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HOTTER'N HELL 100 Thrives

Story and photos by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Named USA Today Readers' Choice for Best Road Cycling Event for 2026, the adventure for seniors is even more inclusive and as close as Wichita Falls, Texas, the weekend of August 27-30, with the 45th-anniversary Hotter'N Hell 100 (HHH).

As the largest century bicycle ride in the nation, the HHH fosters a welcoming community and camaraderie, uniting over 13,000 riders who share a love for cycling and support each other through the challenge.

The inclusiveness allows senior cyclists to explore their new electric bicycles' capacity for extended fun. Wichita Falls event organizers are happy to provide them equal access, only asking them to be careful.

Long-time HHH organizer Chip Filer notes that while e-bikes are not explicitly mentioned in the official documentation, owners are welcome to participate with the understanding that they must exercise caution, especially at the start and rest stops, to prevent control issues and ensure safety.

"With our aging population, we are open here at Hotter'N Hell to accommodating cyclists who are switching over to e-bikes," Filer said last year. "Again, we just need them to realize those e-bikes can present control problems if the riders are not vigilant."

Given the recent hotter-than-usual temperatures in July, participants should prepare for possible extreme heat on August 29, with tips on hydration, sun protection, and contingency plans available on the event website to help you stay safe and comfortable.

The event's safety and support are a top priority, with over 100 committee members and more than 1,000 volunteers ensuring a secure experience. This includes medical support and Support and Gear (SAG) assistance on every course and every rest stop.

From the large bicycle consumer show, featuring 50 booths showcasing the latest innovations and major manufacturers, to the myriad of other attractions, including a spaghetti dinner and a pre-ride breakfast buffet, there's something for everyone.

After putting this on for 45 years, there are too many things going on during the four days to detail it all in an article of this nature.

Visit the HHH website at for the detailed downloadable Ride Guide, registration deadlines, and planning tips to ensure you're ready for the event.



For complete information download the Ride Guide at hh11.org



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Don't be discouraged by the 100-mile name; the HHH offers inclusive routes like the 10K, 25-mile, 50-mile, and 75-mile options designed to welcome riders of all levels and interests.

All this is just a two-and-a-half-hour drive from OKC. The distance from OKC to the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Events Center is 140 miles using I-44 through Lawton. Do not let that distance throw you off; you drive that far just to Durant here within Oklahoma.

Again, for the e-bike crowd, the event offers the most robust set of offerings in America.

Many senior cyclists have found that the surging-in-demand e-bikes are great for allowing them to ride more and farther than they usually do. "Bicycling Magazine" rates 16 of them for their performance, value and ride quality in its June 2025 issue. Readers can observe how cyclists are turning to cycling more with the help of a little electricity and a significant amount of money.

While more than 10,000 cyclists descend on Wichita Falls, the event offers tent camping close by, where hundreds of people camp out in RVs and tents the night before. The camping facilities are equipped with shower facilities that open Friday night and are open 24 hours until after the event, so riders can shower near the start/finish area before they begin their trip home. This convenient camping option allows you to immerse yourself in the experience fully.

Bicycle clubs from surrounding states often rent buses and stay

See **RIDE** page 4

Jason Young (right),
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RIDE con't. from page 2





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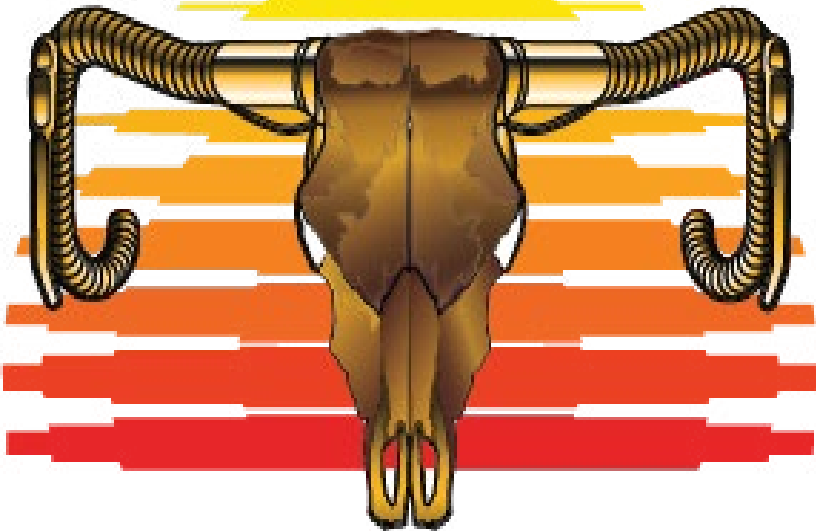
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as far away as Lawton, Okla. or closer-in cities, filling up those accommodations. They get up early Saturday to take their bus into Wichita Falls to stage for the start.

The start of the ride is staged by those riding the most extended distances at the front. For some people, the start is a party where they meet with friends, beginning at 4 a.m. They are soon joined by 10,000+ other riders who have trained to complete their chosen distances. This early start time allows participants to beat the heat and enjoy the ride at their own pace.

All that pent-up human energy is unleashed at 7:05 a.m. after the National Anthem, U.S. Air Force Flyover and cannon blast. Many say to experience the excitement of starting a major organized ride, the best place to see it is at the HHH.

No matter how far seniors ride, the HHH is about the camaraderie of riding along with thousands of other bicyclists who enjoy a lifelong sport, providing a tremendous health benefit without the overuse injuries of many other endurance sports.

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Giving Straight Answers to Common Estate Planning Questions

By Tamara Cain, Attorney and Estate
Planning Educator, Cain, Cain & Janik

Q: What's one of the biggest mistakes people make when deciding to create an estate plan?

A: One of the biggest mistakes I see is that people try to choose a solution to their estate planning problems before they've even identified the problem or problems they're trying to solve.

As another school year begins, we're reminded that learning often precedes good decision-making. Estate planning works the same way. Many people come into my office believing they need a will, a trust, or a power of attorney. I don't begin by talking about documents. I begin by asking questions.

What concerns you most? What keeps you awake at night? What do you hope your estate plan will accomplish?

For some families, the problem is avoiding probate. Others are concerned about reducing taxes. Sometimes the challenge is protecting an adult child who struggles with money. Other times it's providing fairly for children in a blended family, preserving a family farm or business, or planning for a loved one with special needs. Sometimes the goal is simply to make life easier for a surviving spouse. Other clients just want everything organized so their children won't be left arguing or trying to piece together a lifetime of financial records after they're gone.

