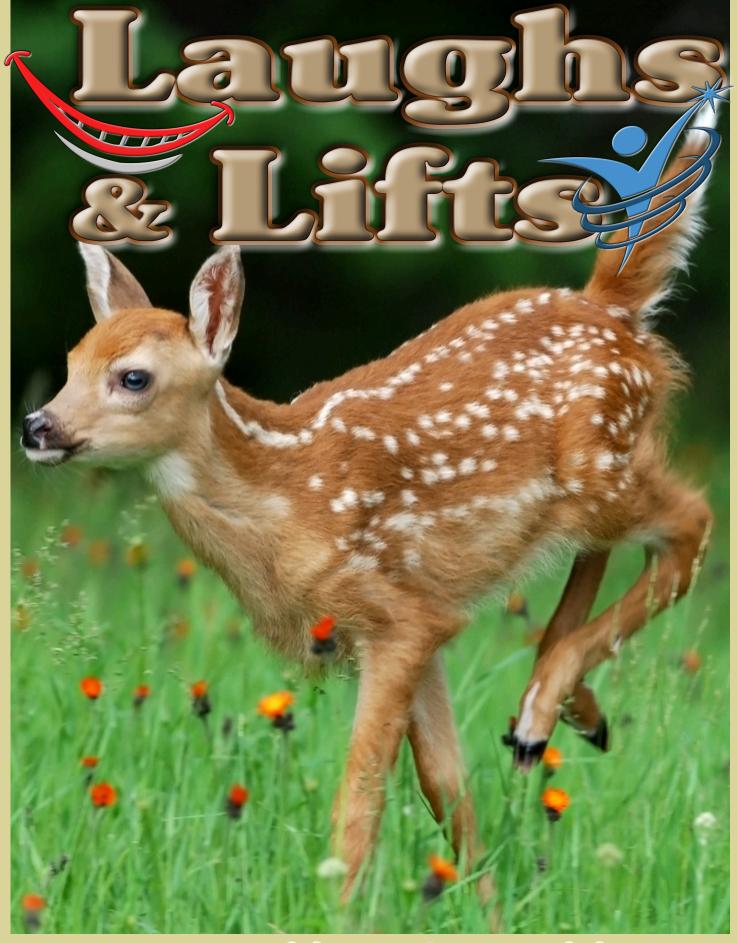
JANUARY 2024

Issue 185



Funny, Inspiring and Entertaining



If you ain't willin' to work for it, then don't be complaining about not having it.

In the Home



Vehicle Lifts: Manual or electric

- Electric: fully automatic
- Swing-away option: Still open tailgate /hatch
 Hitch carry
 - (pictured above)
- Hybrid: Carry inside the vehicle (pictured below)
 - Boom lift: Places into truck bed/rear cargo area
 - Regain your freedom to travel!

<u>On the Go</u>





<u>Stair Lifts:</u>

- Straight or curved
- Folds to minimize stairwell obstrution
- Regain <u>safe</u> access to your laundry room, garage, extra bedrooms, etc.
- Make your home, YOUR home again!

ACCESS PROBLEMS? NOT ANYMORE.



Modular Ramps/Vertical Platform Lifts/Outdoor Stair Lifts:

- Can accommodate almost any entry for any type of mobility
- Providing ramps from 1' up to any length necessary
- Professional installation, free home evaluation
- Regain *safe* access in and out of your home!

CALL FOR A QUOTE TODAY: 1-800-835-2266

STATE LICENSED/FACTORY CERTIFIED INSTALLERS





Outside the Home

The youth may move and walk faster, but it's the old folks who know the road.



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 4 LaughsandLifts.com

Being kissed while you're asleep is one of the purest forms of love... Unless you are in prison.

Thinking Outside the Box

To offer you and your family a personalized experience during an emotional time.



https://www.fuquabankston.com 508 Faust Avenue Ozark, AL 36360 (334) 774-4551

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 5 LaughsandLifts.com

If you have time to worry, you have time to pray.

K Star



MEXICAN RESTAURANT

1177 Andrews Ave Ozark, AL 36360 334-445-2379

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 6 LaughsandLifts.com Whoever put the "S" in FASTFOOD was a marketing genius.

A Pre-Arranged Funeral is truly an act of Love!

We invite you to sit down with Bill and Ted and explore the option that best fits your family's needs. Let us guide you in making the decision between a prefunded funeral or a pre-planned funeral. Prearranging a funeral gives you the peace of mind knowing that everything is taken care of, and it helps you not emotionally overspend. We will be glad to explain the different options for traditional burial or cremation, and we will also help you with cemetery property, monument design and placement. It is a special honor to help our veterans arrange their final wishes by working with national cemeteries and local agencies giving them the respect they deserve. Your prearranged funeral or cremation is **guaranteed price locked** at Holman Funeral home through pre-need insurance. We are family owned and operated and all decisions are made locally. It is good to have a friend in your time of need, but it's imperative to have a trusted trained professional that will undertake well over fifty things to be done when arranging your funeral. *Holman Funeral Home where families have come for comfort and closure since 1929*.





Service Above Expectation

Ted Smith

334-774-5348 995 South Union Ave Ozark, Alabama 36360



Bill Sullivan

"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." – Bruce Lee



I'm feeling pretty good today! I hand a hand in the successful puppet show last night.

\$80,000 in the bank & a paid off \$10,000 car. People assume you're broke.. \$1,000 in the bank & an \$80,000 financed car. People assume you're doing great.. Stop letting material stuff fool you.

Satan's strategy is simple...make sin look normal and make righteousness seem strange. Do not be deceived. Every single one of us are being transformed either into the image of Jesus or into the image of the world.

Reporting for Duty

A soldier in my National Guard platoon became concerned when the Army insisted that he sign up for direct deposit. "It's not going to work for me," he said, panicked.

