

## OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

### PLUS WHAATSUP HERE AND THERE

**According to a recent article by Consumer Reports, American love to drive. More than 75% of adults carry a driver's license, including 40 million who are 65 and older. But driving is more than just a passion or a pastime, it's a lifeline. Research has shown that giving up driving, increases a person's mortality risk and makes seniors more likely to land in nursing homes and suffer from depression. Yet the average American man outlives his ability to drive by six years and the average American woman driver by 10 years.**

**According to a recent report by NBC News, more accidents are caused by the use of prescription drugs than by the use of alcohol.**

**Pedestrian deaths rose by 12% from 2006 to 2015 and bicycle deaths rose by 12% 2005 to 2015 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.**

**In May of 2016, a driver of a Tesla self-driving car was killed in Florida after hitting a truck. On June 20, 2017, the National Highway Traffic safety Administration issued a report stating that the driver had received 7 visual alerts and 6 audible ones before hitting the truck. The driver had used the vehicle's self-driving system for 37.5 minutes of the 41 minutes of his trip. During the time that the self-driving system was activated, he had his hands on the wheel for a total of only about a half-minute, investigators concluded. He was also traveling at 74-mph , above the 65-mph limit on the road, where he collided with the truck.**

#### **ALABAMA**

**A major bridge that runs into downtown Birmingham will be under construction and closed for almost 13 months. Motorists are asked to use alternative routes.**

#### **ALASKA**

**Save a buck or two. Hikers no longer need a permit to trek along the Termination Point Trail on Kodiak Island. The Native Corporation, Leisnoi, has given the land's conservation easement to the borough according to KMXT-FM.**

## **ARKANSAS**

**Little Rock officials have reopened a ramp off Little Rock's Broadway Bridge that was closed last year. The state had torn down the previous Broadway Bridge, that was deemed structurally deficient and replaced it with a \$98.4 million span this spring.**

**State Transportation officials have opened a bid of \$29.7 million to resurface a section of Interstate 40.**

## **CALIFORNIA**

**Hwy 1, which has been closed many times over the past few years due to storm damage, may be carved into a new route, but engineers say it will take time.**

**As of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, there were 31 accidents involving self-driving cars in California. Most of these accidents were the result of being rear-ended by other vehicles. As of April 17, 2017, there have been 30 permits issued in California for testing of self-driving vehicles on public roadways.**

**Senate Bill 493 would decrease the fine for rolling right turns at red lights from \$540 to \$280 and is authored by Sen. Jerry Hill.**

**CHP's new slogan to help increase seat belt use is, "Do it for your family. Buckle up".**

**Prosecutors have charged a San Francisco man with fraudulent applications for disabled parking placards – some of which they say sold for \$1,000.**

**Poor Gas Mileage!! In San Rafael, a 36-year-old man who panhandled for gas money was seen pouring the fuel into a Ferrari, has been charged with stealing the luxury vehicle.**

## **CONNECTICUT**

**Legislation to increase the age requirement of an antique, rare or special-interest motor vehicle from 20 years old or older, to 30 years old or older has been amended to remove all restrictions on these hobby vehicles. It also removes language that would have the maximum property tax assessment of any antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from \$500 to \$1,000.**

**Figured balance wrong? A Connecticut man may get five years in jail. He bought a 1967 Chevy Corvette and a 1969 Chevy Nova Super Sport and paid by check. The only problem was that he did not have any money in the bank to cover the check.**

**Safe Speed!! A woman faces multiple charges after police say she was driving 25 mph on Interstate 95 near Old Saybrook.**

## **HAWAII**

**The Honolulu City Council may raise parking prices and expand enforcement hours to raise \$4 million for a rail project.**

## **ILLINOIS**

**Lake County is offering a break to motorists who let the deadline to pay their traffic tickets come and go. People, who have parking tickets in the county, are being given the chance to settle up for the original cost of the ticket.**

## **INDIANA**

**The state plans to assume control of the Interstate 69 extension project three years after hiring a private developer for it. The takeover idea comes with the project's fourth delayed completion date, which was announced the first week of June. The state will assume control as of 7/31/2017.**

**Gravel roads in rural Davies County recently paved with asphalt to boost economic development are being damaged by horse teams used by the region's large Amish population.**

## **KANSAS**

**After 16 years of planning, the longest hiking trail in Kansas is open for public use. The 90-mile Flint Hills Nature Trail could expand to 117 miles in the future, The Wichita Eagle reports.**

**Watch that bike! The city of Lawrence is cracking down on illegally parked bicycles, the Lawrence Journal World reports. Citing sidewalk congestion, officials plan to start tagging bikes that are chained to trees, light poles, fire hydrants and traffic signs.**

