

## OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

### PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

**Arrivo, a hyper-loop company, has announced a partnership with Colorado transportation officials to create a network of roadside tubes at the congested heart of Denver that promises to whisk drivers and their cars to their destinations at speeds of up to 200 mph. The system involves above or below ground vacuum sealed tubes, inside which magnetically levitated pods can travel up to 700 mph. The company plans to invest between \$10 and \$15 million next year to build a test track and an engineering and tech center in the Denver area. One of the partners in the Colorado plan is E-470 which also operates a 75-mile, user-financed toll road near Denver. Arrivo also is building a test track near Las Vegas.**

**The National Park Service is considering steep increases at 17 of its most popular parks, most in the west. The Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Zion and some other national parks would charge \$70 per vehicle, up from the current rate of \$30 for a weekly pass. At others, the rise is nearly triple, from \$25 to \$75.**

**Wisconsin highway planners are studying the possibility of pacing driverless vehicles lanes on I-94 to serve Foxcom's mega factory in Racine County, which will employ up to 13,000 people. The highway is in the process of a bump from 6 lanes to 8 lanes anyway. There are no immediate plans to add the driverless lanes. The state Dept. of Transportation says it is just one proposal on the table. There have been talks about dedicated lanes for self-driving cars in several states, but so far, only talk.**

**Uber has announced that it will purchase up to 24,000 Volvo XC90 SUVs equipped with autonomous technology as part of a deal from 2019 to 2021.**

**On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1957, Toyota Motor Sales opened in Hollywood, Ca, now there are dealers everywhere.**

**Was your car one? According to the Dept. of Justice, 765,484 motor vehicles were stolen in the U.S. in 2016.**

**Daimler's truck division, Fuso, says that their electric powered trucks have started making deliveries in Japan. They also say that the trucks will soon be used in the U. S. by the 7-11 grocery chain and U.P.S. U.P.S. has started testing the vehicles in California.**

**Many businesses and government agencies are making charging stations accessible to disabled persons who drive electric vehicles. Logistically, this can end up meaning that nearly all EV spaces are adjacent to handicapped spaces.**

**Federal law prevents vehicles other than school busses to be painted "school bus yellow". During the first week of November, the Thomas School Bus company, a subsidiary of Daimler, unveiled an electric school bus that has a 100 mile range.**

**Consumer Reports say that Acura, Cadillac, Volvo, Tesla and Lexus cars dashboard's are the most distracting due to many gadgets such as GPS, cell phones, radio controls, lane controls and other various items. Ford and GM have the least distracting dashboards.**

**In the second week of November, Tesla opened two "super" charging stations in California. One is in Kettleman City, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The other one is in Baker which is between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The one in Baker is the largest charging station in the U.S.**

**Tesla has unveiled its new Space X electric semi-truck which can work in a three truck convoy. The trucks will be tested by Wal Mart. No dates have been announced as to when the vehicles will be available for testing.**

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

## **ALASKA**

**Federal officials are proposing a 200-mile road connecting Northwest Alaska with the Dalton Highway.**

## **ARIZONA**

**Gov. Ducey wants the federal government to let the state partner with private businesses to build new facilities at highway rest stops.**

## **CALIFORNIA**

**On January 1, 2018, vehicle registration fees will increase due to the new vehicle value fee based on the current value as determined by DMV. The following vehicles are exempt from the fee increase: commercial vehicles with a laden weight of more than 10,000 lbs, non-op vehicles and vehicles with historical plates.**

**Electric vehicle sales in California amount to less than 5% of the state's overall total car sales.**

**Two state DMV employees have been charged in federal court of accepting bribes to alter DMV computer records to provide truck-driving licenses to people who had not passed or, in some cases, not even taken the written or behind-the-wheel driving exams.**

**Cities and counties are allowed to post speed limits in residential areas. In California, a residential area is 13 homes within a quarter mile area.**

**CALTRANS is doing road improvement work throughout the state. That includes better signs, rumble strips and wider road lane markings.**

**Got a parking ticket in Sacramento? City officials say they accidentally issued an undetermined number of parking meter tickets during a 16-day period in October when the city's mobile app cell service went down. The city is asking people who got tickets Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, while using the city's parking meter app, to contact the city to determine whether the citation was issued incorrectly.**

**The California State Public Utilities Commission has decided that ride-sharing employees do not have to be fingerprinted. Taxi drivers are generally required to be fingerprinted.**

## **COLORADO**

**Trail Ridge Road in the Rocky Mountain National Park is closed to thru-traffic for the winter.**

## **D.C. - WASHINGTON**

**The National Park Service has denied a request by a group that wanted to place R-Evolution, a 45-foot statue of a naked woman, on the National Mall.**

**Suburban Washington commuters are getting relief along the Interstate 95 corridor. A \$50 million Express Lanes project is wrapping up ahead of schedule.**

## **ILLINOIS**

**A \$1.2 federal grant will allow development of a 26-mile off-road trail system at the Sahara Woods State Fish and Wildlife area.**

## **IOWA**

**Des Moines city officials are considering turning most one-way downtown streets into two-way streets.**

## **LOUISIANA**

**The replacement for a bridge washed out during the August 2016 has opened to traffic. The \$2.1 million Beaver Creek Bridge rebuild, took 15 months to finish.**

