

## AAMVA Regional News

September 7, 2012

### Tidbits

- The British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General agency has changed their name to the Ministry of Justice.
- Alberta drivers can now also get hit with a longer licence suspension if they are caught for drinking and driving close to the legal limit. Starting September 5, individuals who blow between .05 and .08, will lose their licence and vehicle for three days.
- Did you know you can access previous issues of The Week in Review and Regional News on the AAMVA website. Check them out by [clicking here](#).
- Have you seen AAMVA's new video entitled "All About AAMVA"? Check it out on [AAMVA's home page](#) or on our [You Tube](#) channel.
- We're looking for new AAMVA committee participants. Share your expertise with our newly restructured standing committees. We're looking for subject matter experts from driver, vehicle, and motor carrier services disciplines to share their experience and background in responsibility financial, licensing, testing, registration, titling, inspection, and other areas. Serving on a committee is an ideal way to influence policy, develop best practices and network with your peers. We also have two new disciplines – fraud and identity management. Learn more by [clicking here](#).

### Region I News

#### Connecticut DMV Starts Truck Safety Crackdown

The DMV announced that beginning Tuesday September is designated for a special crackdown on unsafe trucks and their drivers throughout the state. Enforcement will focus on reckless driving, speeding, following too close and unsafe lane changes, especially in high crash corridors along Connecticut's busiest and most traveled highways. Special federal funding is enabling DMV's Commercial Vehicle Safety Division to put extra patrols in high-crash zones. DMV inspectors will conduct increased inspections and driver-checks in these areas. In addition, DMV inspectors this week will be performing motor coach safety inspections at the state's two casinos. This effort aims to ensure that drivers and their buses are following state and federal laws. Truck and bus drivers who violate these laws face fines and, most especially, out-of-service orders stopping the use of a vehicle until repairs are made. [Read the full story in Connecticut Plus.](#)

#### Business Enterprise Program Adds Food Carts At DMV Locations *(Delaware)*

The state's Business Enterprise Program is adding mobile food carts this fall to complement the vending services it already provides at four DMV locations. The move will increase employment opportunities for individuals who are visually impaired, while enhancing the customer experience at DMV sites. The mobile carts offer competitively priced breakfast sandwiches and bowls along with lunch items. Gov. Jack Markell's policy initiative aims to help governors and businesses create a blueprint to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Markell said the mobile food carts are an example of what the public sector can do. Division of Motor Vehicle

Director Jennifer Cohan said, "The addition of mobile cart food services will go a long way toward maintaining the level of first-class service offered to all DMV customers." The carts were custom designed and built for the Business Enterprise Program to the specification of the vendors who will be operating them. The carts are designed for year-round operation. Funding for these five carts and start-up costs comes from the federal vocational rehabilitation program, and it will enable five Delawareans who are blind or visually impaired to receive income from their operation. [Read the full story in the Cape Gazette.](#)

### **Stalemate Drags on Over Driver's Licenses in New Jersey**

The head of the state Motor Vehicle Commission said Thursday there's been no progress to end a dispute over a plan to issue federally compliant driver's licenses, and a court hearing on the matter is looming. The MVC had planned to roll out the new licenses in May but was stopped by a Mercer County Superior Court judge's preliminary ruling on a lawsuit by the ACLU of New Jersey, which claimed the MVC erred by revising proof-of-ID rules without a full public vetting. The ACLU also says that the changes could impact civil rights by requiring that all documents, including birth certificates, be in English, and that the homeless will have difficulty proving citizenship under the proposed regulations. The tougher rules would require drivers to show Social Security documents as proof of ID and would no longer allow use of certain primary documents, such as a recently expired passport. Superior Court Judge Paul Innes on Aug. 3 gave the parties time to find middle ground, scheduling the next hearing for Sept. 21. ACLU officials said the organization is prepared to continue its challenge. Customers will be eligible to renew through the mail if they've received "Skip the Trip" notices. The initial batch of notices will go to those born on or before Dec. 1, 1964, and whose documents expire in November 2012. Enhanced MVC security procedures and facial recognition technology allow for mail renewals for the initial group. The program will be expanded to include about 4 million renewals. Meanwhile, the MVC stands ready to overhaul its current 6-Point ID Verification system and replace it with the federal Real ID program, upping demands on license applicants to produce actual identification documents such as a birth certificate, valid passport and paperwork confirming place of residence. New Jersey officials have branded their version of the new program as Tru-ID. [Read the full story at app.com.](#)

