



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS



PLUS WHAATUUP HERE AND THERE

Uber has unveiled a new “emergency” button in its mobile app. The button connects riders directly with police via 911 and will soon be added to Uber’s mobile app. The app will automatically send a rider’s name and location to 911 dispatchers. It is now active in five cities and will soon expand to other cities.

The EPA has sent a proposal for new fuel-economy standards for cars and trucks to the Office of Management and Budget for review. The move is one of the required steps before a federal rule is adopted.

More problems for Tesla! On May 29th, a Tesla sedan on autopilot mode crashed into a parked police car in Laguna Beach, Ca. A Tesla SUV using the company’s semi-autonomous Autopilot system crashed into a California freeway barrier and killed the driver. In a report released by the National Transportation Safety Board on March 23rd, data from the vehicle shows that the Model X SUV did not brake or try to steer around the barrier in the 3 seconds before the crash. Tesla’s semi-autonomous driving system has come under questions from various agencies. On June 13th, Tesla announced that Tesla electric cars will offer “full self-driving features” in August. Also on June 13th, Tesla announced that it is cutting thousands of jobs, aiming to improve its finances amid a period of torrential losses as it accelerates production of its newest electric vehicles. Most of the cuts will be in salaried positions. Tesla is also involved in selling solar panels in Home Depot stores, but will end that and will focus on selling them through its own stores. The company is under pressure from investors to show bottom-line profitability.

To meet production quotas, Tesla has erected giant tents, 150 feet long and 53 feet tall as temporary assembly lines. The company goal is 5,000 vehicles per week, but was only producing 3,500 per week.

Tesla announced that it is working on plans for an electric pickup, but it may be three years or more away as it usually takes 3 to 5 years to develop a new vehicle from scratch.

The Boring Company founded by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has been selected to build a high-speed underground transportation system that it says will whisk passengers from downtown Chicago to O'Hare airport in minutes.

A report on the Uber accident that killed a pedestrian in Arizona in March shows that the back-up driver of the vehicle was viewing an electronic device seconds before hitting the pedestrian and could have stopped the vehicle in time.

Many ads for self-driving cars have small print at the bottom of the ad that says "vehicle cannot drive itself, but has many automated systems". The biggest concerns on self-driving cars is the "hand-off", the moment the computer realizes it needs a human to take over.

AAA says that the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day are the deadliest for teen drivers. More than 1,050 people were killed in crashes involving a teen driver in 2016. Between 9 p. m. and 5:00 a.m., 36% of all motor vehicle fatalities involving teens occur, according to the AAA foundation for traffic safety. One in 10 of all motor vehicle speed related fatalities involved a teen driver.

On June 6th, GM announced that it will offer hands-free highway driving capability on all of its Cadillac models beginning in 2020. The system, dubbed as Super Cruise, is currently available only on the CT6 luxury sedan.

Tesla is still having production problems and has quietly refunded a few thousand deposits for the new Model 3 according to info on the Internet.

According to David Greene of the National Academy of Sciences fuel economy committee, it is likely by 2025, electric vehicles will reach cost parity with internal combustion engine. Over time, charging time will get faster and costs will come down.

Kia is the latest company to issue a recall notice about airbag problems.

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

Gov. Walker has signed into law new spending bills, but rejected funding for a south-central Alaska bridge project.

ARIZONA

State officials say 481 drivers were arrested on suspicion of DUI driving during Memorial Day weekend.

The state is testing Thermal cameras to help stop wrong-way drivers. The cameras will be mounted on heavy traveled divided highways. The cameras will alert police if a driver is going in the wrong direction and the info will be posted on electric overhead signs warning drivers about the wrong-way driver.

Arizona has been named the deadliest state for pedestrians according to a recent study.

CALIFORNIA

The state has started issuing the new “digital” license plate in selected areas. The city of Sacramento has ordered new vehicles (24) and they will have the digital license plates, even the renewal costs will be higher. The mayor says he wants the city to be a leader in technology (big dreamer). Dealerships will begin selling the digital plates for \$699, not including installation costs, plus a monthly fee of about \$7.

A major bottleneck on Hwy 80 between Sacramento and Davis, a route to the San Francisco Bay area, is the Yolo Causeway, a three-mile elevated bridge with two lanes each way, used by thousands of commuters each day. There are several suggestions to the problem, from widening 16 miles of the freeway through Yolo and Solano Counties, adding a 3rd lane to the causeway or adding toll lanes are just a few. Cal Trans officials say it may be at least 4 years before any plans are approved and construction would start sometime between 2026 and 2030.

The builders of a new bridge in Madera County were ordered to start over because it did not meet the “level of quality for a work project” the LA Times reports.

Selected DMV offices in the state will be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month to help ease the long wait times due to the new Real-ID driver’s licenses and ID cards. The Saturday’s openings are not permanent.

COLORADO

The state’s highest elevation roads, The Mount Evans Highway, Independence Pass and the Tran Ridge Road opened on Memorial Day weekend.

As of July 1st, the cost for a state driver’s license will increase by one dollar.

DELAWARE

Due to rising fuel costs, Cape May-Lewis Ferry trips will cost an extra dollar through June.

A program to help state residents buy electric or hybrid vehicles has been extended until the end of 2019.

