

The Lillian

FEBRUARY 2025

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 29, Number 2

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PERDIDO POISONING PLIGHT HITS NATIONAL EPA RADAR

Years of Effort and Act of Congress Nets Bay Nat'l Estuary Status; Earns Top Priority for Government Recovery Cash

BY ROBYN MONAGHAN

The plight of Perdido Bay has finally flashed onto the radar screen of local, state - and even national environmentalists.

It took six years and an act of Congress. But Perdido and Pensacola Bays are the first waterways in three decades to land federal designation as National Estuary. The historic designation gives Perdido Bay top priority for government money to make our troubled waters healthy again.

The National Estuary designation comes at the same time as the two-year-old Western Perdido Bay Watershed Action Committee is releasing its long-awaited assessment and recovery plan. "It's certainly an exciting time here at the Estuary Program," said Matt Posner. "Executive director of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program. "It has long been the goal to receive Congressional authorization to enroll in EPA's National Estuary Program and recognize Pensacola and Perdido Bays as estuaries of national significance." The National Estuary designation puts Perdido Bay, along with Pensacola Bay, in the national spotlight and ensures that all water quality issues, habitat restoration, and community resilience will have the financial support that conservationists need in years to come, Posner said. Over the last six years, the estuary program and its partners have already brought in more than \$30 million from the RESTORE Act, granted in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010.

Local Focus

In a report focused specifically on Perdido Bay, The Western Perdido Complex Watershed Management analysis reflects the heavy toll that urban and industrial development has taken on our treasured waterways.

"More development means more wastewater challenges in most places in Baldwin County," said Christian Miller, spokesperson for Mobile Baykeepers, which funded the report. "We know we can't stop development, but we can try to get everybody to do development in ways that will protect our waterways."

Mobile Baykeepers spearheaded the report in conjunction with the local Western Perdido Bay Watershed Action Committee with \$250,000 of its \$4.3 million grant, also from the BP oil spill, to analyze the ecological health of the bay and to design ways to restore it.



SEE RELATED STORIES PAGE 3

The western Perdido Bay report, nearly two years in the making, identifies the area near the Lillian County Boat Launch, as one of several areas of top concern for shoreline erosion and prioritizes conservation measures on land parcels along the Perdido River.

ADEM Investigates Peterson Branch

Miller also mentioned the ongoing Alabama Department of Environmental Management investigation into Baldwin County Sewer Service and suspected contamination of Peterson Branch flowing into Perdido Bay as an area of concern. The finding of that study will be completed and released within the month, Fred Leslie, Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator told The Lillian.

ADEM sampled Lillian's overflow of the Peterson Branch located in Spanish Cove in response to a request by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) and the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (BCEAC) over public concerns of documented pathogen issues in the outflow of Peterson Branch water samples. Samples were collected monthly, March through October, and analyzed monthly for E. coli, nutrients, TSS, TDS, among other things. Results of those tests are pending. Look for those results next month.

"Managing wastewater is a challenge in most places all around Baldwin County," Miller said.

Water quality has a tremendous impact on property values, Posner said.

"The health of the region, of the fisheries as a whole, is a driver to people looking to not only visit this region but to relocate, whether they're looking for a new job or whether a business is looking to relocate here."

The next State of the Bays report, released by Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program every two years, will be available this spring.

ELBERTA GETS NEW TOP COP



Elberta Police Chief Julie Joyner

Julie Joyner is coming home to Elberta to pin on the badge as one of only two female top cops in Baldwin County.

Joyner was an Elberta police officer for 14 years, at times acting as interim chief, before leaving to serve as corporal in Fairhope under the county's only other female Police Chief, Stephanie Hollinghead.

"Over my years in law enforcement, I've made a lot of friends in different departments,"

Joyner said. "I have a lot of resources. A lot of friends I can reach out to and talk to about problems we may have or if we need assistance. I'll have those contacts."

The Town Council voted Jan. to appoint Joyner, and she will start work Feb. 1.

"She's just got excellent credentials, and she knows the community," Elberta Mayor Steve Kirkpatrick said. "She can walk in here on day one and take over."

Joyner won out over four other applicants for the job to fill the shoes of Brandon Booker, who is stepping down to spend more time with family. Booker will stay on the Elberta Police Force as a school resource officer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lillian Restaurateur Seeks Advice From Community, Neighbors, Friends

Dear Editor:

This letter is from the new owner of Chubs! These are great people, and I'd hate to see our local pizza place go under because of this unfortunate circumstance! Please support them!! I am sharing my story, and I appreciate anyone who takes the time to read this.

This summer, I had the opportunity to fulfill my dream of owning a restaurant.

However, I soon found myself facing unforeseen challenges. The previous owner's decision to sell the business was motivated by unresolved debts to multiple vendors, which I have had to assume.

Furthermore, the state of Alabama is now pursuing me for years of unpaid taxes allegedly incurred by the previous owner. I am finding it difficult to comprehend how this

situation is legally justifiable. Regrettably, I lack the resources to defend myself or salvage my business without professional legal representation. The costs of consulting with lawyers are becoming prohibitively expensive.

I am not seeking handouts but rather guidance and support. My livelihood and my family's future are at stake. If anyone has experience with similar situations or can offer advice, I would be grateful for any support. I need expert guidance, positivity, and the backing of my community. Please consider coming to support my restaurant, as it would be a significant help.

Thank you
Amber Halverson
Chubs owner



Sacred, Profound Events Brought 'The Flauna' to Lillian; Sadly, Time Won the Day

Now that I've shared my life with you, dear readers of The Lillian, I think it's time to get real. I've already written about growing up on Perdido Bay, fishing for speckled trout and annoying dolphin tour boats. Now, I will open a sacred door, a profound yet bizarre event that literally shaped the lives of many soul seekers like me.

The time was May 1980, eight months after Hurricane Frederick had angrily battered our region with deadly 200 mph blasts. Baldwin County was still in shambles. Giant piles of fallen and twisted oak and pecan trees were everywhere yet were slowly being whittled away by fireplace and bonfire apostles.

We loaded up truckbeds upon truckloads of wood for epic bonfires on the beach. We'd also built a ramshackle sauna out of salvaged plywood, like some crazy Scandinavians, to sweat out our sins, followed by chilly plunges into Perdido Bay. At some point our naked sauna rituals were frowned upon by the local prudes. We were told to remove the eyesore from The Point, a private beach club at the mouth of Soldier Creek, immediately.

It took a long night of deep contemplation powered by various liquid spirits to solve our dilemma. How could we attract girls without the lure of a sauna? Eventually we had an epiphany. We'd build a floating sauna, our own sovereign nation, to freely roam the waterways. That was it! We were impressed by our collective genius. Our buddy Willie Jones first uttered the name that stuck like Gorilla tape. "Flau-na!" he said in his Mobile, Alabama drawl. David, Robert and I responded in unison. "Flauna!"

Now we just had to build it.

And so, using the endless supply of hurricane scrap lumber we scavenged



from the beach, the Flauna began to take shape. Sixteen 55-gallon drums provided the floatation. The platform was a 20-foot x 20-foot square. The sauna hot box was set in the middle, a 10-foot x 10-foot structure with a picture window the size of a big screen TV. Someone even sewed us a flag that we flew from a slightly bent sailboat mast.

The intense heat was generated by a wood burning stove and infinite chunks of pecan and oak. It got so hot inside those candles melted. Wearing any sort of clothing was impossible. We'd splash into the water, climb back up and watch the steam rising off our skin. We were a band of 20-somethings who needed cleansing - both physically and mentally. The Flauna delivered.

People came from miles around for the spiritual experience. The mystique grew. The four of us who conceived of and built it, became known as the Original Flauna Dawgs. Grandiose Flauna Parties followed with live music and copious amounts of adult beverages. Once, we had to chase off some local Lillian trespassers who stole a keg of beer and escaped in their VW Beetle completely naked. We realized that Fluanamania had gotten out of hand, so we ended the parties and attempted a pursuit of adulthood.

Fast forward ten years or so to the early 1990s. We'd all gotten married and started families. The Flauna was falling apart. We decided it deserved a Viking funeral so we gathered at Soldier Creek, set it on fire and watched the memories burn away to ash. Over the years, we've talked about building a new and improved Flauna II but it's impossible to reclaim a legend so unique.

From time to time, I'll run into someone from the distant past at the grocery store or a restaurant. We'll lock eyes, smile slyly and just say "Flauna". Nothing more is, or should be, said.

