

CALL TO ACTION: LANDMARK DISTRICT LILLIAN

PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY; Lillian Desperateley Needs More Signatures to Get on the Legislative Agenda

Will it create any new taxes or fees? NO. Will it change any zoning? NO. Will it add any restrictions, regulations, or requirements of its residents? NO. Will it mean the community is being incorporated? NO. Will it forbid property within the Landmark District from being voluntarily annexed or incorporated? NO. Will it make my property taxes go up or down? NO. Will it add any land use restrictions? NO.

Will it allow you to maintain the quality of life in your area? YES. Will it preserve the heritage and history of your community? YES. Will it

provide protection against municipal taxation? YES.

What will this amendment do for me and my community? This amendment will allow you to continue enjoying the lifestyle you are accustomed to and give property owners the **CHOICE** of whether to become incorporated into a city. Will it cost me anything? NO. Though you may choose to donate.

Please share the QR Code with everyone you know.



TOWN HALL SATURDAY APRIL 5, SEE PAGES 8 & 21 FOR DETAILS



The Lillian

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MARCH 2025

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 29, Number 3

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MYSTERY SOLVED?

TESTS: Peterson Branch in Spanish Cove High in E. coli Levels; More Sampling to Hunt for Accountability

By Robyn Monaghan

Results from Alabama Department of Environmental Management testing of Peterson Branch in Spanish Cove show E. coli bacteria levels were too high to support marine life last summer.

Two of eight single sample *E. coli* bacteria values came in at 387 colonies/100 ml in July and 461 colonies/100 ml in August - well above the 298 colonies/100 ml maximum acceptable level. Higher levels cannot support fish. ADEM will now compare results with water tests from other nearby streams to find out how much of a problem this poses to humans - as well as fish, Fred Leslie, Montgomery Branch Chief of Field Operations and Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, told The Lillian.

"We're likely to do more sampling before we come to our conclusions," Leslie said. "If our comparisons show that a water body is officially impaired, then we will look at all possible sources of contamination to determine and analyze what changes need to be made and by who to make it so that it is no longer impaired."

Water samples, taken at Peterson Branch at Pensacola Street, also showed dissolved oxygen was below the Fish & Wildlife water use classification criteria of 5. mg/L during five out of eight station visits, made in June through October of last year.

"This was likely due to very low flow conditions in the stream reach," Leslie said.

(SEE ACCOUNTABILITY ON PAGE 21)

Elberta Cuts Mayor's Pay

The Elberta Town Council voted unanimously to cut the mayor's salary by half after municipal elections late this summer.



Elberta Mayor Steve Kirkpatrick now makes \$1200 per month and town council members earn \$300 monthly. The mayor's salary will be \$600 after the elections. Elberta officials are eligible to enroll in a group health insurance at their own expense.

Former mayor Jim Hamby, who served as Elberta's mayor since 2020, stepped down early in March after a 2021 state law extended municipal terms by one year in an effort to separate municipal and presidential election cycles, by easing burdens on election workers and equipment shortages. The next municipal elections will take place on Aug. 26, 2025.

Elberta Landowners Win Zone Change

Two Elberta landowners have successfully changed their property from R-3 (multiple family residential units) to R-1 (single family residential) zoning status.

"You're getting out of a Cadillac and into a Chevy," Town Council member Ernie Gabel told them.

Lincoln Funk and Gretchen Thomas, both in the Fish Trap area of Elberta, said they asked for the zoning change as a way to preserve the rural character of their properties.

"I don't need high density," Thomas said. "I worked my whole life to be in this house. I just want it to be a nice little area. I don't want it to be built up."

(SEE LAND PAGE 21)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lillian Residents Should Think for Themselves, Foster the Facts

Dear Editor:

My husband and I bought a house in Lillian in May, 2018 and moved here from New Hampshire in August, 2018. During the past six years we have enjoyed many aspects of our community and this region of the country. We are adjusting to many of the differences, both positive and negative, with being residents and property owners in Lillian.

Lillian property owners have a great deal in common and also many differences. We have residents who live in the rural areas with acres of land, those who live in residential communities, those living in homeowner associations, farmers, business owners, snow birds who live here part time, new property owners, military families, folks who have lived here for many years and/or all their lives. We are a growing community with new homes being built. Yes, we are dealing with some of that growth both the positive and negative factors. But, the issue about growth is not my focus of this letter.

We have a great deal in common. A majority of

our property owners chose to move here to Lillian. People wanted to live in this area of Alabama and made a deliberate choice. There are many other areas of the panhandle but they chose this area. When many of us meet someone we ask, "How did you find out about Lillian?" Then they tell their story. Some people have visited this part of the country for several years and decided to retire. Others heard about it from a family member or friend.

Now to the main issue of my letter: Battles within our community. Most folks have heard about issues that have occurred within our residential communities, local organizations, and businesses. It is a shame that this occurs but it is a fact. This leads to a great deal of divisiveness and therefore breeds discontent. Some of the people feel they are being targeted due to their opinions. Others feel that they need to choose a side. This is very disheartening and it is a shame that it occurs.

Rumors are being spread all the time in Lillian. How often have you heard something and assumed that it is true? Without even checking it out. This,

of course, makes matters worse. Some of these rumors are spread through printed information that is public to anyone. All of this leads to frustration and anger. But, it is even worse when written articles that are available to the public are used to spread misinformation and further divide a community.

Some well meaning individuals in our community try to make a change. Some well meaning individuals in our community speak up when they think things can be better. Some well meaning individuals try to advocate for those who may not be able to have their voice. I ask you, "What is wrong with this?" Wasn't this country founded by people who were fed up with the status quo and wanted to see a change?

I encourage all of Lillian residents to think for themselves. Make your own decisions once you get the facts. Don't be influenced by rumors or innuendoes. Let's get back to being a friendly, respectful and caring community. Look out for each other instead of being divisive. Let's support each other even if our views are different!

— Jean Bennett

Changes Are Left in the Dust But the Impact on Our Lives Grows Each Day

When I was six years-old, I was included in the Saturday housecleaning chores. My teenage sisters and I would draw a slip of paper from a bowl with a room written on it and that was the area you were tasked to clean that day. Fair, right? I'm not so sure because I always, without exception, picked the bathroom. All these years later and I still never figured out how my sisters pulled that off and they weren't telling.

March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day, the apostle and patron saint of Ireland. Most of us think of parades, corned beef and cabbage, green beer or basically, green everything.

In America's colonial era there were only a few Irish in our country and a few more immigrated in the early 1800s, but that would all change in about 50 years.

Between 1850 and 1900 an overwhelming potato famine took hold in Ireland caused by a fungus that destroyed the crops of this main food source for Irish families. As many as a million lives were lost due to starvation.

This event prompted the immigration of about 500,000 Irish citizens to the United States. This massive arrival in the late 1800s and early 1900s didn't bode well with Americans but eventually, these hard working and proud people blended-in and now, even those of us who don't carry a speck of Irish DNA enjoy the fun of this Irish March Day.

If you don't like strangers knowing your business, stay off of social media sites. For that matter, stay off of the internet. In today's world, that is almost impossible.

Google search engine collects your browsing history, and they have been known to re-route your information requests away from what you may have been looking for because it didn't agree with their beliefs. Gmail may scan your emails as well. Facebook and your Google Android cell phones collect a lot of information. So, if you want more privacy Consumer Reports recommends the alternative of Firefox or DuckDuckGo Private browser app to help avoid the snooping. I've been avoiding Google as much as I can for years.

At one time or another, either an email, text or on the internet, you probably have seen a photo of some object with the message 'do you know what this is?' I'm showing my age, I always know what it is and may have used one, whatever it may be, within my lifetime.

