



The Lillian

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JANUARY 2025

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 29, Number 1

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PARADE HONOREES



JOHNNY Bs



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UNITED BANK

Lillian residents, their friends and family, crowded US Highway 98 recently when dozens of floats paraded in the Lillian Christmas Parade sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Certificates were given to the Best Overall, Gulf Coast Dance Club; Most Creative, Blue Angel car; Most Enthusiastic, United Bank and the float that Represents the Spirit of Lillian, Johnny B's Front Porch.

Lillian Inches Toward Landmark Status

Greetings! BIG NEWS! State Representative Alan Baker is going to sponsor a bill for Lillian to become a Landmark District! Senator Elliot is in support and Senator Albritton is neutral and will not block it. Next step is to gather signatures in support, set boundaries and present the bill to the state legislature this coming spring! I'm so excited! This will prevent any municipality from annexing Lillian without the citizens' consent by vote. Look right to scan QR Code for landmark status or use QR Code on page 17 for form on incorporation.

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

Z24-40 Hamm Enterprises, 23 acres-Approved for RSF-3 zoning.

(SEE LANDMARK CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)



Keeping it Country
By Tracey Gambill



SANTA MAKES PARK LANDIING

Christmas in the Park was SO MUCH FUN!

Between Santa and Mrs. Claus flying in by helicopter, the kids-only Secret Santa Shop and the fireworks finale, this year's Christmas in the Park was one for the books. Over 1,000 people attended the Christmas in the Park opening on December 7.

Emceed by WKRG's Debbie Williams, the afternoon was a blast. From snowball fights to Christmas bingo, kids had a lot of fun as they waited for Santa to arrive by helicopter. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and tell them all about their Christmas wishes.

Senator Greg Albritton flipped the switch, turning on all the lights to delighted ooo's and ahhh's by everyone in attendance. The same ooo's and aaah's were heard during the fireworks show which ended the day's celebration.

This year's giant Christmas Card contest was won by the Lillian Veterinary Hospital. Their en-



try showing pets thinking about their own Christmas wishes was chosen as the "Community Favorite," while the Lillian Church of the Advent won "Most Creative" for their advent tree with ornaments. KOA won the "Holiday Spirit" award. All of this year's entries did a great job showcasing their organization's creativity and community spirit.

The Lillian Fire Department helped spread some holiday cheer at the Park, too.

(SEE SANTA CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

Red Hats Celebrate Feliz Navidad



The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies held their Christmas gathering at El Paso Mexican restaurant in Foley. Our great hostesses were Deb Pifer, Jan Willoughby, and Tyra Williams. We welcome Brooke (Tyra's daughter) as a guest. The table was decorated with red hat dolls and glass candle holders with ornaments on top. They also contained Christmas candy and made a beautiful display. Our birthday girls, Tyra Williams and Wendy Hatcher, wore the crowns and received garden plaques and a Christmas tea towel. Along with our table prayer we heard the story of the Christmas candy cane which reminds us of Jesus. We hope you saw us in the Lillian Christmas Parade and caught one of our stuffed animals, candy, and beads.



St. Joseph Catholic Church Choir Performs as Christmas Extravaganza Tradition Returns

The Christmas Extravaganza was reborn recently at the Lillian Community Club. The popular Christmas event had been cancelled due to the Covid-10 pandemic. Groups and individuals were once again invited to sing their favorite songs, tell holiday stories or perform other acts appropriate for a talent show. The event was hosted by Lillian resident Jim Miller, his daughter, Jessica, and son, Jameson. Participants included church choirs from Bayside Baptist Church, Lillian Methodist Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Other performers included Jessica Miller and Stephanie Bartl, Maria Tucker, Mary Lou Torbert, Kay Lett and Sharon Garth, Doug Scott, and Amy Brooks.



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Thank You!

TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK SO SPECIAL AND SUCH A SUCCESS!

THANKS, TOO, TO FLY BAMA FOR FLYING IN SANTA AND TO THE LILLIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR USING THE PARK FOR THIS YEAR'S FRUIT GIVEAWAY TO THE KIDS. WE LOVE YOU ALL AND LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

Lillian Recreational Park - 33914 Widell - Lillian 26549

Elberta Middle FCCLA Shop for Christmas Angels



The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) went shopping on December 5, 2024, to purchase gifts for children of the Town of Elberta Angel Tree. They were able to raise enough money to shop for 12 children this year, with a budget of \$1200! Our FCCLA has been contributing to Angel Tree since 2020, when they had a budget for only four children. The students look forward to this service project every year and are excited to see how it will grow in coming years.

About FCCLA

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members.

It is the only career and technical intracurricular student organization with a central focus on careers that support families.

Participation in national FCCLA programs and chapter activities aids members in becoming strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities. For more information on FCCLA, please contact Alyssa Corbitt at acor-bitt@bcbe.org.

The Lillian

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You Think We're Crazy, You Should Check Out This Ant

Did you know the State of Florida has loose privacy laws? Which means if someone in Miami stops to pick up frozen iguanas from the roadside, and then wrecks the vehicle when the lizards thaw out and run amok in their car, it is very easy to get all the juicy details of that incident on the Internet. (Yes, such things really do happen. It happens so often that National Public Radio released a “dos and don'ts story” about frozen iguanas in 2018.)

Okay, that's a little bit of a weird opener. But it does point to the level of Crazy found in Florida. Could it be the heat, sure, or also the humidity, or the lingering effects of the 1980s that makes things in Florida a little off kilter? If a headline starts with Florida man, or Florida woman, then thank the loose privacy laws for that crazy story.

Would it be a surprise to learn that there are “crazy” ants in Florida too? And Alabama, Texas, and most of the Southeast. Tawny crazy ants, *Nylanderia fulva*, which used to be known as the Caribbean or Raspberry crazy ant, are the fastest growing economic, ecological, and nuisance pest in the Southeast. They have been a serious problem in parts of Florida and Texas for over 10 years and have begun spreading to other states. What do you call an ant from overseas? Import-ant!

The tawny crazy ant originates from Brazil. It was introduced into Colombia as a biological control against leaf-cutting ants and poisonous snakes during the 1930s and 1940s. Why is it whenever people try to use Nature to control Nature, things get out of hand? Kuduz – the vine that ate the South - is an introduced plant species. Burmese Pythons are destroying the Everglades. Pythons are not native to Florida! Y'all – don't let your exotic pets “free” because the damage they can cause is All Out of Proportion to their individual size. Soap-box rant over.

So, back to Tawny Crazy Ants, or TCAs. Tawny crazy ants are one of the worst nuisance ants. Colonies have multiple queens that share reproduction responsibilities. This allows colonies to reach extremely large populations and occupy wide swaths of land. Where TCAs are well established, worker ants can number in the millions. These ants can thrive in every climate, including ships at sea!

The common name Crazy Ants comes from the ant's characteristic rapid and erratic movements. They have a habit of not following trails as often as other ants. TCAs do not form mounds in the landscape but can tunnel in loose soil. They are uniformly sized, reddish-brown in color, and 1/8-inch long. Worker ants have long legs and antennae.

Tawny Crazy Ants prefer foraging and nesting in shaded areas. Colonies nest in, on, and under anything that can provide moisture retention and protection from rainfall. They are found in: mulch and leaf litter, under pots, natural debris, landscape objects, and loose tree bark. They have even been found in stoplight housing, in illuminated signs, and in homes and businesses.

