

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA! SAT., DEC. 20, 9 AM at the Lillian Community Club 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL 36549 After enjoying a complimentary breakfast, Santa will arrive with a gift for every child birth to 12 yrs! Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay ...
MORE INFO PAGE 6



The Lillian

Where pride, tradition and unity go hand in hand

Serving Lillian and the surrounding area since 1995

DECEMBER 2025

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 29, Number 12

FREE!

Compliments of our fine advertisers!

Oysters Costly? Here's Why ...

Alabama's wild oyster harvest is continuing its three-year decline.
But that is not the reason for the spiking price of oysters, says local bar and restaurant Johnny Barbados, owner of the Front Porch in Lillian.
At the same time oysters are becoming ever harder to get and prices are spiking, ever more new oyster restaurants are opening in the area. A new Doc's Oysters opened up in Foley last summer and Half Shell Oysters opened in the old Foley Bakery
SEE OYSTERS PAGE 26

**A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS TALE
'THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL'
PAGE 21**



'GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE'



EVERYBODY LOVES THE PARADE
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE PRESENTED DEC. 13
BY THE OPTMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY— PAGES 2, 3 & 15



2025 LILLIAN OPTIMIST CHRISTMAS PARADE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY

Saturday, December 13, 2025- 1:00 pm
Four - \$50 Awards

Parade route begins across from the
Lillian Community Club - 34148 Widell Ave.

Left on Santa Piedro St., Right on Hwy. 98,
Left on 6th St., Left on Barclay Ave.,
Left on Santa Piedro and back to the LCC.

For more information and to participate in parade contact
Robin Newell, president.ocpb@gmail.com
402-677-3944



NOT ALL BUSINESS IS DONE THE SAME: *TRY 1-STOP, 1-DEAL, BEGIN FUN!*

IN STOCK INVENTORY

WIDE RANGE OF CHOICE

READY FOR DELIVERY

EXPERT SET UP



ATTENTION IF YOU LIVE IN THE LILLIAN CIRCULATION AREA!!!

When we walked into RWB Hot Tubs, we knew what we wanted and how much we had to spend.

It didn't take an hour before owner Charlie Walters helped us find exactly what we needed and work with us to meet our budget. After enjoying the luxury of a hot tub for five years, we didn't think twice when our tub sprung a fatal leak. We had to replace it. In our household, the hot tub had evolved from a frill to a fundamental. Shopping for a new one turned out to be a fun, quick and easy experience.

RWB was our first stop because it had the best online

reviews of all the other spa stores in the Flora-Bama area.

Charlie met us at the door with his adorable Doodle Bambino and it was only minutes before we found exactly what we were looking for.

Even though we aren't veterans, Charlie extended his generous veteran's discount to close relatives, and we were able to capitalize on a father's service to bring our new tub into our price range. Three days later, we were happy to see Charlie again, this time in our driveway with a new tub. We will definitely recommend RWB to our friends.



850-490-1420 * 4148 BARRANCOS AVE., PENSACOLA, FL 32507 * rwbhottubs.com * Charlie@rwbhottubs.com



Contact Information:

Optimist Club of Perdido Bay
Robin Newell, Parade Chair
402-677-3944
president.ocpb@gmail.com



LILLIAN OPTIMIST CLUB PARADE

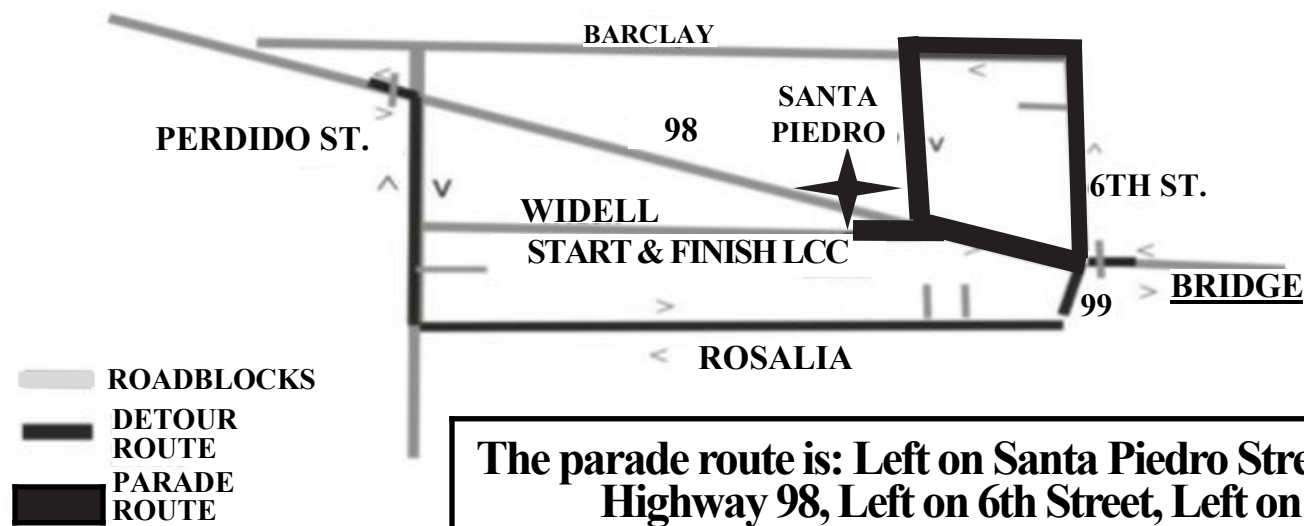
IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

LILLIAN, ALABAMA November 12, 2025—The annual Lillian Optimist Club Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. The parade is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. The Grand Marshalls this year will be Dr. Melvin and Mrs. Elizabeth Whitehurst. The parade will follow a route from the field north of the Lillian Community Club to HWY 98 and then north on 6th Street, west on Barclay then south on Santa Piedro and back to the field. Please come and watch!!

Registered parade participants are asked to be in place by 12:30 that morning. There will be an award ceremony directly following the parade at 2:30 at the Lillian Recreational Park gazebo. Four \$50 gift certificates will be awarded:

- 1) Best Overall
- 2) Most Creative
- 3) Most Enthusiastic
- 4) Represents the Spirit of Lillian

If you or your organization would like to register to be in the parade or if you have questions, please contact parade chair Robin Newell, 402-677-3944, president.ocpb.org



The parade route is: Left on Santa Piedro Street, Right on Highway 98, Left on 6th Street, Left on Barclay Avenue, Left on Santa Piedro, and back to the field across from the Lillian Community Club.

Keeping Tradition, Friends of Mary's Shelter Plans for Feb. 16 Draw Down

While most of us are digging up Thanksgiving dinner recipes and Christmas decorations, the Friends of Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast are already planning for the Sixth Annual Be My Valentine Draw Down on Sunday, Feb. 16 at Our Lady of Gulf Catholic Church in Gulf Shores.

It was in maybe 2004 or 2005 when the pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lillian announced that a shelter for homeless, pregnant women was going to be built in Elberta. Wow! I was so excited. I always felt that if a pregnant woman in dire straits like homelessness would have an alternative, she wouldn't be considering abortion.

I went to the groundbreaking ceremony in 2006 and offered to take pictures for publicity. I have been involved with the shelter since then. For almost 25 years Mary Shelter has been open to pregnant women and their children.

Moms call the shelter and after an intake process they join the 11-bedroom residential home. During their 15-month stay they receive pre- and post-natal care, participate in life skill classes, attend parenting classes, earn a GED if necessary, and get a job. After this program, they transition to

independent living.

To help them in this endeavor Mary's Shelter has just instituted Mary's Village, providing three single family homes for two years for Moms and their children, bridging the gap to home ownership. Residents will pay a program fee that will be kept in escrows until they leave, and they may use the approximately \$25,000 for a down payment on their own home. While there, the moms will work with local banks and other non-profit organizations who provide credit counseling and build budgeting skills and home maintenance.

Of course, in order to provide all these services, funding is needed, hence the Be My Valentine Drawdown. Tickets are \$100 each with a payout of \$10,000. Now, I know we don't all have \$100 to spend, but here is my plan: contact four or five of your relatives and/or friends and suggest that they contribute \$20 (five members) or \$25 (four members) each. You'll get one ticket for the group and have the opportunity to win \$2,000 each or \$2,500 each.

During the event as the ticket holder, you will have a great lunch, have the opportunity to bid in



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

both a silent and live auctions and meet a bunch of people who have good hearts just like you. And, yes, you will be able to meet some of the moms and their babies.

For more information about Mary's Shelter, visit their website, maryssheltergulfcoast.org. Tickets are available by calling Madison Corl, 251-986-6351. Contributions over the years have helped to make wonderful Christmases for many children and have started them on the road to better lives. Believe me, participating in this special event for Moms and their children will make your Christmas and Valentine's Days very special, too.

GULF COAST PIZZA (FORMERLY CHUBS) IS NOW OPEN!!

BAYSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

33677 Hwy 98, Lillian, AL
812-371-2323

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesday Worship 6:00 PM

The Ladies fellowship will be on
Friday December 12th at 10:00 AM.



As we enter the Advent season and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, come and Worship with us as we celebrate the Saviors birth.

Isaiah 7.14

Come and join us as we begin our Advent series at our 10:30 AM Worship service
The Cradle, The Cross And The Crown
The life of Jesus from His birth, to His atoning death on the cross to His Resurrection and victory over death.

God's Blessings to you and yours this Christmas.



**ROSALIA STORAGE
OF LILLIAN**

251-961-0451

**1 MILE FROM THE LILLIAN BOAT LAUNCH
INDOOR (when available) AND OUTDOOR
SECURED STORAGE**

BOATS, TRAILERS, RVs, CARS

**CALL US FOR A FREE
QUOTE TODAY**



Subscribe to The Lillian Newspaper— DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR DOORSTEP THROUGH FIRST CLASS MAIL EACH MONTH

WANT A BETTER READ THAN OUR FREE ONLINE VERSION?

