

# Local Activist, Baldwin Co. Bd. Candidate, Addresses Voters, P. 20



Serving Lillian and the surrounding area since 1995

# The Lillian

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

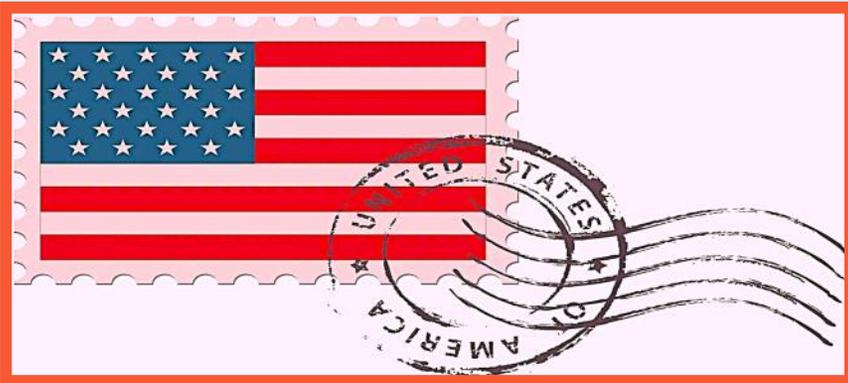
**FEBRUARY 2026**

Lillian, AL 36549  
Volume 30, Number 2

**FREE!**

Compliments of our fine advertisers!

## USPS Scraps 'Mailbox Rule'; Postmark Change Impacts All



It used to be that when a letter was postmarked it was in the hand of the sender.

No more.

Now the postmark is determined by an automated sorting machine instead. With this change

In a rule so small you might've missed it, a USPS postmark no longer marks the date a letter is dropped off to a mailbox or handed to the office in person.

Historically, Americans have relied on this idea of what's known as the "mailbox rule." If you mail something important, it will be marked the date of submission.

Beginning in 2026, the USPS has instituted a new rule that the postmark will now reflect the date an envelope is first processed by an automated USPS sorting machine. This would mean that the postmark could come days after it was dropped off, rather than on the actual drop-off date.

This major change will impact anyone sending a time-sensitive document through the mail such as a mail-in election ballot. The official postmark is a mark that shows where and when mail was accepted by the United States Postal Service. It has been used in law as proof that an individual met a deadline, not only on submitting a ballot by Election Day, but also tax returns, bill payments, or time-sensitive medications. Imagine you drop off your return at the Post Office on April 16 but it's not processed until a day or two later. That means a delay in receiving your check. Tax payments, legal filings, bill payments and other deadlines are also all expected to be impacted by the USPS policy.

## Gruber drops bid for Baldwin Co. Re-election

### Dist. 4 Race Down to 4 Candidates

Three Republicans and one Democrat have stepped forward to run for Skip Gruber's District 4 seat on the Baldwin County Commission.

Gruber, who has served on the commission representing District 4 since 2006, announced in January he will retire.

Drew Arredondo, 39, a Baldwin County BRATS driver, is running unopposed on the Democratic ticket. John "Tater" Harris, Brett Gaar and Lillian community organizer Tracey Gambill will vie for the GOP seat to be decided in the May 19 primary.

Arredondo, 39, says he represents "generational change" on the Baldwin County Commission. A Graduate of Central New Mexico College



in Psychology and Environmental Science, he spent nine years working in Family Support Services at Kirtland Air Force Base, and now serves the community as a Baldwin Transit Driver.



GARR



HARRIS



ARREDONDO



GAMBILL

(SEE DISTRICT 4, PAGE 12)

## 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.

**RWB**  
HOT TUBS

[f](#) [ig](#)

850-490-1420 \* 4148 BARRANCOS AVE., PENSACOLA, FL 32507 \* [rwbhottubs.com](http://rwbhottubs.com) \* [Charlie@rwbhottubs.com](mailto:Charlie@rwbhottubs.com)

## 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!**



Call Today for your FREE  
in-home consultation  
**850-361-2680**  
[ClearChoiceBath.com](http://ClearChoiceBath.com)



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

Military Discounts • Financing Available

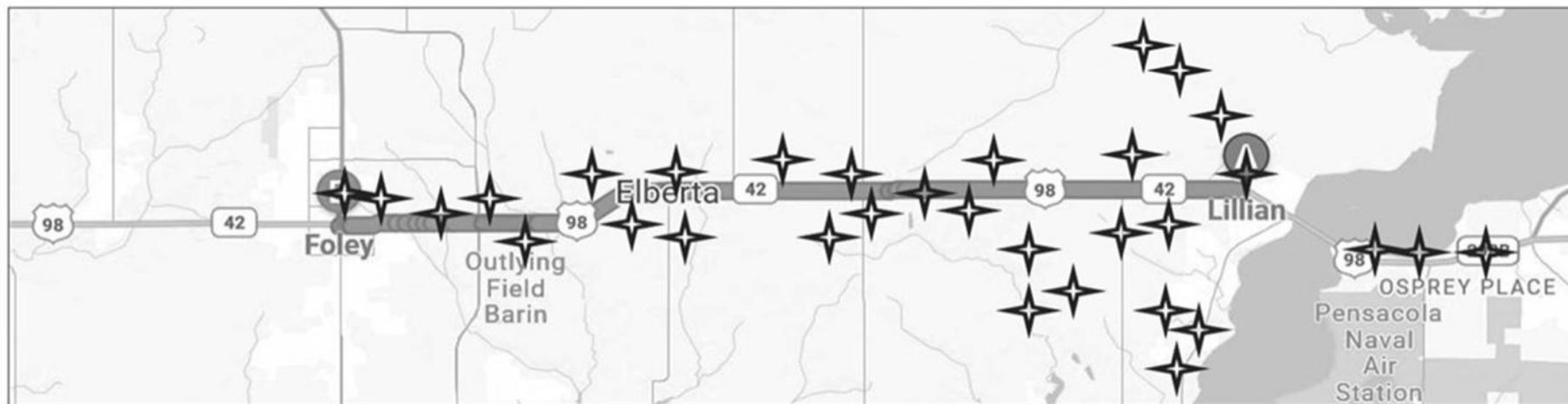
SHOWERS • BATHS • VANITIES & VANITY TOPS • WALK-IN SHOWERS

*“Doing business without promotion is like winking in the dark – you know what you’re doing, but nobody else does.” – David Ogilvy – Advertising*



## WHERE THE HECK CAN I PICK UP THE LILLIAN???

- \* Mannings Jewelry, 207 W. Laurel Ave., Foley
- \* Foley Library, 319 E. Laurel Ave., Foley 36535
- \* Bobes Garage, 30135 US-98, Elberta 36530
- \* Moore Fasteners, 12958 Deer Acres, Elberta
- \* Black Eyed Suzies, 32021 US-98, Lillian 36549
- \* Elberta Animal Hospital, 27817 US-98, Lillian
- \* Elberta Farmers Co-op, 13320 CR 83, Elberta
- \* Elberta Grocery, 25250 US-98, Elberta 36530
- \* Kaechele Motor Service, 25203 State St., Elberta
- \* United Bank, 34354 US-98, Lillian 36549
- \* Chevron Lillian, 33780 US-98, Lillian 36549
- \* Dollar General Lillian, 33880 US-98, Lillian
- \* Lillian Veterinary Hospital, Lillian 33940
- \* Lillian Pharmacy, 34023 US-98, Lillian 36540
- \* Johnny B’s Front Porch, 33925 US-98, Lillian
- \* Dr. Kammer Chiropractic, 12839 6<sup>th</sup> St., Lillian
- \* Nu Volei Salon & Tanning, 12831 6<sup>th</sup> St., Lillian
- \* Wendy Vix, CRNP, 12839 6<sup>th</sup> St., Lillian 36549
- \* Encore Rehabilitaion, 12831 6<sup>th</sup> St., Lillian
- \* Crazy Horse Café, 13110 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola
- \* Farmers Barber , 13120 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola
- \* Greers Pensacola, 12255 Lillian Hwy., Lillian
- \* Kane-9 Pet Supplies, 34423 US-98, Lillian
- \* R’Reileigh’s Café, 34291 US-98, Lillian
- \* Blue Sky Trading Co. 33860 US 98, Lillian
- \* Perdido Beach, 9212 CR 97, Perdido Beach
- \* Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian
- \* KOA, 11650 CR 99, Lillian 36549
- \* RWB Hot Tubs, 4148 Barrancos Ave., Pensacola
- \* The Woodlands Clubhouse, CR-99, Lillian



# A Serious Issue: This is a Chance to Make a Difference for a Few

I don't remember when I met Bill Specht. Over the years we would visit at a community event or at St. Joseph Catholic Church. One time I remember he spoke at an Optimist Club meeting about his efforts at a mission in Antigua, Guatemala. He was over the moon about it!

It all began in 2009 when he decided he wanted to take a mission group to the area after hearing about Hermano Pedro orphanage, run by a Franciscan order of priests for disabled children, all of whom are in wheelchairs. After working most of his teaching years teaching Adapted Physical Education for Disabled Children in Baldwin County, Bill thought he could help them out. He took some friends with him and had been going there often in the following years.

Over the years he had raised money for the orphanage and recently had raised \$2,300 in a fund to purchase playground equipment for the handicapped. Also, a friend had donated \$5,000 to help a disadvantaged family in the area that he had met when becoming familiar with a street market in Antigua.

Maybe, the single mom and her three daughters live in total poverty, with no money for rent or food. Although the mom is a talented artist, making items for sale in the market, there is never enough money and they have all lived in a one room place



or in a park. Bill was in the process of sending her the money as she needed it.

Now comes the bad news, a real downer. When Bill saw a charge on his statement that he hadn't made, he called the company. Somehow a "no-goodnik" got into his computer and cleared all his accounts, including one that was to be a back-up for him in his retirement years.

Bill is devastated and feels he let his Guatema-



**Just a  
Thought or  
Two**

lan friends down. He says he wasn't paying enough attention to his computer when talking with the "representative" for his account. The scammer was able to get all his information. He is so embarrassed that he didn't pay better attention to the "red flags", the extra cursor on the screen.

