

The Lillian

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JANUARY 2022

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 26, Number 1

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Holiday Magic in Lillian

Christmas spirit was on full display during the Lillian Recreational Park's Christmas in the Park light extravaganza which began Dec. 4 and ran through the month. Several hundred people attended the opening event, participating in fun activities and, of course, visiting with Santa and his elves. Mrs. Claus even read everyone a story she and Santa had written especially for the children of Lillian.

Lucy Smith, Lillian Recreational Park and Christmas in the Park volunteer said, "This year's event was amazing! Everyone had such a good time. We loved seeing all the smiles and hearing all the excitement as Lillian Fire Rescue brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to the park, with lights and sirens blaring.

And, of course, we loved hearing all the oohs and aahs when Elberta Middle School student Austin Lopez flipped the switch to launch the lights. It was awesome."

This year's event featured several new displays, including a new Under the Sea exhibit. "Seeing Janel's (Smith) creation come to life was inspiring. No detail was overlooked – the water reflected on every surface and Santa even dangled in the waves. And the new 20-foot arch really helped set off the entrance to this year's exhibit. It was awesome!"

"Obviously, having terrific volunteers and terrific community support are the critical elements to Christmas in the Park's success. We are so blessed to have such wonderful volunteers on our Christmas crew, not to mention generous, community-minded sponsors. None of this would be possible without them," Lucy Smith said.

The opening day was preceded by a sneak peek preview party the night before. Chaired by Kit Hamilton, the party was a great way to recognize this year's sponsors. Sneak peek committee members Pat Canerdy, Kay Clapp, Cheryl Josephson, Martha Kreamer, JoAnn Lawrenz and Sharon Paine put together a party featuring jazz cellist Della Grigsby and great food that over 100 party-goers and sponsors enjoyed.

This year's Christmas in the Park tree team, headed by Wayne Smith, included Tonda Adams, Dante Bennett, Don Canerdy, Laura Grubbs, Lewis Grubbs, Joe Hardy, Jorja Hardy, Walter Kowalski, Joe Leonard, Tom Rosner, Tom Rousseau and Ken Stewart. They spent countless hours installing the pole trees and then, along with the Christmas crew, all the exhibits.

This year's volunteers included
■ See Park, Page 2



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with kids during the Christmas at the Park lighting on Dec. 4 at Lillian Recreational Park. A number of displays enchanted visitors through Dec. 31.



The Lillian Christmas Parade was held Dec. 11 with a number of floats and cars featuring local organizations. Additional parade coverage on Page 20. (Photos by Sally McKinney and Ken Stewart)



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Photos by
Sally McKinney

■ **Park, Continued From Page 1**

Karen Brady, Nancy Briggs, Laura Grubbs, Kit Hamilton, Elsie Sosenko Kirby, Monica Leonard, Debbie Lindsay, Sandra Madison, Vickey Massey, Sally McKinney, JoAnn Monroe, Glenda Parlman, Belinda Peterson, Sharon Raymond, Vicki Rosner, Doug Scott, Nancy Scott, Janel Smith, Lucy Smith, Mary Speck, Carol Steely and Lynn Wilson.

Christmas in the Park featured thousands of lights, visits and hot chocolate with Santa, “snowball” fights, games and activities for children of all ages.

This would not have been possible without the sponsors which included angel sponsor Brown Helicopter; silver bell sponsors Lillian Chevron/Lillian Ministorage, Moore Fasteners & More, Perdido Auto Spa and United Bank; reindeer

sponsors Acceptance Insurance, Baldwin County Sewer Service, Circle K, Evans Automotive, Hadley Pest Control, Outdoor Fun Inflatables and Swift Supply; snowflake sponsors Bobe’s Garage, Lillian Community Club, TK Tree & Landscaping and The Lillian; Christmas Elf sponsors Cassebaum Farms, Dollar General, Elberta Hardware, Hamby’s Kitchen Center, Kammer Chiropractic, Lillian Masonic Lodge #925 and Lillian Veterinary Hospital.

“The response to Christmas in the Park is always so positive. Every year we plan to add more lights, displays and activities. We’re already making big plans for next year, so be sure to mark your calendars for the 2022 Christmas in the Park which will begin on Saturday, Dec. 3. And we’re always looking for recruits for our Christmas crew, so if you are interested in helping with next year’s celebration, just let us know,” Lucy Smith said.

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Lutheran Church Hosts Advent Tea



The Shepherd of The Bay Lutheran Church ladies hosted their first Advent Tea on Dec 1. The theme was "A Sweet Season," Luke, chapter 2 and celebrated the meaning of Advent with about 40 women attending. Ladies brought in personal tea cups and saucers and the tables each featured a centerpiece of desserts. The door prize was won by Jean Bennett.

Legion Post Hosting Ham Dinners

By Wayne Lavallo

American Legion Post 48 of Lillian hopes you had a merry Christmas and extends their wishes for a happy new year.