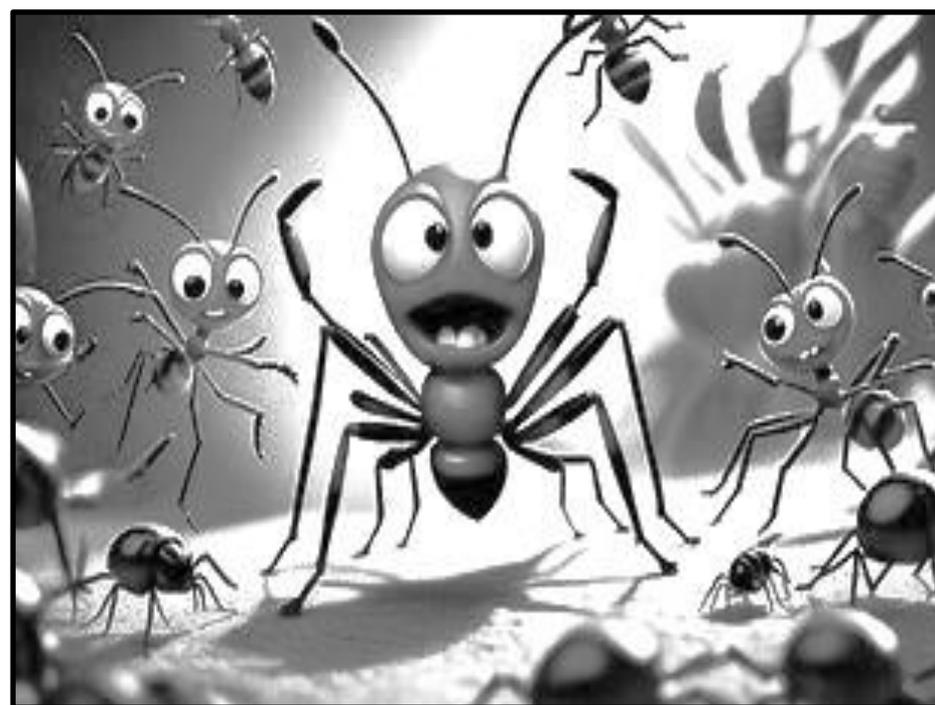
Worker ants will forage pretty much everywhere! TCAs eat almost any organic material, such as small arthropods such as caterpillars, beetles, termites, wasps, and spiders. Given the opportunity, TCAs will clog the eyes and nasal passages of small animals such as rabbits, birds, lizards, and domestic animals, like chickens, which usually die because they can't breathe!

One of their favorite foods is honeydew. Honeydew is the sugary by-product from many different types of sap-eating insects. TCAs will raise aphids and scale insects to have a steady source of honeydew. They are known to move aphids from plants that have lots of aphids on them to uninfested plants. Like a farmer rotating crops, these ants are transferring aphids to make more sweets for the colony. Sweets that are, essentially, bug poop.

TCAs do not have stingers. Instead, they have an “acid pore,” on their abdomen which excretes chemicals for defense or attack. This is a nozzle-like structure ringed with short hairs that helps an ant release venom! They can also use this secretion to disinfect any eggs affected by fungus.



Know Your Critters
By Celeste Hadley-Champion



A common and unique visual sign of TCAs is large numbers of dead ants found outdoors piled in corners of structures or along walls next to buildings. If we want to get a handle on these ants before they, like Kudzu, eat the South, we need all-hands-on-deck to keep a close watch on the landscape! If TCAs are suspected, a sample of the ants, as well as photos of where they are found, should be sent to our local County Extension Agents. Baldwin county is super blessed to have some great AG agencies right over in Fairhope!

May the new year bring more kindness and joy! Let us all pray 2025 keeps its ant-tics under control!

Soldier Creek Ladies Meet for Christmas

The Soldier Creek Ladies had their Christmas Luncheon on December 12 at the home of Rachel Lamb. A fun time was had by all with fellowship, eating, and singing.

Those who attended were: Penny Ashworth, Tony Noonan, Barbara Boykin, Joyce Boutwell, Pam Bidwell, Pat Brewer, Brenda Chesman, Denise Cotton, Carol Drolen, Kerry

Ellis, Barbara Flynn, Haleigh Robinson, Elizabeth Hobbs, Leigh Givhan, Loree Hadley, Anne Hails, Pamela Harroff, Mary Hicks, Mikey Johnson Gonzalez, Kim Shapiro, Tracy Williams, Myra Walters, Laura Young, Mel Zick, Katrina Brown, Kristi Hinson, Kerry Reardon, Judy Lurwig, Rachel Lamb, Shelley Owen, Connie Ramseyer, Vicki Rider

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
 1/2 Page (horiz.) = 10" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/2 Page (vertical) = 5" wide x 11" tall
 1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall

Business Card = 3.5" wide x 2" tall
 Classified = maximum of 40 words

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and 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 February issue of *The Lillian* will be January 22. 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.

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



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Reported on 12/03/2024 at 01:03 am

Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Assault No Weapon

10500 Block Coleman Ln Elberta, Al 36530

Reported on 11/29/2024 at 11:52 pm

Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

12900 Block 7th St Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/28/2024 at 6:24 pm
Responding Agency: Baldwin County

Sheriff's Office

Assault

13300 Block Cripple Creek Ln Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/26/2024 at 7:55 pm
Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office

Theft

33500 Block Rosalia Ave Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/25/2024 at 5:30 pm
Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Burglary - Residential

33600 Block Rosalia Ave Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/15/2024 at 8:37 pm

Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

2000 Block Maria Ln Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/14/2024 at 11:12 am

Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

3100 Block Pinewood Cir Lillian, Al 36549

Reported on 11/09/2024 at 2:44 pm
Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Theft

33000 Block Collier Rd Lillian, Al 36549
Reported on 11/06/2024.

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Lillian Fire Department: Reflecting on 2024 and Looking Ahead

As we usher in a new year, the Lillian Fire Department is proud to reflect on our accomplishments in 2024 and share exciting plans for 2025. Our dedicated team of 16 members have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community, and the results speak for themselves. Here are some of the highlights:

2024 Achievements

New Equipment for Enhanced Response This year, we welcomed two significant additions to our fleet: the state-of-the-art Engine 37 and a new Chief's vehicle. These additions will improve our emergency response and service to the community.

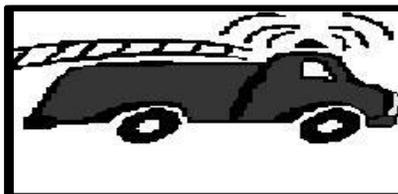
Grant Success Thanks to diligent efforts and collaboration with various funding sources, we secured over \$80,000 in grant money. These funds have been instrumental in acquiring new equipment, enhancing training programs, and improving overall operations.

Professional Growth We celebrated the promotion of Captain Dosh, whose leadership and dedication continue to inspire us all. Additionally, two of our firefighters achieved certification this year, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement and professional development.

Call Volume In fiscal year 2024, we responded to 890 calls. This impressive number underscores the hard work and dedication of our team in meeting the diverse needs of our community, from fire suppression to emergency medical services.

Plans for 2025

In 2025, the Lillian Fire Department will enhance fire safety through community events, offering first aid and CPR training. We will promote fire alarm safety and mark October's Fire Prevention Month with education and outreach to reduce fire risks.



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Andrew Normandeau

Reflecting on 2024's achievements, we thank our community for their support and partnership, which drives our mission to protect and serve.

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Mary's Shelter Sets Draw Down Feb. 16



Donna Blizzard was the top bidder for the Generational Quilt at the 2024 Be My Valentine auction. This year's event that also includes a \$10,000 draw-down will be held at noon on Sunday, Feb. 15 at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Gulf Shores.

