the maximum legal levels would result

(Continued on page 20)

American Legion Post 40 Assumes Sponsorship of JRROTC

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who attended the Ham Dinner on Jan. 22! Now, don't forget to place a reminder on your calendars for the ham dinners on Sunday, February 26 and March 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club Hall. The dinners are our fund raisers for the year and enable us to provide services to the community through veteran's assistance.

This January Post 48 became the sponsor of the JRROTC of Elberta. Previously they were sponsored by Gulf Shores, we have been awarding two students awards for many years but now we are glad to sponsor them outright. At the January meeting the post presented longevity award pins and certificates to legionnaires who have attained at least five years of continuous membership in American Legion. Post 48 does this to show their thanks and gratitude to our fellow legionnaires. Pins are given in five-year increments 5,10,15,20 and

so on.

Post 48 belongs to the District 33 in Alabama and Post 48 is sponsoring a district meeting in February here in Lillian on Feb. 19 legion members from all over Baldwin and Mobile counties will be attending the meeting. A lunch will be served to all members attending the meeting put on by Post 48's members and wives.

We continue to increase our involvement in community activities



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavalley,
Adjutant

staying healthy through team building activities. Efforts accomplished in these areas include refurbishing donated computers and providing them

the Alabama Boys' State program. But we need your help and support!

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

This is a time when volunteers may be building ramps, re-working computers, helping with the landscape, or cleaning and restocking the medical closet.

Why not drop by and join us! All Veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to become American Legion Members.

'The ham dinners are our fundraisers for the year and enable us to provide services to the community through veteran's assistance'

with an emphasis on supporting the schools, the educational process, and

to local schools for use with learning programs, and sponsoring attendees at

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MARY'S SHELTER

There is a Way to Join in Assisting This
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Very often when I am having a meal in a restaurant with friends, they pop out their phones and pass them around to show pictures of the family members, mostly the newest babies. Recently a friend who has no children of his own, showed us his niece's baby. We all love pictures of the little ones, don't we?

There are some babies in our community who would not have any photos at all if not for Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast, a home for homeless pregnant women who choose life for the child. Founded in 2006 this home in Elberta has taken in many women and given them the help they need to become caring, loving parents.

This Valentine's Day you can help these women and babies by participating in the annual Drawn Down Extravaganza on Sunday, Feb. 12 to benefit the shelter. The tickets are \$100 each and not only give you an opportunity to win \$10,000, but also provide a delicious meal, too. In addition, there will be silent and live auctions and a visit from the Gulf Coast's very

own Elvis.

Mary's Shelter is a full-time home for moms and children. Just think about the expenses for your home, food, personal supplies, utilities, maintenance. Now think about a home with



up to 12 women, their newborn babies and some of their siblings and add the cost of diapers, lots and lots of diapers.

The facility is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During the work day, the Executive Director oversees all aspects of operating the home. She is assisted by a Program Manager, who helps the residents set goals for their future, and meets with each resident on a regular basis to review their progress; an administrative assistant; and a grant researcher and writer. A resident adviser is always on the premises. Also, many volunteers help with all



Just a
Thought or
Two

By Sally McKinney

aspects of the program, from rocking babies, to preparing mailings and performing upkeep on the facility.

Now, I know \$100 is a lot of money for some, but I have a plan. Get three or four friends or relatives together, each donate \$20 or \$25 and you have a ticket. I sure wouldn't mind sharing \$10,000 with friends. Just in case your math isn't fresh in your mind, that's \$2,000 or \$2,500 each.

Remember, you can preach all day long about the evils of ending a pregnancy, but unless a pregnant woman sees an alternative, what will she do? Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast is the answer. Please join us on Feb. 12 at Our Lady of the Gulf Parish Hall. Who knows? You might go home with a really nice check to spend on your own babies.

To purchase a ticket go to <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/3rdannualbemyvalentine> to purchase tickets, call Judie Flanigan, 251-554-4889 or email to this address judithnflanigan@gmail.com.

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
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Optimists Slate Valentine Dinner/Dance

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay will host a Valentine Dinner/Dance on Tuesday, Feb. 14 in the Lillian Community Club. The menu includes Steak and Shrimp Dinner with baked or sweet potato, green beans, salad, rolls, coffee, iced tea and desserts. Tickets are \$25 per person and include a raffle ticket for a \$100 prize. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. A dance ticket is \$5 and also includes a raffle ticket.

Purchase tickets online at www.secure.qgiv.com/for/valentinesdayform/event/865042/, from any Optimist Club member, by stopping by the Optimist Club meeting at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 or contact Jeff Keener, (859) 991-4619, (251)-210-9081 or jefferyakeener@gmail.com.

Ticket deadline is 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13. This is a good time to socialize with Optimist members and learn about the community service they provide.

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2023 Events & Activities

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Movie & Music in the Park

First Fridays, April-October

Art in the Park

May 20

Fall Fest

October 14

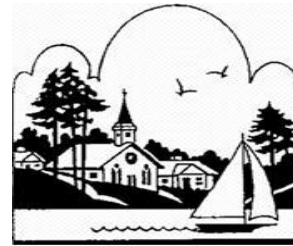
Christmas in the Park

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Scheduling soon:

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The Lillian

PO Box 1088

Lillian, AL 36549

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall

1/2 Page (horiz.) = 10" wide x 5.5" tall

1/2 Page (vertical) = 5" wide x 11" tall

1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall

1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall

Business Card = 3.5" wide x 2" tall

Classified = maximum of 40 words

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

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

■ Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549

■ Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

■ Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library

DISCLAIMER

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

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

POLICY

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

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

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

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

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

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Jim Owen, President

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, Red Cross Team to Host Blood Drive

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 12851 Perdido St., Lillian, AL will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on February 23, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To donate, sign up at redcrossblood.org, download the Red Cross Donor App, or call 1-800-733-2767. **Please reserve your appointment time in advance.** This helps the Red Cross to plan ahead and to send the appropriate staff and supplies to provide you efficient service.

We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready before an emergency occurs. Each donation can help save up to three lives.

Your support of our blood drive is greatly appreciated.

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Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, Has its Roots in the Christian Church

Feb. 2 is best known in United States as Groundhog Day. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if the groundhog animal emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den, and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, then spring arrive early. While the tradition remains popular in the 21st century, studies have found no consistent association between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather. The weather lore was brought to the United States by German immigrants in the 1800's where they first had the story of the groundhog as a weather forecasting animal.

The first reported news of a Groundhog Day observance was in the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, in 1886, and recorded in their newspaper, the Punxsutawney Spirit. On the morning of Feb. 2, members of the community went to the edge of town known as Gobbler's Knob and consulted with the groundhog to ask if he had seen his shadow or not. The residents of Punxsutawney have gathered annually there every Feb. 2. Since then Groundhog Day events have spread to many places in Pennsylvania and other states.

Clymer Freas (1867-1942) who was editor at the Punxsutawney Spirit is credited as the "father" who conceived the idea of commercializing "Groundhog Day". The largest Groundhog Day celebration is still held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where crowds as large as 40,000 gather each year. This is nearly eight times the year-round population of the town). The average draw had been about 2,000 until the 1993 film Groundhog Day, which

is set at the festivities in Punxsutawney, after which attendance rose to about 10,000.