As we move into 2022, Post 48 starts the year with ham dinners on the fourth Sunday of the first three months. The dates will be Jan. 23, Feb. 27 and March 27 at Lillian Community Club.

We will continue with a drive through option, and ask you to be patient and follow the directions of the Legionnaires. Drinks will not be offered with the drive through service or take out. You are welcome to enter the building to get your beverage. We plan to have indoor seating and take out as in past years.

These dinners are our primary fundraiser for the year. Due to rising costs, the dinners will be \$12 per

meal.

The funds raised provide for 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.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces and have been honorably discharged or are still serving, you are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Membership applications may be picked up at the legion building next to the LCC on Wednesdays between 9 and 11 a.m., from any member or at any meeting.

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

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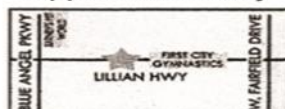
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Additional fundraiser dinners will be held Feb. 27 & March 27

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Red Hats Gather For Holiday Party



The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hats gathered Dec. 14 at the Spanish Cove RV Clubhouse for their Christmas party. Vickey Massey served as hostess. A Santa hat decoration contest was held and everyone received a Christmas centerpiece handmade by Ruby Wellman. The first gathering in 2022 will be Jan. 11 with Kay Lett and Mary Margaret Ayres as hostesses. New members are welcome. Contact Judy Wargo at 586-383-1206 if you are interested. Attending were, front from left, Ann Cox, Judy Wargo, Este Donnemwirth and Vickey Massey. In back, Waynette Brown, Kay Stovall, Lorri Roit, Mary Margaret Ayres and Melissa Scott.

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 January go out to Heather Price, Becky Wiggins, Jake Fretwell, Bob Garcia, Dick Ayres, Joanne Matthews, Tay Randall, Caroline Canaday, Linda Sepac, Shirley Covert, Earl Paschke and Clarence Hardiman.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries

in January are Jerry and MJ Rooks (1957), Don and Adele Hartman (1981) and Weldon and Ruby Dell Cox (2011).

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549 or place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the February issue of *The Lillian* is Jan. 19.

BLOTTER

■ Baldwin County officers responded to a report of burglary at 7:33 a.m. Nov. 25 in the 20 block of Buena Vista Drive, Lillian.

■ Officers responded to an auto burglary report at 4:21 p.m. Dec. 3 in the 12400 block of Seventh Street, Lillian.

■ Auto theft was reported at 9

a.m. Dec. 9 in the 1300 block of Ridgewood Drive in Lillian.

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



First Baptist Church

"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

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Adult Men & Women 18 years & up:

Monday 6pm: Dinner and Bible Study in the Family Life Center

Wednesday 5:30pm: Dinner All Ages

Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study in the Sanctuary

Children Grades K-5:

Youth Grades 6-12:

Youth and Kid's Activities in the Family Life Center

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

Sunday Worship Opportunities

Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30am

Pastor: Josh Thompson

Youth Pastor: Elijah Parden

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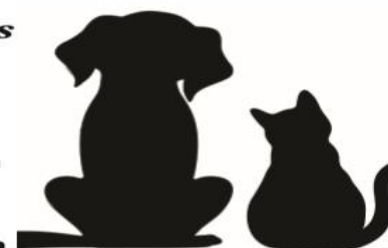
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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

Advertisement inquiries can be directed to JulieMcManus 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 February issue of *The Lillian* will be Jan 19.

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor: Sally McKinney
Managing Editor: Janel Smith
Board Members: Nancy Scott, Gloria Cramp, Jackie Reid, Florence McLendon

LILLIAN ACTION COMMITTEE OFFICERS

President: Sally McKinney
Vice President: to be filled
Secretary: Nancy Scott
Treasurer: Florence McLendon
Board Members: Gloria Cramp, Jackie Reid

Parade Exemplifies Community, Christmas Spirit Here in Lillian

I was exhausted. I was riding home from the Lillian parade. Dummy me. I always walk the parade to get photos of a variety of parade watchers. Oops! I forgot that I'm a little older now.

Fortunately, it was a beautiful day. For days everyone was speculating on whether it would rain before, during or after this wonderful annual event hosted by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. We must be in God's good graces because the predicted rain never showed up, thankfully.

Walking the two-mile parade route, though, on a nice, warm, sunny day is not a thing to do when wearing jeans and a long-sleeved Christmas shirt. I was hot and tired and couldn't get home fast enough.

But then I started thinking about the parade. I don't know how many years the Optimist Club has been hosting this special holiday tradition, but it has been a long time. And every year

it's a special event for the community. Thanks to Judy Wargo and her crew for making this yet another special Lillian event.

Hundreds line the roads and cheer on the participants and of course, jump for joy when the candy, beads and toilet paper, yes toilet paper, is tossed from the floats. The TP, by the way, is from Baldwin County Sewer Service, very apropos, and not something you'll experience in the parades up nawth.

