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December 2017 Issue 112

Laughs and Lifts

Since 2008, Troy, Enterprise, Dothan and Ozark's Favorite Magazine!
The Uplifting, Positive Alternative To Ordinary Media!

*The Blessing of Christmas
is not in the presents
but in the
Presence of Jesus*



Alabama Real Estate For Sale

114.99± Acres • Barbour County

Over a half mile of County Road 67 frontage (Bud Gary Road) with electricity and county water. Timberland investment, interior roads, hunting with food plots. Planted loblolly pines from 10± to 25± years old. Potential for substantial income from timber harvests. L-1700707 • \$245,000



50.92± Acres • Bullock County

Located on County Road 19 with electricity and county water available. Wooded tract has paved road frontage with potential home sites, planted loblolly pines, and mixed hardwoods with stream. Great hunting potential! L-1700443 • \$115,000



386± Acres • Coffee County

Frontage on Highway 141 a few miles north of Danley's Crossroads. Potential home sites with electricity and county water available. This is managed property with rich row cropland, planted pines (loblolly and longleaf) and hardwood bottoms along spring-fed streams. Excellent hunting with abundant wildlife! L-1600819 • \$636,900



80± Acres • Covington County

Located on Old Boggy Road, includes recently remodeled three-bedroom, one-bath, brick home, additional home site with septic tank and much more! Electricity and county water are available. There is substantial road frontage, several potential home sites, and a great pond site. Approximately 70 acres are planted in longleaf pines with excellent hunting potential. L-1700487 • \$250,000



80± Acres • Covington County - Outdoor Paradise on Old Boggy Road!

Electricity, county water, several potential home sites, and a great pond site. Offers frontage on Old Boggy Road and on Lightwood Knot Creek. Property includes 30± acres in 100± year old hardwoods and majestic cypress trees plus 50± acres in planted longleaf pines. *Hunting should be great on this tract!* L-1700380 • \$174,000



724 Darby Street, Brundidge • Pike County

Two-story Cape Cod-style home with two lots - Lot 7 and ¾ of Lot 8 located in a desirable neighborhood and near Pike County High School. Downstairs includes foyer, living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast area, large den, two bedrooms, and one bathroom. Upstairs has two bedrooms and one bathroom. Features nine producing pecan trees and a 10' X 12' storage building. L-1700784 • \$115,000



93± Acres • Pike County

Located on the south side of Brundidge with frontage on the east side of four-lane Highway 231. *Buy the whole tract or separate parcel(s).* **Parcel 1:** 27± acres inside Brundidge City Limits, offered for \$81,000. **Parcels 2, 3 and 4:** Three 22± acre parcels just south of the City Limits each offered for \$55,000. L-1500265



4.5± Acres • Pike County

Located on Highway 125, this home has four bedrooms, 2-½ baths, open floor plan, and separate formal living room. The kitchen offers stainless steel appliances and plenty of cabinet space. Property includes a 24' x 45' workshop/storage building, a huge garden area, and producing pecan and fig trees! L-1700241 • \$160,000



571.6± Acres • Pike County

Hunting and Fishing Paradise! *This outdoor retreat has it all* and includes a three-bedroom, 2-½ bath, two-story modern log home, 25± acre managed trophy bass lake, two-story boat house, food plot openings, and well-maintained interior roads. Diverse habitat includes mixed mature timber, beautiful hardwood bottoms, and planted loblolly pines. L-1000365 • \$1,650,000



33.82± Acres, Pike County

Move-in ready four-bedroom, three-bath home has spacious open floor plan. Features two-car garage and large enclosed shop. Garage offers bathroom, office, kitchen, and dining area. *Country living with over 30 acres of open land possibly for horses, cattle, row crops, poultry houses and more!* L-1600845 • \$295,000



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Just because I can't sing, doesn't mean I won't sing!

DECEMBER 2017

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**Laughs
and Lifts**

Laughs and Lifts

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Laughs and Lifts is the most unique and most loved monthly magazine in the Wiregrass Region, and is distributed Free in over 200 locations & online at LaughsandLifts.com

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Stop thinking that because you have a college degree it makes you smart... I know a lot of people who have driver's license and can't drive.

FACING THE LION

"Yes, I came face to face with a lion once, and as luck would have it, I was alone and without a gun."

"What did you do?"

"What could I do? First, I tried looking straight into his eyes but he slowly came toward me. I moved back, but he kept coming nearer. I had to think fast."

