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Proudly Serving Baldwin County
 and the Eastern Shore

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In like a lion,
 out like a lamb:
 however it comes
 and goes, Spring is a
 great time to sell or buy a
 home. Call us today for a free,
 insightful market analysis!



Some people don't realize the many benefits of a Home Protection Plan. However, as experienced Real Estate Professionals, we would like to point out how a quality Home Protection Plan can benefit you, whether you are buying or selling a home. A good Plan ensures the repair or replacement of covered home systems and appliances that fail due to normal use. For Sellers, this provides added value to your home when it is on the market. For Buyers, this means peace of mind and confidence in the purchase of your new home. We advise all our clients to include a Home Protection Plan with their transaction, and the company we trust to provide the best service and coverage is **Old Republic Home Protection**. Call us today for more information about how this valuable service can be put to work for you.

An outstanding customer experience—it's the number one goal on every sales professional's list. If you know anyone who is selling or buying a home, please refer him or her to us and we will provide your referral with the service difference our clients have come to expect from us!



Health & Safety

Don't Worry – Be Happy!

Happiness can be an elusive feeling, even though it is what most of us strive for. However, many people put happiness on hold, promising themselves they will be happy when some great thing happens in the future: when they lose 10 pounds, get a raise, a new job or fall in love, etc. Experts tell us that, while life is generally a combination of ups and downs, we should try to be happy with ourselves in the present – right now, today. Below are some suggestions for achieving happiness in your life.

Write down your passions—make a list of what moves you, so you will have a ready reminder of what is important to you.

Take time out for fun—it is a proven fact that a life of all work and no play does not bring happiness. Schedule time for activities you enjoy.

Unplug yourself—turn off cell phones and other distracting electronics that intrude on your life—even if only for short periods of time. This will allow you time to think and enjoy life at a slower pace.

Be flexible—Research has found that those who are more able to “go with the flow” are notably less stressed. So if plans get canceled, be spontaneous and enjoy yourself as you see what unfolds.

Clear your mind—if you are worrying about a project at work, you will be too distracted to savor anything. Clearing your mind of worries gives you the space to focus on the present and enjoy it.



Household Tips

A Better Bulb

Energy-efficiency is the wave of the future, and everyone who wants to save energy and money, and help the environment at the same time, is promoting the use of new energy-efficient light bulbs. Here is some Helpful information about the new energy-efficient compact fluorescent (CF) light bulbs:

CF bulbs use about one-quarter of the energy used by an incandescent light bulb to produce the same amount of light, and last approximately five times longer.

CF wattages differ from traditional light bulbs; therefore, replace a traditional 60-watt light bulb with a 15-watt CF light bulb.

Understand that the start-up time of a CF bulb can be slower than that of an incandescent bulb.

CF bulbs produce light that is more diffused than incandescent bulbs, so they are good for area lighting.

For best results and longest life, use CF bulbs in appliances that will generally be on for no more than three hours at a time.





Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath patio home in Lillian, AL with 1/3 acre lot, 12x20 workshop, 6' wooden fence in backyard. Home has a well and sprinkler system and lots of extras for easy living! Call us or visit our website for more information.



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Savor the Flavor

Ingredients:

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- ¼ cup fresh orange juice or water
- 2 large, ripe but firm mangoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped (about 2 cups)
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 large egg whites
- ¼ tsp cream of tartar
- 2 Tbsp confectioners' sugar
- 1 bag of frozen, sweetened strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries in heavy syrup, thawed.
- Whipped cream to top off before serving.

Mango Mousse

In a small bowl, sprinkle gelatin over the orange juice and let stand for five minutes. Set the bowl in a small saucepan with 1 inch simmering water and heat until gelatin is dissolved. Place mangoes in a blender and process until smooth. Add granulated sugar, orange juice concentrate, and dissolved gelatin and mix until smooth. Strain through a medium sieve. Return mango mixture to blender and process again.

In a medium bowl, whip the cream until soft peaks form. Fold into the mango mixture. Refrigerate until slightly thickened (about 30 minutes). In a small mixing bowl, beat the egg whites with the cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Continue beating, and add the confectioners' sugar 1 Tbsp at a time until stiff peaks form. Fold into the chilled mango mixture. Transfer to a glass serving bowl and chill for 6 hours or overnight.

To serve: scoop spoonfuls of the mousse into dessert glasses, top with a spoonful of the sweetened fruit, and a dollop of whipped cream.

Helpful Hints

Tax Time Trepidation

If you are among the estimated 57% of Americans who end up owing the government money, "Tax Season" can cause additional stress and headaches – especially if the balance due is large, and you no longer have the money.



The good news is that there are some things you can do to help with your tax woes. Here's how to help reduce the anxiety at tax time if you find yourself owing instead of getting a refund.

- Work with the IRS to create a monthly payment plan.
- Ask the agency if they would be willing to reduce the total amount due in return for setting up an automatic payment plan. If you are currently strapped but expect your income to increase, propose starting with a reduced payment plan, and increasing the monthly payment amount in six months.
- If you do come into a large sum of money during the payment period, ask the IRS if they would be willing to reduce the remaining total by, say 20%, if you sent in the amount due now.
- And finally, adjust your withholding amount so that next year you will not be faced with the same issue.

Brain Teasers

Animal Kingdom

1. Which animal is associated with love?
 - A. Doves
 - B. Bunnies
 - C. Chicks
 - D. All the above
2. Which of the following is not the name of an animal baby?
 - A. Doe
 - B. Calf
 - C. Kid
 - D. Chick
3. If fish travel in schools, whales travel in:
 - A. Swarms
 - B. Herds
 - C. Prides
 - D. Packs
4. Which of the following sea dwellers is a mammal?
 - A. Sea Turtle
 - B. Dolphin
 - C. Tiger Shark
 - D. Jellyfish