## **LOUISIANA**

**Traffic camera enforcement may be on hold for a while in Lafayette while the city negotiates for a vendor to manage the program. Meantime, officials will keep taking photos and tracking violations.**

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**A road washed out by the remnants of Hurricane Irene nearly six years ago has finally reopened after years long battle between feds and the state over the cost. About 80 vehicles a day used the road before the storm. The repairs cost \$7 million.**

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Drivers bogging down traffic in the left lane in North Carolina could face a \$20 fine under a new bill being considered by lawmakers.**

## **NEVADA**

**The 19-square-mile Walker River State Recreation Area is expected to soon become Nevada's newest state park. The Interim Finance Committee will consider the request on June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## **NEW JERSEY**

**Engineers are inspecting the area where a construction fire closed both spans of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, halting traffic between New Jersey and Delaware. Sparks from welding, ignited construction material underneath the bridge, which is a key link for heavily-traveled Interstate 95. This occurred in the second week of June.**

## **NEW YORK**

**Smarts? Transportation officials have backed off a demand that Hermon-Dekald schools remove the animal decals that helps kindergartners find their buses. Officials cited a law prohibiting signs on buses, but it is aimed at advertising.**

## **OKLAHOMA**

**Transportation officials say that a decision by state lawmakers to divert about \$150 million in road and bridge funding is expected to delay starting some projects. But ongoing construction projects won't have to be suspended, as initially feared.**

## **OREGON**

**Gov. Kate Brown has signed into law legislation to allow a military vehicle the opportunity to be registered as "special interest vehicle."**

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**State officials are promoting a plan to spend more than \$3 billion in the coming decade to continue the rehabilitation of the Interstate 95 corridor in and near Philadelphia.**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Tastes great on a hot day! Charleston officials want state regulators to reconsider if frozen ice pops made with alcohol should be treated**

**like beer and liquor instead of food. The Post Courier reports that a business called Booze Pops is selling frozen alcohol pops from a van along with non-alcoholic treats for children.**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Motorists cited by the South Highway Patrol are driving faster since state lawmakers increased the maximum highway speed limit to 80 mph in April 2015. Data analyzed by the Argus Leader shows that prior to the increase, motorists ticketed in 75 mph zones were on an average driving 86 mph. Since the increase, the average speed ticketed in the 80 mph zones increased to 88 mph.**

**Traffic signals in Sioux Falls that intended to smooth traffic and improve safety appeared to have slightly increased the number of crashes.**

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**State lawmakers are considering an automatic voter registration bill. It would add to the voting rolls someone getting a driver's license or interacting with other state agencies, unless the person opts out.**

**A great deal! State tourism commissioner has added prizes, such as golf and a two-night cabin retreat for tweets, posts, selfies and other photos telling people about the state that will celebrate its 154<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 20<sup>th</sup>. (Too bad I don't know what a tweet, post or selfie is).**

# WHAATSUP HERE AND THERE

**The U.S. Dept. of Transportation bans pot use for transportation workers from airline pilots to school bus drivers even tho pot use is legal in some states. Federal agencies can also restrict contractors doing federal government business for allowing marijuana by workers –even in legal cannabis states.**

**GM is extending the warranty on thousands of old cars and SUV's after the government began investigating complaints that the headlights can suddenly go dark.**

**A investigation by John Angwin, Jeff Lawson, Lauren Kirchner and Surya of ProPublica in conjunction with Consumer Reports found that consumers in minority neighborhoods are charged as much as 30% more on an average for car insurance than in other neighborhoods with similar accident-related costs.**

**About 44% of Americans say they would not be comfortable riding in a self-driving vehicle.**

**On May 26<sup>th</sup>1927, Henry Ford and his son Edsel, drove the 15<sup>th</sup> millionth Model T out of their factory.**

**According to a survey by Travelers Insurance Company, 48% of passengers say they always or often speak up when the driver is distracted by a cellphone.**

**In a big shake-up move, Uber has fired Anthony Levandowski, the star engineer who once led Uber's ambitious self-driving project and a central figure in its battle with Google's Waymo over trade secrets. The company president has also resigned.**

**Did you go to one? June 6<sup>th</sup> was National Drive-in movie day.**

**Not a great idea!! A resident of Tiverton, Rhode Island paved a road with unwashed clamshells. The uncleaned shells had meat still attached, leading to putrid smell. A video showed maggots crawling on the road. Residents say the smell was BAD.**

**In Michigan, students constructed a Ford Dayton Coupe from more than 1,000 parts by 50 Breithaupt Career and Tech Center students.**

**In 2019, Ford plans to move production of its Focus cars to China. Officials in Miami Fla report that a Uber driver was given a \$250 ticket for not speaking English. The city has a regulation that drivers of ride apps must be able “to communicate” in the English language.**



*Larry Becker*

*23 June 2017*