



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS



PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Understanding that car fobs present an increasing security risk, car companies are exploring the use of fingerprints, facial recognition and retina scans to start your car. Synaptics, a consumer technology company, is testing fingerprint identification in cars in the Detroit area. There are several aftermarket security systems available to help increase car security.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the U.S. needs to update outdated regulations to allow for high-tech headlights and should include pedestrian safety on its new car safety rating system. From 2009 to 2016, pedestrian deaths increased by 46% to nearly 6,000.

More than 50,000 air bags are stolen annually. One vehicle owner who had his stolen, reported that it cost him \$2,000 plus a \$500 insurance deductible. The National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates that about 50,000 air bags are stolen each year and mostly from Honda's. The average cost of an air bag on a 2017 Honda Accord is \$989. Florida is the "hot Spot" for stolen bags, followed by Northern Virginia and New York City. Black market air bags are usually sold online for \$200 to \$300.

Four-year new car loans have increased to 4.03%, up from 3.73 % six months ago. Five-year new car loans are now 4.11% up from 3.81% six months ago. Four-year used car loans are now 4.39% up from 4.07% six months ago.

The government had given toll operators a 2016 deadline to make their systems compatible nationwide, but there have been many problems and delays as many state systems are not compatible with systems in their own state, such as California, Colorado, Oklahoma and Georgia. There is hope that someday, the E-Z Pass system will work in all states.

How time Flies!! October 1st marked the 110h anniversary of when the Model T Ford went on sale for the first time.

Most semi-trucks and trailers have a heavy steel guard on the rear of the vehicle to help protect drivers who crash into them from going under the rear of the truck or trailer. A new safety study suggests that the same guards should be put on the sides of trucks and trailers.

Big Brother is listening. In a three -month test GM used in-car Wi-Fi to track the habits of some of its drivers in hopes of seeing whether there is a relationship between what drivers do and what they buy. About 90,000 drivers in the Los Angeles & Chicago areas agreed to take part in the program last year.

The number of people killed in traffic accident in 2017 was 37,133 down 1.8% from the year before. But pedestrian deaths were up to 5,977.

GM and Honda are teaming up to speed the development of self-driving cars to major cities in 2019. Honda will contribute about \$2 billion to the program over the next 12 years.

According to a new survey by AAA, owning and operating a new vehicle in 2018 will cost drivers an average of \$8,000 annually, or \$737 each month. The largest expense is depreciation. Depreciation accounts for almost 40% of the cost of owning a new vehicle, more than \$3,000 per year and is influenced by a number of factors, including shifting consumer preferences.

General Motors plans to start using wind to power their manufacturing plants. They expect to reach 20% of their goal by the end of 2018 and be using 100% renewable energy by 2050.

According to a Farmers Insurance Company survey, two in three adult drivers say that they had to try to avoid a deer while driving. Experts say the best option is to try to minimize damage and say it's safer to stay the course.

According to Cassandra Pye, of the Sacramento Bee newspaper, there will be nearly 10 million cars with self-driving features on the road in the U.S. by 2020. A couple of years after 2020, there will be fully autonomous vehicles on roads

capable of handling a range of driving scenarios with little or no interaction from drivers.

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.

ARIZONA

Federal officials marked the expansion of a pedestrian border crossing in San Luis on 10/24.

ARKANSAS

The state Dept. of Transportation is seeking federal approval of an environmental assessment, that would allow a renovation of Interstate 30 that would cost \$630 million.

CALIFORNIA

The state passed a measure last year that significantly limits the number of people eligible for the green and white decals that allows them to drive in the car pool lanes. As of Jan. 2, 2019, drivers who received their clean-air stickers before 2017 will have to buy new vehicles to qualify for the program. Some who earn over a certain amount won't be eligible for the stickers at all. On Jan. 1st, as many as 220,000 low and zero-emission vehicles stand to lose their white and green sticker that allows them to drive solo in the diamond lane.

California's Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, may temporarily halt a program that automatically registers voters through the DMV and try to get tens of thousands of voter registration errors under control. As of now, he has delayed any action.

A man in the Los Angeles area was charged with DUI, after he struck a pedestrian while riding an electric scooter. He was fined \$500.

Gov. Brown has vetoed five DMV related bills saying the bills would require "significant information technology programming" at the DMV, which could hurt the department's ability to reduce wait times and "fully modernize its aging technology systems."

