Heidi Francis Accepts Position of Interim Associate Deputy Minister of Ontario Shared Services

Please join AAMVA in congratulating Heidi Francis on her recent acceptance of the position of Interim Associate Deputy Minister of Ontario Shared Services, effective December 11, 2017. Since June 2014, Heidi has served as the Assistant Deputy Minister, Road User Safety Division, at the Ministry of Transportation where she leads a high-performing, client-focused team that develops and promotes road user safety programs. Under Heidi’s leadership, the Road User Safety Division has begun implementing three road safety bills; started the next phase of modernizing one of the largest driver and vehicle databases in North America; enforced commercial truck safety and successfully launched the first automated vehicles program in Canada. She has demonstrated leadership throughout North America including allowing a gender neutral identifier on driver's licenses and mandatory entry level training for commercial drivers. Details of who will act as Associate Deputy Minister will be forthcoming. Also in light of this development, Francis has informed AAMVA that she will step down as the Canadian Representative serving on AAMVA's International Board of Directors.

AAMVA Awards 2018 - Call for Entries!
The AAMVA Awards Program recognizes members of the motor vehicle and law enforcement community by honoring individuals, teams, and organizations who have committed their time and resources to the following categories: Safety, Service, Security, and Public Affairs & Consumer Education. The submission deadline for all entries (including Martha Irwin Award nominations) is December 22, 2017. Visit the AAMVA Awards Program online for more details about the awards program, and to download the submission and nomination packet. For more information, please contact Jessica Hill at awards@aamva.org.

AAMVA Seeks Technical Advisor for NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group
AAMVA is seeking a technical advisor for the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group. The technical advisor shares resources and knowledge related to industry's use of NMVTIS and provides input into methods law enforcement can utilize to best network with industry. The technical advisor will have experience working with the NMVTIS program and have an understanding of NMVTIS workflow. This is a two-year appointment. Learn more about the NMVTIS LE Working Group online. Interested parties who qualify for this position are encouraged to review and submit an application to Dianne Graham at committees@aamva.org by November 24, 2017.
Thousands of District of Columbia Drivers Might Deserve a Refund From the DMV

According to a 7 On Your Side discovery, thousands of drivers might want to ask the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a red light camera refund. Mid-Atlantic AAA says red light cameras can't distinguish between drivers running a red light and those making a rolling right turn on red. Last year, DC red light cameras ticketed more than 92,000 drivers for running a red light. Read the article at wjla.com.

Lawmakers Handicapped Placard Abuse Bill Goes To Governor's Desk (Massachusetts)

If you have a handicapped placard, you may know the situation all too well: pulling up to park, only to find that the designated spaces are all taken. Massachusetts lawmakers sent a bill to Governor Baker's desk on Wednesday that would set new penalties for abusing a handicapped placard or plate. Read the article at wwlp.com.

Federal REAL ID Available Now At DMV (New York)

The New York Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) began issuing the REAL ID documents Oct. 30, and though not yet required, you can convert to a REAL ID at any time. Read the article at chronicle-express.com.

Senate OKs Bill To Let Police Use Radar Guns (Pennsylvania)

For a second straight year, the Pennsylvania Senate is advancing legislation to permit Pennsylvania's municipal police departments to use radar to catch speeders. Read the article at wgal.com.

A Looming Headache for Rhode Island DMV As Federal Deadline Nears

With the launch of its decade-in-the-making computer system in the rear-view mirror, the state Division of Motor Vehicles is planning its next big project, one that will likely make renewing a Rhode Island drivers license a lot more complicated. To meet a looming federal deadline for making state identification cards more secure, the Rhode Island DMV is getting ready to begin confirming residents' identities by checking their birth certificates and Social Security cards when they renew their drivers licenses. Read the article at providencejournal.com.

More Secure State Driver’s Licenses Raise Eyebrows in Florida

Banks, businesses and agencies that require people to present picture identification should be aware that the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has changed the look of its state-issued licenses and ID cards. The change occurred in Alachua County last week, and the Alachua County Tax Collector's Office, which handles the issuance of state-issued licenses and ID cards in the county, wants people to know the different-looking cards are here. Read the article at govtech.com.

Local Trucking School Faked Passing Scores On License Testing (Florida)

Hundreds of truckers are driving big rigs with licenses that should not have been given, according to state investigators. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles launched an investigation into Key Power Driving School Inc. and found its practices posed immediate, serious danger to public health, safety and welfare. The state terminated its agreement with Key Power and revoked the school's commercial driving license testing company license. Read the article at nbc-2.com.