Sometimes the picture will remind me of an event in my past, like the time I went running to the basement when I heard screaming and found that my older sister got her arm caught in the wringer of the wringer-washing machine.

She carried a scar on her elbow from that experience.

I wish I could remember all of the items now to list them. It seems like since nothing was automatic, you became more aware of the product and how it worked.

Not only did we not have cell phones, we were lucky if we got to use our home phone if there was a talkative person on our party line. Can you imagine how the kids today would deal with that?

With no cell phones or computers, I think we were more likely to 'smell the roses' so to speak or to be more aware of our surroundings. Most people didn't even have a television and if you did, there was only one channel and it didn't televise all day.

I feel lucky to have experienced these earlier times, maybe slower times, where we had to work a little harder living everyday life but I think we also absorbed more of living from it. If that makes sense.

My age group experienced the awe of seeing new inventions never seen before, not like today when the objects are already created and the excitement might be only that it is improved with new technology. I wouldn't trade my era one bit for growing up in today's world but I'm glad to add today's experiences to the past ones.

"Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck." Irish Proverb.

Things we grew up with: black and white movies and photos, prop or propeller planes-no jets, washing machines with a wringer, no computer, no cell phones, party lines, NASA advanced composite solar sail system innovation of 2024 that allows space crafts to sail on sun rays. Science fiction, not anymore.



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

Elberta Middle School FCCLA Moves on to March State Competition



The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competed in the Baldwin County FCCLA Competitions on January 30. The state level of the competitions will be held in Montgomery this month. The results are as follows: Beef Cook Off, Junior Division Second Place: Rachelle Arnold, Chapter Service Project Display, Gold: Emerson Ulrich and Isabella Watson, Entrepreneurship, Gold: Alyssa Sutton, Event Management,

Gold: Hallie Carlson and Rachelle Arnold, Focus on Children, Silver: Avery Brown, Food Innovation, Gold: Jadeyn Postles and Brayleigh Bornholt, Leadership, Silver: Michlynne Shaver, National Programs in Action, Silver: Katelyn Boyd, Bailey Crescenzi, Heidi Kaiser, Nutrition and Wellness, Gold: Emma Franks and Madison Willis, Sports Nutrition, Gold: Gracelynn Perez and Teach or Train, Silver: Aubrey Webb.

Finally, a Lillian Recreational Park Program for Our Biggest Losers

Jean Bennett and Dee Jay Wigley coordinated a new event at the Lillian Recreational Park. The Biggest Loser Competition started in February and continues through April. The competition is not a diet plan but a weight loss contest. Participants paid \$20 to join and \$10 of that money went to the Park. The other \$10 goes into the pot for the top 3 winners of the contest.

The participants have 12 weeks with three mandatory weigh-ins during that time. The first place winner gets 50% of the money, second place 30%, and third place 20%.

The weight loss is not in pounds but percent of weight lost over the 12 weeks. What a great

way to jump start your weight loss plan, get motivation and possibly win some money. Good luck to all the participants. This competition is under way already. However, if you would like information about any future type of events contact Jean Bennett, 603-533-1700.



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Along With Spring Comes the Homeowners Bain: ‘Swarmer’s’

The first day of spring this year will be March 20! The daylight hours are getting a little longer every day. This winter has been so weird, let’s get warm again! Spring typically is when large numbers of winged termites, known as "swarmers," sometimes emerge inside homes or outside all over porches, sidewalks, and other structures.

Swarmers termites are scientifically called *alates*, which comes from the Latin word for "wing". This is the only time in their life span where termites have wings. Although "have" implies permanence, maybe "borrow" is a better term? Swarmers "borrow" wings for their brief nuptial flights. They are terrible flyers and shoved about by the wind. Their wings fall off as soon as they hit the ground.

They have a single shot at living through this process – land and burrow in the dark, damp of the ground and hope to find a mate. The longer swarmers are exposed to the sunlight, the more likely they will be a snack for, well, almost every other critter around! Lots of species of birds, bats, lizards, toads, spiders, mammals, ants and other insects, and even nematodes! (Nematodes are roundworms or eelworms used to keep termites from eating crops! Yes, termites eat crops plants too, like potatoes, beets and squash!)

Termites are a prime example of what’s called "swarm intelligence". Swarm intelligence is a form of collective learning and decision making based on the collective behavior of a group, whether it’s a school of fish, a colony of termites, or a group of robots! The swarmers can adapt and cooperate for the good of the group based on their individual interactions. Swarm intelligence is fascinating as it applies to the natural world and a little bit terrifying as it applies to AI or artificial intelligence. Give it a Google. Incredible stuff! Why did the swarm programmer keep getting stuck at work? Because he had a backlog of bugs!

Termites are known as "silent destroyers" because of their ability to chew through wood, flooring and even wallpaper undetected. There are about 2,000 known termite species in the world. Swarmers, however, do not cause structural damage. They are a sign that there is a colony somewhere nearby. In a strong wind, they could travel up to a couple of miles before striking against a tree, land, or some other object. Most of the time, they will only drift a few hundred yards from their original nest.

Swarmers are usually attracted to light. When they swarm inside a home, they tend to land (and die!) around windows or doors. Sometimes, swamers will be on the stove top or microwave because they smacked into vents in the roof line and fell straight down. Remember they can’t fly; they can sort of hang-glide.

What should you do if you have swarmers inside your home? The first thing to do is identify the insect. Many species of ants also produce winged swarmers. Swarming termites and ants look very similar to each other. Grab a sample of the bug and set them on a white background. Most of y’all have smart phones so put those to work with your camera app! Ants have pinched waists. Termites are a long, slender oval shape – no waist at all. Ant swarmers front wings are longer than their rear pair of wings. Termite swarmers have four wings of equal length. All ants have "elbowed" or L-shaped antennae.

Swarming termites have straight antennae. Waist, wings and antennae are the dead giveaways whether you have ants or termites.

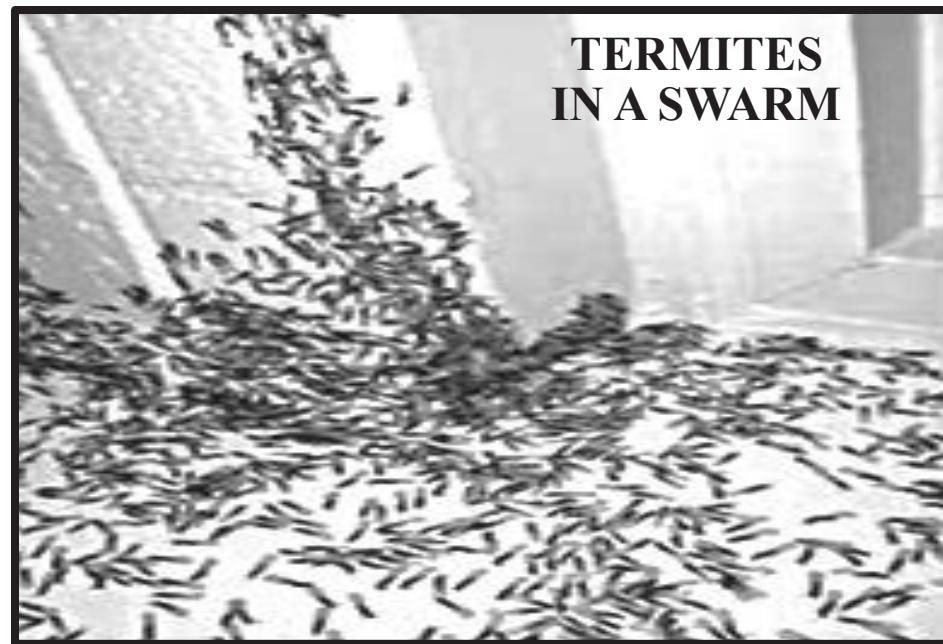
When taking pictures for identification, please do not take them from across the room. Put the bug samples in a plastic bag, or a jar. Try not to squish them! Get the camera as close to the sample as possible while still in focus. Between Ryan and myself, we’re pretty good at identification but we need to see it as clearly as possible.