Subscriptions Available for \$5.70 /Month for the Full year!!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

**A FULL
YEAR OF
THE
LILLIAN!
DON'T
MISS AN
ISSUE**

WE ARE A NONPROFIT
COMMUNITY BASED
PUBLICATION

**SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT OF \$68 FOR A FULL
YEAR TO: PO BOX 1088, LILLIAN AL, 36549**



The Lillian

PO Box 1088

Lillian, AL 36549

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
1/2 Page (horas.) = 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 vs. associations' disputes. All letters must be legible and limited to 300 words or less.

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and infor-

mation from the community. Please submit by:

- Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549
- Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com
- Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library

DISCLAIMER

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

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

POLICY

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

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the January issue of The Lillian will be December 17. Anyone may send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor: Sally McKinney
Managing Editor: David Monaghan.
Board Members: Nancy Scott, Gloria Cramp, Jackie Reid, Florence McLendon, Tammy Robinson.

LILLIAN ACTION COMMITTEE

President: Sally McKinney, Vice President Jackie Reid, Secretary: Nancy Scott, Treasurer: Florence McLendon, Board Members Gloria Cramp, Tammy Robinson and David Monaghan.



Lillian Garden Club Invites Enthusiasts to It's Holiday Lunch at Wolf Bay Lodge Dec. 1

The Lillian Garden Club will meet for a Holiday Luncheon at Wolf Bay Lodge in Foley on Monday, December 1 at 11:30 a.m. The restaurant has a wonderful salad bar and you can order off the menu. The luncheon will take the place of our regular meeting. If you are planning to attend, please let Robin know by texting or calling her by Saturday, November 29, so the restaurant will be prepared to seat us together. Guests are welcome, just need a count.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 2, 2026 with Baldwin County Master Gardener Karen Rhea White speaking on Dragonflies and Damselflies of Alabama.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 9 AM

**at the Lillian Community Club
34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian AL 36549**

**After enjoying a complimentary breakfast,
Santa will arrive with a Christmas gift
for every child birth to 12 yrs!**

**Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay
For More Information Call /Text 251-234-1122**

Edward Jones

edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Stocks. Bonds. CDs. IRAs. Mutual funds.



**Jason Kozon, CFP[®], AAMS[™], CRPC[™]
Chantz Blackmon, AAMS[™], CRPC[™]
Financial Advisors**

22394 Mifflin Rd, Suite 202
Foley, AL 36535
251-943-3399



**ARE YOU MOVING TO LOVELY LILLIAN?
A FOR SALE BY OWNER?
USE GULF SHORES TITLE!**

We specialize in helping FSBOs and are South Baldwin's most experienced. One of our closing agents will assist throughout the process!

Call us at 251-968-6185

Fax us at 251-968-4004

**Come see us at 305 N. Cedar Street in Foley
Or 100 Cove Avenue in Gulf Shores**

**Visit our website where you can order your title
work online at www.gulfshorestitle.com**

Jim Owen, President



RB ELECTRIC LLC
Licensed & Insured

RJ Buckley
Master Electrician
Residential/Service

35263 Cypress Avenue
Lillian, Alabama 36549

205-369-6619

r.b.electric@outlook.com

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



Phone 706-816-1241



BLUE ANGEL TIRE AND AUTOMOTIVE

1431 South Blue Angel Pkwy., Pensacola

**“YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR
AUTOMOTIVE AND TIRE NEEDS”**

Domestic, Imports and RV Repair

24 MONTH WARRANTY PARTS AND LABOR

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Oil and Lube Service/Filter
Changes
Tune Ups
BG Induction System Service
Front End Repair
Clutches
Cluster Repair
Tire Sales and Installation (All Brands)

Air Conditioning and Heating
Starters and Alternators
Transmission Service and repair
Windshield Wiper Blade
Replacement
Electric Window Repair
Computer Diagnostics
Belt Replacement

Cooling System Service
Engine Repair
Wheel Alignment
Nitrogen Tire Inflation
Vehicle/Trip Inspection

**RV, BOAT & TRAILER
STORAGE AVAILABLE**

**\$10 OFF SERVICE
OF \$100 AND OVER
WHEN YOU MENTION
THIS AD**

**CHILDREN AND
PETS WELCOME**

Electrical and Diesel Technician On Site

Getting ready for an RV trip? Be sure to get your engine and generator oil changed!!
WE HONOR EXTENDED WARRANTIES

850-457-1333

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7am to 5pm ~ Call for an appointment

'Tis the Season for Festive Fun and Fire Safety

Wow! Can you believe we're already in December? Just 31 days left before we close the book on this year and step into 2026. We hope you all had a warm, safe, and grateful Thanksgiving surrounded by the people you love. As we look back, this year brought many changes to our fire station, and through every challenge and every long shift, our department felt supported by this community. We're truly thankful for each resident who cheers us on, checks in, or simply waves as we drive by. Your encouragement means more than you know!

October kept us on our toes with 61 service calls. Those included 2 fires, 40 medical emergencies, 2 hazardous condition calls, 9 service calls, 7 miscellaneous incidents, and 1 false alarm. Even as things cooled down outside, our team stayed busy answering every call with dedication and heart.

We've also loved getting to spend more time with all of you at the Lillian Recreational Park events: Splash Fest, Fall Fest, and everything in between. And now we're gearing up for one of our favorite traditions: Christmas in the Park! Join us next Saturday, December 6, at 3 p.m. for an afternoon of holiday fun, including a very special arrival from Santa Claus as he will be flying by helicopter in to kick off the festivities!

Because Lillian continues to grow, some long-held traditions have had to evolve. Many of you remember when we used to deliver oranges and apples door-to-door. As much as we loved that, it's simply no longer possible with our expanding community. Instead, we'll be offering those treats at Christmas in the Park so

everyone can still enjoy this sweet holiday tradition. Thank you for understanding and adapting with us.

We were also deeply honored recently when Lucy Smith, with the



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department
By Janett Siler



Lillian Recreational Park presented the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department with a Certificate of Appreciation. Moments like these remind us why we serve - they reflect the partnership we have with this community.

Healthy Watershed Efforts Growing in Awareness

BY LANI CAMERON

Thank you to the 88 people who attended the WPBWA (Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association) Community Forum Monday, October 27th, 2025. I have heard positive feedback about the presentations and the question-and-answer session. We have also started receiving 2026 memberships from many of you. Thank you to all of you for your investment in our Western Perdido Bay Watershed! We will be sending notices of our Board Meetings and Minutes to all Members throughout the year. We hope to schedule a water testing demonstration in Perdido Beach in 2026, as well as a WPBWA Members tour of the Baldwin County Material Recycling Facility. Please join our Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association Facebook Group to keep informed about what we're doing.

We'd like to also thank the Lillian Community Club for allowing us to use their beautiful facility for our forum, as well as our presenters, Frank Lundy, Baldwin County Engineer, Ashley Campbell, Baldwin County Planning & Zoning, and Christian Miller, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. Each presenter stated how impressed they were with the participation of our community and the LCC. They also said they would be happy to come back next fall to provide feedback on all the projects they presented at this forum. These projects include renovations to the Perdido Bay Park, Lillian Boat Launch improvements, improvements to the Lillian Recreational Park on US 98, resurfacing and widening on CR 99, and safety improvements

to the intersection of CR 91 & US 98 which will include a new mast arm signal. I was told that these improvements are approximately a total of \$10,000,000 worth of investment by Baldwin County and the State of Alabama in the Lillian Community.

At our community forum, there were questions about the health of Perdido Bay. Sewage issues and the Florida Paper Mill were both mentioned in the discussion. Please note that the Paper Mill has been placed under a consent decree by the State of Florida and the outflow from their plant is being monitored. If you notice the grasses coming back in the bay, this is an indication of healthy conditions. As far as sewage is concerned, issues in Lillian, as well as beaches on Perdido and Wolf Bays, have been reported recently. If you see anything that you are concerned about, please make a report to ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management). You can find a complaint form on their website, adem.alabama.gov. You can report spills of hazardous oil or materials 24 hours a day at 1-800-843-0699. ADEM and ADPH (Alabama Department of Public Health) continually monitor swimming areas and unsafe swimming conditions have been reported after heavy rains, so if you have a concern, you might wait a day to swim after these types of rains. Water testing results for Baldwin County Swim areas through the SWIM (Swim Where It's Monitored) program are updated every Friday. You can find these results at mobilebaykeeper.org/swim-guide/. Our water testers



are also testing the water in our watershed. We are testing Peterson Branch, Soldier's Creek and Perdido Bay. Our testing found E-coli in Peterson Branch and ADEM has done additional testing to determine the cause. We are currently waiting for their report. If you have an area that you are concerned about and would like to talk to us about your concerns and water testing, please email wpbwa@gmail.com. We plan to start posting our testing results on our Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association Facebook Group in 2026. Again, thank you to all of you for supporting our Association. If you would like a membership form, please email us at wpbwa@gmail.com, Merry Christmas!

Consider the Décor of a Christmas Past

Have you ever wondered about the history of the Christmas tree? Maybe I can help. The concept of decorating evergreen trees started clear back to winter celebrations long before Christmas was observed. The ancient Druids, Greeks and Romans used these trees in their pagan festivals to ward off evil spirits and a signification of life returning as the days began to lengthen.

But it wasn't until 16th century Germany that the traditional Christmas tree made its debut. Medieval mystery plays were performed on December 24 to represent the Garden of Eden. The evergreens were decorated with apples and wafers to symbolize the Tree of Knowledge and the Eucharist. These "Paradise Trees" eventually evolved into what we now call the Christmas tree.

In the 19th century, England was introduced to decorating a tree during yuletide by Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert.

The United States can thank the Germans who settled Pennsylvania in the 1820s for the introduction of this seasonal tradition.

We can't stop there. Is there meaning behind the tree topper? But of course, there is, the star represents the star of Bethlehem, and the angel signifies the Nativity story of Angel Gabriel.

During this sacred season we all should come together in love and kindness, not standing in the street yelling and chanting that you hope someone dies or laughing when someone is murdered. Look back into history and we see periods of this hatred and violence, and it never goes well. These movements always lead to oppression, murders, wars and destruction of countries.

Hatred and anger always block love and the light. Do you really want to live in a shadowy world with no love or good will? Prayers can help. And think about this, "do unto others as you would want them to do unto you." You might think this is a bunch of hogwash, but the truth is "we reap what we sow."

