

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

SPECIAL ISSUE

# ★★ Your ★★ AMERICA

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Your Eye for Beauty

## 56 FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The winners in our water-themed reader photo contest.

Your Outrageous Government

## 68 THE WACKIEST LAW IN EVERY STATE

From snowball throwing to greased-pig chases, legislators prohibit the strangest things.

BRANDON SPECKTOR

Your Living History

## 80 THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

A recovered account of World War II opens a grandson's eyes to the power of sacrifice.

BEN MONTGOMERY  
FROM GANGREY.COM

Your Will to Survive

## 88 LOST IN BIG BEND

Cathy Frye was looking forward to a hike with her husband. Four days later, she was stranded in the desert—alone.

FROM THE ARKANSAS  
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Your Way with Words

## 99 HOME OF THE BRAVE

Ten inspiring stories of courage presented at the Moth, the live storytelling event.



HAWKEYE978/SHUTTERSTOCK



4 Dear Readers 6 Letters



**READER FAVORITES**

- 26 Photo of Lasting Interest
- 30 Life in These United States
- 51 News from the World of Medicine
- 54 All in a Day's Work
- 74 Laughter, the Best Medicine
- 86 Laugh Lines
- 135 Word Power
- 138 Humor in Uniform
- 140 Quotable Quotes

**Everyday Heroes**  
**8 Couponing for Charity**  
 CLAIRE NOWAK

**12 Sergeant Turner's Ride Home**  
 ANDY SIMMONS

**VOICES & VIEWS**

**Department of Wit**  
**15 The Beach Is for the Birds**  
 P. J. O'Rourke makes a case against the seashore.  
 FROM THEDAILYBEAST.COM

**Words of Lasting Interest**  
**20 A Plea to America's Adults**  
 The well-being of children shouldn't be a political issue. Their success needs to be the common commitment of our national life.  
 ALMA AND COLIN POWELL

**Finish This Sentence**  
**28 You Know You're in America When ...**

P. 15



FROM TOP: KEITH DE LELLIS, NY; ILLUSTRATION BY NISHANT CHOKSI  
 FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW COHEN, ROBIN PHILLIPS

P. 40



**ART OF LIVING**

**33 Snap Dynamite Fireworks Photos**  
 JULIANA LABIANCA

**Inspiration**  
**36 Take Me Out to the Blackberry Patch**  
 ERNIE JOHNSON JR.  
 FROM THE BOOK UNSCRIPTED

**Food**  
**40 As American as Apple Pie?**  
 SIMRAN SETHI FROM NPR

**Health**  
**42 Homegrown Medical Mystery**  
 MARISSA LALIBERTE

**WHO KNEW?**

**124 You Say Tomato ...**  
 JOSH KATZ  
 FROM THE BOOK SPEAKING AMERICAN

**130 First Drafts of History**  
 These iconic American structures almost looked different.  
 BRANDON SPEKTOR

**On Our Cover**

**UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH**

"There had just been a spring storm, so I knew that Ostler Peak would be covered in snow that day. My grandfather and father took me here to fly-fish off Christmas Meadows trail when I was a boy. I had to wait until I turned 12—it was a rite-of-passage thing. Since then, I've taken my sons here, and this summer, I will take my grandson. Time is a river, with eddies and currents that draw our family together and bind us fast."

ROBIN PHILLIPS, 63