As I thought about the parade on the way home, I asked myself why I was so into the parade. Nope, it's not the parade floats so much as it is the folks on the sidelines. Don't get me wrong. I really appreciate those who

take the time to decorate their cars and trailers, those who decorate floats and bring the dancers and ROTC members, the members of the churches and organizations.

For me the really fun part of the parade is seeing all the boys and girls, men and women who gather on the sidelines, cheering and laughing and waving.

It's seeing friends, old and new. It's seeing the boys and girls who have been on the sidelines lo, these many years, who you recognize but can't believe they have grown into teenagers, college students and moms and dads.

This year I met a family who had just moved to the area and who were



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

just as enthusiastic as us old timers. Yes, you can go to the big cities to see their Christmas parades, but here in Lillian, it's more like a family party. Somehow when I got home, I found a couple of tears on my cheeks. I do that a lot when I'm feeling really good about something.

This time, once again, it was because of the great people of Lillian, Alabama.

BTW, did you know Barclay Road is all uphill? Maybe next year I'll bum a ride.

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We are grateful for your support of our community and newspaper!



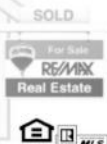
New Year is a time to celebrate family, friends, and all that we have accomplished during the previous year. It is a time to look ahead and plan for growth.

Thank you for helping make 2021 successful. I look forward to serving you in 2022!

As always, I wish my Lillian neighbors a Happy and Prosperous New year!



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Let God In As You Start This New Year

As we begin a New Year I am reminded of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip when Calvin says, "I'm getting disillusioned with these new years. They don't seem very new at all. Each new year is just like the old year. Here another year has gone by and everything's still the same.

There's still pollution and war and stupidity and greed. Things haven't changed. I say what kind of future is this. I thought things were supposed to improve. I thought the future was supposed to be better." Hobbes replies with his usual keen insight, "The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present."

The new year is traditionally a time for reflection. We look back over the year and assess our successes and failures.

We gain some satisfaction over our successes, and we experience some grief and guilt over our failures. Each time we face a new beginning. We have hopes that things will be different and hopefully better.

But as Hobbes says, the future just keeps turning into more of the present. Yet we pray that the Holy Spirit may fall afresh on us and the future will be full of exciting new possibilities, positive change and new growth. We tire



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

of having the same old, same old.

I believe with all my heart that God wants something better for us than that. I believe that God loves doing a new thing in our lives. He said in Revelation 21:5: "See I am making everything new." That is the exciting thing about knowing God. God loves doing a new thing.

God loves change, especially changed lives. Resolutions are hard to keep. Trying to drop an old habit and begin a new one is difficult. Turning over a new leaf is hard.

What we need is not inspiration, but a transformation. We need a change in our lives that comes from God. What everyone needs is something that will permanently affect their life situation. What we need is some-

thing that will truly satisfy our longings, something that will bring true and lasting change. That comes as we confess our sins and accept Jesus as our Lord and our Savior. It continues as we daily seek, daily surrender and daily yield to the direction of God's Holy Spirit.

God wants something better for us in this new year than we have experienced in the past.

Just reflect on the names God calls you - blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God. Stop letting your past dictate your present and future. Let go of the past and let God take hold of you.

Do not carry around the past like a weight that hinders but let God set you free and on a new path in a new year.

Listen as God gives you a new beginning, and then go out and live as blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God. The Lord is faithful, and if you will yield to His Holy Spirit there can be a new you in a new year.

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April	March 23
May	April 20



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Elberta Students Enjoy Holiday Visitors



Santa and Mrs. Claus teamed up with the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay to visit and give gifts to special needs students at Elberta elementary, middle school and high schools on Dec. 14. Additional photos on Page 9.



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Additional photos on Page 8.



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There are sections for plastics, aluminum cans and cardboard/newspapers. Please break down boxes to conserve space. If an item is not in one these three categories, it CANNOT be dropped off.

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Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

We just finished with the holidays. A time of traditions - family and religious. Traditions are important because they bring people together in love and camaraderie. During these times of traditions our thoughts are on others instead of ourselves and this brings joy. Giving has rewards that go far beyond the material. That gift can even be a smile to someone who looks as though they need to receive it.

Not everyone or every family has the same traditions even during the same holiday. We see this most during the Christmas season with something as simple as when they decorate the tree or if they open a present on Christmas Eve.

Some noticed that people started

decorating for Christmas in 2021 much earlier than usual. Was it because the past Covid shutdowns convinced us to start the fun and joy early? And will this start new traditions? Maybe time will tell.

A new year is a source of new hope. Resolutions are made and dreams are dreamt. Many of those dreams and resolutions will not come to fruition this year but it doesn't mean that they will never see the light of day. We should never stop hoping, planning or dreaming because without it we remain stagnant.

Thoughts become things as Sjogren Kierkegaard stated. Everything begins in the mind. So go ahead, don't be afraid, make those resolutions. It doesn't hurt and it may help give you direction in your life.