Authorities report that many people are receiving calls offering driver's license renewals with no wait time for a fee, but DMV says it is a scam.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven and Hartford lead the state in distracted driving crashes a study shows.

GEORGIA

St. Simons Island officials are considering a ban on golf carts on main roads on one of the state's most populous islands.

The city of South Fulton has offered residents a \$50 discount from citations for registering to vote or confirming their vote status.

HAWAII

State officials say that pedestrian fatalities have increased by 84% from last year.

IOWA

The U.S. Highway 20 corridor, a four-lane expressway across Northern Iowa, is finished after 60 years of construction. The first 3 mile section was started in 1958. The corridor is 302 miles long.

The state Department of Transportation is seeking to hire hundreds of snow-plow drivers for the winter season.

KENTUCKY

The state Transportation dept. is warning drivers in the state to watch for deer as the animals become more active.

The federal government has granted the state an extension to implement REAL IDs and drivers licenses.

A driver in McKee is suing three state police officers who he says came to his home and harassed him after he complained about a traffic stop on social media.

MAINE

Traffic ticket violations in Augusta will soon be available online as part of a new \$15 million electronic court filing system.

MASSACHUSETTS

Legislation has been reintroduced for the 2018 session that allows vehicles registered as antique, to display year of manufacture plates with DMV approval. Antiques vehicles are defined as being 25 years old or older and are maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades and other functions of public interest.

MICHIGAN

Work has started on the Gordie Howe International Bridge, between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit.

MINNESOTA

Minnesotans can now select X as a third gender option when applying for or renewing a state driver's license.

MISSISSIPPI

Louisiana Circle in Vicksburg has reopened to small vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

NEW JERSEY

The Townsend Bridge near Sea Isle City is closed for about 8 months for a \$8.6 million renovation project.

The state gas tax rose by 4.3 cents to 41.4 cents per gallon in October.

NEW MEXICO

A federal judge ordered the Santa Fe National Forest to consider how the management of roads and trails will affect the endangered Jemez Mountain Salamander.

NEW YORK

Gov. Cuomo has signed legislation adding a second “Z” to the name of the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, correcting a 50-year old spelling mistake.

OKLAHOMA

The federal government will recognize Oklahoma driver’s licenses and ID cards for at least another year.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The National Park Service is suspending tours at Jewel Cave Monument until April to improve the scenic route.

TENNESSEE

A federal judge ordered the state to stop suspending driver’s licenses of people too poor to pay traffic fines and court costs.

VERMONT

The Fort Ticonderoga ferry has stopped its seasonal runs early because of low water levels in Lake Champlain.

The city of Burlington is phasing out cashiers at its three parking garages and replacing them with “Pay on Foot” stations.

Vermont fuel dealers say they are seeing a shortage of younger drivers

VIRGINIA

The state issued more than 16,000 REAL ID licenses in the first 10 days of offering them.

WEST VIRGINIA

Drivers in Wheeling will soon get a smoother ride as the city has started a \$1 million project to pave city streets.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

In a recent survey by Wallet-Hub of 1,229 adults, 6 in 10 Americans say undocumented immigrants should not be able to get driver's licenses.

According to data supplied by Edmond's, shows that through September, the average transaction price for a full-size pickup is \$48,377, a 48% increase from 10 years ago. Some full-size pickups can cost more than \$100,000.

Several states will receive several million dollars under the settlement of ride-hailing service Uber's unreported data breach.

Bad! A new highway sign for Layallete, N.J. misspelled the town's name as Lavalette.

According to a new survey by AAA, more drivers are using advanced driver assistance available in most vehicles today, but many motorists do not understand how to safely use these new, mostly automated technologies. They rely too much on the technology systems, and do not understand fully how the systems work.

One in three consumers don't know credit scores affect the cost of car insurance.

Sales of cars, especially sedans, are down, but sales of SUV's are hitting new highs.

USA Today reports that the Honda Accord was the most stolen vehicle (45,062) in 2017 and second was the full size Ford pickup at 35,105.

Tesla came in third from the bottom in a recent Consumer Reports reliability survey of 29 brands. Tesla fell six places from last year's survey. The top brands were Lexus, Toyota and Mazda. Seven of the top ten brands came from Japan or South Korea.

Larry Becker

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Hudson pickups were built from about 1929 to 1947. A few Hudson trucks were built for use in WW1, but were built from car parts. Several names were used over the years for the vehicles, Marques, Essex, Dover and Terraplane, but the Hudson name was used after 1939. There is some debate as to the exact last year of pickup production.