### **New Law Penalizes Motorists for Ignoring Traffic Control Signs, Devices (PennDOT)**

A new state law imposing stiff penalties on motorists who ignore "road closed" or other safety warning signs and devices is now in effect. Act 114, signed on July 5 by Governor Tom Corbett, reinforces the critical need for all drivers to obey traffic control signs. The law aims to increase safety for motorists and emergency responders in areas where flooding or other hazardous conditions exist. Under the law, motorists who drive around or through signs or traffic control devices closing a road or highway due to hazardous conditions will have two points added to their driving records and be fined up to \$250. If the violation results in a need for emergency responders to be called, the fine is increased to between \$250 and \$500. In addition, violators will be held liable for repaying the costs of staging the emergency response. [Read the PennDOT press release.](#)

### **New Law Requires Teen Motorcyclists to Complete Safety Course (Pennsylvania)**

A new law, signed by Gov. Tom Corbett in July, adds another requirement for young motorcycle riders. Effective Aug. 31, teens ages 16 and 17 must successfully complete the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program's Basic Rider Course before they are eligible for a motorcycle license. The basic rider course is free to anyone holding a current Pa. motorcycle learner's permit and who is a resident of Pennsylvania. Courses are offered at 70 locations in the state. Roughly 400,000 riders have gone through this proven safety training program since it began in 1984 and graduates rave about how the training has improved their riding skills. New

riders are introduced to riding fundamentals including proper operation of a motorcycle, as well as the laws applying to motorcycles, in the basic rider course. The 15-hour course includes classroom and practical instruction. Riders do not need a motorcycle to partake in the class; bikes are provided. A teen rider's time spent taking the course can be applied toward the 65 hours of on-road training riders under age 18 need before they are eligible for a license. [Read the full story in The Mercury.](#)

### **Rhode Island to Begin Issuing Veteran Drivers Licenses, IDs**

Rhode Island veterans will now be able to get a driver's license or state ID card that includes a notation that they're a veteran. A law passed this year allows any honorably discharged service member to get a license that shows they're a veteran. They must give the Department of Motor Vehicles documents that show military service, such as a certificate of release from active duty. There is no additional fee for the designation. Veterans will be able to apply for it starting Tuesday. The designation will make it easier for veterans to quickly identify themselves at the Department of Veterans' Affairs or to take advantage of discounts or other benefits. An application form is on the DMV's website. [Read the story on-line at Boston.com.](#)

## **Region II News**

### **Pilot Testing for the New License Issuance System (Oklahoma)**

Department of Public Safety officials have announced the start of pilot testing for the redesigned driver license, and new driver licensing issuance system. Pilot testing began Thursday, and statewide deployment is scheduled to start in about two weeks. While the security elements of the license remain the same, the appearance of the card is changing, such as repositioning the photograph of the card holder's face in certain documents. These changes will enable Oklahoma to reach the national standard that many other states have adopted, and will be a significant step in achieving the goal of "one person, one identity," to address the problem of identity fraud. After November 1, Oklahoma veterans can have a veteran's insignia added to the card. [Read the full story at the DPS website.](#)

