

# OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*By Larry Becker*



**The ten most dangerous states for drunken driving are - #1-North Dakota, #2- Montana, #3-Idaho, #4-Wisconsin, #5-South Carolina, #6-South Dakota, #7-Pennsylvania, 8-New Mexico, #9-Rhode Island and #10-Vermont. These figures came from a survey obtained by USA Today.**

**Many states are looking for ways to eliminate texting while driving. There are 46 states that ban texting. At present, 14 states prohibit the use of any hand-held device by drivers. Some states have put up billboards signs encouraging drivers to stop at rest areas for safe texting. Most states are considering new laws with higher fines to reduce texting.**

**On May 1<sup>st</sup>, in San Francisco, smartphone app Filld began dispatching drivers with pickups loaded with gasoline to fill people's tanks. The app's users set the exact location of their car, choosing a delivery window and release their gas flap. A driver arrives in a small truck, opens the gas tank and fills it with regular or premium unleaded. Filld charges per-gallon rates comparable to nearby stations and tacks on a delivery fee. The app says it has thousands of customers in 180 square miles around the Bay Area and is most popular with minivan-driving parents. Since the start of the service, Booster Fuels, Filld, Purple, WeFuel and Yoshi are among similar start-ups operating in San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities.**

**A female-only bus service aimed at protecting women from sexual harassment has been launched in China.**

**According to a survey by HNTB'S AMERICA THINKS, 65% of Americans support mileage-based fees to fund transportation infrastructure needs. (I wonder who and how many did they ask)??**

**A report by NBC News states that on an average, 8 drivers die in accidents every day due to texting and cell phone use. The majority of the deaths are teenagers.**

**Otto, a San Francisco company, is aiming to equip trucks with software, sensors, lasers and cameras so they eventually will be able to navigate the more than 220,000 miles of U.S. highways on their own, while a human driver naps in the back of the cab or handles other tasks.**

**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.**

## **ALABAMA**

**Gov. Bentley has signed into law legislation to exempt motor vehicles more than 35 years old from the requirement that they have a certificate of title.**

## **ARIZONA**

**The state Dept. of transportation is applying for a total of \$10 million of federal grants to improve Interstate 10 between Phoenix and Tucson. Steps include widening two stretches in Pine County and enhancing technology such as remote sensors that provide early warning of dust storms.**

**Steve Elliott, State Dept. of Transportation spokesman, said crews routinely remove roadside memorials and other unauthorized items along highways. The memorials are prohibited by state law, because they are considered safety hazards.**

## **ARKANSAS**

**The state Highway and Transportation Dept. plans to print only half of the paper maps of state highways that it has been producing every year for the past decade. Starting in 2017, the dept. will update the maps only every two years instead of annually.**

## **CALIFORNIA**

**ALERT – The Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee has approved legislation that would, among other things, raise the gas tax by \$0.12 per gallon, increase by \$35 the annual vehicle registration fee, add a new \$100 annual vehicle registration fee for zero-emission motor vehicles and impose a new \$35 annual road access charge on each vehicle.**

**State employees in Sacramento needing transportation for business purposes in the city, may now request a car or a bicycle to use.**

**California has several highways that were never completed. Hwy 65 ends about 70 miles north of Bakersfield, near the city of Exeter. Two hundred miles north, a stretch of Hwy 65 (35 miles) connects Roseville to Marysville. Sixty years ago, Interstate 70, a north-south route in Los Angeles County, was stopped 4.5 miles short of its planned terminus in Pasadena. In the 1970s, there was liberal opposition to public works merged with conservative dislike of new taxes. The state still owns land that was purchased for new roads that were never built.**

**One state Senator has suggested that CalTrans rent out their electronic billboard signs to companies to use for advertising. CalTrans says no. It would tend to have drivers ignore the signs when they are used for emergency notices. It could lead to driver distraction.**

**CALPERS ( the state employee’s pension fund) has announced that it is adding to its far-flung portfolio of infrastructure investments by buying a portion of a company that operates a major toll highway in Indiana.**

## **COLORADO**

**Work has begun on the \$10.3 million “Berthoud Hill” climbing lane on southbound I-25. The year long project will add a lane to a 2 mile stretch of the interstate south of the Berthoud exit.**

## **CONNECTICUT**

**The DMV and Secretary of Sate have worked out previous differences and signed an agreement to implement a “streamlined motor voter system” that will automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they go to the DMV for a driver’s license or state issued ID, the Hartford Courant reports.**