Mary's Shelter, a home for homeless pregnant mothers, has been serving the community for more than 18 years. On Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025 the shelter will host its fifth annual "Be My Valentine" event that includes a \$10,000 draw down and auction at Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Gulf Shores. The event begins at noon with lunch. The grand prize will be awarded at 3:30 p.m. As attendees keep watch on the draw down board "Elvis" will be on hand to entertain. Tickets are \$100. Sponsorship levels are Diamond Sponsor, \$10,000; Platinum, \$5,000; Gold, \$2,500; Silver, \$1,000; Copper, \$500 and Bronze, 250.

All sponsors will be recognized at the Mary's Shelter Thrift Store in Elberta as well as on the website, aryssheltergulfcoast.org. Sponsors who respond by Feb. 10, will also be highlighted on the draw down board the day of the event.

For more information, to become a sponsor or to purchase tickets contact Judie Flanigan, 251-554-4889.

ARC CELEBRATES ANNUAL THANKSGIVING TRADITION



THE EVANS FAMILY

Forty-nine years ago, Lillian resident Willie Nell Evans cooked a Thanksgiving dinner for each of her daughter's special needs classmates to be sure that each of them could enjoy her family's traditional meal. This tradition continues as members of her family join together at the Foley

Civic Center to feed special needs boys and girls, men and women as well as their teachers and aides from schools throughout Baldwin County. The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay also helped by providing some of the food and workers.





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Betsy Boggan Joins Lillian's Nu Volei Salon

Nu Volei welcomes Betsy Boggan to our business. Readers can visit our salon website.

She comes to us with an impressive background and over 35 years of experience in the industry

Betsy is a graduate of John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham, AL and was trained at Wynonna's School of Cosmetology in Homewood. She apprenticed under Barry Parker, Master Cosmetologist, at Key Circle in Mountain Brook.



She also designed hair at Endless Summer in Homewood and Colors for All Seasons in Vestavia.

Betsy opened Affect's Hair Gallery in Homewood, Alabama in 1996 and operated the salon for 22 years. She expanded and had a second salon, Affect's Too, during that time. After a long and successful career as a salon owner and hair stylist, Betsy and most of her staff joined Hala Salon in Homewood prior to her moving to N.W Indiana with her husband. She comes to Nu Volei as a Master Cosmetologist, and has the experience and knowledge to perform all types of services on all types of hair. She is working to build her clientele in the Lillian area, and is currently accepting walk-ins and booking appointments for new customers.

Please join us in welcoming Betsy to our team!

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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

When to See January's Full 'Wolf' Moon



The first full Moon of 2025 occurs on the night of Monday, January 13. Why do we call January's Moon a "Wolf Moon"? (It's not because wolves are hungry.) Find out what's special about this month's Moon—as well as folklore and best days by the Moon.

January's full Wolf Moon reaches peak illumination on **Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:27 P.M. EST.** At a full Moon, the Moon is located on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun, so the face of the Moon facing towards the Earth will be entirely illuminated by the Sun's rays.

Look for the January Moon to rise from the eastern horizon around sunset that evening. By midnight, the Wolf Moon glows bright and round overhead. By sunrise, it will disappear into the western horizon.

Consult our [Moonrise Calculator](#) to see what time you can expect to catch a glimpse of the first full Moon of 2025!

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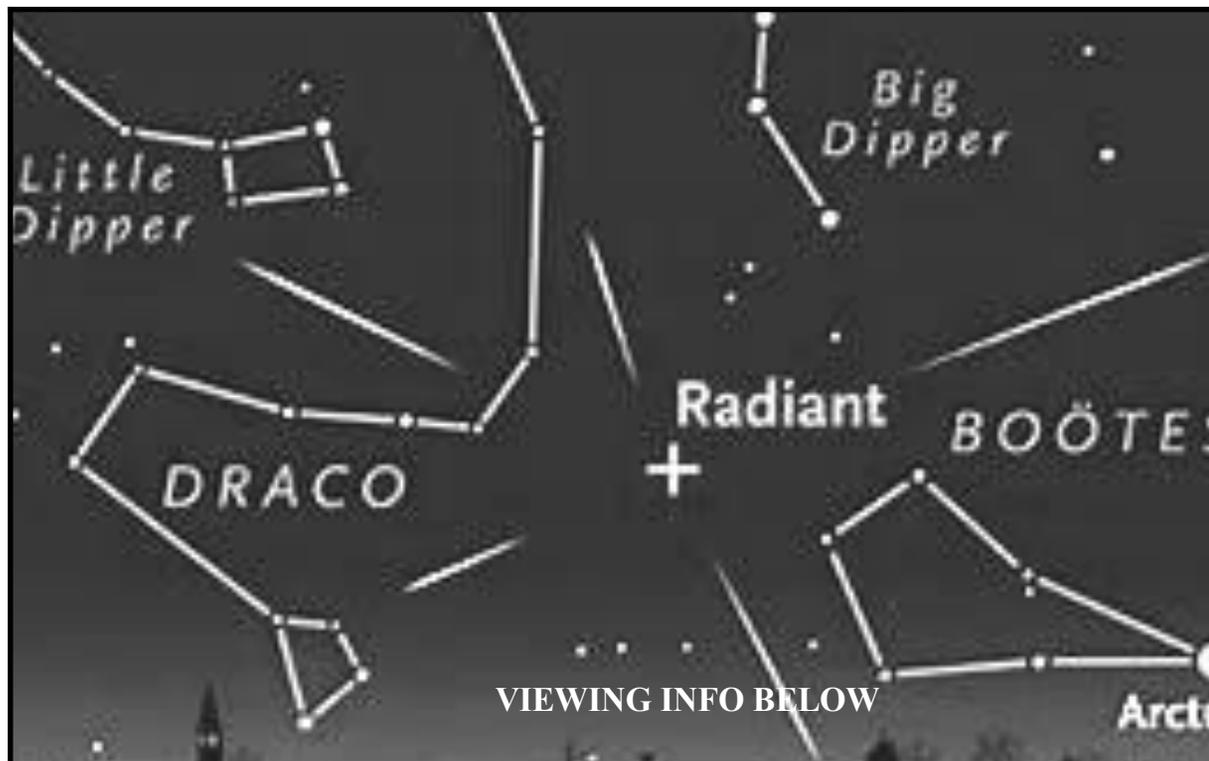
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- January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower.** The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th. The crescent moon will set early in the evening, leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. The best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Boötes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.
- January 10 - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation.** The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 47.2 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the bright planet in the western sky after sunset.
- January 13 - 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 22:28 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule.
- January 16 - Mars at Opposition.** The red planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Mars. A medium-sized telescope will allow you to see some of the dark details on the planet's orange surface.
- * January 29 - New Moon.** The Moon will locate on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 12:37 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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS

Dear Editor:

It's been wonderful visiting Lillian, AL, at this special time of the year leading up to the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season.

We helped to kick off the annual tree lighting at the Lillian Recreational Park. How about that arrival of Santa by helicopter, what an entrance! The park provided games, activities and even train rides for the kids. They also provided a Secret Santa Shop for kids-only to purchase something special for family, friends, teachers. A fireworks display topped off the evening of family fun.

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay invited us to ride in their annual Christmas parade, a great turnout of over 60 colorful floats and vehicles throwing out candy and treats. It was a beautiful day seeing the outpouring of friends and neighbors spreading good cheer.

The next event on our Lillian journey was having time with kids and their families at the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay annual Breakfast with Santa. Of course lots of fun, food and gifts, along with pictures with Santa.

All of these events have been possible because

of the generous organizers and volunteers who give their time, talents and energy that helps make Lillian the wonderful place that it is, a community coming together to make lasting memories with their friends and families.

Remember it's not what we receive but what we give that creates beautiful memories and a great community to live in. Thank you Lillian for inviting us and creating memories for us as well.