During my 35 years as an attorney and the past 17 years devoted exclusively to estate planning, I've learned that every family has its own unique set of problems to solve. At Cain, Cain & Janik, we've designed well over 1,000 estate plans and have guided families through more than 100 trust administrations and estate settlements. Just as importantly, we've built a team and a long-term approach to estate planning, called the Estate Planners for Life™ program so our clients and their families will always have experienced advisors to turn to when life happens.

Those experiences have taught me an important lesson: the best estate plan isn't the one with the most sophisticated legal language. It's the one that solves a family's problems and actually works when it's needed most - the disability or death of a loved one.

That's why my role is to educate my clients before they make decisions. Once I understand the problems they're trying to solve and what they hope to accomplish, I explain the available options and walk them through the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Together, we choose the solution that best fits their family, their values, and their goals.

The documents themselves aren't the goal. Solving the problem is. These problems rarely go away on their own. If we don't solve them while the client is living, their families will be left to deal with them after they're gone. Whether we realize it or not, the decisions we make and, unfortunately, the decisions we avoid, often become part of the story our children and grandchildren tell about us.

I want my clients to be remembered as people who planned ahead, protected the people they loved, and left their families with clarity instead of confusion.

To me, that's what good estate planning is all about.



More Than a Museum: Oklahoma National Guard Museum Preserves Stories That Still Inspire

by Vickie Jenkins, staff writer

Some museums display history. Others allow visitors to experience it. That is exactly what awaits visitors at the Oklahoma National Guard Museum in Oklahoma City, where remarkable artifacts and unforgettable personal stories preserve more than a century of Oklahoma military history. From massive military vehicles and a rocket launcher to deeply personal items carried through World War II, every exhibit tells the story of ordinary men and women who answered the call to serve.

For Museum Director Denise Neil, those stories are what make the museum unlike any other in the state. "What makes this museum unique is that we're covering the history of the Oklahoma National Guard and the 45th Infantry Division," Denise said. "We're the only museum in the state that covers our specific topic."

The museum's mission reaches far beyond the battlefield. Along with documenting military service in conflicts from the Spanish-American War through the Global War on Terror, exhibits also highlight the National Guard's response to Oklahoma's greatest times of need, including tornadoes, the Oklahoma City bombing, the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies.

If someone has never visited before, Denise believes they are often surprised by both the size and variety of the collection. "They'd probably be shocked when they see a rocket launcher inside the building," she said with a laugh.

Outside, visitors can explore impressive military equipment. Inside, they discover everything from historic weapons and vehicles to personal keepsakes that reveal the human side of military service.

Denise has a special connection to the museum. Her first museum job was here in the early 2000s before she pursued other opportunities. In 2018, she returned as director, bringing her passion for history back to where it began. "It has been a really great thing to come back and be part of this really important project," she said.

Although administrative duties keep her busy, Denise especially enjoys researching the museum's growing collection and talking with visitors from across the country. "I love to talk to people that come in to see us as much as I can," she said.

When asked if there is one artifact that means the most to her personally, Denise didn't hesitate.

It is a camera once used by 45th Infantry Division news photographer Sgt. George Tapscott during World War II. Tapscott carried two cameras overseas, sending one home before later asking his family to return it to him. He used that camera to document history, including photographs taken after the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

"That artifact always stands out in my mind," Denise said. "It captured such a grim reality."

The camera is a powerful reminder that history is often preserved not only by those fighting on the front lines, but also by those who documented what they witnessed for future generations. Another artifact never fails to spark conversation.

Displayed in the museum is a mirror recovered from Adolf Hitler's bunker after World War II. "I would really like that mirror to tell me a story," Denise said.

See **MUSEUM** page 8

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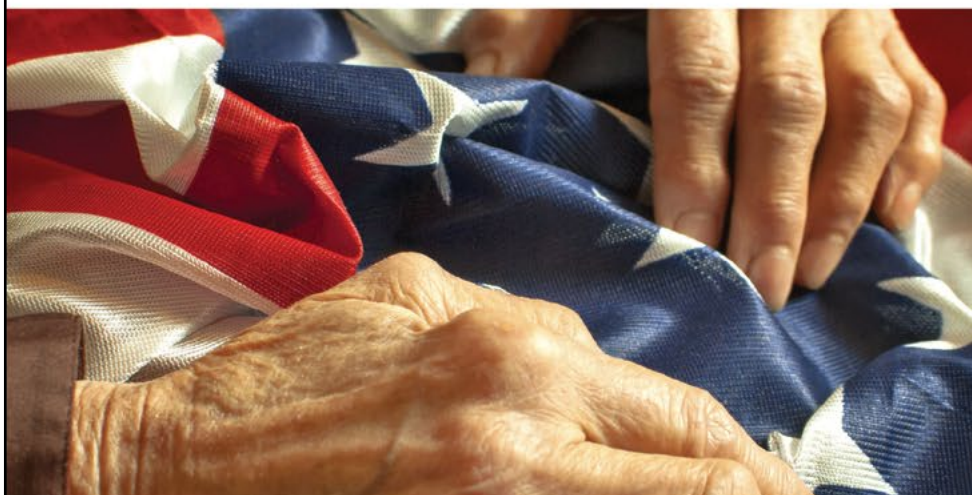
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MUSEUM con't. from page 7



Denise Neil, Director of Oklahoma National Guard Museum

She often wonders what it witnessed during one of history's darkest chapters. Visitors are naturally drawn to it, asking questions about Hitler, World War II and the events that shaped the modern world. For Denise, the mirror is more than an unusual artifact. It serves as a reminder of the consequences of hatred and the importance of remembering history so future generations can learn from it.

The museum itself traces Oklahoma's military heritage back to 1890, when the Oklahoma Territory established what was then known as the Oklahoma Militia, years before statehood.

"I think it's important for our visitors to learn about the history of the Oklahoma National Guard," Denise said. "We wanted to tell the story from the earliest days all the way through contemporary Guardsmen."

Since opening its new location, the museum has welcomed thousands of visitors, with attendance already exceeding that of its former site. Denise says the greatest compliment isn't found in attendance numbers or advertising campaigns.

"I'd much rather have word of mouth than spend money on advertising," she said. "That means somebody enjoyed it, and they're telling somebody else to come."

Admission to the Oklahoma National Guard Museum is free. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Whether visitors come to see the impressive military equipment, the fascinating artifacts or simply to learn more about Oklahoma's rich military heritage, they leave with something far more valuable—a deeper appreciation for the courage, sacrifice and service of the men and women who have defended both our state and our nation.

As Denise Neil knows well, every artifact has a story. At the Oklahoma National Guard Museum, those stories continue to educate, inspire and ensure that the legacy of Oklahoma's citizen soldiers will never be forgotten.





