

The Lillian

Serving Lillian and surrounding area since 1995

Where pride, tradition and unity go hand-in-hand

Volume 24 Number 1

January 1, 2019

Lillian, AL 36549

Board meeting of the Lillian Action Committee will be held at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library at 2 p.m. on January 21, 2019. The public is invited.

LASAR Member Named Alabama State Rescuer of the Year



LASAR Maintenance Officer Billy Slavey was named the Alabama State Rescuer of the Year for 2018.

By Donna Johnson

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads (AARS) named LASAR Maintenance Officer Billy Slavey as State Rescuer of the Year for 2018. Slavey was recognized as the squad member who performed an outstanding rescue act in 2018.

There are 94 rescue squads in Alabama who are members of AARS and all have conducted outstanding rescues and general work throughout the year.

Out of all of these squads and their members, the best of the best was selected from the Lillian based LASAR unit.

Slavey was recognized for a rescue that he conducted with his wife, Teresa, while they were on

a family boating outing. They came upon a family in a small ski boat that was swamped and taking on water. The boat was approximately two miles from shore with three adults and three small children on board.

Fortunately the Slaveys noticed the family in distress and raced past several boats to come to their aid.

The adults were inexperienced swimmers who were unable to swim to safety and the children were quite young.

Slavey put himself in harm's way by jumping onto the sinking boat and first assisting the children into personal flotation devices from his boat.

Once the children were safe

on his family's boat, he focused on assisting the adults.

Shortly after everyone was safely onboard, a Florida Marine police boat arrived on scene. Seeing that everything was under control, they enlisted Slavey's further assistance to deliver the family safely to shore.

The owner stayed on his craft and Slavey towed them to the nearest marina where the entire family was put safely ashore.

The Slaveys went out of their way to assist this family of six in their time of need and saved them from a tragic event.

LASAR congratulates them for a job well done and exemplifying the LASAR motto, "Failure is not an option!"

The Lillian Now Available Online

The Lillian newspaper is proud to announce that beginning with this January 2019 issue, our pages are now also available for viewing online.

Janel Smith, the newspaper's managing editor, will be placing all pages of The Lillian online through the Lillian Community Club's web site. "We are very happy to be able to provide this to our readers and our advertisers," said Smith. "Not only will our readers be able to enjoy our newspaper from any location, but our advertisers will

also be gaining a wider audience to promote their businesses and events."

The Lillian can be found online by going to the LCC web site at www.lilliancommunityclub.com, then clicking on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page. Readers are encouraged to bookmark this page so they can check the site for the most current and recent editions.

"The newspaper continues to be for our community with content provided by our community

members. I encourage anyone with news, events, press releases and photos to email the information to lillianeditor@yahoo.com so it can be shared in newsprint and now online," Smith said.

She also thanked the Lillian Community Club for their support. "With their cooperation, we are excited to bring local news to everyone in this format," she said. "Newsprint copies will still be available every month, but we wanted to offer this as an option as well."

How To Find Us Online!



Our web address is:
www.lilliancommunityclub.com/the-lillian-newspaper

But we understand this is a lot to type in, so here's an easier way to get there:
Go to www.lilliancommunityclub.com, click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page.

Please bookmark this page!

Holiday Cheer

Breakfast with Santa was a huge hit at the Lillian Community Club on Dec. 15. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, the annual event is a favorite for local kids and families, including, from left, Allison, Olivia, Elaina and Logan Charbonneau. Additional Optimist Club Santa photos on Pages 20 and 21.

Photo by Sally McKinney





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Impact 100 Baldwin County Kicks Off Membership Drive

Impact 100 Baldwin County started its annual membership campaign on Nov. 29 at the Baldwin County Association of Realtors office in Robertsdale.

The event was open to women interested in learning about Impact membership and the power of collective giving.

It provided prospective members with an opportunity to meet other women who share a common goal for making a difference in Baldwin County.

Another event was held Dec. 11 at Lulu's in Gulf Shores.

Several Impact 100 Baldwin County membership drive events will be held through March 31, 2019. A complete list of membership

events can be found on the Impact 100 website at www.Impact100BaldwinCounty.org.

Find out how you can help provide support and hope in our community through transformational grantmaking by calling Impact at (251) 270-0729.

Since its founding in 2008, Impact 100 Baldwin County has awarded over \$3.1 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Baldwin County.

Impact 100's mission is to improve the lives of residents by awarding high-impact grants to local nonprofits that fund innovative, meaningful projects which allow the agencies to better serve their clients and to improve the Baldwin County community.

At every Saturday breakfast meeting, the Optimists hear a program of interest. For January the schedule is:

Jan. 5: "Two Old Men" who regularly play and sing at The Front Porch in Lillian will play and tell their story.

Jan. 12: Lillian's own Joseph Oakley who writes the column "The Mouse" in *The Lillian* will take questions about computer issues.

Jan. 19: Ed Bushaw with South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will tell the group what

is happening in our coastal area.

Jan. 26: Judith Adams, vice president of marketing for Alabama State Port Authority, will speak about the Port of Mobile and the natural gas pipeline industry.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and guests eat free.