Make sure your termite coverage is up to date. In our area, termite activity is heavy and it’s not "if" you get termites if your home is left untreated, it’s *when*. Those of you who had your homes treated in the 1970s before chlordane and Dursban were taken off the market, keep in mind that you are absolutely at the end of the chemical life span, as that was more than 30 years ago! Just food for thought.

Speaking of food, what flavor do termites like best?
Chair-y!



Know Your Critters
By Celeste Hadley-Champion



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The Lillian

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

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

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
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 1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and infor-

mation from the community. Please submit by:

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

POLICY

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

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

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- March 8—Breakfast Meeting 8:00 a.m.
Program—Continuing Scholar Recognition
- March 17—Optimist Fun Night Out
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- March 22 - Breakfast Meeting 8:00 a.m.
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MONDAY-FRIDAY 7am to 5pm ~ Call for an appointment

Save the Date: Lillian Fire Rescue's Third Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Get ready, Lillian! The highly anticipated Third Annual Chili Cook-Off, hosted by Lillian Fire Rescue, is just around the corner. Join us on March 15th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club for an afternoon of delicious chili, live music, and community fun! Whether you're a seasoned chili chef or just love to eat, this event is sure to be a great time for all.

Think your chili has what it takes to be the best? We'd love for you to compete! To enter, email

cantrell@lillianfirerescue.com to request an application. The registration fee is \$25, and the deadline to register is March 5th, so don't wait! Trophies and bragging rights are up for grabs, so bring your best recipe and show off your cooking skills.

Admission is just \$5, and all proceeds will benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. Enjoy live music from Sandra Kaye Hinnant & Friends, presented by Loud Dog Records, with a special guest appearance by Curtis Cantrell. Along with great chili and



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department
By Janett Siler

entertainment, there will be raffle prizes and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors.

Come out, support a great cause, and enjoy a fantastic day filled with good food, good music, and good company!

Lillian Volunteer Fire Department Update

So far this year, the Lillian Volunteer Fire Department has responded to 133 calls dispatched by 911 operators. These include 90 medical assistance calls, 4 motor vehicle accidents/cleanups, 4 brush fires, 2 structure fires, 7 calls that were canceled en route, 1 false alarm/miscellaneous call, and 9 aircraft standbys.

A big congratulations to Firefighter Drew Nation on graduating from F-160 training! This achievement represents countless hours of dedication, learning, and perseverance - all in service of our community!

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

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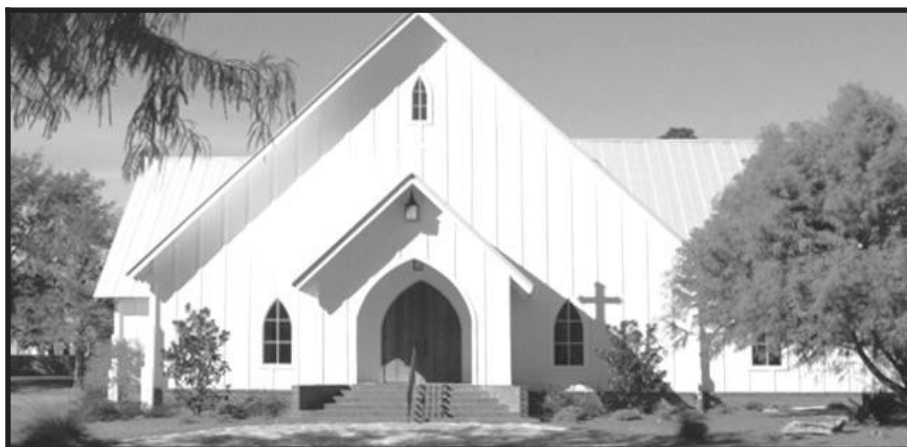
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Requested: \$75 Residential / \$150 Commercial

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The Rev. Tina Lockett, Vicar

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LCC Quarterly Community Forum

Saturday, April 5th

LANDMARK DISTRICT LILLIAN

Q & A

1-2 pm in Hoffman Hall

Presented by Tracey Gambill



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34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL 36549

Visiting Optimist Drops in at Open Breakfast



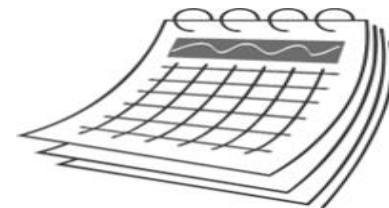
Recently Dan Mills, a long-time member of the Kalamazoo Breakfast Optimist Club, visited the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay with his wife, Theresa. He helped OCPB President Robin Newell explain the C.A.R.E. program to members. The program is structured for clubs to celebrate accomplishments while resolving issue and strengthening membership. The Club meets at 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays for breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. Guests are welcome and eat free

Elberta Middle Schoolers Lend Pantry a Hand



The Elberta Middle School Chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) celebrating National FCCLA Week, and Tuesday, February 11, was Day of Service. The FCCLA chapter took a field trip to Prodissee Pantry and helped with their weekly distribution. We are so fortunate to give back to the community and Baldwin County.

The Lillian Calendar March 2025



March 6 at 1:00 PM: Healing Hope Grief Support Group at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (If you are navigating the pain of loss, please know you are not alone. Join us for grief support in a safe space to share your experiences, receive compassionate listening, and find healing alongside others who understand. This group meets on the first Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 11:00 PM & March 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10:00 AM: Ageless Grace, Brain Fitness at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:00 PM: ALANON Support Group Meeting at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Discover more about ALANON at <https://al-anon.org/>. For more information contact Adrienne Halford at 561-352-5921.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:00 PM: AA Support Group Meeting at the Lillian Methodist Church located at 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Discover more about AA at <https://sober.com/aa-meetings/alabama/baldwin-county/>. For more information contact Bill Halford at 850-380-8132.

March 8 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian AL 36549. Come hear from our recent years scholarship recipients, Noah Givens (Class of 2023) and Zola Showers (Class of 2024). To discover more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay check out our website www.OptimistClubPB.org

March 5 at 6:30 PM: CommunityAsh Wednesday service at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL.

March 20 at 1:00 PM: Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.

March 22 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian AL 36549. Come hear our first, second and third place winners of this year's Oratorical Contest. To discover more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay check out our website www.OptimistClubPB.org.

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

Cove Gardeners Slate Upcoming Events

The Spanish Cove Gardening Group will meet at the main clubhouse poolside room on March 3, 2025, at 1 p.m. The speaker will be Baldwin County Master Gardener Karen Rhea White speaking on "Plumeria: Care and Cultivation"

All Spanish Cove residents and their accompanied guests are welcome to attend. Parking permits are required for all non-residents. Donations are collected to benefit the Elberta Elementary Backpack Program which provides food to children on weekends, speaker honorariums and Greer's cash register receipts for Apples for the Students.

Carol Steely and Joanne Monroe will be our hostesses for the annual luncheon and plant swap on May 5, at noon at the Lillian Recreational Park. Paper goods and drinks will be provided, please bring a dish to share and a plant to swap.

No one has come forward to chair the annual plant sale so the participants at the meeting suggested that this year's sale be cancelled.

The Spanish Cove Gardening Group meets regularly on the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. (except for holidays) from September through May. If you are interested in facilitating the group next year and for more group information please call Robin Newell, facilitator, 402-677-3944 or robinnewell3@gmail.com.

