

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



CALIFORNIA

State officials say a diesel-fueled vehicle emitting burning carbon from the exhaust system started one of the largest fires in the state, the Apple fire.

Due to an increase in fatal accidents, several groups have asked CalTrans to raise the barriers on the Carquinez Bridge on Hwy 80 near San Francisco.

A judge has ordered ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft to treat California drivers as employees instead of independent contractors, a shift that would guarantee such benefits as overtime, sick-leave and expense reimbursements for workers. The judge ordered the new rules to become effective August 20th. Uber and Lyft say they may suspend service temporarily in California. On August 18, a California State Appeals Court granted an emergency stay order to Uber and Lyft.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority said that it would rule out service cuts, fare hikes or layoffs as the Boston-area transit agency tries to recover from a steep drop in revenue caused by a massive reduction in ridership during the pandemic.

MONTANA

Visitation to Yellowstone National park has increased substantially despite the coronavirus pandemic. Visitation rates were higher in July than they were in the same period last year.

OREGON

The state will charge out-of-state travelers 30% more while camping at state parks to help recoup some losses during the economic downfall caused by the pandemic. Crowds have been overwhelming state park sites along the north Oregon coast this summer with highway traffic jams, illegal-parking and overflowing trash bins amid the pandemic, officials say. State agencies are teaming up to increase parking enforcement.

WHAATSUUPHERE AND THERE

Two tests by AAA during the past two years show that partially automated driving systems do not always function properly, so AAA is recommending auto companies limit their use. Researchers with AAA recently tested systems from five manufacturers over a distance of 4,000 miles, and said they encountered problems every 8 miles. Most of the issues involved systems designed to keep vehicles in their lane, but the tests discovered that many had trouble spotting simulated broken-down vehicles in their path. About two thirds of the time the test vehicle hit the broken-down car, at an average speed pf 25 mph, according to the study.

Fiat-Chrysler, Ford and General Motors recently released sales figures for the past 4 months and they were not good. Fiat-Chrysler was down 37%, Ford down 33% and GM down 34%. Sales have collapsed to rental car companies and local, State and Federal agencies.

Exelon Corp and Dominion Energy are promoting a \$1.5 billion dollar effort to increase sales of electric vehicles and are lobbyng Capitol Hill for electric vehicle tax credits. San Diego Electric trained sales agents to convince buyers to purchase electric vehicles. The sales reps received \$500 for confirmed sales.

Kandi, a Chines automaker plans to begin selling two models in the U.S. by late 2020 in a limited area of Texas. Both models priced under \$30,000. The K 27 model starts at 13,499, and has a 100-mile range. The K 23 model sells for less than \$30,000 and has a 180-mile range. It is unknown if the price includes destination charges and government fees. There is conflicting info on the cost of the K 27. Other Chinse auto companies have also announced plans to sell low cost electric vehicles in the U.S.

Ford says that it has over 15,000 reservations for the new Bronco, so if you have a reservation, it may take a while to receive the vehicle.

The U.S. Security and Exchange Commission say that Hertz needs to rid itself of almost 20,000 vehicles by the end of 2020 as part of a bankruptcy deal.

Fisker, an electric car company, now states that it will have three models available by 2025. They had planned for a 2023 release, but revised it.

New York's City's Taxi and Limousine Commission says demand started to decline in the city in mid-March and continued into April, falling as much as 84% from the previous days at their lowest point, but has gradually increased through the end of June. The city data showed yellow taxis had just over 18,000 daily trips at the end of June, compared with 200,000 before the shutdown.

According to Ivan Drury, senior manager of insights for Edmonds, used car prices are increasing as demand increases. The average listing price for a used vehicle was \$21,558 in July, up \$708 from June. Part of the problem was that automakers were forced to shut down for almost two months in the spring due to the pandemic, which led to a decline in new car inventory and a delay in the 2021 models. The average price of a new vehicle sold in July was \$38,378, up 2% from a year earlier.

Traveling by RV? Wal Mart says that it is ending the practice of allowing RVs to park in their parking lots overnight.

Dining out dangers. Due to the pandemic, many cities have allowed eateries to set up tables in parking lots, on sidewalks or in fenced-in areas. A group that tracks incidents of vehicles crashing into buildings or crowds, The Storefront Safety Council, based on media and police reports, say they have counted 20 instances of cars or trucks barging into outdoor dining areas since restaurants were allowed to reopen after the virus shutdown. That compares with about 4 per year over the past eight years.

In August 6th, Cadillac unveiled its new all-electric vehicle, named the Lyriq, on sale in late 2022. The vehicle will have a battery range of about 300 miles and has Super Cruise, a hands free driver assistance system.

Want cheap transportation? Unagi, a small California start-up company will let you rent an electric scooter that you can fold up and use for short trips around town for \$39 per month or buy it for \$1,000. The company will launch its service in Los Angeles and New York and hopes to expand to other cities.

A northern California company says it has developed a process that uses recycled plastic bottles in road repaving. Technisoil says the polymer infused

roads churned out by the company's pavement process are studier, flatter, safer and more durable than those made with regular asphalt.

Nikola Motors announced that it will develop and produce electric vehicles for trash collection firm, Republic Services, over the next three years. Republic has ordered 2,500 trucks and may increase the order by 2,500 more. Nikola is still trying to find an automaker to produce their Badger pickups and partner for developing a hydrogen filling station network.

Two-tone paint is making a comeback. Automakers have introduced more than half a dozen SUVs in the past two years with two-tone paint options. The two-tone paint options usually cost a few hundred dollars more.

There has been an increase in injuries due to walking and texting, especially with texters walking out into traffic. The biggest increase is in the 18 to 35 age group and older women. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say that 5,370 deaths were caused by texting and walking, and the research is approx. 5 years old.

Joe Biden has a 1967 Corvette Stingray that he has owned since 1967. If Biden wins in November, he will not be allowed to drive the vehicle while in office. The Secret Service forbids the commander in chief. Even once his terms ends, a former president can never drive a car on an open road, according to CNBC and various reports. The Corvette has a market value of \$88,700. The vehicle was a wedding gift from Biden's father who paid \$5,600 for the vehicle in August 1967.

VW has started production of its all-electric SUV called the ID4. They also have a model ID3 which is a hatchback, which will be produced at their plant in Chattanooga, Ten. in 2022. The ID4 will be produced in China at this time, but may be added to the Chattanooga plant, but not many details are available at this time. Details are sketchy.

Tesla has applied to the FCC for approval to install car radar systems that would detect children left in dangerously hot cars by using short-range interactive motion sensing unlicensed mini wave sensors that work at higher power levels than currently allowed.

The National Park Service sent many employees home on furlough because of the pandemic. The National Park Service encourages but does not require park visitors to wear masks even tho the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people wear masks to prevent the spread of the virus. Many Federal Parks have notices about masks posted at the front gate only and do not enforce the rule.



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