### **New Residency Requirements for First-Time Driver's License Applicants Go Into Effect Today (Texas)**

The Texas Department of Public Safety has announced that it will begin implementing the new proof of residency (domicile) requirement for obtaining a commercial driver license (CDL) effective September 4. The requirements, which only apply to first-time CDL applicants, are the result of legislation approved by the Texas Legislature and comply with federal regulations. First-time CDL applicants are required to establish domicile in Texas to be eligible for a CDL. Domicile is defined as a true, fixed and permanent home and principal residence. All new CDL applicants will be required to present two acceptable documents containing the applicant's name and address to establish proof of domicile in the state of Texas. The two documents must be issued by two different companies or agencies. Under certain circumstances, applicants who are unable to provide two acceptable documents proving domicile may be eligible to complete a Texas Residency Affidavit. [Read the full story in the Lake Houston News.](#)

### **DMV Offers Veteran Designation on Driver License (South Carolina)**

The South Carolina DMV has announced the availability of a "VETERAN" designation on driver licenses, identification cards and beginner permits for individuals who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces. The VETERAN designation applies only to individuals who served honorably as members of the United States Armed Forces. To apply, veterans must present their Form DD214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which indicates an honorable discharge. No other proof of service will be accepted. Military dependents, spouses or

civilian employees on military bases are not eligible. The cost to add the VETERAN designation to a driver license, identification card or beginner permit is \$1.00. If a customer adds the designation without changing or renewing his license, he will pay only the \$1.00 fee. However, if the customer conducts another license transaction, he will pay \$1.00 plus the required transaction fee. A customer who changes his address and adds the designation would pay \$10.00 plus the \$1.00 fee. Each time a customer changes or renews his credential, he must pay an additional \$1.00 fee to add the designation. Because state law requires documentation of military service, veterans applying for the designation must visit a DMV office. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

### **Texas OKs Fastest Speed Limit in U.S.**

Feared by some, fancied by others, a stretch of Texas toll road will open soon with the highest speed limit in the country - 85 mph. The Texas Transportation Commission recently set the new speed limit for a 41-mile stretch of Texas 130 between the Austin suburb of Mustang Ridge and Interstate 10 at Seguin. Driving at the 85 limit, a motorist could travel the entire distance in less than 29 minutes. But that time will be shaved further by the obvious: Many drivers will hit at least 90 on the speedometer, believing troopers will not ticket anyone for exceeding the limit by just a tad. Scheduled for completion by Nov. 11, the segment is being built by State Highway 130 Concession Co., LLP, a private consortium comprised of the Spanish toll road firm Cintra and U.S.-based Zachry. Only one other state, Utah, allows motorists to drive 80 mph. Some experts say the new higher speed limit is likely to result in more traffic-related deaths. The consortium designed, built and paid for the 41-mile piece of road known as Segments 5 and 6 and will operate and maintain that stretch for the next 50 years. Toll rates for the 85 mph segment were still under discussion. Texas now has about 3,200 miles of roadway with a 75 mph speed limit, representing about 4% of the state's 80,000 highway miles. The state's 575 miles of roads with an 80 mph speed limit account for less than 1% of Texas roadways. [Read the full story at Governing.com.](#)

## **Region III News**

### **Specialty License Plates to be Reviewed by Indiana Panel**

A legislative study committee plans this week to tackle tough questions about state-issued license plates that benefit nonprofit groups. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been issuing the plates for years — either after the General Assembly creates one by law or a group applies and meets the agency's requirements. But a few key lawmakers have grown concerned that the state now has too many different plates — more than 100 at last count. And some Republicans are frustrated that last year, the BMV approved a plate for the Indiana Youth Group, an organization that aims to help gay teens. The General Assembly considered legislation that would have stripped away the Indiana Youth Group plate and set new rules for the review and issuance of new and existing plates. But the bill failed to gain the support needed to pass and lawmakers sent the issue to a study committee for consideration. Now, that committee — the Interim Study Committee on Special Group Recognition License Plates — will begin debating those issues. The group's vice chairman, Sen. Doug Eckerty, said the committee "will examine the policies and procedures for issuing special group recognition license plates." Leaders have asked those who want to testify to consider three questions: Is it a legitimate role of the state to raise funding for not-for-profit organizations through the sale of special group recognition license plates? If the answer to the above question is yes, what is the responsibility of the state to its citizens and specifically to citizens who purchase special group recognition license plates? Does the state have adequate resources to fulfill its responsibility under the second question? [Read the full story in the Courier Journal.](#)