Christmas blessings and a wonderful New Year to all,

Santa and Mrs. Claus

Real Careers in a Virtual World

Thanks to a one-of-a-kind program, students at Elberta Middle School experienced something special. The Baldwin County Career and Technical Department won a grant to purchase 18 Oculus headsets and a program that allows students to experience a plethora of careers in virtual reality. From performing knee surgery, climbing a communications tower, working at a vet clinic, manning a hotel front desk, changing oil in a car, to responding to a car accident and so many more, students worked to get a better understanding of what it is like to perform tasks in these careers.



Pictured are Rachelle Arnold, Cameron Fay, Heidi Rogers, Amelia Madden, and Caden Owens.



'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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Margaret Djuric, Office Coordinator

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They will handle all your dental needs from the basic to the most complex cases.

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 ome 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.



JANUARY 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

January Music

(\$5 cover for non-members)

- Friday, January 3rd - Red Moon Travelers - 7-11 pm
- Friday, January 10th - Kelly Poole - 7-11 pm
- Friday, January 17th - Gary Story & Bad Habit - 7-11 pm
- Friday, January 24th - Jeri Band - 7-11 pm
- Sunday, January 26th - Jimmy Smith - 3-7 pm
- Friday, January 31st - RIPTIDE - 7-11 pm



Tuesdays at 6 pm
NO Bingo January 28th



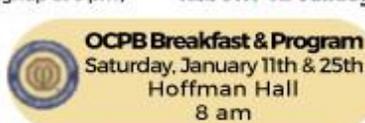
8-Ball Tournament
Saturday, January 4th & 18th
6 pm (Signup at 5 pm)



\$2.75 Bloody Mary's
ALL DAY on Sundays



LCC Fish Dinner
Friday, January 10th
Hoffman Hall
5 pm - 6 pm | \$15



OCPB Breakfast & Program
Saturday, January 11th & 25th
Hoffman Hall
8 am

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH - 7 PM

NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH - 3 PM

BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH - 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



LCC Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 14th | 9 am - 3 pm



Appointments are encouraged,
please visit oneblood.org/donate-now
and use sponsor code 75253

ALL DONORS RECEIVE:

- \$20 eGift Card
- Long-sleeved T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup

Includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

ID REQUIRED

One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Non-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information, please visit oneblood.org/donate.



LCC Quarterly Community Forum

Empower Yourself: Don't be a Victim of Fraud

Tuesday, January 14th | 11 am - 2 pm | Hoffman Hall

Organized by Allison Marlow, Baldwin County Legislative Delegation Aide

SPEAKERS: AARP, Alabama Securities Commission, Area Agency on Aging, Better Business Bureau, Local Law Enforcement, Baldwin County District Attorney & Alabama State Representatives Frances Holk-Jones & Alan Baker
Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP to Alison.Marlow@baldwincountyal.gov if you plan to attend

American Legion Ham Dinner

Sunday, January 26th
11 am - 1 pm | Hoffman Hall

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

\$15.00

RV CONVENIENCE SITES

Located behind the LCC
Members: \$15.00 a day
Pay in the Lounge or Office
Call the Lounge or Office to reserve your spot

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In Monetary Terms, Time for New Year Financial Resolutions

Now that the calendar has flipped, it's time for some New Year's resolutions. You could decide you're going to exercise more, lose weight, learn a new skill, reconnect with old friends — the possibilities are almost limitless. This year, why not add a few *financial* resolutions to your list?

Here are a few to consider:

- **Reduce your debts.** It may be easier said than done, but if you can cut down on your debt load, you'll increase your cash flow and have more money available to invest for your future. So, look for ways to lower your expenses and spending. You might find it helpful to use one of the budgeting apps available online.

- **Boost your retirement savings.** Try to put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If your salary goes up this year, you've got a good opportunity to increase your contributions to these retirement accounts. And once you turn 50, you can make pre-tax catch-up contributions for your 401(k) and traditional IRA. You might also want to review the investment mix within your 401(k) or similar plan to determine whether it's still providing the growth potential you need, given your risk tolerance and time horizon.

- **Build an emergency fund.** It's generally a good idea to maintain an emergency fund containing up to six months worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as an expensive auto or home repair.

- **Keep funding your non-retirement goals.** Your traditional IRA and 401(k) are good ways to save for retirement — but you likely have other goals, too, and you'll need to save and invest for them. So, for example, if you

want your children to go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary training, you might want to invest in a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan. And if you have short-term goals, such as saving for a wedding or taking an overseas vacation, you might want to put some money away in a liquid account. For a short-term goal, you don't necessarily need to invest aggressively for growth — you just want the money to be there for you when you need it.

- **Review your estate plans.** If you haven't already created your estate plans, you may want to do so in 2025. Of course, if you're relatively young, you might not think you need to have estate plans in place just yet, but life is unpredictable, and the future is not ours to see. If you have already drawn up estate plans, you may want to review them, especially if you've recently experienced changes in your life and family situation, such as marriage, remarriage or the addition of a new child. Because estate planning can be complex, you'll want to work with a qualified legal professional.

You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions in 2025. But by addressing as many of them as you can, you may find that, by the end of the year, you have made progress toward your goals and set yourself on a positive course for all the years to come.

For questions, please contact Chantz Blackmon or Jason Kozon located at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, 251-943-3399.



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

American Legion Post 48 Begins its Ham Dinner Fundraisers

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.

We hope everyone who came out to the Lillian Christmas parade had a great time and enjoyed all the floats, the organizers did a super job.

American Legion Post 48 wants to wish the Lillian Community a very safe and Happy New Year.

Ham Dinners: As we move into the 2025 year, Post 48 starts the year with a few Ham Dinners planned. They are on the 4th Sunday of each of the first three months starting in January.

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 such as maintaining the medical closet for the Lillian community, and much more.

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 good conversation.

Meetings are on the third Monday at 7 p.m. in the Lillian Community Club Hall. Become a Legionnaires still serving.



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Gay L. Pyle
1st Vice



Blue Sky Trading Slates Activities, Events for January; See Ad Page 21

Saturday, January 11 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Artisan Class @ Blue Sky Trading Company

Craft/Art Project led by Patti

\$25 Class Fee with All Supplies & Fun

Included

Call 251-961-1150 to Reserve Your Spot

Follow us on Facebook for Details

Saturday, January 18 1p.m. – 3 p.m.

Artisan Class @ Blue Sky Trading Company

Using Wise Owl Chalk Paint led by Lisa

\$25 Class Fee with All Supplies & Fun

Included

Call 251-961-1150 to Reserve Your Spot

Follow us on Facebook for Details

Saturday, January 25 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Artisan Class @ Blue Sky Trading Company

"Iron Orchid Designs" (IOD) Project Led by

Robin \$25 Class Fee with All Supplies & Fun

Included

Call 251-961-1150 to Reserve Your Spot

Follow us on Facebook for Details

Submit news items, photos & community interest items to *The Lillian*. Email to
lillianeditor@yahoo.com

QR Codes From Page 1 Story

Support Landmark District Lillian and/or Unincorporated Elberta – State Representative Alan Baker is willing to sponsor legislation for Lillian Landmark District in order to avoid/prevent being annexed by any municipality involuntarily. 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:



Support/Oppose Lillian Incorporation – Please indicate your support for or opposition to Lillian Incorporation by using the QR Code below to fill out the form:



Scholarships Available From the Optimist Club

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.

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**

21, 2025.

Eligible Seniors should apply online using the QR code.

Or, type this URL into your browser: <https://forms.office.com/r/TtAJefLJeq>

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



Park Offering Five-week Program for Homeschool Kids

As we welcome in the new year, we want to thank all those who made many of the Park's offerings possible. Thank you to those who volunteered their time as well as our very important donors and sponsors.

