



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Over 112.5 million people are expected to be traveling over the Christmas weekend and most of them will be on the highways.

A recent AAA report finds that 40% of Americans expect automated systems on many new vehicles to have the ability to drive the car its self. In recent tests, closed-course and on-road testing, evaluted performance in typical driving situations, behaved as expected, but there were a number of lane marker instances by these systems that caused an unpredictable maner, requiring driver intervention to avoid a possible collision. Some vehicles struggled when encounting scenarios with moderate traffic, curved driveways, and streets with busy intersections. Some vehicles expereinced issues like lane departures, hugging lane markers, “ping-ponging” within the lane. Inadequate braking, unexpected speed changes and inappropriate following distances. AAA did not release the names of the vehicles they tested.

After a woman was killed in an accident involving a Uber self-driving car earlier this year in Arizona, Uber stopped the testing program. In the 3rd week of December, Uber resumed testing their self-driving vehicles in Pittsburgh. At present, they will not exceed speeds of more than 25 mph and only be tested during daylight hours.

White House Advisor, Larry Kudloy has announced that the U.S. will exit subsidies for electric cars and other sources including renewable energy sources by 2000 or 2021.

Police in the San Francisco Bay area stopped a Tesla that was on auto-pilot. A police car got in front of the Tesla and started slowing down. The auto-pilot reduced its speed also and finally stopped. The police found the driver behind the wheel asleep, He was cited for DUI.

A driver in Westpoint, Connecticut was stopped and issued a \$300 citation for distracted driving, (using a cell phone while driving). Jason Stiber said he was not using a cell phone while driving, but was eating hashbrowns from McDonalds and that his phone records proved that he was not using his phone at the time. He contested the ticket in court, but lost. He appealed and has been granted a new trial set for Dec.7th.

The Autonomous Travel Suite is like a hotel room on wheels. The driverless mobile suite will have a sleeping area with mattresses, washroom facilities with a toilet and sitting shower, a space for working or entertaining and a small kitchen. It could hold up to five people. Designer Steve Lee says the Autonomous Travel Suite could be on the road by 2030.

A foreign Country!!! A District of Columbia clerk and a supervisor refused to accept a New Mexico man's state drivers license as he sought a marriage license because she and the supervisor believed New Mexico was a foreign country. Gavin Clarkson said that after approaching the clerk for a license and showing his New Mexico ID, the clerk told him that he needed an international passport to get the marriage license. He said he protested to a supervisor, who also told him that he needed a foreign passport. The clerk and supervisor finally concluded that New Mexico was a state after Clarkson objected three times. The clerk and supervisor must have missed history while in school!

On Dec. 18th, Elon Musk invited the media to a preview of his proposed underground hydro loop in Hawthorn, an area of Los Angeles. The media was given a ride in the two mile tunnel. Musk plans to have hydro tunnels all over Los Angeles some day that will transport vehicles at speeds of 150 mph, but the test vehicle only traveled about a mile and only reached a speed of approx 35 mph. Musk expects that 4,000 a cars a day at a cost of \$4 plus will use the tunnels. The tunnels will be restricted autonomous and electric vehicles. The cost of the tunnels is expected to be about \$100 to \$200 billion. No completion date has been announced.

Amazon is looking to bring the Alexa personal assistant to autos to help drivers with important tools like mapping, how to find the nearest gas station and other various aids and should be available in 2019.

A new study shows that more and more Americans are buying midsize pickups since the full size prices have increased. Midsize sales are up 17.6% through the first 10 months of 2018.

According to a survey by HNTB, 73% of Americans are willing to pay higher taxes and tolls to fund infrastructure costs to deduce traffic congestion.

Harley Davidson is recalling about 283,300 motorcycles world wide for a clutch problem, the forth recall for a clutch problem in 5 years. It includes all 2017 and 2018 Touring, Trike and CVO Touring models.

One in five U.S. motorcycle owners are women, up from 1 in 10 in 2009.

According to an article by AARP, charging time on the ChevyBolt varies depending on what type of chargers are used. After an hour of charging using household outlets, 120 volts, will add 4 miles of travel, 240 volt home chargers will add 25 miles of travel, a 240 volt commercial charger will add about 50 miles of travel and a high-speed commercial charger will add 180 miles of travel. Navigation systems and many other electronic

systems such as radio, heat and air conitioing, power seats, power windows and many other power items also effect mileage.

AARP says that keyless FOBs that unlocks your vehicle and start its with a push of a button poses risks. Crooks can find the signal it constantly sends and relays it from your home and through an amplifying device to open and start your vehicle. There are several ways to protect you from this and they can be on the internet, your local police dept and even your insurance carrier.

The cons of new car purchasing. If you purchase a small modest sedan for about \$30,000 and keep it ten years, it depreciates less than a \$75,000 luxury car, but very few people keep a vehicle for ten years.

Toyota is recalling more than 65,000 vehicles in the latest round of recalls related to the deadly Takata airbag defect. The cars are certain versions of the 2003-2005 Corolla, 2002-2005 Sequoia, 2003-2005 Trunda and 2002-2005 Lexus SC. The recall is part of the largest recall in U.S. history, affecting 37 million vehicles.

A Tesla owner in the San francisco Bay area noticed that his Tesla Model E showed low tire pressure and had it towed to a garage. While at the garage, it caught on fire but the garage employess were able to put out the fire. The owner had it towed to a second garage, but it caught on fire again, but the employees were able to put out the fire also. The owner has contacted Tesla who is investigating why the fire.

In December, AAA reported the national average for a gallon of gas was \$2.37 per gallon. In California, Washington State, and a few other western states, the cost ranged from \$2.85 to over \$3.