In the late 1990's, I was living a few hours from Punxsutawney so one year I went with a few friends to see the great groundhog. I was expecting a few hundred people on a hillside to watch a small furry animal scurry out of a box then rush back inside. Oh No!!! This event had become an all-night party for students at the several universities in the area. Drunk college students were everywhere. Dancing! Singing! Music blaring! Then remember this was February in Pennsylvania so we had snow and ice and freezing temperatures. Brrrrr!!! Why would a groundhog leave his warm bed? Finally at daybreak, television crews began to arrive with reporters and cameras. Busloads of more people arrived.

The elders of the community took to the stage, read their proclamation about the great Punxsutawney Phil, the weather forecasting animal. One of the men reached a gloved hand into a box and held up the groundhog. Everyone cheered! The men on stage huddled with the groundhog for a moment then one of them declared the groundhog verdict - early spring or six more weeks of winter. The crowd cheered again. Then we headed for home.

This whole tale does have roots in the Christian Church because Feb. 2 is 40 days after Christmas, the day of the Feast of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple (also known as Candlemass). You can read the story in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2:22-40. It is one of the great markers in the Season of Epiphany as the Holy Spirit continues to reveal that Jesus is God's Messiah. Feb. 2 also marks 40 days since Mary has given birth.

This would mean that by Mosaic Law: She is now ritually clean and can return to the worship life of Israel. And that offerings could be made on behalf of one's first-born son he is set apart for God. So, with a humble sacrifice Mary rejoins ritual temple worship, and Jesus is marked as belonging to God.

Whether the groundhog sees his shadow or not, we can know that in this season of Epiphany, God can cast out all the darkness from our lives and give us the light of Christ.



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett

American Legion HAM DINNER

Sunday, Feb. 26*

11am to 1pm at

Lillian Community Club

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



*Additional fundraiser dinner will be held * ON * March 26 **

Community Calendar



February 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31- ALANON meets every Tuesday at 7:00 PM, Lillian United Methodist Church in the conference room.

February 11 at 8:00 AM- Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. Join us as we welcome our guest speaker, Jessica Miller. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)

February 25 at 8:00 AM - Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)

SEND ITEMS TO
LILLIANEDITOR@YAHOO.COM

The Inflation Reduction Act; Now is the Time to Begin Research

The Inflation Reduction Act enacted on August 16, 2022 proposed changes over the next ten years. However, most of the provisions become effective for 2023, so there are little significant changes for 2022. What follows are the normal yearly adjustments. Here is a list of key changes for 2022:

The Standard Deduction: It will be \$25,900 for those Married Filing Jointly (MFJ), \$19,400 for Heads of Household (HOH) and \$12,950 for Single or those Married Filing Separately (MFS). Seniors (age 65) will get an extra \$1,750 if Single and \$1,400 for all others over 65 or blind. The standard deduction for dependents who file a tax return is a minimum of \$1,150 or up to the amount earned if less than \$12,950, plus \$400.

Personal Exemptions: These are suspended for all taxpayers until TY 2026, however, the income level to claim a dependent is \$4,400 for 2022.

Tax Rates: There are still 7 tax brackets in effect until 2025. Percentages are: 10, 12, 22, 24, 32, 35 & 37%. Dollar limits are: Singles - <\$10,274.5, >\$10,275, >\$41,775, >\$89,075, >\$170,050 >\$215,950 & >\$539,900 respectively; MFJ - <\$20,550, >\$20,550, >\$83,550, >\$178,150, >\$340,100 >\$431,900 & >\$647,850 respectively; and for HOH - <\$14,650, >\$14,650, >\$55,950, >\$89,050, >\$170,050 >\$215,950 & >\$539,900, respectively. MFS have the same limits as Singles except the 37% rate applies to income over \$332,925.

Capital Gains & Qualified Dividends Tax Rate: The capital gains rate is 0% if taxable income is less than \$83,350 if MFJ; less than \$55,800 if HOH; and less than \$41,675 if Single or MFS. The ranges for the 15% rate are: less than \$517,200 if MFJ; less than \$488,500 if HOH; less than \$459,750 if Single; and less than \$258,600 for MFS. The top rate of 20% is for all others not falling within the 0% or 15% capital gains rates. When adding the 3.8% surtax on investment-type income/gains the overall rate for higher-income taxpayers will be 23.8%.

Charitable Contributions. The "above-the-line" deduction for charitable contributions when you do not itemize has been eliminated. To

claim charitable deductions for 2022, you must itemize and the 60% AGI limitation is back.

Dependent Tax Credit: The Child Tax Credit reverts to \$2,000 for each dependent under age 17 or for a disabled child. You may also claim a \$500 credit for each qualifying dependent not eligible for the Child Tax Credit. The income for phase out of these credits is \$400,000 for MFJ and \$200,000 for any other filing status.

Child and Dependent Care Credit: This credit reverts to \$3,000 for one and \$6,000 for two or more dependents under 13 while you work. The maximum credit is 35% of your employment-related expenses. The more you earn the lower the percentage of employment-related expenses that are considered in determining the credit. Once your adjusted gross income is over \$43,000, the maximum

credit is 20%.

Earned Income Credit (EIC): The maximum EIC is \$6,935 for taxpayers who have 3 or more qualifying children with earned income and (AGI) less than \$26,250 (MFJ). The phaseout range is \$26,250-\$59,187 for MFJ and \$20,150-\$53,057 for any other filing status. The EIC amounts and AGI limitations decrease with fewer or no children. The review of eligibility for EIC continues to be stringent, requiring tax preparers to review documents as proof of taxpayer's eligibility. You *cannot* claim EIC if your filing status is MFS.

Discharged Home Mortgage Debt and Mortgage Insurance Premiums: The cancellation of debt is not taxable for personal home foreclosures up to \$750,000 but the deduction for Mortgage Insurance Premiums expired at the end of 2021 and has NOT been extended for 2022.

Medical Expense Deduction: The expense threshold for deducting medical expenses as an itemized deduction is still 7.5% of AGI for 2022.

Real Estate, State Income & Sales Tax: The deduction for all three combined remains capped at \$10,000. You still have the choice of either state income or sales tax as a deduction, but the cap applies.

Home Mortgage Interest: New acquisition debt is still limited to \$750,000 but debt incurred before 12/15/17 is grandfathered at \$1,000,000. Home Equity Loans not specifically related to the purchase, construction or substantial improvement of a qualified home are not deductible.

Casualty & Theft Losses: These are only deductible when a disaster has been declared by the Federal government. In that event, casualty losses are deductible even if you take the standard deduction.

Employee & Miscellaneous Deductions Subject to 2% AGI: These

have been suspended until 2026. This means that unreimbursed employee expenses (job search expenses, union dues, small tools, protective clothing, etc.) and other expenses like tax preparation fees, investment/advisory fees, IRA custodial expenses, safe deposit boxes are not deductible. However, they are deductible in Alabama and may be in other states as itemized deductions.