Fred Garth is a writer and conservationist. To learn more about the Flauna go to www.fredgarth.com. Garth's novel, Perdido - A Good Day to Live, can be purchased on Amazon.com by searching "Books by Fred Garth," or at Oakley's Wine Cellar, 25016 State St., Elberta AL 36530.

Regional Estuary Group Launches Public Ed Program Protecting Shoreline

By Janet Larson

We recently spoke about a shoreline stabilization process called Living Shorelines. A living shoreline is an erosion control method designed to mimic the features of natural shoreline ecosystems. Unlike traditional methods, it keeps the land and water connected, working with nature rather than against it. They are aesthetically pleasing and are designed to encourage plant and aquatic growth. If erosion is threatening your waterfront and the process of developing a living shoreline may seem over-

whelming, our community is fortunate to have help!

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program is launching a brand-new initiative to help commercial and residential landowners protect their property with a living shoreline. As part of their efforts, they are hosting several educational outreach events. The first will be held on February 13 at Perdido Beach Community Center from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Drop by anytime between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to meet with a staff member, learn more about the pro-

gram and discuss your property.

If you miss that program a second event will be held on March 27 at Graham Creek Nature Preserve from 2 p.m. to 8 pm (23030 Wolf Bay Dr. Foley, AL 36535) from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you have questions about living shorelines, please inquire at livingshorelines@ppbep.org. If you have any questions about water testing or would like to volunteer to test our watershed, please feel free to contact us at the Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association is at wpbwac@gmail.com.

Bacterial Testing of Our Estuaries Leading the Way to Pollution Sources

By Janet Larson

Testing our watershed for bacteria helps ensure that the water is safe for drinking and recreational use. Alabama Water Watch tests water bacterial counts monthly. We test for coliform bacteria as well as a specific test for E. coli. Elevated levels of coliforms in the water can warn us of pollution and environmental stress. E. coli, a specific type of coliform, may cause human health issues. Bacterial testing provides us with a way to monitor the health of our water.

It is important to note that most coliforms, including E. coli, are not harmful. These bacteria are an integral part of the environment and are found in the soil, water, and vegetation, as well as in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. Some examples of coliform bacteria are enterobacter, Kkebsiella, and citrobacter. Fecal coliforms are a subset of total coliforms and are specifically found in the intestines and feces of warm-blooded animals. Their presence in water indicates recent fecal contamination and a higher likelihood of pathogens being present. Besides E. coli, other fecal coliforms include Enterobacter cloacae and Klebsiella pneumoniae.

E. coli is a specific type of fecal coliform bacteria that is commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals. While most strains are harmless, some can cause serious illness. Testing for E. coli provides a more specific indication of fecal contamination. Their presence suggests that the water may be contaminated with fecal matter.

E. coli is not always of human origin. E. coli is naturally found in the intestines of many warm-blooded animals, such as livestock (cows, pigs, chickens) and wildlife. Agricultural runoff or manure can introduce E. coli into water sources. Birds, including waterfowl, can contribute to E. coli contamination in waterways through their droppings. E. coli can persist in the environment, such as in soil and sediments, and can be introduced into water bodies through surface runoff during rainfall or snowmelt. While not the only source, human sewage and wastewater are significant contributors to E. coli contamination in water, especially when there are leaks, overflows, or inadequate treatment.

We don't know the exact percentage of pathogenic E. coli in waterways, as it can vary widely depending on the source and environmental conditions. Although most strains are harmless, a small fraction can be pathogenic and cause illness. It's estimated that about 0.1% of gut flora consists of pathogenic E. coli strains. In the context of E. coli infection while swimming, studies have shown that the risk of gastrointestinal illness from recreational water activities can be around 3.6% when E.

coli levels exceed certain critical thresholds.

There are seasonal changes in E. coli levels in waterways. These changes are influenced by various environmental factors, including temperature, rainfall, and water flow. Heavy rainfall and storm events can lead to increased runoff, which can wash fecal matter from urban and agricultural areas into waterways. This often results in higher E. coli levels during and after rain events. Warmer temperatures can promote the growth and survival of E. coli in water. As a result, E. coli levels may be higher in the warmer months compared to cooler months. High water flow during wet seasons can dilute E. coli concentrations, while low flow during dry seasons can lead to higher concentrations due to reduced dilution. Sediments can act as a reservoir for E. coli, releasing bacteria into the water under certain conditions. Seasonal changes in water flow and temperature can influence these interactions.

Pathogenic strains of E. coli can cause gastrointestinal infections and urinary tract infections. Symptoms often appear within two to five days after exposure and can include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting. Infection rarely causes hospitalization. Treatment includes drinking plenty of fluid to prevent dehydration, rest, a bland diet and anti-diarrheal medication if necessary. Antibiotics should be avoided. Again, it is important to note that only a small percentage of these bacteria cause any problems at all.

Prevention includes sticking to safe, treated water sources and not drinking from lakes, rivers or streams, ensuring that sewage and wastewater are properly treated before going into waterways, and reducing runoff from agricultural areas to keep E. coli from animal waste entering the watershed.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to test, please feel free to contact us at the Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association at wpbwac@gmail.com



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Varied Colors, Shapes Do Not Lesson the Black Widow Bite

One of the most famous spiders in the insect world is the Black Widow, *Latrodectus*. Technically, they are not insects but are arachnids and related to scorpions and ticks. Called the Black Widow spider because she is known for eating the male spiders that try to mate with her, her Latin name (which is also mixed with Greek for some reason) translates to “deadly biting robber.” The entire mating process is at best *hazardous* and at worst *fatal* for males in the insect kingdom.

In fact, the male black widow spider is reclusive and very shy. Black widows use a silk-like substance to weave tangled-looking webs, typically close to the ground in covered or dark places, such as near drainpipes or under logs. The tips of the black widow’s legs are coated with an oily substance that prevents the black widow from getting caught in its own web. Why can’t spiders become pilots? They only know how to tailspin!

The black widow senses vibrations to the web. When an unlucky bug gets trapped, the spider immediately begins weaving its glue-like webbing around it. Once captured, the black widow injects its victims with poison, paralyzing them. Their poison is said to be 15 times stronger than rattlesnake venom. They are the most poisonous spider in North America! The black widow is not considered aggressive unless threatened. While the poison is rarely fatal to humans, it can cause severe pain and nausea! There are at least 2 species of widow spiders in our area.

Mating as a male spider is especially dangerous when the female spider is not in the mood since the female widow spider is quite capable of killing and eating the male either before or after mating. This behavior is thought to provide nutritional benefits that can enhance reproductive success! A female widow spider lays close to 200 eggs so she needs all the help she can get!

Before lavishing pity on the poor male widow spider, know that the studies that “proved” the female spider always ate her mate were done in a lab setting! There was nowhere for the male spider to escape or other insects for her to eat! More studies have been done in a natural setting and cannibalism was not witnessed more than a teeny, tiny, sliver of a percentage. And in those instances, it seemed that the male was donating himself in times of food scarcity!

Now, Nature has created several ingenious ways to help a male spider successfully mate. Sometimes the male spider never actually touches the female spider! All spiders have “pedipalps” which are appendages protruding from the front of the spider. They are not legs but are located between the legs and the jaws. The function of pedipalps is different from species to species, and from males to females! For hunting spiders, like tarantulas, pedipalps are important sensory devices; they contain a vast array of chemical detectors. On spiders like the black widow, the male uses the pedipalps for sperm transfer.

As a male black widow spider reaches full maturity, and is capable (and ready) to mate, his pedipalps will swell. A mature male spins a small “sperm web” and transfers his sperm into the small patch of silk called a “purse”. Then the fella abandons his habitat and spends some time scouting for a female of his species.