Optimist Club

By Carolyn Armstrong

Grande Dame Red Hats

By Renee McGrail

The Perdido Grande Dames met Dec. 11 for our Christmas celebration at the new Wolf Bay Lodge on Gulf Beach Highway. We all enjoyed the new decorations at the

restaurant and each others' company.

Hostesses Pat Bonner and Renee McGrail were excited to be Santa's helpers this month. The table was decorated with poinsettia and elf dolls. Each member was given a gift bag, some containing handmade soaps, mug rugs and snack pads. Each bag was a little different.

Our Queen Mum Judy

Wargo was given an apron that read, "The QUEEN doesn't cook," a book about the history of Red Hats Society and messages in a bottle. The door prize of a Target gift card was won by Sandra Jurries.

Members present included Pat Bonner, Elaine Cooley, Barbara Dixon, Sandra Jurries, Judy Wargo and Renee McGrail



Our next meeting will be Jan. 8 with the meeting place to be determined.

Lillian Grande Dames Red Hat group gave a \$50 donation to the Food Pantry at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church. In the picture are Este Donnerwirth, left, and Judy Wargo from the Red Hats with Art Schuck from the Food Pantry. The ladies also gave \$50 to Mary's Shelter and the Elberta High School Band.



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Local Groups Receive Funds at Youth Appreciation Day

By Sally McKinney

Approximately \$14,000 was recently distributed at the Annual Youth Appreciation Day by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay (OCPB) to many Baldwin County projects that help children. The list includes 10 programs that help special needs programs including the ARC Thanksgiving luncheon, Elberta elementary and high schools, Foley high and middle schools and Robertsdale High School and Summerdale Elementary

Schools. Donations were also given to the Starfish swim team and the Miracle League of Coastal Alabama. The club also participates in the Baldwin County Special Olympics by cooking lunch for more than 500 students and teachers. Money also went to the Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch, Baldwin Tech Center, Elberta elementary and high schools for special projects, the Elberta High School Band, the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, Lillian

Recreational Park, Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast, High Hopes Autism program, Care House Child Advocacy Center, Youth-Reach Gulf Coast, St. Benedict Catholic School and My Community Mentoring as well as three newly-organized Junior Optimist Clubs. The OCPB gave donations to the Optimist International (OI) Hard of Hearing Program, the OI Childhood Cancer Campaign, Mobile Women's and Children's Hospital Cancer Unit and the OI Foundation.


Applications Now Open For Optimist Club Scholarships

By Sally McKinney

The end of the school year is approaching and the members of the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay are gearing up to award scholarships. The club has set aside \$3,000 to be given to three high school graduates from the Elberta/Lillian area. This year a change has been made to the award process. Two scholarships will be given to students planning on attending a college or university, while one scholarship will be provided to a student pursuing a trade or vocational school. Those who have applied, or will be applying, to the South Baldwin Education Foundation, Inc. do not need to reapply, as the club will receive those applications. Students who do not have access to the online application with the South Baldwin Education Foundation can download, complete and mail the application to the Scholarship Committee, Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, P. O. Box 87, Lillian, AL 36549. The application link is on the OCPB website at www.ocpb.org. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 28, 2019.



More than 25 organizations received donations from the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay at their annual Youth Appreciation Day.



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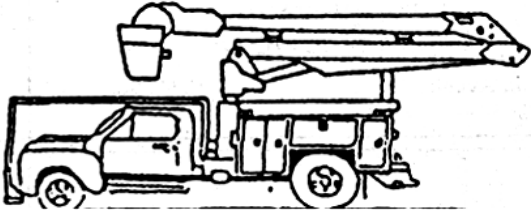
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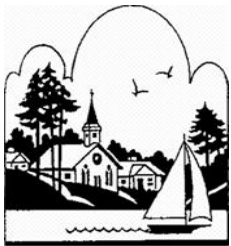


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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The Lillian newspaper is a monthly paper. Advertisements may be dropped off at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, mailed to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, Alabama 36549 or email lillianeditor@yahoo.com.

Advertisement inquiries can be directed to Mark Smith at 601-508-0219 (cell). 'Office hours' are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Available sizes for advertisements are:

- ~ Full page: 9.5" wide x 15" tall
- ~ Half page: 9.5" wide x 7.75" tall
- ~ 1/4 page: 4.75" wide x 7.75" tall
- ~ 1/8 page: 4.75" wide x 3.75" tall
- ~ #2: 4" wide x 6" tall
- ~ #3: 3" wide x 3.5" tall
- ~ Business card: 3.5" wide x 2" tall
- ~ Classified: maximum 35-40 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 staff have any questions. No letters will be accepted regarding property owner associations' problems.

POLICY

Thank you for your articles and letters to the editor, but due to space limitations, some submissions may not be included in this issue. They will be included in a future issue when possible.

The editorial board has the right to deny any articles or ads not suitable for this publication.

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

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

- ~ Mail to P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, Alabama 36549
- ~ Fax: 251-961-3529
- ~ Email: lillianeditor@yahoo.com
- ~ Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library (in yellow folder)

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.