Mileage Rates for Deductions: Use of your vehicle for business increases to 58.5 cents per mile from Jan-June and 62.5 cents for July-Dec., for charitable work stays at 14 cents, and for travel for medical treatment or to pick up prescriptions increases to 18 cents for Jan-June and 22 cents for July-Dec.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and IRA Contributions. For those of you who are not yet taking an RMD from your retirement or Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the age requirement changed from 70-1/2 to 72 in 2020. This change does not apply to those already taking RMD's.



Let's Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs
CPA, EA

The 70-1/2 age limitation for contributing to an IRA has been eliminated.

Shared Responsibility for Health Insurance: The penalty (extra tax) for not having health insurance was eliminated for 2019 and subsequent years. There is no requirement that you report the status of your health insurance; however if you acquired insurance through the Marketplace and received premium tax credits, a reconciliation is still necessary. You will receive a form 1095-A.

Personal Energy Property Credit: Major changes are expected for 2023. The lifetime credit of \$500 has been extended to 2022 for qualified energy expenses for a taxpayer's principal residence, and is also available for solar electric property, solar water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, small wind turbines and fuel cell property. This credit for 2022 is 26%.

Qualified Business Income Deduction (QBID): This deduction from taxable income applies to all businesses except Corporations. **Rental of residential real estate is considered a business if renting for profit.** There are phase-out taxable income levels beginning at \$341,000 for MFJ and \$170,050 for all others. There are additional limitations for a Specified Service Trade or Businesses (SSTB).

A SSTB includes health, law, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, brokerage services and any other trade or business where the principal asset is the reputation or skill of one or more of its employees or owners.

Specifically excluded from the definition of a SSTB is architectural or engineering activity.

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

Pandora Sphinx Moth Has a Massive Range, a Guarantee to Spot One

Ah, 2023, a new year. Time to look to the past, enjoy the present, and race for the future. You know who doesn't care much for New Year's Eve parties? The New Year's Clean-Up Crew.

While many of us make resolutions to make changes to our lives or ourselves, there are several groups of insects that take 'Making A Whole New You' to the Next Level. Butterflies and moths will completely change their entire bodies over the course of their lives.

There are more than 160,000 species of moth recorded. This species is a type of hawk moth, the name given to moths in the Sphingidae family due to their large size. Some hawk moths are even occasionally mistaken for small birds!

Many Sphinx moths can have wings with subtle patterns or dramatic color blocks. Their hairy bodies are spindle-shaped—tapered fore and aft. Their eyes are large, and their long proboscis designed to fit tube-shaped flowers. In fact, moths in the sphinx family have the longest tongue of any Lepidoptera! They lack "ears", but hearing is less important for an insect that communicates by scent. They are strong flyers with narrow, pointed forewings are often much larger than their hind wings.

The Pandora sphinx moth, *Eumorpha pandorus*, tends to have a wingspan of three to four inches, with narrow, aerodynamic wings that make them fast in flight. It has considerable flying speed, but is not as fast as a five-spotted hawk moth. They tend to fly at night and are rarely spotted under the porch lights in the evenings.

The Pandora sphinx moth is a species that is widespread in the East, the Southeast, and the Central parts of North America, from Nova Scotia and Ontario, down to the south of Florida and the eastern half of Texas.

This moth is not flashy or showy like some tropical species, but it is one of the prettiest moths in our area. The Pandora Sphinx moth has a large, thick body that is tapered towards the rear. The narrow angular wings are unusual shapes; the forewings are longer while hindwings are smaller. The wings are patterned beautifully with velvet brown and olive green patches and pink edges. The thorax and the head are dark green color at the middle while the rest is a lighter shade of muted green. Female moths are longer and bigger than the males.

The caterpillar comes in various colors, including orange, green, yellow, brown, and pink!

They are larger than most other caterpillars. The head segment has a horn at the end of the abdomen which is later replaced by a button as it grows. The horn is special to the larvae. A single black eyespot sits near the rear. Not every larva grows into an adult due to attack by a parasites and other threats. Each one is unique with its own dramatic pattern and is worth capturing in a photo.

When alarmed, a sphinx moth caterpillar can retract its small head and front body segments into its body, offering it some protection. This bulkier appearance, coupled with its habit of rearing up when disturbed, gives the caterpillar a Sphinxlike

posture – and possibly a clue as to where this moth family got its name. It can possibly survive an attack on its rear, but it's game over if the caterpillar loses its head.

Alarmed caterpillars have another tactic in their arsenal against ants and the many parasites that prey on them—regurgitation. Yep, they barf on those who would eat them.

The Pandora Sphinx Moth drinks nectar from various flowers so it is most likely to be found in gardens, vineyards, near rivers, or in meadows. It can also be found near forest edges or blending in with the foliage inside woodlands.

The most potential habitat for the Pandora Sphinx moth is the one with grapes, Boston ivy, or Virginia creeper.

Hawk moths don't pollinate food crops, making them less popular than the bees who help the farming industry but these moths are vital for the



Know Your Critters

By Celeste Hadley-Champion

survival of many of our native plants.

Without hawk moths, these plants will disappear, permanently changing our diverse and unique habitats.

Pollen that they pick up when feeding on nectar can be spread to flowers farther than 18 miles away!

Although the caterpillars are active at night, making them difficult to find, if you search for them with a UV flashlight, the larvae will glow! This is also true of many other caterpillar species.

Mark your calendars for April as the start of their hatching season.

I love eating the glowing caterpillars. They make a 'light snack'. (Just kidding, don't eat them. Some are poisonous.)

My new year's resolution is to stop procrastinating so I'll start tomorrow.

Hope 2023 treats you with kindness, my friends!



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SADIE



NALA



CORONA




RIP PUDGE



RIP ZELL



The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) had twenty members who competed in the 2023 Baldwin County STAR Events Competition and Beef Cook Off. All students won first place in their events: Chapter Service Project Display – Eva Aguilar and Callie Vicars; Entrepreneurship – Delaney English; Event Management – Saige Englebert, Kate McLain, and Meredith Williams; Focus on Children – Ryleigh Fogos and Mackenzie Santose; Food Innovations – Catie Parker, Finley Loper, and Sierra Jones; Nutrition and Wellness – Haley Burnett and Sadie Kitchens; Professional Presentation – Zoeylynn Barnwell and Kortlyn White; Repurpose and Redesign – Addison Cranford, McCoy Ezell, and Maggie Thorjusen; Sports Nutrition – Alexa Herrera; and Beef Cook Off – Avie Busby.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Bat Bennett: The 'Magician of the Transition'

Bat Bennett doesn't do wallpaper gigs.

If you're looking for quiet background music as ambience, this is not the guy you want to go and see. It will be a show, You will be engaged. You're welcome to talk, but you'll probably be too busy filling in the strategic vocal blanks Bat uses to lure his crowd to fill in missing lyrics. By the time he gets to his scrumptious instrumentals, you'll be speechless.

International guitar-slinger Bat Bennett brought his one-man show to the Front Porch in Lillian last month with an unbroken roller coaster ride of astounding musical mastery on the acoustic guitar wedded with stunning vocal versatility.