"Why not?" I asked.

"Because I use my Guard pay for spending money."

"So?"

"For the past ten years, I've been telling my wife that I serve for free!" **Ozark Tire & Service** YOUR FULL SERVICE TIRE CENTER

774-1416 178 W. Roy Parker Rd. , Ozark, Al Thank you to the good folks of Ozark, we wish you a properous Happy New Year,



Tim and Tina Stafford

A newly ordained priest, nervous about hearing confessions, finally asks an older priest to observe how



he does and give some tips. After listening in on the second

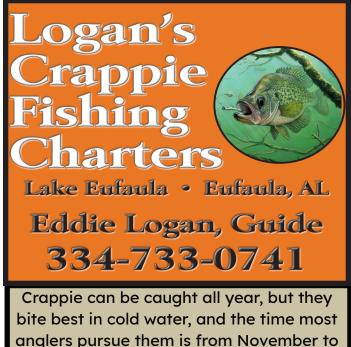
confession, the older priest suggested that the younger man fold his arms, maybe rub his chin with one hand while saying phrases like "I see" or "I understand" or "Yes, my child. Go on".

The young priest puts the suggestions into practice and later tells the older priest how much it has helped getting more information from his flock.

"You've done well," said the older man. "Isn't that much better than slapping your knee and yelling "No way! What happened next?"

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 9 LaughsandLifts.com

3,027 years from today, life will either be really good or really bad.. I's 5050!



anglers pursue them is from November to February in pre-spawn mode, and from February through April on the spawning beds, primarily shoreline brush piles. **Book your trip with Eddie today.**

Girl On A Plane

A not-so-bright girl is flying in a plane when her pilot keels over. She calls out: "Mayday! Mayday! My pilot is dead!" Air traffic control responds, "Don't worry, I'll talk you through this. What's your height and position?" "I'm five-four and I'm in the plane," she

says.

"Repeat after me," says the voice. "Our Father, who art in heaven...."

Two Doctors and A Round of Golf

Over a round of golf, two doctors were talking shop. "I operated on Mr. Lee the other day," said the surgeon. "What for?" asked his colleague. "About \$17,000." "What did he have?" "Oh, about \$17,000."



I tried to remarry my ex-wife... but she figured out I was only after my money.

LAST .400 HITTER

On September 28, 1941, the last day of Major League Baseball's regular season, the Boston Red Sox's Ted Williams gets six hits in eight at-bats during a doubleheader in Philadelphia, boosting his average to .406. He becomes the first player since 1930 to hit .400. "I guess I'll be satisfied with that thrill out there today," he tells the Boston Globe about hitting .400. "... I never wanted anything harder in my life."

In addition to his .406 batting average—no major league player since Williams has hit .400—the left fielder led the big leagues with 37 homers, 135 runs and a slugging average of .735. Are You Doing Anything?

My neighbor, is single, shapely, beautiful, and she lives right across the street.

I watched her as she got home from work this evening. I was surprised when she walked across the street, up my driveway and knocked on my door.

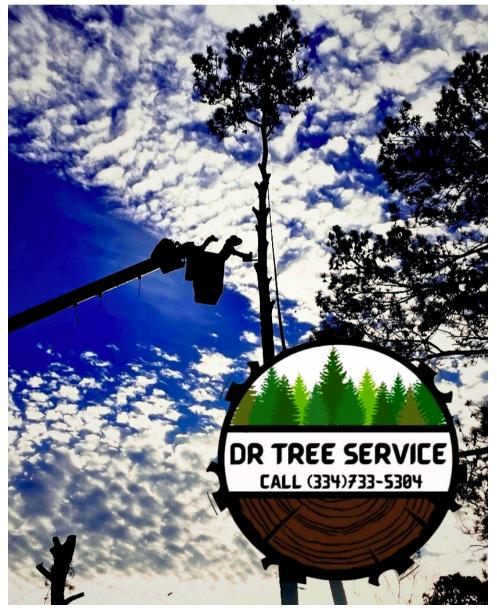
I opened the door, she looked at me and said, "I just got home, and I have this strong urge to have a good time, go dancing, and have some fun tonight. Are you doing anything?"

I quickly replied, "Nope, I'm free!" "Great" she said. "Can you watch my dog?"



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 11 LaughsandLifts.com

This new generation does not like WORKING. You could give them a job SLEEPING and they'll WAKE UP and QUIT.





Sermon Like the Peace of God

Fresh out of seminary, a young pastor found an associate position at a prestigious church. One Sunday early on, he was given the opportunity to preach. He prepared diligently - perhaps a bit too excited to use all the learning he'd acquired and worked hard to make his words eloquent and smooth. Shaking hands at the end of the service, he was approached by one of the older ladies who was known and respected in both the church and community. "Sir," she said with a smile, "your sermon was like the peace of God!" The young preacher's grin widened and his chest puffed a bit, until she continued on ... "It surpassed ALL understanding!"

John, I heard you called the cops on two women who were fighting over you.. I sure did Rick. Why did you do that John? Because the ugly one was winning.

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 12 LaughsandLifts.com

"It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe." -Muhammad Ali

Why did God create evil?

- A professor at the university asked his students the following question:
- Everything that exists was created by God?

One student bravely answered:

- Yes, created by God.

- Did God create everything? - a professor asked.

"Yes, sir," replied the student.

The professor asked :

- If God created everything, then God created evil, since it exists. And according to the principle that our deeds define ourselves, then God is evil.

The student became silent after hearing such an answer. The professor was very pleased with himself. He boasted to students for proving once again that faith in God is a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said:

- Can I ask you a question, professor?
 - "Of course," replied the professor.

A student got up and asked:

- Professor, is cold a thing?
- What kind of question? Of course it exists. Have you ever been cold?