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the February issue of *The Lillian* is Jan. 23. Email lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles. Call Mark Smith at 601-508-0219 or email marksmith0824@yahoo.com for advertising information.

The Lillian Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Sally McKinney
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Consider Expanding Your 'Family'

The holidays have come and gone, can you believe it? I hope yours was as happy as mine. In early December I received a call from my daughter, Kathy, saying she was coming for a week's visit. I was delighted. Then I remembered all the "stuff" I had to do that week.

I needn't have worried. She's a chip off the old block and was eager to participate in the Optimist events of that week, taking Santa Claus to visit the special needs kids' classes in Foley and Elberta and then experiencing the Breakfast with Santa.

Even though I don't see my children as much as I would like, Christmas is a great time to remember all the special, fun, crazy things we did as they were growing up. It's fun to listen to our son and daughters talking about their special family times, too. And now, many of us have the grandkids making new adventures with our great-grands.

But not to worry if your families are not living nearby, there's always Skype and FaceTime, etc. Don't forget about your Lillian families, though. They sure do meet the criteria. They laugh with you, provide



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally
McKinney

a loving shoulder to cry on, boost you when you are low and celebrate when you have good news or a great day. I don't know what I would do without my Lillian family.

If you are a newcomer, be sure to make yourself available to meet your new family.

Attend a church, participate in local events at the Lillian Community Club or the Spanish Cove Clubhouses. Join an organization, the Optimists, American Legion or the LCC. Become active at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department or Lower Alabama Search and Rescue (LASAR).

Of course, if you are an old timer, you might also want to take this advice, too. You'll be glad you did and it makes living in Paradise even more wonderful.

How To Find Us

The Lillian

Our web address is:

www.lilliancommunityclub.com/the-lillian-newspaper

Here's an easier way to get there:

Go to www.lilliancommunityclub.com,
click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It was a sad day on December 8 when rain forced the cancellation of our Christmas parade. We thank all of the 58 groups and individuals who planned to be part of the parade and we hope you will all join us on December 14, 2019, for our next parade.

Paul and Judy Wargo

The Senate released a report detailing the extent of Putin's efforts to influence the 2016 Presidential election in favor of Trump and the Republican party. Now why would Putin want to influence the U.S. Presidential election? I see three choices.

One, Putin loves America and wants to see the best possible person

elected President. Two, Trump has extensive business interests in Russia and is vulnerable to pressure from Russia. Or three, Putin doesn't really like America and wanted to see the most corrupt doofus elected President.

I would invite my Republican friends to pick the most likely of the three answers or provide a better answer. The question is not whether Russia changed the outcome of the election, it is why they tried to. Can we assume Putin, a former Lt. Col. in the KGB, is not stupid and he had a reason for his actions? Maybe Putin saw "The Manchurian Candidate" movie and got an idea. Last question: Did Putin get his money's worth?

John Klinger

The Lillian policy for letters to the editor:

- ~ All letters must be signed and have contact information should we have any questions.
- ~ No letters will be accepted regarding property owner associations' problems.
- ~ Please make sure what is submitted is readable or it may not be printed.
- ~ Provided phone numbers must be correct.
- ~ Please limit letters to 300 words.

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St. Joseph Assists CSS



Santa Claus recruited special helpers at Catholic churches and others in Baldwin County to help him select gifts for boys and girls. Each child whose parents signed up with Catholic Social Services (CSS) received three special gifts. Cheryl Korte and Phyllis Beam received the donation from St. Joseph Church in Lillian. The congregation donated 30 gifts from bicycle helmets to diapers to Barbie clothes and \$200 in cash to purchase turkeys for the families.



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavallee, Adjutant

As we move into 2019, American Legion Post 48 starts the year with a few Sunday ham dinners planned for Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 24. Held at the Lillian Community Center dining hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., these dinners are Post 48's primary fundraiser for the year.

The money raised provides the means for continued activities and donations such as building ramps for disabled veterans, maintaining the medical closet for the Lillian community, sending two high school students to Boys State and presenting the Veterans Day program. We hope everyone will continue to show support to Post 48.

At the January meeting, the post will present 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.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Aug. 2, 1990, to today: Persian Gulf/War on Terrorism

Dec. 20, 1989, to Jan. 31, 1990: Operation Just Cause – Panama

Aug. 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984: Lebanon/Grenada

Feb. 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975: Vietnam

June 25, 1950, to Jan. 31, 1955: Korea

Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 : World War II

Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join the American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

All veterans in the Lillian area are invited to join Post 48 and become a part of the largest veteran organization in the United States. The focus has been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans. Membership applications may be picked up at the American Legion building next to the Lillian Community Club on Wednesday mornings between 9 and 11 a.m., from any member or at any American Legion meeting.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club. Come and join us and become one of the millions of Legionnaires still serving, or come by and have a cup of coffee with us on Wednesdays – we'd like to meet you.

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Pedestrian Killed on Highway 98

Alabama State Troopers are investigating a deadly crash involving a car and a pedestrian in Lillian on Nov. 29 shortly after 5:30 p.m.