He has asked for my help and knowing how devastated he is, I agreed. He tried a Go Fund Me account, but there was no success except for the donation from his brother. He asks that donations be sent to him and he will see to it that the proper persons get their share. "The money is not for me," he says. "I pray that God hears my request for help."

This is not a scam. Bill is willing to show you a copy of the police report. It's the beginning of a new year. Let's start it with a donation to help disabled children. Please answer Bill's prayers and send checks to Bill Specht, 33595 Helms Lane, Lillian, AL 36549. God bless you.

**BAYSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
33677 HIGHWAY 98, LILLIAN, AL

**812-371-2323**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 AM  
& 6 PM**

**WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: 6 PM**  
**FRIDAY JAN. 9 10 AM LADIES  
WORSHIP:**



*As we begin a new year, we invite you to come and Worship with us at Bayside Baptist Church. We sing the hymns of the church from the hymnal and preach the Word from the Bible.*

\* Sunday morning we are studying the Gospel of Matthew, verse by verse. Join us at 10:30 AM for a great time of Worship and fellowship.

\* Sunday evening, we are digging into the book of Revelation. Come and join us as we Worship our God and King at 6 PM.

*We are meeting on every Tuesday, late afternoon, 4:30 PM for a time of prayer for the persecuted church. You are invited to join us as we lift up our brothers and sisters all over the world.*

**Numbers 6.24-26**



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

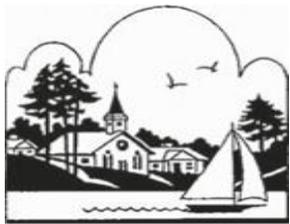
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

WE ARE A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY BASED PUBLICATION



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 March issue of *The Lillian* will be February 18. Anyone may send an email to [lillianeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:lillianeditor@yahoo.com) for information on articles and news.

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 or email [lillianadvertise@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## AMERICAN LEGION ROAST PORK

### Dinners for All!

LAST SUNDAYS:

ON  
**FEB, 22 &  
MARCH 29**



\*TO GO BOXES READY\*

11 AM TO 1 PM AT LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

We will be serving  
**Roasted Pork Loin w/  
sides. \$15 PER PLATE**



# MEDICARE MADE EASY!



*Medicare can be  
confusing - Let me help  
you understand it.*

**ALWAYS FREE REVIEWS**

**f The Medicare Man - Gulf Coast**  
**Chuck Hayes - 205-616-3659**  
*chayes@southboundbenefits.com*

If you are turning 65 soon, it's time to talk about your options.

## Edward Jones

edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

# Stocks. Bonds. CDs. IRAs. Mutual funds.



**Jason Kozon, CFP<sup>®</sup>, AAMS<sup>™</sup>, CRPC<sup>™</sup>**  
**Chantz Blackmon, AAMS<sup>™</sup>, CRPC<sup>™</sup>**  
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](http://www.gulfshorestitle.com)**

Jim Owen, President

## LILLIAN FELLOWSHIP

*A Reformed Congregation  
Together for the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

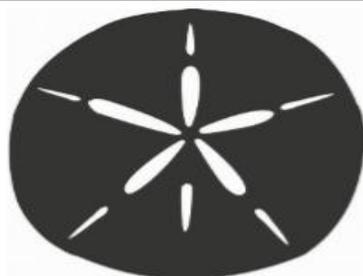
**11737 COUNTY ROAD 99  
[www.lillianfellowship.org](http://www.lillianfellowship.org)**

**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**



**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](mailto:r.b.electric@outlook.com)



## 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

# Turning Up the Heat: Lillian Fire Rescue's Chili Cookoff Feb. 28th

In 2025, our volunteers responded to a total of 919 calls, each one representing a neighbor in need. Of those calls, 39 were fire related incidents, 597 were Emergency Medical Service



## Lillian Volunteer Fire Department By Janett Siler

(EMS) calls, 44 involved hazardous conditions, 110 service calls, 99 good intent calls and 30 miscellaneous. Behind every number is a real moment: a medical emergency, a safety concern, or a situation where someone needed help and reassurance. We are proud to serve the Lillian community and grateful for the continued support that allows us to answer every call with professionalism and compassion.

Lillian Fire Rescue is proud to invite our friends, families and neighbors to one of our favorite community traditions, the **4th Annual Firefighters Chili Cookoff Fundraiser!** Join us on **Saturday, February 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Lillian Community Club** for a day filled with good food, friendly faces, and true community spirit. Everyone is welcome, and we hope you'll come hungry!

While the chili is always a highlight (and there's plenty of it), this event is really about bringing our community together to support the firefighters who proudly serve Lillian every day. For just **\$5**, you can sample all the chili entries or enjoy a **full bowl for \$5**. Whether you prefer something mild and comforting or bold and spicy, there's a chili for every taste.

We are especially **looking for volunteers to cook chili** and help make this year's cookoff our best one yet. If you have a favorite recipe, enjoy

**LILLIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
11331 CR - 91  
LILLIAN AL, 36549

**ANNUAL 2025 - 2026 DONATION REQUEST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested: \$75 Residential / \$150 Commercial**

cooking, or just want to be part of a fun community event, we would love for you to join us. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to share your chili and your time. Individuals, families, friend groups, and local businesses are all encouraged to sign up and participate!

We are proud to once again partner with **Shriners Hospitals for Children**, with proceeds from the cookoff being shared between the hospital and Lillian Fire Rescue. Your support helps both organizations continue serving our community with dedication and care. Mark your calendar, invite your friends, and consider volunteering to be part of this special event. If you're interested in volunteering as a chili cook or would like more information, please call 251-213-8533 or email [lillian-fireevents@gmail.com](mailto:lillian-fireevents@gmail.com)

## Want to Help Our Local Watershed? Plant A Mighty Oak Tree

### By Janet Larson

If you're looking for a way to enhance your yard and make a positive impact on the environment, consider planting an oak tree. Oaks do so much more than provide cooling shade; they are essential to the health of our local ecosystems, supporting a variety of wildlife and helping to stabilize our shorelines.

Did you know that Alabama is home to over 39 species of oak trees? That is more types than any other state in the U.S.

The two primary groups of oak trees found in Alabama are red oaks and white oaks. Red oaks have pointed leaves, and their acorns take two seasons to mature, while white oaks have rounded leaf lobes and have acorns that mature in one season.

Oaks are considered a "keystone species," meaning that they play a critical role in the structure and function of their ecosystems. Oaks provide a haven for 2300 wildlife species, offering them food, shelter, and breeding grounds. In fact, oaks host between 500 to 1,000 species of caterpillars, many of which

become moths and butterflies. These caterpillars are a vital source of food for birds, feeding over 90% of North American birds during their breeding season. Oaks also provide acorns and foliage for deer, squirrels, and other mammals, making them the backbone of North American forests.

Oak trees have strong deep roots that hold soil in place, preventing erosion and stabilizing shorelines. Along beaches, oaks act as natural sediment traps, aiding in the formation of beaches and providing a buffer at the water's edge. Even fallen oaks play a role, protecting embankments from wave action and providing natural bank protection along marine shorelines.

Native oaks are the truly the heroes of North American ecosystems. By supporting unparalleled numbers of species, they help maintain the delicate balance of nature and ensure their survival.

If you want to make a difference for our local waters and wildlife, consider joining the Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association.



For membership details or questions, please email [wpbwac@gmail.com](mailto:wpbwac@gmail.com). Also, feel free to join our Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association Facebook page for more watershed information and updates.

## Feeling Comfortable in Your Own Skin

February is all about love and romance, Valentine's Day cards, roses and heart-shaped boxes of candy.

In a Lyn Liao Butler novel, a grandmother tells her adult granddaughter that it is more important to find herself, so she'll know what she wants in a relationship before she chases after one. Maybe Valentine's Day is when we should look inside ourselves to see if we are truly ready to find that special person.

We all want to love and to be loved, that is human nature, but maybe it is better to understand and know ourselves first and what we want from life, whatever those goals are, before we commit ourselves to searching for someone to complete our life. Sometimes the best relationships come unexpectedly when we least expect them. When we're desperate for something we usually make bad decisions. When we know who we are we just might pick someone who we will be compatible with and enjoy their company for a lifetime. Oh yeah, and that fluttery attraction may be nothing more than a fleeting infatuation and you can't pin a lifetime on that. Or not.

We must be comfortable in our own skin. Too many men and women allow their mate to belittle them mentally and physically. People who do that don't love you because they don't know how and don't care. They only want to possess you. You are better than that. A relationship is a partnership, mutual respect and deep caring which also allows for individualism. They will care about what you think and what you want and likewise you also should be aware of what is important to them.

We are always learning and changing and if we aren't even beginning in the same direction, we will only end up a chasm apart with nothing in common and the end of a relationship that was doomed to fail. Communication is essential...listen as well as talk.

There is a lot more to love than those Valentine presents. Learn that L O V E isn't just a word to be taken lightly.

**Interesting** bit of trivia: The eye has over two million working parts and is the second most difficult and complex organ of the body to understand, the brain being the first.

Here's another trivia bit, we weigh less on a mountain top than we do at the seashore.

**Our** bodies are programmed for Earth's gravity. The force of this gravity tells our brain that we are moving when we walk, turn, jump and so on. The crystals in our inner ear keep us balanced as they work with gravity. Gravity also pushes down on us 24/7 causing us to become shorter as we get older, but it also keeps us from floating away like a helium balloon.

It looks like fun watching the astronaut zooming around the inside of a space capsule like Superman, but how does weightlessness of humans affect the body?

Short term there isn't too much change but the astronauts who live in the space lab in the outer limit of inner space (not actually the true "outer space" according to astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson) for weeks and months at a time do experience issues.

The brain helps these men and women adjust to weightlessness by turning off those inner ear sensors while they are in the weightless environment because balance isn't needed as it is under the influence of gravity. Exercise is imperative to help keep muscles from extreme atrophy and possible bone density loss of up to about 2% a month. Other conditions that occur are the heart becomes smaller because less blood volume is needed and fluid distribution in the body changes shape and pressure. At the beginning of their stay in space, the astronauts may experience headaches, nausea and dizziness.

