



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

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.

After heavy storm damages in many states, Interstate roads, bridges, state and local roads have suffered serve damages. There may be road closures, detours and delays while the repairs are completed. Travelers should check road conditions before they begin their travel.

According to CBS's news show, 60 Minutes, there are over 7 million people in the U.S. who are behind in their vehicle loans.

Police and road crews, who respond to traffic accidents, say 71% of passing motorists slow down to take cellphone pictures of the accident.

After years of searching for a partner, Fiat Chrysler has finally found one. They have a deal with French auto maker, Renault, and we may see an electric Jeep someday soon. We can expect to see Renault return to selling vehicles in the U.S. Renault has been producing electric vehicles in Europe for some time.

More and more Americans are saying no to minivans and switching to SUV's. Minivans are celebrating their 35th year in 2019, but sales continue to decline. About a dozen minivans have been discontinued in the last decade and now only 5 are left in production, the Toyota Sienna, Honda Odyssey, Kia Sedona, Chrysler Pacifica and Dodge Grand Caravan. But Chrysler is expected to discontinue the Caravan in the coming years.

Some new vehicle safety features have confusing names. Automatic emergency braking systems are also called, Active Brake Assist, Pedestrian Protection or Smart Brake Systems. Blind Spot Warning may be called Active Blind Spot Detection, Blind Spot Information System or Lane Change Assistant, Forward-collision warning, may be Collison Prevention Assist, Proximity Warning Function. Each auto manufacturer has a special for the systems.

Ford is recalling more than 1.2 million Explorers that could be at risk of losing steering control. Models are from May 17, 2010 through July 2017. It is also recalling about

123,000 F-150 pickups equipped with 5-liter and 6.2 liter gas engines that were insufficiently repaired in a previous recall.

Mixed Bag! Parts for vehicle seats are produced at four different locations in the U.S. and at four locations in Mexico. The parts are sent back to plants in the U.S. mid-west where they are assembled and sent to vehicle manufactures for installation.

WARNING!! Don't get scammed. Scammers most times ask you to purchase gift cards and send them to the scammer. The Federal Trade Commission says that 26% of scammers asked for gift and read cards in 2018. Gift and read cards are like instant cash to a scammer. If an unknown caller asks you to buy a gift or read card and send it to them, once a scammer gets the card, they take all of the value off the card and there is no way to get it back.

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ALASKA

The National Park Service has completed a program to relieve traffic jams. A new elevated bridge and boardwalk across the Brooks River in Katmai National Forest has replaced a river-level bridge that was often closed to tourists.

ARKANSAS

In the next 10 years, traffic going through Texarkana will increase exponentially (?) due to interstate improvements. Planning for that needs to begin now, Curt Green with the I-49 coalition says.

ARIZONA

The city of Phoenix has renamed part of Merrill Street for boxing great Muhammad Ali, an area resident who died June, 2016.

CALIFORNIA

Be Prepared!!! On July 1, 2019 the state gas tax will increase by 5.6 cents per gallon raising the tax per gallon to 47.3 cents per gallon. In April 2017, then Governor Brown signed the bill to increase the gas tax. Highest gas tax in the states?

Many drivers are not aware of a new bill AB 1824, that went into effect January 2019, amended the excess exhaust-noise violation citation. No more "fix-it" tickets, now it results in an immediate fine.

Starting in 2023, Gov. Newsom has a plan that calls for California cities and counties that are not making plans to build affable housing near transit and job centers, to lose transportation money generated by the state's recent gas tax hike. It is one of his tactics to increase the building of affordable housing.

April was Distracted Driver Awareness month and the Highway Patrol reports that it issued 19,850 citations in the period to drivers who violated the state's hands-free cell phone law. In addition to phone use, serious distractions include eating, grooming, applying makeup, reaching for fallen items, using a vehicle touch screen, knobs, dials or buttons, changing clothes or any other tasks that take your eyes off the road.

California is one of the states that has seen their share of federal grants for roads, railroads and bridges shrink in the last two fiscal years. California's share of the grants, has fallen to less than half of what it was in 2015. Ten other states have also seen less grant money from TIGER, "Transportation Investing Generating Economic Recovery" and BUILD, "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" programs.

D.C. WASHINGTON

Tourists may find it harder to get that perfect picture of the White House after construction begins on a new 13-foot fence, almost double its current height, to help keep intruders out. The Secret Service says a \$64 million construction project will begin soon and include wider and stronger pickets.

DELAWARE

Black and white license plates are coveted in the state. They are reserved only for low-digit tag numbers, and people bid thousands of dollars for them. Yet, they suddenly seem to be everywhere, led by a surge in fake tags that has a citizen petition asking police to crack down.

FLORIDA

A stretch of Moon Lake Road near Port Richey was adopted by the Ku Klux Klan 25 years ago, is now being sponsored by a gay rights group, Pasco Pride.

HAWAII

Plagued by junked cars, Maui County has established a free vehicle disposal program.

ILLINOIS

More than a dozen crosswalks were painted rainbow colors in Chicago's "Boystown" area for June's LGBT pride activities.

A petition from hundreds of downtown workers in Carbondale has netted free parking for everyone in the area from July 1st through January 1, 2020.

INDIANA

The state is redesigning its driver's licenses and ID cards with improved security features aimed at protecting identities. The new design includes a laser-engraved photo in black and white. The birth date is now raised and tactile to ensure authenticity.