When he finds a mature female, the male will perform a vibratory song and dance on her web by plucking the strands as he walks around. A real spider

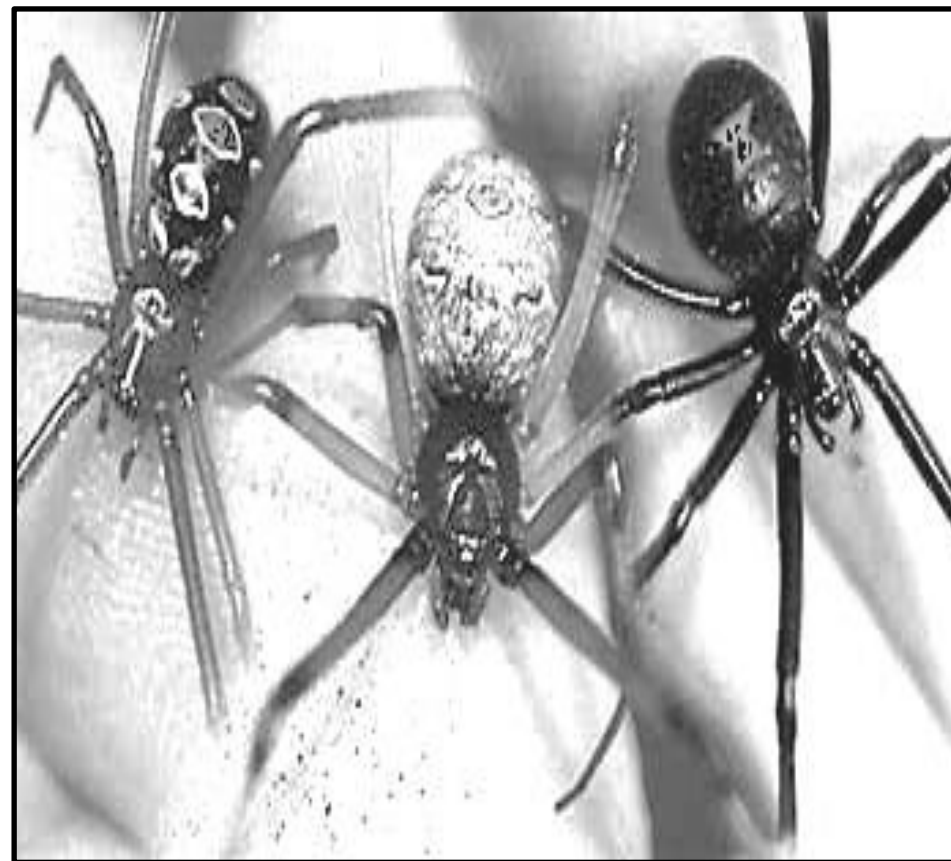
George Strait! He cautiously makes his way to the female spider and then starts tapping her body. While he has her distracted by the tapping, his palps extend out like a long, thin arm, taking the sperm purse and placing it gently into the female. This way, he may be able to complete the transfer of his genetic material into the female before she senses his presence. After he deposits his seed, he runs away like a gazelle being chased by a lioness. Hopefully, he has cemented his biologic material and thus his tie to immortality.

Another way that mating occurs, is when a mature male stumbles on an immature female who has developed only her internal plumbing, the male can pierce a hole in the female’s shell with its fangs and mate. The practice, called



Know Your Critters

By Celeste Hadley-Champion



“traumatic insemination” doesn’t seem to cause permanent harm to the female spiders.

Why did the man return his new pair of spider silk trousers?
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The Lillian

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

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Classified = maximum of 40 words

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and infor-

mation from the community. Please submit by:

- Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549
- Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com
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POLICY

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

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the March issue of *The Lillian* will be February 19. Anyone may send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

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

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32800 Block N Pickens Ave Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 01/10/2025 at 10:51 am
Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

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2600 Block Pine Ridge Dr Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 01/08/2025 at 1:59 pm
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24900 Block State St Elberta, Al 36530

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27600 Block Woerner Rd Elberta, Al 36530

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33500 Block Rosalia Ave Lillian, Al 36549

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34000 Block Widell Ave Lillian, Al 36549

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33800 Block Us-98 Lillian, Al 36549

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30600 Block Cypress St Elberta, Al 36530

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February Fire Safety: Protecting Our Homes in Winter

Mark your calendars! Lillian Fire Rescue is hosting its **third annual chili cook-off on March 15 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club.** Join us to support the department and enjoy some delicious food with neighbors!

As February rolls in, the record-breaking snow Lillian experienced during the week of January 20th is still fresh in our minds. While the snow created picturesque winter scenes, it also brought challenges for our community, from icy roads to increased heating demands. In these colder months, fire safety becomes more important than ever.

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department reminds residents to stay vigilant against common winter fire hazards. Here are some essential tips to keep your home and family safe:

1. Use Space Heaters Safely Always place space heaters on flat, non-flammable

surfaces and keep them at least three feet away from curtains, furniture, or bedding. Never leave them unattended.

2. Inspect Fireplaces and Chimneys Before lighting a fire, make sure your fireplace and chimney are clean and free of debris. Use a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from escaping.

3. Avoid Overloading Electrical Outlets Avoid overloading your outlets by using surge protectors instead of multi-outlet plugs, which are not fire safe. Check your cords for damage and never daisy-chain power strips, as this can cause fires.

4. Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors Ensure detectors are in working order by testing them monthly and replacing batteries as needed. These devices are critical for early warning in emergencies.

5. Store Ashes Safely



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department
By Janett Siler

If you use a wood-burning stove or fireplace, allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container kept away from your home.

Winter may be beautiful, but it also demands extra care. By following these tips, we can all do our part to prevent fires and stay safe.

Episcopal Church of the Advent

12099 County Road 99
Lillian, AL 3654



All are welcome to worship with us
Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Tina Lockett, Vicar
churchoffice@adventlillian.org
251-961-2505 & www/AdventLillian.org
"A little church with a big heart"

LILLIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
11331 CR 91 S
Lillian, AL 36549
ANNUAL 2025-2026 DONATION REQUEST

Name _____

Resident Address in Lillian _____

Contact Phone # _____

Requested: \$75 Residential / \$150 Commercial

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**information at: 251-284.3947, yesyes-gooddog@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/YesYesGoodDog*

251-284-3947

Our Library is funded by the Community: Time is Now to Renew Our Commitment

It's the beginning of a new year for the Lillian Perdido Bay Library. For more than 30 years the volunteers of the library staff have been providing reading materials for all of Lillian's residents. Come for a visit to check out our offerings. Apply for a FREE library card and check out your favorite author or try someone new.

Perhaps you are new to Lillian and don't even know we are here at 34081 Ickler Avenue, just south of US Highway 98 and east of Perdido Street. Our hours are 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Saturday. People who visit us for the first time are amazed at what we have to offer.

Of course we have the usual, hard back fiction, including large print copies, paperbacks, also with larger print, and non-fiction. Classics and biographies have special sections. Bring the kiddos for easy to young adult books. Want to learn more about Alabama? We have special section for that and a

Lillian Perdido Bay Library Membership Form

Print Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Indicate Membership Type:

_____ Family (\$15) Additional Donation \$ _____

_____ Individual (\$10)

Thank you! The Library is a 501c3 Organization. Your donation is 100% tax deductible.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to Lillian Perdido Bay Library Association, Inc. and mail it to Lillian Perdido Bay Library, P.O. Box 237, Lillian, AL 36549.

giant map of Baldwin County for your perusal. There's also a special section for travel information. There is no charge for a library card. Just fill out your information and voila! You are in. And you get three weeks to keep your books. Also, there are no late fees.

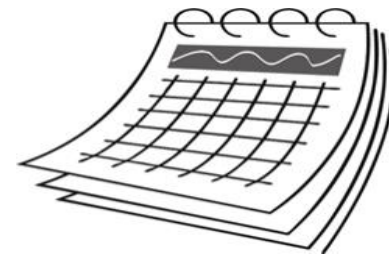
Magazine lover? Come on down and sort through a great variety. We have audiobook CDs, DVD movies and music CDs. Many of our patrons love Western stories and we have a whole room set aside for them.

We're not just about books, though. We have a computer room for your use, a place to scan and/or copy your documents, as well as FAX. There is no charge for these services unless you make more than 25 copies.

Perhaps you are not aware that the library is completely funded by donations. We get no county, state or federal funds. Books are donated by patrons and sometimes due to special donations provided as memorials. Our workers are all volunteers. We pay our bills by memberships, \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. We also ask for additional donations from our patrons, if possible, and we are also very grateful for donations from other Lillian organizations.

So, there you have it, a library bigger than anyone ever thought and we're happy to be here. You have received a postcard from us, asking for your membership. It's only once a year and we really appreciate your participation. If you can't find your postcard, just use the form provided here and "Thank you!"

The Lillian Calendar February 2025



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

February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 11 p.m. & February 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10 a.m.: Ageless Grace, Brain Fitness at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.

For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7 p.m.: ALANON Support Group Meeting at Lillian Methodist Church located at 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Discover more about ALANON at <https://al-anon.org/>

February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7 p.m.: AA Support Group Meeting at Lillian Methodist Church located at 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Discover more about <https://sober.com/aa-meetings/alabama/baldwin-county/>

February 8 at 8 a.m.: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club located at 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian AL 36549. Come help us honor this year's Elberta Elementary, Middle and High school's Teacher of the Year. To discover more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay check out our website www.OptimistClubPB.org

February 13 from 4 to 6 p.m.: FREE Hot Dinner provided by Sea Glass Initiative at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. Volunteers from the Sea Glass Initiative will be serving a hot meal from 4 to 6 p.m. Please help spread the word to those who could use this social service.

