

**OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**



**ALABAMA**

**Attendants are coming out to gas up cars, clean windshields and even deliver food and drinks from inside at MAPCO stations in Montgomery. MAPCO states that it has a dozen stations nationwide, but did not list the states or locations.**

**CALIFORNIA**

**Human toll takers and cash will be replaced with overhead cameras that will read Fast Trak decals and license plate numbers as vehicles pass through the toll areas. Cash will not be accepted. A bill will arrive in the mail for ones who do not have Fast Trak. Testing of the system began in March, but only half of the 1.8 toll notices sent out, were paid. Transportation officials hope to have the system in full use by the end of the year.**

**FLORIDA**

**The number of traffic crashes in the state dropped 50% in April compared to the same time last year. With residents staying at home, working remotely and running fewer errands, rush hour traffic has dipped considerably.**

**KENTUCKY**

**The state is letting people renew or replace their driver's licenses or ID cards remotely in light of the pandemic.**

**NEVADA**

**The state DMV said that it has temporarily suspended driving tests because of concerns of the virus. Appointment services are expected to resume in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City and Henderson.**

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**The DMV requires behind-the-wheel testing for teenage drivers seeking a limited provisional driver's license, but the state DMV is not offering the test at this time due to the pandemic. The state House and Senate have approved a bill that would set aside the requirement and eased a bottleneck of applicants.**

## **OREGON**

**People are driving less, but roads could suffer because of it. Early projections suggest gas tax revenue in the state will decline \$125 million from March 2020 through March 2021. Most other states are facing the same problem.**

## **WYOMING**

**The state Dept. of Transportation plans to close 10 highway rest areas to save money amid a budget crisis and will save the state about \$800,000 a year. The state faces a two-year budget deficit of 1 billion or more.**

## **WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

**Some people are worried that leaving hand sanitizer in your car could cause a fire due to its alcohol base. Experts say alcohol sanitizer is flammable, but can only ignite if flame is present, but leaving it in a hot vehicle is not a good idea.**

**Nissan is recalling 1.9 million vehicles for a hood latch problem in 2013 thru 2016 models. The coating on the latch can flake off the secondary hood latch exposing bare metal, which will rust over time causing the secondary latch to stay open.**

**Hertz filed for bankruptcy in Mid-May. The company usually buys approximately 100,000 U.S. vehicles over an 18-month period. They usually replace their vehicles after 18 months or when they reach a certain amount of miles. They have cancelled 90% of their vehicle orders for 2020 models. In March, Avis sold 35,000 of its vehicles and cancelled 80% of new car orders through the end of 2020. In the last week of May, Hertz had awarded \$16 million in retention bonuses to key employees. Hertz has started selling all of its vehicles and the large inventory may reduce the value of many used vehicles.**

**The Pandemic has forced DMV's and similar offices to close or reduce their capacity in many states, making registration and signing a vehicle title more**

**difficult. In mid-June, California reopened most of its DMV offices, but suggested appointments. Many other states have reopened their DMV offices also.**

**Tesla is seeking Chinese government approval to build Model 3 vehicles in its Shanghai plant equipped with a new type of battery from CatL that contains no cobalt, one of the most expensive metals in electric vehicles. Tesla cannot make the change without approval of the Chinese government. There are reports that the Tesla Model Y has many defects and that Tesla is working to resolve the problems. Musk is involved in the building of the loop system in Las Vegas that connects the Convention Center to the downtown area. Now, two major casinos are asking to be added to the system.**

**Thefts of vehicles has shot up 63% in New York and nearly 17% in the Los Angeles area from Jan. 1 through mid-May compared with the same period last year. Many law enforcements around the U.S. are reporting an increase in stolen cars and vehicle burglaries even as violent crime has dropped during the pandemic.**

**Welcome!! Michigan has a stay at home order, but a new billboard on southbound I-65 and south of the Interstate 80/90 toll roads encouraging Michiganders to take a trip to Indiana where there is no stay at home order.**

**Lordstown Motors will start selling their new electric pickup, Endurance in 2021. The company says their pickups are better than Ford, GM and Dodge. We will have to wait and see. Ford, GM and Dodge have plans for electric pickups, but they are in the future.**

**Vehicle buyers can expect to get great deals soon. Auto manufactures are restarting and are desperate to get their sales back. Hertz is expected to dump several vehicles on the market soon. Tesla has already announced big discounts on their vehicles, down as much as \$5,000. The Model 3, dropped \$2,000 and will start at \$37,900, Model S dropped \$5,000 to \$39,900, and starts at \$74,990 and Model X dropped to \$79,900. The newest one, Model Y starts at \$52,980. All you need to do is find one.**

**Sales of passenger cars dropped 48% from March thru April compared to last year, according to car research service of Kelly Blue Book. Sales of SUVs dropped 35%. Sales of pickups 18%, but the decline was due to a drop in purchases by commercial and government buyers.**

**Most automakers will not release their 2021 models until sometime next year due to slow reopening of factories and availability of parts.**

**Many federal and state parks have reopened but have strict rules that only allow a certain number visitors a day and most do not allow camping.**

**Washington D.C. has lowered the speed limit on streets to 20 mph. The changes, made in an effort to keep D.C. streets safe during the pandemic and social distancing era. The Georgetown neighborhood has removed some street parking to make sidewalks wider for pedestrians.**

**Germany now requires all petrol stations to install chargers for electric vehicles and wants 70,000 charging stations with 7,000 being fast charging. Only 5578 electric vehicles sold in Germany last year. It is unknown if there will be a charge for using the charging stations.**

**Ford plans to introduce the sport Mustang Mach-E, an electric vehicle in the next few months, but no date announced. The new Ford Bronco is scheduled to be previewed on July 13. Ford is recalling 2.15 million 2011 to 2015 vehicles for a possible door latch problem. In an earlier recall, the latches, may have been installed or repaired incorrectly by dealers. Ford is recalling 293,311 F-150s pickups (2014-2017) models for a potential master cylinder problem.**

**GM has announced that it would not be building all of the orders for the 2020 Corvettes. GM said it would work with affected customers and dealers to offer a 2021 option. The base price for the Stingray will remain at \$59,995 with the convertible model at \$67,495.**

**An annual survey ranking vehicles that contribute most to the US economy through U.S. factory jobs, manufacturing plants and parts sourcing was released in late June by Cars.com on the 2020 American made index rating the 10 vehicles. Starting at number one was the Ford Ranger followed by Jeep Cherokee, Tesla Model S, Tesla 3, Honda Odyssey, Honda Ridgeline, Honda Passport, Chevrolet Corvette, Tesla Model X and the Chevrolet Colorado. All made in the U.S.**

**Tesla earned the worst score among the 32 major vehicle brands in J.D. Power's 2020 Initial Quality Study due to various problems reported by owners. The study, which gauges the performance of new vehicles in their first 90 days, marks the first time the company has rated Tesla. Tesla's cars and SUVs has 250 problems per 100 vehicles compared an industry average of 166. Of the 32 brands tested, Dodge and Kia had the least, both at 136.**



*Larry Becker*

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