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OKC Gains an Esteemed Place in Sports History

Story and photos by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

In the fourth week of July, Oklahoma City stepped onto the world Olympic sports stage in anticipation of its giant leap there, as two sports of the 2028 LA Olympics will be hosted here two years from now. The 2026 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Slalom World Championship was held to great fanfare downtown on the Oklahoma River at the RIVERSPORTS whitewater center.

OKC Mayor David Holt told the opening ceremony crowd that the event is special in the city's history. "This will be the first time Oklahoma City has hosted the World Championships of a longstanding Olympic sport," Holt said, "It will serve as a critical tune-up for the 2028 Olympic Games, when Oklahoma City will host the canoe slalom events at this venue."

He also noted that if not for the upcoming Olympics, this World Championship would stand alone as a "crowning achievement" for the city and the MAPS 3 project, which funded the construction of the whitewater facility in 2009.

The Australian National Team was well represented among the 50 countries competing. Jessica Fox, 32, from Penrith, Australia, and a distinguished racing family, including her sister Noemie, who was also competing, won early and often. Noemie won Olympic gold in kayak cross at the 2024 Paris Games, and both of their parents were international medalists in the sport.

Jessica is widely considered the greatest paddler of all time. She has won 6 Olympic medals including golds in both K1 and C1 from the 2024 Paris Games and 14 World Championship gold medals. Her career total across all major events is unrivaled in the sport's history.

Jessica earned two new World gold medals to add to that count by the second day on the water at OKC. The Fox sisters highlighted the second day with a World title defense in the Women's Kayak Team event alongside teammate Kate Eckhardt.

The women's field boasted significantly higher career medal counts in both Olympic and World Championship competition than their male counterparts. While the men's field featured impressive champions, no male athlete matches Fox's historic medal count. Joe Clarke MBE of Great Britain, a specialist in kayak disciplines, was the Rio 2016 Olympic Champion and has won 7 World Championship titles. He won the kayak cross gold on the opening day of the 2026 World Championships. The 33-year-old surged to victory in the individual time trial at the OKC Canoe Slalom venue in 46.54 seconds.

On Thursday, July 23, Jessica Fox won the gold medal in the Women's K1 Final, claiming her fifth career World title in the event. She delivered a flawless run on the 2028 Olympic course to beat American Evy Leibfarth by 1.31 seconds.

The Australian sisters also displayed a newly adopted local flair during the opening ceremony at the McClendon Whitewater Center. They were both wearing brown cowboy boots. "Gotta embrace the cowgirl style and that cowgirl confidence," Jessie said after wearing them again on the podium following her first win.

More was to come on the water, but this accounting is cut short because of deadlines in our monthly issues.

This was the first time the event had been held in North America since 2014. For athletes from around the world, this was their first opportunity to experience what will be the 2028 Olympic course. In the canoe slalom events, athletes kneel in single-bladed canoes, navigating a whitewater course through downstream and upstream gates with precision and speed.

In the kayak slalom, paddlers sit in kayaks using double-bladed



Australian Jessica Fox is being interviewed minutes after her first World Championship win at RIVERSPORT

paddles to race a whitewater course, maneuvering cleanly through challenging gate sequences.

Having made its Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Games, kayak cross is elevating whitewater competition to a whole new level. Four kayakers launch from an elevated ramp, battling head-to-head through gates where they can make contact with other boats and are required to execute a mid-course Eskimo roll in an all-out sprint to the finish.

RIVERSPORT's course is 1,000 feet long (304.8 meters) and drops 14' 9" (4.54 meters) from start to finish. Eight million gallons of water are powered by five pumps, creating level III-IV rapids during competition.

Oklahoma City also hosted the 2026 ICF Ordinary Congress on July 26-27 at the Omni Hotel. The American Canoe Association, the City of Oklahoma City, and Riversport, OKC, submitted the bid for the ICF Congress.

On Saturday, July 25, a special Gala Dinner kicked off the official Congress weekend festivities at RIVERSPORT OKC.

Sunday, July 26, was the first day of official meetings, featuring an evening outdoor activity followed by hors d'oeuvres back at RIVERSPORT OKC. Monday, July 27, marked the second day of official meetings.

RIVERSPORT is a US Olympic & Paralympic Training Site – one of only a few in the United States – and regularly hosts national and international competitions in rowing and canoe/kayak. RIVERSPORT Rapids, Oklahoma City's whitewater center, will serve as the Olympic venue for canoe slalom and kayak cross at the LA28 Olympic Games.

OPINION



With Social Security Uncertainty, Should You Claim Benefits Early?

Dear Savvy Senior

I turn 62 early next year and plan to retire soon after. Most advice says I should wait to claim Social Security because my monthly benefit will be higher. But with all the recent news about Social Security's financial problems, I'm wondering if taking benefits early might be the safer choice. Is there ever a good reason to claim at 62?
--Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,

You're definitely not alone in asking this.

The latest Social Security Trustees Report projects the retirement trust fund could be depleted around 2032 if Congress doesn't act. If that happens, Social Security would still collect payroll taxes and pay benefits, but retirees could face an across-the-board cut of about 22 percent.

Before you rush to file, keep things in perspective. Most experts still expect Congress to step in, as it has before, to strengthen Social Security. And even if lawmakers don't act, waiting would still produce a higher monthly benefit because any across-the-board benefit cut would apply to everyone. While claiming at 62 means collecting benefits sooner, it also

permanently locks in a smaller check.

That said, there are several situations where claiming Social Security at 62 can make good financial sense.

How claiming age affect your benefits

You can start Social Security at 62, but doing so permanently reduces your monthly benefit by about 30 percent compared with waiting until full retirement age (67 for those born in 1960 or later). Delaying until 70 increases your benefit by about 24 percent.

For example, a \$2,000 monthly benefit at full retirement age would drop to about \$1,400 at 62, or rise to roughly \$2,480 if you wait until 70.

When claiming early makes sense

For some retirees, claiming at 62 is a practical move. If you've stopped working and need income for basic expenses, Social Security can provide a steady check right away. It can also serve as a bridge if you retire early or lose a job in your early 60s while delaying withdrawals from retirement accounts or a pension.

Some retirees also claim Social Security early to reduce withdrawals from their IRA or 401(k) during market downturns. The tradeoff is a permanently reduced lifetime benefit.

For married couples, timing can be coordinated as part of a broader strategy. One spouse may claim early to bring in income while the other delays to boost their future or survivor benefit.

Health is another big factor. Delaying only pays off if you live long enough to collect those higher monthly checks. The break-even point between claiming at 62 and full retirement age is around age 78 or 79.

If you're still working, be careful here too. Before full retirement age, earnings above Social Security's annual limit can temporarily reduce your benefit, and claiming early locks in that lower amount for life.