"How did you get away?"
 "I just left him and moved on to the next zoo exhibit."

Having kids is not the same as being a parent. Raise your kids to be kind, productive, and self-reliant; to make good choices and to be personally responsible for their actions; to pursue their purpose with gusto and to live their life with honor and dignity.

The seeds of success are sown in fields tilled with failure.



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293 Church Street MLS 20171819 \$83,000

NEW LISTING



You feel the warmth as soon as you walk into this well maintained, one owner home. 3/2 w/2 eating & living areas. Large room in basement for storage. Nicely landscaped corner lot. This one is truly a little honey!
325 Dogwood Circle MLS 20171947 \$89,900

BUY OR RENT



This 3/1 with tile flooring throughout is perfect for 1st time home buyer, retiree or investment for rental income.
Also, it can be rented for \$550 per month.
**321 Highland Ave. MLS 20171519
NOW JUST \$44,000**

NEW PRICE



9.5 Acres. With this reduced price, the owner is practically giving away this slice of heaven. Peaceful pond... several good home sites.
**Private Road 1363 • Ariton MLS 20171613
NOW JUST \$32,000**

BRING ALL OFFERS



Wonderful Neighborhood. Wood burning fireplace. Spacious Grand Room with wet bar. Walk in closets. Bay window in the kitchen.
**1104 Willow Oaks Drive
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**649 Gunter Street • MLS 20171429
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**2090 Campground Road • MLS 20171956
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ABBEVILLE HOME



Corner Lot. Spacious Laundry Room. Covered Patio. Pretty Kitchen with pass through to dining area. Really Nice Home!
**114 Will McSwean Drive • MLS 20170257
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Hardwood floors. Double oven in nice kitchen, Fireplace, Sun room. Open fields & planted pines. This is a wonderful home that wants you to have a look. Skipperville Schools. Call us!
**11780 County Road 68 • MLS 20161252
\$119,750**

PRIVACY ON 6 ACRES



This country home is a beautiful Gem! 6 acres of land. Large country kitchen. Gas log fireplace in family area. Even has a Workshop!!
**14622 Hwy 51 • Ariton • 20171497
\$259,000**

HOME & 9 ACRES



Beautiful hardwood floors. Den off kitchen. Flowering Bushes & Fruit trees grace the lovely acreage. Ariton Schools
**5700 Highway 51 • Ariton
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LOCATION, LOCATION



Master bedroom opens to the salt water pool. Screened porch. Vinyl Privacy Fence. Doorways are handicap accessible sized!
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**487 Deer Creek Dr • MLS 20171374
\$229,500**

GREAT PRICE



Very nice home. Great location. Walk to school, city park, tennis courts, ball fields and short drive to Lisenby Lake. Hardwood floors through out except ceramic in kitchen and baths. Large covered, screened in back porch.
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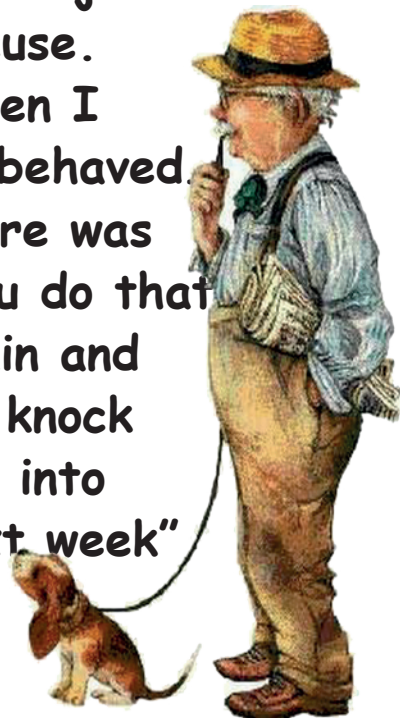
HELPING FAMILY

My husband Ronnie volunteered to strip the bricks from the exterior of my parents' house. One morning he was out front chipping away when a man came by looking for my father.

"He's not here," Ronnie said.

The man thanked him, watched him remove a few more bricks, and said, "I'll bet next time they'll leave the key for you."

When I was growing up there was no "he is just a kid" excuse. When I misbehaved there was "you do that again and I'll knock you into next week"



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The Indians and the National Weather Service

It was autumn, and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an Indian Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets, so when he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared.

But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the Meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

One week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find.

Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy."



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ZERO TO HERO

By Kevin Goodyear of Enterprise.