Students laughed at the young man's question. The young man answered:

- Actually, sir, cold doesn't exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is actually the absence of heat. A person or object can be studied on whether it NOW FINKY'S OPEN FINKY'S DISCOUNT TIRES & TOWING USED TIRES

- (MOUNT & BALANCE)
- BRAKES
- OIL CHANGES
- ALIGNMENTS
- A/C CHECKS
- 24 HOUR TOWING

has or transmits energy.

Absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) is a complete absence of heat. All matter becomes inert and unable to react at this temperature. Cold does not exist. We created this word to describe what we feel in the absence of heat.

A student continued:

- Professor, does darkness exist?

- Of course it exists.

- You're wrong again, sir. Darkness also does not exist. Darkness is actually the absence of light. We can study the light but not the darkness. We can use Newton's prism to spread white light across multiple colors and explore the different wavelengths of each color. You can't measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into the world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you tell how dark a certain space is? You measure how much light

is presented. Isn't it so? Darkness is a term man uses to describe what happens in



334-896-0227 4017 Andrews Ave. Ozark, AL 36360

the absence of light.

In the end, the young man asked the professor:

- Sir, does evil exist?

This time it was uncertain, the professor answered:

- Of course, as I said before. We see him every day. Cruelty, numerous crimes and violence throughout the world. These examples are nothing but a manifestation of evil.

To this, the student answered:

- Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist for itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is like darkness and cold—a manmade word to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not faith or love, which exist as light and warmth. Evil is the result of the absence of Divine love in the human heart. It's the kind of cold that comes when there is no heat, or the kind of darkness that comes when

there's no light. Student's name was Albert Einstein...

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 13 LaughsandLifts.com

"The hardest 3 things to say: 1. I was wrong. 2. I need help. 3. Worcestershire sauce."



Creamy Tortellini Soup

Serves 6 INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound Italian sausage, casing removed
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium sweet onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 (9-ounce) package refrigerated three cheese tortellini
- 1/2 bunch kale, stems removed and leaves chopped
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add Italian sausage and cook until browned, about 3-5 minutes, making sure to crumble the sausage as it cooks; drain excess fat.
- Stir in garlic, onion and Italian seasoning. Cook, stirring frequently, until onions have become translucent, about 2-3 minutes; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- 3. Whisk in flour until lightly browned, about 1 minute.
- 4. Gradually whisk in chicken stock and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, stirring





occasionally, until reduced and slightly thickened, about 10 minutes.

- 5. Stir in tortellini; cover and cook until tender, about 5-7 minutes.
- 6. Stir in kale until wilted, about 1-2 minutes. Stir in heavy cream and basil until heated through, about 1 minute; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- 7. Serve immediately.

Roasted Carrot Soup

Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

- Extra virgin olive oil
- 3 pounds carrots, peeled
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- 5 cups low-sodium vegetable broth, divided
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 cup whole milk
- Fresh mint leaves, for garnish (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat your oven to 425°F. Brush a sheet pan with olive oil.
- Roast the carrots. Arrange the carrots on the prepared sheet pan. Season lightly with salt and pepper and drizzle generously with olive oil. Roast for 25 minutes, then flip and roast until the carrots are fork tender and nicely caramelized, about 20 minutes more. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.
- When the carrots are cool enough to handle, cut into chunks and place in a large food processor or blender. Add the garlic, ginger and 3 cups of the broth. Puree until the mixture is smooth.
- Transfer the carrot puree to a heavy cooking pot. Add the remaining 2 cups of broth, coriander and allspice. Place the pot on medium heat and watch carefully as the soup bubbles. Stir occasionally until reduced slightly, 10 to 15 minutes.
- 5. Turn the heat to medium-low and stir in the milk. Once heated through, remove from the stove.
- 6. Transfer to serving bowls and garnish with fresh mint leaves, if using. Enjoy!



I can't pretend anymore, what is the meaning of "O" in O'clock?

Stuffed Cabbage Soup

Serves 8 INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 yellow onion , chopped
- 1 head cabbage chopped roughly
- 14 ounces diced tomatoes
- 14 ounces crushed tomatoes
- 3 cups beef broth
- 3 cups rice , cooked

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add the ground beef to a large dutch oven with the salt and pepper and brown it really well then remove it from the pot and add in 4 tablespoons of butter, onions and cabbage and cook for 5-6 minutes until they start to caramelize.
- 2. Add in the diced tomatoes, crushed tomatoes, beef broth and the cooked beef and let simmer on low heat for 15 minutes then stir in the cooked rice and cook until its warmed through and serve.

Roasted Cream of Cauliflower Parmesan Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium head cauliflower, cut into small florets (about 4 cups)
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tablespoons minced fresh parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

- Arrange cauliflower, onion, and garlic in a single layer on a greased baking sheet. Drizzle olive oil evenly over vegetables and season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast vegetables at 400F 20-25 minutes or until very tender.
- In a medium pot, melt butter over medium-high heat. Whisk flour into butter until completely smooth and

cook 1 minute until golden-brown. Gradually whisk milk, cream, and chicken broth into flour mixture until completely smooth. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until simmering and slightly thickened,

- 3. Place roasted cauliflower mixture in a high-speed blender and top with milk mixture. Blend on high speed until completely creamy.
- 4. Return soup to pot and bring to a low simmer over medium-high heat, then reduce heat and simmer at low 10 minutes. Remove soup from heat and whisk in Parmesan until melted, then stir in parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Serve soup hot and enjoy!