First Look At the New South Carolina Driver’s License You'll Need To Travel In Airports

This is what your South Carolina driver’s license should look like to be considered
a REAL ID. The state’s most secure driver’s licenses and identification cards are still being tested, but the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles released the images of the new REAL ID and non-compliant cards residents will begin seeing in the first quarter of 2018. Read the article at thestate.com.

Risky Rides: Unscrupulous Dealerships Selling Salvage Vehicles To Customers (Texas)
Lawmakers are unaware of a public safety issue in their own parking lot. Independent dealers can purchase salvage vehicles from auctions, put a fake paper license plate on them and sell them for a profit without making the changes necessary to make them safe – and legal – for residents to drive. Criminals can also use salvage vehicles or fake plates to mask larger crimes with cartel involvement, such as money laundering and trafficking of drugs and humans. Read the article at kxan.com.

Nashville Transit Leaders Embrace Driver-less Cars In Push To Improve Traffic Woes (Tennessee)
Driverless cars might someday be the answer to less traffic and safer roadways, according to industry experts along with those that are studying the technology. Read the article at fox17.com.

Temporary License Plates Being Sold For Cash (Texas)
Channel 2 Investigates has discovered the Texas DMV’s online Temporary Tag system does not verify the personal information of the those who register vehicles, allowing anyone to get a temporary license plate. Read the article at click2houston.com.

Governor Dayton Apologizes for Ongoing Licensing Problems (Minnesota)
Four months after the launch of a new computer system for vehicle licensing and registration, Gov. Mark Dayton said it remains far from where it should be. Dayton offered an apology, acknowledging glitches and failings in the system. But he also stressed that it often works correctly. Read the article at mprnews.org.

Driverless Vehicle Lanes On I-94 Being Studied For Foxconn (Wisconsin)
Spurred by Foxconn Technology Group and its plans for a mega-factory in Racine County, state highway planners are studying the possibility of including special lanes for driverless vehicles on I-94. Should that come to pass — and at this point it is only something being contemplated — it would put Wisconsin in the vanguard of what many believe will be a key part of transportation in the future. Read the article at jsonline.com.

'America's Dairyland' Will Stay On Wisconsin License Plates, Governor Says
The slogan “America’s Dairyland” will stay on Wisconsin license plates until the cows come home, Gov. Scott Walker declared Tuesday. Read the article at host.madison.com.

Autonomous Vehicle Displayed Outside Capitol (Wisconsin)
An autonomous vehicle was on display Wednesday afternoon outside the state Capitol building. Originally, the Wisconsin Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds team was going to give demonstrations on the shuttle in downtown Madison. However, they canceled the demonstrations after a different Navya shuttle was involved in a crash with a semitrailer in Las Vegas about a week before. Read the article at channel3000.com.
Alberta Bolstering Drug-Impaired Driving Laws
The Government of Alberta is proposing new legislation to deter impaired driving and improve safety on the province's roads. Read the article at morinvillenews.com.

Tests For Pot-Impaired Driving Flawed, Substance Abuse Expert Says (Alberta)
As Alberta adjusts its traffic act in response to the looming legalization of marijuana, an expert says basing stoned-driving laws on THC levels is flawed. Read the article at cbc.ca.

Where Self-Driving Cars Go to Learn (Arizona)
Arizona has since built upon the governor’s action to become a favored partner for the tech industry, turning itself into a live laboratory for self-driving vehicles. Over the past two years, Arizona deliberately cultivated a rules-free environment for driverless cars, unlike dozens of other states that have enacted autonomous vehicle regulations over safety, taxes and insurance. Read the article at nytimes.com.

Arizona MVD Combines City, State Tax Payments On Out-of-State Vehicles
Arizonans register about 22,000 vehicles brought in from other states each year, and a new system is expected to simplify and speed the process for collecting taxes when they are registered. Read the article at azcentral.com.

California Clears the Way For Testing Of Fully Driverless Cars, Local, Federal Interests Have Concerns
At the beginning of the year, efforts to put driverless cars on California's streets looked like they were careening. Now, after this year’s release of guidelines from the state Department of Motor Vehicles, the mood has changed. Read the article at latimes.com.

Liability of Self-Driving Automakers In the Spotlight (California)
California regulators are embracing a General Motors recommendation that would help makers of self-driving cars avoid paying for accidents and other trouble, raising concerns that the proposal will put an unfair burden on vehicle owners. Read the article at canadianunderwriter.ca.

