

4 Dear Readers

6 Letters

P. | 18



READER FAVORITES

- 23 Points to Ponder
- 24 Photo of Lasting Interest
- 30 100-Word True Stories
- 36 Life in These United States
- 61 News from the World of Medicine
- 64 All in a Day's Work
- 80 Laughter, the Best Medicine
- 91 Laugh Lines
- 126 Look Twice
- 131 Word Power
- 134 Humor in Uniform
- 136 Quotable Quotes

Everyday Heroes

8 The Storybook Barber  
ANDY SIMMONS

10 Without Hesitation  
JIM DWYER FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

VOICES & VIEWS

Department of Wit

14 My Mother Gives the Weirdest Gifts  
Is it truly the thought that counts?  
IJEOMA OLUO FROM THE GUARDIAN

Words of Lasting Interest

18 How to Grow Your Soul  
Your homework assignment: Make art. Then destroy it.  
KURT VONNEGUT FROM THE BOOK LETTERS OF NOTE

You Be the Judge

21 The Case of the Deadly Avalanche  
Should a resort pay damages to the family of a skier who died?  
VICKI GLEMBOCKI

Finish This Sentence

32 The One New Year's Resolution I Kept Was ...

I Found a Story

34 "Call Back Anytime"  
A wrong number leads to a long friendship.  
LIZ VACCARIELLO



P. | 54

WHO KNEW?

120 13 Things Savvy Shoppers Look for in Online Reviews  
CHARLOTTE HILTON ANDERSEN

122 Body Gunk, Explained  
KELSEY KLOSS

124 6 Surprising Times You Are Quoting the Bible  
FERDIE ADDIS FROM THE BOOK AMEN TO THAT!

ART OF LIVING

43 When It's Not Quite a Wonderful Life  
How to get through the holidays if you've got the winter blues.  
JASON MARSH FROM YES! MAGAZINE

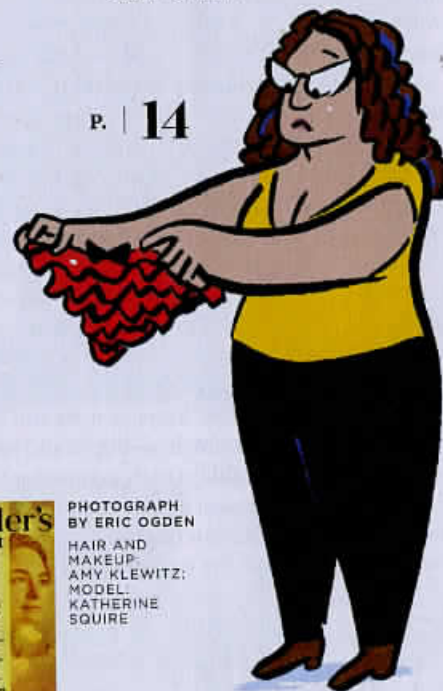
46 Health  
Silent Signs Your Body Craves a Diet Tweak  
MARISSA LALIBERTE

50 Food  
The Gift of Food  
JENNIFER BALL-TUFFORD FROM FAMILY CIRCLE

52 Travel  
Vacation Items You'll Almost Always Regret Packing  
JULIANA LABIANCA

54 Money  
How to (Shamelessly) Regift This Holiday Season  
JULIANA LABIANCA

P. | 14



PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC OGDEN  
HAIR AND MAKEUP: AMY KLEWITZ;  
MODEL: KATHERINE SQUIRE

GEICO.



The other guy.



Helping people since 1936    24/7 licensed agents    97% customer satisfaction    2nd-largest auto insurer

## The choice is yours, and it's simple.

Why enjoy just a slice of an apple when you can have the whole thing?

The same goes for car insurance. Why go with a company that offers just a low price when GEICO could save you hundreds and give you so much more? You could enjoy satisfying professional service, 24/7, from a company that's made it their business to help people since 1936. This winning combination has helped GEICO to become the 2nd-largest private passenger auto insurer in the nation.

Make the smart choice. Get your free quote from GEICO today.

# GEICO®

geico.com | 1-800-947-AUTO | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Customer satisfaction based on an independent study conducted by Alan Newman Research, 2015. GEICO is the second-largest private passenger auto insurer in the United States according to the 2014 A.M. Best market share report, published April 2015. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2016 GEICO

# Contents

DECEMBER 2016 • JANUARY 2017

- Cover Story**
- 67 MIRACLES IN REAL LIFE**  
Incredible true stories of happenstance and wonder that will warm your heart.
- Drama in Real Life**
- 82 ALL THE GALLANT MEN**  
One survivor's unforgettable story of unfathomable courage at Pearl Harbor.  
DONALD STRATTON WITH KEN GIRE FROM THE BOOK *ALL THE GALLANT MEN*
- Humor**
- 92 A TEN-MONTH-OLD'S LETTER TO SANTA**  
What does a baby *really* want?  
RAQUEL D'APICE FROM HUFFINGTONPOST.COM
- Ideas**
- 96 THE MARK OF AN ALPHA MALE**  
The wolves of Yellowstone have some surprising lessons on being a man.  
CARL SAFINA FROM THE *NEW YORK TIMES*
- National Interest**
- 100 35 THINGS POLICE OFFICERS WANT TO TELL YOU**  
Officers from across the country on what it's like right now to walk a beat in America.  
MICHELLE CROUCH
- First Person**
- 108 SEEING THE LIGHTS**  
Forget white Christmases. I dream of tractors and more, all of them bright with bulbs.  
RICK BRAGG FROM THE BOOK *MY SOUTHERN JOURNEY*
- True Crime**
- 112 MY FATHER WAS THE BTK KILLER**  
Could you forgive a serial killer? What if he was your father?  
Kerri Rawson hunts for answers.  
ROY WENZL FROM THE *WICHITA EAGLE*

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA FRIEDMAN

P. | 67