Bennet is the magician of the transition. He keeps the crowd relentlessly tuned in with his seamless segues from one impeccable cover favorite to the next. As he moves teasingly and effortlessly from one genre to the next, not even Bat knows what tune will come out next.

In a show of performance endurance, he defies the need to take a break over more than three hours. Each show is entirely improvised, publicity info says. No two are ever the same. There is no song list. Anything goes.

"I know that many artists have a 'sound,'" Bennet says. "I never wish to be identified with any particular sound. I feel that that limits and stereotypes an artist."

Bat likes to boast he can cover nearly any request. (Though he's a dead ringer for Arlo Guthrie, he doesn't know *City of New Orleans*). His voice bamboozles with each new song, sounding so much like the original singer that you'll almost think he's lip-syncing.

"If I have heard it, I can probably play it," he says.

The spontiaity is palpable. A Beatles tune morphs into Pure Prairie League's *Amy*. Someone shouts out a request for The Who. Bat coyly demurs he's not sure if he knows any Who. Seconds later he bursts into a jaw-droppong medley of anthems from the rock opera *Tommy*.

Bat grew up in Zion, IL, a little North of Chicago on Lake Michigan's shore where Illinois becomes Wisconsin. His brother Steve and he started singing around the campfire, playing bluegrass tunes on banjo and guitar when Bat was eight years old.

When the family moved to New Mexico around the time Bat was in high school, meeting other musicians with wide-ranging styles gave him a whole new world of influences to draw from. A musical sponge, Bat wrote his first compositions as a teenager. One of them, *Playground*, has been recognized internationally and plays regularly on Jazz radio stations.

Besides guitar and banjo, Bat learned to play drums, piano, and bass. After high school he easily found enough work as a bass player to keep



him employed for the next two decades. In keeping with the fashion of the times, Bat did his stint of hitchhiking across the country, predictably landing (as so many did) in San Francisco. Playing on the wharf there for tourist tips, he began polishing his knack of covering almost anything from the rock, folk, country, soul, metal and oldies catalogues.

Looking for a way to serve his country, Bat found himself in a traveling position as an entertainer for US Troops performing what most people know as USO shows for active duty forces in bases all over the world.

Returning home, Bat felt he was over the music business. He told his wife Brenda that he was ready to put away his pick. But Brenda had other plans. As empty nesters, Brenda saw their future on the road. She convinced Bat to pick up his old 12-string guitar again, and take a run at the music business as a solo guitarist with her as manager.

"What can I say?" admits Bat. "She was right."

Practicing the 12-string day and night, Bat wrote and recorded the first solo CD *Waiting For Zavala* on only two instruments- 12- string guitar and voice. Bat calls it "heavy folk." It's acoustic music on steroids, with flashy guitar playing and catchy tunes that studiously avoid the sound of typical pop radio formula songs.

The second CD "Digital Sculpture" takes folk music to the next level. Still recorded strictly with acoustic guitar and voice, the production is more lavish with vocal arrangements and percussion sounds rendered from drumming on the guitar body.

Digital Sculpture features Bat's Magnum Opus for acoustic guitar a three-movement masterpiece of 12- string virtuosity that leaves the audiences standing in the aisles.

The third CD *Tone Poems* was released in late 2016, and is an entire volume of instrumental compositions for solo guitar, which includes pieces for standard 6-string, and compositions on nylon string classical guitar.

This CD earned Bat a slot as the featured Guitar Master at the 2016 Philadelphia Folk Festival. *Zero*, released about a year later, presents a more highly-produced version of Bat's music.

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January 28, 3 p.m., Lillian
Community Center**

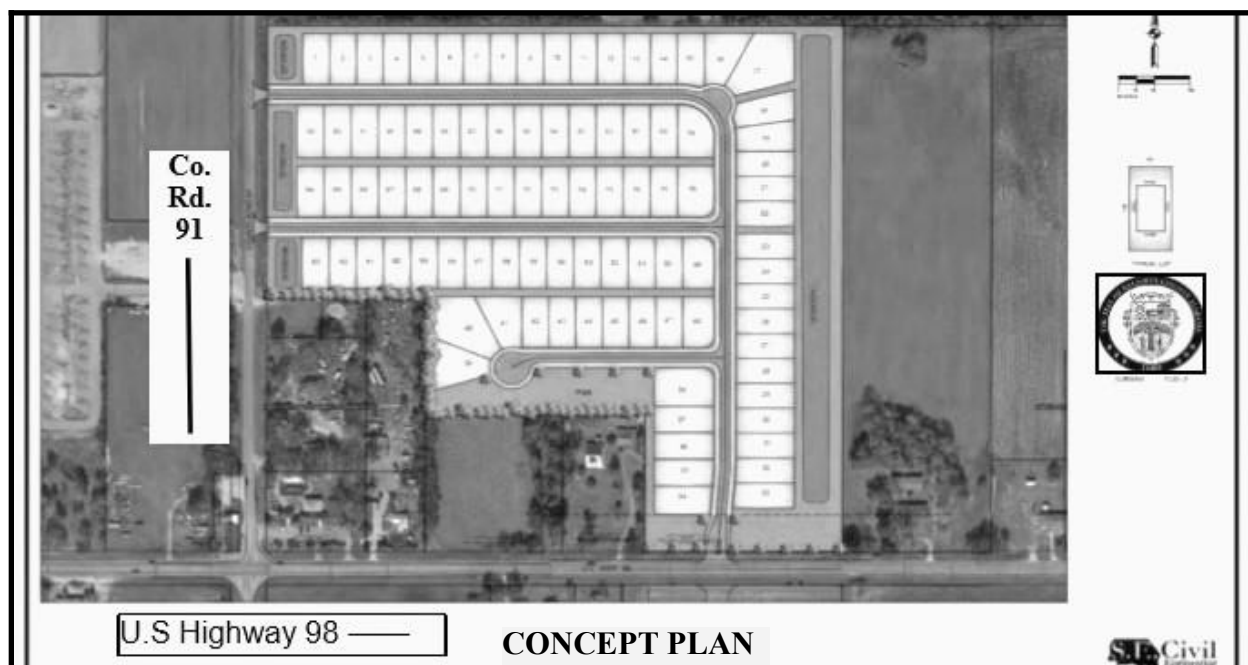
**Please attend this PLANNING/ZONE
MEETING to voice your
opinion on Feb. 2, 2023, 4 p.m.
22251 Palmer St., Robertsdale**

SWIFT LAND & TIMBER LLC PROPERTY PLAN-
NING DISTRICT 22, 29, 33

PROPOSED 80-HOME SUBDIVISION ... TWO AP-
PLICATIONS PRD22-33 AND Z22-17

(ONE ENTRANCE/EXIT EAST OF BLACKKEYED
SUSIE'S ON HWY 98 AND ANOTHER ENTRANCE/
EXIT ON COUNTY ROAD 91 NORTH, BEHIND WA-
TER TOWER ACROSS FROM HWY. 98 RV PARK...
approximately 7-8 homes per acre) and

CITIZENS TOWNHALL MEETING: DISCUSS THE
SWIFT MATTER AS WELL AS ESTABLISH OR
AMEND LOCAL ORDINANCES AS THE CITIZENS
DETERMINE TO BETTER MANAGE RESIDENTIAL
DENSITIES TO KEEP OUR RURAL CHARAC-
TER. All community residents are encouraged to attend the
Citizens Townhall to discuss both above matters, **Saturday,
January 28, 3 pm**, Lillian Community Center.