Have you seen the new robot puppy toy? It is realistic, maybe too realistic, with facial expressions and body movements, like running alongside of you and turning with you. It's very cute and looks cuddly but kind of scary too. Will children think it's real and will this affect their understanding or perception between real life and artificial computerized machinery? At least it does not need food, vet visits and pee pads. Just remember to keep it charged.

Lillian had a very rare but fascinating visitor in November and if you were lucky enough to catch sight of it, you saw the phenomenon of Aurora Borealis.

The lights are familiarly called Northern Lights because they are more common in the Arctic Circle and the northern area of Earth's surface. Certainly not southern Alabama.

The cause of these lights is a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on the sun which is large clouds of magnetized plasma ejected into space. CMEs and solar flares (bright magnetic flashes of light) are caused by the explosive realignment of the sun's magnetic fields. Charged particles hitting Earth's magnetic field produce colorful lights.

Light from the sun takes about 8 minutes and 20 seconds to reach our planet and CME can take several days but more severe mass ejections can reach Earth in as little as 15-18 hours.

The downside of Coronal Mass Ejections is that they can interfere with satellite functions, and a super sever event could completely knock out all communications.

Please have a safe and joyous holiday and New Year. Please, please, please do not drink and drive. You can't be in the moment if your brain is distorted with alcohol and drugs and brain cells are being destroyed.

"You can't give hate if you have only love inside..." Wayne Dyer.



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

Small Details Can Make a Big Impact on What Buyers Seek

As Lillian's Local REALTOR®, I see what today's buyers are looking for — especially with mortgage rates around **6.2% for a 30-year fixed** and **about 5.6% for a 15-year fixed**. In this market, small improvements can make a big impact!



Freshen Up Your Curb Appeal

SHANNON YOUNG

Power-wash the exterior, tidy up the yard, add a few flowers, and refresh the front door and mailbox. Buyers form their first impression the moment they arrive.

Bright, Clean Interiors Sell
Declutter, remove personal items, and brighten rooms with neutral paint and updated lighting. Simple changes like new cabinet hardware, fresh caulk, or clean flooring make the home feel move-in ready.

Focus on Kitchens and Bathrooms
You don't need a full remodel — just small updates such as new faucets, light fixtures, and clean, well-maintained surfaces. These areas are top priorities for buyers.

Make Sure the Home Shows Well Maintained
Fix squeaky doors, replace damaged screens, clean or replace HVAC filters, and handle small repairs. Buyers are drawn to homes that feel cared for.

If Your Home Is a Park Model or Manufactured
These homes appeal to many Lillian buyers, but condition matters. Be sure to:

- Check the skirting for damage or gaps
 - Verify tie-downs are secure
 - Inspect flooring for any soft spots or moisture issues
- Don't forget to clean fans, air vents, cabinets, windows and flooring. These quick, low-cost checks help reassure buyers your home is solid and well maintained.

"There's no place like home-let's find or sell yours together."

Shannon Young
Realtor®
251-800-2509
Shannon4agent@gmail.com
34491 US Highway 98
Lillian, AL 36549

COLDWELL BANKER
COASTAL REALTY

There's No Place Like Home.

COLDWELL BANKER
COASTAL REALTY

Red Hat Grande Dames Celebrate Veterans Day

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat Ladies met on November 11 to celebrate Veterans Day. Candy Reed called our 20 members and invited them to lunch at Hattie's Restaurant in Foley.

Waynette Brown brought special gifts for our three birthday girls – Ann Cox, Karen Brady, and Kay Lett. All the girls had a Red Hat theme: a ceramic cup, wood bead necklaces, scarf with

Red Hat pin, purple and red feather boa with matching clip, and kitchen towels. We welcomed three new members: Sally Chandler, Joyce Taylor, and Judy Wittig. Ann Cox brought satsumas from her tree and shared with all. Our December gathering will be at the Cracker Barrel in Foley on December 9.

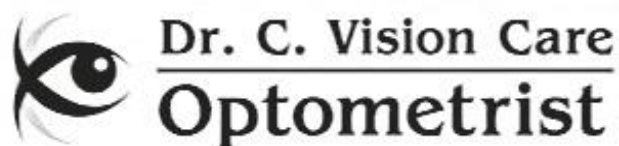


YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Contact 251-580-1655 for questions or to show support or opposition regarding upcoming zoning and subdivision cases, PLANNING@BALDWINCOAL.GOV. Planning Commission meetings are the first Thursdays of each month at 4 PM at the Baldwin County Central Annex, 22251 Palmer St., Robertsdale AL 36567. Rezoning cases are heard by the County

Commissioners on the third Tuesdays of the month at 10 AM at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, Commission Meeting Chambers - 2nd Floor, 1100 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope AL 36532.

Please attend meetings. Please email me with questions or comments at TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM



TOP-NOTCH, PERSONALIZED EYE CARE AT DR. C. VISION CARE

Family friendly, one-stop shop for all your family's eye care needs

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5 P.M. & SATURDAY 9-1 P.M.

- Compassionate staff provides tailored service
- We offer contact lenses
- State-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technology
- We offer a military and veteran discount
- Hundreds of stylish and designer frames to choose from

Book an appointment today — veterans and families
alike are encouraged to join the Dr. C. family!





**Lillian Perdido
Bay Library
Corner**
By Betty Bovat

Keep Your Library in Mind When You Make Your Anytime Gift List

With the Thanksgiving holiday over and we are full of turkey, we can now plan our Christmas holiday. As in previous years, the Lillian Perdido Bay Library will be closed from December 24, 2025, to January 1, 2026.

We will be open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. weekly.

The library still has many hardback books, paperbacks, audios, and children's books for sale at a very reasonable price. We are a donation library as we do not receive any monies from the town, state, county, or federal governments. We depend on the public for donations. We will use next month, January, to send out postal cards to the Lillian postal area.

We also have a wide selection of books, in various categories, for you to check out with your Lillian Perdido Bay Library card. If you do not have one, the volunteer will gladly give you the form to fill out to get one and it is FREE!!

The library has a computer lab with five computers and two printers for public use, for a small donation. There is also a large printer that copies, scans, and faxes.

We certainly wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and thank each one for your support and patronage.



34023 US Highway 98
Lillian, AL 36549
(next to the Lillian Post Office)

With Convenient Drive-Thru

We accept Blue Cross and most other insurance plans

**VACCINES AVAILABLE
NO APPOINTMENTS OR
PRESCRIPTIONS NEEDED**

Stacy Davis, RPH ~ Larry Fortenberry, ~ On Staff Pharmacists
Pharmacists

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

Phone: 251-962-3777
Fax: 251-962-3779
lillianpharmacy97@yahoo.com
www.lillianpharmacy.com

December Fun

LILLIAN RECREATIONAL PARK

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK PREVIEW PARTY

Friday, December 5

Great Food - Steel Drum Music - Live Auction

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Opens December 6

Trees will be lit nightly thru December 31.

CHRISTMAS MERRY-OKE

Thursday, December 11

Karaoke with Christmas songs! Hot chocolate will be available.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Tuesday, December 16

Candlelight caroling. Hot chocolate will be available.

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



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

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

Children Grades: K-6 Bible Activities

Youth Grades 7-12 Bible Study & Activities

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

Pastor: Josh Thompson
Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson
Pianist: Erin Equihua
Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

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

Park is the Place to Be This Christmastime!



LRP Back Porch Christmas Party

Lillian residents, 55 and older, are invited to come to the Lillian Recreational Park for a fun mix and mingle Christmas party on Sunday, December 7. This party is part of the Park's BACK PORCH program, funded by the Park's recent AARP grant.

Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, this gathering offers a welcoming opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones. The event will feature festive music, light refreshments, lively conversation, and plenty of laughter.

Whether you're naughty, nice, or somewhere in between, come celebrate the season with friends, new and old. It is the perfect way to kick off the holidays.

The party will be from 2 to 4 on Sunday, December 7, at the Lillian Recreational Park, 33914 Widell.

Christmas in the Park Kicks Off Month-Long Lights Extravaganza

The 2025 holiday season will officially get underway on December 6 when *Christmas in the Park* opens its month-long lights extravaganza at the Lillian Recreational Park.

Beginning December 6 and running through December 31, the Park will be transformed into a festive Christmas wonderland featuring thousands of twinkling lights, decorated trees, and vignettes that are perfect for photo-ops and family memories.

This year, businesses were invited to decorate spaces of their own. These spaces are each uniquely themed and decked out with lights, décor, and creative flair. The results are so much fun and reflect the different business's holiday spirit.

"We are so pleased to have the business's participation this year," said Lucy Smith, LRP president. "It's a fun addition to this year's celebration. It's a wonderful way to showcase their local creativity and community pride."

A variety of children's activities will start at 3. Kids can make an ornament, have a snowball fight, play

games like gingerbread house putt-putt and "Pin the nose on Rudolph," or write a letter to Santa.

Santa will arrive by helicopter at 4:15 and then hurry to the bandstand to meet with kids and hear their Christmas wish lists. Some of his favorite elves will be on hand, handing out goodie bags.

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

You are invited to candlelight caroling and Christmas 'Merry-oke' Nights at the Park

The holiday season is officially in full swing, so come join us at the Park's candlelight Christmas caroling evening on December 16 and the Christmas karaoke event ("Merry-Oke") on December 11.

The festive events promise music, laughter, and plenty of holiday spirit for friends, families, and neighbors of all ages.

Hosted by the Lillian Recreational Park, the candlelight caroling event will feature choir members from the Lillian Methodist Church and The Gathering Church. Come sing your favorite Christmas classics by candlelight.

Merry-Oke will offer you the opportunity to step up to the mic and perform holiday hits in a fun, supportive environment. Whether you belt out classics, hum along softly, or simply come for the atmosphere, everyone is welcome.

The evenings will begin at 5:30 and feature hot chocolate, cookies, and a bonfire.

"These fun events are truly about coming together and celebrating the joy of community," said Lucy Smith, LRP president. "Whether you're an experienced singer or just feeling festive, you'll find something to love at the Christmas candlelight caroling and Merry-Oke nights. You are encouraged to dress in your Christmas "best" — ugly sweaters, Santa hats, and jingle bells are all welcome!"