## **MARYLAND**

**The city of Baltimore is failing to collect thousands of dollars in parking fines under a new law raising the penalty for parking in a bus lane or in front of a bus stop from \$75 to \$250.**

**An overhaul of Route 104 expanded an 11.3 mile stretch of the road from two lanes to a four lane divided highway.**

## **MAINE**

**The state Dept. of Transportation is spearheading a project to make roads safer for pedestrians.**

## **MICHIGAN**

**The Macomb County Sheriff's office has received grants for a year - long alcohol compliance enforcement checks.**

## **MISSOURI**

**A 2004 ballot initiative hasn't generated as much money as projected for state roads and bridges.**

## **NEBRASKA**

**A Omaha ordinance that took effect in early November has closed dozens of the city's medians to pedestrians and panhandlers.**

**Three more miles of trails will be built in Omaha to connect an existing network to trails west of Interstates 680 and 80.**

## **NEVADA**

**Caesars Entertainment will stop offering free self-parking for Nevada residents as of 11/1 at seven of its hotel-casinos on the Strip. It is not clear how this affects local rental cars that have Nevada plates.**

**Crews have begun installing the first set of safety posts in the second week of November designed to keep pedestrians safe. Officials say the steel posts are capable of withstanding impact from a 15,000 pound vehicle traveling at 55 mph.**

**Clark County (Las Vegas area) Commissioner Giunchigliani is proposing banning private vehicles from cruising on the Strip from Mandalay Bay to the Stratosphere. Taxis, ride share vehicles and busses would be allowed as a means to end traffic congestion. Plans for an emergency vehicle lane are being considered.**

## **NEW MEXICO**

**A Santa Fe man is facing an 11<sup>th</sup> DWI charge after allegedly leading police in a high-speed chase 10 hours after his release from jail on an earlier DWI conviction.**

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**The State Highway Patrol says it's transitioning from white to black patrol vehicles. Authorities say darker patrol cars are more visible during the snowy months.**

**The state Dept. of Transportation is adding 32 snow plows to improve road clearing.**

## **OHIO**

**Cuyahoga County is considering installing license plate scanners at intersections to help police find vehicles used during crimes.**

**State Rep. Bill Seltz has introduced a bill that would offset revenue cities from traffic cameras by reducing the same amount from its state funding.**

## **OKLAHOMA**

**Oklahoma City, where marking meters were born more than eight decades ago, is phasing out the coin operated devices and replacing them with electronic units.**

**The state Transportation Commission has approved a plan that calls for repairing or replacing nearly 400 county bridges and improving hundreds of miles of county roads over the next five years.**

## **OREGON**

**A nonprofit group is restoring the historic Tourist #2 ferry near Astoria in hopes it can be used for river excursions.**

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**St. Mary's city police are waving traffic violations in the hope that people will donate toys instead. The Cops for Kids program will donate the toys to the Project Gift for Elk County.**

**State lawmakers are working on legislation to permit municipal police to use radar to catch speeders.**

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**The state DMV wants to levy a \$250 late fee to restore vehicle registrations if their safety inspections have lapsed.**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Officials say hunters who use road signs to site rifles are costing Lawrence County ab a year to replace them.**

## **TENNESSEE**

**An upgrade of a road considered to be one of the state's oldest unfinished highways, is nearing completion. Authorities say a final 16-mile stretch of Foothills Parkway is expected to open by December 2018. They may mean 2017 but unable to confirm.**

## **TEXAS**

**The state has notified 127 gas stations that they were guilty of price gouging during the Hurricane Harvey emergency and will be fined.**

## **UTAH**

**State transportation officials are proposing expanding Valley View Parkway (Logan area) from two lanes to four lanes.**

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

**The Fallen Highway Workers Memorial was unveiled at the I-77 Welcome Center in late October.**

**The state Parkway Authority is seeking corporate sponsors for the 88-mile West Virginia Turnpike.**

### **WHAATSUPP HERE AND THERE**

**X-Lite is a company that makes highway guardrails and barriers in most states. Now some states say the guardrails do not protect drivers involved in crashes as expected and some states have stopped using X-Lite.**

**Have You?? According to a survey by Jiffy Lube, 34% of American car owners name their cars.**

**The National Sleep Foundation has launched a campaign to make drivers more aware of “Drowsy Driving” which has increased in the past five years. Drowsiness impairs judgement, performance, and reaction time just like alcohol and drugs. In 2014 in California, there were 4.693 collisions involving sleepy or fatigued drivers. That number increased to 6.930 in 2016. Over the same time span, collisions resulting in deaths from drowsy driving climbed to 47 in 2016. Other states have also seen an increase in deaths due to drowsy driving.**

**Will you get one?? Uber has announced a partnership with NASA to devise a plan to work together to develop a low-flying car by 2020.**

**Developers of an \$18 million project along historic Route 66 near Albuquerque say they are aiming for a December opening of the revamped El Vado Motor Lodge.**

**According to USA Today, Tesla has announced that they have hit a production snag, including difficulty assembling batteries that power the Model 3. Several thousand people have placed refundable deposits for the vehicle, but anyone placing an order now is unlikely to receive a vehicle until 2019 or maybe later.**

**No Range riding! A woman in Florida riding a horse down a busy Florida highway was arrested and charged with DUI. Authorities say Donna Byrne registered a blood alcohol level of .161. Should the offense be RWI (riding while intoxicated)?**

**Larry Becker**

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