According to authorities, 35-year-old Stephen Randall Brannan was attempting to cross U.S. 98 at the intersection of South Santa

Piedro Street when he was struck by a 2007 Ford F-150 traveling eastbound, driven by 77-year-old Melvin Whitehurst of Lillian.

Troopers say Brannan was pronounced dead at the scene, while the driver of the truck was not injured.

No charges have been filed.



LASAR held its car show fundraising event on Oct. 27 in Lillian.

The skies were clear blue and the temperature crispy cool on Oct. 27 when the LASAR Unit held its annual fundraising car show. The Lillian Shopping Center parking lot was filled with over 25 participants showing off their unique, classical, antique, hot rod and modified cars, trucks and a motorcycle. Congratulations to all of the winners and participants who helped make our car show one of the best!

Commander Ray Hogans and all of the LASAR team want to thank the sponsors of the show: O’Reilly Auto Parts, Pepboys, Fletchers Towing, United Bank, Parts Pro, Shears Unlimited, Kovacs Accounting

Service and Chris Howle Bay RV Sales. Please support these great sponsors with your patronage this year. It is civic-minded businesses such as these that help our volunteer organization stay funded.

LASAR wishes all of the community a wonderful 2019. Anyone interested in joining LASAR, please attend one of our monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at LASAR headquarters, 34247 West Barclay Avenue in Lillian.

LASAR

By Donna Johnson

The Nose Knows

“Mom, you know the smell that was always in grandma’s house? What was it?” Looking down at my cell, I was a bit surprised to receive that text from Cory. He’s been taking a fast track computer coding class, going in early, and getting home late to study more. Frankly, he simply doesn’t have time to text or video chat much. Therefore it’s just a bit odd hearing from him midday.

And lately, when I do hear from Cory or Nina, they’re just about totally worn slap out from being full-time working parents with two young kids. Mind you, I still get pictures of the kids on their way to daycare and school or riding the subway into the city, and last night I saw a super-cute snapshot of the kids getting ready for bed in matching super hero pajamas.

But for Cory to stop and ask me about my mother, who’s been gone over 12 years, well, it really is a bit odd. But before I had a chance to reply to his text, another text comes through.

“There’s a smell in my class. It kept triggering my mind, but I couldn’t figure it out, until now. It’s grandma, or at least a scent of her house. You know that perfume grandma always wore.”

Ha! He’s right. My mother wore the same perfume for years. Her clothes and her house carried the spicy scent. In fact, the items that were divided up after she died, that smell, still clings to them. Even a painting!

It’s our olfactory. You know that a certain smell that can trigger a memory or feeling, sometimes good, sometimes bad. Like when I climb



Spilling Coffee with Pam

By Pamela Vanden Bos

into clean bed sheets right off the clothesline, baking bread or Pine Sol, I think of my grandmother. Chocolate chip cookies, homemade fudge or the aroma of a turkey baking all bring that warm, gooey feeling for me.

“Mom, the name! What’s the name of grandma’s perfume?”

“But Cory, I don’t understand. Why do you want the name of her perfume?”

“Well there’s a new girl in class. I figured out it was her. It’s her perfume and I want to ask her about it.”

As this boy's mother, I totally have to pause a second so I can wrap my mind around what in the heck he’s thinking. Hum, okay, he’s not single, so this clearly can’t be a pathetic pick-up line. (I can only hope.) So his brain must be fried from lack of sleep and the stress of his class. Clearly it’s my ‘mom job’ to step in with advice.

“Whoa. Whoa. Whoa. Wait a second, Cory. Don’t tell me you’re going to go up to some woman in your class and tell her that she smells like your grandma? Or worse, that she reminds you of your grandma? Honestly, I don’t know any female, at any age, that would much appreciate being told that.”

Cory’s text came quickly. “Yeah, I just thought of that. Lol.”

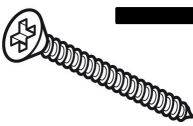
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Soldier Creek Christmas



Soldier Creek Ladies had their 22nd annual Christmas party on Dec. 6 at the home of Sherry Frank on Soldier Creek Road with 32 ladies attending. The food was fabulous and everyone had a good time seeing each other and catching up with lots of visiting. They sang the "12 Days of Christmas" with a Soldier Creek theme. The hostesses were Joyce Boutwell, Denise Cotton, Sherry Frank, Loree Hadley, Carrie Lemcool and Connie Ramseyer. Others attending were Penny Ashworth, Peggy Bailey, Cindy Baker, Pam Bidwell, Maurine Blackwell, Barbara Boykin, Eunice Brovold, Pat Brewer, Barbara Darnell, Kerry Ellis, Patty Flynn, Patti Granger, Mary Hicks, Mikey Johnson, Susan Johnson, Stuart King, Rachel Lamb, Judy Lurwig, Gwen Miller, Jean O'Conner, Marlene Petrich, Vicki Rider, Julie Stanhope, Myra Walters, Kathy Weir and Melodye Zick.