Stuffed Pepper Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp olive oil, divided
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small yellow onion chopped
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (14.5 oz) cans petite diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 (14.5 oz) can low-sodium beef broth
- 2 1/2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, + more for garnish
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 cup uncooked long grain white or brown rice
- Cheddar or mozzarella cheese, for serving (optional) **INSTRUCTIONS**
- 1. In a large pot heat 1 Tbsp olive oil over medium heat, once hot add beef to pot and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally while breaking up beef, until browned. Drain beef and pour onto a plate lined with paper towels, set aside.
- Heat remaining 1 Tbsp olive oil in pot then add onions, red bell pepper, green bell pepper and saute 3 minutes, then add garlic and saute 30 seconds longer.
- 3. Pour in diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, beef broth and add parsley, basil, oregano and cooked beef, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring just to a light boil, then reduce heat to low, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, 30 minutes.
- 4. While soup simmers, prepare rice according to directions listed on package, then once soup is done simmering stir in desired amount of cooked rice into soup.**
- 5. Serve warm topped with optional cheese and garnish with fresh parsley.







The older I get, the better I wuz.



Family

Medical Clinic

• URGENT CARE

• FAMILY MEDICINE

PEDIATRICS

• AVIATION MEDICINE

2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU



633 S. UNION AVE.

Ozark, AL

334-774-7572





1519 ANDREWS AVE.

Ozark, AL

334-774-7610





126 Hospital Avenue | Ozark, AL Phone: 334-774-2601 www.dalemedical.org

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 16 LaughsandLifts.com

No, My dear blond friend, A "Thumb Drive" has nothing to do with hitchhiking.



Serving: Pike, Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Houston, Geneva, Henry

- Quality Care
- Over 75 Years Experience Skilled Nursing
- Over 25 Years Certified Home Health Aides
 - Physical & Speech Therapy
 - Medical Social Worker

334-774-0750

126 Hospital Ave. Ozark, Al 36360 www.dalemedical,org



In third grade, a teacher came in and gave us all a lecture about not smoking, and then they sent us over to arts and crafts...to make ashtrays for Father's Day.





FARM-FRESH IN SEASON PRODUCE

Collards, Turnips, Mustard Sweet Potatoes, Satsumas, Fla. Citrus



AUCTIONS Everyone knows that auctions speak louder than words - that's because of the auction-ears. Auctions are the one place where you can get something for nodding. Though, of course, you do have to stay 'til the bidder end. I bought an off-road vehicle in a blind auction. Got it delivered ... it was a canoe.

IS THE HONEYMOON OVER?

After the honeymoon, the new wife tells her husband, "I think it's time for you to stop hunting and fishing. In fact, you might as well sell all of your guns and rod and reel."

The husband replies, "You're starting to sound like my ex-wife." His wife says, "I thought you said you've never been married before?" The husband says, "I haven't.

LaughsandLifts.com

If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.



3071 S. US Hwy. 231 Ozark, AL 334 •774 •9030 7:30 am - 5:30 pm Mon.-Fri.

www.gillandchevrolet.com/service

We are your premier dealer for auto service and repairs in OZARK. If you have any problems with your vehicles like bad transmissions, oil changes, or flat tires, our expert technicians are here to help. We have been serving our customers for years in OZARK. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff has developed a reputation for providing excellent Chevrolet and GMC auto service and repair in town. Visit our OZARK, AL dealership today. You can also schedule an appointment online! Scan below to see all our service specials.



ACDELCO SILVER FRONT BRAKE ROTORS INSTALLED ON MOST CARS & SMALL SUVS*

12 Months/Unlimited Mile Warranty**

Coupon Code: 214 \$459.95

Expires

ACDELCO SILVER FRONT BRAKE

ROTORS INSTALLED ON MOST TRUCKS AND FULL-SIZE SUVS*

12 Months/Unlimited Mile Warranty**

Coupon Code: 215 \$499.95 Expires



WIPER BLADE REBATE

Up to a \$15 rebate* on the purchase of three select ACDelco Wiper Blades



Coupon Code: 308 Expires

MILITARY THANK YOU 10% OFF

02-15-2024

I Needed to Use Your Car

02-15-2024

After shopping for most of the day, a couple returns to find their car has been stolen. They go to the police station to make a full report. Then, a detective drives them back to the parking lot to see if any evidence can be found at the scene of the crime. To their amazement, the car has been returned.

There is an envelope on the windshield with a note of apology and two tickets to a music concert. The note reads, "I apologize for taking your car, but my wife was having a baby and I had to hot-wire your ignition to rush her to the hospital. Please forgive the inconvenience. Here are two tickets for tonight's concert of Garth Brooks, the country-and-western music star."

Their faith in humanity restored, the couple attend the concert and return home late. They find their house has been robbed. Valuable goods have been taken from throughout the house. And, there is a note on the door reading, "Well, you still have your car. I have to put my newly born kid through college."



02-28-2024

Come by and see us for STIHL product demonstrations. you are not sure which STIHL product is right for your needs, we will assist you. As always, we want you to have the right STIHL tool for the right job.



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 19 LaughsandLifts.com

After all this parenting, I think I'll become a hostage negotiator. Seems less stressful



from different countries to paint the White House. The Chinese contractor estimates three million dollars. And the European contractor said the cost was seven million dollars

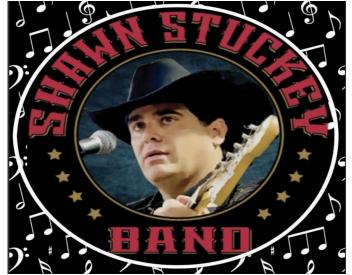
The US president asked for estimates from contractors from different countries to paint the White House. The US president asked for

The US president asked for estimates from contractors

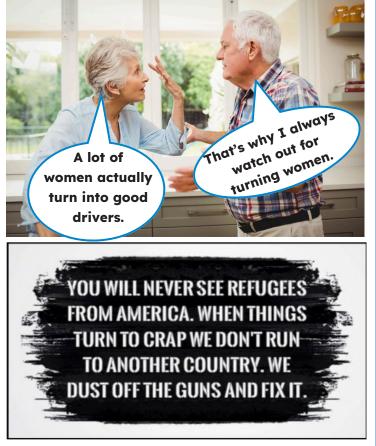
And then the Pakistani contractor made an estimate of ten million dollars. The president asked the Chinese contractor, how did you estimate three million dollars? The contractor

replied that 1 million for paint for 1 million for labor and 1 million for profit. The president asked the European contractor for seven million He replied three million in paint, two million in labor, two million in profit The president asked the Pakistani how you estimated ten million The Pakistani contractor said four million for you, three million for me, the remaining three million will be given to the Chinese to paint.