We have a new offering for Homeschool Kids starting Monday, January 6, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., for 5 weeks. Here is the crochet class description:

Unlock your child's creativity with crocheting classes tailored just for kids! In our classes, your child will start with crochet basics,

from mastering essential stitches to understanding how to work with yarn. Your child will have the chance to bring their creations to life by making two adorable stuffed animals, an octopus and a penguin!

All supplies for the first class will be provided. Two skeins of yarn will be needed for the following classes. Examples of the yarn to purchase will be provided in the first class.

Your child can explore their creativity, develop new skills, and make friends in a supportive and



Lillian Recreational Park

encouraging environment.

Contact Zoe Long at 850-356-6758 and check out her website at <https://zoeraedesigns.square.site/> to sign up.

Exciting new plans are coming to the Lillian Pickleball courts in January. More information to come on our Facebook page.

Masons Move Into 2025 With Continued Enthusiasm, Projects

The Lillian Masonic Lodge 925 F & AM Worshipful Master Dave Johnson said, "The Lodge has experienced a great 2024 and is riding this new enthusiasm into 2025. In addition to growing our membership, we have completed several needed projects. The Lodge has been happy to participate in several local projects. The most recent is its work with the Optimist Club and the local churches to assist needy families during the Christmas Holidays".

Johnson also shared, "Over the past four months, the work shed has been updated with a new foam

foundation to correct the water erosion damage. The ground between the Lodge and work shed has been reshaped to take rain water away from the shed, while spouting was added and the final touch was the addition of new sod. Johnson shared his joy that most of the work was performed by Lodge Brothers".





Let's Keep it Country

by Tracey Gambill

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

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

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 Facebook 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

“A Global Methodist
Congregation”

office@LillianMC.org
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 For All Ages
Sunday Mornings 9:00 AM**

View Online at LillianMC.org

**AA & ALANON Tuesdays
7:00 PM**

**Healing Hope Grief Support
Group January 2 1:00 PM**

**Dementia Education Forum
& Caregiver Support Group
January 16 1:00 PM**

**Community Potluck Supper
January 20 5:30 PM
(Bring side dish for 8)**

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE SINCE 1980

What Are You Doing for Heaven's Sake in 2025?



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

The hymn, “We’ve A Story To Tell To The Nations” declares, “We’ve a story to tell to the nations, That shall set their hearts to the right. A story of truth and mercy, A story of peace and light. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth, a kingdom of love and light.” Are you sharing the story of Christ to all? We pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”, but do we have we any idea what we are praying when we ask for the kingdom of God to come and the will of God to be done? The kingdom of God is the reign of God over human hearts. The kingdom of God is present. John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” When Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the Good News. The sermon was the same, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This kingdom, said Jesus, may be as small as a mustard seed, or as quiet as yeast in bread, but powerful things come in small packages and don’t necessarily make a lot of noise. We do not create the kingdom of God; we only claim it. We do not build the kingdom of God; we only bow to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The Kingdom of God Is Priceless! It is the most valuable discovery you can make in your life. Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a man plowing a field. He doesn’t own the field. He’s just tending the ground. But the old plow uncovers a buried treasure that changes the man forever.

It was more important than any other find he had ever made in his life. So, he sells everything to possess that one piece of land. The kingdom of God is that important. To surrender everything that we may enter the Kingdom of Heaven! The kingdom of God, said Jesus, is like a merchant shopping for fine pearls. He discovers a pearl worth more than everything he owns. So, sacrificing everything, he purchases one pearl of great value. Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is like that.” It is costly, but it’s worth it. Jesus demands and deserves our all. I guess that’s our problem with Christianity, isn’t it? If we could give Jesus the leftovers, just a little bit of devotion here and there, just a little bit of attention, just a little part of our lives, just a little section of our days, it would be okay to have a tinge of religion. Yet Christ dares to come to us amid our lives and say, “I want all of you.” Surrendering all to Christ is worth the price. We cannot receive the kingdom of God until our kingdom goes! We cannot experience the Kingdom of Heaven if we are trying to build our own kingdom! The follower of Christ must daily ask, what do I need to give up, let go of, turn loose, surrender, to experience the fullness of God in my soul?

The kingdom of God is here and now, but it is also not yet. Those who have eyes to see can embrace what is yet to be and yet to come. Someday Kleenexes will be discontinued, and funeral homes will go out of business. Caskets will be converted into toy chests. Someday the darkness will turn to dawn and night will be no more. Someday God will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Happy are those who by faith know that it is going to be all right even when it is all wrong. The kingdom of God, said Jesus, is like a dragnet of fish from the lake. Some are fit to eat, and others need to be thrown away.

There is a prayer that says, “The things, Good Lord, that we pray for, give us the courage to work for.” The will of God is not as much mystery as we would like for it to be. The will of God can be known, it can be found. It is the will of God for there to be Peace on earth through Jesus Christ and that those that receive him as Lord and Savior shine His light and love and bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). It is the will of God that we love one another and forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven us and that we serve one another as Christ served us. It is the will of God that we are good stewards of all creation. It is the will of God that the lost be found so that no one perish, no, not one. It is the will of God that the least be helped. If we care enough to pray the prayer, then we have a responsibility to embrace the will of God, it can be found. Jesus said, “Whoever does God’s will is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Mark 35:25). I want to leave you with this very important question as you start this new year: What on earth are you doing for Heaven’s sake? I believe with all my heart that the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God will not keep you. Will you say, “Here I am Lord, fully, totally, completely, unreservedly, and immediately available to do whatever you ask?”

Blessed are those who are willing to follow Jesus all the way.

Resolved: Community Groups Offer Wealth of Service, Friendships

It's the beginning of a new year and many of us are making the usual resolutions, lose weight, exercise more, read more, don't spend money on "stuff." These are good, but not what I want to talk about this time.

The last couple of months have been extremely busy for many of us with Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special holidays. Did you partake in any of the special events? The Box of Joy? The Christmas Sharing? The Community Thanksgiving Service? Christmas in the Park? The Lillian Parade? The Breakfast with Santa? The Community Food Collection? Special events at local churches and schools?

fun and fellowship and probably too much great food, causing you to make one of those "every year" resolutions. Did you ever think, though, how all these events came about? It's because there are men and women who are dedicated to the community. In addition to contributing funds when called for, they also give of their time and talent.

Have you noticed that at many of these events you see the same volunteers, no matter what the time or day. There are many here in our community, but unfortunately not enough. Some of those volunteers have been required to bow out due to age and/or health. This means our wonderful, special events that occur throughout

the year may disappear.

Unless, yep, unless those who have been holding back step up and say, "Thanks for your service, now it's my turn." I'm sure the "regulars" will be happy to show you the ropes and encourage you to provide your own thoughts and talents that you may have developed throughout your working years or as a volunteer in your home town.

Lillian is your home town now and we need you. Pick a group. Lillian has many, churches, park, Community Club, library, Lillian Volunteer Fire Department, Lower Alabama Search and Rescue (LASAR), Masonic Lodge, Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, Elberta Elementary,



Just a Thought or Two
By Sally McKinney

Middle and High Schools, homeowner associations. Did I miss any? You are needed to keep our special Paradise the greatest place in the world. And want to know one of the best reasons to get involved? You'll meet some wonderful people who in no time will be just like family. See y'all. It's going to be a great new year!

First Annual FCCLA Community Christmas Festival Debuts at EMS

The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) hosted the very first community Christmas Festival at Elberta Middle School on December 13, 2024. This free event was conceptualized and planned by members Hallie Carlson, Ella Sullivan, and Rachelle Arnold as part of their state competitive event: Event Management. The Christmas Festival featured family fun games and crafts as well as local craft vendors. Children also had the opportunity to meet Santa! The chapter plans to make this an annual event in conjunction with the Elberta Christmas Parade, beginning in 2025.