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I remember being 9 years old, I hated playing sports but did it anyway. I was no good at baseball but one night our team was loosing as usual, last inning, 2 outs on the board, my time to bat, the players latterly leaving because it was over. Well a life changing miracle was about to take place, a boy was on 3rd and one on 1st. Somehow by the grace of God the bat made contact with the ball! I was stunned but started running, knowing I would be out at 1st but the boy missed the ball. I went to 2nd then 3rd and the 3rd base boy missed the ball... I slid into home plate... it was very close... the ump called safe and we won the game! The coach for the other team pitched a fit, but it was to late, we had won the game! It's so easy to go from zero to hero. Just show up and once and awhile you'll win one! Your attitude will change and you will become a passionate winner at life!!

BOTTLE DRIVE

This old woman would never drink beer. The Boy Scouts were out collecting bottles for a fund raising activity. One ambitious but nervous young man knocked on a door and a sour-faced lady came to the door and asked:

"What do you want, Sonny?"

"D-d-do you have any beer bottles for the Boy Scouts, M-m-m-ma'am?" he asked.

"Look here, young man, do I look like the kind of lady who would drink beer?" replied the lady.

"S-s-sorry, Ma'am," was his reply.

"W-w-what about vinegar bottles?"

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Big people talk about big ideas...

Average people talk about average ideas...

Small people talk about other people.

"Look to the sun and the shadows will fall behind you!"



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DECEMBER 2017

11

**Laughs
and Lifts**

PECAN LOGS

Ingredients

1 box (12-ounce) vanilla wafers, crushed
3-3/4 cups finely chopped pecans
1 can (12 ounces) sweetened condensed milk

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients; mix well. Divide mixture in half. Between sheets of waxed paper, roll out each half into a 9 x 2-inch log. Tightly wrap each log in foil. Chill well. Cut into 1/4-inch slices. Store leftovers in the refrigerator. Yield: 50 servings.

HAZELNUT CANDIES

Ingredients

1 package (10 to 12 ounces) white chocolate chips
3/4 cup Nutella
1-1/2 cups chopped hazelnuts, toasted, divided

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, combine chips and Nutella; cook and stir over low heat until smooth. Remove from the heat. Stir in 1 cup hazelnuts.
2. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper-lined baking sheets; sprinkle with remaining hazelnuts. Refrigerate until firm. Store in an airtight container. Yield: about 4-1/2 dozen.

PINEAPPLE COCONUT SNOWBALLS

Ingredients

(8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple, well drained
2-1/2 cups flaked coconut



Directions

1. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and pineapple until combined. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Roll into 1-in. balls; roll in coconut. Refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight. Yield: about 2 dozen.

APRICOT CASHEW CLUSTERS

Ingredients

1 package (11-1/2 ounces) milk chocolate chips
1 cup chopped dried apricot
1 cup chopped salted cashews

Directions

1. In a microwave or double boiler, melt the chocolate chips; stir until smooth. Stir in apricots and cashews. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper-lined baking sheets. Chill until set, about 15 minutes. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 2-1/2 dozen.

ORANGE APRICOT BALLS

Ingredients

1 pound dried apricots (3 cups)
1/2 medium unpeeled navel orange
1 cup sugar, divided

Directions

1. In a food processor or grinder, coarsely chop apricots and orange. Add 2/3 cup sugar; mix well. Shape into 3/4-in. balls; roll in remaining sugar. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 1-1/2 pounds (5 dozen).



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CANDY

CRANBERRY PECAN CLUSTERS

Ingredients

6 squares (1 ounce each) white baking chocolate
1 cup dried cranberries
1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Directions

1. Line a baking sheet with foil; set aside. In a microwave-safe bowl, heat the chocolate, uncovered, at 50% power for about 3 minutes or until melted, stirring once. Stir until smooth. Stir in cranberries and pecans. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto prepared pan. Freeze for 5 minutes, then refrigerate until firm. Yield: about 20 pieces.

Butter Pecan Fudge

Ingredients

1 teaspoon plus 1/2 cup butter, cubed
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans, toasted



Directions

1. Line an 8x8-in. pan with foil; grease foil with 1 teaspoon butter.
2. In a large heavy saucepan, combine remaining butter, granulated and brown sugars, cream and salt. Bring to a rapid boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook,

without stirring, until a candy thermometer reads 234° (soft-ball stage). Remove from heat. Add vanilla to pan (do not stir).