**Legislation to require the state, upon the owner’s request, to issue titles for older vehicles not currently required to be titled under Connecticut law has passed and sent to Gov. Malloy for his signature.**

## **D.C. WASHINGTON**

**Metrobus operators racked up almost 2,300 traffic camera tickets in the past six years, The Washington Post reports.**

## **DELAWARE**

**March’s traffic nightmare produced by 3 days of Delaware Memorial Bridge lane closures also resulted in \$204,544 in lost toll revenue.**

## **FLORIDA**

**Tampa officials are considering a proposal that will let people pay off some of their parking fines by donating food to the needy.**

## **HAWAII**

**A report by the Auto Insurance Center says Hawaii is the top U.S. road rage state.**

**A big Aloha! From the beginning of 2014 until mid-April this year, The Hawaii Police department has issued 5.904 citations for the use of mobile electronic devices while driving.**

## **ILLINOIS**

**The Illinois Secretary of State’s office says a plan to issue driver’s licenses and state ID cards in Illinois will be more secure and won’t require additional state funding.**

## **INDIANA**

**In the five years since Indianapolis leased its parking meter operations to a private company, rates have skyrocketed and the number of paid spaces has increased. But the city is reaping about a quarter of the millions dollars collected.**

## **IOWA**

**The historic Red Bridge over the Des Moines River will close for a year as engineers elevate it to meet updated flood rules.**

## **LOUISIANA**

**Officials urged drivers to find out whether they are owed a refund through Jefferson Parish's discontinued red light program. Those ticketed in Jefferson Parish from 2007 to 2010 were suppose to receive a refund as a result of a court settlement last year.**

## **MAINE**

**The Portland City Council has voted to approve a lease agreement with a ferry company to resume service from Portland to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. The ferry operator will use a high-speed catamaran to make the five-hour trips up to Canada**

## **MARYLAND**

**The Whitehaven Ferry is back in service for the first time since November. The ferry serves as the only link across the Wicomico River between rural sections of Wicomico and Somerset counties.**

**The state's new secure driver's licenses and ID cards are providing cutting-edge security features along with the Maryland state flag and a blue crab. The state will start issuing them on July 11th.**

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**State transportation officials have begun a series of public meetings about a 5 year, \$14.3 billion blueprint for shoring up roads, bridges and public transit. The plan includes \$2 billion to address structurally deficient bridges.**

**The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is investigating after discovering discrepancies between how many cars were parking in some of its contractor-managed lots and how much money was being collected.**

## **MINNESOTA**

**Law enforcement officials issued 972 citations statewide to drivers who were texting while driving during a week-long crackdown in late April.**

## **MISSOURI**

**The state Legislature has passed tighter regulations on towing companies. The measure would allow the Missouri State Highway Patrol to use a tow list to call approved companies to vehicle crashes.**

**The Federal Highway Administration has approved a proposal to build a new Champ Clark Bridge 50 feet south of the existing one.**

## **MONTANA**

**The Going-to-the-Sun Road is now open to vehicles as far as Avalanche for people who want to hike and bicycle the road before it opens to vehicles.**

## **NEBRASKA**

**The city of Lincoln will use a \$490,000 grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust to install 10 charging stations for electric vehicles. The addition will give the city a total of 24 charging plug-in stations in the downtown area.**

**Construction work started after Memorial Day on state Highway 66 near the Mahoney interchange (Ashland area) on Interstate 80. The project includes bridge repairs and paving, guardrail and culvert work.**

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**The state Senator has approved a 10-year, \$3.8 billion highway improvement plan that includes a fourth lane on I-93 from Salem to Manchester and moving up the date of other projects.**

**Gov. Hassan has signed into law legislation to exempt rare or historically significant vehicles from emissions-control requirements.**

## **NEW JERSEY**

**The state Senate Transportation Committee has approved legislation to require the DMV to provide window stickers to vehicles exempt from inspections has been approved by the state Senate Transportation Committee.**

**Cost overruns for reconstructing 12.5 miles of the Superstorm Sandy battered Route 35 have topped 476 million, making it one of the most expensive roadway projects in the state's history.**

**New signs posted at entrances to Wharton State Forest warn of steeped-up police patrols to enforce restrictions on off-roading in the federal reserve. State officials have issued more than 100 citations to off-roaders since Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> in an effort to halt destruction in the protected Pinelands.**