INDIANA

Jasper area officials have met with state officials in continuing efforts to get a limited access highway built to ease traffic congestion in the area.

The final link of the Lewis & Clark biking and hiking trail is on schedule for completion this year.

IOWA

Beware!! The Elm Street Bridge in Davenport has been closed due to signs of “widespread deterioration.”

Officials will offer a free ferry service across the Mississippi River near Sabula while crews replace a small bridge. The ferry service started in Mid-June.

KANSAS.

State transportation officials are beginning a pilot effort to determine how drones can be used for road design work.

Ten stretches of roadways in the state are being designated as memorial highways to honor fallen Kansas law enforcement officers.

MAINE

Officials say that \$25 million in federal funds has been earmarked for a connector road between Interstate 395 and Route 9.

MARYLAND

Maryland and the U.S. Dept of Interior are studying ways to ease congestion on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

MASSACHUSETTS

A tunnel to connect North Station and South Station would cost at least \$12 billion, a study said.

MICHIGAN

The \$20 million Canopy Walk in Whiting Forest is expected to open in October.

Driver’s would have to allow a “safe distance” when passing a bicyclist under bills that are expected to be signed into law.

MISSOURI

A report from the state attorney general shows that African-American drivers are 85% more likely to be pulled over than White drivers.

Residents will be able to vote on raising the state's gasoline tax this November.

NEBRASKA

Nearly 7,000 sets of forgotten personalized message license plates have accumulated at the Lancaster County Treasurer's office. Treasurer Andy Steb says it would cost about \$25,000 to research and notify every owner.

NEVADA

Las Vegas will add 600 new bollards (steel posts) along the Las Vegas Strip sidewalks to protect pedestrians from cars. The cost will be \$ 3.9 million.

Nevada will no longer require a doctor's approval to change the gender on driver's licenses or ID cards at the State's DMV offices which is working on an option for those who don't identify as male or female.

New insurance laws require drivers to carry at least \$25,000 in bodily injury per person, \$50,000 per crash and \$20,000 for property damage per week.

NEW JERSEY

The state Turnpike Authority has spent \$276,119 in legal fees in a four-year logo dispute with a pizza firm.

NEW YORK

The annual "Speed Week" crackdown on speeding and aggressive driving ended on June 13. Last year over 19,000 citations were issued, but no information on this year's total has been released.

NORTH CAROLINA

State officials say that it will take until the end of July before a landslide can be cleared that has closed part of Highway 9.

OHIO

On July 2nd, Ohio will start offering driver's licenses that comply with the new U.S. security regulations.

The state plans to study the use of drones to monitor traffic and roadway conditions.

OREGON

The city of Portland is considering rules to require businesses with drive-thru windows to serve customers on bicycles or foot.

State Police say fatal crashes are up 19% in the state from last year.

PENNSYLVANIA

Residents of Erie will soon be able to buying parking meter time through a phone app.

RHODE ISLAND

As of May 3rd, it will be illegal to use a hand-held communication device while driving in the state.

Trucks will have to start paying tolls when they drive through the state. The new fees took effect on June 4th.

Lawmakers have passed a bill that provides funds for maintenance of state roads.

“Dreamers” may still apply for state driver’s licenses and receive one if they pass the required DMV test.

TENNESSEE

Maintenance of 22 roads is being transferred from counties back to the state Transportation dept.

WASHINGTON

Washington State Parks have published their first comprehensive parks guide. No information has been released as to how to obtain the guide.

WEST VIRGINIA

The city of Charleston is considering a proposal to increase the monthly parking fees for state employees from \$20 to \$25.

WISCONSIN

The state will be receiving \$86 million less than it sought from the federal government for work on Interstate 94.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

No license renewal for him!! A car carrying Gov. Justice (West Virginia) and his wife was hit from behind at an intersection by a man accused of being under the influence of marijuana.

Free Drinks! Two trucks collided on Interstate 40 near North little Rock, Arkansas causing one to spill hundreds of mini-bottles of the whiskey fireball. There were many volunteers to help recover the bottles.

A Smart Move!! Florida authorities say Daryl Royal Riedel chugged a can of beer after being stopped for suspicion of drunk driving near Big Coppitt.

In New York State, 45% of the people do not drive to work, the highest in the U.S.

On June 6th, 1933, the Park-In Theaters opened in Camden, New Jersey, as the first patented drive-in movie theater in the U.S.

The states with the highest tax per gallon on gasoline are: Pennsylvania, California, Washington, Hawaii, New York and Indiana.

Big, Big Late Fees!! A U-Haul trailer in Polkville, New York that had been missing for 14 years has been returned. Fees and taxes were \$165,000, but the company does not plan to press charges.

The average price of a used car has hit a 13-year high, pushed up by a crush of late-model leased vehicles hitting the market, experts say. The average price of a used car in the first quarter of the year was \$19,657.

According to a survey by Shift Technologies, 58% of driver's do not know how to use all of the tech features in their cars.

A question asked and answered. Do car tires protect you from lightning? No, the car's metal frame does according to USA Today.

Facts and Trivia: In 1909, there were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads in the U.S. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. There were about 230 murders in the entire U.S.

Larry Becker

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READY FOR VACATION