Reentry into the gravity of Earth plays havoc on the astronaut's body as the heart struggles to handle less blood volume until heart and blood flow return to normal. There will be pronounced disorientation and balance until the brain turns on the inner ear sensors. Vision changes may also occur with blurriness because of pressure on the optic nerve caused by fluid redistribution. Normal body function may take several weeks to return. Being an astronaut isn't for the faint of heart.

"My love for you is not seasonal, it is present in every day." Lovequote.com.

"The first duty of love is to listen!" Langston Hughes



### Bits and Pieces By Jackie Reid

## Along With Charm and Beauty, Lillian Land Offers Diversity

### Keeping Lillian Country Along Perdido Bay

Lillian has always been known for its country charm, friendly neighbors, and easy coastal living. Along Perdido Bay near the Lillian Bridge, B-2-zoned waterfront lots offer a thoughtful way to support small-scale growth while preserving that small-town feel.

These properties allow mixed use, such as a neighborhood coffee shop or local business on the ground level with living space above. This approach supports local owners, keeps services close to home, and avoids the kind of large commercial development that doesn't fit Lillian's character.

Lillian is truly a gem—where country living meets the coast, and community still comes first.






**Shannon Young**  
Realtor®

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

Theres No Place  
Like Home.




**COLDWELL  
BANKER**  
COASTAL REALTY

## The Lillian Online!

Read your local  
newspaper anytime,  
anywhere!

Go to [lilliancommunityclub.com](http://lilliancommunityclub.com), click on  
The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the  
page. Please bookmark our page!

## Park Sponsored Back Porch Fans Start the New Year Right



The Lillian Recreational Park opened new park programs geared toward helping members of the community stay active and stay social. Mahjong players meet from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday and Bingo is offered from 1 to 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Also



on the agenda is a walking group that meets 9 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday. The new programs are open to anyone 55 or older. For more information about the Back Porch program, visit the park's Facebook page or call Lucy, 719-494-7986.

 **Dr. C. Vision Care**  
**Optometrist**

### 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!

 [www.drcvisioncare.com](http://www.drcvisioncare.com)

 **850-456-2019**





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

## Latest Book by Jan Greer Endfanger

Mardi Gras is a big part of our community. It's about time to go to the parades in our area with lots of beautiful floats and items thrown from them continually.

As a library we are constantly looking for new books to offer our patrons. This is one that really could get your attention:

- \* **"People Gotta Eat" by Jan Greer Endfanger**
- \* **Stories of Groceries and Grace**
- \* **She is the Vice President of Human Resources & Marketing at Greer's stores.**
- \* **2024 Murphy High School Hall of Fame Inductee**
- \* **2023 Women Grocers of America Woman of the Year Nominee.**

We are accepting donations of books that have been published within the last six years and in good condition. If you have old, dirty books, please do not bring them to our library. We cannot accept them nor display them on our shelves. Recently someone donated two large totes of dirty books, most were given to the Waterfront Mission and others were put in our garbage can. If anyone has those kinds of books to get rid of, please call the Waterfront at 850-607-8340 and they will make a date with you to pick those books up at your house or wherever you want.

If you have not visited the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, you would be in for a surprise. We have so many books, DVDs, audio CDs, music CDs, children's books, even a large Baldwin County map displayed with information in the display, to be checked out or even some maps for free. We have books for sale at \$1 and paperbacks for sale at \$.50. You do not have to be a member to buy.

If you would like a library card, just fill out a form and you have it for FREE. We do have a members form for an individual for \$10 or family \$15 for a year. There will be a note in the mail this month for all our members to join again this year. We thank everyone for the donation, as we do not receive any government funds from the local, county, state or Federal. There is a form located with this article for you to fill out, if you would like to join as a library member.

We also have a computer room, 5 computers and 2 printers, available to the public, for a small donation. Our large printer in the workroom can print/scan/fax, for a small donation.

The Lillian Perdido Bay Library is open from Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m-12 p.m.

We truly appreciate each of you and feel so fortunate to be able to provide services to our community.





## LILLIAN PHARMACY

Where You Matter Most

**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](mailto:lillianpharmacy97@yahoo.com)  
[www.lillianpharmacy.com](http://www.lillianpharmacy.com)



*First Baptist Church*

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12

### 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**

## (DISTRICT 4, FROM PAGE 1)

"I represent a new generation of leadership, committed to protecting and working with the people of Baldwin County. That means standing against reckless, and unvetted growth that benefits developers at the expense of our environment and current residents," he said. "It means ensuring school safety, support to local businesses and farmers, respect and care for seniors and vulnerable community members, and assuring that every citizen feels heard, valued, and confident that their county government works for them beyond the election."

Gambill, of Lillain is a citizen advocate with court reporting experience in the DC Metro area, and Chairperson of the Baldwin County Board of Adjustment

"I am committed to transparency, protecting taxpayer dollars and keeping Baldwin County from being bulldozed by large developments," she said in a campaign advertisement.

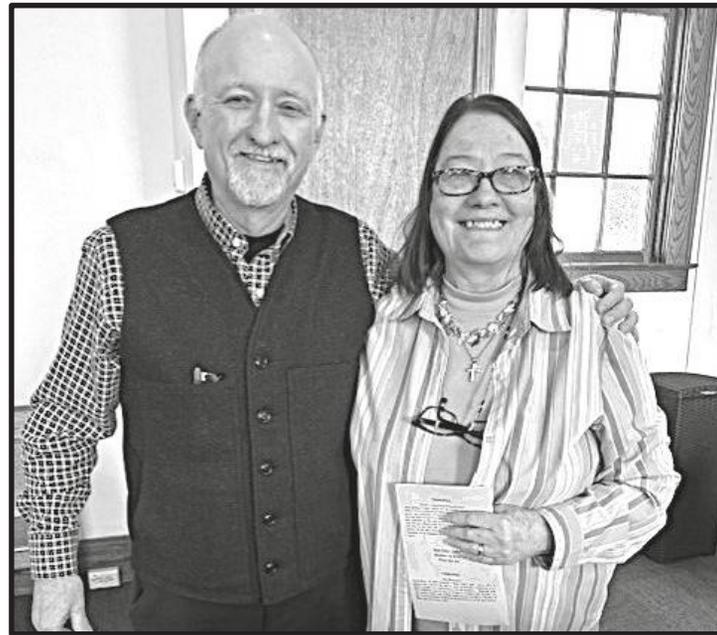
Garr, 59, is a retired Civil Engineer, and a lifetime resident of Magnolia Springs who served on the Town of Magnolia Springs Council from 2008 to 2012

"I decided to run for County Commission because my family has a long history in Baldwin County and this county has been good to my family. I also hope, more generations of my family will also call this home. Now that I am retired, I have the time to give back, and I believe my career path provides useful tools to help our county," he said in a campaign Facebook post.

Harris, Orange Beach, is the owner and operator of Gulf Coast Rental Co. He says he brings hands-on experience in managing multimillion-dollar construction projects as a certified construction manager.

"Baldwin County is growing fast, and that growth has to work for the people who live here — not just those moving in," he says of his campaign website. "We need leadership that listens, protects our values, and knows how to get things done."

## Local ACCW Members' Meeting Held at Christ the King in Daphne



Members of the Baldwin-Escambia Deanery of the Mobile Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women held their quarterly meeting at Christ the King Catholic Church in Daphne. The speaker was Kirby Sheridan who spoke on "Men's Perspective of the Blessed Mother." Pictured with Sheridan is ACCW President Anne McAdams.

### Lillian's Chiropractor

#### Kammer Chiropractic

251-962-4610

12839 6th Street (99 North)

www.KammerChiro.com

Dr. Dan Kammer

## 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

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Contact [PLANNING@BALDWINCOAL.GOV](mailto:PLANNING@BALDWINCOAL.GOV), 251-580-1655 for questions or to show support or opposition regarding upcoming zoning and subdivision cases. 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 when possible. Please email me with questions or comments at [TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM](mailto:TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM)

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



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



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY STATION

## 251-961-7109



## 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.**

February 12—Community Dine Around, 6:00 p.m.  
Vallarta Mexican Restaurant, Sorrento Rd.

February 14—Breakfast Meeting, 8:00 a.m.  
Program—Kim Tate, AmeriCorps

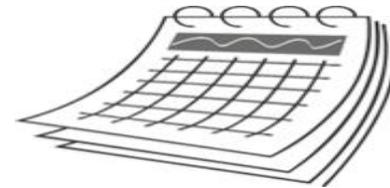
February 16—Fun Night at the Front Porch, 5-9 p.m.

February 28—Breakfast meeting, 8:00 a.m.  
Program—Optimist Essay Winners

*Join us! For more information—*

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

## The Lillian Calendar FEBRUARY 2026



February 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 11:00 AM & February 5, 12, 19 & 26 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.)

February 3, 10, 17 & 24 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/>.)

February 3, 10, 17 & 24 General AA Meeting & February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Open AA Meeting at 7:00 PM., 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; the organization is open to anyone, regardless of background, beliefs, or identity. For information, contact Bill Halford at 850-380-8132. To learn more about AA at <https://www.aa.org/what-is-aa>

February 5 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.)

February 5, 12, 19 & 26 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.)

February 8, 9:00 AM – 12 Noon: Donation Pancake Breakfast at Lillian Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. The Methodist Men will be serving pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee following the 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM services. All profits will be given to the Hands and Feet of Jesus Ministry in Pensacola, FL. Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.

February 14 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (Our guest speaker will be Kim Tate with AmeriCorps. To learn more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, go to [www.OptimistClubPB.org](http://www.OptimistClubPB.org).)

February 18 at 6:45 PM: Ash Wednesday Service at Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. Join us as we begin the season of Lent with a solemn service of worship and the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday marks the official start of Lent, a 40-day season (excluding Sundays) of prayer, fasting, and repentance leading up to Easter. During the service, you will receive a cross of ashes on your forehead as a Reminder of our Mortality as we "Remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return". This reminds us of our humble beginnings and the transient nature of life. The Ashes are also a Symbol of Repentance as a physical sign of our desire to turn away from sin and focus our hearts on God's grace and forgiveness.

February 19 at 1:00 PM: Memory Lane Café, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (For more information, see this month's Dementia article in The Lillian.)