And the Pakistani contractor got the contract.



SHAWN STUCKEY BAND FRIDAYS AT RUSTY BARN 244 S. YOUNG / HWY 27 N. OZARK 7-10 PM \$7 COVER \$5 FOOD ALCOHOL AND SMOKE FREE



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 20 LaughsandLifts.com

DID YOU KNOW: If every person on the planet lined up along the Earth's equator, most of them would drown.

Published since 2008,

We Are The Uplifting, Positive Alternative To Ordinary Media. We Are Your Community Magazine.

Call 334-379-7603

Laughs and Lifts provides laughter in clean jokes & cartoons, witty and wise one liners, encouragement through uplifting articles based on God's word and teachings of Christ Jesus, and entertainment with Sudoku, Recipes, Puzzles & More.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to Postage Rates Increasing Magazine Rate Subscriptions are now \$30.00. Mail check to: Laughs and Lifts/Subscriptions P.O. Box 681 • Ozark, AL 36361

Editorial Offices: Roger Parrish, Editor & Publisher 322 Andrews Ave. Suite 3 Ozark, AL 36360 Roger@LaughsandLifts.com

Laughs and Lifts Magazine is published monthly to uplift and entertain the reader. Any resemblance contained within this publication to some one or some thing is purely coincidental and not intended to bring harm or insult to anyone. Information, stories, helpful hints, jokes, studies and all other miscellaneous writings, drawings and pictures are published without malice, but with the intent to entertain, inspire or teach; not to cause disillusionment or confusion to anyone; party affiliation, company, denomination or other named or unnamed entity. The writings or ad content contained within Laughs and Lifts do not necessarily refect the views of the publisher or editor.

Laughs and Lifts is not the author of many of the jokes, stories, or recipes contained herein and claims no copyright privileges to those that we didn't author unless noted. The content contained herein is not known to be copyrighted and is believed to be part of the public domain. Every effort is made not to use copyrighted material without the author's consent.

Contributors: Wallace Kennedy, Jr. Hayes Wise, Wise Words Tric Glenn, Aunt T's Kitchen Dee Gilbert, Claybank Master Gardeners



STOP LOOKING BACK!

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Stop Looking Back

God is more loving, more powerful, and wiser than we will ever be or that any circumstance might suggest. God's thoughts and ways of doing things are greater than ours. (Isaiah 55:8)

Although there is a time and place to recollect past events to glean its wisdom, we don't stay there. Don't expect past victories to sustain us, but they can be reminders of God's



faithfulness down through the years. The past is a great place to learn from but it's a terrible place to live in.

Isaiah 43:19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. (NLT)

Holding on to our past failures, hurts, pains, and successes can sometimes become a problem. You will stop succeeding the day you say you have succeeded, become comfortable, and you do nothing. As long as you are breathing you need to set new visions and goals for your life. When our present day is coupled with yesterday and tomorrow, our day can be overwhelming.

This is the message God is preaching to us and that we'll have to preach to ourselves. "do not dwell on the past."

Philippians 3:12-14 Consider the apostle Paul: I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers, and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (NLT)

Paraphrasing Paul: He admitted not knowing everything, nor having everything all figured out, but if I am going to move forward with the call God has on my life, I must "Stop Looking Back"

We may not always get it right. This new year may be a great time to start over, that's okay. God is merciful, loving, forgiving, compassionate and gives more grace to those that want it.

Happy New Years to everyone. May you prosper and be in good health.

Saying "I'm offended" is basically telling the world you can't control your own emotions so everyone else should do it for you.

"Wise Words" By: Hayes Wise

If's, Ands, or Buts

We all have used these words at one time or another. We use "if" to explain why we are not able to do things that we want to do. "If I had the money...". We use "and" to expand on why we can't do something. "If" I had the money, "and" the time...". We use "but" as a way to add blame, often to a person, as to why we don't get what we want. . "If" I had the money, "and" the time we could go on vacation, "but" the boss underpays me and won't give me time off". We most often use these words to make excuses. We read about someone who said to Jesus, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house" (Luke 9:61). At first glance, this doesn't seem like an unreasonable request. After all, what is wrong with saying goodbye to family and friends? I mean the man was about to leave, possibly for a long time, maybe forever. To us it sounds legitimate, but Jesus knew this person's heart wasn't right. Being God. He could see into a person. He knew his loyalty was divided. The man was preparing an excuse as to why he couldn't go. Jesus was saying, "It's time for you to make a commitment. We find the root of the problem in this statement: "Lord, I will follow You, but ..." This person really didn't want to follow the Lord. We see another example in the young man that asks Jesus about what he had to do to get eternal life. Jesus told him to give all he had to the poor, but he was rich and couldn't, and walked away

sad. (Mat 19:16-22). If we really want Jesus in our lives, then we will let him in and follow Him. You will either make a commitment to accept Christ as King in your life, or you make excuses not to. There is no "if", "and", or "but" about it.



Bad habits are easier to abandon today than tomorrow.



 Move two matchsticks to make six squares.

