

## **OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS**

### **PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

**GM has applied to the government to be allowed to test a new autonomous car that does not have a steering wheel, brake pedal or gas pedal. It will be built on the Chevy Bolt platform. It will also have accommodations for hearing and visually impaired customers. It will be called the Cruise AV. The vehicle uses a type of a guidance system in place of the steering wheel and the pedals. It will be used in GM's commercial ride-sharing fleet in 2019.**

**Ford is planning to produce a limited number of Mustangs that look somewhat like the 1967 Mustang. Not too much information is available, but it will be a limited production and maybe cost a couple of dollars more than the original 1967!!! Ford is also bringing back the Ranger pickup.**

**Be aware: Most new modern vehicles have hidden devices that collect your personal info such as how fast you drive, how hard the driver brakes, how much fuel the vehicle uses, where the driver stops, weather on the street where they live, where the driver shops, how fast they drive, even where you like to eat and even how much you weigh. A report by Peter Holley of the Washington Post says that tens of millions of cars are being monitored. Automakers usually inform the buyer of the vehicle about the devices, but it is usually in small print buried in service contracts or other documents.**

**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 legislators.**

#### **ALABAMA**

**The city of Birmingham will allow pedal bus passengers to drink wine and beer while riding on the pedal buses.**

#### **ALASKA**

**The state will levy a \$3 –per-car fee on ride-sharing programs such as Uber and Lyft that use the Anchorage and Fairbanks airports.**

## **CALIFORNIA**

**In Oct. 2020, federal security officials will no longer accept the current California driver's license as valid ID for domestic travel. In its place California in January, has unveiled a new license, called REAL ID, that complies with a federal mandate that all states create licenses and licensing procedures deemed more secure by the Transportation Security Administration. To get the new card, California drivers must bring documents or their present license that proves their identity to DMV field offices. New cards will be available as of January 22, 2018. Anyone can apply, even if that person's current driver's license is not up for renewal. DMV hopes to have more information and a list of required documents available on line in late January. Your existing California driver's license will be accepted at TSA checkpoints until Oct. 2020. The new REAL ID cards cost \$35, same as a driver's license. People who do not have a driver's license, but have a state issued ID card, will also have to apply for the new REAL ID cards if they want to use airlines after Oct. 2020.**

**The sale of recreational marijuana became legal in California on January 1, 2018. Law enforcement officers have or are receiving training on how to deal with drivers who are stopped for driving under the influence and how to administer the test.**

**In early December, state officials admitted that a group of Los Angeles Police cadets had been using department vehicles for weeks, dating back to April, for joyriding, doing "doughnuts", personal use, and whatever else they wanted. It only took six months for the police to admit the problem!!**

**SB 20 requires passengers on buses equipped with seatbelts to wear the safety restraints. The law also requires that children between the age of 8 and 16 years old may not be transported in a bus unless they**

**are properly restrained by a safety belt or an appropriate child car seat or booster seat.**

**S.B.1 requires the DMV to begin collecting the Transportation Improvement Fee at the time of registration or renewal. The fee ranges between \$25 and \$175, based on the vehicle's current value.**

**AB 390 permits a pedestrian to begin crossing an intersection while facing a traffic signal displaying flashing "Don't Walk" or "Upraised Hand" symbol if the traffic signal includes a countdown timer and the pedestrian can complete the crossing before the traffic signal phases to a steady "Don't Walk" or "Upraised Hand."**

**AB 711 allows manufacturers of liquor and beer or their agents, to offer or provide free ground travel or discount cards to patrons who attend "by invitation only" events to their homes. There is no condition that a purchase must be made and the person must be 21 or older. There are several other restrictions written into the bill. The bill is intended to help prevent drunken driving.**

**AB 50 requires that any agency that processes notice of parking violations and notices of delinquent parking violations provides a payment plan option for individuals with unpaid parking tickets before reporting them to the DMV, in order to allow those who are unable to pay in full to proceed with license renewal.**

**Last year, more than 26,000 people over age 100, held blue disabled placards, allowing them to park at any street meter for free all day, or at prime blue-stenciled stalls at the front of store parking lots. But there are only about 8,000 older than 100 in Ca, and not many of them are driving anymore, according to state officials. These vehicles parking for free at prime spots with centenarian placards are likely being driven by children or friends of former disabled drivers who have died, and in some cases by others who purchased the placards illegally. A new state law as of Jan. 1, 2018 requires the state DMV to**

**tighten its oversight of the state's disabled placards program. That includes reviewing the federal Social Security Administration's "death file" and cancelling placards of deceased drivers. This comes from mounting complaints from city officials, citizens and state legislators who believe they see able-bodied people taking up prime parking spots. State auditors have estimated that several hundred thousand of the state's 3 million placards were likely being used fraudulently. Holders of permanent placards must now renew them every 6 years.**

**Another new law says that drivers cannot be ticketed and fined for parking at a broken parking meter. Some cities did not waive the fine even tho the meter was broken.**

**A bill has been introduced that would ban the sale of vehicles with combustion engines by 2040. The California Air Resources Bureau had suggested the ban a few months ago.**