February 28 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL. We will be hearing and recognizing this year's Essay Contest winners. To learn more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, go to [www.OptimistClubPB.org](http://www.OptimistClubPB.org).)

## 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](mailto:churchoffice@adventlillian.org)  
251-961-2505 & [www/AdventLillian.org](http://www/AdventLillian.org)  
"A little church with a big heart"

## READY FOR ADOPTION NOW!

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



## Lillian's Pets of the Month



CALLIE IS A MOM



JOCK IS VERY SMART

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](mailto:lillianeditor@yahoo.com)

## Lillian's Pests of the Month



ALABAMA BOAR



ALABAMA BLUE JAY

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

## PANCAKE BRUNCH

Lillian Methodist Church Men's Club  
9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Feb. 8  
Cost: Donations  
Fellowship Hall

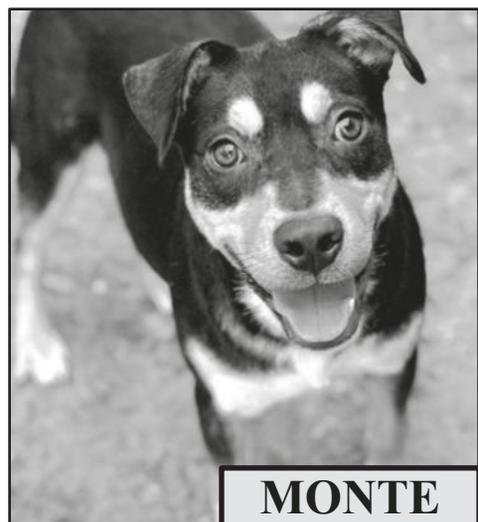
Visit the Baldwin County Animal Shelter County Road 49, Summerdale, AL 36580  
251-972-6834



FLINT



SAUSAGE



MONTE



FOXY



ALLIE



MEREDITH

## Local Author Honors Erwins Through Optimist Donation



Jan Greer Endfinger recently visited the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay meeting to discuss her new book “People Gotta Eat,” stories of Groceries and Grace. Endfinger is Vice President of Human Resources and Marketing of Autry Greer & Sons, Inc., operating Greer’s grocery stores. From left are Optimist Club President Rob-in Newell, Endfinger, Dick and Betty Erwin and Gene Endfinger, Jan’s husband. Before leaving the meeting the Endfingers presented the club with a check in honor of the Erwins.

PLEASE JOIN US

Saturday, February 21st, 4-6 pm

Morgan’s Chapel United Methodist Church

Enfinger Center

6325 Bon Secour Highway/CR 10

Bon Secour, AL 36511

## Fundraising Event

Hosted by Matt McKenzie, Baldwin County Sheriff candidate & Tracey Gambill, Baldwin County Commissioner candidate.

Come talk with the candidates. Ask questions and learn more about them and their plans for Baldwin County’s future.

Enjoy live music by Lisa Zanghi, food and more! Seafood donated by Aquila Seafood, Inc.



**Matt McKenzie**

Born and raised in Baldwin County, Matt has spent his life serving our community—as a Marine, a state trooper, and now as a county commissioner. As your Sheriff, he’s committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and honesty, rooted in Christian values. He will prioritize transparency and ethical leadership, ensuring that Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office operates with accountability and transparency.

LEARN MORE AT: [MATTFORSHERIFF.COM](http://MATTFORSHERIFF.COM)



**Tracey Gambill**

Tracey is committed to transparency, protecting taxpayer dollars and keeping Baldwin County from being bulldozed by large developments. As County Commissioner, she will focus on real, everyday needs. Her priorities are safer communities, better access to services, and practical solutions that directly improve quality of life, NOT political agendas.

RSVP TO: [TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM](mailto:TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM)

## It's Mah Jongg Time: GAME ON!

The Lillian Recreational Park is so pleased by the initial success of their Mah Jong and bingo offerings that, starting in February, they are turning up the fun by offering evening options for those who love a lively night out.

Mah Jong classes began in January and have proven to be a huge success! Carol Steely, Mah Jong instructor and coordinator, said "We are thrilled that so many people are learning to play and enjoy Mah Jong! The game is so much fun to play. We hope that even more people will join us."

Mah Jong play is offered weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00. Evening play will start at 6:00, beginning on Wednesday, February 18. Beginner classes will resume in March.

Bingo has also proven to be a big hit. Bingo is offered at 1:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and, now, will be offered at 6:00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday as well.

Bonnie Messina, Bingo caller and coordinator, encourages people to come play. "It's the most fun you can have for 25 cents! Bring your quarters, your friends and get ready for cheers, laughs, and the thrill of calling out "BINGO!" Come have fun with us!"

Bingo and Mah Jong are offered in the conference room of the Park's main building, 33914 Widell Avenue in Lillian.



## Lillian West Side Rec. Center On US 98 Slated to Receive Accessibility Upgrades

The Baldwin County Commission has awarded a construction contract to complete park improvements at the Lillian Recreation Center, located on U.S. Highway 98 in Lillian. The project will enhance accessibility and provide new amenities to better serve area residents.

"We are excited to provide surrounding residents with a community park they can be proud of for generations to come," said District 4 Commissioner Charles "Skip" Gruber.

The Baldwin County Commission has awarded the contract to Gibson

Construction Services, LLC, to construct ADA-compliant men's and women's restroom facilities, a timber picnic pavilion to support outdoor gatherings, ADA-accessible parking, and a connected network of new sidewalks.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring and is anticipated to be completed by late summer.

For more information, please fill out a media request submission form at: <https://baldwincountyga.gov/departments/county-administration/media-request>.

## Pork Roast: Lillian Legion Annual Fundraiser Now in Full Swing! P. 15

The American Legion is your voice in congress; we 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.

If you have served Active Duty in the United States Armed Forces and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

**The dinners will be on the last Sunday of each month in January, February and March. The hours will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and are \$15 a plate. Please come out and support your local American Legion.**

**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 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 being



**Lillian American Legion Post 48**

By Gay L. Pyle  
1st Vice  
President

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.



**Thank You:** Thanks to everyone who came out to support Legion Post 48's fundraising dinners. Hope you enjoyed the January dinner and hope to see you again on February 22 and March 29 at the Lillian Community Club Hall. Bring your friends and family.

**POST 48 FUNDRAISER DINNERS:** These dinners are the Legion's primary fundraisers and provide the money for the continued activities and donations, such as building ramps for disabled veterans, maintaining the medical closet and much more.

# PJ Plumbing

Master Plumber/Gas Fitter

See our reviews on  
Next door Licensed  
251-504-0457  
251-236-2116



## Red Hat Ladies Ring in Mardi Gras at Luna's in Orange Beach

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat Ladies held their Mardi Gras gathering at Luna's in Orange Beach hosted by Ann Cox and Judy Wittig. The food, atmosphere, and service were great. Our hostesses had everything planned. Our Birthday Girls: Diane Gilbert and Jan Willoughby received resin poured Prayer Hands made by our own Ann Cox, along with warm stocking slippers, and Judith gave them live tea roses. Judith also provided great door prizes: a beautiful orchid won by Brenda Cannon, pure maple syrup won by Sandra Juries and Deb Pifer, and a Blue Heron dish towel won by Linda Stephens. Our Valentine gathering will be hosted by Ann Cox and Karen Brady at the Elberta Sandwich Company in Foley.



## Advice: How to Talk With a Family Member Who Has Dementia

Communicating with a family member who has Dementia can be challenging. Dementia affects memory, language, reasoning, and the ability to process information, but it does not take away a person's need for dignity, connection, and love. With Patience and the right approach, meaningful conversations are still possible.

### Understand What Dementia Changes

Dementia may cause a person to forget recent events, have trouble finding words, become confused or anxious, repeat questions, or misinterpret what they hear or see. These changes are part of the disease, not intentional behavior.

### When Communication is Difficult

Some days will be harder than others. Take breaks when needed and try again later. Remember, you are doing your best.

### The Most Important Thing to Remember

Even when words fade, emotions remain. Your loved one may not remember the conversation, but they will remember how you made them feel.

Join us on February 19 at 1 p.m. for a very special Valentine Memory Lane Café, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL 36549. During this time, we will take a stroll down memory lane and have a joyful, relaxed afternoon filled with yummy snacks, 50's & 60's music, checkerboard tablecloths, and tips for better conversation, such as

(Approaching with Calm and Respect, Keeping It Simple, Listening More Than You Speak, Not Arguing or Correcting, Validating Their Feelings, Using the Power of Reminiscence, Watching Your Body Language, Managing Repetition with Patience, and Reducing Distractions.) RSVP Requested, But Not Required! For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

4th annual

Carnival Food 50/50 Raffle

# Designer Purse Bingo

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

DOORS OPEN AT: 10:30AM  
GAMES STARTS AT: 11:30AM

Location: Lillian Community Club  
34148 Widell Ave., Lillian, AL 36549

Prices:

\$50 - One Card

\$50 - Two Cards

\$100 - Four Cards

742126 A Matt Pusch 742126

Liver Transplant Fundraiser

\$20 Entry

Tickets:

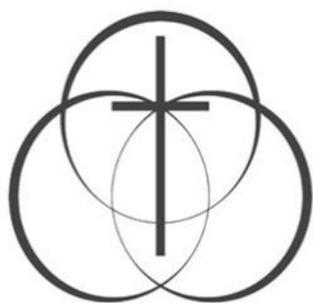
**Jamiesmomsheart.org**

Location: Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian, AL 36549

# The Lillian Online!

Read your local newspaper anytime, anywhere!

Go to [lilliancommunityclub.com](http://lilliancommunityclub.com), click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page. Please bookmark our page!



**LILLIAN**  
**Methodist Church**  
 12770 South Perdido Street  
 Lillian, AL 36549  
 (251) 962-4336  
 office@LillianMC.org  
 www.LillianMC.org

“A Global Methodist  
 Congregation”

**Rev. Daniel W. Randall, Pastor**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:00 AM**

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM**

**ONLINE WORSHIP at LillianMC.org**

(Click on the Worship tab to view.)