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First Baptist Church

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Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Evangelism Study and Dinner 5:00 pm

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

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LillianBaptist36549@gmail.com

Ever Hear of the Zodiacal Light? Most Sailors and Farmers Have

IT'S JUST A FLASH IN COLOR



Alongside Venus's brilliance, February 14 also offers a chance to see the zodiacal light faint, triangular glow in the western sky after dusk. The zodiacal light is caused by sunlight reflecting off interplanetary dust particles scattered across the solar system.

On this night, Venus may appear within this glow, creating a breathtaking visual and photographic opportunity. The zodiacal light is often overlooked but is a fascinating reminder of the remnants of our solar system's formation.

It's a subtle yet profound connection to the cosmic processes that shaped our world. This phenomenon is a perfect example of how even the faintest lights in the sky can tell a story about the universe's history and evolution.

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

EAGLE RIDERS PRESENT

*'Blessing of the Bikes
Saturday, March 8
at Elberta VFW - 9 a.m.*



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PARTICIPANTS

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

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

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

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

March Fun

LILLIAN RECREATIONAL PARK

Flea Market March 15 - 9 to 2

Turn your unused/unwanted items into cash! Contact Kelly Verret, 251-979-0154, or email LRPMarkets@gmail.com to reserve your 10'x10' booth.

Shoppers, don't miss the opportunity to check out all the great items for sale at the Lillian Recreational Park Flea Market. You never know what kind of amazing treasures await you!

Concession stand will be open from 11-1.

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



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

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

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

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

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3rd Annual DESIGNER PURSE BINGO

Saturday, March 1st
10 am - 2 pm | Hoffman Hall

Scan to purchase tickets today or visit www.centre4excellence.org

Bring your friends, wear your best hat, and join us for Brunch & Bingo!




March Music
(\$5 cover for non-members)

Friday, March 7th • Kelly Poole • 7-11 pm
Friday, March 14th • Jeri Band • 7-11 pm
Friday, March 21st • Gary Story & Bad Habit • 7-11 pm
Sunday, March 23rd • Jimmy Smith • 3-7 pm
Friday, March 28th • Red Moon Travelers • 7-11 pm



LCC Fish Dinner
Friday, March 14th
Hoffman Hall
5 - 6 pm | \$15



3rd Annual FIREFIGHTERS CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, March 15th \$5 Admission
2-5 pm | Hoffman Hall

Benefits: Children's Hospitals for Children's Love to the rescue!



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TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursdays
March 6th & 20th
6:30 pm



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



\$2.75 Bloody Mary's
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HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY
MONDAY, MARCH 17TH



March 4th
FAT Tuesday Happy MARDI GRAS y'all




American Legion Ham Dinner
Sunday, March 23rd
11 am - 1 pm | Hoffman Hall

Ham with Raisin Sauce, Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Roll, Dessert & Iced Tea or Coffee \$15



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

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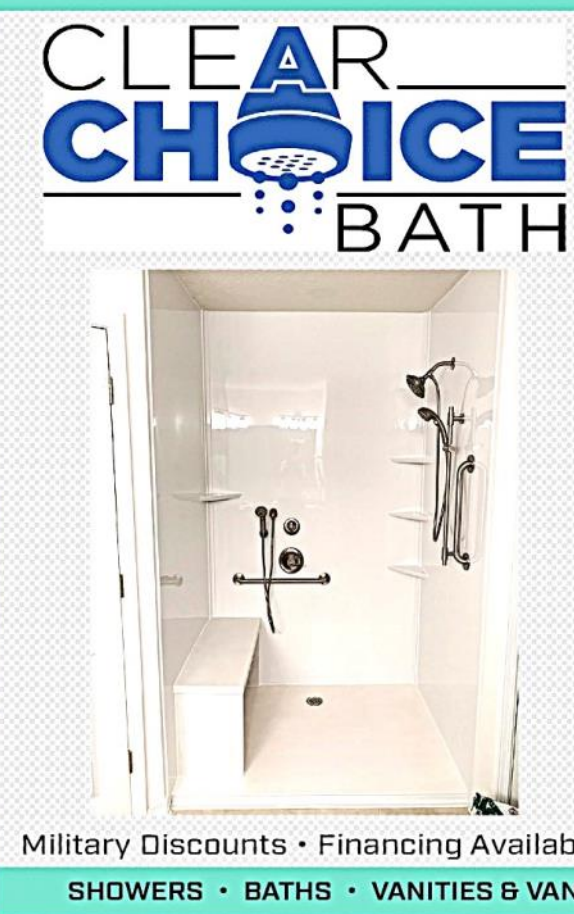
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Once You Are Ready to Retire, There Are Big Decisions to Make

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

- *How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts?* By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401 (k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

- *When should you take Social Security?* The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spous-

al benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

- *Should you downsize?* If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

- *Where should you live?* Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.

- *Have you finished your estate plans?* If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years. For questions, please contact Chantz Blackmon or Jason Kozon located at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, 251-943-3399.



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

American Legion Sets Next Ham Dinner Fundraiser March 23rd

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

Come and join our great organization for a minimum yearly cost, it helps our community and Veterans of every war. Now is the time for all veterans to support an organization that works to help you.

Applications may be picked up at the American Legion Building next to the Lillian Community Club on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 11am.

If you are already a member please stop by and pay your dues if you have not already done so.

Ham Dinners: Come and have a delicious meal while supporting your local American Legion.

The Last dinner will be March 23rd so don't miss out. We need all your support.

These dinners are Post 48's primary fundraiser. The cost is \$15 per meal. The money raised provides the means for continued activities and donations. Aside from the Medical Closet we support JROTC of Elberta, Lillian Legion Baseball Team, the Elberta High School Scholarship Program, and more.

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

Happy St. Patrick's from Post 48

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

The individuals to contact are Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 and Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084.

Every Wednesday morning from 9am to 11 am, Legion Members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48. The building is located next door to the Lillian Community Club, adjacent to the POW/MIA flag. Come and join us for a cup of coffee or a soda, and enjoyable conversation.

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



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Gay L. Pyle
1st Vice



WE NEED THE ROOM

These items are up for sale:

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

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

CALL: 251-540-1167 For appointment

Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat Ladies Celebrate at El Patron

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies held their February gathering at El Patron in Pensacola. We had a great time thanks to the great planning by our hostesses, Kay Lett and Diane Gilbert. Our birthday girls: Sandra Juries and Linda Stephens got to wear the birthday crowns and received a cosmetic bag, hand towel, and a handmade kitchen towel to be worn around your neck like a boa – very handy. Door prizes were won by Waynette Brown – a small mailbox, Wendy Hatcher – plaque and towel, and Linda Stephens – a crocheted doily and a purse. On March 11 we will go to Pedros on Perdido Key hosted by Sandra Juries and Brenda Cannon.



MARY'S SHELTER CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING

Friends of Mary's Shelter, a home for homeless, pregnant women, met at the home's thrift store to celebrate the groundbreaking for Mary's Village, transitional housing for those women who have finished their time in the shelter. Three new homes will be built behind

the thrift store. Featured are the home's board of directors and Executive Director. The gentleman with the blue-ribbon shovel is Tom Moody, husband of Statia Moody who donated funds to build the first of three houses in Mary's Village.



Let's Keep it Country

by Tracey Gambill

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

Planning and Zoning Commission

Baldwin County Central Annex Auditorium
22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL
36567

1st Thursday of each month @ 4 pm

Attend meetings or watch meetings online at
<https://baldwincountyal.gov/> or on YouTube.

Baldwin County Commission

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

PROTECT LILLIAN FROM ANNEXATION

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



LILLIAN METHODIST CHURCH

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View Online at LillianMC.org

Sunday School For All Ages

Sunday 9:00 AM

AA & ALANON Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 6:30 PM

Healing Hope Grief Support Group

March 6 1:00 PM

Community Potluck Supper

March 17 5:30 PM

(Bring a side dish for 8, if able.)