3. Cool, without stirring, to 110°, about 30 minutes. Beat with a spoon until fudge just begins to thicken. Gradually stir in confectioners' sugar until smooth; add nuts and continue stirring until fudge becomes very thick and just begins to lose its sheen. Immediately spread into prepared pan. Cool.

4. Using foil, lift fudge out of pan. Remove foil; cut fudge into 1-in. squares. Store between layers of waxed paper in an airtight container. Yield: about 1-1/2 pounds (64 pieces).

To toast nuts, bake in a shallow pan in a 350° oven for 5-10 minutes or cook in a skillet over low heat until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.

HARD CANDY

Ingredients

3-1/2 cups sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
1 cup water
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon or peppermint oil
1 teaspoon red or green food coloring



Directions

1. In a large heavy saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup and water. Cook on medium-high heat until candy thermometer reads 300° (hard-crack stage), stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat; stir in oil and food coloring, keeping face away from mixture as odor is very strong.

2. Immediately pour onto an oiled baking sheet. Cool; break into pieces. Store in airtight containers. Yield: about 2 pounds.

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DECEMBER 2017

13

Laughs
and Lifts

PLAYING AT A PLAYGROUND

We took my sons, ages seven and five, up to Friendship Park for a picnic.

My seven year old read the sign with all the playground rules to his brother.

"Do not jump on the merry-go-round when in motion."

"Go down the slide while sitting, only."

"Only one child on a swing at a time."

There were a good twenty rules posted on this particular sign.

The boys promised to obey them if I would let them play without standing by. So, I joined my wife at the picnic table.

Just before it was time to eat, I went over and watched them play. They were obeying the rules, that is, all but one. On the tall spiral slide, they were coming down head first!

I took them over to the posted regulations.

We read them, again. I asked the boys what they had to say for themselves.

"Oh, don't be silly, Dad. No one uses the slide rule anymore!"

A stranger entered the church in the middle of the sermon and seated himself in the back pew. After a while, he began to fidget. Leaning over to a white-haired man at his side, evidently an old member of the congregation, he whispered: "How long has he been preaching?"

"Thirty or 40 years, I think," the old man answered.

"I'll stay then," decided the stranger,

"He must be nearly done."

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BAMBOOZABLES

Answers On Page 27

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It is not how much you know, it is how much you believe of God's Word. -- Dr. Harfouche

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from Dale Medical Center"*



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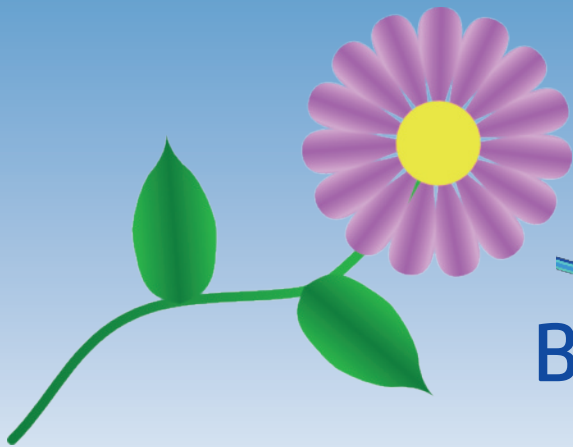
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We're becoming a
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Beginning **January 1, 2018**

Dale Medical Center Going Tobacco Free

Dale Medical Center has announced plans to become a tobacco-free campus on January 1, 2018. Tobacco use of all types will be prohibited both indoors and outdoors on all Dale Medical Center properties.

Smoking and tobacco products are a major factor in many preventable health problems, explains Vernon Johnson, CEO of Dale Medical Center. Our mission is to provide exceptional health services to the people we serve. As such, we must lead in the efforts to curtail tobacco use and serve as a role model in promoting healthy life styles.

As a healthcare provider, part of our responsibility is to role model healthy behaviors, said Carl Barlow, MD, Chief of Staff at Dale Medical Center. For years we have seen documented evidence that reducing the use of tobacco could greatly decrease the incidence of heart disease, lung disease, stroke, cancer and many other serious conditions. By going tobacco-free we're not only trying to improve the health of our valuable employees, but we also hope to set an example for other groups in the community who want to make similar efforts.

We know going tobacco-free can be hard, said Holly Hima, RN, Wellness Coach. That's why we are going great lengths to provide support to people who want to quit. Starting immediately, we will offer tobacco cessation classes and nicotine replacement therapy to employees who wish to stop using tobacco and members of our employee's immediate household can also attend our tobacco cessation classes.