Pictured are FCCLA members Elyjah, Ella, Avery, Harbor Grace, Cameron, Heidi, Hallie, Lanie, Annabelle, Katelyn, Bailey, Audrey, Gracelynn, Rachelle, Braelynn, and Jadeyn with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Optimist Club Sponsors Christmas in the Park

Lillian Recreational Park Secretary Lucy Smith accepted a Christmas in the Park sponsorship donation from Optimist Club of Perdido Bay President Robin Newell.

The Lillian

Call Julie at 703-217-2874

to place your ad in The Lillian!

Amy Carmichael – Mother to the Motherless

It was March 1901. A seven-year-old girl from India named Preena escaped a Hindu temple where she had been abandoned by her mother as a “devotion to the gods.” (She was to serve as a temple prostitute for life.) Preena wandered near a body of water and came in the dark upon a church in the village of Pannaivilai, in south India. Hopefully this church was different than the “church” where she had been living. Was her mother close? Would her mother keep her this time? Providentially, yes. The next day, she embraced and kissed her “Amma”, “Mother” in Tamil language of south India. But it was not her birth mother. It was a thirty-four-year-old Irish woman. Her name was Amy Carmichael (1867–1951).

By that time, Carmichael had been in India for six years. When she left Ireland for India in 1895, she would never see home again. She was determined to proclaim the gospel to unreached peoples. Having grown up in a godly Irish family, Carmichael loved Christ from an early age and had begun teaching the Bible to poor girls in Belfast. Her introduction to Hudson Taylor, a famous missionary to China, heightened her resolve for soul winning and compelled her to missionary work first in Japan and then in India. Her unexpected meeting with Preena refashioned the way that she would go about her missionary labors, from itinerancy movements to established in one place.

Carmichael learned from Preena of the horrific Indian caste and Hindu cultic system, which in turn imposed an insurmountable burden on Carmichael to save as many children as possible from this terrible life. Carmichael’s love for God, which had always fueled her zealous evangelistic efforts, was now channeled into a singular, prayerful obsession, that of rescuing, preserving, educating, and discipling destitute children, especially temple children. Her brutally honest reports about the realities of life for children in such conditions were not always welcomed by Christians at home, but Carmichael was convinced that it was necessary. Slowly Carmichael and those traveling with her began to discover

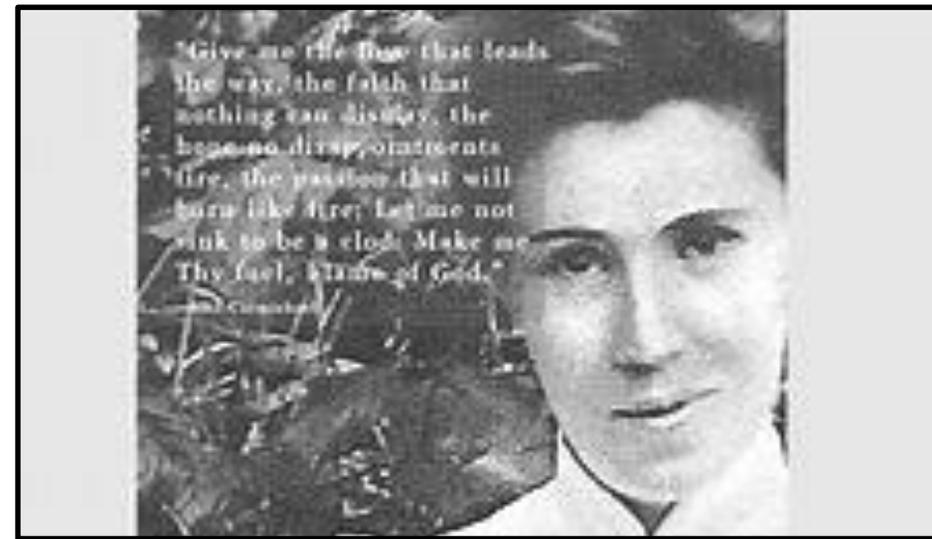
the evil realities of child trafficking. How could she continue traveling to teach and evangelize when so many children were in danger? Her calling, as she saw it, had fallen into her lap. The commitment to the children, which Amy came to was not an alternative to her passion for all age

groups to be brought to Christ. It was very much a part of it. Amy Carmichael understood deeply how the love of Christ animates a life of faith and obedience. Many years into her service in India, Carmichael received a letter from a young lady who was considering life as a missionary, asking, “What is missionary life



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett



like?” Carmichael wrote back, “Missionary life is simply a chance to die.”

With the help of her missionary companions, including a minister from Germany and his wife, she began housing children at the Dohnavur Fellowship (near southern India), which would become the hallmark of her missionary work. By 1904, there were more than thirty girls at Dohnavur. By 1918, several hundred children lived at the home which was now open for girls and boys. Ultimately thousands of children found a home at the Dohnavur Fellowship where

they were saved from a life of misery. Life at Dohnavur was characterized by love, laughter, disciple, fun, and, most importantly for Carmichael, a robust Christian education. She was fervent in prayer and expected great things from the Lord; she saw no shortage of needs fulfilled by extraordinary providences. She never asked for monetary support. Southern India, in many ways, still bears the mark of Carmichael and her work. Hundreds of abandoned babies and exploited children were rescued from temple prostitution. Converts were made. Baptisms administered. And Churches were formed.

All, in large measure, connected in some degree with Amy Carmichael’s relentless labors.

Sadly, Amy suffered a fall in 1931 that left her immobile and bedbound for the remaining twenty years of her life. This immobilization was probably the only way that she would have been willing to write her many books. One such book titled, “If”, offers her reflections on love in the Christian life. In it she writes, “If I have not compassion on my fellow-servant, even as my Lord had pity on me, then I know nothing of Calvary’s love.” Amy Carmichael understood deeply how the love of Christ animates a life of faith and obedience. Her life and ministry questions us: Do we love Christ enough to forsake earthly comforts?

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 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

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(LANDMARK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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

Z24-37, Keifer Property (US Highway 98 and County Road 91 N)- Approved for RSF-1 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.

December 3, 2024: Transfer of Funds for Park Improvements at Lillian Park to Design and 25-0019 Construct Lighting and Landscaping was Approved by the Baldwin County Commissioners.

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 will be in approximately 6 weeks, the third Tuesday of January beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, County Commission Meeting Chambers -2nd Floor, 1100 Fairhope Avenue, Fairhope AL 36532. The subject property is located east of Hwy 83, north of Kichler Circle and south of Gruber's Lane

(SANTA CONONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

While showcasing their new fire engine and fire trucks, the firefighters passed out oranges and apples to all the kids. The Fire Department's fruit giveaway has been an annual tradition for several years. It was fun having it included in this year's Christmas in the Park.

Merry-Oke and Candlelight Caroling around the bonfire were new additions to this year's Christmas in the Park. They proved to be very popular and will become part of the Christmas in the Park tradition in the future.

Next year's Christmas in the Park celebration will begin on Saturday, December 6, with the "Sneak Peek" preview party on Friday, December 5.

**SEE RELATED
STORY ON PAGE 23**

near the town of Elberta. Proposed use: A 247-unit planned residential development in Planning District 22. The residents in the area are doing a great job in fighting this one.

December 17, 2024:

Z24-41, Fernandez Property (County Road 97) Approved- The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 3 +/- acres from RSF-E - Residential Single Family Estate District to RSF-1 - Residential Single-Family District. Heard December 17, 2024, by County Commissioners and Approved. No objection on my part on this one.