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

**AA Open Meeting Saturdays 7:00 PM**

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY Thursdays 6:30 PM**

**HEALING HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**February 5 1:00 PM Conference Room**

**Men's Donation Pancake Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 8 9:00 AM - Noon**

**POTLUCK February 16 5:30 PM**

(Bring an dessert or side dish for 8.)

**Dementia Education Forum, Care  
 Partner Support Group & Aging in Place  
 February 19 1:00 PM**

**REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE**

## Finding Strength in the Wilderness



### The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Radall

In our journey of faith, we often find ourselves in what we might call wilderness seasons. These are times of isolation, trial, and intense pressure where our strength feels depleted and our path forward is unclear. During these moments, the enemy often targets our vulnerabilities, just as he did with Jesus nearly two thousand years ago. The Gospel tells us that after His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He fasted for forty days and was tempted by Satan. This experience was not a diversion from His mission but a critical preparation for it. From Jesus's victory in the desert, we find three powerful truths to help us face the temptations and challenges of our own lives.

First, Trusting God Over Our Immediate Needs. Jesus's first temptation was to turn stones into bread after weeks of fasting. Satan appealed to the valid human need of hunger to distract Him from God's ultimate purpose. In our lives, we often face the temptation to take shortcuts to satisfy our needs, whether they are financial, emotional, or relational. Jesus answered with Scripture: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God". He reminds us that while our physical needs are real, our spiritual foundation is what truly sustains us. We can trust that God knows our needs and will provide in His perfect timing.

Second, Choosing Faithfulness Over Success. The wilderness also presents the temptation of power and instant recognition. Jesus was offered the kingdoms of the world if He would only bow to a different master. We often feel pressured to be "successful" by the world's standards, sometimes at the cost of our integrity or our relationship with God. However, Jesus chose the path of love and selflessness over worldly power. His victory shows us that through trust and obedience, we can fulfill our divine calling without compromising our faith. True peace comes from remaining steadfast in God's plan, even when it is difficult.

Third, Relying on a Savior Who Sympathizes with Us. One of the most comforting aspects of Jesus's time in the wilderness is that it reminds us He is not a distant God. As Hebrews 4:15 tells us, we have a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses because He was tempted in every way that we are, yet He remained without sin. When you feel overwhelmed by life's challenges, remember that Jesus has walked this ground before you. He is the one who maintained a perfect relationship with the Father under pressure that would break any of us. Because He overcame, we can go to Him for the strength to stand firm in our own wilderness.

For us Jesus' example in the wilderness is a call to trust him. We must be reminded that life does not necessarily get easier when we choose to follow Christ, but it does become more hopeful. Even when we feel like we are walking in circles, we are never truly alone. It is my hope for you that if you have not yet put your trust in Jesus making your Lord and accepting His salvation, that you will. Let go of the fear that you must handle your trials by your own strength. Instead, look to Jesus, our guide through the wilderness and our hope for every tomorrow.

If you haven't yet found a church family, we would love to have you join us for worship on Sunday at 8:00 or 10:00 AM and our monthly Community Potluck Supper February 16 at 5:30 PM. Grace & Peace - Pastor Daniel Randall, Lillian Methodist Church

## Among Other Things, Johnny Appleseed Was a Devout Church Member

Among the many observances on our calendar is Johnny Appleseed Day which is September 26. I thought I would call our attention to it now in case any local gardeners wish to plant an apple tree, or other fruit tree, this spring.

My early memory of Johnny Appleseed is the nursery rhyme which goes, "Oh, the Lord is good to me, And so I thank the Lord, for giving me the things I need; The sun and the rain and the appleseed. The Lord is good to me, Johnny Appleseed! Oh, and every seed I sow, Will grow into a tree. And someday there'll be apples there, for everyone in the world to share."

In this fairytale-like story, Johnny is depicting a joyful, barefoot wanderer who wore a tin pot as a hat and planted seeds (seeds which would grow into large apple trees) out of the kindness of his heart. Yes, there was a Johnny Appleseed. But we must do a bit to untangle the fairytale from the true story. Yes, Johnny Appleseed actually lived. Appleseed's real name was John Chapman, September 26, 1774 to March 18, 1845, from Leominster, Massachusetts. Chapman grew up during the American Revolutionary War, in which his father served as a minuteman at the Battle of Bunker Hill. His mother died during childbirth and his father returned home from war and began to teach young Chapman the farming trade.

In his work, Chapman was guided by his faith as a devout member of the Church of Swedenborg. The Church forbade its members from harming God's creation, prompting Chapman to become a vegetarian and animal rights activist. His typically well-worn clothing and bare feet were characteristic of his beliefs. Chapman refused to use the grafting technique to create his orchards as the Church believed it caused plants to suffer, so he planted his orchards using seeds from his sack.

The popular image is of Johnny Appleseed spreading apple seeds randomly everywhere he went. In fact, he planted nurseries rather than orchards, built fences around them to protect them from livestock and wild-life, left the nurseries in the care of a neighbor who sold trees on shares, and returned every year or two to tend the nursery. By the early 1800s, Chapman was working on his own as an orchard farmer, planting and selling trees. This was at a time of rapid expansion on the

Western frontier. In some western territories the government made a deal with settlers that anyone willing to create a permanent homestead in the land beyond would receive 100 acres of land for free. In Ohio, to prove the homestead permanent, settlers were required to plant 50 apple trees and 20 peach trees in three years. Chapman took advantage of this deal, traveling through Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois, planting enough seeds to create orchards that he would sell to settlers when they arrived. By the time Chapman died at age 70, he owned more than 1,200 acres of unsold land preparing more apple trees to be planted.

Oddly enough, Appleseed's apples were not necessarily meant for eating. The apples Chapman planted were not like the apples you find in a grocery store today. These apples were small and bitter, ideal for hard apple cider. Since drinkable water in the frontier was sometimes in short supply, cider gave the settlers something safe and stable to drink.

Sadly this meant that time of prohibition erased much of Appleseed's legacy. During prohibition, most of the apple trees grown to produce hard cider were chopped down by government agents in order to prevent the hard cider being made into an alcoholic beverage. Along with destroying most of Chapman's work, America nearly lost its connection to hard cider.

The last known tree to be planted by Chapman is in Nova, Ohio. The 176-year-old tree grows tart, green apples now used for applesauce, cider, and baking.

Johnny Appleseed's seeds changed today's apple industry by his preference for seeding over grafting which allowed for the creation of modern-day apple varieties, such as the red delicious and golden delicious apples. Unlike grafting, which ensures the same fruit grows each time, growing from seeds opens the tree up to genetic variation and allowed for a different type of tree to form. Planting from seeds also gave the trees the ability to adapt and thrive in their new location, which likely would not have been possible if the trees were pruned through grafting.

Although there are discrepancies between the tale of Johnny Appleseed and the real life of John Chapman, one thing remains consistent: his respect for the world he lived in. He was making the world a better place, one apple tree at a time.

If you want to talk more about religion in the United States or any aspect of the Christian faith, come visit us at Episcopal Church of the Advent. Sunday Service is 10am. Everyone is welcome.



### Moving Forward

By Rev. Tina Lockett

## KAEICHELE MOTOR SERVICE

P.O. Box 187

Elberta, Alabama 36530

Phone (251) 986-5219



13110 Lillian Hwy.  
Pensacola, FL 32506

TO GO orders [crazyhorscafe.dimeblast.com](http://crazyhorscafe.dimeblast.com)

**Home Style & Cooking**

\* Daily Specials \*  
Serving Beer & Wine

Mon.-Thurs. & Sat

7am-2pm

Friday 7am-7pm

Closed Sunday

Ron & Shelly Burch

\* Owners \*

(850) 455-5252



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

GENE FELL  
14820 BISHOP TRACE  
LILLIAN, AL 36549

OFFICE (251) 962-2574  
GENE 426-5234  
EMAIL: [gdsinc2@gulftel.com](mailto:gdsinc2@gulftel.com)

# The Lillian

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

# Local County Board Candidate Updates Lillian's Bid for Landmark Status

Greetings!

**Update on Lillian Landmark District:** After working on Lillian Landmark District since December of 2024, over 700 signatures, a Town Hall, countless volunteer hours by our citizens, a legal description provided in April 2025, and numerous email exchanges, I have been informed by Representative Alan Baker that Senator Albritton prefers for us to get letters of commitment from the Baldwin County Delegation as follows: "Letter of Commitment which achieves the end result of no (forced) annexations without public input and a vote of affected citizens, I think it best that you speak further with Sen. Albritton on this pursuit to accomplish the desired goal." I have responded to both Baker and Albritton: "Gentlemen, as I stated before, the letters of commitment are only as good as a particular representative remains in office. With a possible delegation change coming as soon as January, I fail to see this as a solution. The only real solution in my opinion is legislation. However, since that isn't going to happen anytime in the near future, please reconsider the options for Lillian. I am willing to come to Montgomery if necessary to discuss this further and to get the signatures of the delegation personally if that is what needs to be done. I had prepared a draft letter to which Senator Albritton did not respond. I could have gotten the signatures already while the representatives were here locally before the session began. I know that Francis Holk-Jones will not sign. We have so many people counting on this, especially since there are several other Landmark Districts already. They don't deserve to be let down this way. I will do what you decide is the best way to move forward and appreciate your time and effort. Please advise how you wish for me to proceed. This is for the citizens you represent, not me personally. Respectfully, Tracey Gambill."

From Matt Simpson, Chairman Baldwin County Delegation: "We have had a lot of people reach out about Landmark Districts recently. As chair of the Baldwin Delegation, I want to make sure we are doing right by the people of Baldwin County. My plan is to get a committee together to study and create a protocol on how we need to proceed on all landmark district requests. This committee will have to have in depth study so it will take some time. Because of that, there won't be any landmark district legislation that will come out of this legislative session."

This is infuriating at the least. We followed the path that we were told to follow for Landmark District as well as attempted to get the Letter of Commitment. There are a minimum of six Landmark Districts in Baldwin County since 2012. Landmark Districts are not fail safe ... legislative annexations are still a possibility at this point in time. But it makes a statement that we citizens want to have a voice in the decision by voting for or against.