A New Year's Resolution We Should All Keep

As we begin a new year, I want to share one great verse of scripture from Psalm 118:24 and three great resolutions to carry with you into 2019. “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” What a great verse of Scripture and what a great philosophy to live by! The three great resolutions are very personal. They are my own three resolutions for 2018. Let me share them with you.

Resolve to be more committed to kindness

W. Lomax Childress states in her poem on kindness, “Let us be kind; The way is long and lonely, and human hearts are asking for this blessing only - That we be kind. We cannot know the grief that men may borrow, We cannot see the souls storm-swept by sorrow, But love can shine upon the way to-day, to-morrow - Let us be kind. Let us be kind; This is a wealth that has no measure, This is of Heaven and earth the highest treasure - Let us be kind. A tender word, a smile of love in meeting, A song of hope and victory to those retreating, A glimpse of God and brotherhood while life is fleeting - Let us be kind. Let us be kind; Around the world the tears of time are falling, and for the loved and lost these human hearts are calling - Let us be kind. To age and youth let gracious words be spoken; Upon the wheel of pain so many lives are broken, We live in vain who give no tender token - Let us be kind. Let us be kind; The sunset tints will soon be in the west, Too late the flowers are laid then on the quiet breast - Let us be kind. And when the angel guides have sought and found us, Their hands shall link the broken ties of earth that bound us, And Heaven and home shall brighten all around us - Let us be kind.”

Resolve to be more committed to encouragement

Encouragement provides support to others. We literally pour courage into them! Sit and listen, speak kind and truthful words that build up and do not tear down.

Encouragement instills confidence

in others. Be trustworthy, remind them of their faith, remind them of qualities and abilities they have.

Encouragement feeds hopes in others. Remind them of past victories, speak of positive possibilities, share stories of others who have made it through.

Encouragement empowers others. Tell them the good things you see in them, help them problem solve, let them help you. Encouragement communicates our love of others.

Do not
lie to
make
them
feel
better,
remind
them

that they are not alone, ask them how you can help, remind them of the love that heals.

Over and over in my life I have seen it - the miracle of encouragement.

Resolve to be more committed to Christ


One of the most significant breakthroughs in medical history happened in 1967 when South African physician Dr. Christian Barnard performed the first successful human heart transplant.

In telling about this experience, Dr. Barnard said that one of the first requests of the patients was to see their old heart. Dr. Barnard would comply with the request, putting the heart in a jar for the patient to see.

Often, the patient would say: “Thank you, Doctor, for taking away my old diseased heart and giving me a new one.”

That’s precisely what Jesus Christ does for us. He takes away our old diseased hearts and gives us a new one... that’s why we call him “The Great Physician.”

I don’t know about you, but I’m going to move forward into the new year saying each and every day: “This is the day the Lord has made (and with God’s help) I will rejoice and be glad in it by being more committed to kindness, more committed to encouragement and more committed to Christ. And, I hope you will join me in this.



**The
Methodist
Message**

By Rev. Daniel
Randall



The Wisconsin Sno-bird Club gave \$1,725 to the Baldwin County Foster Children Program in the form of Walmart gift cards. There were 191 children in the program in December and the older children used the cards to buy Christmas gifts for themselves. Gia Coleman and Tina Green, program supervisor, accepted the cards from Gary Durgin.

Wisconsin Sno-bird Club Sets Schedule

The Wisconsin Sno-bird Club will begin the 2019 season with card games on Friday, Jan. 4, at 8:30 a.m. at American Legion Post 44 on Hwy 59 north of Gulf Shores. Card games will continue every Friday morning through March.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Orange Beach Event Center (OBEC) with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting at 9 a.m. Everyone from Wisconsin is welcome to join. We have book/puzzle exchange and opportunities to volunteer to help the Elberta, Foley, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach communities. We collect Nestle water bottle labels,

General Mills and Johnson & Johnson Boxtops for Education, empty printer ink cartridges, pop top rings, motel-size toiletries and manufacturer coupons for our military overseas.

Other upcoming events include:

Monday, Jan. 14: 9 a.m. snowbird singles meet at The Diner

Monday, Jan. 21: golf fun day at Glen Lakes Golf Course

Wednesday, Jan. 23: 8:30 a.m. OBEC meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 30: 10:30 a.m. social, 11:30 a.m. potluck lunch, Orange Beach Community Center

Wednesday, Feb. 6: 8:30 a.m. OBEC meeting



Bits and Pieces

By Jacqueline Reid

A new year is a good time to contemplate our decisions made in the past year and the results that transpired because of those decisions. What worked? What didn't work? Did I hurt someone in any way, including myself? Did I make someone smile and possibly make their day better?

Resolutions are made but usually not kept or even started. Maybe this year is a time to approach the thoughts of our future from a different angle. Maybe that angle is just being honest with ourselves. Most of us aren't. Most individuals want to blame their shortcomings on someone or something else. But the truth is that we decide to do something and we are the ones who implement that decision. *Every action has a reaction.* Another of my favorite sayings. If it is good, the result should be positive. If it is stupid or bad, then that is the result you will reap.