**Caltrans officials say they will be installing millions of red light reflectors, aimed in the wrong direction on freeways statewide to make it obvious to most drivers that they have made a mistake and are going the wrong way. The reflectors will be placed every 48 feet on the roads.**

## **DELTARE**

**During the holiday season, the state Dept. of Transportation (DELDOT) got drivers attention by rolling out message boards on state highways that were humorous. Some of the signs said – Santa is watching – Drive safe, Drive Sober - Only Reindeer can fly – watch your speed – Don't Text and Drive – Get your head out of your apps!**

## **ILLINOIS**

**The city of Sycamore has collected \$14,500 in unpaid parking tickets since February of 2017.**

## **INDIANA**

**The state Dept. of Transportation has a new mobile app that shows current traffic speeds, travel advisories and winter weather road conditions.**

## **IOWA**

**The state will soon require that ignition interlocks have cameras so that drivers required to take breath tests don't have other people start the vehicle.**

## **KANSAS**

**The state delayed the launch of a new computer system for issuing driver's licenses but was rescheduled to launch on January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## **MISSISSIPPI**

**An effort to increase road and bridge spending was a priority for state lawmakers when they reconvened for the 2018 session. But many say they are against an outright tax increase.**

## **NEBRASKA**

**State lawmakers are revving up another debate on whether to repeal the law requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets.**

## **NEVADA**

**The Elko County Sheriff's Dept. has acquired a new drone for special events, search and rescue, missing persons, crime scenes and traffic collisions.**

**Last month, crews finished installing nearly 800 steel posts along Las Vegas Blvd. Now officials are considering putting up another 500.**

**In February, construction will begin on a \$58 million freeway project involving Interstate 15 and US 93 in North Las Vegas.**

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**A proposal to increase state road tolls for the first time in a decade appears dead after Gov. Sununu said he won't proceed with the proposal. Transportation officials wanted to increase the tolls by 50%.**

## **NEW YORK**

**Gov. Cuomo has selected 23 historic sites for inclusion on the state and national registers of historic places.**

**Mayor Blasio says new protection barriers will be permanently installed in Times Square and other locations.**

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Several local road projects, including I-77 toll lanes, are to be wrapped-up this year.**

**A rockslide dumped more than 2,500 truckloads of dirt and debris on Highway 28 in Graham County. Officials say it'll likely be the end of February before the road will be reopened.**

**Vehicle thefts are up in the state after a decade long decline. Officials say 15,000 vehicles were stolen in the state in 2016, nearly 4,000 more than 2015.**

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Bismarck city residents opposed to the demolishing of a 134-year-old railroad bridge, say the BNSF Railway officials should allow them to turn it into a walking and biking trail.**

## **OHIO**

**Gov. Kasich has created a statewide center to advance Ohio's efforts to be a national leader in autonomous vehicle research and smart road technology.**

## **OREGON**

**Gas stations in rural Oregon counties can now let customers pump their own fuel under a new state law, but many say they will continue to pump fuel for customers.**

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Toll rates on the Pennsylvania Turnpike increased on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. The most common toll for passenger vehicles will go from \$1.23 to \$1.30 for EZPAS users and from \$1.95 to \$2.10 for drivers paying cash.**

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**The city of Providence is launching an electric bike sharing program in the summer of 2018.**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**The Coastal Conservation League has sued to block construction of Interstate 73 from North Carolina to Myrtle Beach. The environmental group has proposed the Grand Strand Expressway as an alternative.**

## **TENNESSEE**

**The Great Smokey Mountain National Park is raising fees for front-country campgrounds and public pavilions by 10% to 25% by 3/1/18.**

## **UTAH**

**State transportation officials have approved a \$10 million loan to build roads for a hotel linked to Hill Air Force Base. The hotel will be open to non-military guests, but a set number of discounted rooms will be available to military personnel.**

## **VERMONT**

**State police say speeding is on the rise across the state. There were 8,975 speeding tickets issued in 2017 through mid-December.**

**State residents who don't identify as male or female, may soon get to choose another gender on their driver's license. Oregon, California and D.C. already offer a third gender option.**

### **WASHINGTON**

**A wrapped present that was left on a ferry boat that turned out to be a fruitcake, not a bomb, temporarily halted ferry service at a Seattle ferry terminal while waiting for authorities to examine the package.**

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**A weekly \$2.50 user fee paid by people who work in Charleston has gone up to \$3 per day.**

### **WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

**Few people remember the Tucker. Built in 1948, it had a perimeter frame for crash protection, reinforced roof in case of rollovers, a padded dashboard and a shatterproof glass windshield with a "Cyclops" headlight in the middle of the front grille that turned with the steering wheel. Only 52 cars were produced and only 47 are still left.**

**If you are one of the 400,000 who put down a \$1,000 deposit for the Tesla Model 3, don't worry. Tesla says it will start delivery of the Model 3 by early February. Tesla plans to start producing 10,000 cars a week by sometime in 2018. But some experts say that far less cars produced.**



**LARRY BECKER**

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