NOW if this upsets any of you citizens, please email, call and write to your representatives with your opinions ASAP! They need to hear from LILLIAN CITIZENS! The 30 working days per year Legislative Session began January 13 and ends in April-May! That's it, no further legislative sessions until next year.

State Representative Alan Baker, District 66: [staterep@co.escambia.al.us](mailto:staterep@co.escambia.al.us) (serving Escambia County and a portion of Baldwin County), 11 S. Union St., Suite 427-B, Montgomery, AL 36130-2950 | Phone: (334) 261-0420

State Senator Greg Albritton, District 22: [greg.albritton@alsenate.gov](mailto:greg.albritton@alsenate.gov), (serving Escambia, Washington and parts of Baldwin and Mobile Counties), 11 S. Union St., Suite 727, Montgomery, AL 36130 | Phone: 251-282-7182

Representative Matt Simpson, Alabama House of Representatives, District 96, PO Box 1791 Daphne, AL 36526, (251) 751-8535, [Matt.Simpson@ALHouse.gov](mailto:Matt.Simpson@ALHouse.gov).

**ATTENTION VOTERS:** Alabama elections do not follow the usual course ... Alabama has elections for all State and County candidates once every four years, which happens to always fall during the mid-terms. If you want to make an impact on who is your Governor on down to the local level, your only opportunity to do so for the next four years is by voting on May 19, 2026 in the primary and November 3, 2026, in the general election.

Please research the candidates and VOTE if you want your voice to matter.

I am officially qualified to be on the May 19, 2026 ballot for Baldwin County Commissioner District 4. This is a county-wide voting opportunity for the primary and November 2026 election. You can vote for one candidate in each District. January 23 is the deadline for all candidates to enter. Commissioner Gruber will not be running for re-election. Candidates as of January 21 in all four Districts. **District 1:** Richard Cox v. Jeb Ball; **District 2:** Angelo Fermo v. Kyle Henderson open seat; **District 3:** Kevin Brock v. Billie Jo Underwood; **District 4:** Brett Gaar v. Tracey Gambill v. Tater Harris open seat.

Follow me on Facebook Let's Keep It Country. I am adding to my platform to advocate for more funding for the Sheriff's Department. Let's keep Baldwin County from being bulldozed by overdevelopment! My campaign is grassroots; no special interests accepted ... Public donations are needed and appreciated, any amount is helpful. Thank you.

We will be in the Orange Beach Mardi Gras Parade on February 17 at 2 p.m.!

Join us and get to know your candidates ... Mark your calendar:

Saturday, February 7, 3:00-6:00 p.m. - Joshua McKee for U.S. House of Representatives District 1, Kristi Hagood for Baldwin County Circuit Court Judge, and Tracey Gambill for Baldwin County Commissioner are hosting a Get to Know Your Candidates event. See advertisement in this paper.

Saturday, February 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m. - Matt McKenzie for Baldwin County Sheriff and Tracey Gambill for Baldwin County Commissioner are hosting a Get to Know Your Candidates fundraiser. See advertisement in this paper.

To hear from more Baldwin County and State of Alabama candidates running for office, please come to the Common Sense Campaign forum at Waffles R Wild, OWA, 5-6 p.m. social and dinner time, 6-7:45 p.m. meeting time with speakers and Q&A. February 12 will be Senator Chris Elliott for State Senate and Christian Woerner McInnis for Agriculture Commissioner.

**Traffic Safety Improvements In the Works in Lillian and vicinity:** No new updates.

**Planning & Zoning updates in the Lillian vicinity:** Planning & Zoning Commission meeting February 5, 2026 and Baldwin County Commission rezoning meeting February 20, 2026.

CPD25-03/SV25-24, Lillian Boat Storage (County Road 99): The subject property is located south of County Road 99 and west of 7th Street in the Lillian community. The applicant is requesting Commission Plan Development approval for a commercial development consisting of 100 open boat/RV storage units. The subject property is approximately ±3.62 acres and is zoned B-3, General Business District. No wetland impacts are proposed as part of this project. A variance from the usable open space requirements of Section 6.1.4 of the Subdivision Regulations has been requested, as this is a commercial use. The request meets the requirements of the Baldwin County Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance. This is likely to be approved since the zoning is already in place.

**May Brothers Property Fireworks Store 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** - A traffic study is required.

**In Progress:** Baldwin Beach Express II Access Management Update was presented by Frank Lundy at the Baldwin County Commissioners' meeting on January 20, 2026. This will connect the Beach Express to I-65. This will be a multi-year, multi-phased project.

All the best, Tracey Gambill. Stay tuned for updates on Facebook LET'S KEEP IT COUNTRY and LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM or call 251-216-2012



**Keeping it  
Country**

By Tracey Gambill

## One Way to Control Pests Later: Prepare the Garden Now

What does every New Year have in store for us? Another 365 days! Just think of the blank slate ahead of us! To be filled with all kinds of adventures, joyful moments, and wonders!

Now it's time to plan for this New Year. This month, go out and buy some pre-emergent fertilizer for your yard. This will help stop weeds before they get started this year. Pick the fertilizer type best suited for your type of grass. If you don't know what kind of grass you have, this is the moment to learn about the image search feature on your smart phone! My phone's got a great memory, but it's always forgetting where I put it.

While we are planning, let's also see if our pre-emergent fertilizer also has a grubicide in it! You may need a separate product for this. One of the most common complaints in the summer months is about armadillos tearing up yards. The armadillos are hoping to eat the June bug and other larvae (aka grubs) hiding in the soil. By treating the soil early, we can reduce the number of grubs available to be eaten. Then, hopefully, the armadillos will dig their holes in the bushes or other hidden areas for their snacks. Maybe we can reduce the risk for twisting an ankle in their pits!

This is a general suggestion for lawncare. This is not a step-by-step guide by an expert. Treating your lawn is SCIENCE and based on Your Specific Type of Lawn! Do your research first. You can give your lawn CHEMICAL BURNS by applying the wrong thing. When in doubt, you can always call the Alabama Extension office over in Fairhope. There are experts over there who have specific knowledge of our area, and of our grasses needs, to give you much more specific advice.

This is also a great time to plant fruit trees. If your satsumas got damaged by last January's week of snow, now is a good time to get new ones in the ground. Blueberries are also a natural fit for our area, as they love our naturally acidic soils. They require a lot of sunlight, and a lot of water. They do like a layer of mulch to help retain moisture and keep weeds away. Be sure to plant more than one plant to help attract pollinators to your bushes. Blueberries can even be grown in pots, which makes them both delicious and renter friendly!

What else loves acidic soil? Our very own state flower - the camellia! These are evergreen, flowering shrubs that have many varieties and a huge growing range. They also are known in Southeast Asia, Japan and China as the common Tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*! Green tea, oolong, black, and white teas are grown from camellias! Who knew that a Camellia would be the base for our classic, Southern sweet tea! There are more than 20,000 different types of camellias, so please don't try to get tea out of our ornamental varieties.

Azaleas also love our soil! To get the most visual impact, professional landscape artists recommended establishing many azaleas of the same variety in one area. Azaleas like light to moderate shade since the flowers will last longer than those left in the full sun. These flowering shrubs were imported from Asia in the 1830s. Their journey to achieve the icon status that they have today started in the 1920s. Coincidentally, the Mobile Jaycees started the Azalea Trail Maids in the 1920s. Clever historical marketing!

This is also a good time to do some basic maintenance of your yard. Trim wilted branches with clean, sharp shears. Did you know you can spread disease around your yard from your cutting shears? They should be cleaned often, and kept sharp for nice, neat cuts. Tearing caused by dull shears can over a pathway for bacteria and other pests to invade your beautiful plants.

Remove old mulch and replace it with new. If you choose to layer it instead, you could harbor more insects. Insects do love those high-rise mulch condos! You may be hosting harmful bacteria and other invaders in your yard. If you have had a problem over the summer with blight, or black spots on leaves, then changing out your ground cover could prevent it from spreading again this year.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow," the late, great Audrey Hepburn once said. Maybe this year, we could all plant our gardens, and our hearts, with good works, hope for the future, and sow the seeds of joyful successes. Happy new year, y'all!



### Know Your Critters

By Celeste Hadley-Champion



## The Lillian Online!

Read your local newspaper anytime, anywhere!

Go to [lilliancommunityclub.com](http://lilliancommunityclub.com), click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page. Please bookmark our page!



## CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits.

Happy birthday wishes in February go out to: Jennifer Canaday, Trisha Gingras, Joyce Sheldon, Bob Taylor, Nicole Fehn, Evelyn Duckworth, Tom

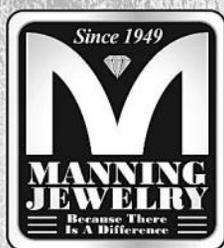
Ryborski, Ken Robinson, Lois Mitchell, John Flynn, Melodye Barnhart, MJ Rooks, James Covert, Barbara Jennings, Jim Baxter, Lindsay Sherwin.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in February are Ken and Diane Robinson, Marvin and Judy Cain 1968 and Sam and Josephine Roberts 1975.

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

Lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian 36549 or place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the March issue of The Lillian is February 18.



Voted Baldwin's Best Jewelry Store  
**6 YEARS** in a Row!

Award-winning Custom Design Center  
Let us Make your Vision a Reality!

Expert In-house Jewelry Repairs

Experienced Sales Associates  
and Certified GIA Appraiser

*Serving Baldwin County for Over 75 Years!*



207 W. LAUREL AVE. (U.S. HWY 98) • FOLEY, AL • 251-943-4771  
TUES-SAT 10AM-5PM • MANNINGJEWELRY.COM



The Lillian  
News  
PO  
BOX 1088,  
Lillian AL



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

### All Welcome to Lillian Garden Club First Monday of the Month

The Lillian Garden Club, with open attendance to all, will meet on the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Lillian Recreational Park conference room. The next meeting is February 2.



Jill Boyles will speak regarding Butterfly Gardens (part one). There is time after every meeting for attendees to ask questions and share.

The Club will collect Greer's receipts again this school year, with receipts dated after September 1, 2025. Lillian's Garden Grows is the local gardening Facebook page to join. Please post your pictures and ask questions there.