Many of our mistakes come from assuming we know what someone else is thinking and we jump to conclusions. I imagine a majority of jealousy and anger toward another

person comes from that common mistake. Words are spoken from our misinterpretation that can never be taken back. Hurt feelings sometimes can never be repaired.

There are individuals who cannot or will not control their tempers. They scream and holler about everything like spoiled brats. They probably should go to anger management classes. These individuals have not matured emotionally and need to grow up. They also need to realize they are carrying around a lot of negativity. That will make anyone feel angry all the time. Don't bother putting on rose colored glasses, they don't work and they make you sound like a fool.

Just deal. If you think everything rots, then everything rots. *What you think about expands.* Another of those truthful sayings. When I let sad or angry thoughts take over, I am allowing myself to be miserable. Me, no one else is responsible and it is up to me to knock it off.

So, if I were to give anyone new year's advice, I would say, "Examine who you are and how you can correct the less favorable you so you can be a better and happier person."

This frustrated philosopher or psychologist that keeps interjecting in my thoughts is signing off for the month. Have a great New Year's Eve and New Year's Day! Please, don't drink and drive or smoke that disgusting smelling stuff and drive.

Until next month....



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
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To Do List
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The Lillian Women's Club hosted their annual Christmas party Dec. 18 at the Gift Horse Restaurant in Foley.

Each member brought a non-perishable food gift for the Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church Food Bank in Lillian.

Rev. Daniel Randall of the Lillian United Methodist Church led the members in a prayer of thanks.

A delicious buffet lunch included fried chicken, beef tips and noodles, turkey and dressing, with praline sweet potatoes, apple cheese, spinach, corn souffle and a large salad table and choice of desserts.

President Renee McGrail thanked the Christmas parade committee for their efforts despite the rain, and especially thanked Mark Smith for volunteering to drive his truck to pull the float.

After lunch, Jane Head and Company performed a light hearted Christmas skit which asked the members to decide who was the most important person at Christmas. Was it the UPS Lady (Pat Bonner) who delivers all the packages, or the Salvation Army bell ringer (Char Kuhr) who spreads good cheer, or is it Mom (Wilma Spivey) who makes all the cookies, candy and eggnog, or maybe the Sugar Plum Fairy (Vickey Massey) who dances the Nutcracker

Women's Club

By Dree Purcell



The Lillian Women's Club presented a humorous skit as part of their annual Christmas party. Performed by Jane Head and Company, it focused on who the most important person is at Christmas.

Suite? How about the three Christmas elves, Tinsel, Jingle, and Jangle (Beverly Woosley, Judy Schneider and Debra Adams) who make all the toys for the children, or Leroy the Southern Alabama Redneck (Jayke Pell) who helped Santa deliver presents on his John Deere tractor? But wait, before a vote was taken, Santa Claus himself appears (Rev. Daniel Randall) to point out that the baby Jesus is the most important person at Christmas. He then led the members in singing "Jesus is the Reason for

the Season."

The next meeting of the Lillian Women's Club will be held Jan. 15 at the Lillian Community Club. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome. Our annual dues are \$20 per year and \$11 for each monthly

meeting, which includes a catered meal with dessert and beverage. Social time starts at 11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow at noon.

To make a reservation, please call Cindy Causey at (614) 598-0241.

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The Lillian

Go to lilliancommunityclub.com, then click on The Lillian newspaper link at top of page

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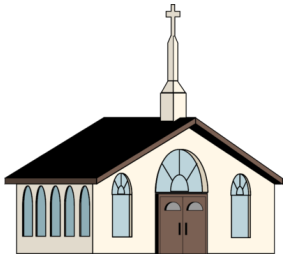
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References furnished upon request.





Mark Smith
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Community Bulletin Board

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - Weight Watchers meets every Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Lillian United Methodist Church

Jan. 3 - Lillian Recreational Park meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at park conference room

Jan. 5, 12, 19 & 26 - Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Saturday breakfast and meeting, 8 a.m. at Lillian Community Club

Jan. 8 & 15 - Garden volunteers meeting for walking trail gardens clean up, 9-11 a.m., Lillian Recreational Park

Jan. 8 - Lillian Civic and Legislative Committee meeting on second Monday of each month, 8:30 a.m., open to public

Jan. 8 - LASAR meeting, 7 p.m. second Monday of each month, Barclay Street

Jan. 10 - Gulf Coast Classic Car Club meeting, 6 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Gulf Bowl Bowling Alley, 2881 S. Juniper Street, Foley

Jan. 15 - Lillian Masonic Lodge 925 meetings first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Contact Joe Taylor at 251-962-4301 or Jim Covert at 251-962-7354

Jan. 15 - Lillian Women's Club meets the third Tuesday of the month Sept. through May, 11:30 a.m., Lillian Community Club

Jan. 18 - Gulf Coast Classic Car Club "Cruisin," 5-8:30 p.m. third Friday of each month, Sonic, Foley

Jan. 20 - Sunday Night Songfest, 6 p.m., third Sunday of each month, Bayside Baptist Church

Jan. 21 - Lillian Action Committee board meeting, 2 p.m., Lillian Perdido Bay Library, open to public

Jan. 21 - American Legion Post 48 meeting, 7 p.m. third Monday of each month, Lillian Community Club

Jan. 27 - American Legion Post 48 ham dinner, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lillian Community Club dining hall

Financial Tips for Snowbirds

Winter is here again – which may make you wish you were a snowbird or you are a snowbird in this area. Of course, your stage of life will help determine if you are prepared to be a snowbird now or if you’re just hoping to be one in the future. But in either case, you’ll need to be financially prepared.

