



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

According to AARP, the return of daylight saving time brings a 6% first-week spike in fatal car crashes.

Pedestrian deaths in the USA hit a 28- year high in 2018, according to new estimates that suggest the nation's SUV boom is becoming increasingly deadly. The Highway Safety Association reports that the number of pedestrian deaths involving SUV's increased by 50% from 2013 through 2017 and the number of pedestrian deaths caused by passenger cars increased 30%. Other factors that contributed to the increase may include more people walking to work, insufficient pedestrian road crossings, speeding, drowsy driving, drinking and population growth in some areas. California had the highest estimated number of pedestrian deaths with 432, and state with the lowest number was New Hampshire with 1.

A dozen states are testing mobile or digital driver's licenses that operate on smartphones according to the American Association of Motor Administration that issue such licenses. The first state to test the system was Iowa in 2015.

How insurance rates are determined. Snow, ice storms and other local weather traits affect accident claim rates in your region (Zip Code). Data on the amount of car-related crime that occurs in your area, medical and litigation costs and car repair as rates are higher in some zip codes, your history of claims, car accidents and moving violations play a big part in determining your rate. A DUI can increase your rate for up to ten years. Statistics show that those who drive lots of miles are most likely to have an accident. Car choice also helps to determine rates, it may cost more to repair some models more than other models and as vehicles get older, replacement parts are difficult to find. Last, age is a major factor in determining rates. But people 16 to 24 have the most crashes, but

insurance companies have statistics on their side to allow higher premiums for older drivers. Rates often spike once people hit 70.

Tesla has announced that it has reached its goal to sell the Model 3 for \$35,000, but it will only be available on line. It will close its retail outlets, but the ones with high traffic volume will be converted to information centers. Other cuts in the company costs have also reach its goals.

Auto theft experts say that a rising number of drivers leaving their key fobs inside their vehicles is leading to increased rates of auto theft, but Hyundai is introducing a “Digital Key” that allows users to unlock and start their new Hyundai vehicle via their smartphone.

Sad News! Volvo plans to impose a speed limit of about 112 miles per hour on all of its vehicles beginning in 2020. Everybody wants to drive faster than 112.

Legislation to require the issuance of a single license plate for motor vehicles in Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New Hampshire and Texas, has recently been introduced and may have been approved at this time.

Many cities are establishing strict rules of use of “electronic” scooters and bikes.

Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They were recently introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ALABAMA

Gov. Ivey has called state lawmakers into a special session, forced on her proposal to raise the gas tax to fund road and bridge construction, passed the legislation that increased the gas tax by 10 cents per gallon.

ARKANSAS

The state House has approved a plan to raise taxes and tap into expected casino revenue to generate more than \$300 million a year for the state’s highways.

CALIFORNIA

There are still many complaints about the long wait times at DMV offices. Many say if you make an on-line appointment, you still have a long wait at DMV offices.

Several California cities have received grants to pay for programs that benefit seniors such as ride share programs so they do not have to get behind the wheel, on demand flat fee car and bike service, increased older adult use of public transportation and improved crosswalks and longer signal light times for seniors crossing streets.

CONNECTICUT

State lawmakers are considering whether or not, to require motorcycle riders to wear helmets.

The state is considering instituting electronic highway tolls, an issue pushed hard by the Gov., but is facing opposition in the Legislature and state motorists.

DELAWARE

The state is considering whether to levy road taxes by continuing to tax gasoline purchases or by sending monthly bills based on mileage driven by car owners.

HAWAII

Lawmakers are considering legislation that would impose fines on trespassing hikers who require rescue.

State officials say it will be at least five months before the Pali Highway on Oahu, will be repaired and reopened, following a landslide last year.

IDAHO

Legislation to create a “Pet Friendly” license plate with the money going to pay for spray or neutering pets owned by low-income families, has been introduced.

INDIANA

The car news website, Autowise, published its annual pothole map showing which states complain most about potholes and Indiana was rated number one in the survey.

The state DMV is now offering driver’s licenses and state ID cards with a non-binary gender option.

IOWA

The city of Des Moines has tripled their pothole repair efforts after receiving more than 1,000 complaints in February.

KENTUCKY

Crews have begun installing signs that say Interstate 165 along Natcher Parkway.

MAINE

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would require horse-drawn buggies to have reflectors or lights at night.

MICHIGAN

A state House Transportation has approved a bill that would rename a portion of M-10 in Detroit better known as the Lodge Freeway for Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

MINNESOTA

Transit officials envision 200,000 electric vehicles cruising down the state's roads in about a decade. The 2030 goal of the state's Dept. of Transportation plan is to tackle climate change and move away from fossil fuels.