\*\*\*

\* Featured on March 2, Jill Boyles "Butterfly Gardens Part II"

\* Featured April 6, Marilyn Mannhard. "The Healing Qualities of Plants"

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertise here for just \$15 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

**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.

## 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

## OBITUARIES

**Mary Elizabeth Seger, Lillian**

Mary Elizabeth Seger, 64, of Lillian, Alabama passed away at HCA Florida West Hospital in Pensacola, FL on January 3, 2026.

Mary was born on September 21, 1961 in East St Louis, IL and graduated in 1979 from New Athens High School. After high-school Mary moved first to California and from there traveled as military wife which took her many places, including England for some time, making friends everywhere she went. For most of her life, Mary lived near her 2 older sisters in different states. The 3 eventually would live their latest years in Lillian, Alabama. Here Mary enjoyed making crafts, crocheting, camping, working maintenance at Spanish Cove. Mary made many friends in Lillian and throughout her travels, enjoying life with them as well as family. We can't forget her love for Alabama Crimson Tide Football. Mary's home was filled with Alabama decor, chimes, planters, flags and oh so many articles of Alabama clothing representing her love and support for one of her favorite teams.

It was here at Spanish Cove in Lillian, she saw the handsome man in the cowboy hat (as she put it to me) and they eventually married. Although this may have not been perfect, the love and friendship always remained between them and Mary's family can never thank or repay, what we believe to be the love of her life, wonderful, caring, generous, devoted man who was there daily caring for her as Mary's health rapidly declined. Van we appreciate you for going beyond your responsibility for Mary, as life threw her some very sad, still unknown curveballs with her health. We will love you always!!

Mary is survived by her son, Andrew "Andy" (Jennifer) Scharff, and one grandson, Macen Paul of Louisiana, Richard Van Alexander (love of her life), her stepdaughter, Ashton, of Lillian, AL, two brothers Frank (Peggy) Seger of Freeburg, IL Timothy (Angel) Seger of Red Bud, IL, four sisters Donna Scritchfield, Diana (Dave) Hutchison both of Lillian, AL. Lisa Dixon and Belinda (Dennis) Ventress both of New Athens, IL, 13 niece's and nephews, 18 plus great nieces and nephews, cousins and many friends.

Mary was preceded in death, at a tender, young age, by her Mother, Ella Mae Seger (Doty) and her infant sister, Christina Marie Seger. Also preceded by her father and stepmother, Frank and Bonnie Seger, another sister, Dawn Gardner and her grandparents Vernon Seger, Mary Seger and Goldie Earlin, brother in law, Billy Scritchfield, along with many Aunts and Uncles.

Mary was dearly loved. Her contagious laughter and smile will definitely be remembered by all, as stated by nieces and nephews, along with all who knew or met her. We love and will very much miss our beautiful sister, mother, aunt, cousin and friend.

We also have to thank Vitas Hospice for the wonderful care they provided for Mary.

Carrying out Mary's wishes her remains were donated to medical science at Unity Tissue Network and her ashes will be sent home to Illinois after the study is completed.

At this time there will be no service, with a possible Celebration of Life to take place in Lillian, AL at a later date.

**DEATH NOTICES****Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

It is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you of the passing of the son of one of our beloved congregation members, Joy and Mike Woreck, Joys son, Brian Schindel passed away yesterday. During this time of sorrow, we lift up our prayers for comfort, peace, and hope in the promises of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We ask that you join us in praying for the grieving family, that they may feel God's presence and love surrounding them in the midst of their loss. As a church family, let us also offer our support and compassion, as appropriate.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

May God's Word and the assurance of eternal life in Christ bring comfort in this dark hour.

We trust in the resurrection and the hope that, through Christ, we will one day be reunited with all those who have gone before us in faith. Until then, let us hold each other close and continue to pray for the peace that only God can give.

In Christ's love,

**The Congregational Leadership  
Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church  
12851 Perdido Street  
Lillian, AL 36549 — 251-962-7682**

**MARY ALEXANDER**  
former Spanish Cove employee  
passed away Sunday, Jan. 4

**ROSE HAUSER**  
formerly of Spanish Cove  
passed away Sunday, Jan. 4

**JOHN SPIVEY**  
2156 Vasco Drive passed away Tuesday,  
Dec. 30  
A Memorial will take place at a later date.

**The Lillian**

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

# February Fun

## LILLIAN RECREATIONAL PARK

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

**Walk** Come walk our beautiful walking trail. It's almost a mile long and goes through some beautiful areas. Come check it out for yourself!

**Play** mah jongg or bingo. Mah jongg play is at 1:00 on Tuesdays, with evening play at 6 on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 18. Bingo meets at 6:00 on February 10 and at 1:00 on February 19.

**Socialize** Come make new friends at the Park!

Lillian Recreational Park - 33914 Widell, Lillian  
[www.LillianRecreationalPark.org](http://www.LillianRecreationalPark.org) (251) 962-2129

## Scholarships available from the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

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'



## IN ELBERTA



The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay honored three Elberta teachers for their working with students. From left are Elberta Elementary teacher Rachel Gilley, Middle School Teacher Elissa Archer and High School teacher Theresa Togneri.

## Optimists Name 3 as Teachers of the Year

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay honored Elberta Teachers of the Year at a recent meeting. "Through dedication and commitment to their students, schools and community they are actively making our world a better place, one student at a time," says OCPB President Robin Newell.

Rachel Gilley was selected for Elberta Elementary School. She is a native of Baldwin County, has a Master's Degree in Special Education and has served in the Elberta community for 12 years.

Elissa Archer represents Elberta Middle School. She has been teaching since 2006. She has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Biology and is a nationally certified STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher.

Theresa Togneri is Teacher of the Year at Elberta High School. In addition to teaching Spanish, she has started a Spanish Club and has sponsored the Junior Optimist Club for more than three years. She has coached a chess team and has recently started a Pickleball Club.

All the teachers thanked the Optimist Club for the work the organization does for the students at the Elberta Schools.

# Celestial Events in February 2026 Seasky.org

## February 1: Full Moon

February's Full Moon is traditionally known as the **Snow Moon**. At the moment of the Full Moon, our natural satellite will be in the constellation Cancer, near the famous Beehive star cluster.

## February 1: Moon near the Beehive Cluster

On February 1, the 100%-illuminated Moon will be close to the Beehive Cluster (mag 3.1) in the sky. The distance between the objects will be  $1^{\circ}26'$ . Observe them with the naked eye or through a pair of binoculars in the constellation Cancer.

## February 17: C/2024 E1 gets closest to Earth

Path of Comet C/2024 E1 (Wierchchos) across constellations at the beginning of 2026.

On February 17, Comet C/2024 E1 will make its closest approach to Earth. Around this date, the comet will become visible to observers in the **Northern Hemisphere**. It will have a **magnitude of about 8** and will appear very low above the southwestern horizon about an hour after sunset. Use powerful binoculars or a small telescope for observation. To find Comet C/2024 E1 in your sky, use the [Sky Tonight app](#).

## February 19: Mercury at greatest eastern elongation

On February 19, Mercury will reach its maximum angular separation from the Sun ( $18^{\circ}07'$ ), making this **the best time to observe the planet**. Mercury will shine at a magnitude of  $-0.6$  in the **evening sky**. You can see it with the naked eye in the constellation Aquarius.

## February 27: Moon near Jupiter

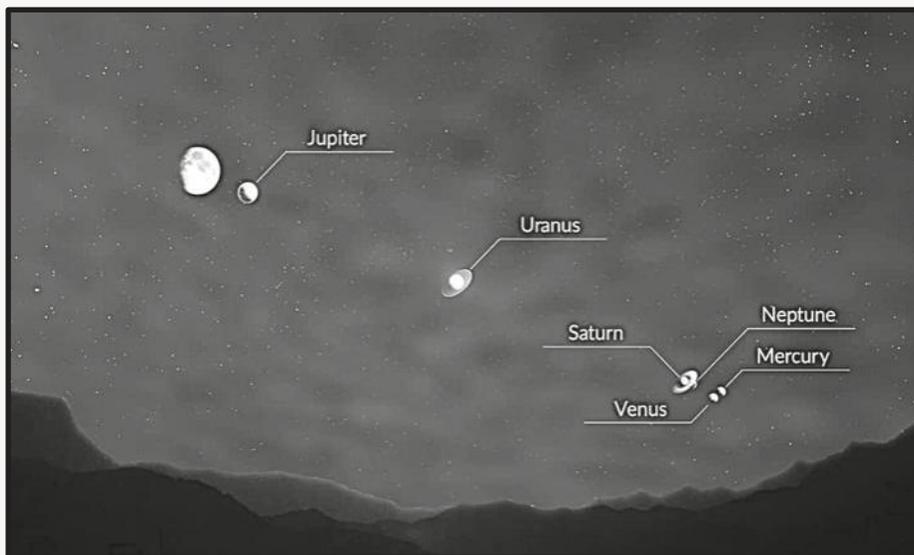
On February 27, the 80%-illuminated Moon will be close to Jupiter (mag  $-2.4$ ) in the sky. The distance between the objects will be  $3^{\circ}54'$ . Observe them with the naked eye or through a pair of binoculars in the constellation Gemini.

## February 28: Moon near the Beehive Cluster

On February 28, the 92%-illuminated Moon will be close to the Beehive Cluster (mag 3.1) in the sky. The distance between the objects will be  $1^{\circ}27'$ . Observe them with the naked eye or through a pair of binoculars in the constellation Cancer.

## February 28: Six-planet alignment

Around February 28, six planets — **Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn, Neptune, Venus, and Mercury** — will line up in a rare planetary alignment. You can see the planets about **an hour after sunset on the western horizon**. Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, and Mercury will be bright enough to spot with the naked eye, while binoculars or a small telescope can help you find Uranus and Neptune.



**EACH FULL MOON RISES NEAR SUNSET; IN FEBRUARY ON DAYS 1 TO 2 LOOK 68 DEGREES EAST**

## LETTERS TO THE VOTERS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

## Election Time Draws Candidates' Best Pitch for Your Support

**Dear Voters,**

When I began this run for Baldwin County Commissioner, I knew there would be expenses: advertising, printed materials like flyers and signs, design set up fees, etc. However, below is something that I was unaware of until further research. This is from the Baldwin County Republican Party, requirements for qualifying to get on the May 19, 2026, ballot. It's hard to believe that getting on a ballot costs money ... but apparently it does.