Dementia Education Forum

& Caregiver Support Group

March 20 1:00 PM

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE
SINCE 1980

Live the Beatitudes of Jesus



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

Jesus died penniless as Roman soldiers cast lots to divide among themselves Jesus' only possessions, the clothes on his back. Jesus died hungry. There is no record that Jesus had anything to eat the day of his death. What we call The Last Supper on Thursday evening may very well have been Jesus' last meal. He died on the cross Friday at sunset with an empty stomach. After his last supper, Jesus headed for the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed and wept. Jesus died hated. Caiaphas, the greatest religious authority in Israel called him a blasphemer. The crowds wanted a murderer freed before they would see Jesus pardoned. And his disciples deserted him. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter six verses 17-26 are recorded the teaching we call The Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are a wonderful description of what disciples are supposed to be like. Turning to his disciples Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven."

In all honesty, few of us ever come close to truly living them out. And here's the reason why - because it calls us to sacrificial living. The Beatitudes are an admonition to sacrificial living and sacrificial living is the door to Christian Freedom for all who claim Christ as Lord and Savior. We have been conditioned all our lives to work hard, build wealth, and provide for our families. But these beatitudes turn all of that upside down. Jesus turns away from the crowd and speaks directly to his disciples saying, "Blessed are YOU who are poor." They are the ones who have become poor. They are the ones who have worked day after day without food. The disciples, I am sure, wept on occasion and they were hated by many because of their allegiance to Christ. The Beatitudes then are not instructions on how to live. They are commendations for how the disciples are already living. They left family and home to serve with Christ and He is proud of them. He says to them: Blessed are you twelve for you have given up your careers and become poor to serve with me. The Beatitudes are an admonition to live unencumbered by worldly wealth. But as soon as we are reminded that Jesus calls us to sacrificial living, we are immediately reminded of the next car we ought to buy and the next meal we should eat. We are slowly and methodically told it is O.K. to live our life of luxury while others live their life of poverty. But it is not so in the Kingdom of God! To reclaim the Beatitudes in our daily lives we must stop and hear Jesus say to us, "Blessed are You who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who give, who do without, who sacrifice."

Jesus cautioned His disciples against riches and worldly happiness. The magnificent thing for us humans that is different from animal instincts is that by choice we can rise above purely animal desires and become a part of another kingdom, the Kingdom of God. Jesus is appealing to the most unique thing on this planet, the human capacity to love and sacrifice for a cause that is greater than us. We must ask ourselves will I be a selfish animal and take care of myself or a human and take care of others? Will I be rich in this life or poor here so that I might be rich in the next? Will I fill my stomach or go without so I might be satisfied in the life to come? Will I live for the moment or do the hard work of sacrifice, which may bring some discomfort in the here and now, but will yield heavens worth of joy in the next? What does my discipleship look like when I compare it to the Beatitudes? Because sacrificial freedom is greater than financial freedom. Ultimately, if we are going to heed the Beatitudes then the focus of our lives cannot be about what brings happiness and wealth, but what honors God and gives eternal meaning and purpose to our lives! To be poor in Jesus' mind is to be free from the entanglements of the world and therefore free to serve in the Kingdom of God. Which is the only thing that will bring us purpose, meaning, eternal life, joy and peace in this life and the life to come.

I believe John Wesley sums up for us our proper response to the Beatitudes of Jesus in His Covenant Prayer: "I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will and place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen." I pray that this will be your prayer as we each strive to live the Beatitudes.

A Grand 'Ole Flag: Here's Your Chance to Boast Our Red, White and Blue

One of the most beautiful sights in Lillian appears several times a year near national holidays. Can you think what I'm talking about? Yep, it's the "Streets of Red, White and Blue" when many of our businesses, churches and property owners fly single or multiple flags to remind us of our nation's heritage.

When the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay heard about the program sponsored by the Daphne Optimist Club, they contacted them, and they offered to help us get started in Lillian. I was part of the group that went there to learn how to make the receivers that are installed in the ground, how to attach equipment to the long poles to hold the flags and other necessary information to get the program off the ground.

We have gotten great results for our flag program, but I think we can do better. Do you know how expensive American flags can be if you go to a local store or online? Not cheap and after a few days in the sun, rain and wind a few times a year, you can buy them all the time.



So, here's my plan for you: Join the "Streets of Red, White and Blue" and let the Optimist Club take care of your flag needs. Here's how it works. You fill out an application, write a check and send them to the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Then, when a national holiday is about three days away, miraculously a beautiful American-made flag will appear in front of your home, that's after the receiver is installed, of course.

The flags are provided and installed for display five times a year. They will beautify your property for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day, and if the weather does damage, it will be replaced at no cost to you. What a deal for only \$40 a year!

And here's the rest of the story. The funds raised by the Optimist Club help to pay for a variety of programs, most that help to "Bring Out the Best in Kids." The club provides one-year scholarships for four-year colleges and technical school, the Naval Air station Flight Academy, and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership State Seminar.

It sponsors Oratorical and Essay Contests and provides a bunch of local programs including the Youth Fishing Rodeo, Trunk or Treat, Law Appreciation Program, Annual Labor Day Mullet Festival, Special Needs Thanksgiving Lunch, Lillian Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, Elementary School Reading Team, Special Olympics Lunch, Christmas Food Boxes, Community Food Drive, and Community Thanksgiving Service.

I know you've participated in many of those programs, now I think it would be good for you, the community and the Optimist Club if you would join in the "Streets of Red, White and Blue." Give Dennis Newell a call or email and he will get you into the program, 620-794-3639, flagprogram.ocpb@gmail.com. This will help you pledge allegiance to your country and to the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay.



**Just a
Thought or
Two**

By Sally McKinney

Lillian Recreational Park To Launch Competitive Pickleball

What are folks doing on Wednesday nights at the Lillian Recreational Park? If you have been in that area of Lillian, you may have noticed the lights on at the park and some sounds of a wiffle type ball hitting a paddle.

Well, the Lillian Recreational Park is excited to host their first Pickleball Ladder League. We have 16 pickleball players who come to the courts and play for several hours in a Mixed Intermediate Ladder League. What does this mean? 'Mixed' is both men and women competing and the level of play is 'Intermediate'.

A 'Ladder League' is a way to organize players into groups based on how well they do in games. The point of the ladder league is to give people a fun and competitive place to meet new players, get better and enjoy playing the game. Players compete against each other in matches and the results of these determine where each player stands on the ladder. The competition gets tougher as you move up the ladder.

The Mixed Intermediate Ladder League is six weeks long. Jean Bennett and Jorja Hardy are coordinating the ladder league.

This is the first of many competitive events that we hope to host at the Lillian Recreational Park. If you would like information about further events, please feel free to contact Jean Bennett, 603-533-1700.



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You're Hunting a Stranger; Dr. Livingstone I Presume?

Imagine being sent to find someone that you have never met. Given this assignment perhaps this old phrase comes to your mind, "Dr Livingstone, I presume?" Those are the words of Henry Stanley, a reporter from the New York Herald newspaper who in 1869 was dispatched from the United States to travel to Africa and find the legendary explorer and Christian missionary, Dr. David Livingstone. On November 10, 1871, Stanley posed his question. The response by Livingstone, "Yes", and then, "I feel thankful that I am here to welcome you."

David Livingstone was born in London in 1813. He began work in the local cotton mill at the age of 10 and then attended the mill school each evening to achieved qualifications for the university. He attended the Andersonian Medical School in Scotland and was later accepted for service by the London Missionary Society (LMS) and in 1838 went to London for theological training while continuing his medical studies there.