So, let’s look at what it would take to be a snowbird – tomorrow and today:

Snowbird tomorrow – The further ahead you plan, the more options you’re likely to have when you embark on the snowbird life. If you’re going to be retired, you’ll need to review all your sources of retirement income – Social Security, your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, your IRA, and so on – to determine if you’ll have enough money available for your yearly snowbird trips without jeopardizing your retirement lifestyle. Your calculations will depend on what sort of snowbird existence you have in mind. Do you want to buy a second home or just rent? Will you be gone just a few weeks each year or several months? Clearly, to ensure a successful snowbird experience,



Financial Focus

By Jason M. Kozon
of Edward Jones

you’ll need to identify your goals and create a strategy for achieving them.

Snowbird today – If you’ve reached a point where you can indeed make your snowbird dream a reality, and you’re ready to pack your bags, you’ll need to take action on some practical matters, such as these:

Secure your home. If you have a security system, make sure it’s armed and working properly. Stop your newspapers and magazines, forward your mail, ask your neighbors to remove any stray papers, flyers and advertisements from your porch or entryway, and arrange to have your snow shoveled.

Notify your bank. To fight theft, the fraud departments of many banks are getting more aggressive in spotting and denying unusual

Tips, continued on Page 22



Know Your Critters

By Celeste Hadley-Champion

Welcome 2019! It seems that we have once again circled the sun. The wheel of time will always turn faster than we expect it to, wouldn't it?

Speaking of wheels, let's discuss a wheel found in nature. This wheel is attached to the dorsal side of the wheel bug, *Arilus cristatus*.

This guy is a moderately common, widely distributed, beneficial assassin bug that preys on pest insects. It has been reported from Rhode Island west to California, and south to Texas and Florida. There are four recognized species of *Arilus*, but only *cristatus* occurs in the United States.

This assassin bug looks like something out of a sci-fi novel's nightmares. Overall, it is only 1 to 1.25 inches long. It is a creature with long legs and antennae and a prominent beak or fang.

The slender head is dominated by large eyes. What makes a wheel bug adult easy to identify is the large, semi-circular crest that looks like half of a cogwheel sticking from the thorax of the bug. This is the only insect species in the United States with such a feature and the source of

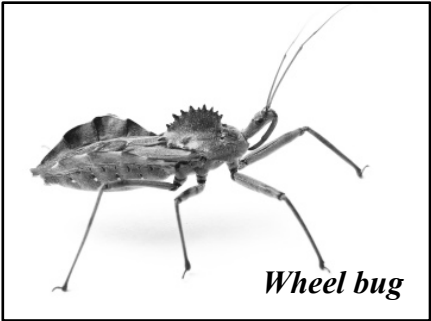
its common name.

The teeth or spokes on the wheel are called "tubercles" and can vary from eight to 12 in number. It is not known if the wheel has a specific function, but some entomologists suggest it may alert potential predators that these slow-moving insects taste as bad as they smell.

Adult wheel bugs are dark and robust with a grayish-black or brownish-black body. Variable amounts of tiny white patches or granules are scattered throughout the "pubescence." Pubescence, when applied to insects, animals, or plants means very fine, short hairs or soft, downy hairs.

This long legged, dark colored, spiny backed insect is covered in soft downy hairs. Isn't that just Mother Nature's style? She creates a really scary looking creature, and then make it soft and fuzzy. The universe must have a sense of humor!

Females are larger than males, with the abdominal margins being more widely exposed in the females. Insert your own child-bearing hips joke here. The females need the



Wheel bug

space because when these mothers lay eggs, they produce 42 to 182 eggs at a time!

Eggs resemble miniature glass Coke bottles with white stoppers. They are 3.7 mm long and are laid on end, side by side, in a honeycomb shaped cluster. The cluster is glued together and covered by gummy cement that may protect the eggs from foul weather, parasites and predators. Egg clusters are typically found at a height of 4 feet or below on tree trunks and limbs, shrubs, and miscellaneous objects. The female wheel bug dies after this massive effort of producing the next generation.

In the spring, each fertile egg hatches into a 1/8 inch long, wingless, red and black nymph with long legs. Nymphs lack the "wheel" or crest. They are particularly easy to see at this stage in their development. Homeowners may see these nymphs on various trees or landscape shrubs. Fig trees are a particular favorite of nymphs in our area. Nymphs undergo five molts and metamorphose into an adult by summer's end.