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.

Many states will have new traffic laws that take effect in 2019.

ALABAMA

A couple of local police Depts. Played good cop during the Christmas season, stopping vehicles and giving gifts instead of tickets, as long as the drivers were not on any naughty list.

CALIFORNIA

The state DMV has done it again. Due to an error at the DMV , the agency failed to transmit 589 voter records before the November election. Of that toltal, 260 were only trying to change their address and the DMV is also facing an audit about long

wait times at its office. DMV director Jean Shiomoto said she plans to retire by the end of the year.

COLORADO

State transportation officials say Los Angeles based Arrivo, has backed out of plans to build and test a futurist “hype loop” transit system east of Denver.

DELAWARE

A new brewery in Wilmington opened recently and their slogan is “You do the drinking and We do the driving”. No further details are available at this time.

GEORGIA

A wild place to go! A new study from WalletHub, rates Atlanta as the “Most Sinful” City in America.

New parking changes may be headed Atlanta’s way after the city council voted to put more restrictions on the booting industry.

Amid concerns that electric scooters being dumped all over the city pose a danger to the public, the city of Athens has temporarily banned them.

KANSAS

The state is recalling hundreds of vehicle license plates because they contain “JAP” in the wake of complaints that they are offensive to Japanese-Americans.

Public Works employees of Kansas City are testing a “three dimensional” crosswalk in one neighborhood. While it looks like a typical crosswalk from a distance, the blocks appear to float in the air when drivers get closer.

MASSACHUSETTS

The state is extending its electric vehicle rebate program through June 30th, 2019.

MICHIGAN

The state Senate has given final approval to a bill that eliminates a tinted-window ban for cars, citing new technology and the need to filter out the sun’s heat and harmful ultraviolet rays.

MISSISSIPPI

The Tupelo Automobile Museum is closing in January. The co-founder says it's no longer "sustainable" to operate.

NEBRASKA

Big Goof. The state's newest travel guide mistakenly features a picture of a Christmas celebration at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri.

NEVADA

Drivers have hit and killed 34 bears on Nevada roads so far this year, making it the second deadliest year for bears on record, according to state data.

NEW MEXICO

A new proposal moving through Congress seeks to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

NEW YORK

The New York City police department has shown off its first fleet of drones. NYPD says they won't be used for routine patrol or traffic enforcement at this time.

OHIO

A bill has been passed by state legislature to define unsafe used tires and prohibiting installation. A unsafe used tire would have a tread of under 2/32 inches, damaged that exposes componets, such as body plies, improper repairs or missimng the U.S. Dept. of Transportation ID number. The Gov. signed the bill into law the second week of December.

OREGON

The state Dept of Transportation is examing the possibility of charging tolls on a 7-mile stretch of Interstate 5 near downrown Portland. Department officials say its too early to say how much the tolls would cost.

RHODE ISLAND

The state is finally offering residents the option to request to upgrade their driver's license to meet federal requirements that will affect air travel.

The state Dept. of Transporation will soon begin renumbering more highway exits to conform with federal standards.

TENNESSEE

A group of residents in Whiteville is collecting signatures in an effort to get the state to offer license plates commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.

TEXAS

The state DMV has denied a Confederate group's latest attempt to create a specially license plate honoring Confederate soldiers.

UTAH

Utah will implement the strictest DUI laws in the U.S. starting Dec. 31th by lowering the legal standard for DUI from the nationally recognized .08 to .05, a move that comes 35 years after the state was among the first to move away from a .10 legal limit.

WASHINGTON

After a year of promising faster ferry service between Kingston and Seattle, Kitsap Transit has delivered.

WYOMING

Select roads in Yellowstone National Park have opened to the public for motorized oversnow travel.

WHATTSUPP HERE AND THERE

A Christmas bonus. On Dec. 13th, a malfunction on the back-door of an armored Brink's truck spilled money on the highway in East Rutherford, New Jersey causing a traffic jam as drivers stopped and attempted to grab the money. Yahoo reports that \$500K was spilled on the roadway and \$300K was still missing the next day. Police hope to track down drivers who took money.

Something that your grandchildren never knew existed! In 1889, the first Jukebox made its debut in San Francisco at the Palace Royale Saloon. Most kids nowadays do not know what a Jukebox was.

A group is talking about building a railroad line with daily service from Victoville, Ca. to Las Vegas, Nevada. Not too many details are available at this time.

According to USA Today, Americans continued to abandon passenger cars in November transitioning rapidly into crossovers, SUV's and pickups as automakers increasingly catered their products to shifting driver preferences.

Waymo has begun pre-approving passengers in the Chandler, Az area for rides in its self-driving ride-share service. No information on the cost of the service has been announced at this date. Waymo says that it will cover a large area of Chandler, Mesa, Tempe and Gilbert and that it will expand. Waymo has placed orders for 62,000 more Chrysler Pacifica Hyrid mini-vans and 20,000 Jaguar I-Pace electric vehicles this year that it says will be used to expand the ride service in the coming years.

A report by USA Todays

says that older headlights pose major safety concerns. At an average of 11 years old, the typical vehicle on the road today is generating only 22% of the light that it did when headlights were new according to AAA. The automotive safety and insurance firms are advising owners of old older vehicles, to get their lights replaced to achieve maximum performance. Restortation helps, but does not return headlights to their orginal output.

Just what you need! Ford has developed dog kennels that can cancel noise. The innovative dog kennel uses Ford technology to create a quiet space for stressed dogs. Have you ordered yours yet??

Larry Becker

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