KENTUCKY

The Brookport Bridge, which connects Kentucky and Illinois, will remain closed about 5 months for more repairs. The Ohio River bridge has been closed since May 8th.

An analysis finds African Americans in the city of Louisville are disproportionately stopped and three times more likely to be searched than white drivers, despite a much higher incidence of contraband found with white drivers.

The Legislature has passed a bill aimed at cracking down on bridge toll violators and evaders.

LOUISIANA

OUCH! The Sheriff's Dept. in Mooringsport, says an alligator took a bite out of one of their patrol cars.

MAINE

Bar Harbor Bay Ferries have postponed a new service between Maine and Nova Scotia due to renovations of the terminal in Bar Harbor taking longer than expected.

MASSACHUSETTS

State leaders are again talking about legislation that would ban hand-held cell phone use by motorists.

MICHIGAN

An electronic program that notifies parents when their young drivers are pulled over is a system to notify parents in the event of a traffic stop is expanding across the state.

MISSOURI

A new report shows that black drivers in the state are 91% more likely than white drivers to be pulled over by police.

MONTANA

Glacier National Park has rolled out an on-line tool to help visitors find parking.

NEVADA

Las Vegas city officials have activated a program that lets people settle fines for parking with school supplies donations.

NEW MEXICO

Is it DWI or SWI? Police in Albuquerque say a Belen woman's arrest on suspicion of DWI while driving an electric scooter, is the first such arrest since the city allowed the vehicles on local streets in early May.

Albuquerque, the state's largest city, is embarking on upgrades to its portion of the historic Route 66 Highway. City officials are eyeing a \$2.3 million plan that would add medians, landscaping and lighting.

NEW YORK

The state will be the 13th to permit driver's licenses for immigrants who entered the country illegally under legislation passed by the state Assembly on June 12 2019.

NORTH DAKOTA

The Federal Highway Administration has approved construction of a bridge across the Little Missouri River even though some landowners are opposed to it.

OREGON

The Whitewater Trail, one of Oregon's most popular wildness trails, will stay closed into the beginning of summer, almost two years after a large wildfire.

PENNSYLVANIA

OOPS! Philadelphia new street sweeping program has hit a road bump. The trucks are too wide to fit down some of the city's narrow colonial-era streets.

UTAH

The state would charge electric and hybrid vehicle owners for a miles driven fee under a voluntary program intended to compensate for diminishing gas tax returns.

WASHINGTON

The state says that drivers won't pay tolls to use Seattle's Highway Tunnel until fall.

WISCONSIN

Lt. Gov. Barnes has taken care of a \$100 fine for unpaid parking tickets that prevented from a vehicle that he previously owned. (Maybe, he forgot about them!

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

There are special grants available to veterans with certain disabilities that resulted from an injury or a disease incurred or aggravated during active military service for vehicles and special adaptive equipped vehicles. Information on the grants is available from local and state veteran's service agencies and the VA.

A report by Max Warburton, auto analyst at Sanford Bernstein says that the price of ultra-luxury cars is plunging due to car makers flooding the market with new vehicle models. Yes, you will still need a couple of hundred thousand dollars to buy an Aston Martin, Rolls Royce or a Lamborghini. As of June 6th, the average price of a used Aston Martin fell 54%.

Get Ready! Uber announced that its most active users will soon get access to Uber Copter, a new service that will transport passengers from Manhattan to JFK International airport for only \$200. The service will start in July.

Almost 100 million Americans are planning to take a family vacation this year according to AAA and over half of them will load up the family car and driving somewhere across the country. AAA says the best road trip is a five-day Monument Valley Trans Route in in the Southwest. Most of the road trips in the AAA study were an average of 5 days. The much lauded Route 66 tour landed at #44 out of 50 trips studied. Seventy Three percent of adults plan on taking at least one road trip this summer, 65% say they will take 1 to 5 trips and 3% say they will take 10 more trips. Those of us who took driving trips this year found lots of road construction and detours.

A quick cut! Honda's new Mean Mower V2 lawnmower broke the Guinness World Record lawnmower speed as it reached a speed of 150.99 mph.

A recent survey found that about half of the 2018 model year vehicles in the U.S., offered headlights with new technologic features, but only as an expensive option and usually only on option loaded vehicles. Experts also say improper installation reduces the effectiveness of many headlights, turning what should be safety aids into glaring annoyances for other drivers.

According to Global Traffic Scoreboard, the cities where drivers the most hours setting in traffic in 2018 were, Boston 164 hours, Washington D.C. 155 hours, Chicago 138 hours, New York 133 hours and Los Angeles 128 hours. There have been several surveys on the amount of hours spent waiting in traffic and no two surveys are the same as some surveys use different cities.

TOO MANY! From 2000 to2019, auto manufactures have introduced an average of 40 new models per year, but is expected to jump to 62 new models per year from 2020 to 2023.

Congress has announced that July 12th will be Collector Car Appreciation Day.

A Pennsylvania man purchased take-out food, returned home parking his Toyota 4-runner SUV in his attached garage, ate and went to bed. He died during the night. His vehicle was equipped with a key-less ignition system and he forgot to turn the system off and left it running for nearly 10 hours. He died during the night from carbon monoxide poisoning from the SUV that he accidently left running in his garage.

Larry Becker

25 June 2019



VACATION TIME IN THE GOOD OLE Days