## **University of Iowa Testing Effects of Pot on Drivers**

Marijuana use, despite the legal implications, has been common in America for generations, and it's becoming even more widespread as some communities legalize it for medical purposes. But it wasn't until five years ago that the NHTSA looked into its prevalence behind the wheel and found that 16.3% of the weekend nighttime drivers surveyed at 300 locations across the U.S. were drug positive. Cannabis stood out as the most commonly detected drug, according to the survey. But what the survey didn't show — and what authorities don't know — is how often drivers are impaired by the drugs, specifically marijuana. Some states prohibit drugged driving all together while others require proof of impairment, but few studies have actually analyzed the effects of cannabis behind the wheel — until now. NHTSA is teaming up with the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct the first study to analyze the effects of inhaled cannabis on driving performance. The study is taking place at the University of Iowa's National Advanced Driving Simulator, praised as being the most advanced simulator in the world, and pilot work is scheduled to begin later this month. The study will use about 20 volunteers, ages 21 to 55, who live within 40 miles of the UI and are able to make eight study visits — six of which will involve overnight stays at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Participants must be in good health, have good sleep habits and be alcohol and marijuana consumers. They must be willing to go through drug and pregnancy screenings, including blood draws. Volunteers will be transported to and from the study — they will not be allowed to drive while participating — and they will be “dosed” under the supervision of medical professionals. Medical marijuana is legal now in 17 states and Washington D.C., although it is illegal in all states to drive under the influence of any drug, regardless of whether it was prescribed by a physician, if the drug is causing impairment. Impairment can be difficult to prove, but 17 states have passed “drug per se” laws that simply make it illegal to operate a vehicle with certain drugs in one's system. Most of those states do not tolerate any amount of the prohibited drugs in a driver's system. The list of states with drug per se laws is growing, and there is a push for a federal pro se law that would create a blanket prohibition against driving with one of the prohibited drugs on board. Education, through studies like the one about to take place at Iowa, is expected to further the discussion about legislation and enable more-informed enforcement. It could even aid in the creation of an equivalent to the 0.08 blood alcohol content level set for driving. *Read the full story at KCRG.com.*

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/University-of-Iowa-Testing-Effects-of-Pot-on-Drivers-168889216.html>

## **Johnson and Olympic Gymnast Jordyn Wieber Announce New License Plate to Support Team USA**

*(Michigan)*

Michigan residents who cheered local athletes as they competed valiantly at the 2012 Olympic Games can now purchase a new license plate to show their support for Team USA. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced the



availability of the plate today with an assist from Olympic gold medalist Jordyn Wieber, who tweeted an image of the new plate to her half million followers on Twitter. The redesigned plate features bolder USA lettering and the phrase “Go Team USA” along the bottom. For each sale of the \$35 plate, \$25 benefits student athletes training at the U.S. Olympic Education Center (USOEC) at Northern

Michigan University in Marquette. When the plates are renewed, the additional \$10 goes entirely to the USOEC. The new plate replaces Michigan's existing Olympic design introduced in 1995. The old plates had a legal citation and the words “U.S. Olympic Education Center” under the Olympic rings symbol, along with the phrase “Olympic Spirit” at the bottom. More than 75,000 of the tax-deductible plates have been sold and renewed in the state, generating more than \$2 million. Michigan is one of 11 states to currently offer a license plate benefiting the U.S. Olympic program.