Why delaying helps

For many retirees, waiting means a larger guaranteed monthly benefit for life and often a higher lifetime payout if you live into your late 70s or beyond. It can also provide stronger protection against outliving savings.

For couples, delaying the higher earner's benefit can increase the survivor benefit, which may help provide more financial security for a surviving spouse.

Before deciding, it's smart to review your numbers. You can create a free account at SSA.gov/myaccount to check your earnings record and estimate benefits at different ages. Tools like OpenSocialSecurity.com or MaximizeMySocialSecurity.com (a paid tool with a \$49 fee) can also help you compare claiming strategies.

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. For most people, waiting still makes the most sense. But if you need income, have health concerns or are coordinating benefits with a spouse, claiming at 62 may be the better choice. The key is to base your decision on your own circumstances – not fear about Social Security's future.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070



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Housing revolution seminar explores future of aging well

As older adults rethink where and how they want to live, a free Positive Aging seminar on August 13 will examine the housing trends, innovations and practical choices shaping the future of aging well.

“Housing Revolution: Trends, Tips and Options That Provide Successful Environments to Age Well” will be held at 10 a.m. in the Conference Center at Metro Technology Centers, 1900 Springlake Dr. The seminar brings together industry experts and individuals with firsthand experience to help older adults and their families make informed housing decisions.

Danny Eischen, CEO of Concordia Life Plan Community, will provide an inside look at the senior living industry, sharing what investors, providers, developers and other experts are projecting for the years ahead. His presentation will explore how demographic shifts are driving innovation and expanding housing options for older adults.

Shannon Stiger, a Certified Senior Housing Professional (CSHP) with more than 10 years of experience helping older adults and their families navigate housing transition, will discuss current housing market trends while offering guidance on common mistakes, potential pitfalls and important considerations for individuals and families evaluating their next move.

Attendees will also hear from the Olson family, who will share their real-life experience embracing a multigenerational housing lifestyle. Their story offers practical insight into the opportunities and challenges of sharing a living space across generations. The seminar will cover a wide range of topics, including demographic changes, aging in place, multigenerational living, shared housing, accessory dwelling units, home modifications, downsizing, senior living communities and emerging housing innovations. Participants



Danny Eischen

will leave with a better understanding that there is no single “right” answer—only the solution that best fits their personal goals, finances and lifestyle.

“I hope attendees will walk away with an awareness that there is so much more in the decision to move or stay in their existing home,” said seminar organizer Julie Davis. “Making a move is not synonymous with decline in health or even on an assumption that decline is inevitable. It is about finding the best home environment to support your stage of life and desired lifestyle. That’s what makes a healthy environment to age well.”

The seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is available online at www.villagesokc.org/positiveaging or by calling (405) 212-9120.



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OKLAHOMA'S AUGUST 2026 SENIOR NEWS & LIVING CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

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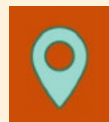
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by Richard Stephens, Jr., staff writer

It's a good day to be on the Mother Road!

On June 17, the Main Street of America Route 66 Centennial Caravan tour, organized by the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership, entered Oklahoma. At the nearby Will Rogers Highway marker, Rhys Martin, Caravan organizer and trip leader – who also serves as President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association – explained its significance. Listening were 12 core Caravan members who drove the entire length of Route 66, one from each of the eight Route 66 states, plus other representatives, including two Dutch travelers.

Over the next three days, the Caravan traveled 460 miles and visited 20 sites in Oklahoma. That left time for Caravanners to savor our remarkable state and for me, travelling as a Friend of the Caravan (kinder than “add-on”), time to get stories. As members of the public joined and left at stops, the motorcade fluctuated between 45 and 74 vehicles. Some travelers noticed western Oklahoma’s red clay bluffs turn to green grass and trees in eastern Oklahoma.

Background

By the time Caravan members rolled into Oklahoma, they were already seasoned travelers after crossing Route 66’s cactus-filled deserts for 11 days from California to Texas.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation noted that beginning on June 6, they had embarked, “on a 2,400-mile, three-week journey from Santa Monica to Chicago, making multiple daily stops along the full stretch of the ‘Mother Road’ in celebration of its 100th anniversary. Crossing all eight states along Route 66, the caravan will spotlight preservation success stories.”

Each night, The Big Texan Steak Ranch of Amarillo offered a free 72-ounce steak dinner for whomever finished the steak and all the trimmings within an hour.

On the Road

At our first stop in Erick, Harley Russell met us outside his Sandhill Curiosity Shop. Dressed in his trademark red and white striped overalls, the troubadour greeted our 70-person group and found just enough time to lead us in the Route 66 song before we headed east.

With a convoy stretching one-and-a-half-miles long that included a 1929 and 1930 Ford, four campers and a car-carrying semi-trailer, that day – and every day – we consistently ran behind schedule at the Stafford Air and Space Museum (Weatherford), Anna Mitchell Cultural Center (Vinita), and all the others. But this wasn’t an airline, right?

There were informative briefings from Matthew Radcliffe, the State Capitol Architect and Curator, Ed Threatt at the Threatt Filling Station, curators at the Anna Mitchell Cultural Center, and others. We noticed and appreciated smiling, waving groups of local residents in Erick, Sayre, Canute, Edmond and Catoosa – and many other communities. Two large groups of children gathered in Luther and Edmond.

At Catoosa’s Blue Whale, John and Melissa Gona of Indianapolis spoke about the trip. He said, “Oklahoma is obviously the best slice (of Route 66). People here are amazing...we love traveling on Route 66 in Oklahoma.”

Centennial Caravan

Personal Stories

Route 66 stories can be enlightening. Karen Roth of Sun City West, Arizona, recalled traveling Route 66 in 1971 with her mother and four siblings in a station wagon. “Kids would fight over the back seat of the station wagon...and we drove from California all the way east.” Roth added, “I figured that spending one of my retirement years doing Route 66 was a bucket list kind of item that I wanted to do.” Now 66, she and her husband, Ronnie, drove the entire length with their two cats and two bicycles and met her father-in-law, 94, along the way.

At Wellston, Mike and JoAnn Wilkerson from St. Louis shared that he found the Caravan trip on Facebook, decided to drive it as their first Route 66 end-to-end trip and bought a 1947 Ford Super Deluxe Coupe to do it in. JoAnn’s goal is to, “Meet people, enjoy America, and so many people have been so kind and so gracious. And it brightens our outlook. The news is so negative but Route 66 is so positive.” Mike added, “It’s all about small towns, and we call them the relics, the restorations, the revitalizations, and the reimaginings that we’ve run into. The four “Rs” of Route 66, and then the fifth would be the real people.”