6. Remove 9 matchsticks leaving no square of any size. We lo some garde 2329 Dee 0

CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENERS

Happy New Year Gardeners,

Get rid of the winter blues, bring joy to your life, and start a garden! **December** and **January** are the best months for our Wiregrass Area planting zone (zones 8a and 8b) to sow seeds for hardy spring blooming plants, and to plant new fruit trees and



bare-root roses and shrubs, giving the roots time to get well established before spring leafing out and flowering. You can grow in the ground, make raised beds or grow in pots using good quality soil with a scoopful or two of compost mixed in. Growing your own veggies organically is easier at this time of year because the bugs are at a minimum.

Lettuce varieties in a pot are easy to grow, as well as broccoli, cabbage, collard and mustard greens, chives, Swiss chard, kale, green onions, and potatoes, radishes. Don't forget to check the planting recommendations on your seed packet for this growing zone and for the optimal planting times. (Summer veggies like beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, summer squash, are best to start indoors in early spring.) When frost and freezes are forecast, newspaper and or some type of cloth or old sheets will protect your plants. Always remove the covers as soon as temps go above freezing so they can air out and get sunlight.

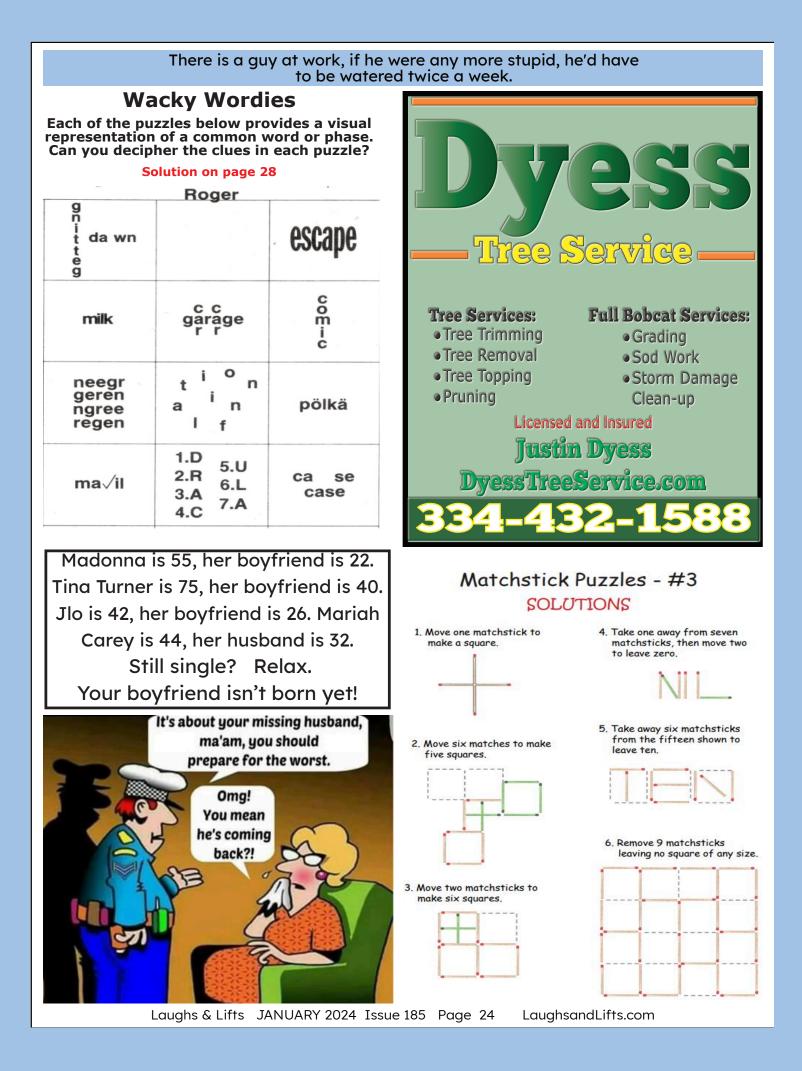
Now is the time to plant winter and spring blooming bulbs for amaryllis, daffodils, daylilies, irises, paperwhites, snowbells, tulips, among others. Did you know there is a **free Alabama Gardening Calendar online at** <u>www.aces.edu</u>? You can also get a wonderful chart showing the optimal temperatures for seed germination for most vegetables from the **www.aces.edu** website. Ask for bulletin **ANR-1061**, either online or at the **Extension office** for your county. **The Extension offices are a wonderful free resource for all things growing and they are there to help and advise.**

Our next *Claybank Master Gardener* Meeting will be held at **Hoppergrass Restaurant at 129 East Ave in Ozark** on *Wednesday January* **10**th at 11 AM. Come buy your meal and bring it into the meeting (the line is shorter at 10:30). We love new faces! Visitors tell us they always learn something new, and learn from our experienced master gardeners. We would love to hear about your gardening experiences as well. **Call the Extension office at (334) 774-2329** to verify the meeting time at Hoppergrass.

Dee Gilbert, Claybank Master Gardener



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 23 LaughsandLifts.com



Somewhere, someone else is happy with less than you have.

You Just Can't Out Sick Her!! I told my Mother in Law I was having prostate trouble.. She said me too!



- AC
- Custom Exhaust
- Brakes
- Lifts Kits (Cars & Trucks)
- Computer Diagnostic
- Diesel P.M.
- Timing Belts
- Tune-Ups
- Rebuild Transmissions (Automatic & Manual

Two newlyweds quickly realized their marriage wasn't working and filed for a divorce. The judge asked them what the problem was. The husband replied: "In the five weeks that we've been together, we haven't been able to agree on a single thing." The judge turned to the wife: "Have you anything to say?" She answered: "It's been six weeks, your honor."

One of my friends hates exercise. To her, getting up in the morning is a moving violation. The only exercise she get is pushing her luck, stretching the truth, and jumping to conclusions. Although, she has been known to carry a grudge.



Ozark, AL 36360

ISABELLA AND DESTINY

"What's the usual tip?" A customer asked Isabella. "Well," said Isabella, "this is my first day, but Destiny said that, if I got five dollars out of you, I'd be doing great."