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Park's website, LillianRecreationalPark.org, or Facebook page.

The Lillian Recreational Park is located at 33914 Widell Ave. in Lillian.



**GREAT HOT
DOGS AT US 98 &
CR 99 IN LILLIAN**

**TUESDAYS THROUGH
FRIDAYS
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**



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"



OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY

*Bringing out the Best in Youth,
Our Community, & Ourselves!*

Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday—8:00 a.m.
Lillian Methodist Church—12770 S. Perdido St.
Free breakfast buffet for first time visitors.

December 13 - Lillian Optimist Club Christmas Parade, 1:00
No Breakfast Meeting

Board meeting only, 9:00 a.m.

December 15 - Optimist and Friends Night Out

Johnny B's Front Porch, Lillian, 5-9 p.m.

December 20 - Breakfast with Santa

Lillian Community Club, 9:00 a.m.

December 27 - No Breakfast Meeting - Happy Holidays!

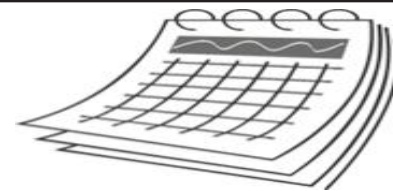
Join us! For more information—

optimistclubpb.org president.ocpb@gmail.com 402-677-3944

The

Lillian Calendar

DECEMBER 2025



December 1-15: Annual Optimist Community Food Drive, help us replenish the Ecumenical Ministries Pantry by placing Non-perishable food items in the containers located at Lillian Methodist Church or Spanish Cove Property Owners' office porch. For questions, call 251-234-1122. Learn more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay at: www.OptimistClubPB.org. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

December 2, 9, 16 & 30 at 11:00 AM & December 4, 11 & 18 at 10:00 AM: Ageless Grace, Body & Brain Fitness, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630. We will not meet on New Year's Day 1/1.)

December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 7:00 PM: Al-Anon Meetings, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Al-Anon is a fellowship for relatives and friends of alcoholics, offering support for those affected by a loved one's drinking. It provides a safe, non-judgmental space to share experiences and develop healthier coping mechanisms through its meetings, which are based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Learn more about AL-Anon at <https://al-anon.org/>.)

December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 7:00 PM: AA Meeting, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope to stay sober, primarily through a 12-step program and mutual support at free meetings. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, and the organization is open to anyone regardless of background, beliefs, or identity. Learn more about AA at <https://www.aa.org/what-is-aa>.)

December 4 at 1:00 PM: Healing Hope Grief Support Group, 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. For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

December 4, 11 & 18 at 6:30 PM: Lillian Community Celebrate Recovery Meetings, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Rev. Rick Long and Rev. Daniel Randall invite everyone to join us for Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based, Christ-centered, 12-step program designed to help individuals overcome various hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Celebrate Recovery uses a combination of biblical principles, the 12 steps of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and small group support to foster healing and recovery. The program addresses a wide range of issues, including substance abuse, codependency, and other life challenges, and is offered in thousands of churches worldwide. Learn more about CR at <https://celebraterecovery.com/>. We will not meet on Christmas Day 12/25 or New Year's Day 1/1.)

December 13 at 1:00 PM: Annual Lillian Christmas Parade, The parade starts and finishes at the Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL (See the parade route in the paper. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay.)

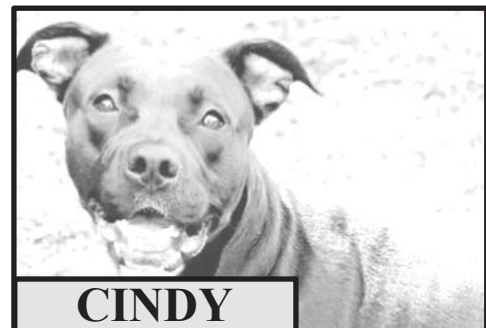
December 14 at 8:00 & 10:00 AM: Christmas Cantata, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL

December 20 at 9:00 AM: Breakfast with Santa, Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL (Every child 12 years and under will receive a gift from Santa. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay)

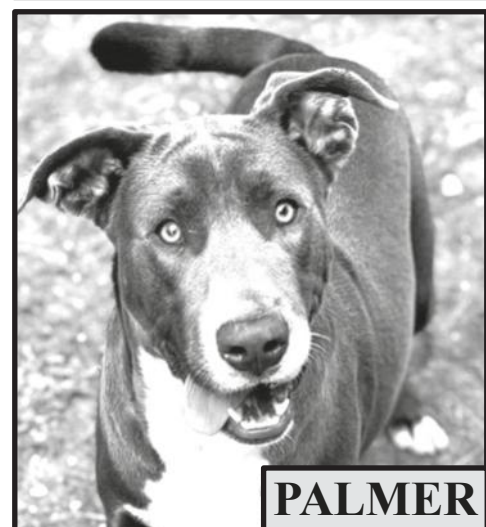
December 24 at 5:00 PM: Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (To learn more about our church, go to LillianMC.org.)

READY FOR ADOPTION NOW!

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



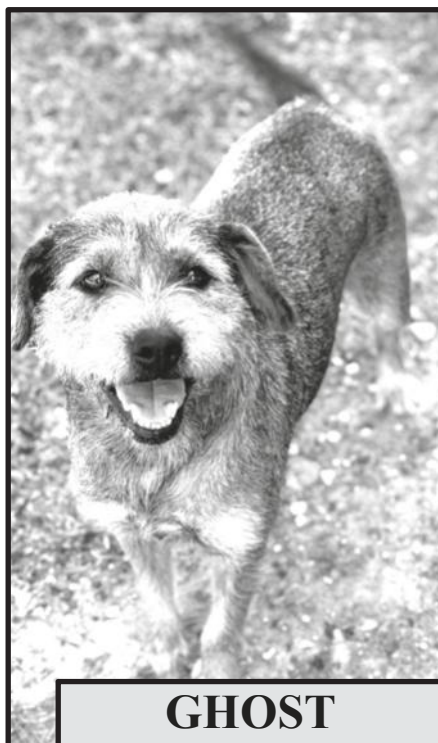
CINDY



PALMER



ROXIE



GHOST



WOTON



RANDI

Visit the Baldwin County Animal
 Shelter County Road 49,
 Summerdale, AL 36580
 251-972-6834

Lillian's Pets of the Month



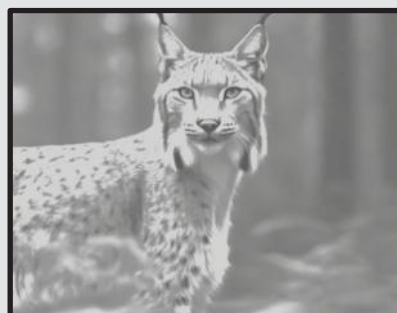
ROCKY BILT



TATER

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



ALABAMA LYNX



YARD VOLE

If you live in Lillian or Elberta AL and have an
 unwanted pest call Stu at Down South Wildlife
 Removal at 251-979-4333

MEET & GREET

With U.S. Congressional District 1 Candidate
 Joshua McKee & County Commissioner
 Candidate Tracey Gambill.

TIME FOR MANY QUESTIONS AND
 ANSWERS! DOORS OPEN AT 3 P.M. FOR
 MEET & GREET, APPETIZERS AND DRINKS.
 SPEECHES BEGIN AT 3:45 AND YOU ARE GOING
 TO LOVE THESE TWO! AS MANY
 QUESTIONS AS YOU WANT! SUPERBOWL
 THEME! COME, LEARN, ENJOY!



COASTAL DANCE COMPANY
proudly presents

The Nutcracker

December 7 at 2PM and 5PM
at the Foley Civic Center

407 E. Laurel Avenue,
Foley, AL 36535

Tickets available NOW online at
coastaldancecompany.my.canva.site



Join the Christmas Fun at The Optimist Parade Dec 13

December is a busy month for members of the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. It is also a time that the children of the community look forward to. The annual Christmas Parade will step off at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at US Highway 98 and Santa Piedro Street. The more than 50 entrants will proceed east on 98 and then north on 6th Street. At Barclay Street they will turn east back to Santa Piedro. Be sure to bring a bag to collect all the goodies to be thrown from the many floats. The following Saturday, Dec. 20, boys and girls and their families are invited to partake of the famous free Optimist Club breakfast, meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive a gift.



Looking for a Quality Company to remodel your bathroom? The Choice is Clear!

**Specializing in
Tub To Shower
Conversions
& Complete
Remodels**

**Say Goodbye
to Grout
Maintenance!**

CLEAR CHOICE BATH



Call Today for your **FREE** in-home consultation
850-361-2680
ClearChoiceBath.com



New Year Special
\$750 OFF
Your new walk-in shower.
With this coupon.

Military Discounts • Financing Available

SHOWERS • BATHS • VANITIES & VANITY TOPS • WALK-IN SHOWERS

Generosity Meets Strategy When It Comes To Tax-Savvy Donations

Giving to charity feels good, but understanding the tax benefits can benefit both the charity and you. Whether you donate regularly or are planning your first gift, knowing how charitable tax deductions work can help you make informed decisions while supporting causes you care about. Here are things to consider:

The basics: Itemizing vs. standard deduction. To benefit from charitable tax deductions, you need to itemize your deductions on your tax return. Everyone automatically receives a standard deduction, which in 2025 is \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly or \$15,750 for single filers. You'll only benefit from itemizing if your total deductions, including charitable gifts, exceed these amounts.

For many people, charitable donations alone won't push them over the standard deduction threshold. However, when combined with other deductible expenses like mortgage interest or state and local taxes, itemizing can make financial sense.

If you give regularly but don't usually exceed the standard deduction, consider "stacking" your donations. Instead of donating \$5,000 annually, you might donate \$15,750 in one year to exceed the itemization threshold, then take the standard deduction in subsequent years.

Ensure your donation qualifies. To claim a deduction, you must give to a qualified charitable organization recognized by the IRS. You can verify an organization's status on the IRS website or ask the charity for their determination letter. Donations to individuals, even those in need, don't qualify for tax deductions.