## **NEW MEXICO**

**The 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an appeal by a motorized off-road vehicle users group that challenged a Forest Services decision reducing the routes available for use in the Santa Fe National Forest. The court ruled that the New Mexico Off-highway Vehicle Alliance didn't have a legal basis to sue.**

## **NEW YORK**

**The state is making good on its pledge to crackdown on chronic toll evaders. Gov. Cuomo announced the state has begun the process of suspending registrations for 575 drivers who failed to pay tolls, fees and other charges resulting from five or more toll violations on different days over an 18-month period.**

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Listen!! Forty-three sirens are being installed along 2,250 square miles in the oil patch country to alert people who are outdoors – including oil field workers to dangerous situations such as weather, wildfires and chemical spills.**

## **OHIO**

**The Columbus Dispatch reports that crashes have risen in the area since traffic cameras were turned off amid continuing legal battles over their use. Statistics show crashes increased at 21 of the 38 intersections.**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**State transportation officials are preparing to fix a 23-mile stretch of I-29 north of Sioux Falls that is only 20 years old but deteriorating faster than expected. The repairs will be in the north and southbound lanes between the Renner and Madison exits.**

## **TENNESSEE**

**The Gov. has signed into law legislation to extend emissions-inspection exemptions for vehicles three years old or newer, regardless of mileage.**

## **WISCONSIN**

**Wisconsin voters who are seeking a photo ID card but not yet received it will be able to use a DMV receipt to vote in most cases.**

**Gov. Walker has signed bills addressing “zombie homes,” limiting local governments ability to issue photo IDs and making all fourth drunken driving offences felonies. It is also the most dangerous state for teenage drivers. According to a survey, about half of Wyoming teen age drivers text or email while driving and about 10% of high school students older than 16 reported drinking and driving.**

## **WYOMING**

**According to the Auto Insurance Center, Wyoming has the highest traffic fatality rate in the U.S. It has 25.7 deaths per 100,000 residents.**

## **VIRGINIA**

**The Dept. of Transportation says it is planning to resurface more than 1,500 miles of state maintained roads in the Richmond area over the next several months. The dept. said it will spend about \$12.5 million on the resurfacing efforts between April and November.**

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

**The Palm Creek Scenic Trails Association has created an app to give people access to 10 audio pieces with information on a 44-mile scenic byway near Beckley.**

# **WHATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

**Google and Fiat are teaming up to develop a Self-Driving Pacifica Minivan. They plan to create 100 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrids with autonomous car tech. Google's existing test fleet is comprised of a few dozen Lexus SUVs modified by Google staffers as well as a few two-person proto types built in house.**

**GM & Lyft will test a fleet of autonomous cars that might include the Chevy Bolt EV within a year in a step toward eliminating the major cost of operating ride-sharing fleets, the human driver. The Bolt EV is a electricvehicle.**

**Researchers believe the number of miles driven will skyrocket as more self-driving (robot) cars become available. It is less certain whether that will mean a corresponding surge in traffic congestion, but it is a clear possibility according to an article by Joan Lowy of the Associated Press.**

**In the first week of May, Mexico City ordered 40% of cars and trucks to stay-off the streets for a third day traffic cutback aimed at reducing pollution.**

**Chevrolet will not be rolling new models through the streets of Iran soon. Models from G.M. have been struck off a list of allowed brands for the Iranian market, after a speech the last of April by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.**

**Pedestrian deaths have surged by 10 % to in 2015, according to estimates based on state traffic data. The death rate for those over 70 and older is one and a half times the rate for younger pedestrians. It is an increase from 2014. The rate is partially higher in Florida and other states with a high proportion of older residents and visitors. Researchers have blamed the increase on lower gas prices, which put more cars on the road, and on the growing use of cellphones, which distracts drivers.**

**Uber is testing self-driving cars in Pittsburgh. The car at present is only collecting road-mapping data as well as its real world traffic reactions**

**Only two states, Arizona and Montana, do not have a ban on texting and driving.**

**According to an article by Nathan Momey of USA Today, Jaguar and Tesla vehicle's have the highest rate of software glitches.**

**A survey by the University of Michigan Research Institute, 46% of motorists shun self-driving cars. The survey found that women, 48.4 %, did not favor self driving cars and 43.1% of men did not favor them.**



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