February 20 at 1 p.m.: Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

February 22 at 8 a.m.: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club located at 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian AL 36549. Come help hear our first, second and third place winners of this year's Essay Contest. To discover more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay check out our website www.OptimistClubPB.org

AA Meetings - In Lillian go to gulfcoastaa.org. There is a list of meetings at easternshoreaa.org. Pensacola meetings are at aapensacola.org.



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Pensacola, FL 32506

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OPTIMISTS WELCOME VISITORS



The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay welcomes visitors to their meetings. From left are Deb Pifer, Optimist member Judy Wargo, Steve Lane, Maxine Lane, Eileen Engelke, Gary Engelke, Optimist Ashlie Bloodworth, Joye Burkhardt, Amanda Long, Anna Schuck and Optimist Becky Schuck. The Lanes and the Engelkes are visitors from the Platteville, Wisconsin Optimist Club.

The Lillian
Call Julie at 703-217-2874
to place your ad in The Lillian



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PRESCRIPTIONS NEEDED**

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Pharmacists

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Fax: 251-962-3779

lillianpharmacy97@yahoo.com

www.lillianpharmacy.com

Monday - Friday
9am - 6 pm
Saturday **CLOSED**



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

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Evangelism Study and Dinner 5:00 pm

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

Children Grades: K-5 Bible Activities

Youth Grades 6-12 Bible Study & Activities

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

Pastor: Josh Thompson

Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson

Children's Director: Debbie Sweppenhiser

Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

34421 Barclay Ave ~ PO Box 178 ~ Lillian
251-962-2180

LillianBaptist36549@gmail.com

FULL SNOW MOON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12



- February 12 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 13:55 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.
- February 28 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 00:46 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.



The peak for Solar Cycle 25 continues

The Top 12 Events for 2025

Such is astronomy and skywatching in 2025. First, here's a quick subjective rundown of the dozen very best skywatching events to look forward to in the coming year:

The peak for Solar Cycle 25 continues.

Mars at opposition in January.

Venus rules the dusk sky at the start of the year, and transitions to the dawn sky.

A once a generation Major Lunar Standstill sees the Moon swinging wide north-to-south.

Saturn's rings are edge on as seen from our Earthly vantage point.

Comet G3 ATLAS 'may' break negative magnitudes in January.

Two total lunar eclipses for the year worldwide.

Lunar occultations worldwide for the stars Spica, Regulus and Antares.

A rare 'triple year' for lunar-stellar occultations.

The Moon meets up with Saturn and Mars multiple times in 2025.

A rare, 'smiling emoticon' triple conjunction involving the Moon, Regulus and Venus on September 19.

The Moon occults sections of Messier 45 (The Pleiades) on every pass for 2025.

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EAGLE RIDERS PRESENT

*'Blessing of the Bikes'
Saturday, March 8*

at Elberta VFW - 9 a.m.



**THIS CHARITY EVENT BEGINS AT THE VFW,
24230 US 98, ELBERTA AND WILL BENEFIT ST,
JUDE'S CHILDREN'S CANCER FUNDS**

PARTICIPANTS

- *VFW POST 5658
- *Johnny B's
- *Good Time Charlies
- *Fraternal Order of Eagles #4549 at 12456 Sandy Ln. Foley AL

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

- *50/50 RAFFLES AT ALL LOCATIONS
- *AT FOE, HAMBURDERS \$5 AND HOT DOGS FOR \$1

**Contact: Scotty Thomas (251) 284-5082 or
Amy Stuedeman (850) 977-0504**

February Fun

LILLIAN RECREATIONAL PARK

The Lillian Recreational Park is a great place to keep your New Year's Resolutions going! Come

Walk *our almost mile-long trail or bring your dog to walk with you and visit our new dog park*

Play *pickleball, basketball, or soccer or bring the kids to play in the Kiddie Playground*

Socialize *and make new friends at the Park*

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



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

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

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

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

LILLIAN FELLOWSHIP

*A Reformed Congregation
Together for the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
11737 COUNTY ROAD 99
www.lillianfellowship.org

Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.

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



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My goal for Bay Dental is to create an atmosphere and culture that makes you look forward to coming to visit your friend, the dentist. We consider our patients family here and this should feel like coming home for you. Our motto is "dentistry done differently" and when you come to visit, our team will do everything possible to deliver a unique experience that might be a little bit different from what you're used to.

For a **second opinion** or more info, please call for a free consultation.



FEBRUARY 2025

LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

34148 WIDELL AVENUE, LILLIAN, AL 36549

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-11AM (251) 962-3366 | LOUNGE HOURS: SUNDAY-THURSDAY: 11AM-10PM / FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 11AM-11PM (251) 962-3966

February Music

(\$5 cover for non-members)

Friday, February 7th • TBird and the Fat Cats • 7-11 pm
 Friday, February 14th • Blackwater Country • 7-11 pm
 Friday, February 21st • JoJo & The Lost Boys • 7-11 pm
 Sunday, February 23rd • Gary Story • 3-7 pm
 Friday, February 28th • Gary Story & Bad Habit • 7-11 pm

8-Ball Tournament

Saturday, February 1st & 15th
 6 pm (Signup at 5 pm)



Tuesdays at 6 pm



Thursday, February 6th & 20th
 6:30 pm

\$2.75 Bloody Mary's
 ALL DAY on Sundays

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH - 7PM
NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - 3PM
BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH - 7PM



WATCH PARTY

Sunday, February 9th
 6:30 pm
 Join us for Food, Fun
 & the Big Game on
 the Big Screen!



LCC Fish Dinner

Friday, February 21st
 Hoffman Hall
 5 pm - 6 pm | \$15



American Legion Ham Dinner

Sunday, February 23rd
 11 am - 1 pm | Hoffman Hall

Ham with Raisin Sauce, Potatoes, Green Beans,
 Salad, Roll, Dessert & Iced Tea or Coffee
 \$15.00

Happy
 Valentine's
 Day

From all of us at the LCC

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Foundation will host a Valentine's Dinner/Dance on Friday, February 14th in Hoffman Hall. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner starts at 5:30. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information & to make your reservation, visit: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/valentinesdayform/>.

HOFFMAN HALL BANQUET FACILITIES

Accommodates up to 250 People
 State of the Art Full Kitchen / Non-Smoking
 Best rates in the area!
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Managing Our Dividends: Should We Reinvest Them, or Not?

As you may know, some businesses pass along part of their profits to investors in the form of dividends. If you own shares of these companies, either directly in stocks or more indirectly through mutual funds, you may have a choice: Should you take the dividends as cash or reinvest them into the stocks or funds?

There's no one correct answer for everyone. So, let's look at some reasons for both choices — reinvesting or cashing out.

Reinvesting dividends offers at least two related benefits. First, reinvested dividends make up part of a stock's total return, along with price appreciation. And second, when you reinvest dividends, you are buying more shares of the investment — and share ownership is a key to building wealth. Keep in mind that dividends can be increased, decreased or eliminated without notice.

It's also easy to reinvest dividends. Through a dividend reinvestment plan, or DRIP, your dividends are automatically used to buy more shares of a company. And these new shares will generate more dividends that can be reinvested. Consequently, it's fair to say that dividend reinvesting is an economical way to grow your portfolio. However, a DRIP does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss, so you'll need to consider your willingness to keep investing when share prices are declining.

If you're mainly investing for long-term growth, you may well want to reinvest your dividends. But under what circumstances *wouldn't* you want to reinvest them?

For starters, of course, you may simply need the dividends to help support your cash flow. This may be especially true in your retirement years.

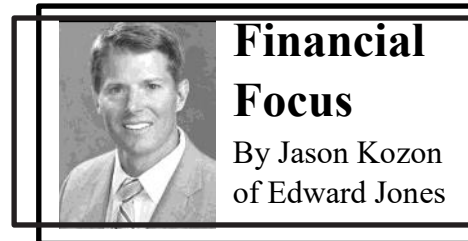
But there may be other reasons to cash out dividends, rather than reinvesting them. You might already own a considerable number of shares in a stock

or mutual fund and you don't want to buy more of the same. By not reinvesting these dividends, you can use the money to help broaden your investment mix.