CITIZENS WELCOME TO PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: BOTH THE
SWIFT APPLICATIONS AND THE CITIZEN AMENDMENTS WILL BE PRESENT-
ED TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON **FEBRUARY 2, 2023 AT 4
pm**. Please attend and email the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission meet-
ing, Baldwin County Central Annex, 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale. planning@baldwincounty.org

We have been awaiting specific instructions on how to proceed with the amendment pro-
cess. We did not receive those specific instructions until January 10, 2023, after the Swift
Lumber application had first been heard on January 5, 2023 subdividing one parcel into two,
and slated for the February 2, 2023 agenda Z22-17 requesting rezoning to RSF-2 as well as
another request for rezoning to PRD22-3, 80 cluster homes. The Swift Lumber property has
been in limbo since before October 2022.

SWIFT APPLICATION "TIMERBLAND TRACE PROJECT SUMMARY" STATES:
80-lot subdivision, 1-2 story single family dwellings, typical lot 52' x 120', target market
seniors and young professionals with anticipated sales prices in the \$300-\$500K range.

AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED AND INCLUDED OR DELETED
ACCORDING THE MAJORITY CONSENSUS:

Establish Minimum Lot Size; High Intensity Commercial and Residential Development to
be Clustered at Major Activity Nodes; Establishment of Node or Nodes: Rural Crossroads
Center Node, Neighborhood Center Node, Village Center Node, Urban Mixed-use Center
Node; Landscape Buffers for Subdivisions Adjacent to Rural and Farming Uses; Landscape
Buffers for Major Projects Abutting Primary Roads; Special Landscape Buffers for Intense
Major Projects Abutting Public Roads; Native Plants Required in Landscape Buffers;
Sidewalks Required for Major Projects, (including a subdivision falling in this
category); Wetlands to be Set Aside in Common Areas; Animal Husbandry Per-
mitted in Residential Districts; Special Parking Requirements to Reduce Impacts
of Impervious Areas; Wetland Buffers; Density Limitations within Residential
Manufactured Housing District; Auto Convenience Markets; Commercial Build-
ing Façade Requirements in a Non-Commercial District; Reductions to Impervi-
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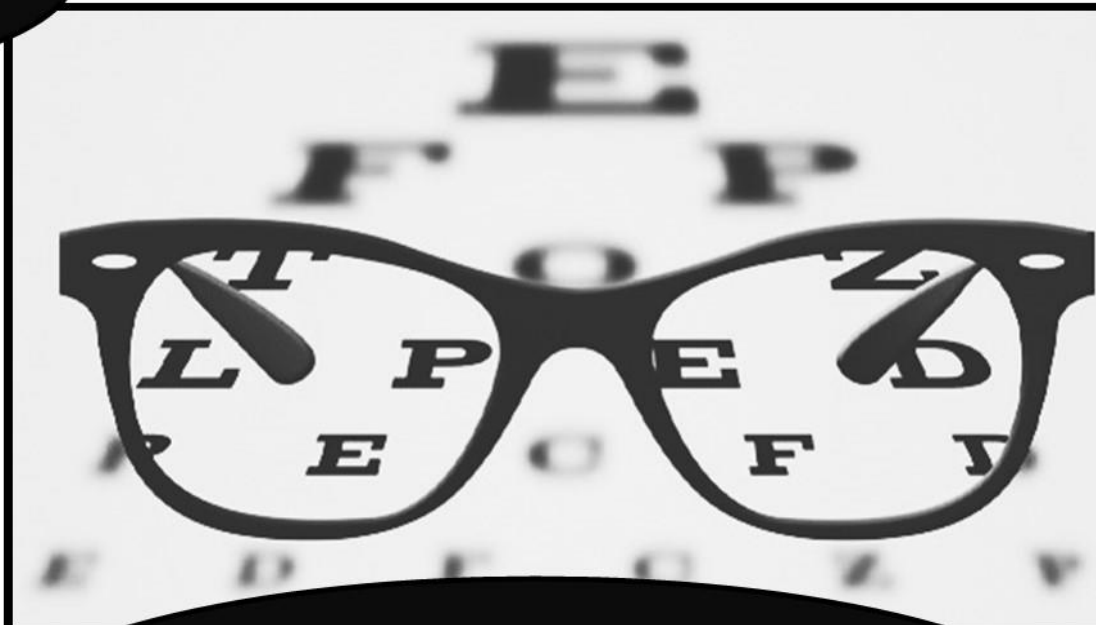


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By Betty Bovat**

‘Check Out’ the February Book Sale

The library has received a large amount of DVDs, so in order to make room on our shelves for them we have many on sale for \$.50 each or 5 for \$1.

We also received many new large print romance paperbacks, so we have many on sale, along with other paperbacks for \$.25 each or 10 for \$1.

Our February book sale also consists of hardbacks, childrens’ books, cook-books, health books, hobby books and some non-fiction books at \$.50 a book or “fill a bag” for \$3. The sale is on for the month of February.

The membership postcards have gone out to you, did you receive it? We certainly appreciate everyone who becomes a member by paying their dues.

If you are a new member and do not have a library card, please let us know and within minutes you will have the card to check out anything we have available in the library. The card is free, but you do not need a card to purchase anything at the library. We also are selling the Restaurant Coupon Books for \$20.00.

The library open hours are Tuesday, Wednesday And Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

We feel fortunate to be able to serve our community with computers, printers, as well as a copy/fax/scan machine for a small donation.

And, we hope to see you at our February Book Sale!

Yes! Yes! Good Dog!



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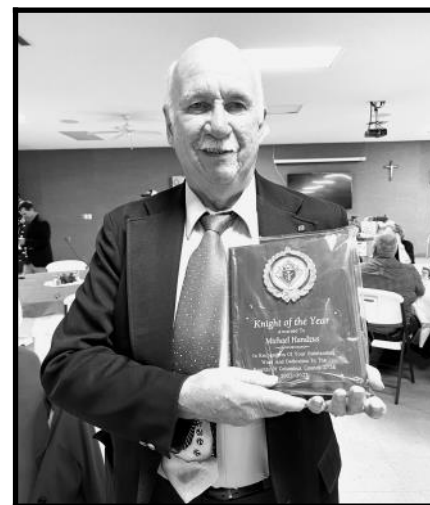
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St. Bartholomew Catholic Church

Two Elberta Knights of Columbus Associates
Honored at Annual Holiday Recognition Event



At a recent holiday event at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Elberta, two members associated with the Knights of Columbus Council 2736 were presented with awards. Michael Handzus received the Knight of the Year award. Diane Perdue was named Columbiette of the Year. The Columbiettes are the women's group that works with the Knights whose mission is to empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community.

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Life's Too Short: Make it Count!

Over the years, if there is one thing that I have learned, it is that life is sacred and fragile.