Additionally, you can't receive personal benefits in exchange for your donation. If you give \$500 to a charity but receive concert tickets worth \$200, your deductible amount is only \$300.

How much can you deduct? The IRS limits charitable deductions based on your adjusted gross income (AGI). For cash donations to public charities,

you can typically deduct up to 60% of your AGI. If you donate stocks or other appreciated assets you've held for more than a year, the limit is generally 30% of your AGI.

If your donation exceeds these limits in a single year, you can carry forward the unused portion for up to five years.

What to donate. Think strategically about what you donate. While cash is easiest, donating appreciated stocks can provide additional tax benefits since you avoid paying capital gains taxes on the investment's growth.

Keep good records. Documentation matters. For donations under \$250, a canceled check or receipt works fine. Cash donations of \$250 or more need written acknowledgment from the charity. For larger non-cash donations of property exceeding \$5,000 in value, the IRS requires a qualified written appraisal. Keep these records with your tax documents in case the IRS requests proof. See IRS Publication No. 526 and No. 561 for information on charitable contributions and valuing donated property.

The bottom line: Charitable giving may start with your heart, but understanding the tax implications helps you give more effectively. Work with a tax professional and a financial advisor to develop a giving strategy that aligns with both your charitable goals and financial situation. With thoughtful planning, you can maximize both your impact on causes you care about and the tax benefits you receive.



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones



Financial Focus

By Chantz
Blackmon

American Legion Gears for Christmas Season and Lillian Parade

The American Legion is your voice in congress, we need membership numbers

honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Thank you to all Veterans and their families for participating in the American Legion Post 48 Veterans Day Celebration.

Merry Christmas: The American Legion Post 48 wants to wish the Lillian Community a very safe and happy holiday season. We hope you will all come out and see our float in the Christmas parade on December 13 at 1 pm.

The American Legion is currently working on the dinners planned for, January, February, and March 2026. These dinners are the Legion's primary fund raisers and provide the money for the continued activities and donations. More information to follow in the January article.

MEDICAL CLOSET: The Medical Closet is for all Lillian residents 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



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Gay L. Pyle
1st Vice

no longer needed.

The individuals to contact are Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 and Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084. Every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Legion members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48.

The building is located next door to the Lillian Community Club, adjacent to the POW/MIA flag.

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



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.

If you have served Active Duty in the United States Armed Forces and have been

Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast Thrift Shop offering special Christmas shopping to open the Christmas season. Mary's Shelter is a home for homeless pregnant women in Elberta.



A Timely Diagnosis Key in Dementia Treatment

Receiving a timely dementia diagnosis is crucial for individuals and families facing early signs of memory loss or cognitive changes. An accurate diagnosis helps distinguish dementia from other conditions that may mimic its symptoms, such as depression, medication side effects, thyroid issues, or vitamin deficiencies-many of which are reversible or treatable.

Early diagnosis allows patients to access medical treatments tailored to their specific type of dementia. As each type requires specific management strategies and medications. Additionally, support services and lifestyle interventions that can slow progression and improve quality of life. It also gives individuals time to be involved in making important decisions about their long-term care options, living arrangements, and healthcare preferences; and establish legal and financial arrangements while they still have the capacity to do so.

Lastly, a diagnosis can provide clarity and reduce anxiety. It helps loved ones understand the changes they're witnessing, enabling better communication, empathy, and care. Recognizing dementia early empowers everyone involved to take proactive steps toward safety, support, and well-being.

Sharyon Miller, Dementia Support Facilitator (850-221-8630).

ROOSTER'S LAWN CARE

CUT, WEED EAT, EDGE, BLOW, LIGHT TRACTOR WORK,
BUSH HOG & TREE WORK

Christmas lights

Small concrete work, rock driveways (gravel)

Questions?

Contact Phyllis 251-975-8482 OR Contact Rooster 251-543-6355

Doggy Donations

**Donate to the Shelter Animals
of Baldwin County**

The Elberta High school Junior Optimist club is collecting materials to give to the unhomed pets of Baldwin County. Please donate to help our city's dogs and cats.

Donations may include:

- Treats/ bones
- Peanut Butter
- Collars
- Leashes
- Blankets
- Cat/ dog toys

**Junior Optimist
INTERNATIONAL**



PJ Plumbing

Master Plumber/Gas Fitter

*See our reviews on
Next door*

**Licensed
251-504-0457
251-236-2116**





LILLIAN
Methodist Church
 12770 South Perdido Street
 Lillian, AL 36549
 (251) 962-4336

“A Global Methodist
 Congregation”

office@LillianMC.org
 www.LillianMC.org

Rev. Daniel W. Randall, Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Children's Church & Nursery During 10:00 AM
 Worship for Children Birth to Second Grade

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM

ONLINE WORSHIP at LillianMC.org
 (Click on the Worship tab to view.)

AA & ALANON Tuesdays 7:00 PM

CELEBRATE RECOVERY Thursdays 6:30 PM
 (Except 12/25 & 1/1)

HEALING HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
December 4 1:00 PM Conference Room

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
December 14 8:00 & 10:00 AM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
December 15 5:30 PM
 (Bring an entrée or side dish for 8.)

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION SERVICE
December 24 5:00 PM



REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Radall

This truly is the most wonderful time of the year. The air grows cooler, the evenings come earlier, and our homes begin to glow with the warm lights of the season. Wreaths appear on doors, Christmas music fills the stores, and families gather to celebrate traditions passed down through generations. In our little town of Lillian we gather on December 6 at the Lillian Recreational Park to watch the lights shine warming our hearts with scenes of the season, on December 13 at 1 p.m. we enjoy the festivities of our Annual Optimist Lillian Christmas Parade and on December 20 at 9 a.m. we watch the excitement of the children as they receive gifts at our Annual Optimist Breakfast with Santa. Yet as beautiful and meaningful as these traditions are, they all point to something far greater, the unchanging truth that Christ, the Light of the world, came to dwell among us.

More than two thousand years ago, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). That “great light” was not a star, nor a flame, nor a symbol, but a Savior that was born in a humble stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. God stepped into our world not with fanfare, but with tenderness. He chose an ordinary night, an ordinary town, and ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary plan of redemption. The Christmas story reminds us that God often works in ways we do not expect. The Messiah didn’t arrive as a mighty king but as a newborn child. He didn’t come to be served but to serve. And He didn’t come only for the strong and righteous, but for the weary, the broken, and the searching, for people like us.

In this busy season, we can easily lose sight of that truth. Our calendars fill quickly, and to-do lists stretch long. The pressure to create the “perfect Christmas” leaves us feeling worn out instead of worshipful. Yet, the message of Christmas invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and remember that the greatest gift has already been given. When we center our hearts on Christ, our celebrations take on deeper meaning. The lights we hang become reminders of the Light who defeated darkness. The gifts we give echo the generosity of God, who gave us His Son. The meals we share reflect the fellowship we have through Christ, who welcomes us to His table with joy. But Christmas also meets us in our pain. For many, this season brings memories of loved ones no longer with us, empty chairs at the table, or personal struggles we quietly carry. If this is a difficult December for you, hear this truth: the hope of Christmas is not fragile. It does not depend on perfect circumstances. Jesus came into a world that was weary, troubled, and longing for peace, and He still enters our lives in those very moments today. Matthew 1:23 tells us, “They shall call his name Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.” Not “God above us” or “God far from us,” but God with us, walking beside us through every joy, every sorrow, every uncertainty, and every new beginning.

This Christmas, may we open our hearts to that promise. May we allow Christ’s light to shine not only in our decorations, but in our words and actions. Let us reach out to someone who may be lonely. Let us offer forgiveness where there has been hurt. Let us give generously, pray earnestly, worship joyfully, and love deeply. My prayer for each of you is that this season will fill your homes with peace, your hearts with gratitude, and your lives with the renewing hope of Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Lillian Methodist Church, I want to invite you to join us for worship on Sunday at 8:00 or 10:00 AM. I also want to invite you to our Christmas Cantata on Sunday December 14 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., our Christmas Potluck Supper December 15 at 5:30 PM and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on December 24 at 5 p.m.. From our church family to yours, may you experience the beauty, the wonder, and the everlasting joy of Christmas. Christ is born! Let His light shine brightly in you and through you this season, which truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

Lottie Moon: Pioneering American Southern Baptist Missionary

Around this time of year those of you who attend or grew up in the Baptist Church may hear the name Lottie Moon. Charlotte Digges "Lottie" Moon (December 12, 1840 – December 24, 1912) was an American Southern Baptist missionary to China with the Foreign Mission Board spent nearly 40 years (1872–1912) living and working in China.

Born in Albermarle County, Virginia, Moon was educated at the Virginia Female Seminary (now Hollins College), near Roanoke, and at the Albermarle Female Institute in Charlottesville, where she received an M.A. in classics in 1861. She returned home and remained there during the final years of the Civil War; then, for three brief periods, she taught school in Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia. Moon was appointed missionary to China in 1872, one of the first unmarried women to be sent by the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board.

Lottie was known for the letters she would write back to the United States, often around Christmas time, and she played a crucial role in raising awareness and funds for missions. These letters highlighted the needs and challenges faced by missionaries, inspiring what is now recognize as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. These letters begun in 1888, are now an annual offering, grew from an initial \$3,000 to more than \$82 million by 1993.

Lottie's dedication and sacrifice for her missionary work left a lasting impact. Whether it was her action in writing letters back home to ask for help and funding support for foreign missions, or her action in loving and serving the people in China, she was not a woman who sat on the sidelines and waited for things to happen. She took the initiative in her work and mission.

It would be easy for us to look at Lottie's life and believe we could never do what she did. While she did do amazing things for the Kingdom of God, she was also just like you and me. She was an ordinary woman who loved Jesus and wanted the world to know Him. She was simply brave enough to say yes when He called her to action. She was willing to go places others would not go for the sake of the Gospel. She was willing to take the next right steps in faith, not knowing sometimes how things would turn out.