You also might want to consider taking the cash, rather than reinvesting, if the company that pays the dividends appears to be struggling or has an uncertain future. Again, you could then use the money to fill gaps in your portfolio. Regardless of whether you reinvest your dividends, you'll pay taxes on them if your investments are held in a taxable account. Ordinary dividends are taxed at your ordinary income tax rates, while qualified dividends are taxed at the capital gains rate, which is 0%, 18%, or 20%, depending on your income. (A dividend is considered qualified if you've held the stock for a certain length of time.)

If your dividend-paying investments are held in a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you won't have to pay taxes on the dividends until you begin taking withdrawals from these accounts, typically at retirement. And if you have a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k), you may not pay taxes on the dividends at all, provided you've had the account at least five years and you don't take withdrawals until you're at least 59½.

In any case, you may find that dividends, whether reinvested or taken in cash, can play a role in your overall financial strategy. So, follow your dividend payments carefully — and make the most of them. For questions, please contact Chantz Blackmon or Jason Kozon located at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, AL. 251-943-3399



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

American Legion Continues Ham Dinner Fundraiser Feb. 23

All veterans are invited to join Post 48 and become a part of the largest Veteran organization in the United States. The American Legion is your voice in congress, they need membership numbers when they go in front of the VA and all concerned. The focus has been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans.

Ham Dinners:

Come and have a delicious meal while supporting your local American Legion. Dinners are on the fourth Sunday of February and March from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

These dinners are Post 48's primary fundraiser. The cost this year will be \$15 per meal. The money raised provides the means for continued activities and donations. Aside from the Medical Closet we support JROTC of Elber-

ta, Lillian Legion Baseball Team, the Elberta High School Scholarship Program, and more.

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who attended the Ham Dinner in January.

MEDICAL CLOSET: Post 48 would like to reaffirm to the Lillian Community that the Medical Closet is for all Lillian citizens and there is absolutely no charge. Many items are available, such as walkers, hospital beds, and more.

The only requirement is the return of said items when no longer needed. The individuals to contact are Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 and Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084.

Every Wednesday morning from 9am to 11 am, Legion Members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48.

The building is located next door to the Lillian Community Club, adjacent to the POW/MIA flag. Come and join us for a cup of coffee or a soda, and enjoyable conversation.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Lillian Community Club Hall. Come and join us and become one of the millions of Legionnaires still serving.



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Gay L. Pyle
1st Vice

WE NEED THE ROOM

These items are up for sale:

Lagasse Air Fryer
Small sofa (48" length)
Corner computer desk
48" Sony Bravia TV

Singer sewing machine
Round Oak coffee table 40"
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Other miscellaneous items

CALL: 251-540-1167 For appointment


The Lillian
Call Julie at 703-217-2874
to place your ad in The Lillian!

SPANISH COVE HOSTS RED HAT NEW YEAR GATHERING

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies held their January gathering at the Spanish Cove RV Clubhouse. The hostesses were Judy Wargo and Linda Stephens. We welcomed Brenda Bradshaw and Helen Latall as guests. Helen entertained us with her ukulele and songs from the 1920's and 30's. We enjoyed singing along with those old time favorites. Our birthday girls were Jan Willoughby and Diane Gilbert. They received homemade bread and butter pickles and a handmade mahogany Christmas tree. After singing Happy Birthday accompanied by the ukulele we enjoyed ice cream and cake. Many of us are wearing our red hats to Priscilla Westgate's celebration of life service at Lillian Methodist Church on January 22.



**LITTLE BLACKIE
100% ALABAMA
SNOW DOG**



Let's Keep it Country

by Tracey Gambill

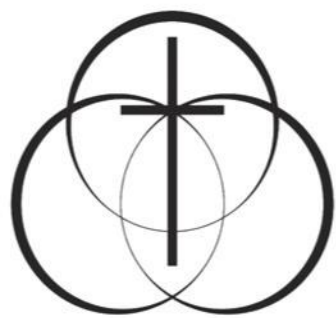
Protect the rural character of Baldwin County
Follow us on Facebook @ Let's Keep it Country

Planning and Zoning Commission
Baldwin County Central Annex Auditorium
22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL
36567
1st Thursday of each month @ 4 pm
Attend meetings or watch meetings online at
<https://baldwincountyal.gov/> or on YouTube.

Baldwin County Commission
1100 Fairhope Ave., 2nd Floor
Fairhope, AL 36532
3rd Tuesday of each month @ 10 am

PROTECT LILLIAN FROM ANNEXATION

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



LILLIAN METHODIST CHURCH

12770 South Perdido Street
Lillian, AL 36549

(251) 962-4336

office@LillianMC.org

www.LillianMC.org

“A Global Methodist
Congregation”

Rev. Daniel W. Randall, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Children's Church & Nursery during 10:00 AM

Worship for children birth to second grade

View Online at LillianMC.org

Sunday School For All Ages

Sunday Mornings 9:00 AM

AA & ALANON Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Healing Hope Grief Support Group

February 6 1:00 PM

FREE HOT DINNER

February 13 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Provided by the Sea Glass Initiative

Community Potluck Supper

February 17 5:30 PM

(Bring side dish for 8, if able.)

Dementia Education Forum

& Caregiver Support Group

February 20 1:00 PM

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE SINCE 1980

Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude



The Methodist Message

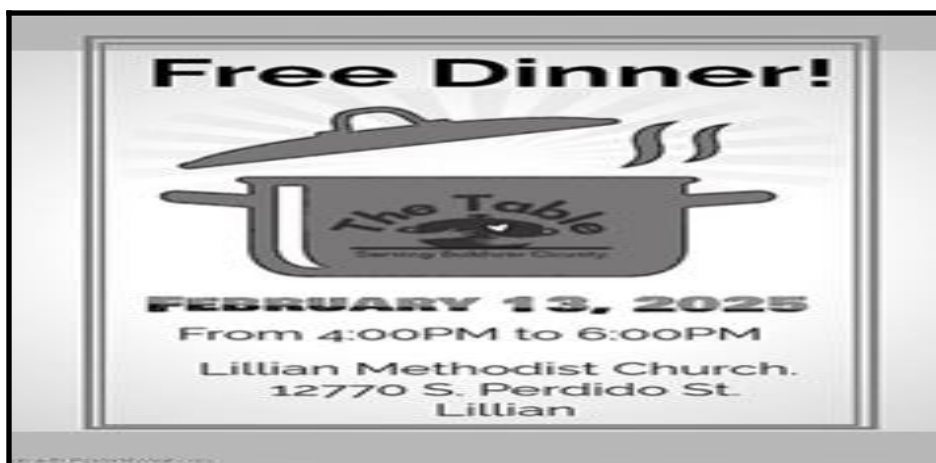
By Rev. Daniel Randall

The Apostle Paul declares in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” As Christ-followers, we must intentionally develop our emotional muscles of gratitude. We must actively discover God’s provision all around us and express gratitude for them. That’s what Benjamin Weir did.

Missionary Benjamin Weir was kidnapped and held hostage in Lebanon by Hezbollah, an Islamic jihadist terrorist group. Benjamin lived under terrifying and miserable conditions for 16 months. In his first interview after his release, Benjamin was asked how he spent his time and how he dealt with the intense fear, discouragement, and sheer boredom. His answer stunned the reporters. He simply said, “Counting my blessings.” The reporters responded with curiosity and asked for more information. “Yes,” Benjamin explained. “God’s Word tells me, ‘In everything give thanks,’ so I looked for points of gratitude. For instance, some days I would get to take a shower. Sometimes there were some vegetables in my food. And I could always be thankful for the love of my family.” We can understand why the reporters were astonished. It’s hard for most of us to be consistently thankful for the commonplace blessings which make life pleasant and comfortable.

Have you learned to consistently thank God for His gracious supply of your “daily bread” in the form of the provision of food, shelter, clothing, mobility, health, and the companionship of family and friends? We are capable of ignoring and being apathetic regarding God’s lavish and expensive mercies of redeeming grace provided by Christ’s extreme sacrifice. Paul and Silas were unfairly beaten, thrown into prison, and placed in stocks, yet chose to “pray and sing hymns to God at midnight.” May we learn from our Biblical models and from faithful Benjamin Weir to count our blessings regardless of our circumstances?

Right now, ask God to anoint your vision so you can see the vast array of blessings surrounding you. Then, cultivate greater emotional health, strength, and stability by intentionally identifying those blessings and praising God for His gracious provision. In 1897, Johnson Oatman, a hymn-writing insurance salesman who lived in New Jersey, wrote these meaningful words: “Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by. Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.” My friend, if intentional counting blessings works for Paul and Silas, Benjamin Weir, Johnson Oats, and me, let it be true for you.