To be honest, for many, it is way too short. Even at 80 or 90 years of age it's just a split second in time.

Why do humans waste their precious life arguing over trivial, dumb things that in the long scheme of time don't mean diddley-squat?

Finding fault in everyone and everything. Watch nightly newscasts and one person murders another person over a stupid argument or some ego-trip. Too many people, human life means nothing. Egos, money, drugs, jealousy, material things are their only passions. You can't take any of it with you when you die. Those wants and emotions are worthless. A song from Porgy and Bess, *I've got plenty of nothin' and nothin's plenty for me.*

Maybe there's a good lesson in that.

The tragedy of mankind is that far too many individuals are turned into themselves.

What *they* want, what *they* feel and they go after whatever floats their boat and don't care who they hurt, physically or mentally. There is great sadness in *man's inhumanity to man.*

There are good people out there. Even those who are good and caring individuals get caught up in their daily problems sometimes and forget to appreciate the gift of life that has been given to them.

I have always believed that we do answer to all of our transgressions in the end.

What some folks don't heed because they think it is religious, to me is a universal law—*do unto others as you would have others do unto you.*

Which leads us to another phrase I

truly believe—*what goes around comes around or what we reap is what we sow.*



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

We are all on this spaceship together. Let's respect each other and realize we are all precious.

Unfortunately, that is probably unrealistic as there are too many greedy and evil human animals on this planet. Stomp out negativity, it is destroying us.

That Valentine card declaring love, accompanied by flowers or box of candy is nice but remember to show that love all year long.

Those who have anger, hatred, greed of wealth and power inside of themselves are not only the worst of society but pathetic because they lack the most important ingredient in life that makes us human and that is LOVE.

February is a good time to take inventory of who we really are and who we want or should be as humans. And for crying out loud, stay away from the booze and drugs unless of course, you like living in your man-made hell.

Just saying.

"My love for you is not seasonal, it is present in every moment of every day." lovequote.com.

"To love is not to look at one another; it is to look together in the same directions." *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.*

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An Important Question: Are You a Fan or Follower of Jesus?

Kyle Idleman wrote a thoughtful essay titled "Why I'm Not a 'Fan' of Jesus."

He begins by noting that, according to a recent survey, the percentage of Americans who claim to be Christian is somewhere north of seventy-five percent. "Really?" he asks, "three out of four people are followers of Christ? Let's see, if the population of the United States is about three hundred and eleven million and seventy-five percent are Christians that brings the number of Christians to somewhere in the neighborhood of two hundred and thirty-three million. That's a lot of Christians." In his estimation, something about that percentage is off. "Because if there really are that many Christians, then why will some Thirty-five million people in America go to bed hungry tonight, including Thirteen million children? If seventy-five percent of Americans are Christians, then why are there more than one hundred and twenty thousand children waiting to be adopt-

ed? The numbers don't add up.

Jesus said the evidence that someone is one of his followers is love. So, Two Hundred and thirty-three million?" says Idleman, "the evidence just isn't there. What's the explanation for such a discrepancy?" he asks. He tells about an article he read a number of years ago about a group the article called, the "new vegetarians. These new vegetarians don't eat meat--most of the time. One of them explained that she was a vegetarian, but she really liked bacon." And so she ate it. "A vegetarian, by definition, is someone who doesn't eat meat," says Idleman. "Umm, yeah, but isn't bacon a meat? Is it really accurate for her to identify herself as a vegetarian? . . ." Then he adds that the discrepancy was solved by coming up with a new term to describe vegetarians who aren't committed to abstaining from meat. They now identify themselves as "Flexitarians." They eat vegetables only - when it suits them! "A Christian," continues Idleman, "by definition, is a follower and imitator of Christ. So, I'm



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

thinking that what might help make sense of the 233 million number is a new word to describe people who identify themselves as Christians but have little interest in truly following the teachings of Jesus. Perhaps instead of 'Followers,' it would be more accurate to call them 'Fans.' The word fan is most simply defined as, an enthusiastic admirer. And I think Jesus has a lot of fans these days. Some fans may even get dressed up for church on Sunday and make their ringtone a worship song. They like being associated with Jesus. Fans want to be close enough to Jesus to get the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them. They want a no-strings-attached relationship with Jesus. So, a fan says, I like Jesus but don't ask me to serve the poor. I

like Jesus, but I'm not going to give my money to people who are in need. I like Jesus, but don't ask me to forgive the person who hurt me. I like Jesus, but don't talk to me about money, morals, holiness or sexual purity - that's off limits. Fans like Jesus just fine, but they don't want to give up the bacon. Maybe we are not seeing a greater impact in the world for Jesus because there are more Fans than Followers.

In Matthew 16:24-26 Jesus makes it clear what it means to be a faithful follower. "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?' So, what about you? Are you faithfully worshipping God regularly with others? Are you faithfully imitating Jesus in your words and actions? Are you serving the least and the lost or your own wants and desires? Are you a fan or a follower of Jesus?"

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New Volunteers, Equipment Bring Firefighters Into the New Year

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 75 calls dispatched by the 911 operators in December: 45 Medical Assistance; 8 Public Assists; 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents/Clean up; 1 Structure Fire; 1 Brush Fire; 5 Cancelled en route; 5 False Alarm/Miscellaneous; and 5 Aircraft Stand By.

LVFD ended 2022 with 1,012 calls. Although this number is slightly lower than previous years, it is still a fairly high count for a volunteer department. As 2023 begins, we are probably going to see an increase in

houses being built which will increase our calls and once again our volunteers will be called upon to do even more. Over the last several months we have recruited four new volunteers; however, we also lost several volunteers last year. Once again, we would ask anyone who is thinking of helping out at the fire department, we would be more than happy to speak with you.

LVFD recently acquired a truck and side-by-side. The side-by-side is an off-road-vehicle that can easily operate through extensive forestry and brush during a fire.

We were able to obtain both vehicles through exchanging an old Rehab Truck, which was rarely used in recent years, for the practically new vehicles. This has been a major boost to the department and we have already used both vehicles on several calls.

Chief, Dewhurst and Deputy Chief, Mullane's number one priority for LVFD is training. Training has always been their main objective in running a highly skilled and professional department. In addition to the certified fire fighters, which were trained over the last couple of years, we now have another person enrolled in an

Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Goretti Lysek

Instructor 1 course, and another in Fire Officer 11 Class.

Also, our new recruits are continuing to learn and are quickly acclimating to life at LVFD.

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

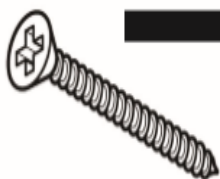
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The Happiness Project

Welcome to The Happiness Project, a year-long series about the benefits of community voluntarism. Volunteering is one of the most powerful ways you can make a difference, help others, and even, research shows, make yourself happier! Join us each month as we explore the benefits of volunteering, spotlight area volunteers, and highlight local organizations that could use your help. Even helping out with a small task can make a big difference, so we hope this series will encourage you to get involved, no matter your age, physical abilities, or time limitations.

By Erin Taliaferro Attaway

The new year often brings promises of personal growth and professional development. We challenge ourselves to make changes that we see as beneficial, although we may not follow through for long.