A speech he heard at university persuaded him that he should go to Africa. After his ordination in London, he sailed for Cape Town, South Africa and arrived in March 1841. He first became fluent in several local languages. In 1845 he married the daughter of another missionary. Livingstone was determined to bring the Christian gospel to the free peoples beyond the area South Africa. In 1852, after sending his family back to Scotland, he began journeys into the heart of Africa first toward the Atlantic Ocean coast, then he went west to coast of the Indian Ocean. It is estimated that he walked over 1,000 miles. Along the way he encountered new people, provided his medical skills and shared the Christian message. He made maps, looked for communities where the London Missionary Society could establish stations for future missionaries and also kept a daily journal of all that experienced. In his travels Livingstone became the first European to see the Mosi-oa-Tunya ("the smoke that thunders") waterfall, which he named Victoria Falls in honor of Queen Victoria.

On his first return to London, he was treated as a hero. He authored a book of his explorations, "Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa" (1857) the sales of which

guaranteed security for his family. He became famous as the first European to cross south-central Africa and was hailed as having "opened up" Africa. There was already a long-established trans-regional network of trade routes for all types of goods. Sadly this had become an open route for the trade of Africans as slaves by Portugal from the Atlantic coast and the people of Arab countries along the Indian Ocean. Livingstone would advocate for the establishment of trade and religious missions in central Africa, but abolition of the African slave trade.

In March 1858 Livingstone embarked upon an expedition which vastly increased geographical knowledge but was otherwise heartbreaking. His wife Mary's death on the Zambezi River in 1862, and bad relations with most of his British colleagues damaged Living-



Moving Forward

By Rev. Tina Lockett



stone's reputation when he returned to Britain in 1864. The Royal Geographical Society provided support and sent him back in 1866 to explore the Nile, Congo, and Zambezi Rivers in hope of finding new routes from the Mediterranean Sea to India.

On this last trip he become obsessed with the devastation the slave trade throughout the region. It was under these circumstances that he was found and greeted in November 1871 by Henry Stanley. Livingstone died in a small village near Zambia, May 1, 1873. His African friends buried his heart in the land that he loved. They provided for his mummified body so that it was brought back to Britain for a hero's funeral in Westminster Abbey.

For the next 50 years many explorers came to learn more of what Livingstone had discovered and to prompt the agenda of their individual country in order to secure a place in the "Scramble for Africa," which ultimately consisted in dividing up of parts of the continent to place land under the government of European countries. Sadly, these new explorers largely ignored Livingstone attacks on British policy and his defense of the right of Africans to fight for their land. They also disregarded Livingstone's insistence that without the help of African companions he could never have completed his astonishing journeys.

Throughout Livingstone's travels in Africa he preached the Christian gospel. Like other missionaries of the era he had a low success rate and is credited with a single conversion. But his endeavors to explore Africa, map the continent, meet the people and shared all he learned was of endless value. His life motto, now inscribed on his statue at Victoria Falls, would become "Christianity, Commerce and Civilization", a combination that he hoped would form an alternative to the slave trade, and impart dignity to the Africans in the eyes of Europeans.

If you want to know about other famous missionaries of the Church or any aspect of the Christian faith, come visit us Episcopal Church of the Advent. Sunday Service is 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

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(ACCOUNTABILITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Oxygen levels reflect whether there is enough oxygen in the water to support life, Leslie said. Some marine animals are able to thrive with less than 5 mg/L oxygen, but these are species specially adapted to live in swamps and similar environments.

When asked the implications of the test results to humans and Perdido Bay, Leslie referred to this passage of the ADEM guidelines:

Alabama's coastal beaches are a major tourist attraction as well as a lifestyle staple for Alabama residents. Alabama has approximately 50 miles of Gulf Beach and an estimated 65 to 70 miles of bay beaches where the adjacent waters are classified for swimming under the State's Water Use Classification System.

Bacterial contamination in Alabama's coastal recreational waters can originate from sources, including shoreline development, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, septic tanks, urban runoff, disposal of human waste from boats, bathers themselves, commercial and domestic animals and natural animal sources such as wildlife.

People who swim and recreate in waters contaminated with such bacterial pollution are at an increased risk of becoming ill. Pathogens associated with this type of pollution can cause ear, eye, skin and respiratory infections, gastrointestinal illness, and more serious diseases such as meningitis and hepatitis.

ADEM also tested water in other nearby Baldwin County waterways, including Dyas, Fletcher, Hollinger and Mifflin creeks.

"This is what we have to do to figure out if the results are normal or if they present a problem," Leslie said.

The next phase of analysis is expected to be completed in August, he said. Be sure to follow The Lillian for updates.

(LAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"I want to make a statement it will always be R-1 (single family)," Funk said, referring to the rapid rate of residential development in the area.

City Clerk Caryn Woerner and Planning Commission Chair Michael Hudson said they support property rights to develop their land as they want, but admonished repeatedly that Funk and Thomas would have no sway over their neighbors to follow their lead.

"If you think if you have enough R1's down there, you can force your neighbors into R1, that's not acceptable. That's not OK," Hudson said.

Because of the many wetlands in the area near the bay, Woerner said, rezoning to single family "can be hard to work around."



Keeping it Country

By Tracey Gambill

Town Hall On Lillian Landmark Status Set For April 5 At LCC

Greetings!

TOWN HALL SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025, 1:00-2:00 PM at LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB,

34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL 36549 TOPIC: LANDMARK DISTRICT LILLIAN Q&A

Support Landmark District Lillian – Share this with as many of your friends and family in Lillian as you can ... we need more signatures to get placed on the legislative agenda! The only thing this will do is give us the CHOICE BY VOTE whether to be annexed or incorporated. Nothing more, nothing less.

Your support can be sent to either tbird32507@gmail.com or using the QR code below to fill out the form available on the QR code located at the top of page 1.

MORE NEWS! ALDOT has agreed to do a traffic study between the Chevron Station and the Lillian bridge to determine if a reduction in the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph is warranted.

COMPATIBILITY is number one in the rezoning phase. Traffic and infrastructure, schools, roads, utilities, flooding, etc. are addressed in the subdivision or PRD (Planned Residential Development) phase.

The following are cases in Lillian and Unincorporated Elberta:

Z24-49 Dwayne Smith/Johnson, PRD24-07 Bear Creek- Denial recommended to the Baldwin County Commissioners by the Planning and Zoning Commission on December 5, 2024. Final Hearing heard January 28, 2025 before the County Commissioners, Commissioner Ball being absent. Rezone from RA to RSF-1 approved unanimously, 3-0; PRD (Planned Residential Development) denied unanimously, 3-0. The subject property is located east of Hwy 83, north of Kichler Circle and south of Grubber's Lane near the town of Elberta. Proposed use: A 247-unit planned residential development (PRD), 2.2 lots per acre, on 116 acres in Planning District 22. SC24-62, Clayton Subdivision-Heard on February 6, 2025 and unanimously approved by the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission a request submitted by Amanda Weygand on behalf of SMITH, CLAYTON WARD ETAL SMITH, HOLLY NICOLE MACE. The applicant is requesting Preliminary Plat Approval of a 2 lot/unit Subdivision, Clayton Subdivision, CR 91. SC24-60, Bryars Subdivision-Heard on February 6, 2025 and unanimously approved by the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission a request submitted by Amanda Weygand on behalf of BRYARS, KENNETH A. The applicant is requesting Preliminary Plat Approval of a 4 lot/unit Subdivision on 40 acres, 2 units per lot, Bryars Subdivision, Comstock & CC Roads. SPP24-36, Seville Estates-Heard on February 6, 2025 and unanimously approved by the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission a request submitted by Dewberry Daphne on behalf of GECI, THEODORE R ETAL GECI, ERNESTINE JANETTE AS TRUSTEES OF THE THEODORE R GECI AND & ERNESTINE JANETTE GECI REVOCABLE LIV. The applicant is requesting Preliminary Plat Approval of a 9 lot/unit Subdivision, Seville Estates, County Road 93.