New Year's also has traditions. In the United States, the region you live in may determine what traditions you follow.

In Alabama, if you want to start

the year out right and bring luck, eat a bowl of black-eyed peas.

Human life has been on earth for about 6 million years, modern man for about 200,000 years. During the 6 million years, life extinction happened three times. The last time was 75,000 years ago.

We see that earth is alive when it spews its lava from the depth of a volcano or it shuffles its fault plates causing earthquakes.

Outer space is incredibly alive and our solar system is only a minute part of the ever-expanding universe.

Stars are born and die, and planets

are created forming more solar systems than we can count.

With life comes unpredictable occurrences. Nothing is forever either in the universe or on Earth. Humans have to stop wasting time on stupidity. Hatred, power and self-indulged superiority has no place on our small speck in the universe. Life is too precious and too short.

"What an enormous magnifier is tradition! How a thing grows in the human memory and in the human imagination, when love, worship, and all that lies in the human heart, is there to encourage it." - Thomas Carlyle.

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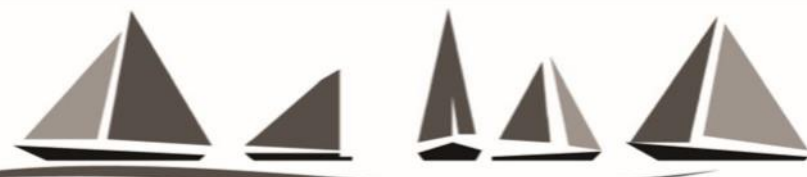
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Think About Growing Camellias This Winter

What if this year, we tried to make winter more beautiful and invested our time in something new?

According to a 2012 USDA map, Lillian's planting zone falls into category 8B. The "Plant Hardiness Zone Map" is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a particular location. Zones are all about freezing temperatures.

Our zone means that plants are susceptible to frost damage, just not often or for long periods of time. In summer, we can plant gorgeous tropical plant, like orchids because these plants like both heat and humidity. In the winter we need to pull our pretties out and store them in a warmish place to avoid frost damage.

One of the absolute best fall and winter flowers for our area is a camellia. There are more than 20,000 varieties and cultivars of camellias.

Did you know the camellia is our

state flower? That vote was passed in 1959. Before that, our state flower was the goldenrod! As recently as 2014, our state named Jan. 7 as Alabama's official "Camellia Day." I was going to plant some camellias but then I realized I haven't botany.

This staple of the southern garden has roots that stretch over to Asia. The most common species found, particularly at Bellingrath Gardens in Theodore, is the camellia japonica. This most famous of camellia species is commonly found in Japan. There are more than 250 native species in southern China and Vietnam.

This plant was a centerpiece of the Revolutionary War. Why? Humans use camellia sinensis, a shrub with small white to pale yellow flowers for tea. Remember the Boston Tea Party? The colonists were throwing great bundles of dried camellia leaves into the river!

The floral history lesson doesn't



Know Your Critters
By Celeste Hadley-Champion

stop there. In Alabama in the 1930's, a man named Robert Rubel Jr. was against FDR being elected for a fourth term. He cultivated a new variety of plant and used it in his anti-Roosevelt campaign. While the campaign was unsuccessful, the plant certainly wasn't. The Roosevelt Blues is a gorgeous camellia with dark red flowers that fade to a bluey-purple. Theodore Roosevelt is said to have named a camellia variety after his cat.

Camellias are long-lived, low-maintenance plants available in a wide range of sizes, from dwarf shrubs to 15-foot trees. Their showy blossoms open to show a remarkable diversity of hues, from solid and variegated white, pink and red, often adorned with yellow-to-gold stamens. Even the

number of, size and shape of the petals of the camellia can be wildly different from plant to plant.

Success with camellias depends on the planting site and the care provided.

Although they may tolerate full sun, part sun to part shade is best, especially for younger plants.