More Than Just a Cause, Mary's Shelter Offers, Facilitates Options

In recent years there has been a lot of discussion/debate about abortion. Now, I'm not going to get into the pros or cons of that fight, but I'm going to tell you about one place that has been established that has given a positive choice for that decision for mothers.

Back in the early 2000s, a bunch of men and women learned about an organization that offered a home to homeless pregnant women who wanted life for their unborn child. It was called Mary's Shelter and their homes had been established in other states. So they decided to provide that service to women in Baldwin County and Mary's Shelter became a reality in Elberta.

Moms or moms-to-be are able to call the shelter and sign up for a place to live while waiting for their baby to be born. While there, they receive counseling, pre-natal and post-natal care, participate in life skill classes five days a week, attend parenting classes, earn their GED, secure full-time employment, purchase a vehicle and escrow \$5,000 - \$10,000. After 15 months, they are able to transition to independent living with their children.

Over the years many "Guardian Angels" contributed

to this venture, ensuring the home could provide food and other amenities that we all have in our homes, heat, electricity, water and the like. In addition, the residents also needed other supplies such as bath products, clothing, cleaning products and

they can afford.

You can learn much more about the project at maryssheltergulfcoast.org. While you are there, you can sign up for a ticket to the fifth annual "Be My Valentine" event to raise money for the projects. Tickets for the



Just a Thought or Two
By Sally McKinney

... You can learn much more about the project at maryssheltergulfcoast.org. While you are there, you can sign up for a ticket to the fifth annual "Be My Valentine" event to raise money for the projects ...

diapers, lots and lots of diapers.

A couple of years ago, the shelter opened a thrift store in Elberta to secure additional funds for the home. Thanks to caring residents of our nearby communities, it has been doing very well in providing extra funds.

On January 28 they will break ground on Mary's Village that includes three homes that will provide transitional housing, eventually leading to home ownership. With the high cost of rent, the women are having trouble finding a place to live that

\$10,000 Drawdown are \$100 each. The event will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16 at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church Hall.

Now, I know \$100 may be a lot of money for some of us. So, here's how you can help. Get three or four friends to split the cost at \$20 or \$25 each with you. Then, when you win, you split the pot. \$20,000 or \$25,000 sounds pretty good to me.

Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast has been helping Moms and their children for a long time. How about helping them to continue to provide a home for homeless, pregnant women? Believe me, it makes you feel really great when you get a thank you note and pictures of the babies who might never had a chance at life without Mary's Shelter.

More Reservation Info for the Valentine's Dinner Dance at LCC

The Valentine's Dinner Dance is set to take place on Wednesday, February 14th at the Lillian Community Club (Lee Hoffman Hall). The doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

The menu features your choice of Chicken or Shrimp Alfredo over pasta or Pork Loin over rice, rolls, salad and your choice of three different deserts. Individuals may request to be seated with others, or you can secure a table of 8.

The link to the reservation form is <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/valentinesdayform/>

For those that need additional information feel free to contact Kat Keener by phone or text at 251-228-9470 or Jeff Keener at 859-991-4619.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 2025 VALENTINES DAY DINNER AND DANCE

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

Held at LCC February 14, doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. at \$20 per person includes the meal, Dance Only - \$5 It is necessary to make reservations for this event. You will need to personally select your menu items. Please visit www.optimistclubpb.org to view the reservation form and get more information or call Jeff Keener at 859-991-4619.

SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE OPTIMIST NEWS

Eric Liddell; Chariots of Fire With God's Speed

"God made me fast. And when I run, I feel his pleasure." is the line from Eric Liddell, an Olympic runner from Scotland in "Chariots of Fire," the 1981 British film written by Colin Welland. The film was a surprising success in both Britain and the United States, winning four Academy Awards including Best Picture. The musical score for the film by Vangelis won another of the Oscars, and its theme is still instantly recognizable. God did make Eric Liddell fast, and he ran for God's glory, but those words were not actually from Liddell. They were written by Colin Welland and put in the voice of Liddell. What Liddell did say, and more than once, was that God made him for China. This is what the viewers of the movie never learned.

To its credit, "Chariots of Fire" recognized Eric Liddell's Christian faith and testimony. His story is inseparable from the drama of his refusal to compete on Sunday, believing it to be a breaking of God's commandment. Though this determination was well-known before the 1924 Olympics, it became internationally famous when heats for Liddell's best race, 100 meters, were scheduled for Sunday.

The dramatic plot of "Chariots of Fire" presented a personal competition between Liddell and Harold Abrahams, another top runner who had experienced the agonies of anti-Semitism as a student at Cambridge. When Liddell withdrew from the 100 meter event, Abrahams won. Liddell had become a figure of ridicule, with everyone unable to persuade him to sacrifice his moral convictions for the Olympic glory he was promised.

Liddell was left to run the 400-meter race, an event for which he was not favored win. But run he did, and he ran right into the history books, winning the gold medal with a personal story that shocked the world, even in the 1920s. His intensity of Christian conviction was already out of style and often ridiculed, but Eric Liddell became one of the most famous men in the British Empire and

the larger world of athletics.

Those who have seen "Chariots of Fire" well remember how it ends, with the magnificent music of Sir Hubert Parry's anthem "Jerusalem" and William Blake's famous words: "Bring me my Bow of burning gold; Bring me my Arrows of desire; Bring me my Spear; O clouds unfold! Bring me my Chariot of fire!" Then the screen fills with these words in text: "Eric Liddell, missionary, died in occupied China at the end of World War II. All of Scotland mourned."

In those few words was the real story of Eric Liddell. Yes, he was one of the most famous Olympic athletes of modern times. He was also a Christian who



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett



refused to compete on Sunday. Unquestionably, Eric Liddell was made to run. And yet, more than anything else, Eric Liddell believed that "God made me for China." Liddell was born in 1902, in Tientsin, China, to missionary parents who were there with the London Missionary Society. Later, Eric and his brother would be sent to boarding school near London and would know their parents only through letters. But China was always on Liddell's heart. As a student at the University of Edinburgh, Liddell was known as both a runner and a preacher. Liddell spoke passionately explaining that the best preaching to young men took the form of a simple talk "as if chatting over a picket fence." But Liddell's clear evangelical message came through powerfully. He preached before, during and after his Olympic glory.

After Liddell university graduation, he made preparation to go to China as a missionary. He taught school, preached and eventually married and had three daughters. After decades of internal warfare and turmoil, China was thrown into the horrors of Japanese occupation during World War II. Liddell eventually sent his wife and daughters to Canada for safety. Along with members of the China Inland Mission, Eric Liddell was forced into torturous confinement at the Weihsien Internment Camp. He would die there shortly before the end of the war. In the camp, Liddell became as legendary as his witness for Christ. He became the moral and spiritual leader of the horrifying reality with that camp.

"God made me for China." Eric Liddell lived his life in answer to that calling and commission. As his biographer wrote, Liddell "considered athletics as an addendum to his life rather than his sole reason for living it." Eric Liddell ran for God's glory, but he was made for China. He desperately wanted the nation he loved to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believe. Years later Liddell's collected devotional writings "The Disciplines of the Christian Life," would be introduced by stating, "Eric Liddell's desire was to know God more deeply, and as a missionary, to make him known more fully." Christians must remember that Olympic glory will eventually fade. There will be medalists for all to celebrate. The most important part of Liddell's story came long after his gold medal

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CR 91 Traffic Light Brightens; Update on Zoning; Support Landmark Status

MORE BIG NEWS! The survey is underway for the new traffic light at Hwy 98 and CR 91! It will still be a wait for the design process to be completed, but it's great to finally see progress! I have been pushing for several months on this, got the traffic study accomplished and keep on them regularly as to the status. It's wonderful to have results and I wanted to share this good news with you.

State Representative Alan Baker is going to sponsor a bill for Lillian to become a Landmark District! One hundred and forty signatures in support so far ... please share with your neighbors ... we would like to see 300 or more! Please scan QR Code at the end of this article or email me with your support, name and address.

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

Planning and Zoning Commission hearing January 9, 2024, 4 pm, Cases heard and approved:

SPP24-33, Driftwood Cove Subdivision Preliminary Plat for a 13-lot subdivision on the west side of County Rd 91, approximately 800 ft north of US Highway 98 between Elberta and Lillian in Planning District 22. No objection on my part but I did point out the incline in the road on the north portion of the 13 lots and asked that a driveway there not be allowed.