Z24-42, Howle Property (US Highway 98) Approved- The applicant is requesting approval to rezone .45 +/- acres from B-2 - Neighborhood Business District to B-4 - Major Commercial District. This is located on Hwy 98 where Bay RV was located eastward in Lillian. Heard December 17, 2024, by County Commissioners and Approved. No objection on my part on this one.

Improvement in process -Modifications to the Baldwin County Subdivision Regulations heard October 1 were tabled until January. These improvements are very good for preserving the visual and practical aesthetics of new development and are including many items that we asked for in our text amendments.

Please evaluate and voice your opinion-If you think the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission is doing a good job, as I do, please email planning@baldwincountyal.gov and voice your opinion. They have come under criticism which I believe is undue.

It has been my experience that they do their homework and due diligence on matters coming before them, ask relevant questions of the staff, applicant and speakers, and make good decisions. I see them being very diligent and deserving of much respect. They are all volunteers from your communities. Let's give them a shout out!

Wisdom: "Recognize the power you have over your own narrative"

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!

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STARFISH CUSTOM INTERIORS (LISA WILLIAMS)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH 1-3
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ROBIN'S VINTAGE (ROBIN HOWELL)
SAURDAY, JANUARY 25TH 1-3
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Monday -Saturday: 10-5

Sunday: 12-5

CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits. Happy birthday wishes in January go out to: Konrad Kemberling,

Jeannette Delaney, John Trenfield, Heather Price, Becky Wiggins, Jake Fretwell, Bob Garcia, Dick Ayres, Joanne Matthews, Tay Randall, Caroline Canaday, Linda Sepac, Shirley Covert, Earl Paschke and Clarence Hardiman.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in January are Jerry and MJ Rooks 1957, Michael and Marge Handzus 1972, Don and Adele Hartman 1981 and Weldon and Ruby Dell Cox 2011. If you would like to add or delete information from the

Chit Chat column, please email:

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 February issue of The Lillian is January 22.

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HELP WANTED: Automotive Paint & Body Technician with tools needed. Colasanti's Classic Cars Body Shop. 850-512-0300, Bob.

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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CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK 2024

Party Before the Party

Christmas in the Park began with a preview party on one day and games and visits with Santa Claus on the next at Lillian Recreational Park. The preview party included food, raffles, music and auctions while the second day featured fun for the entire family with Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving by helicopter. Before Santa arrived, children were able to purchase gifts for loved ones in the Secret Santa Shop, get their face painted, paint ornaments, color pictures and write a letter to Santa, as well as sip on hot chocolate and munch on cookies.

Edward Jones, Lillian Methodist Church, Moore Fasteners, Alabama Credit Union, Baldwin County Sewer Service, Evans Automotive, Infinity Document Systems, Lillian Pharmacy, Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, Doug and Nancy Scott, Joy Sullivan Realty & Oakley Wine Cellar, Swift Supply, United Bank, Elberta Hardware and Lillian Veterinary Hospital. Thank you also to the dozens of raffle and auction item donors.

After Santa arrived, the children sat on his lap and visited, telling them of their hopes for Christmas gifts. Announcements were made by Gulf Coast news reporter Debbie Williams. The Christmas lights were turned on by State Senator Greg Albritton. Thanks to this year's sponsors, Brown Helicopter, Kit Hamilton, Point Broadband,



Party in the Park

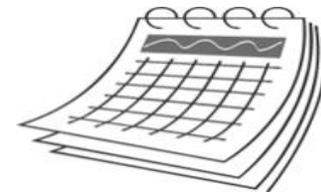


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The Lillian Calendar



January 2 at 1:00 PM: 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.)

January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 10:00 PM & January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 11:00 AM: 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.

January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7:00 PM: 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/>

January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7:00 PM: 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/>

January 11 & 25 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club located at 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian AL 36549. Discover more about the Perdido Bay Optimist Club at www.OptimistClubPB.org

January 16 at 1:00 PM: 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.

AAA—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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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



From brother and sister Doolittle and Kitana wishing you a Happy New Year!

OBITUARIES

Nancy Jo Strader, 82, Lillian

Nancy Jo Strader, 82, of Lillian, Alabama, peacefully made her way to her heavenly home on November 13, surrounded by love, laughter, and probably a gentle eye-roll at one of Robert's comments. Her husband of 18 years, Robert Strader, and her niece, Sindi Baugh, were by her side, as she left this world in true Nancy Jo style—calm, graceful, and with her signature touch of sass.



Born on September 10, 1942, in Charlotte, NC, Nancy Jo entered the world as the youngest of Lonnie Ray and Bessie Simpson Davis's 13 children—yes, 13! She proudly wore her title as the baby of the bunch and outlived her siblings by two decades, which is no surprise given her small stature and firecracker character. Her brothers and sisters—Betty, Margaret, Pauline, Lorraine, Rose, Jerry, Peggy, Bill, Harry, Ray, Sonny, and Fred—may have paved the way, but Nancy Jo held the torch and kept the family legacy alive with her wit, charm, and unwavering love for her nieces and nephews, who were more like siblings.

Nancy Jo graduated from Garinger High School in 1961 and soon took on her most cherished role: being a mom. She raised two sons by herself, Tony Nazal (Tamara) of Garner, NC, and Tim Nazal (Sandra) of New York, NY. Though Tim passed in 2022, his memory remained a constant source of joy and pride for Nancy Jo. Her family expanded with four amazing grandchildren—Harrison Nazal (MacKenzie), Zachary Woodring, Alexandria San Miguel (Aaron), and Mckinsey Nazal—and eight great-grandchildren who brought her endless delight and, let's be honest, probably kept her young at heart.

A working mom before it was a celebrated badge of honor, Nancy Jo juggled life with remarkable grace. She spent over 15 years at Dillard Paper Co. while raising her boys in Greensboro, NC, and later transitioned to medical administration at Piedmont Orthopedics for over 10 years. Retirement, however, was not her thing. She worked at Dr. Pace's office in Lillian until she finally decided, at the spry age of 77, that maybe it was time to rest a bit—or at least cook more for the ones she loved.

Nancy Jo's life was defined by her warmth, her humor, and her legendary cooking. If you left her house hungry, it was your own fault. She loved deeply, laughed often, and made everyone feel like family, whether you were born into it or not. Her love of life was contagious, her hugs were healing, and her wit could brighten even the darkest of days.

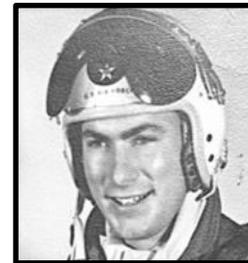
Nancy Jo, or Nannie as she was lovingly called, leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and one-of-a-kind family recipes that will forever be cherished. She was a beautiful lady with an even more beautiful soul, and while her presence will be deeply missed, her spirit will live on in the laughter, love, and ugly biscuits she taught us to embrace.

Rest easy, Nancy Jo—you've earned it.

Robert Stephen Pocreva, Sr., Lillian

A resident of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Robert "Bob" Pocreva passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on December 4, 2024, at his home in Ocean Springs.

Born in 1935, in Glen Lyon, PA, into a large extended Polish family, Bob was the son of John J. Pocreva and Helen H. (Jablonowski) Pocreva and one of four children. He graduated in 1953 from Newport Township and went on to earn a BS in Geology from Penn State University in 1956. As an Air Force pilot at Dover AFB, Delaware, he met Joan Castelazo Pocreva, whom he married on February 26, 1960.



Bob had an adventurous 20-year career in the United States Air Force. He served as a rescue pilot at Anderson AFB in Guam in support of the NASA space program, participated in Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, and was assigned to Thule, Greenland, for a year. He was stationed with his family for four years in England, first at RAF Northolt and then at RAF Mildenhall. Bob concluded his military service at Scott AFB in Southern Illinois in 1977.