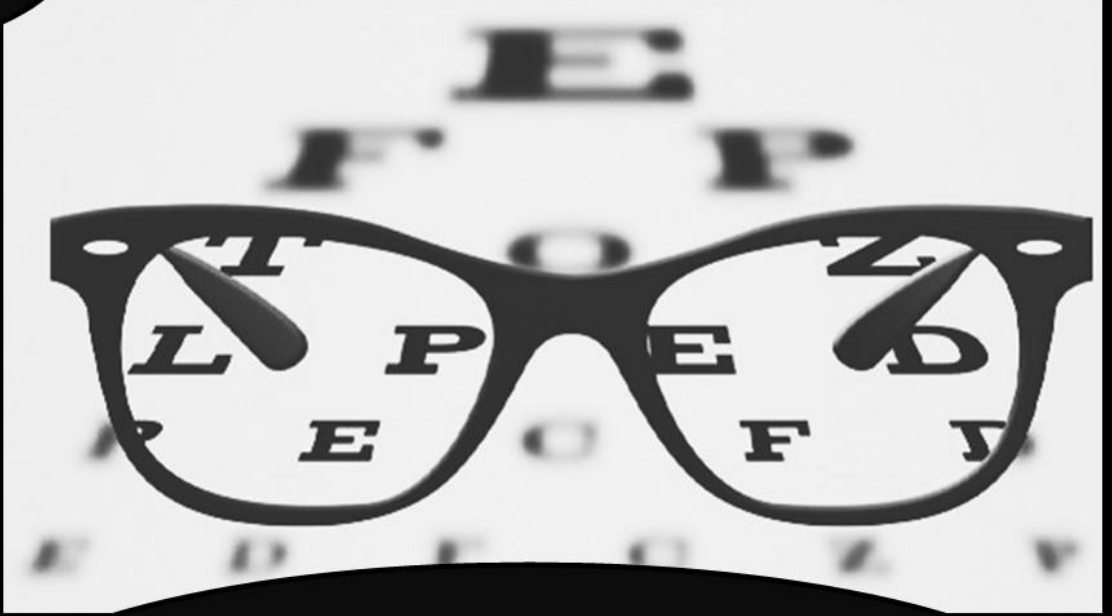
Choose a location that receives four to six hours of direct sun in the morning and shade in the afternoon, or a spot that receives bright, dappled

■ See Camellias, Page 14

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Methodist Church Distributes 130 Backpacks to Area Homeless

The Lillian United Methodist Church (LUMC) missions team recently completed a Covid-19 delayed project by distributing backpacks to 130 homeless individuals identified by Bright Bridge Ministries.

The project began in October 2019 when the United Methodist District Missions Church and Bright

Bridge Ministries expressed a desire to provide area homeless with warm clothing during winter months.

The decision was made to have the LUMC missions team provide backpacks filled with a blanket, socks, hat and gloves to be distributed in December 2020.

A woman donated 50 backpacks,

the LUMC prayer shawl ministry team crocheted 50 shawls, a number of ladies knitted or crocheted 150 hats, blankets were made and socks and gloves were purchased. Covid-19 caused the project to be delayed which turned out to be a blessing.

One woman made inspirational cards, another painted rocks with inspirational messages and others donated money.

This project was completed on Nov. 19, 2021, when some of the team assembled the backpacks.

They were distributed on Dec. 9.

To learn more about this and other mission projects, contact the Lillian United Methodist Church.



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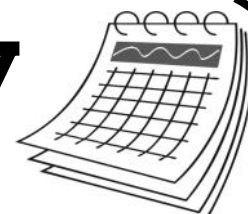
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Community Calendar



- Jan. 4 & 18 - Lillian Masonic Lodge 925 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the lodge
- Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 - AL-ANON meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Lillian United Methodist Church in the conference room
- Jan. 5, 12, 19 & 25 - Weight Watchers meets every Wednesday in the First Baptist Church auditorium on Barclay Street, weigh-in starts at 10 a.m., meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 8 - Optimist Club of Perdido Bay breakfast at 8 a.m., Lillian Community Club, guest speaker will be director of High Hopes in Elberta
- Jan. 10 - LASAR meeting, 7 p.m. second Monday of each month, Barclay Street
- Jan. 11 & 25 - Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church Food Pantry, 9 to 11 a.m., second and fourth Tuesday of the month
- Jan. 13 - Optimist Night Out, 5 p.m., Lillian Front Porch
- Jan. 17 - American Legion Post 48 meeting, 7 p.m., third Monday of each month, Lillian Community Club
- Jan. 18 - St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, 9 to 11 a.m., third Tuesday of each month, St. Joseph Catholic Church
- Jan. 22 - Optimist Club of Perdido Bay breakfast at 8 a.m., Lillian Community Club, guest speaker will be from South Baldwin Regional Hospital
- Jan. 23 - American Legion ham dinner, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lillian Community Club, see ad on Page 3
- Jan. 24 - Lillian Action Committee meeting, 2 p.m., Lillian Perdido Bay Library

Please email meeting and event dates, times and locations to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

What To Know About Gig Economy

We should soon have information on tax changes for 2021 but for now I thought it might be useful to tell you about the gig economy. If you were involved in it during 2021, it is likely to cause a change in your taxes.

A gig economy is also referred to as the “on-demand” sharing or access economy. One can earn income as a freelancer, an independent worker or an employee. This includes renting out a home or spare bedroom, delivering orders or providing car rides.

You may not always receive a W2, 1099-NEC or a 1099-K. There are tax implications for both the company providing the “technical platform” and the person performing services.

Technical platform refers to an online company matching a customer with a provider of the service. VRBO, Airbnb, Door Dash, Uber and Lyft are common examples.

In addition to income taxes, you may also be required to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes on the money you earn. Even if you did not receive a statement from the company coordinating the activity, the earnings are still taxable. You should keep good records of the money you make and your expenses.