There is so much of Lottie's life we can relate to, starting with her initial

call to missions and ministry. Though she would become one of the greatest examples we have of radical obedience to her calling, she did not start off with that initial obedience. She rebelled against her Baptist upbringing and wanted nothing to do with religion until an encounter with Jesus at a school

prayer meeting changed everything. After accepting Christ at the age of 18, Lottie took a series of teaching jobs around the Georgia area, but deep within her heart, she felt God calling her to serve the people of China. At the age of 32, Lottie boarded a ship, and left everything she owned to go and share the Gospel with the people of China. She chose radical obedience to God.

She faced endless persecution throughout her time in China. The Boxer Rebellion was in full force, and Christians faced many hard times. Lottie bravely met with Chinese church leaders to encourage them to continue their work and lead others to Christ. Upon returning home from furlough, Lottie found her home had been bombed. Instead of fleeing, she stayed and continued her work for the Lord. The Chinese people flocked to her because of her brave stance.

Sadly, Lottie Moon died at the age of 72, on a ship coming back to America. She was deathly sick and weighed only around 50 pounds. She was a woman of radical obedi-



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett



The ministry that Lottie Moon began is happening with missionaries around the world and in our own neighborhoods today. The Bible says we are to take God's message to Judea, Samarian and the ends of the earth. For Lottie Moon, the ends of the earth was China. For you or me Judea might be Lillian and Samarian might be different parts of the United States. How can we participate in this message? First, prayer for those who are missionaries in all places local and around the world. Second, send care packages – financial or otherwise. This time of year look online to your favorite ministry for places to contribute. Third, make a plan for the year 2026 to participate in a mission or ministry that is new for you where you can help the least, the last, and the lost. If you want to

know about other missionaries of the Church or any aspect of the Christian faith, come visit us Episcopal Church of the Advent. Sunday Service is 10am. Everyone is welcome.

KAECEHELE MOTOR SERVICE

P.O. Box 187

Elberta, Alabama 36530

Phone (251) 986-5219



13110 Lillian Hwy.
Pensacola, FL 32506

TO GO orders crazyhorsecafe.dimeblast.com

**Home Style &
Cooking**

* Daily Specials *
Serving Beer & Wine

Mon.-Thurs. & Sat

7am–2pm

Friday 7 am–7 pm

Closed Sunday

Ron & Shelly Burch

* Owners *

(850) 455-5252



GENE FELL
14820 BISHOP TRACE
LILLIAN, AL 36549

DOZER WORK • BACKHOE WORK
LOADER WORK • DEMOLITION
ROCK • FORESTRY MULCHES
HAULING • ASPHALT
SAND • DIRT

OFFICE (251) 962-2574
GENE 426-5234
EMAIL: gdsinc2@guilftel.com

Local Activist Updates Baldwin Biz;
Seeks Spotlight on Community Issues

Greetings!
I am on the campaign trail for Baldwin County Commissioner District 4 (South Baldwin). This is a county-wide voting opportunity for the May 19, 2026, primary and November 2026 election. Please let those you know in other parts of Baldwin County if you support me and ask if I could contact them to set up a Coffee & Conversation meeting in their vicinity to hear their concerns. Follow me on Facebook Tracey Gambill and Let's Keep It Country. Thank you.



Keeping it
Country

By Tracey
Gambill

Traffic Safety Improvements in the Works: A traffic signal installation at County Road 91 & US Hwy 98 is happening, but no timeframe is known. My request for a flashing beacon at US 98 and Santa Piedro Street for the Lillian Fire Department is in progress. A traffic signal at US Hwy 98 and South Perdido Street is in review. The Barclay and US Hwy 98 interchange is being considered for a possible change in design. A 4-way stop is in review at 6th Street and Barclay Avenue; a traffic count has been completed. Drainage issues on County Road 99 are in review. The intersection of US Hwy 98 and CR 99 is in the process of adding turning lanes. AL Department of Transportation, Robert Wiese, says, "With all these projects, Lillian should have some great traffic safety improvements in the near future."

Planning & Zoning updates in the Lillian vicinity:
May Brothers Property Fireworks Store at the southeast corner of Hwy 98 and CR 99 CSP25-45 - No update at this time. **Hamm Enterprises Spanish Cove West, Lot 3268, 23 Acres, 50 lots** - Currently awaiting subdivision phase. No date set as of this writing. No other Planning and Zoning matters on the agenda as of this writing. The next agenda will be available around the first of December.

In Progress: I am currently working with local citizens on flooding/drainage matters and have had great response to my requests for review and action at the Alabama Highway Department. Drainage ditches have been cleaned on Soldier Creek Road and 6th Street. Two more are pending.

Preserve the cultural history of the Lillian Community! Support Lillian Landmark District - Share this with as many of your friends and family in the Lillian area as you can. Your support can be sent to either tbird32507@gmail.com with your name and address or using the QR Code to fill out the petition form on *Let's Keep it Country* on Facebook.

Other: JoAnn Graf suggested that we begin working on making a "Welcome to Lillian" sign upon entry at the Lillian bridge. We could also place our "Lillian Landmark District" plaque there (pending approval in the upcoming legislative session) for a more impressive entrance to our beautiful area.

Please email me if you would like to be involved in designing and funding this project.

Remember to check the top ten donors to any candidate you consider voting for.

"IF SERVING IN AN ELECTED OFFICE EVER BECOMES A CAREER, CORRUPTION WILL SURELY FOLLOW."

— Thomas Jefferson

All the best, Tracey Gambill.
Stay tuned for updates on Facebook LET'S KEEP IT COUNTRY and email me at Tracey@letskeepitcountry.com

Happy Birthday and
Anniversary to...

HEY HOMER McNEILL!

JUST WANTED TO WISH YOU A
HAPPY 50th (oops... belated) BIRTHDAY!

AND A
HAPPY 22nd ANNIVERSARY!

LOVE,
CATHY AND THE REST OF YOUR
FAMILY!

ARE YOU READY TO
STOP MOSQUITOES
WITH OUR NEW NON-INVASIVE MOSQUITO STATION

 **HADLEY**
Termite & Pest Control, Inc.

 POLLINATOR FRIENDLY STATION

251-961-7109

Lillian's Chiropractor

 **Kammer Chiropractic**

251-962-4610

12839 6th Street (99 North)
www.KammerChiro.com

A MELANCHOLY CHRISTMAS TALE..

'The Little Match Girl'

BY HANS CHRISTEN ANDERSEN

It was terribly cold and nearly dark on the last evening of the old year, and the snow was falling fast. In the cold and the darkness, a poor little girl, with bare head and naked feet, roamed through the streets. It is true she had on a pair of slippers when she left home, but they were not of much use. They were very large, so large, indeed, that they had belonged to her mother, and the poor little creature had lost them in running across the street to avoid two carriages that were rolling along at a terrible rate. One of the slippers she could not find, and a boy seized upon the other and ran away with it, saying that he could use it as a cradle, when he had children of his own. So the little girl went on with her little naked feet, which were quite red and blue with the cold. In an old apron she carried a number of matches, and had a bundle of them in her hands. No one had bought anything of her the whole day, nor had any one given her even a penny. Shivering with cold and hunger, she crept along; poor little child, she looked the picture of misery. The snowflakes fell on her long, fair hair, which hung in curls on her shoulders, but she regarded them not.

Lights were shining from every window, and there was a savory smell of roast goose, for it was New-Year's eve; yes, she remembered that. In a corner, between two houses, one of which projected beyond the other, she sank down and huddled herself together. She had drawn her little feet under her, but she could not keep off the cold; and she dared not go home, for she had sold no matches, and could not take home even a penny of money. Her father would certainly beat her; besides, it was almost as cold at home as here, for they had only the roof to cover them, through which the wind howled, although the largest holes had been stopped up with straw and rags. Her little hands were almost frozen with the cold. Ah! perhaps a burning match might be some good, if she could draw it from the bundle and strike it against the wall, just to warm her fingers. She drew one out--scratch!--how it sputtered as it burnt! It gave a warm, bright light, like a little candle, as she held her hand over it. It was really a wonderful light. It seemed to the little girl that she was sitting by a large iron stove, with polished brass feet and a brass ornament. How the fire burned! and seemed so beautifully warm that the child stretched out her feet as if to warm them, when, lo! the flame of the match went out, the stove vanished, and she had only the remains of the half-burnt match in her hand.

She rubbed another match on the wall. It burst into a flame, and where its light fell upon the wall it became as transparent as a veil, and she could see into the room. The table was covered with a snowy white table-cloth, on which stood a splendid dinner service, and a steaming roast goose, stuffed with apples and dried plums. And what was still more wonderful, the goose jumped down from the dish and waddled across the floor, with a knife and fork in its breast, to the little girl. Then the match went out, and there remained nothing but the thick, damp, cold wall before her.

She lighted another match, and then she found herself sitting under a beautiful Christmas-tree. It was larger and more beautifully decorated than the one which she had seen through the glass door at the rich merchant's. Thousands of tapers were burning upon the green branches, and colored pictures, like those she had seen in the show-windows, looked down upon it all. The little one stretched out her hand towards them, and the match went out.

The Christmas lights rose higher and higher, till they looked to her like the stars in the sky. Then she saw a star fall, leaving behind it a bright streak of fire. "Some one is dying," thought the little girl, for her old grandmother, the



only one who had ever loved her, and who was now dead, had told her that when a star falls, a soul was going up to God.

She again rubbed a match on the wall, and the light shone round her; in the brightness stood her old grandmother, clear and shining, yet mild and loving in her appearance. "Grandmother," cried the little one, "O take me with you; I know you will go away when the match burns out; you will vanish like the warm stove, the roast goose, and the large, glorious Christmas-tree." And she made haste to light the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to keep her grandmother there.

And the matches glowed with a light that was brighter than the noon-day, and her grandmother had never appeared so large or so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and they both flew upwards in brightness and joy far above the earth, where there was neither cold nor hunger nor pain, for they were with God.

In the dawn of morning there lay the poor little one, with pale cheeks and smiling mouth, leaning against the wall; she had been frozen to death on the last evening of the year; and the New-year's sun rose and shone upon a little corpse! The child still sat, in the stiffness of death, holding the matches in her hand, one bundle of which was burnt. "She tried to warm herself," said some. No one imagined what beautiful things she had seen, nor into what glory she had entered with her grandmother, on New-Year's day.