Dodging farm tractors, oil and gasoline semi-trucks and SUVs throughout the trip, I was reminded that Route 66 continues to be relevant for small town America’s commuting purposes: work, school, shopping – everyday life. People cruising down memory lane or in a “golden age” bubble intersect with reality.

Preservation

Nikki Turleski, the Director of Operations for the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona and a core trip member making her first complete trip of Route 66, emphasized adaptability.

“Preserving historic businesses, buildings, repurposing buildings into something new so they can be preserved for generations to come, we think that’s very important to the vitality and the longevity of Route 66.” She used Route 66 Motel in Kingman, Arizona, as an example. “Catholic Charities renovated it into low-income housing. So, the structure is still there, the neon sign is still there. It’s still benefiting our community, but it has a different purpose now.”

Oklahoma has awarded a total of \$12,800,970 of taxpayer money to 47 municipalities, nonprofit organizations and government entities on Route 66 for historic preservation or economic development since 2024 from the Oklahoma Route 66 Revitalization Grant Program. The money repaired, replaced, enhanced or added to historic structures and neon signs like Hamons’ Court in Hinton, The Service Station in El Reno, even a “musical road” on Tulsa’s Southwest Boulevard Bridge that plays a song from Woody Guthrie when one drives over it. Members of the Caravan appreciated them.

Perspectives

At the High-Way Café in Vinita, Martin reflected on the journey. “The...Caravan has been very rewarding to organize and execute. There have been people from all over the country, and, I mean, internationally, that have joined us...And they’ve gotten the opportunity to hear stories from people that are a big part of the Route 66 community, see landmarks, and just really experience the highway. My hope is that they see what I see, and that it’s not just a road of the past and a wonderful history, but there’s so many new

Showcases Small Towns

things happening, too.”

After visiting Commerce, the Caravan crossed the state line, then disappeared north to see roadside treasures in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.



Mike and JoAnn Wilkerson from St. Louis bought a 1947 Ford Super Delux for their first complete trip on Route 66.



The Route 66 Centennial Caravan's first stop in Oklahoma was in Erick on June 17, 2026. Harley Russell met us and sang the Route 66 song.



Oklahoma
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Society

OHS Adds 3 Locations to National Register of Historic Places

Waylan's Ku Ku Burger in Miami

The Oklahoma Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are pleased to announce the National Register of Historic Places designation for the following property in Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

Ottawa County
Waylan's Ku Ku Burger
915 N. Main St., Miami



Waylan's Ku Ku Burger, located in downtown Miami, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its historical significance as a commercial development along historic Route 66. The Ku Ku's Googie-styled architecture has been a mainstay in Miami since its opening in 1965 and is indicative of commercial buildings designed to attract the attention of passing motorists with bold colors, swooping rooflines, and neon signs. Waylan's is the last survivor of the Ku Ku chain that once boasted over 200 locations across the Midwest. It is still fully operational, with owner Eugene Waylan manning the grill and selling delicious burgers and shakes, as he has for the last 50 years.

21 Crossing and Ranch

Woods-Major Counties,
21 Crossing and Ranch,
Vicinity of Waynoka

The 21 Crossing and Ranch, located in Woods and Major counties, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level for its association with early exploration and settlement of the Cherokee Outlet and western Oklahoma, and for early methods and routes of transportation prior to and during

European settlement of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. With a period of significance stretching from 1878 to 1945, the property—including the river crossing, rock cairns, natural springs, and bridge piers—communicates the significance as a critical transportation corridor in northwestern Oklahoma. The 21 Crossing and Ranch is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its potential to yield information important to Oklahoma history, including the 1843 Dragoon expedition led by Captain Nathan Boone through the region.



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Ranger Theater
416 Flynn St., Alva, Woods County

The Ranger Theater, located in the heart of downtown Alva, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its significance in entertainment and recreation. Opening in 1936 with an inaugural showing of comedian Joe E. Brown's "Polo Joe," the highly decorated glass doors and lobby of the Ranger became an instant hit and continued to entertain the local citizenry for over two decades. Today, the Ranger Theater serves as a visual reminder of one of Alva's thriving movie theater options during the Golden Age of Hollywood, with its Art Deco interior remaining virtually untouched since its closing in 1954.





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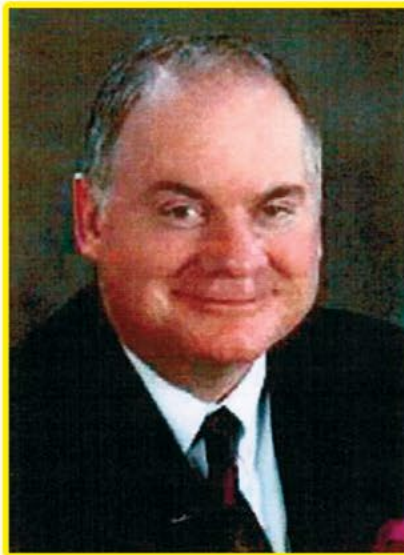
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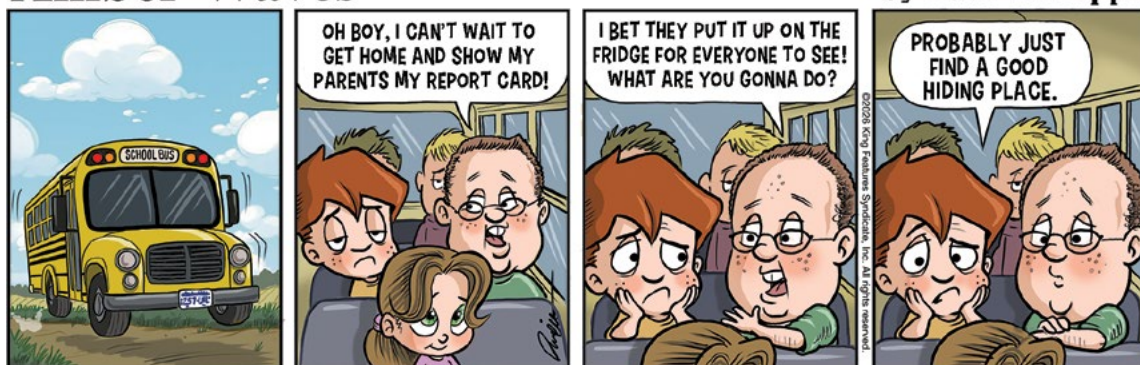


Medicare Required Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 8 organizations which offer 73 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all your options.