In Progress: Z24-40 Hamm Enterprises, 23 acres-Approved for RSF-3 zoning. Next will be the subdivision phase and I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda. ZVA24-59 May Brothers Property Variance Request Approved- 12564 County Road 99, Lillian, AL 36549- I will keep you posted when it is placed on the agenda.

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This will be a charity event for children who need help

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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.

Celebrating birthdays in March are Jean Legg, Edward Heiner, Edi Langlois, Elaine Grounds, Marcia Allen, Rita Roth, Joan Rugg, Bill Weaver, Bob Davidson, Tootsie

Farrell, Sarah Wigton, Ted Bennett, Lynn Corker, Cliff Ledbetter, Patricia Heiner, Don Hartman, Inez Parker, Jerry Skates, Julie Moore, Dee Woodford, Louise Greenley, Joanne Bold, Ron Morris, Church Townsend, Ed Rugg, Jim Avera, Jean Bartlett, Christine Clark, Joe Keller, Jana Widener, Kelly Varret, Brooks Foster, Catherine McNeill

Celebrating an anniversary in March are William and Sara Laibe, John and Peggy Blalock, Jim and Blanch Crandall 1961, Richard and Carolyn Holt 1963, Dennis and Linda Roach 1975, Bob and Sharon Linde 2004, Joanne and Brooks Foster 2019.

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat col-

umn, please email:

Lillianedtor@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 April issue of The Lillian is March 19.

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

Receive expert & compassionate care from a trained nursing assistant 10+ years' experience, Total care, light housekeeping, transportation. Excellent references, available in Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Foley, & Lillian. Kindly call (251) 229-7533.

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

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Our Park Seeks Input; Your Feedback is Critical!

What would YOU like to see in your park?

Now that the Park has added its four new pickleball courts, new dog park, and upgraded its kitchen and conference room for community use, it's time to think about what comes next. To that end, the Park board will meet in March to do some strategic planning for the next three years.



So our question for you is – What would YOU like to see in your park? Is there an improvement you'd like us to make? What about new activities?

Do you think we should add anything like a chili cook-off or splash festival?

Think out loud and then share your ideas and thoughts with us. We'd love to hear them.

We'll be collecting ideas at the March Flea Market on March 15 and at the first movie on April 4. Or you can always email them to us at LillianParkCommittee@gmail.com.

Your input is important to us. The Park exists because of YOU and your support. So, what would you like to see at the Park? Let us know!

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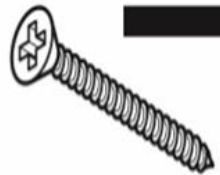
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LVHclientinfo@gmail.com



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Public hearings take place on proposed subdivision regulation amendments. Call for updates: Baldwin Co. planning and zoning for info 251.580.1655. Comment now at BaldwinOurVision.com on Draft Future Land Use Plan. Check <https://www.baldwinourvision.com/> for times GO TO BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV, click on PUBLIC NOTICES every week to stay informed about upcoming ANGENDA items. Email your support or opposition to: planning@baldwncountyal.gov and copy to: RuralCharacterLillian@gmail.com



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Lillian's Pets of the Month



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

Lillian's Pests of the Month



ARMADILLO



RACCOON

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

The Lillian Online!

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Go to lilliancommunityclub.com, click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page. Please bookmark our page!



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Visit the Baldwin County Animal Shelter
County Road 49,
Summerdale, AL 36580

Optimists Club of Perdido Bay Honors Local 'Teachers of the Year'

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay recently honored public school teachers from Elberta, elementary, middle and high schools. Members of the teaching staffs choose the ones for the honor. Each one represents many of the core purposes in Optimism. They each "aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world. They help us to do all that we can to make it a better place and to bring out the best in others."

Ashleigh Bailey is the Elberta Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is a lifelong resident of Elberta, AL, where she is a member of Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church. She attended St. Benedict's Catholic School and then Foley High. She is a graduate of Troy State University where she received a dual certification in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

Ashleigh has spent her entire teaching career of 28 years in Elberta. She has taught first, second, fourth and fifth grade and is currently teaching fourth grade.

Her parents are Commissioner Charles "Skip" and Yvonne Gruber. Ashleigh is married to Branton Bailey, the principal of Elberta High School. They have four children, Tucker, Ben, Caroline and Campbell who she says are the absolute joy of her life and feels very lucky to be "Lollie" of one grandson, Ryker Bailey.

Elberta Middle School Teacher of the Year is Crystal Phelps, a native of Baldwin County, having grown up in Lillian. After graduation from Foley High School, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of West Florida and a Master's in Education from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ. She is nationally certified in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as AMSTI (Alabama Math Science and Technology Initiative).

She has been teaching for 22 years, 20 in elementary and is now teaching Life Science and Physical Science which includes Chemistry and Physics.

Crystal and her husband, Michael, live in Fairhope with their two sons, Jack and Blake.

Kelsey Hopper is the Elberta High School Teacher of the Year, a 6-year Agricultural teacher. Her roots run deep in agriculture as she was born and raised in Lillian, Alabama on Cassebaum Farms.

She is a graduate of Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics and business and has a Masters in agricultural education and an E.D.S in curriculum and teaching. Kelsey says she had zero plans of ever becoming a teacher. When she graduated from college she started working on her family farm until one day she was riding in the tractor raking hay when she received several calls from local community members encouraging her to interview for the new high school career tech teacher teaching agriculture.

Her classroom is set up in three different sectors. Fundamentals is the first



The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay recently awarded "Teacher of the Year" status to Middle School Teachers Crystal Phelps, Elberta Elementary Teacher Ashleigh Bailey of Elberta High School Teacher Kelsey Hopper.

course offered to students who have never had agriculture. These students go through a variety of lessons including soft skills, Future Farmers of America, animal science, plant science, welding, construction, electrical and natural resources.

The second level class is intermediate to agriculture. This class solely focuses on soft skills, FFA emphasizes the construction, welding and electrical sectors. The students may also take advanced agriculture. When students get to the third level, Kelsey looks at the demographics of the class and revamps the class according to the student interest. They might learn about the digestive system and skeletal parts of the chicken and then build a model of that chicken or even a chicken coop to sell. It all depends on the students. She says if a student has an idea and wants to do it, they are able to do it.

Kelsey's desire is for every student to succeed. Her biggest takeaway is regardless of whether they master everything, she at least wants them to be sustainable in agriculture. She wants them to be able to go home grow a garden, care for an animal and speak to someone when spoken to.

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The Lillian

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Lillian Valentine Dinner Dance Celebrates Love and Community Service

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love—not just between individuals but also the love that people pour into their communities. The annual Valentine Dinner Dance, hosted at the Lillian Community Club, served as a heartfelt celebration of the special individuals whose dedication and service make Lillian a better place.

This year's event was proudly hosted by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Foundation (OCPB Foundation). One of the event's purposes was to allow community organizations a chance to share what they do for the community, promote upcoming programs and to ask for help if they need it.

Jeff Keener, President of the OCPB Foundation, served as the evening's master of ceremonies. He highlighted the volunteers and leaders who make a difference in the community. Kathy Keener designed the table decorations and was responsible for the beautiful setting inside the LCC. She also created the prize raffle to continue the tradition that is part of Lillian, to Give Back. Jean Bennett, Amanda and Rick Long were recognized for their help in decorating the hall.

The event also recognized John Maye for his outstanding service to the Lillian and Baldwin County community. He was recognized as a Distinguished Lt. Governor of the Alabama-Mississippi Optimist District for his leadership and contributions to the Optimist Club of Perdido bay.