PP24-31, Resub of Lot 4A, Kiefer Subdivision Preliminary Plat application for a 4-lot subdivision west of County Rd 97, approximately 560 ft south of US Highway 98 between Elberta and Lillian in Planning District 22. No objection on my part.

SPP24-34, Homewood Acres Subdivision Preliminary Plat approval for a 6-lot subdivision south of County Rd 26 and east of County Rd 95, south of the Town of Elberta in Planning District 32. No objection on my part.

In Progress:

Z24-40 Hamm Enterprises, 23 acres-Approved for RSF-3 zoning. Next will be the subdivision

phase and I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

ZVA24-59 May Brothers Property Variance Request Approved- 12564 County Road 99, Lillian, AL 36549-

I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

Z24-49 Dwayne Smith/Johnson, PRD24-07 Bear Creek- Denial recommended to the Baldwin County Commissioners by the Planning and Zoning Commission on December 5, 2024. Final Hearing for January 21 canceled due to inclement weather. The subject property is located east of Hwy 83, north of Kichler Circle and south of Grubber's Lane near the town of Elberta. Proposed use: A 247-unit planned residential development (PRD), 2.2 lots per acre, on 116 acres in Planning District 22. The residents in the area are doing a great job in fighting this one.

Improvement in process -Modifications to the Baldwin County Subdivision Regulations heard and approved January 7 and immediately effective. These improvements are very good for preserving the visual and practical aesthetics of new development and include many items that we asked for in our text amendments such as protecting wetlands and streams, low impact development practices, more accountability by developers, more front-end of application for sewer and water utility service, flood elevation data, stormwater management, landscaping and open spaces, follow-through enforcement and application alteration review by Planning Director. Commissioner Ball fought back against the argument by developers that these revisions will increase costs and put the onus on them to figure out how to cut costs. These improvements are good for the County and its citizens' quality of life as growth continues.

Planning Commission Election of Officers January 9, 2025 By unanimous vote, Stephen Pumphrey was elected Chairman and Brandon Bias was elected Vice Chair. There are currently twelve board members, all of whom are volunteers from different planning districts in Baldwin County.



Keeping it Country
By Tracey Gambill

Their job is very time-consuming and sometimes technical. We should be grateful for them.

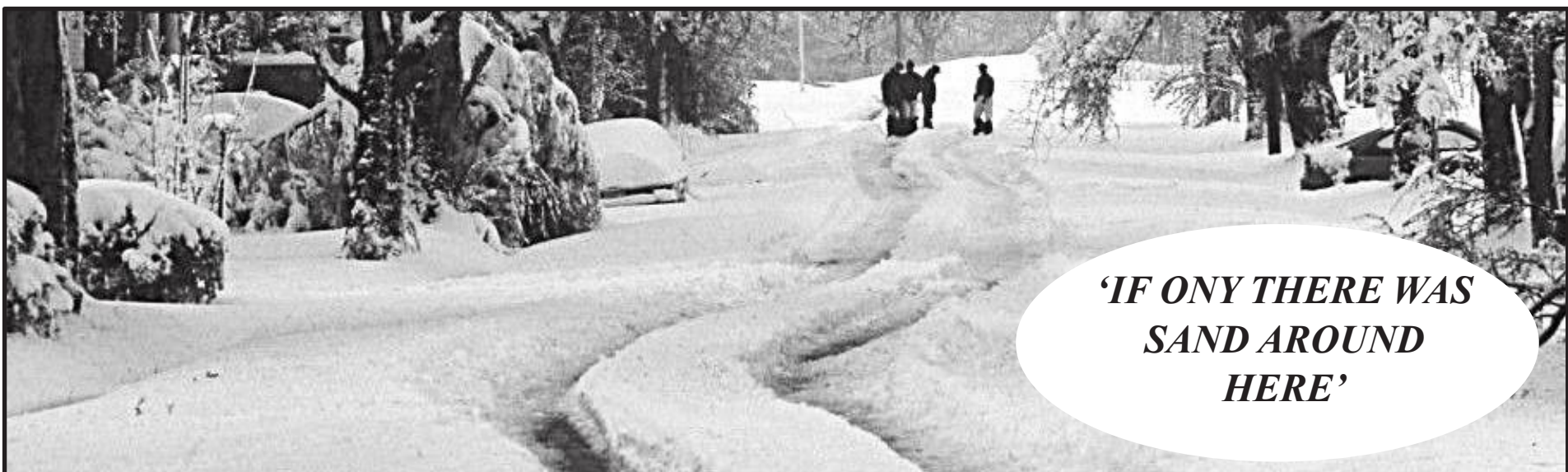
Wisdom: "Rest assured, you are precisely where you are meant to be."

P.S. Do you know what's "developing" in your community?

I, for one, am grateful to be here. I will keep you updated in The Lillian each month ... please consider subscribing!

All the best, Tracey Gambill, Stay tuned for updates on FaceBook LET'S KEEP IT COUNTRY!

Support Landmark District Lillian and/or Unincorporated Elberta – State Representative Alan Baker is willing to sponsor legislation for Lillian Landmark District in order to preserve the historical culture in the community of Lillian. We need big numbers of resident signatures, please, if you haven't already filled out the form. **Your support can be sent to either tbird32507@gmail.com or using the QR Code below to fill out the form:**



'IF ONLY THERE WAS SAND AROUND HERE'

CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits. Happy birthday wishes in February go out to: Jennifer Canaday, Trisha Gingras, Joyce Sheldon, Bob

Taylor, Nicole Fehn, Evelyn Duckworth, Tom Ryborski, Ken Robinson, Lois Mitchell, John Flynn, Melodye Barnhart, MJ Rooks, James Covert, Barbara Jennings, Jim Baxter, Char Kuhr, Lindsay Sherwin

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in February are Ken

and Diane Robinson Marvin and Judy Cain 1968 and Sam and Josephine Roberts 1975.

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email:

Lillianedor@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 March issue of The Lillian is February 19.

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The Car Barn - 9717 CR 91, Lillian 251-962-3704. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the folks at The Car Barn. Cliff has been slowing down a bit but it's a new year and we have one more year of serving our dear friends in Lillian. Thanks for all your support. Cliff and Mary Collier.

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Lillian Recreational Park Names New Board Members



The Lillian Recreational Park recently added six new members to its Board of Directors. The new members are Patti Bergstrom, a local artist; Mark Correia, Point Broadband; Cheryl Josephson, a retired pharmaceutical representative; Carol Kovacs, a retired CPA; Rosie Stallworth, United Bank; and Kelly Verret, a local realtor. They join current LRP board members Fourd Attaway, Juanita Dodd, Jack Hammond, John Larson, Monica Leonard, Lucy Smith, and Dean Wood on the board.

The new board members bring a wealth of experience to the park board. "We're so excited to have these new board members join us.

While we were sorry to say 'goodbye' to board members Rhonda Morris, Dennis Newell, and Nickie Robson, we're very pleased to have such a stellar group of new members joining us. I know their expertise is going to be extremely helpful to the park as we plan for 2025 and beyond," said Lucy Smith.

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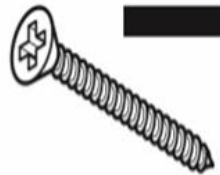
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Lillian's Pets of the Month



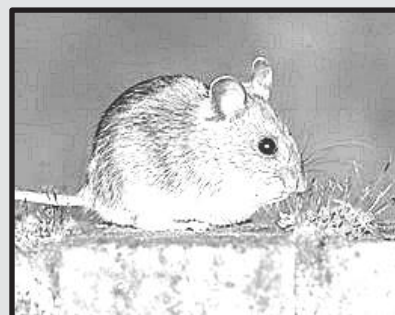
MAX



TUCKER

If you have a best friend of the furry, feathery or scaly kind feel free to send in a picture to Dave Monaghan at lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Lillian's Pests of the Month



FIELD MOUSE



OPOSSUMS

If you live in Lillian or Elberta AL and have an unwanted pest call Stu at Down South Wildlife Removal at 251-070-4333

'The Table' Hosting Hot Food Giveaway

The Table, a hot food program, will provide a hot, nutritious meal at Lillian Methodist Church on February 13.

This free meal will be in partnership with Lillian Methodist Church for anyone in need. The meal distribution will be from 4 to 6 p.m. at 12770 South Perdido Street in Lillian. All welcomed!



OBITUARIES

John Anthony Schiff, Lillian

John Anthony Schiff, of Lillian, Alabama, went to his heavenly home on December 12, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his only daughter, Diane; his brother, Ben; and his sisters, Mary and Cecilia.