Let’s look at some potential problems. One issue is whether you are performing this service to make a profit or as a hobby. If you are independent and consider your services a business, then

you can deduct the expenses associated with providing them. If you have full-time employment and are doing this type of work to make a few bucks, then the IRS might classify your gig as a hobby and no expenses are deductible for the 2018 – 2025 tax years.

If you work for a company that provides delivery or ride services, you may be classified as an employee, in which case you should receive a W2 with your employer paying one-half of the Social Security and Medicare tax.

Another issue is whether your work is considered an employee’s or an independent contractor’s. The IRS has issued guidelines which speak to the differences between the two classifications.

It uses three main factors in determining whether you are an employee: 1. Control over what and how the work is performed, 2. How you (as the service provider) are paid or if there are other benefits included like reimbursement of expenses or tools to perform the services and 3. If there are indications of a closer relationship, like a contract or employee-like benefits associated with the work you perform.

If you are renting out your personal residence, a second home or a room in your home, there are issues to be considered. First, where to report the rental activity. If you rented your per-



Let’s Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs
CPA, EA

sonal residence and were residing there at the time of rental, but did not provide substantial services to guests, then report the rental on Schedule E. If you did provide substantial services, report the rental on Schedule C. Substantial services include cleaning the rental while occupied, meals and entertainment, transportation and other hotel-like services. However, if you did not rent the property for more than 14 days the entire year, the rental income is not taxable.

For a vacation home, if you used the home personally for 15 or more days, and the home was rented for more than 140 days, there are specific calculations on the days rented, personal use and square footage rented to determine how much of rental expenses are deductible.

The IRS has some guidance on the gig economy and your responsibilities as a service provider. Go to www.irs.gov and enter gig economy in the search box. You’ll find the gig economy tax center and Publication 5369.

If you have any specific questions you would like addressed, send an email to carolpkovacs@aol.com. Use “Let’s Talk Taxes” as the subject.

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You can borrow medical supplies for free! Lillian American Legion Post #48 has a ‘lending closet’ that stocks many useful items, including wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, hospital beds, potty chairs, etc. Please contact Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 or Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084. Check here before you buy or rent. Donations may be dropped off at the Advent Thrift Shop and the Lillian Community Club. Individuals who borrowed items and no longer need them can call and return the items to the Legion. Individuals willing to donate items can call and Legion members will pick them up.

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Club Continues Angel Tree Donations



Despite not meeting in January through March 2021, WI Sno-bird Club members submitted dues and donated to their angel tree project. Gia Coleman, left, director of the Baldwin County Department of Human Resources, accepted 57 gift cards in the amount of \$25 each from Nancy Durgin. The cards went to area foster children.

■ Camellias, From Page 11

shade through the day.

Good drainage is essential. Do not plant camellias in areas that are poorly drained or where water settles after a rain. If drainage is a problem, plant camellias on mounds or in raised beds.

Scale insects are the most important pests of camellias. They have sucking mouthparts and feed by piercing the leaves and twigs and utilizing the plant juices for food.

This stunts and weakens the camellia and hurts the appearance of the foliage. Tea scale is the most damaging scale insect. Yellow splotches appear on the upper side of the leaves, while the underside is covered with a cottony mass. Proper use of insecticidal sprays can control scale insects.

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Retirees Fear Becoming a Burden on Others

It's human nature to want to make things easier for our loved ones – and to have great concern about adding any stress to their lives. In fact, 72% of retirees say that one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. How can you address this fear?

First, don't panic. In all the years leading up to your retirement, there's a lot you can do to help maintain your financial independence and avoid burdening your grown children or other family members. Consider these suggestions:

- Increase contributions to your retirement plans and health savings account. The greater your financial resources, the greater your financial independence – and the less likely you would ever burden your family. So, contribute as much as you can afford

to your IRA, your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contributions, if offered, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You may also want to contribute to a health savings account (HSA), if it's available.

- Invest for growth potential. If you start investing early enough, you'll have a long time horizon, which means you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of investments that offer growth potential. So, in all your investment vehicles – IRA, 401(k), HSA and whatever other accounts you may have – try to devote a reasonable percentage of your portfolio to growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based funds. Of course, there are no guarantees and you will undoubtedly see market fluctuations and downturns, but you can help re-



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon of Edward Jones

duce the impact of volatility by holding a diversified portfolio for the long term and periodically rebalancing it to help ensure it is aligned with your risk tolerance and time horizon. Keep in mind, though, that diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.


- Protect yourself from long-term care costs. Even if you invest diligently for decades, your accumulated wealth could be jeopardized, and you could even become somewhat dependent on your family, if you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health care aide. The likelihood of your needing such assistance is not insignificant,

and the care can be quite expensive. In fact, the median cost for home health services is nearly \$55,000 per year, while a private room in a nursing home can exceed \$100,000, according to Genworth, an insurance company. To help protect yourself against these steep and rising costs, you may want to contact a financial professional, who can suggest an appropriate strategy, possibly involving various insurance options.