This year, instead of focusing on self, we would like to challenge you, through the Happiness Project, to set a self-oriented goal for yourself that will serve a greater purpose: Building a vibrant and thriving community, helping to spread happiness throughout our neighborhoods and community.

There is a great need in the Lillian area for volunteers. Being a small community, there are many jobs to be done and few people to do them. Or so it seems. The Happiness Project aims to correct this shortfall by educating, empowering and enticing members of our community to increase their volunteer efforts and fill the perceived gaps of local organizations.

Happiness is not ready made. It comes from your own actions.

-Dalia Lama

Some of today's most plaguing issues are loneliness, isolation, and the perceived dissolution of community. Coupled with 'busyness' and burnout, you often have a community of dissatisfied individuals who are all looking for ways to feel better. Better about themselves, better about their lives, and better about where they live.

The goal of the Happiness Project is to share the benefits, needs and effects of volunteerism to increase awareness and participation locally, creating an extensive happiness effect that will create beautiful ripples throughout life and region.

Research documents how volunteering can make substantial improvements to mood, health, lifestyle, professional development, community strength and regional development. Think of communities you've visited that have spoken to you through the visible and intangible improvements made by local organizations. When communities come together to take action, it can be felt internally and in a larger sense of community.

We hope you will join us on our Happiness Project journey. We are issuing a challenge for:

- Long-term residents of Lillian to engage in a new way and enjoy the positive benefits that new engagement brings.
- New residents to engage in a meaningful way and get to know their neighbors, local lore and area history.
- Recent retirees to take aim on building volunteer relationships that will create satisfaction and continued use of your personal skills and wisdom.
- Young families to come out and participate in revitalizing the Lillian community and create stronger bonds of family life and joy.
- Adolescents and teens to overcome complacency and apathy and engage society in a meaningful way, lending optimism and energy to causes that need your support.
- Disabled or challenged individuals to overcome stereotypes and obstacles, setting great examples for others.

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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 February go out to: Jennifer Canaday,

Trisha Gingras, Joyce Sheldon, Ed Dowd, Bob Taylor, Nicole Fehn, Evelyn Duckworth, Tom Ryborski, Ken Robinson, Lois Mitchell, John Flynn, Melodye Barnhart, MJ Rooks, James Covert, Barbara Jennings, Jim Baxter, Char Kuhr, Lindsay Sherwin.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in February are: Ken and Diane Robinson, Marvin and Judy Cain 1968, Sam and Josephine Roberts 1975

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

The deadline for the March issue of The Lillian is February 15.

FRIENDS of ZION



Bible Verses

But as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things God hath prepared for them that love Him.

Corinthians 2.9

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February 2023
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HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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

OBITUARIES

Robert M. Burgess, 67

Robert E. Burgess, 67, a resident of Lillian, AL, passed away Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Robert, or Bob as his friends called him, was part of the Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue for Leeds and Turner Maine.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Burgess; many other loving relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Bob's life will be held at a later date in Maine.

**Larrell Edward Harville, 76**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Larrel Edward Harville of Lillian, Alabama, born in Fayette, Alabama, who passed away on Dec. 6, 2022, at the age of 76, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to send flowers or leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

He was predeceased by : his parents, John Harville and Claudine McCool Harville; his siblings, Wayne, Doug and Julie; and his wife Elizabeth A. Novak.

He is survived by his children, Kelly, Robert and Timothy; and his siblings, Sandee Perez, Jay and Margie Klein.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 11 2022. A funeral service was held on Sunday, Dec.11, 2022.

Robert "Bob" Pearson, 85

Robert "Bob" Pearson, 85, of Lillian, Alabama passed away Monday, November 28, 2022. Robert was born on August 7, 1937, in Troy, New York. He was one of five boys to parents Herman and Mary Pearson. Bob moved to Spanish Cove over 30 years ago with his beloved Marilyn Pearson who preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughters; Danielle Bucher and Heather Facey, and son, Ross Baldwin.

(Continued from page 1)

in seven cancer cases per 100,000 exposed.

EWG numbers shows that, at the Spanish Cove maximum level of 7.22, there would be about a 145 percent increase in a person's risk for cancers.

Makers of retail household water filters - ZeroWater, for example - use the EWG standard of .05 pCi/L as the safe contaminant level in drinking water, not the EPA level 5.0 pCi/L.

That well is now offline as Perdido Bay Water explores solutions to its radium problem. Right now, it is "blending" about 10,000 gallons of water from its other two wells just long enough to get a contrived reading that is in compliance with EPA

maximum legal limit and then shutting Well #3 down again, Bohlin said. Even so, the latest reading after blending was .188 on Jan. 4, nearly four times the EWG limit for health risks. The well is still not operating.

"Water experts are still unclear about how blending is going to bring Well #3 into compliance on a long-term basis that will keep it pumping water full time."

Water experts are still unclear about how blending is going to bring Well #3 into compliance on a long-term basis that will keep it pumping water full time.

Margaret 'Margie' Catherine Keller, 99

Margaret (Margie) Catherine Keller of Lillian, passed away peacefully in her sleep, on Dec. 27, 2022, at the age of 99.

Margie was born on April 5, 1923 to Edward J. Bantle and Alma M. Huber in St. Louis MO. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Laine N. Keller; and daughter-in-law's, Candice Keller, and Juliana Keller. She is survived by her 5 children, Mary & (Ron) Speck of Lillian, AL, Joseph & (Claudia) Keller of Lillian, AL, Thomas & (Karen) Keller of Florida Keys, FL, Theresa Keller-Brazner (Anthony Scrivens) of Lillian, AL, and James Keller (Ellen Huard) of Edgewater, MD; 13 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Margie grew up in St. Louis MO. Moved to Washington DC in 1941 and worked for the Navy Department. She married Laine on March 20, 1945, in St. Louis, and raised her five children in College Park, MD. After retiring they moved to Lillian AL in 1981.

Margie & Laine traveled to all 50 States.

She volunteered at the Lillian library, she enjoyed gardening, exercise class, line dancing, and water aerobics & was a member of the Saint Joseph's Alter Society. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to Hospice of Baldwin County.

Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Lillian, AL. Interment was at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL. on Monday Jan. 30th at 11:30a .m.

Michael Joseph Collins, 77

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Michael Joseph Collins of Lillian, Alabama, who passed away at the age of 77, on Dec. 12, 2022.

You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. You may also light a candle in honor of Michael Joseph Collins or send a beautiful flower arrangement to the funeral service.

They have reconfigured much of the piping to facilitate blending, Bohlin said.

There is plenty of water from Wells #1 and #2 to supply Spanish

include removing the radium by osmosis or by providing filtering devices to users. The water company has ruled out filtration citing the cost of handling hazardous materials removed through the process.

"Once you get involved in filtration, you get a hazmat situation (radioactive substance) and that is expensive to dispose of," Bohlin said.

But they are looking at the bottom line and targeting blending as the most cost-efficient solution.

The water company is determined to avoid a worst-case scenario of having to dig a new well.

"We'd hate to have to shut it down and never use it again," Bohlin said.