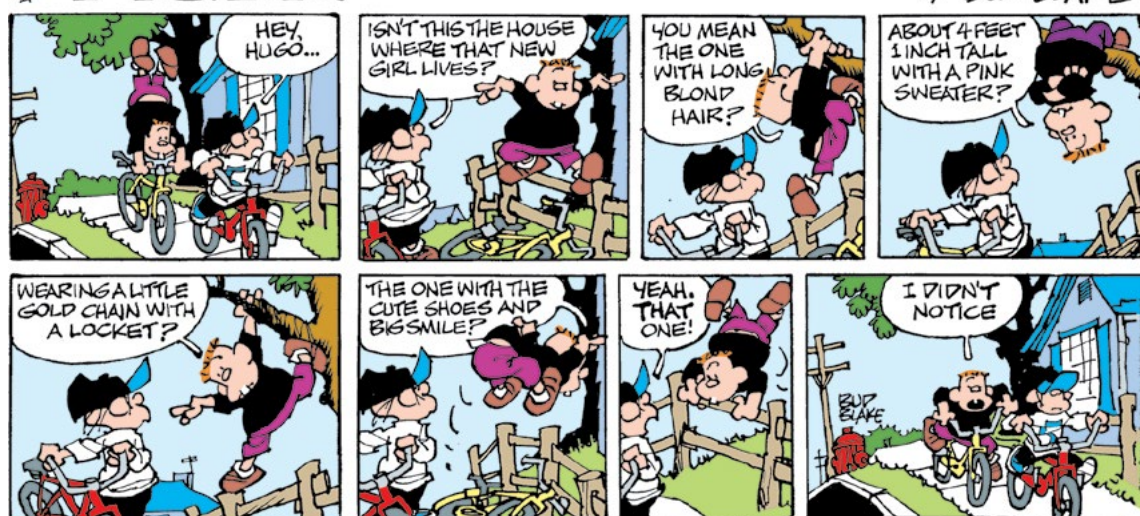
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elic's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 43:5

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

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H	S	H	C	H	O	C	U	S	B
T	H	P	K	S	<u>Y</u>	F	I	I	W
H	E	S	I	A	R	P	I	D	N
S	A	V	I	O	R	L	L	I	W

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Answers on pg 12



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King Crossword

ACROSS

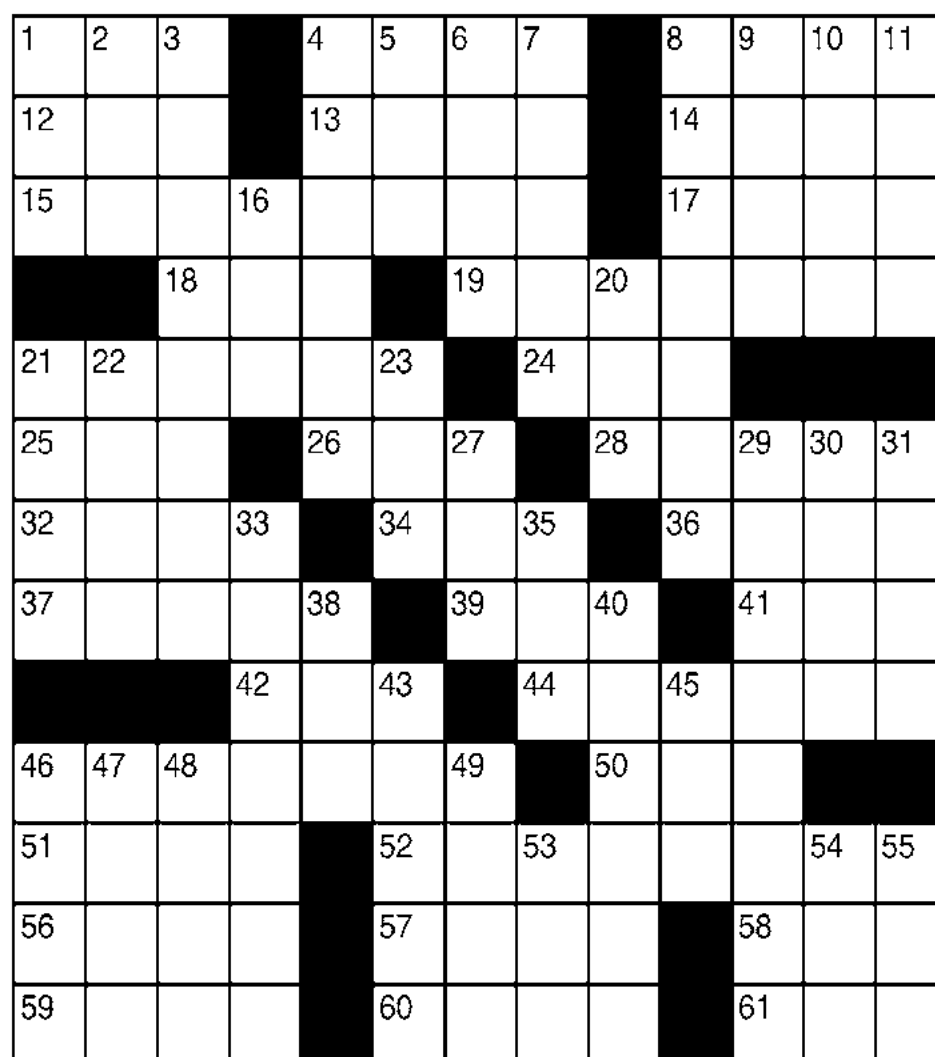
- 1 Photo, for short
- 4 Senate staffer
- 8 Scoff
- 12 Rx overseer
- 13 Classic theaters
- 14 Bohemian
- 15 Tunes from Trinidad
- 17 Pinta's companion
- 18 MSN rival
- 19 Acapulco native
- 21 NAACP co-founder W.E.B.
- 24 Collection
- 25 — Cruz Kayne of "Barbie"
- 26 D.C. baseballer
- 28 Serious
- 32 Overlook
- 34 Inherited
- 36 "Little Caesar" role
- 37 Group spirit
- 39 Rug cleaner, briefly
- 41 Buddy
- 42 Felon's flight