- Create your estate plans. If you were ever to become incapacitated, you could end up imposing various burdens on your family. To guard against this possibility, you'll want to ensure your estate plans contain key documents, such as a financial power of attorney and a health care directive.

It's safe to say that no one ever wants to become a financial burden to their family.

But putting appropriate strategies in place can go a long way toward helping avoid this outcome.



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Looking At The Origins of Making New Year's Resolutions

Whose idea was it to make New Year's resolutions?

One third of people admit they have set an unrealistic goal, one third do not keep track of what they wanted to accomplish and many people eventually forget about the whole thing.

But it sounds like a good idea. The most common goals are losing weight, exercising more, quitting cigarettes, get out of debt, getting a better job and spending more time with family/friend and less time on social media.

All are worthy goals. I heard about one woman who had the same goal each year. She resolved to wake up each morning, say a prayer, take a deep breath, and face the day ready to do the best she could do with whatever happened. I liked that.

But who started New Year's resolutions?

According to Wikipedia, the Babylonians were the first to make prom-

ises to their gods at the start of each year around 4,000 years ago. The Romans continued the tradition after Julius Caesar established Jan. 1 as the first day of the new year. January is named after the Roman god Janus, a two-faced god whose spirit looked to both the present and the past. Interestingly, he was often associated with both peace and war.

Early Christians took the first day of the year to think about their past mistakes and resolve to do better.

My favorite story is one I learned in putting together this column.

It is the resolution custom of the peacock vow. In medieval times, peacocks were regarded as noble animals and their appearance harkened to the majesty of a king with his full court.

A meal of roasted peacock meat was considered favorable for both heartsick lovers and valiant knights. On the appointed day after roasting the bird, the chef would restore the

plumage and place the peacock on a silver large tray. With great pomp, it would be carried into a banquet hall and presented to each knight in attendance. The medieval knight would place his hands on the peacock and recommit himself to the ideals of chivalry. The meat would then be divided up by all present.

For the most part our annual resolutions are uniform and unimaginative. Get in shape. Lose weight. Save money. Get organized. Most of all, they are all inward-looking. They aspire to only our individual self-improvement.

The peacock vow faces outward, outlining a code of conduct that ripples into the lives of others.

The peacock vow and the code of chivalry sound a lot like Jesus.

Consider these familiar scriptures which could be among your resolutions.



Moving Forward
By Rev.
Tina Lockett

"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:42

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13

Since Lillian is lacking enough peacocks to provide feasts for all of us, perhaps we could each find a scripture verse and use it to make our peacock vow for the 2022.

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Wednesday Bible study at 9 a.m.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Now that most churches have resumed normal services, we would like to print information as space permits. Local churches can submit their information by emailing it to us at lillianeditor@yahoo.com or dropping it off at the Lillian Perdido Bay library.



Lillian Perdido Bay Library Corner

By Betty Bovat

Happy New Year! A new year, and a new outlook on our lives.

The Lillian Perdido Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

This library is donation based, no funds are received from the federal, county or state government. We rely on your donations and operate with

volunteers and your support.

January kicks off our yearly membership drive and later this month you will be receiving a postcard to be filled out and returned to the library with your donation. We will certainly appreciate it.

We are here to serve this community. Thank you for your support and patronage.

Current Lillian Perdido Bay Library Hours

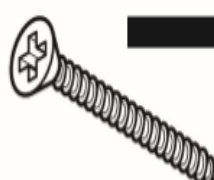
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Toys For Tots Benefit

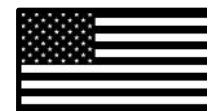
The Front Porch hosted its first annual local Toys for Tots benefit which included a bike ride and spam cookoff. Toys were also collected at Episcopal Church of the Advent. Monetary donations were also made which allowed the group to purchase bicycles and other big items. Mike Graham was on hand to collect items for his local chapter of Marine Corps Reserves.



OBITUARIES

Richard Sullivan Jr.

Richard M. Sullivan Jr., 88, died of natural causes Nov. 25, 2021, at his home in Lillian.



The oldest of five siblings, Richard was born Jan. 9, 1933, in Worcester, Mass., to Richard Sr. and Mary Sullivan. He graduated in 1951 from Punchard High School in Andover, Mass., and after a year of study at the University of Massachusetts, joined the United States Navy where he was assigned to flight training at Pensacola. He was assigned to an antisubmarine carrier squadron (VS-30) at NAS, Norfolk, Va.

He married Claire Nadeau in 1955 and together they had five children, Michael, Mark, Paul, Mary Kathleen and Thomas.

During his Navy career, he and his family were transferred to Naples, Italy, where his squadron was assigned to support aircraft carrier groups in the Mediterranean Sea. He had the opportunity to land his aircraft on as many as seven different carriers. He was later assigned as an admiral's aide. Before this admiral retired, he ordered Lt. Sullivan to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he earned a bachelor's degree in naval science. Sullivan completed his military career in 1974 and retired as a lieutenant commander.