Cove, he said. The biggest challenge now is getting the pressurizing right, so the water will fill into the tank properly, he said.

A variety of possible remedies

You Can't Control the Market but You Can These Factors

As an investor, you can easily feel frustrated to see short-term drops in your investment statements. But while you cannot control the market, you may find it helpful to review the factors you can control.

Many forces affect the financial markets, including geopolitical events, corporate profits and interest rate movements – forces beyond the control of most individual investors.

In any case, it's important to focus on the things you can control, such as these:

Your ability to define your goals – One area in which you have total control is your ability to define your goals. Like most people, you probably have short-term goals – such as saving for a new car or a dream vacation – and long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. Once you identify your goals and estimate how much they will cost, you can create an investment strategy to help achieve them. Over time, some of your personal circumstances will likely change, so you'll want to review your time horizon and risk tolerance on a regular basis, adjusting your strategy when appropriate. And the same is true for your goals – they may evolve over time, requiring new responses from you in how you invest.

Your response to market downturns – When the market drops and the value of your investments declines, you might be tempted to take immediate action in an effort to stop the losses. This is understandable – after all, your investment results can have a big impact on your future. However, acting hastily could work against you – for example, you could sell investments that still have solid fundamentals and are still appropriate for your needs. If you can avoid decisions based on short-term events, you may help yourself in the long run.

Your commitment to investing – The financial markets are almost always in

flux, and their movements are hard to predict. If you can continue investing in all markets – good, bad or sideways – you will likely make much better progress toward your goals than if you periodically were to take a "time out." Many people head to the investment sidelines when the market tumbles, only to miss out on the beginnings of the next rally. And by steadily investing, you will increase the number of shares you own in your investments – and the larger your ownership stake, the greater your opportunities for building wealth.

Your portfolio's level of diversification – While diversification itself can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help greatly reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio.

Just how you diversify your investments depends on several factors, but the general principle of maintaining a diversified portfolio should govern your approach to investing. It's a good idea to periodically review your portfolio to ensure it's still properly diversified.

The world will always be filled with unpredictable, uncontrollable events, and many of them will affect the financial markets to one degree or another. But within your own investment world, you always have a great deal of control – and with it, you have the power to keep moving toward all your important financial objectives.

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



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

A Thank You Donation



The Spanish Cove Activities Committee recently donated to the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department as a "Thank You" for their help with events as well as their dedication to the health and welfare of Spanish Cove residents. From left are Spanish Cove Activities Committee Chairman Bob Tobey, LVFD Chief Nick Dewhurst and Activities Committee member Doyce Turner.



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"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

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Password vs. P.I.N. - Critical Keys to Your Data

We use locks to protect ourselves from threats, safety, protection and more. In today's technology we use a password and or a P.I.N.

Putting our focus on computers most have created a password for various websites, e-mail, and even to access our devices.

In some cases once you have created a password usually containing eight characters using upper and lower case, with number(s) and sometimes a special character; you may substitute a P.I.N. to gain access.

However the P.I.N. does not become your password. Your password will always be that combination of alpha, numeric, and sometime special character.

The ability to have a website or e-mail account remember your password for easy access is nice but can be a false sense of security and moreover takes away from our memory and security.

I'll briefly touch upon those pro-

grams that hold your password. It is a nice convenience however not all that safe.

If you have websites remember your passwords and programs that do the same you have a risk factor for hackers / malware programs that search for passwords.

It might take a few seconds longer to type in your password to access your website and your device opposed to using a P.I.N. but the bene-

“Keep a log or local record of your passwords; and allow family member(s) to know where they are for emergency purposes.”

fits of knowing your password / not forgetting your password with the sense of security outweighs those few



The Mouse

By Joseph Oakley

seconds to type it in. Keep a log or

poses.

Until next time Remember; Before you stick a P.I.N. in it consider what you read.

I hope to accomplish that you know you are smarter than your computer, that the computer is a tool, and you are the master of that tool.

If you have any questions, you would like answered in this column, please send them to: mouse@pc-s4u.com

Until next time, safe computing.

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Major Improvements Underway At Lillian Rec. Park

You know the old saying, "The only constant in life is change"? Well, that is especially true at the Lillian Recreational Park this year. 2023 will be a year of significant change for the Park. From large projects to small ones, the Park will be making a lot of visible changes, as well as some that won't be as readily apparent.

One of the most visible changes has already begun: Construction of four new dedicated pickleball courts.

Thanks to a grant from Impact 100 Baldwin County, construction on the new courts began in late January. Once completed, the pickleball courts will be available for play, lessons, and tournaments and are expected to attract players from all over the area. In tandem with construction of the new pickleball courts, the basketball court will be resurfaced, painted and restriped since it will no longer be used for both purposes.

Another Park improvement may not be as visible as the new courts but will be very much appreciated: A massive overhaul of the park's kitchen. The upgrade will include new equipment, including a convection oven, cooktops and an ice machine. Also made possible by funding from the Impact grant, the new kitchen will be used for wedding receptions, parties and other events.

A third major component of the Park's Impact 100 grant will allow the Park to expand the dog run, adding both small dog and large dog areas, water, shading, and play equipment. Work on the dog run will begin this summer.

Another highlight for visitors this year will be the Park's new Osprey Cam. Thanks to Riviera Utilities help with building a platform for the cameras, people will soon be able to watch the Park's resident ospreys build their nest, lay their eggs, and then watch as the baby ospreys hatch and learn to fly.

The Park will stream the osprey cam feed.

Another priority for the Park this year is to seek funding and partnerships to improve the parking lot and eliminate our flooding issues.

By adding drainage and resurfacing the parking lot itself, the park will become accessible to everyone.

But it isn't all about capital projects at the Park. Planning is underway for 2023 events and activities as well. Market in the Park begins next month and runs through November.

Markets are held on the third Saturday of the month, from 8 am until noon.

Movies & Music in the Park will kick off in April. This perennial favorite features family activities and local musicians who play prior to the movie each month. Movies are typically held on the first Friday of the month.

The Fall Fest will return, bigger and better than ever, too. This year's festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 14.

Later this spring, the Park will offer environmental and art camps. Soccer camps are also being scheduled. While there are many changes in store for the Park this year, one thing that won't change is the Park's commitment to you and making sure that YOUR park remains your happy place and is a great place to get some exercise, meet up with your friends, and enjoy community.

As always, we would love to have your suggestions about programs or improvements you'd like us to consider – and we would love to have your involvement, too. Whatever your interests, there's a place for you.



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Red Hat Ladies Ring in the New Year



Lunch, Pillows and Birthdays Mark the First Meeting of 2023



The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies started the new year in grand style at their gathering at The Point Restaurant on Innerarity Point on January 10. Hostesses Priscilla Westgate and Diane Gilbert did a great job by providing many door prizes for the 15 ladies who came. Waynette Brown brought beautiful Red Hat pillows which added to the excitement. Brenda Cannon was our guest and we hope she will come again. Diane Gilbert and Melissa Scott were our birthday girls and got their presents. Our next gathering will be Valentine's Day and our hostesses will be Karen Brady and Ann Cox.



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