

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



The Army is considering purchasing some new JLTY vehicles that will be electric powered. The JLTY replaces the old Humvees and adds more crew safety protection. At present, the JLTY's are equipped with Diesel engines. The Army plans to purchase a total of 49,099 JLTY vehicles in the next few years and expect they will last 20 years. It is not known how many will be electric as the cost is more than diesel models and the extra cost may reduce the amount of vehicles purchased.

Bad Roads! One of the many side effects of the stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus pandemic, is the decline in state and local transportation funding , which officials say threatens to bring road and bridge construction to a halt for the next year and a half. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials say there is a projected 30% decline in transportation revenue nation wide. State officials say they expect that one-third of their budgets are gone. This is due to less revenue from gasoline taxes as drivers drive less. The five year federal highway bill expires Sept. 30th. Congress needs to negotiate an extension to provide hundreds of

billions of dollars to state and local governments for as long as the next six years.

On April 25th, Musk of Tesla announced that he is considering Texas for its new Cyber Truck factory, possibly Austin. The Fremont plant in California is running at max capacity. The Cybertruck price starts at \$40,000 and comes in 3 models, single engine, dual motor or tri motor. Musk also said that the new model Y car would also be produced at the new plant. A recent report says that many Model Y buyers are unhappy with the paint job from the factory.

Tesla rolled out a new feature of its partially automated driving system designed to spot stop signs and traffic signals. The update of electric car company cruise control and auto-steer systems runs contrary to recommendations from the U.S. National Traffic Safety Board that includes limiting where Tesla's Autopilot driving system can operate. Tesla says the feature will slow the vehicle whenever it detects a traffic light or sign, it will notify the driver of its intent to slow down and stop.

May 9th, Elon Musk said Tesla may move its Palo Alto Headquarters and Fremont ca factory due to state stay-in-place orders. He said he may move both to Texas and Nevada. He has been feuding with the state and local health offices for several weeks over reopening the plant. On May 10th Musk reopened the Tesla factory after Gov. Newsom said the factory had passed all state requirements plus Musk called President Trump for help, but still did not have county approval, but after a short meeting between Musk and local county officials, the county said the factory could reopen.

On May 14th, Musk announced the completion of a tunnel in Las Vegas that is part of a project to create a loop-system capable of quickly

transporting visitors to and from the Las Vegas Convention Center to a larger loop planned for downtown Las Vegas. The loop will deliver passengers using compatible autonomous electric vehicles based on Tesla technology. The system is expected to be completed by 2021.

The latest in the Tesla saga. On May 18 the mayor of Tulsa Oklahoma said he would equip his police department with Tesla Cybertrucks if Tesla picks Tulsa as the site for its 5th factory. Tesla has been scouting Tulsa and Austin Texas as possible factory sites.

A man in Brunswick Canada was getting gas for his truck, left for a few seconds and the truck was stolen. He contacted his father who came in the family helicopter and they searched for the vehicle on the roads. They located the vehicle, contacted the police who arrested the driver of the stolen vehicle and the owner got his truck back.

Police in Utah pulled over a vehicle that was swerving so badly on I-15 that the police thought it was DUI driver or one needing medical attention. The driver was a 5 year old boy who said he was heading to California to buy a Lamborghini. He only had \$3 in his wallet. The boy somehow made his way onto the freeway in his parents car on May 4th. His parents were contacted and they took custody of their son and car. A week later, the local dealer came to the boys home and gave him a ride in his Lamborghini.

Some drivers in New Jersey are demanding that the state Turnpike Authority postpone the proposed toll hikes until the coronavirus pandemic ends.

The Federal Dept. of Transportation has announced new rules for long haul truck drivers concerning how many hours they can drive a day, days off and rest periods. Truck cabs have electronic devices that

record how many hours they drive and when they take a rest stop or sleep in the berth. The rules started in 1938 and have changed several times over the years.

Many events scheduled for this year, car shows, parades, tours and special events around the U.S. have been cancelled due to the virus. Some may be rescheduled, but many will not.

New York mayor Bill De Blasio says he will close 40 miles of city streets to cars in May and up to 100 miles during the duration of the coronavirus pandemic in order to give pedestrians more room to move while maintaining social distance.

Providence Rhode Island is working on a plan to close certain streets to some or all vehicular traffic to allow more space for people to walk, bike and exercise outdoors.

California has a backlog of people waiting to take the drivers test to be able to drive a truck. All driving tests were halted when the DMV offices were closed to the public and open only on line. In the second week of May, DMV reopened, but for appointments only.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has stopped the changeover to the Province's new license plates after the newly designed two-toned blue plates were deemed unreadable at night.

Many states say that there is an increase of drivers speeding due to almost empty freeways. The North Dakota Highway patrol say they will increase patrols to catch DUI drivers and speeders after most restrictions are lifted on bars, restaurants and other business. Most other states say they will also increase patrols looking for DUI and speeders. California say there has been an increase of 46% over last year for drivers stopped for driving 100 mph.

Car companies are investigating ways to virus-proof their vehicles to win customers concerned about infectious diseases once the coronavirus pandemic fades. Ideas under consideration include blasting car interiors with ultraviolet light, using foggers to spray disinfectants and have upgraded air filtration systems are just a few.

The Washington D.C. City Council has asked the mayor and transportation dept. to take immediate action to close roads to vehicles, but open for pedestrians and cyscists.

Do you have one? Harbor Freight is recalling 454,000 jack stands. They say that some Pittsburgh Automotive 3 ton and 6 ton Heavy Duty Steel Jack Stands have the potential, while under a load and with a shift in weight, for the pawl to disengage from the extension post, allowing the stand to drop suddenly. The recall is for only for stands with item numbers 61196, 61197 and 56371.

Most financial experts say buying a new vehicle at this time using the defered payment options or the extra time on the loan could cost you more at the end of contract as you may owe more than the vehicles trade-in value. Interest free loans are good, but watch for restrictions.

When Nevada reopens, there will be several changes. Casinos will have a limit on the number of patrons allowed, every other slot machine will be blocked, limited number of players at crap and blackjack tables and limited number of players at Keno and sports book areas and they must maintain social distancing. They may be able to reopen on June 4 if the virus doesn't spike,

Want one? The Tesla Model 3 is available with a glass roof. It has been crash tested and the results were great. You can order one for \$39,900 and it has a range of 340 miles per charge. If you want to go all out, Newport Convertible Engineering will convert it to a convertible for you by removing the glass top and installing a convertible top. It takes 2 to 3 months and costs about \$25,000.



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