Throughout the night, several community leaders shared insights into their organizations' impact over the past year:

•**Lucy Smith** highlighted the many improvements and projects completed at the Lillian Recreation Park and previewed upcoming initiatives. She talked about the new

pickleball courts, dog runs and coming events like the Market in the Park, Movies, a place to enjoy nature and wildlife and the special events like Fall Fest and Christmas in the Park.

•**Robin Newell** spoke on behalf of the Optimist Club, emphasizing its role in serving and improving the lives of young people, the community, and its members. She also encouraged volunteers to get involved in community events such as the Lillian Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, Respect for Law, and the upcoming Baldwin County Special Olympics. The Club meets at the Lillian Methodist Church on the second and fourth Saturday at 8 a.m.

•**Todd Turk** shared the benefits of the Pensacola Flight Academy program, a six-day program at the Pensacola Air Station Flight Academy where students experience life on an air craft carrier and gain the experience of planning disaster relief missions around the world.

•**David Johnson** announced the Lillian Masonic Lodge's first membership growth in 15 years and its expanded community service efforts. The Lodge meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month, and anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to call David at 816-721-6907.

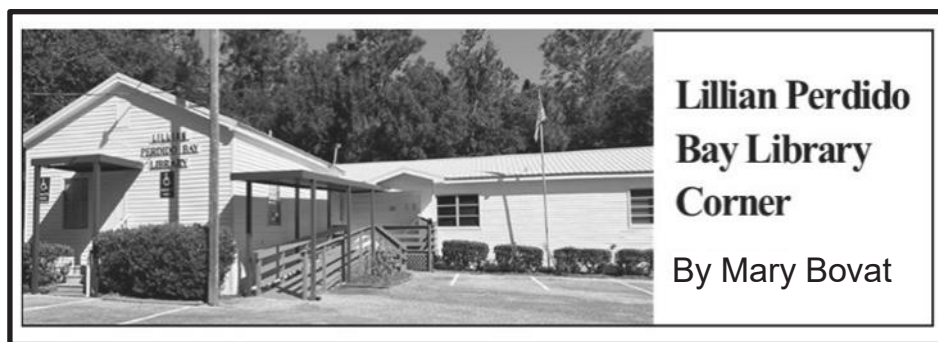
•**Jean Bennett**, local Pickleball Representative for the National Pickleball Association, was recognized for her work in training adults and youth to learn and enjoy the sport.

A surprise moment came when **Sally McKinney** was asked to share her personal involvement in various community organizations, including The Lillian Newspaper, the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, St. Joseph Catholic

Church, the Lillian Legislative Committee, Lillian Library and more. Her passion and commitment have left a lasting impact on Lillian, and attendees enjoyed hearing about her contributions firsthand.

The evening was filled with delicious food catered by Crazy Horse Café and lively music from HD Entertainment. Although it wasn't planned, one of the highlights was a karaoke performance by Alana Turk, who sang a heartfelt love song, along with her husband, Todd, who performed one of his favorite country hits. Dennis "Mr. Noodle" in his Elberta Elementary Reader Role for the OCPB" Newell and his wife, Robin, OCPB President, also took to the microphone, adding to the fun atmosphere.

For more information about upcoming community events or how to get involved contact Jeff Keener at 859-991-4619 or 251-210-9081, or email jeffreakeener@gmail.com.



Lillian Perdido Bay Library Corner

By Mary Bovat

This is the beginning of another month in Baldwin County at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library. Our hope is to have better weather than the previous two months so our patrons can visit us at our library.

Thanks to everyone for the membership donations. We have a membership drive every January, sending out postcards. If you did not receive one and want to donate, please fill out the form provided here. (pictured right). We do not receive any state, local or federal funds, therefore we pay our bills with the donations we receive.

If you have not seen our library, please stop by and our volunteers will

give you a tour. We do have the usual books a library has, such as: hardback, large print, short stories, non-fiction, biography, classics, paperbacks, DVD's, audios, music CDs, travel information, a western room full of books and artifacts, and a large Baldwin County map with information regarding the county. There is something for everyone in it.

It only takes a few minutes to fill out a form for a library card and it is FREE! The hours for the library are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thank you for supporting our library, we certainly love it and appreciate our community.

Lillian Perdido Bay Library Membership Form

Print Name: _____

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City, State, Zip: _____

Indicate Membership Type:

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

Lillian Lodge No. 925 to Lead Baldwin County Masonic Conference

The Lillian Masonic Lodge FA & M #925 is honored to host and lead the upcoming Baldwin County Masonic Conference on March 29th at the local lodge.

This significant event will bring together Masons from across the county to engage in meaningful discussions, training, and fellowship.

Worshipful Master David Johnson expressed his pride in the dedication and preparation of the lodge members leading up to this event. Over the past two months, the lodge has conducted extensive training sessions to ensure a successful conference. Under the leadership of Steve Williams, these sessions have emphasized the essential role of Masonic lectures and their significance in preserving the teachings and traditions of Freemasonry. These trainings have also positioned the local lodge to fill all of the chairs with qualified members.

Masonic lectures serve as a cornerstone of Masonic education, providing members with deeper insights into the fraternity's rich history, symbolism, and moral teachings.

These lectures reinforce the core values of brotherhood, integrity, and service, ensuring



that members not only understand the principles of Masonry but also apply them in their daily lives. Through structured teachings, Masons gain a stronger connection to the rituals and traditions that define the organization's identity and mission.



Lillian Masonic Lodge

By Jeff Keener

“The knowledge and wisdom passed down through these lectures are crucial to maintaining the integrity and strength of Freemasonry,” said Worshipful Master Johnson. “It is through these teachings that we continue to inspire and guide both new and seasoned Masons in their journey.”

The Baldwin County Masonic Conference will feature discussions, ritual work, and leadership development sessions aimed at fostering unity and excellence within the Masonic community.

Attendees can expect an enriching experience that reaffirms their commitment to the principles of Freemasonry.

For more information on the Baldwin County Masonic Conference or the Lillian Masonic Lodge FA & M #925, please contact David Johnson at 816-721-6907.

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LUNCH SPECIAL MONDAY - FRIDAY 11-4

MON: FRIED SHRIMP BASKET

12 SHRIMP COOKED TO PERFECTION, SERVED WITH FRIES!

TUE: 3 TACO S SOFT OR HARD

BEEF OR SHRIMP TACOS, YOUR CHOICE

WED: OYSTER PO BOY

DELICIOUS FRIED OYSTERS SERVED WITH FRIES / CHIPS

THUR: HAMBURGER

BEST BURGER IN THE AREA SERVED W/ FRIES / CHIPS

FRI: FISH FRIED OR GRILLED

SERVED WITH FRIES OR CHIPS

\$10.95

GIFT OF GOD MINISTRIES

GIFT OF GOD MINISTRIES

This will be a charity event for children who need help

SAT MARCH 1ST



GIFT OF GOD MINISTRY

Website: www.giftofgodministry.com
Email: giftofgodministries@gmail.com

80% of children enter foster care with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We serve staple bags of clothing - shoes - toiletries - comfort to children entering foster care

GIFT OF GOD, MINISTRIES

SAT MARCH 1st

MUSIC ALL DAY

50/50 BBO CHICKEN LIQUOR BASKET

All Proceeds Go to Ministry

JOHNNY Bs FRONT PORCH

JOHNNY Bs
FRONT PORCH
LILLIAN AL

THE GATHERING



PASTOR RICK LONG

**SUNDAY MORNINGS
8:30**

JOHNNY Bs
FRONT PORCH
LILLIAN AL

**LIVE MUSIC
7 DAYS A WEEK
DAY & NITE**

JOHNNY Bs
FRONT PORCH
LILLIAN AL