

Do you live solely on Social Security? ■ Are you or a child receiving survivor benefits? ■ Do you depend on a disability check? Share your experience, tips and strategies in 300 words or less. Send be-

fore Sept. 18 to SStale, AARP Bulletin, 601 E St. NW, Washington 20049, or email SStale@aarp.org. Include your name and or email. We'll contact you if your story is used in our special

Tell Your Story to the Whole World



S O C I A L S E C U R I T Y

do you want to pick me up?"—Suzanne Tobin

Margarette Kirsch always wanted to travel cross-country in an 18-wheeler. And the 82-year-old finally got to do it. ■ Thanks to the Twilight Foundation, which works to make dreams come true for older people, Kirsch rode more than 6,500 miles to California and back to her Merritt Island, Fla., home this summer with 30-year veteran trucker and country singer Anna-Kirsch and Wood visited nursing homes and truck stops. Their hosts "couldn't believe that this 82-year-old lady could climb in and out of the cab of the truck without any help. Off to the side, I'd see they'd have a wheelchair or walker or walking stick," Kirsch says. ■ She sums up her experience with two words—awesome and outstanding. "Would I do it again?" she asks. "What time



Truckin' at Last at 82

In the News

32.3

Average number of miles traveled daily by each person age 50+ in 2009, excluding air travel.

Old-School Dorms

After more than two decades of coed dormitories, Catholic University in Washington has decided to roll back the clock and return to the single-sex dorms many people age 50-plus remember well. Eleven of the university's 17 dorms are coed, so the transition will take a while. This fall, the school will put most freshmen in men's or women's halls. Sophomore and upperclass dorms will follow. Why

grown out of our sandboxes."

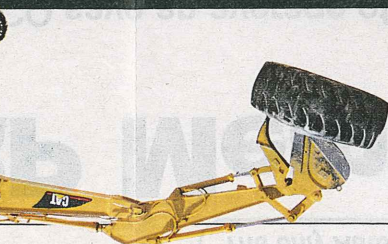
If you've ever passed a construction site and wondered what it's like to operate the mechanical behemoths that plow trenches or build mounds, Dig This is your ultimate Las Vegas destination. The five-acre theme park offers bulldozers, excavators and other heavy equipment to patrons 14 and older in packages of \$210, \$400 and \$750. Half of the visitors are women. Says Ed Mumm, 45, the fencing contractor-turned-entrepreneur who developed the idea, "We haven't

Can You Dig It?

Flying High

After months in dispute with homeowners association, retired Marine Mike Merola, 60, of Cypress, Texas, is flying his American and Marine Corps flags unchallenged. Merola's 20-foot backyard flagpole sparked a controversy when the association said it violated design rules. A lawsuit against Merola was expected to be dismissed when the [association] simply overreached. ... the Merolas never harmed their neighbors with their display of patriotism," says Merola's attorney L. Lee Thweatt. —Mike Tucker

Now Hear This



People, Trends and Ideas