More Than 64,000 Veterans Apply For Veteran Designation On California Driver Licenses
In the two years since Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed legislation authorizing a veteran designation on California driver licenses and identification cards, more than 64,000 veterans have visited their county Veterans Service Office to apply and the California Department of Motor Vehicles has issued more than 55,000. In the process, veterans learned about their eligibility for other benefits, and 28 percent applied for additional benefits. Read the article at lakeconews.com.

Millions of Californians Will Soon Have To Visit the DMV. Here’s Why
As the deadline to meet new federal standards for state licenses and ID cards approaches, Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Sacramento and around the state are preparing for a rush. The new standards mean California fliers who rely on their driver’s license to board domestic flights will no longer be able to do so beginning Oct. 1, 2020, unless they come equipped with the federally approved IDs and licenses or a different form of acceptable identification, such as a valid U.S. passport or military ID, the DMV said. Read the article at sacbee.com.

Governments Compete To Take the Wheel On Rules For Self-Driving Cars (California / Nevada)
After crossing the border between California and Nevada, Audi's self-driving test car pulls over. Nothing is wrong. But the A7 saloon must change num ber plates if it is to continue in driverless mode while passing through Nevada. It is just one of the quirks of the disparate rules governing tes ting and development of autonomous vehicles in the US. Read the article at ft.com.
State MVD Director Resigns For Personal Reasons (New Mexico)
The director of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division stepped down earlier this month for undisclosed personal reasons. Read the article at lcsun-news.com.

OTHER NEWS

Tesla Unveils Electric Truck With 500-Mile Range — and Teases a New Sports Car
Elon Musk unveiled the new Tesla Semi on Thursday night — and surprised everybody with a working prototype of a new Roadster sports car whose purpose, he said, is to “give a hard-core smackdown to gasoline cars.” ... He was sketchy about the new electric Tesla Semi. Eyebrows popped high when he claimed a range of 500 miles, far more than anyone anticipated. Read the article at latimes.com.

Self-Driving Trucks May Be Closer Than They Appear
Trucks will someday drive themselves out of warehouses and cruise down freeways without the aid of humans or even a driver’s cab — about that there seems little disagreement. The question is how soon that day gets here. Read the article at post-gazette.com.

Car Recalls Are At an All-Time High, But 30% Remain Unrepaired
Vehicle recalls are regularly in the news, warning of inadvertent airbag deployments, faulty door latches, even risks of fire, not to mention the ongoing Takata airbag recall that dwarfs all others. But the steady stream of recalls masks the fact that about 30% of recalled vehicles remain unrepaired on America's roads, according to federal statistics. Read the article at freep.com.

U.S. Safety Board to Probe Self-Driving Shuttle Crash In Las Vegas
Federal transportation safety officials headed to Las Vegas on Friday to investigate a collision this week between a self-driving shuttle bus on its first day of service and a truck, which was blamed on human error. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, which has the power to issue safety recommendations and determines probable causes of crashes, wants to learn more about “how self-driving vehicles interact with their environment and the other human-driven vehicles around them,” said NTSB spokesman Christopher O'Neil. Read the article at reuters.com.

Tracking Truckers: Electronic Devices Replace Paper Log Books
Trucking companies across the United States will soon enter a new era when it comes to logging drivers' time on the road. Traditionally, drivers use paper logs to prove they didn't drive too long in one day. But starting next month, tractor-trailers will be required to have electronic logging devices. Read the article at wnep.com.

On Twitter
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.
Tesla unveiled an all-electric semi-truck. What to know:

- Ranges 500 miles at highway speeds between charges
- Goes 0 to 60 in 5 seconds
- Can tow 80,000 lbs
- No shifting of gears
- Regenerative braking system means "infinite brakes"
- Walmart committed to piloting them

MoDOT @MoDOT | View the Tweet

A reminder from the #JusticeLeague: Do your part to help #SaveLives. #SlowDown in work zones.

KDOT @KDOTHQ | View the Tweet

#MoveOver So law enforcement, highway workers and first responders can go home safely and uninjured after their shift is over. #MoveOverKS #GiveThemRoom
Want to follow the Kansas Department of Transportation on more Social Media pages? We are now on Instagram too! Check us out, and follow us!  
http://instagram.com/kansasdepttransportation

Man caught driving with tablet, cellphone tied to steering wheel

45.5 million Americans will take a road trip for #Thanksgiving. Be safe!  
#travelforecast  
The Regional News e-newsletter is developed and distributed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This message was intended for INSERT_EMAIL. If you would like to stop receiving this message, click here to unsubscribe.

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