John will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 62 years, Norma Jean; their son, Gary; and John's siblings, Helen, Martha, and Bill. He was a cherished grandfather to five grandchildren: Victoria, Joshua, Jesse, Lydia, and Abigail. He was a proud great-grandfather to nine. He will also be remembered by numerous relatives and friends.

Born on June 2, 1944, in Ridgeway, Illinois, to Ben and Isabelle Schiff, John spent most of his adult life in the Karbers Ridge area where he was a pillar in the local equestrian community.

John was a highly respected underground coal mine mechanic. He developed the electrical systems for the snake unit, an advancement that revolutionized mining operations. After a distinguished career, he retired from Joy Mining Equipment.

He always supported his local congregation and was known as a man of high morals, dignity, and faithfulness.

In accordance with John's wishes, he was cremated.

A graveside memorial service was held later in Illinois, with arrangements entrusted to Vickery Funeral Chapel.

**Karen Ann Christensen Adams, 42**

Karen Ann Christensen Adams, age 42, a lifelong resident of Elberta, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024. Karen, cherished wife, mother, daughter and sister, was born December 7, 1982. She was a graduate of Foley High School and University of West Florida, where she majored in business. She spent her career working in finance and specializing in retirement planning and 401k preparation. While Karen excelled in her career, her passion was her family. She will be deeply missed and remembered for her love of being outdoors with her kids, plants and chickens.



Karen is preceded in death by her mother, Diane Kichler Christensen. She is survived by her father, Virgil "Rip" (Hope) Christensen, and sister, Shannon (Craig) Brown. She leaves behind a devoted husband of 18 years, Hudson Adams, and two adoring children, Anna (12) and Brantley (9). Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews will be counted as the many who loved her and will forever miss her kind spirit and compassionate smile. Karen was a beacon of light with a generous spirit, always ready to lend a helping hand. She leaves a void in the family that cannot be filled, but solace can be found in the thought of her being reunited with her mother, whom she deeply grieved.

Memorial services were held at Elberta Church on Monday, December 23rd, 2024 at 11 o'clock in the morning. The family received friends one hour prior to service. Interment followed in the Elberta Public Cemetery, 25195 Lavinia Avenue, Elberta, Alabama 36530.

In lieu of flowers, to honor Karen's memory and her love for all living things, donations may be made to the Baldwin County Humane Society, baldwinhumane.org or a charity of your choice.

Duane Russell Whitmyer, 75, Lillian

Duane Russell Whitmyer, age 75, a resident of Lillian, AL, passed away Monday, January 6, 2025.

Duane was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He retired from General Motors and was an U. S. Army Veteran who served in Korea during the Vietnam War. He was a member of AL LASAR Search and Rescue, member of the Optimist Club, American Legion, Spanish Cove Bible Study and was active in Civic Organizations.

Preceded in death by his parents, Richard, and Rita Whitmyer; grandson, Chase Rinna; sister, Joyce Whitmyer; brother Max Whitmyer

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Whitmyer of Lillian, AL; daughter Cynthia (Jonathan) Ramos of Elberta, AL; sons, Steve Whitmyer of Mason, MI and Wesley Whitmyer of Elberta, AL, 11 grandchildren; two sisters, Marjorie Whitmyer and Phyllis Whitmyer, and many other relatives and friends.

A Memorial service will be held from Lillian Methodist Church at a later date.

DEATH/SERVICE NOTICES

BARBARA KIEHLE

Passed away Sunday, Jan. 5

PAT BONNER

Service 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15

Lillian Methodist Church

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Actually, Love is the Only Emotion That Should Govern Our Lives

My cousin is the administrator of a Facebook page dedicated to history. When this little tidbit popped up, I knew I had to pass it on: Alabama was named after the Alabama or to be exact, Alibamu Tribe, a Muskogean speaking native American tribe.

There are two thoughts on the meaning of the word, so either could be correct, "clearing of the thicket" or "herb gatherers."

No one really knows where we live. Earth is a speck on an ever-changing canvas that we have no idea how big or where it is located or where we are sitting in its totality of space existence. Even with telescopes like Hubble, we only see a small section of outer space at a time and will probably never see enough to map a compliment of the Universe like an atlas map of Earth's countries.

Scientists and Astrophysicists, and the like, are learning copious amounts of information on what they see or think they see from these telescope missions, and they still don't really know much compared to what needs to be learned. But as it is said, "every little bit counts" because the gleaned information will help us understand more about ourselves and the little orb we travel on.

Some outer-space info: It takes about a quarter of a million years for our star known as Sun to rotate around the inner Milky Way Galaxy at a speed of 514495.347 miles per hour or if you like, 828,000 kilometers per hour.

My favorite poem of love is Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese number 43 which starts out- How do I love thee?

Our life-giving sun is about halfway through its life span, but don't worry quite yet, it still has about five billion years to go before it blows up and dies.

Which will come first, the Sun's supernova death or the galaxy Andromeda colliding and devouring our galaxy? Yes, Andromeda is headed our way at unbelievable speed, which means the end of us, the good news, we have about four billion years before it gets to our Milky Way.

The Milky Way Galaxy is about 105,700 light-years wide and Andromeda Galaxy is about 220,000 light-years wide. A

light-year is the distance light travels in one Earth year, about six trillion miles.

Who can even truly wrap their heads around all of these numbers?

Even though scientific results showed no difference in the outcome of wearing a mask during Covid and not wearing one, some states are mandating their citizens to wear masks this winter because the viruses- Flu, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), and a new strain of the coronavirus, XEC, which has similar symptoms to the flu, common cold or covid-19 are making their vicious rounds like the flu does every year.

The ones who should wear the masks are the sick ones, so their spittle doesn't spray in the air. Better yet, if you are sick, you shouldn't be out amongst people spreading the virus in the first place. If it was a perfect world. Just saying.

February is Valentine and Love month. Wouldn't I be remiss if I didn't mention it? Last year I focused on Saint Valentine, this year, I'll talk a bit about love. It doesn't matter how old you are, love is the most important element of life.

The word, however, is misused and overused, which dimin-



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

ishes its meaning. According to Webster's Dictionary "love is a strong affection or liking for someone or something". Even that definition doesn't touch the importance of love.

My favorite poem of love is Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese number 43 which starts out- "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. / I love thee to the depth and breadth and height/ My soul can reach". To me, that expresses true romantic love.

The line written by Arrigo Boito from Verdi's opera Falstaff, "When I saw you, I fell in love, and you smiled because you knew," is another bit of prose that touches my heart.

Of course, romantic love is only one type of many.

Actually, ideally, love is the only emotion that should dominate our lives. Another - just saying.

"The whole purpose of art and science is to awaken the cosmic religious feeling."

— Albert Einstein

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YOUR OPINION MATTERS

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

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

GO TO BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV, click on PUBLIC NOTICES every week to stay informed about upcoming ANGENDA items. Email your support or opposition to: planning@baldwncountyal.gov and copy to: RuralCharacterLillian@gmail.com

ATTEND MEETINGS WHEN POSSIBLE

Local Masonic Lodge Announces New 'Entered Apprentice'

Lillian Masonic Lodge FM & A 925 proudly welcomed its newest brother in January when Joe Williams successfully passed his Entered Apprentice degree.

This solemn ceremony marks the first degree of Masonry, introducing candidates to the fraternity and its moral and ethical teachings. It is a profound initiation that imparts the foundational secrets of Freemasonry. Upon completing the Entered Apprentice degree, a candidate takes his first step as a Freemason and earns the honorable title of "Brother."

This milestone came on the heels of a very fulfilling month of service to the greater community.

In December, the Lodge members demonstrated their commitment to helping those in need by donating Christmas turkeys to support the local church and food pantry efforts.

This was done in a partnership with the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Additional-

ly, members of the Lodge volunteered their time to assist in organizing and distributing



food to families, ensured everyone could enjoy a warm and joyful holiday meal.

Over the past two months, the Lillian

Masonic Lodge has conducted degree training in preparation to host the March Masonic District Conference.

Each of the Lodges in Baldwin County will attend this group meeting and demonstrate their mastery of the Masonic rituals. These trainings have been conducted by Past Master Steve Williams.

Further strengthening their bond, Worshipful Master David Johnson organized a community luncheon encouraging Masonic Brothers as well, adding another meaningful layer to the Lodge's activities.

The group of 14 enjoyed a delicious meal together at the Fish River Grill in Foley. This team-building exercise successfully fostered camaraderie and friendship among the brothers, emphasizing the Lodge's dedication to both personal and community growth.

For more information on the Lillian Masonic Lodge, please contact David Johnson at 816-721-6907.

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