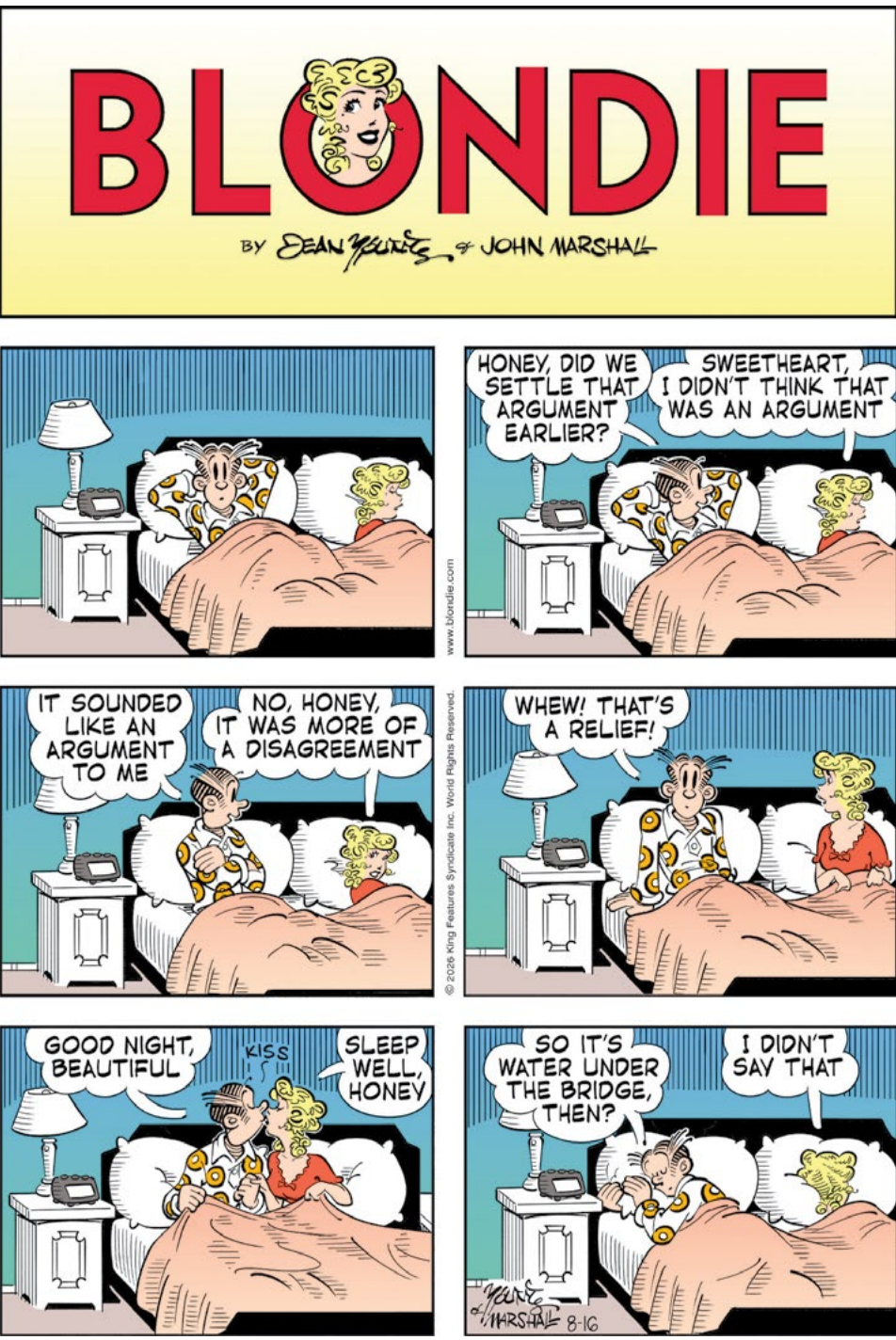
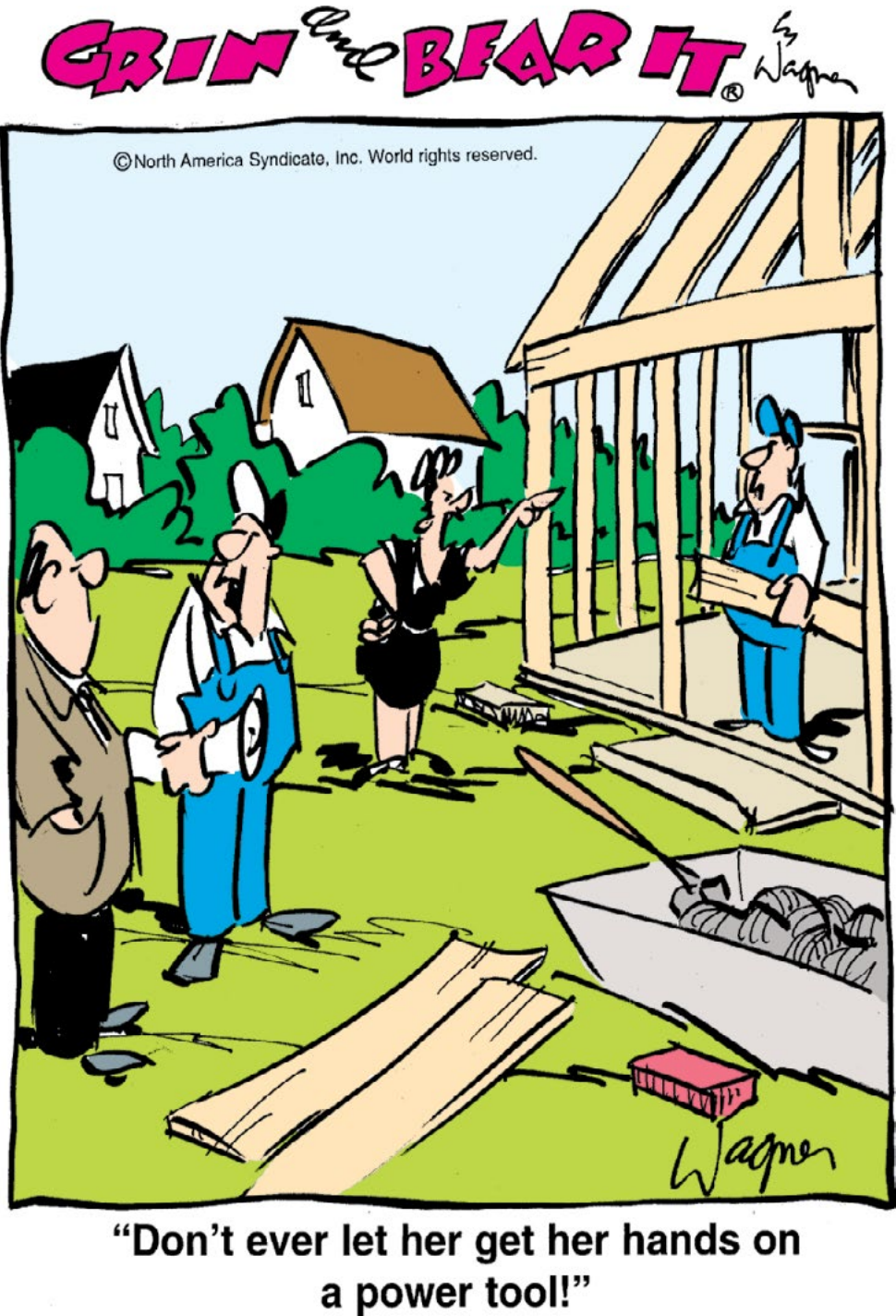
DOWN