"Is that so?" growled the customer. "In that case, here's twenty dollars."

"Thanks. I'll put it in my college fund," Isabella said "By the way, what are you studying?" asked the customer.

"Applied psychology." Replied Isabella.

Heartfelt Care

For your loved ones.

We Are Focused On Health Management, Quality Lifestyle, and Resident Comfort.

SHORT TERM REHABILITATION • ALZHEIMER'S UNIT PHYSICAL, SPEECH, AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

138 bed skilled nursing facility licensed by the Alabama State Board of Health. All beds are certified for Medicare, Medicaid & Private Party.



334.774.2631 Fax 334.774.4252 www.oakviewmanor.com 929 Mixon School Road Ozark, Alabama 36360

I like birthdays, but I think too many of them can kill you.

OAKVIEW MANOR

This chef on TV just said "Where there is fat, there's flavor." I know he was talking about food, but I still took it as a compliment.

										-, ~				
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18						19				
20				21						22				
			23					24	25					
26	27	28					29					30	31	32
33						34					35			
36					37					38				
39					40					41				
42				43					44					
			45					46						
47	48	49				50	51					52	53	54
55					56						57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

ACROSS

1. Certain sandwich

5. Broodish

10. Sky box?

14. Celestial

15. City in Rio de Janeiro 16. It gets pumped

17. Classic film

20. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy

21. Carry away, in a way

22. Floppies, e.g.

23. Ticket info, maybe

24. Floor items

26. Stephen King title

29. Threat word

30. Drink from a dish

33. Group of eight 34. Horned mammal

35. Old Italian bread

36. Classic film

39. Bolted

40. Lions' prey (pl.)

41. Great success

42. Load from a lode

43. Arctic sight 44. Underline

45. "Go ahead!"

46. Swaddle

47. "M*A*S*H" extra

50. Garlicky mayonnaise

52. Car accessory

- 55. Classic film
- 58. Carpet type 59. Moss-like

60. Org. with a mission 61. Seafood selection

62. Executive branch, informally 63. Calendar span

Down

1. "Lord of War" star

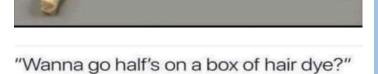
- 2. Old Spanish kingdom
- 3. Garden decorations 4. Departure announcement
- 5. Happy face
- 6. Turkic language
- 7. Real
- 8. Crushing defeats
- 9. Hong Kong actress, Sally
- 10. Fuzzy fruits
- 11. Pupil's place
- 12. Honky ending
- 13. Aims
- 18. Creep
- 19. Periphery
- 23. Bait
- 25. Military acronym
- 26. "All for one and one for all," e.g.
- 27. Greek god liquid
- 28. Cubic measurement
- **29.** Provide, as with a quality
- 30. Fine thread 31. Met expectations?
- 32. Agreements
- 34. With footnotes, e.g.
- 35. Ill-gotten gain
- **37.** Unappealing fruit?
- 38. Kind of unit
- 43. Central points
- 44. Electrical transformer
- 45. Dreary song
- 46. Omnivorous mammal
- 47. Physics calculation
- 48. Canyon sound

- 53. Civil rights icon, to friends
- 54. Apple spray
- 56. Place for sweaters?
- 57. Unspecified number



8 V. DA M





Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 26 LaughsandLifts.com

- 49. East Indian lentil sauce
- 51. Mosque prayer leader
- 52. Braveheart hillside

Dating when you are older is like trying to find a cart with good wheels at Walmart.

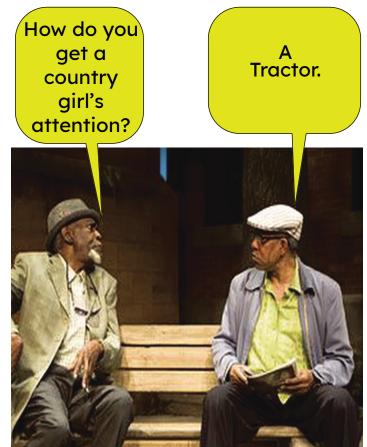


Are Great Gifts for your parents and grandparents, your relatives and friends; local or out of area, military personnel, prisoners, or anyone on your list that already has everything else. Don't forget to get one for yourself!

\$30 for 1 year (12 issues) Subscribe online @ www.laughsandlifts.com/subscriptions OR Send name(s) and address(s) with check

made to Parrish Publishing to:

Laughs & Lifts/Subscriptions P.O. Box 681 Ozark, AL 36361



Sudoku

	5				3	7			1	6	7		2		8		
8	3	1	4	2	7			5				6	1				
9	7	4		8	6	1	2	3	2	8							
3	8	6	1	4		2	5	7						5		2	4
7		5							8	3	5	2	6	4	1	9	7
	4	9	7		2	8	3	6	4					3	5		8
5				7	4		9	8		2	8	3	4	1		5	
-											-	_					4
-	9		3		1			2			3	7					T
	9		3		1			2			3	7					T

More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy denying them.