Patients and visitors to Dale Medical Center will be offered assistance with coping alternatives. The hospital will also provide free tobacco cessation materials to any member of the community desiring to learn more about quitting.

The Dale Medical Center move to become tobacco-free is underscored by some alarming statistics:

- Over 400,000 people die prematurely each year from tobacco-related diseases. This is more deaths than are caused by alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, suicides, car crashes and AIDS combined.
- Tobacco use is a primary risk factor in heart disease, cancer, stroke, and lung disease.
- Since 1964, there have been 12 million tobacco-related deaths in the U.S.
- More than 6.4 million children living today will die prematurely because of a decision they will make as adolescents - The decision to smoke cigarettes.



we wish you a very

Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

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Sudoku



						6	9	
1		8	9	5				
			3	2				4
	4	2					7	9
6								1
7	9					5	2	
5				9	1			
				6	3	2		8
	1	6						

My dad would swear then say,
"Excuse my French!"
One day the teacher asked if
anyone could speak a foreign
language and I raised my hand.

Readers Comments...Please send yours.

Check enclosed for 2 year subscription. It's the Greatest~ B.C. Wilson , Lawrenceville, GA

I love looking for the icons each month, plus I love the magazine. ~ Marlon Norwood, Enterprise

I really enjoy "Laughs and Lifts". ~~ Monty Sorrells, Midland City

Thank you for providing this fun and enjoyment each month. God Bless. ~~ Richard Woodham, Enterprise

My 80 y/o mother. loves your magazine! ~ Virginia Lindsey, Haleburg, AL

I enjoy your publication ...laughing is good for the soul! Nedra Patchett, Dothan

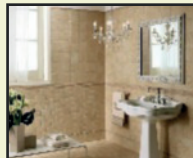
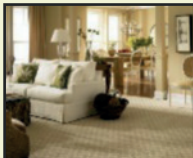
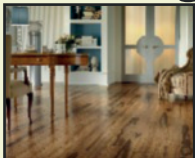
Thank you so much, enjoy your magazine very much.~~ Cindy Webb, Headland

Thanks for a great magazine. ~~ Donna Hall, Ariton

I enjoyed reading your magazine. Picked it up from Hartford Retirement Center, ~~Paulette Smith, Dothan

I love to read Laughs and Lifts. I enjoy the challenge of finding the icons.~ Clarice Creel, Malvern

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Some Famous Last Words:

Wow, that's a cute tattoo.

It's fireproof.

What does this button do?

Are you sure the power is off?

Pull the pin and count to what?

Which wire was I supposed to cut?

I wonder where the mother bear is.

I've seen this done on TV.

These are the good kind of mushrooms.

I'll hold it and you light the fuse.

Let it down slowly.

OK, I'll go ahead and make your day.

This doesn't taste right.

So, you're a cannibal.

PONCHO THE OUTLAW

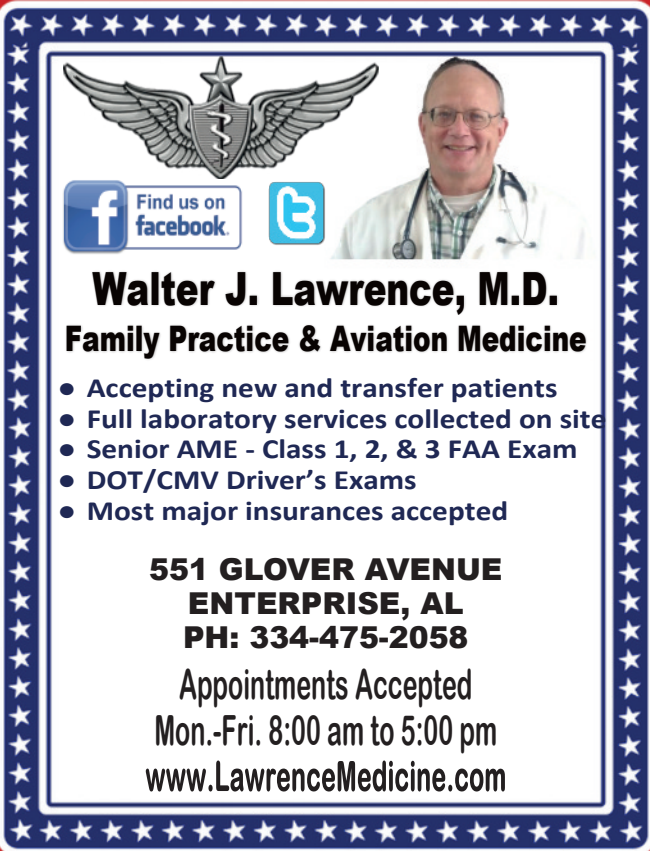
Poncho was a well-known outlaw to Texans. A lesser-known story involves his near demise in a Mexican bar.