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 belated birthday (Nov. 26) to Homer McNeill II.

Happy birthday wishes in December go out to: Nancy Nagan, Shannon Price, Juanita Hubacker, Stan Everett, Lois Price, Dan Randall, Laurel Hixson, Sue Eldred, Gary Birchard, Ernest Hasselback, Charles

Farrow, Dennis Roach, John Morton, David Brown, Lois Russell, Dorothy Jones, Marcy Carmichael, Joanne Kish, Eleanor Stewart, Ken Miller, Carole Hayden, Don Joffrion, Stephen Stork, Bill Krueger, Cheryl Hoffman, Bob Johnson, Lois Lindt, Jackie Reid, Priscilla Westgate, Bob Donnenwirth, and Richard Libby.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in December are Catherine and Homer McNeill II (2003), Bruce and Nelda Clements, Al and

Stella Hart (1975), Billy and Pat Bonner (1992), Richard and Carolyn Libby (2018), Catherine, Homer McNeill II (2003) and Robyn and David Monaghan (2003).

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549. The deadline for the January issue of The Lillian is Dec. 17..

Happy Holidays

10% off
all tools

November 1st through December 23rd

Moore Fasteners & More Inc
12958 Deer Acres Ln
Elberta AL 36530
251-961-1625

**ELBERTA
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL**



27817 US Hwy 98 East • Elberta, AL 36530

AMY L. PASZKOWSKI, DVM
(251) 986-6400

elbertaanimal@centurytel.net
24 Hour Answering Service

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertise here for just \$11 a month for up to 40 words. Discounts offered for ads that run 3, 6 or 12 months. Must adhere to our classified ad format and does not include photos. Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874.

SERVICES

PET SITTER Dependable, responsible and loves all animals. Years of experience. Will provide pet references upon request. Call Susan at 850-281-5557 or 251-962-3523. I look forward to loving and taking care of your pets.

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

DIVERSIFIED CLEANING SERVICE A+ rating with Better Business Bureau (25 yrs.). Residential, commercial, carpets, windows, pressure washing, etc. Serving Baldwin & Escambia counties. Lic. 107840. Low overhead, customer savings. For info, text or call 850-712-7191.

THE CAR BARN - 9717 CR 91, Lillian 251-962-3704. Hello 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.

ROOF REPAIR — Tree limb removal left over wood and other building material, small amount (cost). Interested parties may call 850-426-8015.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT & HOUSKEEPER for elderly female living in Lillian, CR 91. No nursing required. No medical issues other than low vision and hearing, but she needs help with daily household activities, light cleaning, simple meal prep and just being available for assistance when required. Private room with TV during down-time. 9AM - 4PM Monday - Friday, possibly Saturday. One person preferred but could consider dividing the time between two individuals. Interested parties please call or text David Thomas at 251-256-0105.

ARE YOU READY TO
STOP MOSQUITOES
WITH OUR NEW NON-INVASIVE MOSQUITO STATION



HADLEY
Termite & Pest Control, Inc.



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY STATION

251-961-7109

OBITUARIES

Harold Earl Shockley, Lillian

Harold Earl Shockley passed away at his home in Lillian, Alabama, on October 31, 2025, where he resided with his beloved wife, Cynthia Lee Dawson, and stepson, Noah Truesdale.

Born on June 24, 1938, in Granite City, Illinois, Harold was the only son born of the marriage between Earl Melvin Shockley and Velba Geraldine Sullivan. Following Velba's passing, Earl married Clara Belle Hagler, and together they raised Harold in Steelville, Missouri, alongside his half-siblings Gladys, Wayne, and Thelma. Harold graduated from Steelville High School with the Class of 1956.

After graduation, Harold returned to southern Illinois, where he dedicated 45 years of service to Granite City Steel, working as a valued member of the management scheduling team. Throughout his career, Harold was known as a respected colleague, mentor and trusted friend, admired for his professionalism, integrity, and kindness.

From his first marriage came his daughter, Vicky Knott. Through his second marriage, he became father to three children whom he later adopted as his own—Lorie Cotton, Dawn Onanian, and Carolyn Shockley.

Later, through his marriage to Jean "Jeannie" Schwertmann, he welcomed adult stepdaughters Barb Mindak and Laura Donaldson into his life. Most recently, upon marrying Cynthia Lee Dawson, Harold's family grew once more to include stepchildren Adam Schmitt, Le'A Dawes, and Noah Truesdale. Regardless of how they entered his life, each child and stepchild were loved with the same steady devotion that defined Harold's character.

Harold was preceded in death by his wife of 25 years, Jeannie Schwertmann Shockley; his father; his mother and stepmother; and his half-siblings Wayne, Gladys and Thelma Shockley, and Joyce, Leslie and Raymond French.

He is survived by his loving wife, Cynthia; his children and stepchildren listed above; his beloved aunt, Doris Sullivan Richert; his grandchildren; his great-grandchildren; and many dear and cherished friends and colleagues.

Harold will be cremated, and a celebration of life in his honor scheduled at later date.

Beverly Lynn Gaydos, 68, Lillian

Beverly Lynn Gaydos, 68, a resident of Lillian, Alabama, passed away Monday, November 3, 2025.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Steve Gaydos; parents, Dean and Betty Kerby; and brother, Dennis Kerby.

She is survived by her daughter, Shannon Garcia; three grandchildren, Scarlette, Jasmine, and Veronica; sisters, Betty-Dean (Larry) Robinson, and Donna Lea (Gary) Hunt; brother, Danny (Tina) Kerby; along with many nieces and nephews, and many other loving relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at Wolfe Bayview Funeral Home in Foley, Alabama on Friday, November 7, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Interment followed in Wynn Cemetery in Summerdale, Alabama.



Yes! Yes! Good Dog!

VACATION SITTING
YOUR HOME
DOG TRAINING

- *ASOC. DEGREE: ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
- *ALL POSITIVE REWARD TRAINING
- * LONG-TIME BONDED, INSURED
- * GULF REGION
- * REFERENCES



- Robyn is a degreed trainer with an associates from Animal Behavior college
 - 15-year expertise in ALL POSITIVE (Rewards Based) training
 - Information at 251-284-3947, google,
 - yesyesgooddog.com, yesyesgooddog@gmail.com

251-284-3947



RE/MAX
of Gulf Shores

WISHING YOU A
Merry Christmas

from

Gloria M. Sims
REALTOR®



Unwrap your dream home
this Christmas!

251-752-0129 | WWW.GLORIASIMS.COM | GLORIA@REMAXST.COM



WINSTON SHED CO.

PORTABLE BUILDINGS & TRAILERS

CALL
OR
TEXT

[251] 597-9291

34397 HWY 98, LILLIAN, AL 36549

SHEDS • CABINS • CARPORTS • GARAGES
RV COVERS • UTILITY TRAILERS • ...AND MORE!

At Winston Shed Co, we are committed to providing the highest quality of service and care for each person as they search for their next storage shed, carport, garage, or portable building.

FREE
DELIVERY!



Scholarships available from the Optimist Club of

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay (the Club) will again award two scholarships. One \$1000 scholarship toward tuition at a college/university and one \$1000 scholarship toward trade/technical school costs.



To apply, you must be a Senior in high school, plan to continue your education after high school, and live in an area zoned for Elberta High School. You do not have to attend Elberta High School. Virtual, private, and homeschooled Seniors who live in the Elberta School District are more than welcome to apply.

The deadline for submitting the application and all the required supplemental documentation is **February 20, 2026**.

Eligible Seniors should apply online using the

Or enter this URL into your browser:

<https://forms.office.com/r/TtAJcflJeq>

'Our Club is proud of the youth in our community and is pleased to be able to help them pursue their dreams'



MEALS ON WHEELS COMING TO LILLIAN IN JANUARY N 2026



CALL DENNY DAWSON

OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES, MOW COORDINATOR

251-943-3449

**FROM 9 AM — NOON, M-TH
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



**NEED A GIFT FOR THAT SPERCIAL PERSON WHO
HAS EVERYTHING? HERE'S A 'NOVEL' IDEA:**



WHAT'S MORE FUN?
READING ONLINE OR THE
REAL McCOY? THE LILLIAN
IS ANONPROFIT
COMMUNITY
PUBLICATION

**HOW ABOUT A YEAR'S
SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LILLIAN
PAPER DELIVERED TO THE FRONT
DOOR BY THE USPS—FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE??? TWELVE MONTHS FOR
\$5.70/MONTH ...**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

**SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT ON THIS FORM WITH \$68 FOR A
FULL YEAR TO: PO BOX 1088, LILLIAN AL, 36549**

Celestial Events in Dec. 2025 From Seasky.org

December 7-8: Waning gibbous Moon close to Jupiter, Castor, and Pollux

Jupiter doesn't reach opposition until January 10th but is very well placed for northern hemisphere observers at the end of the year, rising in the east several hours after sunset.

The planet remains close to Castor and Pollux, the two brightest stars of Gemini, and the trio are joined by the waning gibbous Moon on the 7th. You'll be able to see them in both the predawn sky or a few hours after sunset on that date. Jupiter will be closest to Pollux between December 11th and 15th, when just slightly less than 6.5 degrees will separate them.

December 7: Mercury at greatest western elongation from the Sun

This is your last chance to see Mercury this year, and this is a particularly good opportunity for early risers as the planet will be relatively high in the sky shortly before dawn. This time around, Mercury is twenty degrees from the Sun in the sky, placing it at an altitude of around 15 degrees over the southeastern horizon at around 15 minutes before sunrise.

December 13-14: Geminid Meteor Shower

With the Moon washing out the Perseids, the Geminids will undoubtedly be the best meteor shower of 2025. The Moon is full on the 4th, nearly ten days before the Geminids reach their maximum, and as a waning crescent, it won't be bright enough to cause any interference with the shower.

Therefore, you can start watching for shooting stars around two hours after sunset on the 13th and continue until the early hours of the 14th. The shower is quite prolific and can potentially produce over 100 shooting stars an hour under ideal conditions.