I have been very reluctant to ask for donations, but now I am forced to do so ... any amount helps.

All county candidates: sheriff, coroner, county commissioners, revenue commissioner, and school board districts 3, 5, and 6 have had to qualify during the official qualifying period of **Jan 5 - Jan 23**.

The qualifying fee for county commissioner \$1,241.27

The Commissioner pays approximately \$68,000 annually. That, to me, is a significant salary and I would be honored to do the hard work our citizens deserve. However, that would not begin until January of 2027. I

In the meantime, I am personally funding much of this campaign, in addition to my time and gas and incidentals in traveling to many functions that are necessary to build name recognition and credibility county-wide.

I have been doing the same on a smaller scale, voluntarily, in the Lillian Community for almost four years.

If you would help, it would be greatly appreciated. I have and will continue to use my personal

funds as necessary, but I am not a wealthy person. Every donation means a great deal, and I am sorry to have to ask.

I am 100 percent grassroots and do not take developer money. I am for the citizens only.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Many Blessings,

**Contact me, Tracey Gambill, 251-216-2012  
Candidate Baldwin County Commissioner**

\*\*\*

***BACKGROUND: Citizen advocate with Capitol Hill experience, court reporting experience in the Washington, D.C. metro area. I have owned three businesses so I understand economics, served as chairperson, Baldwin County Board of Adjustment, Lillian Newspaper columnist (four years and currently), hosted five Town Hall meetings to keep citizens informed, led Lillian Landmark District petition, led successful movements for improved road safety, focused spotlight on development overreach, facilitated citizen communication, transparency and Planning and Zoning research for presentations to the Baldwin County Planning Commission and Baldwin County Commissioners for three plus years.***

**Dear Voters,**

My name is Dante Bennett. I am running as a candidate for the Spanish Cove POASC Board in Lillian, AL. My wife, Jean, and I moved to Spanish Cove from New Hampshire in 2018.

I have always remained involved in our community attending committee and Board

meetings regularly.

As Property Owners, I feel we need more transparency and accountability from our POASC Board and Operations Manager.

We need leadership that allows open communication, transparency, and does not allow favoritism and/or targeting of property owners. We need someone with a clear vision for the future. I ask for your support, suggestions, and, most importantly, your vote.

**Contact me, Dante Bennett, at 603.533.1229 or dantepoascbd@gmail.com.**

\*\*\*

***BACKGROUND: Dante Bennett. Wife: Jean. Moved to Spanish Cove from New Hampshire in 2018. Work history includes almost four decades working directly and indirectly for our Country. Decades of managing large staffs and budgets. My career of managing large scale operations and supervising many employees is a great asset for a Board Member.***

***I have skills in leadership, conflict resolution, open communication and value the importance of unbiased relationships with all stakeholders. My work experience was focused on detailed and thorough examination of all tasks in order to make the best decisions. I will bring that same focus to the Board.***

***I have been actively involved in attending Committee and Board Meetings over the years. CAI says it best: Open books, Open meetings, Open minds.***

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Sally Undone: Lillian's Perdido Bay Park Access is Long Overdue

**Dear Editor::**

In my letter to the editor last month, I wrote that the deck down to the beach remained destroyed after hurricane Sally, I have since been told that was incorrect. I obtained permission to access the beach through private property, and I walked along and found that the deck is indeed still there, and apart from a tree leaning against the side of it and a missing section of railing, the deck is in great shape, the damage is so minor, the removal of the tree and the replacement of the railing should cost less than \$2,000. Since there were no 'keep off' or 'closed' signs, I walked up the steps to the deck and continued along the wooden walkway to the flights of stairs that lead up to the park, there were some missing sec-

tions of railings along the way and the bottom 2 or 3 steps of each flight of stairs were badly rotted, not hurricane damage, just routine maintenance; it looks like the repair bill should be around \$1,000, so for \$3,000 or less, the public beach access has been denied to the public for years.

According to the Baldwin County web site, the park is scheduled for renovations costing millions in 2027, as one of the tax payers living on and around CR 99 I think a 2 to 3 week repair job costing around \$3,000 should be done NOW, the beach access has been closed to the tax paying public for far too long.

**Gloria D. Cramp**

## St. Mary's \$10,000 Charity Event Feb.

The Sixth Annual Be My Valentine event to benefit Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Post 99 American Legion, 2101 South McKenzie St., Foley.

The event will include a door prize of \$10,000, live and silent auctions, lunch and music by Tom Gordon. Tickets may be purchased online at maryssheltergulfcoast.org or call 251-986-6351.

Mary's Shelter is a home for homeless pregnant women who choose life for their unborn child. Opened in 2006, Mary's Shelter has housed dozens of moms, their new babies and older children. The 24-hour facility provides a safe home as well as counseling to help the residents set goals for their future.

A new program of transitional housing will begin soon with three



homes to be built to house the mother and her children after leaving the

shelter and eventually provide them with the means to purchase a home of their own.

Volunteers help with transportation to doctor visits, jobs and classes to provide better job opportunities. Others help with babysitting and upkeep of the facility. Volunteer opportunities also are available at Gulf Coast Thrift Store in Elberta. For more information visit the website, maryssheltergulfcoast.org or call 251-986-6200.

PLEASE JOIN US

Saturday, February 7th • 3-6 pm

Lillian Community Club • Hoffman Hall • 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL 36549

## Meet the Candidates

Get to know your candidates. Learn about their backgrounds and find out why they are so passionate about Baldwin County. Ask questions & hear their strategies and concerns.

There will be refreshments!!! We hope to see you there!!!

### Joshua McKee

U.S. House of Representatives candidate



Decorated U.S. Army Green Beret, Bronze Star recipient, and disabled veteran who spent 25 years serving our nation across the globe. Running for Congress to bring mission-focused leadership to Washington, reform broken systems like the VA, and restore the American Dream for Alabama families.

LEARN MORE AT: [MCKEEFORCONGRESS.COM](http://MCKEEFORCONGRESS.COM)

### Tracey Gambill

Baldwin County Commissioner candidate



Tracey is committed to transparency, protecting taxpayer dollars and keeping Baldwin County from being bulldozed by large developments. As County Commissioner, she will focus on real, everyday needs. Her priorities are safer communities, better access to services, and practical solutions that directly improve quality of life, NOT political agendas.

RSVP TO: [TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM](mailto:TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM)

### Kristi Hagood

Baldwin County Circuit Court Judge candidate



Kristi Deason Hagood has been practicing law for 25 years. She has worked for the Alabama Attorney General's Office, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Baldwin County District Attorney's Office. While at the Baldwin County District Attorney's Office, Kristi has prosecuted criminals who commit crimes against children and the elderly. Kristi is a conservative who is tough on crime and she is running for judge to keep families safe in Baldwin County.

LEARN MORE AT: [KRISTIHAGOOD.COM](http://KRISTIHAGOOD.COM)

# LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

34148 WIDELL AVENUE, LILLIAN, AL 36549

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

### February Music

- Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> • TBird and the Fat Cats • 7-11 pm
- Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> • Gary Story and Bad Habit • 7-11 pm
- Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> • JoJo and the Lost Boys • 7-11 pm
- Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> • Gary Story • 3-7 pm
- Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> • Blackwater Country • 7-11 pm

**SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY**  
Sunday, February 8th | 6:30 pm  
Join us for Food, Fun & the Big Game on the Big Screen!

**LCC Fish Dinner**  
Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Hoffman Hall  
5 pm - 6 pm | \$15  
\$2.75 Bloody Mary's ALL DAY on Sundays

**American Legion Dinner**  
Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
11 am - 1 pm | Hoffman Hall  
**\$15.00**  
See their Ad for details

**4th Annual LVFD Chili Cookoff**  
Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
11 am - 2 pm | Hoffman Hall

**ART CLASSES**  
HOFFMAN HALL  
CHILD CLASS ADULT CLASS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
4-6 PM • \$20 1-4 PM • \$35  
CONTACT CATHY WOLF AT  
(217) 304-3196 OR MOMMACAT.DOG@GMAIL.COM  
TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE

**TACO TUESDAY**  
FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
HOFFMAN HALL • 5-6:30 PM  
2 TACOS \$4  
NACHOS WITH MEAT & CHEESE \$4  
CHEESE NACHOS \$2

**Happy Hour**  
12-2 & 5-7 PM  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
ALL DAY  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
(THRU SUPERBOWL SUNDAY)

**FREE POOL**  
Thursdays | 5-9 pm  
(Members Only)

- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> • 7 PM
- CIVIC & LEGISLATION MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> • 8 AM
- NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> • 3 PM
- BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> • 7 PM

**BINGO!**  
Tuesdays at 6 pm

**8-Ball Tournament**  
EVERY Saturday  
6 pm (Signup at 5 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](http://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

# SEAFOOD

- 1-23 SUGARCANE JANE....
- 1-24 RIPTIDE .....
- 1-25 THE HEAT .....
- 1-27 THE HEAT .....
- 1-30 BRANDON GILES....
- 2-1 JOHNNY & BRITT.....
- 2-3 BAT BENNETT .....
- 2-6 GARY STORY .....
- 2-7 LUCKY DOGGS.....
- 2-8 COWBOY .....
- 2-10 TBA .....
- 2-13 BAD JU JU .....
- 2-14 BAT BENNETT.....

## RAW OYSTER BAR

## GROUPE OYSTERS SHRIMP CRAB CLAWS

**KARAOKE**  
LATE & EARLY  
EVERY MONDAY  
5-9PM

**BRANDON GILES**  
EVERY TUES (2-5)

**T BONE MONTGOMERY  
MARK SHERRILL  
BO ROBERTS**  
TUESD JAN 14. (5-9)

**GARY STORY AUBIE SA**  
OPEN MIC  
THURSDAYS (5-9)

**EVERY FRI**

# JOHNNY B's

## FRONT PORCH

### OYSTER BAR

Lillian Alabama