Wheel bugs are voracious predators, preying upon a wide variety of soft-bodied insects. When it ambushes its prey, it slowly lunges forward using its enlarged front legs to its victims. Next, it stabs its hypodermic-like beak into some soft body part of the trapped insect. The saliva contains a toxic, paralytic

substance that immobilizes the prey within 15-30 seconds. The saliva will dissolve their prey's insides. The wheel bug uses that beak like a straw to drain all of the bodily fluids from the insect's husk.

They are valuable predators in forests and shade trees because they dine on the hairy caterpillars that will cause the trees to lose their leaves. It is one of the few predators that attack the brown marmorated stink bug, a serious pest of many crop plants and also a household pest when it congregates indoors. Some of the favored habitats include cotton, goldenrod, sunflower and other flowers, trunks of locust trees, citrus and pecan groves and miscellaneous forest, shade and fruit trees.

They are camouflaged and very shy, hiding whenever possible. They move and fly slowly. They are not aggressive and will avoid contact at all costs. However, if handled, it can inflict a painful bite, which is technically more of a puncture wound. The bite can be more severe than a bee sting, and both nymphs and adults should be avoided or handled with caution.

This wheel (bug) has turned from the stuff of nightmares to a garden's salvation from hungry hordes of insects.

What does a wheel bug do on New Year's Day?

Turns over a new leaf.

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IRS Lists Dirty Dozen Scams

I got a message from the IRS on my answering machine the other day. “You must call this number right away to pay your outstanding tax bill or the sheriff will be coming to arrest you,” or something like that. This had to be the third call I have received either threatening my arrest or telling me there is a very important message for me. Several clients have also called me asking whether they should return the phone message they received. My answer was and will always be NO, it’s a scam! It seems we have to be constantly aware that someone might be out to get us.

Last year, one of my articles dealt with the IRS Dirty Dozen Scams. The IRS has issued the Dirty Dozen list of tax scams for 2018, and guess what? There were some changes, most of them minor and the listing sequence changed a little. Here is the new list:

- **Phishing:** Taxpayers should be alert to potential fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will NEVER initiate contact though email about a bill or refund. Do not click on any link claiming to be from the IRS. Use the IRS website at www.irs.gov for tax inquiries and as your personal source of information.
- **Phone Scams:** Phone calls from criminals impersonating IRS agents remain an ongoing threat, especially to us older taxpayers. The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams as con artists threaten taxpayers with police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS does not call you. If you do owe back taxes, the IRS will send you a letter by regular mail.

Also, the IRS has suspended use of outside collection agencies because this practice did not prove to be cost-effective. If you get the call, hang up immediately.

- **Identity Theft:** Taxpayers should be alert to tactics aimed at stealing their identities.
- The IRS, working in the Security Summit partnership with states and the tax industry, has made major improvements in detecting tax return-related identity theft during the last two years. The best way to protect your private information is by keeping it to yourself as much as possible.

- **Return Preparer Fraud:** Be very wary if a tax preparer appears unscrupulous.

The vast majority of us provide honest, high-quality service, but there are dishonest preparers who operate each filing season to scam clients, perpetuating refund fraud, identity theft and other scams.

- **Fake Charities:** Groups masquerading as charitable organizations solicit donations from unsuspecting contributors.
- You can check out the status of charitable organizations on irs.gov. Use “Tax Exempt Organizations” in the search box for a current listing.
- **Inflated Refund Claims:**



Let's Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs
CPA, EA

Taxpayers need to be on the lookout for anyone promising inflated refunds. The IRS has income information from W2s and 1099s and may request receipts for any expense claimed.

Also be wary of anyone who asks you to sign a blank return, promises a big refund before looking at your records or charges a fee based on a percentage of your refund. To find victims, fraudsters may use flyers, phony store fronts and word of mouth via community groups where trust is high.

- **Excessive Claims for Business Credits:** Taxpayers need to avoid improper claims for the fuel tax credit, which is generally limited to off-highway business use, including use in farming. Consequently, the credit is not available to most taxpayers.

Also, avoid misuse of the research credit. Improper claims often involve failure to participate in or substantiate qualified research activities, or to satisfy the requirements related to qualified research expenses.

- **Falsely Padding Deductions on Returns:** Avoid the temptation to falsely inflate deductions or expenses on your tax return to pay less than you owe or potentially receive a larger refund.

This is the stuff of nightmares if you get audited. Taxpayers, NOT tax preparers, bear the burden of proving the deduction, and if your tax preparer suggested you do this, you both can be found guilty of fraud.

- **Falsifying Income to Claim Credits:** Con artists may convince unsuspecting taxpayers to invent income to erroneously qualify for a tax credits, such as the Earned Income Credit.

- **Frivolous Tax Arguments:** Frivolous tax arguments may not be used to avoid paying taxes. The penalty for filing a frivolous tax return is \$5,000.

- **Abusive Tax Shelters:** Abusive tax structures are sometimes used to avoid paying taxes.

The IRS is committed to stopping complex tax avoidance schemes and the people who create and sell them. When in doubt, seek an independent opinion regarding complex products that are offered.

- **Offshore Tax Avoidance:** Successful enforcement actions against offshore cheating shows that it is a bad bet to hide money and income offshore.

The IRS offers the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP) to help people get their taxes in order.

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