A tough Texas Ranger had trailed him through the desert and caught up with Poncho in a small village. With both guns drawn, the ranger approached the criminal and ordered him to turn over the one million dollars he had recently robbed from a train.

From the other side of the bar a small man said, "Señor, Poncho does not speak English. I am his translator."

The ranger growled, "Tell Poncho I came to get the million dollars he robbed from the train. If he doesn't hand over the money, I'll fill him full of holes."

The man translated. Frightened, Poncho told the interpreter the money was two miles outside of town buried thirty paces east of an old abandoned well. The translator turned to the armed ranger and said, "Poncho says, 'I'm not telling—go ahead and shoot.'"



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KIWANIS/CITY OF OZARK CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 2017 Kiwanis/City of Ozark Christmas Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held in downtown Ozark on Tuesday night, December 5th, 2017. The Christmas Tree will be lit at 6 PM and the parade will start immediately following the tree lighting.

THE PARADE STARTS AT CARROLL HIGH and proceed down Broad Street towards downtown, go around the Square and end at the SUPER SAV shopping center.

This year a team of judges from the reviewing stand will select the best decorated non-commercial float and sharpest looking walking/marching unit in the parade. The winners will be announced at the next Kiwanis Club meeting and City council meeting and presented a certificate.

Entry forms, with instructions are available at the Perry Recreation Center or Century 21 Gateway Realty. Deadline to turn in your entry form is November 27th. Entry Cost: \$10.00 for Walking Units, \$25 float units or Motorized Units (2 per entry). Proceeds go towards Kiwanis Club children's support programs.

Please call George McCleary at 545-0256 or 774-4961 if you have any questions. Request entry forms by e-mail to mccleary.george@gmail.com

*Wise Men Still Seek Him.
May the blessings of that joyous birth be yours this
Christmas Season!
Roger and Tric,
Laughs and Lifts Magazine*



You CAN do more
than pray ..but only
after you have prayed.
~ S. D. Gordon

A magician accidentally turned his wife into a couch and his two kids into armchairs. He started to panic and thought to himself, "What on earth have I done?" He began to ponder, "How am I going to bring back my beloved family?" So, he thought for a while and decided a good idea was to take them to a hospital and see if the surgeon could operate and bring them back. He loaded them into his van and off he rushed to the local hospital. He walked up and down the hospital hall and after some serious surgery, he asks the doctor, "Doc, how are they?" The doctor replied, "Comfortable!"

A sister from a local convent became a Certified Public Accountant to help small shop owners manage their finances better. Her title: "Nun of Your Business."



Jack had been a compulsive worrier for years, to the point it was ruining his life. He saw a psychologist who recommended a specialist who could help him. His friend, Bob, noticed a dramatic change and asked, "What happened? Nothing seems to worry you anymore."
 "I hired a professional worrier and I haven't had a worry since," replied Jack.
 "That must be expensive," Bob replied.
 "He charges \$5,000 a month," Jack told him.
 "\$5,000!!! How in the world can you afford to pay him?" exclaimed Bob.
 "I don't know. That's his problem."

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Spot the Difference

There are 10 differences between the two snowman pictures. Can you find them all?



Do most twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

EXCHANGING GIFTS

Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Greetings Wiregrass Family and Friends in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is an exciting time of the year. A time where we are giving, receiving, spending time with family and friends and all the great food we will enjoy. In this season, let us remember those that are less fortunate than we are. The elderly, those that reside in care facilities; living alone without family, the orphanages, and even those that are incarcerated. Love and forgiveness is what Christmas is all about.

We cannot allow commercialization to rob us of such a joyous occasion. It seems nowadays our society wants to remove God from everything; banding the "Nativity Scene" from public view, and even to the point of wanting us to stop saying Merry Christmas, but instead say happy holidays.

Christmas is about God's greatest gift to mankind, the birth of our Lord is not just good news, but the greatest news of all times. How can you have Christmas and take Christ out?

Isaiah 9:6-7 reads: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The



Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

John 3:16 reads: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

There is no greater expression of love than God's love for us. "We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving"

"We can participate in every festivity of the Christmas season, but until we receive the gift of Jesus Christ, we will never truly experience Christmas."