After leaving the Navy, he worked for civilian defense contractors in San Diego. He ended his civilian career and retired in 1992 from the Sundstrand Corporation.

His wife, Claire, passed away in 1982. He later wed Hope McCall and after retirement, they moved to Lillian. He then became deeply involved with his church, studied to become a Catholic deacon and was ordained in 2002 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Mobile. He was greatly respected by the pastors and parishioners of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Lillian, and he served his parish family until retirement in 2017.

Survivors include his wife, Hope; sister, Sheila Sullivan; sons, Michael, Mark, Thomas and Christopher; daughters, Mary Kathleen and Heather; 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Richard was predeceased by his father and mother, Richard Sr. and Mary; brothers, Anthony, Lawrence, and Cle-tus; first wife, Claire; and son, Paul.

A memorial service will be held at Barrancas National Cemetery at the US Naval Air Station, Pensacola. A Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lillian.

Obituaries may be submitted by email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com.

The information will appear in the next issue.



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Jim Owen, President

Fire Department Recognizes Three Lifelong Members

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 89 calls in November including 52 medical assistance, 6 public assists, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 2 structure fires, 1 container fire, 1 vehicle fire, 2 brush fires, 6 alarms/investigations; 8 calls cancelled enroute, 2 false alarms and 5 aircraft stand bys.

LVFD was out in full force this season helping the community celebrate Christmas.

We started with our traditional Santa Run, driving around the community handing out apples, oranges and candy, and then followed up with Christmas in the Park helping Santa give out presents to children.

The following week the volunteers participated in the Lillian Christmas parade with Perdido Beach Fire Department.

The department also held a Christmas party. In appreciation for Chief Nick Dewhurst and Assistant Chief Joe Jones for their leadership over the last year, LVFD presented them with carved belts adorning their names. LVFD also paid tribute to three volunteers who have dedicated years to the department by making them lifelong members of the department.

Dewhurst and Jones presented badges to Steve Jones, former chief; Marci Langford, former captain; and Sal Tese. LVFD thanks all three of you for the years you have dedicated

to the department. We also celebrated firefighter Allen Garrone's birthday.

Another new recruit has joined LVFD. Jeff Langley is from Memphis, Tenn., and started his career as a firefighter at the Shelby County Fire Department. After three years, he moved to the Memphis Fire Department and spent 35 years there until his retirement in 2014 as a captain. He is the father of eight and last month, we introduced one of his children, Madison Langley, to the department as a new recruit.

In conjunction with our next monthly board meeting, we will have a second specially called meeting of the general membership for a second reading of proposed amendments, and execute a vote to the newly revised bylaws as part of our conversion from

a 501-c4 to a 501-c3 non-profit organization. Copies of the proposed changes will be available at the fire station. The meeting will be held at the fire department at 11331 County Road 91 South at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10.



Langley



LVFD Chief Nick Dewhurst, left, and Assistant Chief Joe Jones, right, recognized three longtime volunteers for their contributions over the years. Honored were Steve Jones, retired chief and Marci Langford, retired captain. Not present was Sal Tese.

Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Goretta Lysek

The regular monthly board meeting will immediately follow the special meeting. The public is invited.

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MISCELLANEOUS

LAND FOR RENT/LEASE on Highway 98 (Lillian Highway), 2 miles from Alabama in Florida. Call 850-434-7896 or 850-418-7163

Parade Draws Large Crowd

The weather was a big concern leading up to the Lillian Christmas parade but it turned out be delightful on Dec. 11. There was a great turnout of participants and spectators, making it one of the biggest parades ever.

With support from Alabama State Troopers and Baldwin County Sheriff's Department, traffic flowed freely through the detours.

The parade was led by the American Legion float and the Elberta High School ROTC. Along with other floats representing Lillian churches and businesses, there were car clubs for British cars, Ford Mustangs and classic Ford Model Ts, as well as a local antique tractor club. There were three groups of students from Elberta Elementary School. The fire departments from Perdido Beach and Lillian had several trucks in the parade, and, of course, everyone was waiting to see Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. There were many individuals in the parade with their cars, golf carts, and even a horse.

Grand marshal was State Representative Steve McMillan who is retiring at the end of his term. This was also the last parade for Judy Wargo, who is retiring after directing the parade for 10 years. Next year's parade will be led by Kim Warner.



Photos by Sally McKinney



State Representative Steve McMillan, left, served as grand marshal. He was driven by Tom Schmitz. Also present for the parade were Baldwin County Sheriff Mack Hoss and Price Legg.

LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

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 Iced tea or coffee**

Drive through take out available

BANDS

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 Spearhead—Jan. 7
 Hwy 95A—Jan. 8
 Big Jake—Jan. 14
 Robert Broom—Jan. 16
 Gulfcoasters—Jan. 21
 Jeri Trio—Jan. 28
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