During active duty, Bob earned a MS in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1965. After leaving the military, he earned an MS in City Planning in 1978 from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. From 1980 to 1995, he served as an associate professor of Civil Engineering at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Upon retiring at age 60, Bob and his late wife, Joan, moved to Lillian, Alabama, where he lived for 26 years before Bob relocated to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to be closer to family.

For many years he was a member of the Optimist Club in Lillian, AL and volunteered at a nearby elementary school.

At the age of 81, he fulfilled a lifelong dream by traveling the Alaskan highway to the Arctic Circle in Alaska on his motorcycle, departing from the Gulf Coast.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and his wife, Joan Grace Castelazo Pocreva (2008).

Bob is survived by his children, Robert Pocreva, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA; Donna Backues and son-in-law Lindy Backues of Philadelphia; Andrea Fry and son-in-law Bill Fry of Pedricktown, NJ; and Joseph Pocreva and daughter-in-law, Andrea Pocreva of Ocean Springs, MS. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Aubrey Backues, Rainey Backues, Joel Fry, Olivia Fry, Joey Pocreva II, Jackson Pocreva, Caroline Pocreva, and Katy Pocreva; his great-grandchild, Elijah Fry; his siblings, Marie Reneski of Brookhaven, PA, John Pocreva of Foley, AL and Michael Pocreva of Boulder, CO; and a host of friends, especially those from his Bourbon Club, who will miss hearing his amazing stories.

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Has passed away

One Good Thing About Resolutions; There's Always Next Year

New Year resolutions aren't a concept that started a hundred years ago. No, indeed, this tradition dates back 4,000 years to Babylon.

If you want to make one or more resolutions for the year, you might want to write them down so you can refer to them from time to time to help you to commit to your goal.

If resolutions aren't your thing, maybe you have another tradition you like instead. The common ones are New Year's Eve parties and sealing the start of the year by kissing that someone special when the clock strikes 12. We can thank the English and Germans for that annual custom. Or maybe you'd rather sit back in your recliner and watch the ball drop at Times Square or the Moon Pie in Mobile on your TV.

People all over the world do all sorts of things on New Year's in hopes of bringing good luck:

- In Brazil you might spend January 1 jumping over seven waves or wearing white to make your wish come true
- A Dane might stand on a chair and leap from it at midnight or wish for others to smash dishware on their doorstep on December 31. The good luck comes if there are a lot of shards at the door the next morning.
- Columbia you run around as fast as you can with an empty suitcase to guarantee a year filled with travel.
- Philippines-Wear polka dot or eat 12 types of fruits. If you do both does that double your good fortune?
- Ireland-Put a sprig of mistletoe under the pillow on New Year's Eve and you'll dream of a future partner. Hopefully, you're single.

- Puerto Rico-Throw a bucket of water out the window to drive evil spirits away for a year.

- Greece-Hang onions above the entrance door to bring prosperity.

- Spain-Eat 12 grapes, one at each chime of the clock at midnight.

- Turkey-Smash pomegranates against the doorstep to bring abundance.

- Scotland, Isle of Man and Parts of Northern England-they believe in 'first footer' which means that the first person who steps foot over the threshold dictates the kind of year you'll have. The 'first footer' also must bring a useful gift.

- Russia-Write a wish on paper, then burn it and add the ashes to the glass of champagne. If you want a good year, you don't eat lobster or chicken because lobsters move backward and

and rice in south Louisiana and colard greens for much of south United States.

Around the world the food might be cabbage or sauerkraut in Germany and Eastern Europe. Rice in Asia or noodles in Japan and China. Lentils in Italy or herring in Scandinavia.

In my husband's family it was pork pie but I don't know if the tradition came from his father's Scottish side or his mother's French-Canadian side. I did, however, learn to make it and kept up this family ritual but I'm not consistent with doing so anymore. Yike, am I making a mistake and jinxing my future?

Whatever your New Year means to you, have a happy one.

I used to know this nice old guy who I got to spend time talking with



chickens scratch the ground backwards, which is bad luck.

Food choices for New Year's Day can often be eaten to bring good luck for the year. In Alabama, black-eyed peas might be your choice. Red Beans

about his life. He was a quiet man, who had a drinking problem. When he spoke of the good times he used to have, it saddened me.

What he thought was happy and fun in his life was when he was drunk



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

out of his mind.

What was clear to me was that he had been too inebriated for these memories to be his, but were actually what other people had told him happened. When you are so drunk that you fall down the cellar stairs and you believe in your mind that was the best time of your life, you were too out of it to know what went on.

I'm telling you this story to remind you that getting plastered on New Year's Eve does not make it a fun time. Most drunks make idiots out of themselves and sometimes cause harm to others as well.

To really have a fun time is to share the time with others and remain aware of everything.

Important to remember is definitely don't drink and drive.

Designate a person to be the sober driver, then you don't have to worry about making the drunk driving mistake.

"Resolutions/ The New Year brings its promises/ Resolute in dreams and purpose. / Success most often eludes us/ Hopes fade subtly, month by month/ Unfinished plans discouragement, failure. / Resolutions/ Only to begin afresh on day one." Jacqueline Reid.

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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 AGENDA items. Email your support or opposition to: planning@baldwncountyal.gov and copy to: RuralCharacterLillian@gmail.com

ATTEND MEETINGS WHEN POSSIBLE

Thank you, Christmas in the Park sponsors!

Thank you to this year's Christmas in the Park sponsors. Without their wonderfully generous financial support, Christmas in the Park would not be possible.



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- FRI 27 AL & CATHY 6-10
- SAT 28 RIPTIDE. 6-10
- SUN 29 KYLE WILSON 4-8
- MON 30 KARAOKE. 5-9
- TUE. 31 NYE PARTY 6 till

JAN

- WED 1 TBA. 5-9
- THU 2 RHONDA HART 6-10
- FRI. 3 GARY STORY BAND 6-10
- SAT 4 MIDLIFE CRISES 6-10
- SUN 5 JOHNNY & BRITT. 4-8
- MON 6 KARAOKE 5-9
- TUE 7 OPEN MIC GARY. 5-9
- WED 8 TBOHE BO MARK 5-9
- THU 9 RHONDA HART 6-10
- FRI 10 TBA 6-10
- SAT 11 SUGARCANE JANE 6-30
- SUN 12 JOHNNY & BRITT 4-8
- MON 13 KARAOKE 5-9
- TUE 14 OPEN MIC GARY. 5-9
- WED 15 ZACK DIETRICH 5-9
- THU 16 RHONDA HART. 6-10
- FRI 17. RIPTIDE. 6-10
- SAT 18 THE HEAT 6-10
- SUN 19 TBA. 4-8
- MON 20 KARAOKE 5-9
- TUE. 21 OPEN MIC GARY. 5-9
- WED 22 TBOHE BO MARK 5-9
- THU 23 RHONDA HART. 6-10
- FRI 24 TBA. 6-10
- SAT 25 SAUZY FUZZ 6-10

LUNCH SPECIAL MONDAY - FRIDAY 11-4

- MON: FRIED SHRIMP BASKET**
12 SHRIMP / ONION SOY PASTURE, SAUCE, W/STAY PICES 1
- TUE: 3 TACO S SOFT OR HARD**
SOFT OR HARD TACO, YOUR CHOICE
- WED : OYSTER PO BOY**
DELICIOUS FRESH OYSTERS SERVED WITH PICES / CHIPS
- THUR : HAMBURGER**
SOFT BURGER IN THE AREA SERVED W/ PICES / CHIPS
- FRI : FISH FRIED OR GRILLED**
SERVED WITH PICES OR CHIPS

\$9.95