- Mary Southerland

My friends, falling in love with Jesus is the best choice I have ever made. His arms are open to all that will accept Him as their person Savior, ask Him to come into your heart today.

It is high-time our society stop falling in love with His gifts, but rather fall in love with the Gift Giver! God gave us His greatest Gift, in Exchange we cannot out give God but we can give Him our hearts.

Merry Christmas



My eight-year-old son, Noah, was discussing parent problems with his little friend. Of course, they had a lot of complaints. Dustin was overheard grumbling, "First they teach you to talk, then they teach you to walk, and as soon as you do it, it's 'Sit down and shut up!'"

A cartoon in Forbes magazine shows a modern father talking with his young boy, giving him some fatherly perspective: "Remember, Son, these are your tax-free years. Make the most of them."

A person with six children is better satisfied than a person with \$6 million. Reason: The man with \$6 million wants more.

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a SAVIOR who is CHRIST the Lord.

And this will be the sign to you:

You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And SUDDENLY

there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:11-14

There is a story they tell of two dogs. Both at separate times walk into same room. One comes out wagging his tail while the other comes out growling. A woman watching this goes into the room to see what could possibly make one dog so happy and the other so mad. To her surprise she finds a room filled with mirrors. The happy dog found a thousand happy dogs looking back at him while the angry dog saw only angry dogs growling back at him. What you see in the world around you is a reflection of who you are.

PARACHUTE PROBLEMS

The topic of the day at Army Airborne School was what you should do if your parachute malfunctions. We had just gotten to the part about reserve parachutes when another student raised his hand.

"If the main parachute malfunctions," he asked, "how long do we have to deploy the reserve?"

Looking the trooper square in the face, the instructor replied, "The rest of your life."

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NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Drawings are held on the 20th of the month, and winners name will be published in the next month's edition. Winner must call and come by 322 Andrews Ave. to claim their prize before the 20th of the month of the edition in which their name appeared. Have Fun. Enjoy the Contest!

PASTOR'S POINT

Pastor Haley Enfinger

(Born)²

We hear a lot about people saying that they were born this way. I tend to believe they are telling the facts. It's a sense of trying to justify their sinful deeds. We won't go into the actual sins that this could refer to because it could be many sins. But the bible says in:

Romans 7; 19-20...19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

I said that "I tend to believe they are telling the facts." Now let me for a moment shine the Light on what is the Truth. Jesus was born a sinless man. Hebrews 4; 15 says:

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

And Hebrews 7; 26 says:

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners,

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Jesus clarifies to us that He is sinless and born into a fleshly world but in the gospels, He tells us that there is an away of escape. John 3; 5-7 says:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Amen!! Jesus says that the only way out is that you must be born again!! Jesus did not need to be born again because He was born right the first time. Isaiah 9:6 says:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

So thankful Jesus was born this way!! Now for the rest of us lets be born again! Merry Christmas!!

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FRACTURED DICTIONARY

GRANDPARENTS: the people who think your children are wonderful even though they are sure you are not raising them right.

HEARSAY: what toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

IMPREGNABLE: a women whose memory of labor is still vivid.

INDEPENDENT: how we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

OW: the first word spoken by children with older siblings.

If you do a good job and work hard, you may get a job with a better company someday.

Claybank Master Gardeners

We are all enjoying the cooler, sometimes frosty weather, and the fall colors and clear skies add in to the mix to make this the best planting and gardening time of the year. Pollinators are still enjoying the remnants of the fall flowers, and garden predator bugs are mostly gone for now. It's a joy to be outside. I was astounded to bring up my first sweet potato, at 14" long by 3-4" wide! The raised bed garden kept most of them from getting curled up, due to the looser soil.

Did you know about which Planting Zone we are in? If you look up planting information online or in a catalogue, the



information will be based upon what planting zone your location is. The Wiregrass area of SE Alabama is mostly divided into zones 8a and 8b. Zone 8b includes the southern part of the Wiregrass area, and 8a includes the northern areas. What difference does it make? Some plants will thrive on the warmer areas, but others will do best in the cooler zones. If you are growing tropical plants or annuals, you may be able to get extra mileage out of the by covering them lightly during frosty hours, old bed sheets work better than plastic.



Did you know that the Claybank Master Gardeners have a Facebook page? Look for it, we post useful and interesting local gardening and elsewhere information.