MUSIC

NOISE MAKER

PARTY

RESOLUTION

SPARKLER

STREAMER

TIMES SQUARE

TOAST

TUXEDO

vow

YEAR

appy New Year! B A D N A C L 0 11 0 R 0 D F X U т 0 U 1 G 0 F H C T X т Y 1 A Т B S X В V P A R 11 M 1 0 W D 0 0 A W R Y F F т R M S Т G U L D L A N G S Y N E т U L F S C L U R E M A E R Т F M M N C т Y E C F S RGN C w 0 т X S G D 0 U 1 A w 0 1 B N . U K C C E S C w B A M B B F н т E S 0 0 F F н 0 R B C A S R E N 1 F E M A D . Z N G A Т 1 G D w D L V 0 M 0 0 0 C R L K U E M P D C D 0 Q w P G G R R V R A A Т т E 1 N N P N F F 1 U G F т 0 1 S R 1 Y A R U V Т S R P A KE NO N Y E w 0 C н L A MG V H E E D DE C EM в E R GHF Т S E C R M 1 Т R F H T F F W X E A M M

AULD LANG SYNE BABY BALL BALLOONS CALENDAR CELEBRATION CHAMPAGNE CLOCK CONFETTI COUNTDOWN DANCING DECEMBER EVE

FATHER TIME FIRECRACKER FIRST FLUTE GAMES GOWN HAPPY HAT HOURGLASS INVITATION JANUARY KISS MIDNIGHT Wackie Words answers GETTING UP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN ROGER , OVER AND OUT. NARROW ESCAPE CONDENSED MILK TWO=CAR GARAGE STAND UP COMIC MIXED GREENS SPIRALING INFLATION POLKA DOTTED THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL COUNT DRACULA OPEN AND SHUT CASE



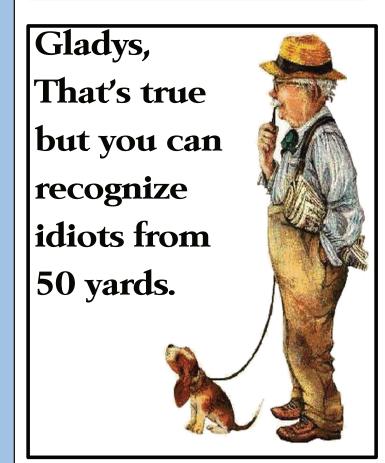
Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 28 LaughsandLifts.com

I noticed that most of the people wanting or even demanding "FREE STUFF" aren't wearing work boots.



774–8012 618 South Union Ave. • Ozark, AL

Ladies, you should find a man who strokes your hair and says how soft it is and doesn't even care that it is on your legs.



The Golfer's Dilemma

You're playing in your club championship. The final round is just you and one other guy, match play. On the 18th tee you're up 1 with honors. You smack your drive straight down the middle; the best drive you've hit all day. Your opponent steps up and hooks one into the woods.

You do the gentlemanly thing and help him look for the ball, but you guys can't find it. After a couple minutes, you opponent tells you to go ahead and play your shot while they keep searching. You hit another beauty, leaving around 15 feet for birdie. As soon as you ball stops, you hear "found it!" from the deep woods. Your opponent plays his shot brilliantly, stopping inches from the cup for a tap-in birdie and the tie.

Here is your dilemma. Do you take the lying cheater's ball out of your pocket or not?

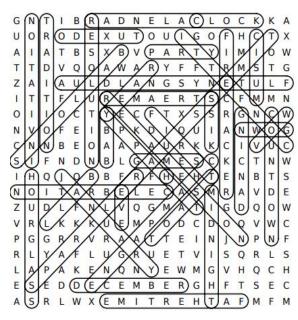
Crossword Solution



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 29 LaughsandLifts.com

There is nothing more beautiful in nature than a woman and nothing more ugly than a man trying to look like one.

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



Your marketing plan needs to include the magazine you are reading right now. Their popularity is undeniable. Give Laughs&Lifts a call today. 334-379-7603

An interesting theory on why there are 52 cards in a deck is that the number of cards corresponds to the number of weeks within a year. Some say that the two colors - red and black - reflect day and night, and that the four suits represent the four seasons. It gets even freakier when you notice that there are 13 cards in a suit to match the number of lunar cycles, and 12 court cards that represent the 12 months of the year. And, if you add up all the symbols in a deck of cards, there are 365... Fascinating.

Find The Differences Solution

That cold front that moved through here the other night was mighty powerful! It reminded me of that one time a giant flock of ducks landed in a pond just down the road from our house. The temperature dropped so fast that night the ducks legs froze in the water. When they flew off the next morning, they took the whole pond with them. Now, that pond is located somewhere over in Coffee County!

FOR PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mail check for \$3D per subscription along with address(S) to

> Laughs and Lifts Magazine P.O. Box 681 Ozark, AL 36361

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 30 LaughsandLifts.com

Old age has come at a bad time, just as I was beginning to know everything, I'm now forgetting everything I knew.

Get Full Color Yard Signs At Lightning Speeds

Most Popular Size....18" x 24" Printed 2 sidesShips Tomorrow

FREE STAKES • FREE SHIPPING When You Buy This Many

- 18" x 24"......10 @ \$15 Ea. 18" x 24"......20 @ \$12 Ea. 18" x 24"......50 @ \$10 Ea. 18" x 24"......100 @ \$8 Ea.



- Digital Full Color Print
 Printed On Both Sides
- 3. Includes Metal "H" Stake
- 4. 4mm White Corrugated Plastic



Arresting the Judge

A squad car driver was covering a quiet beat out in the sticks when he was amazed to find a former lieutenant on the police force covering the beat. He stopped the car and asked, "Why, Johnny, this wouldn't be your new beat out here in the sticks, would it?"

"That it is," Johnny replied grimly, "ever since I arrested the judge on his way to the masquerade ball."

"You mean you pinched his honor?" asked Pat.

"How was I to know that his convict suit was only a costume?" demanded Johnny.

"Well," mused Pat, "'tis life and there's a lesson in this somewhere."

"That there is," replied Johnny. "Tis wise to never book a judge by his cover."

Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 31 LaughsandLifts.com "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!" — Dolly Parton

Winter heating costs got you down?

Lets Tak.

Saving money doesn't have to be difficult. Keep your thermostat at 68° and stay cozy with a blanket and warm socks. Follow these tips and keep more of your money this winter.



www.peariver.com 800-264-7732



Laughs & Lifts JANUARY 2024 Issue 185 Page 32 LaughsandLifts.com