December 17-18: Waning crescent Moon close to Mercury

Mercury was at its best ten days ago and is now sinking toward the Sun in the sky, but before it disappears completely, it's joined by the waning crescent Moon in the predawn twilight.

Your best bet is to look towards the southeast at around 20 minutes before sunrise on the 17th. The Moon will be about 15 degrees above the horizon, while Mercury glimmers eleven degrees towards the east. That gap will be half the following morning, but so will the Moon's altitude. However, if you can see it, you should also be able to fit Mercury (which appears to its upper left) into the same low powered binocular field of view.



Other Events:

December 4 - Full Moon (AN). Cold Moon in Taurus.

December 9-18 - Jupiter passes close to Castor and Pollux in Gemini. Jupiter is closest to Pollux on December 14th, when 6.5 degrees separate the pair (AM).

December 17-21 - Mercury passes close to Antares in Scorpius. The pair are closest on December 19th, when 5.5 degrees separate them. Their low altitude will make observation difficult (AM).

December 19 - New Moon (NV).

December 21 - The Ursid meteor shower is at its maximum, with a zenith hourly rate of up to 10 (AN). The Moon is a waxing crescent.

December 26 - The first quarter Moon is close to Saturn in Pisces.

**EACH FULL MOON RISES NEAR SUNSET; IN DECEMBER ON
DAYS 3 TO 5 LOOK 58 DEGREES NORTH EAST**

You've Likely Never Heard of This One: Yes, It's the Christmas Spider

The holiday season is the best time of year. (This is a hill I will defend with every fiber of my being.) It's a time of year where culture take out its weirdest and most wonderful traditions - from seasonal foods to candles to pickles to spiders. Yes, spiders! You have not heard the Legend of the Christmas Spider?

Once Upon a Time. . . "A poor but hardworking widow once lived in a small hut with her children. One summer day, a pinecone fell on the earthen floor of the hut and took root. The widow's children cared for the tree, excited at the prospect of having a Christmas tree by winter. The tree grew beautiful and full, but when Christmas Eve arrived, they could not afford to decorate it. The children sadly went to bed and fell asleep. Early the next morning, they woke up and saw the tree covered with cobwebs. When they opened the windows, the first rays of sunlight touched the webs and turned them gold and silver. The widow and her children were overjoyed."

To be fair, I had never heard of Christmas spiders until Mrs. Judy Easley gave me one in 1997. Hers are beautiful, hand-beaded, and for sale at Christmas Trim-A-Tree, which this year will be located at the Tanger Outlet mall, store #230. This is a local event where you can pick up unique and handmade gifts and décor. The dollars you spend here go into a lot of local pockets instead of big corporations' pockets. "Buy local" means more than ever so if you have not been, please check it out!

Back to folklore - Some stories say that the webs turned into real gold and silver threads and the family was not poor ever again. Some traditions say that this is where the idea of tinsel on trees. Either way, in Germany, Poland and Ukraine spider's webs on Yuletide trees are a symbol of good luck! What did Rudolph say when he won the lottery? Christmas be my lucky day!

Weirdly enough, there is an actual, living spider that is known as the Christmas spider or the Jeweled spider found only in Australia. The Christmas season happens in the summer months for those countries in the Southern Hemisphere. *Austracantha* is a genus of spider with a single species, *Austracantha minax*. These spiders are most abundant during the summer months.

Christmas spiders are relatively small spiders, reaching a maximum total body length of only around 12 mm for females, which is about the size of a green pea, and 5 mm for males. If you put 2 female spiders side by side, they would fit neatly over George Washington's face on a quarter.

Christmas spiders are also referred to as "Jewel spiders" because they have a distinctive look that makes them easy to identify. Their abdomen has six distinctive spines that thrust out from the perimeter of their bodies, giving them a spikey appearance. Their bodies are shiny, metallic, blue-black, with white, yellow, and orange markings (in various combos and patterns) on their abdomen. Give them a Google: they're pretty!

The spiders are gregarious, which means they can be found in large groups (as in 30 or more!) of overlapping orb webs. Have you seen the pictures of Australian Christmas Spiders taking over cattle fields? It's both impressive and haunting. The webs can entirely blanket shrubs, tree branches, or structures. A 1997 study observed that this overlapping behavior does NOT seem to increase the amount of prey caught; however, Christmas spiders do not need to produce

as much silk for their webs when they work in these groups.

Their webs are unusual since they make their support threads visible to larger animals! Christmas spiders create circular webs with a very dense spiral pattern. They also add highly visible silk tufts along the support threads of their web at regular intervals. Many scientists believe the spiders create the tufting effect to prevent larger animals from walking into the webs and damaging them. The spiders intend for their webs to be permanent. Female spiders prowl in the center of the web with their head downwards. Male spiders are usually lurking on nearby vegetation.



Know Your Critters

By Celeste Hadley-Champion



These spiders are not aggressive. When disturbed, they will try to escape by clambering upside down along their support threads to nearby surfaces (albeit slowly due to their short stubby legs). Failing that, they will drop to the ground.

Like almost all spiders, they possess venom glands which they use to subdue prey, but they rarely bite when handled. They eat all manner of winged insects and anything else unlucky enough to be caught in their webs. What is a spider most thankful for? They like the taste of flies.

No matter what your traditions are this holiday, our wish is for you and your families to have a joyous holiday season! May everyone be Merry, Happy, and Blessed from your Friends at Hadley Termite and Pest Control: Ryan, Josh, Robyn, Shea, Cynthia, Janice, Celeste, & Cindy.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsel-itis!

(OSTERS FROM PAGE 1)

building in downtown Foley in November.

"The price of everything is up," Barbados said, "especially domestic seafood which is practically unaffordable."

But Barbados has no problem getting oysters to serve.

"Oysters are plentiful. They've been plentiful," he said. "It's just a matter of where they come from."

Barbados, who had diners lined up for a 25-cent oyster customer appreciation special last week, still sells Gulf shrimp. They used to come from Louisiana; Now they come from Texas.

The real reason for the soaring price of oysters is because of the prevalence of farm-raised oysters, which fetch as much as ten times as much as wild oysters. That inflated price emboldens wild oyster harvesters to hike their prices as well.

"As long as people keep paying the prices, they'll keep the prices high," Barbados said.

But he intends to keep offering low-cost oysters as a loss-leader on regular customer appreciation days. Alcohol regulation laws make it difficult to discount drinks, but he's free to discount oysters, he said.

Jason Herrmann, the marine biologist leading the state's presentation, said at an October public meeting in Bayou La Batre that recent surveys showed a drop in the harvesting of all ages of oysters.

Counts in three main harvest areas near northern Dauphin Island Bridge showed 40 percent fewer mature oysters and a 76% drop in Heron Bay in Cedar Point West compared to a year ago.

After a count of too few oysters to bother counting in 2019, the Alabama oyster count climbed from 22,000 sacks (about 80 pounds of mature oysters) to a peak of about 50,000 sacks in 2021. The harvest dropped to 44,000 sacks in fall 2022. Late in 2022, the dwindling harvest started sinking to about 44,000 in 2022, about 32,000 in 2023 and 25,000 in 2024.

If that level of productivity were to continue, the harvest is trending toward an end with a harvest under 10,000 sacks, by far the lowest since the 2018-2019 shutdown.

Kevin Anson, chief of fisheries and acting director for the Marine Resources Division, said rough surf conditions, low oyster prices and water surges in nearby states early in the harvest may be skewing the count lower than it actually is.

Heavy rains in 2019 caused Louisiana to open its Bonnet Carré spillway twice, and the resulting prolonged surges of freshwater did serious harm to reefs in Louisiana and Mississippi. Mississippi closed its reefs for five years followed by a very limited opening in 2024.



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

December Music

Friday, December 5th • Deep South • 7-11 pm

Friday, December 12th • The Shadowcasters • 7-11 pm

Friday, December 19th • Gary Story & Bad Habit • 7-11 pm

Sunday, December 21st • Gary Story • 3-7 pm



Tuesdays at 6 pm

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SATURDAYS
BOWL/PLAYOFF SEASON

8-Ball Tournament
EVERY Saturday
6 pm (Signup at 5 pm)

\$2.75 Bloody Mary's
ALL DAY on Sundays

BARTENDER/EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 11th @ 6:30 pm

MEMBER APPRECIATION CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thursday, December 18th, 6-8 pm
Hoffman Hall

(All food provided by the Club)

Merry Christmas
From all of us at the LCC

We will be closed Thursday, December 25th



Collection boxes are
located in the Lounge.
Cash donations are
also accepted.



12-2 & 5-7 PM
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
ALL DAY

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
(DURING FOOTBALL SEASON)

ANNUAL LILLIAN CHRISTMAS PARADE



Saturday
December 13th | 1 pm

Assembles in front of the LCC

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY
See their ad for more information.



Breakfast with
Santa

Saturday
December 20th
9-10 am
Hoffman Hall

For details, visit:
www.optimistclubpb.org

Puttin' on the Ritz into 2026

Wednesday, December 31st in Hoffman Hall • Doors open at 7 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
\$25 per person

Advance purchase recommended
to reserve your favorite spot
See the bartender for tickets
Tickets will be available at the door

SLIDERS & HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES

CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT

BISCUITS & GRAVY FOLLOWING
THE CHAMPAGNE TOAST

HIGHWAY 95A
8 PM UNTIL 1 AM



Dress is Semi-Formal/Formal

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH • 7 PM (IN THE LOUNGE)

CIVIC & LEGISLATION MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH • 8 AM

NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST • 3 PM

BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD • 7 PM

HOFFMAN HALL BANQUET FACILITIES

Accommodates up to 250 People

State of the Art Full Kitchen / Non-Smoking

Best rates in the area!

Visit lilliancommunityclub.com for rates & availability



RV CONVENIENCE SITES

Located behind the LCC

Members: \$15 a day

Pay in the Lounge or Office

Call the Lounge or Office to reserve your spot

LIVE MUSIC EVERYDAY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Grouper

Raw Oysters

Fish Tacos

Steamed Shrimp

JOHNNY B's

FRONT PORCH

OYSTER BAR

Lillian Alabama