Our next regular Master Gardener Meeting will be held at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark on Thursday January 18th, from 11:00. Come buy your meal, and bring it into the meeting. 129 East Ave., across from Milky Moo's. You'll learn from our experienced master gardeners, and we would love to hear about your gardening experiences as well.



DECEMBER 2017

25

Laughs and Lifts

CONGRATULATIONS

HAZEL SPIVEY

Hazel Has Won \$100

She found the hidden items in the November edition of Laughs and Lifts and has until December 15th to claim their prize by calling and coming by
Laughs and Lifts
322 Andrews Ave
Ozark, AL

Thanks to everyone who entered, and thanks for reading Laughs and Lifts.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Note:

The Messiah was born for our benefit. He is our advocate. He came to remove the darkness of man, and shine his light of love on the earth. The Messiah's rule is over those who trust him and honor him as Lord. He is the Lord of all truth. Jesus is the reason for this Christmas season.

*Blessings be unto you!
Merry Christmas and Happy new year.*

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SURREAL SALUTATION

One night I woke myself up with a loud "Hello!" to someone in my dream. As the next day came and went, I thought the nocturnal outburst was mine alone to remember.

But that night, as my wife and I were getting ready for bed, she said dryly, "If you see anyone you know tonight, just wave."

Find The 10 Differences Solution



LENGTHY VISIT

There was this lady who was visiting a church one Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on forever, and many in the congregation were dozing off.

After the service, she walked up to a very sleepy-looking gentleman, extended her hand in greeting, and said, "Hello, I'm Gladys Dunn."

And the gentleman replied, "You're not the only one, ma'am, I'm glad it's done too!"

ATTITUDES ARE CONTAGIOUS

I heard a story about a 92-year-old lady who proudly got ready every morning by 8:00 am with her hair and makeup done, even though she was legally blind. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, so she was moving into a nursing home.

On move-in day, she waited patiently in the nursing home lobby with her belongings, when a nurse said her room was ready and started to describe her tiny room, so she knew what to expect. "I love it!" the elderly lady interrupted with enthusiasm. "But you haven't seen the room yet..." the nurse replied. "That doesn't have anything to do with it," the lady said with a smile. "Happiness is something you decide ahead of time. Whether I like my room doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged' it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. I have a choice every day when I wake up... I can spend my day in bed depressed about the parts of my body that no longer work, or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do."

You may not be able to control every situation and its outcome, but you can control your attitude and how you deal with it. And remember, attitudes are contagious. May yours be worth catching.

Bamboozable Answers

1. Upset Stomach
2. Sit Back and Relax
3. Turn Back the Hands of Time
4. Two Feet
5. Man Overboard
6. Parting Comments

1. Two by Four
2. Getting Up in the Morning
3. Tennis Match
4. No Time for You
5. They Eyes are Bigger Than the Stomach
6. Just in Case



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WORST SERMON I EVER HEARD

A minister was called away unexpectedly by the illness of a close family member. He entrusted his new assistant with filling the pulpit. The pastor's wife stayed home. When he returned, the minister asked his wife what she thought of the young man's sermon.

"The poorest I've ever heard," she said. "There was nothing in it, nothing at all. It didn't even make sense. It was very unorganized. I was disappointed."

Later that day, the concerned minister met his assistant and asked him, "How'd the Sunday service and sermon go? Did all go well? How did you manage?"

"All went very well, sir, absolutely wonderful," he said. "I didn't have time to prepare a new sermon of my own on such short notice, so I got on your computer and pulled up one of your old sermon's from last year."

SELF-RIGHTEOUS CARDS

Jones jumped up from the card table white with rage.

"Stop this game," he shouted, "Smith is cheating!"

"How do you know?"

"Because. He's not playing the hand dealt him."



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If I had a dollar for every time I've used algebra in my adult life, I would have "n" dollars.

DECEMBER 2017

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Laughs
and Lifts

A CHRISTMAS STORY

THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoe box she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten the money to buy what was in the shoe box.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoe box, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.



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POLITICALLY CORRECT SANTA



'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
And labor conditions at the North Pole
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.
Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!
The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the C.A.A.
And people had started to call for the cops
When they heard sled noises on their rooftops.
2nd hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.
His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."
And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows:
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.
And as for the gifts, why, he'd never a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.
Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.
No candy or sweets ...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.
For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.
So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.
He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
But you've got to be careful with that word today.
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.
Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere ...even YOU.
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."

Be careful who you vent to.
A listening ear is also a running mouth.

DECEMBER 2017

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