MONTANA

Missoula officials expect construction to begin the first week of March on a new pedestrian bridge on the city owned conservation lands on an island in the Clark River.

NEVADA

A company backed by tech billionaire Musk moved a step closer in mid- March to building tunnels for an express transit system at a massive Vegas convention center despite some local opposition.

The Las Vegas DMV offices have begun an appointment program that allows people with DMV needs, to make an appointment on line and not have to wait in long lines at DMV offices. At present, it is only available in the Las Vegas area but may be state wide soon.

SB 474 would make changes affecting licensing for teenage drivers, increasing the required hours of supervised experience needed to obtain a license and raise the age of those affected to 19.

NEW JERSEY

The state Turnpike Authority will have to provide evidence to show why it raised its E-ZPass violation fee from \$25 to \$50, under a ruling by a state appeals court.

NEW MEXICO

A bill requiring the issuance of two license plates (front & rear) has introduced in the legislature. A similar measure failed last year.

NORTH CAROLINA

A federal court judge will hear motions in a lawsuit over a state law that mandates the revocation of a driver's license for unpaid traffic tickets even if the driver can not afford to pay the fine. Several groups sued in May, seeking to declare law unconstitutional.

NORTH DAKOTA

The state's House has endorsed legislation that would charge owners of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles an annual fee.

The state Senate doesn't believe the aesthetics of sports cars are ruined by a front license plate and killed a house bill that would have exempted such vehicles from displaying a front license plate.

RHODE ISLAND

The operator of the state's first self-driving shuttle service says it'll also be the first in the U.S to integrate with public mass transit.

TEXAS

HB1755 will define an assembled vehicle as a passenger car or light truck that has been altered from its original construction and may be assembled from various parts of various vehicles and kits regardless whether the vehicle is constructed for both recreational off-road or on-road use is making its way thru the Legislature.

A racial profiling report by Austin city police shows that black and Hispanic drivers were pulled over in traffic stops were more than twice as likely to be searched as white drivers.

WASHINGTON

A 23-mile stretch of Highway 530 between Arlington and Darrington, will be renamed to honor and remember the 43 people killed in a landslide 5 years ago and will be known as the Oso Slide Memorial Highway.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE ??

According to car-buying advice site, Edmonds, new vehicles hit an all-time cost of more than \$36,000 and the average monthly payment was \$551 per month for 69 months.

The number of stations selling fuel for less than \$2 per gallon is shrinking, due to spring price hikes. The national average price of gas jumped 17 cents in February to \$2.45 per gallon according to AAA. In California, the average is \$3 or more per gallon.

In the first quarter of 2018, Uber raked in \$11.8 billion in revenue, but more than \$8 billion, was required to pay drivers. Uber, Lyft and Waymo are investing heavily in self-driving technology. Sensors and software for their self-driving cars do not demand salaries, benefits, time off or have human errors and that is why all three companies are investing money in new technology.

A recent survey shows the average car repair cost is between \$500 and \$600.

Special thanks to J.A. for the following info on how to be a smart car owner. Some common household items can come in handy when dealing with minor car problems. A toilet bowl plunger can help pull out small dents, a staple remover can pry open a stubborn key ring, hand sanitizer can deice door locks and a rubber band threaded through the AC vent will hold your phone and cupcake liners will help keep your cup holders clean. If you are driving, a rental or borrowed car, need gas, but not sure which side the gas tank is on, look at the gas tank icon on the dash, there is a little arrow pointing to the right or left.

Today's new cars come with dazzling technology (advanced driver assistance systems) to help you stay safe on the road. They include such items as blind spot warning and automatic braking systems are just a few. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety says systems like this could prevent nearly 30% of traffic deaths if used properly. When purchasing a new vehicle, ask the dealer about how the systems are used and have them give you in-vehicle training on how to use them before you leave the dealers lot. Remember the systems are adjuncts, not replacements for your vigilance. Blind spot warning devices can miss vehicles

passing at high speeds. Remember, the car does not drive it's-self. It needs your control.

According to Uber, the top five cities where passengers left someone in the Uber vehicles are: East Alabama, Gallup, N.M., Cookeville, Tenn, Mississippi Delta, Boone, N.C. Items range from food to a dog, false teeth, a propane tank, and photos are just a few of the items/

Engineers are testing a radically different type of mass transit. One that aims to move people and cargo in small wheel-less pods in a vacuum tube at speeds that could exceed 600 mph. Thirty-five miles north of the Las Vegas Strip, a 1640-foot-long, 11-feet high-tube, has been used for hundreds of test runs with an empty pod that in one test accelerated to 240 mph. The name of the company is Virgin Hyperloop One. There also several other companies working on the same concept.



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