- 1 Cpl.'s subordinate
- 2 Wyo. neighbor
- 3 Utensil made from a gourd shell
- 4 Sturdy fabric
- 5 Billboards
- 6 Euclidean subj.
- 7 Relaxes
- 8 Custodian
- 9 Rocker Clapton
- 10 Sicilian volcano
- 11 Vanna's "Wheel of Fortune" colleague
- 16 "— -hoo!"
- 20 Crosses (out)
- 21 Title for Judi Dench
- 22 One
- 23 Droop
- 27 "Mazel —!"
- 29 Scripture-based
- 30 Beige
- 31 Castle
- 33 Singer Knowles
- 35 Highland hat
- 38 Pouch
- 40 Actress Jamie Lee
- 43 PC shortcut
- 45 Japanese pond carp
- 46 Mama — Elliot
- 47 Golden Rule word
- 48 Den noise
- 49 Black-and-white cookie
- 53 Little rascal
- 54 Hollywood's Gardner
- 55 Sass

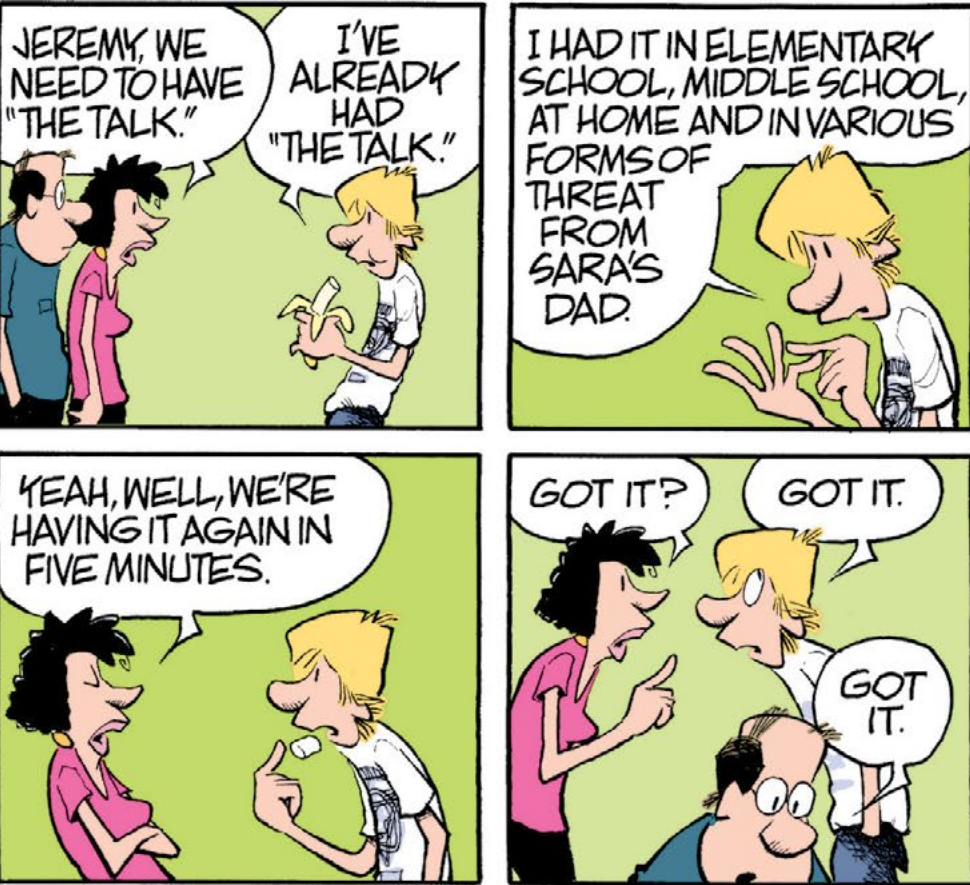
Answers on pg 12

Puzzle Sponsored by Eagle Group Agency

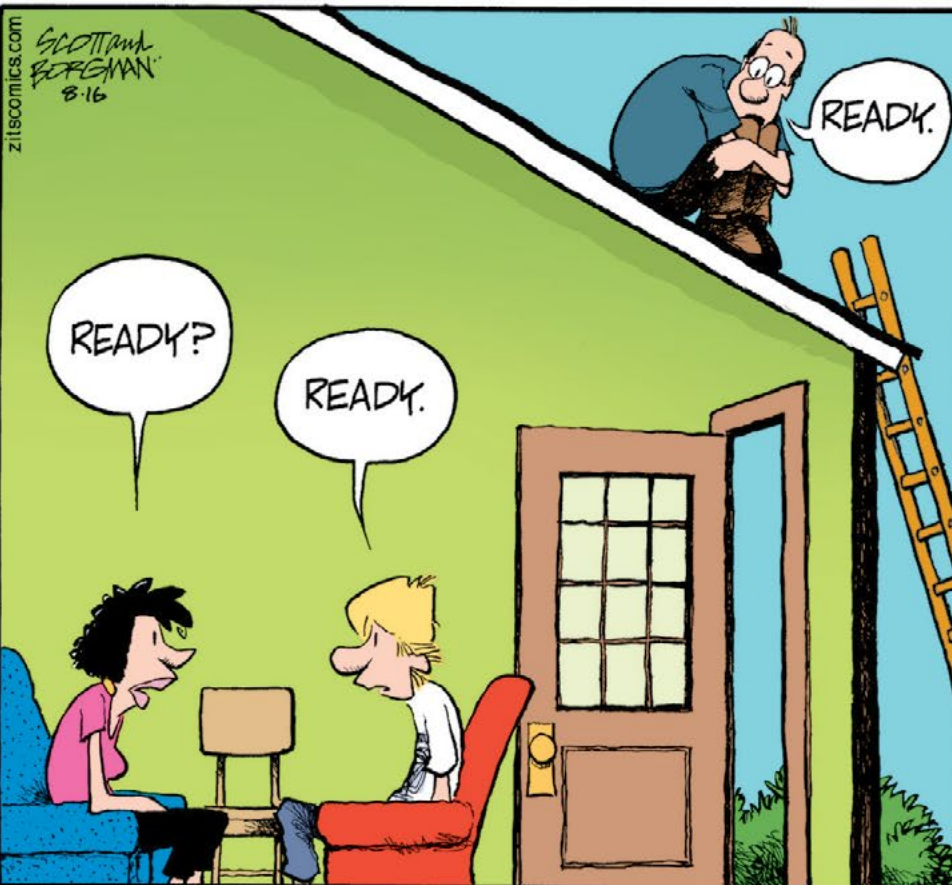




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Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



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