[\*Read the SOS press release.\*](#)

### **CHP Officer Pronounced Dead Day after Shooting** *(California)*

A California Highway Patrol officer died more than a day after being shot during a traffic stop, leaving authorities to try to determine what prompted the alleged gunman - a computer programmer who was also killed - to open fire. On the morning of September 4, Officer Kenyon Youngstrom was working patrol in the Contra Costa Area. Officer Carlton radioed to Officer Youngstrom and requested assistance with stopping a Jeep approaching his location. Officer Youngstrom flagged the Jeep to the right shoulder, and it came to a stop behind his patrol vehicle. Officer Youngstrom approached the vehicle to make contact with the driver. Simultaneously, Officer Carlton parked his patrol vehicle directly to the rear of the Jeep. As Officer Youngstrom made contact with the driver of the Jeep, the driver opened fire, striking Officer Youngstrom. Officer Carlton observed this action and immediately fired upon the driver of the Jeep, mortally wounding him. Officer Youngstrom succumbed to his injuries on September 5, 6:05 p.m. Officer Youngstrom is survived by his wife Karen, and their four children, Alexander (age 17), Madison (age 13), Andrew (age 10), and Kennedy (age 5). Officer Youngstrom was 37 years old, and a member of the patrol for seven years. *Our deepest sympathies to the CHP and those touched by Officer Youngstrom.*



### **DMV Self-Service Terminals Serve One Million Customers** *(California)*

The DMV has announced their timesaving Self Service Terminals (SST) have now assisted over one million customers since initial installation in late 2010. The freestanding terminals are in 35 DMV field offices statewide. The popular blue and gold kiosks use touch screen technology to renew vehicle registration or file for Planned Non-Operation (PNO) Status without waiting in line. The machine is designed to get vehicle registration cards and tags into a customer's hand within minutes. Customers can complete renewals for autos, motorcycles, pick-ups, commercial vehicles that do not pay commercial vehicle registration act fees, coach and park model trailers. The easy-to-use self service station accepts cash, electronic check, credit, or debit card payments. It resembles an ATM and gives directions in English and Spanish. [See how it works.](#) The first SST was installed in October 2010 at the South Sacramento office. Since then 34 others have been installed across the state. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

### **California Legislature Approves Laws for Self-Driving Cars** *(California)*

California is on its way to becoming the second state to regulate self-driving cars. A new set of laws for the vehicles passed through both houses of the state's legislature late last week, and is waiting for a signature from Governor Jerry Brown. Autonomous vehicles have been roaming California's roads for some time, but this is the first time lawmakers have acknowledged their legality. As with human-controlled cars, the DMV will determine which self-driving cars will be allowed on public roads. Specifically, cars will be required to have a clearly marked, easily used device (perhaps a giant red "off" button) for switching to manual control in an emergency. California's approach to Cylonian motoring is similar to Nevada's. The Silver State was the first to formally legalize self-driving cars; Governor Brian Sandoval signed a bill last year and the state's DMV has been writing rules since then. So far, Nevada is requiring autonomous prototypes to wear red license plates; the Nevada DMV is also working on licensing procedures for companies that want to test their cars on public roads. Nevada may have been the first state to start writing laws for self-driving cars, but Google's robotic fleet has logged over 300,000 miles on California roads. Google says its fleet of Toyota Prius and Lexus RX450h hybrids logged all those miles without a single accident. One car was involved in a fender-bender, but Google blamed the human driver. Google pushed

hard for the Nevada legislation, possibly fearing the legal fallout that would occur if one of its cars did crash. Without laws on the books, it's hard to say who is responsible if a self-driving car goes rogue, although the company that put it on the road would probably be in for some bad P.R. Now, Google has two states to play in. The company plans to take its self-driving cars on morning commutes in the Bay Area, encountering shifting traffic patterns and construction zones. Google also thinks it can reduce the number of people in each car from two to one. Google also wants to test self-driving cars on snow-covered roads. [Read the full story in Digital Trends.](#)

#### **Doctor Sued Over Fatal Crash by Patient with Dementia (California)**

Nobody disputes that 85-year-old Lorraine Sullivan steered her Toyota Corolla into oncoming traffic, causing a crash that killed her longtime boyfriend, who was in the front passenger seat. But she is not the one in a Santa Ana courtroom this week facing a wrongful death lawsuit for the 2010 accident. Her doctor is. Dr. Arthur Daigneault, who practices near the retirement community of Laguna Woods Village and caters to the elderly, is being sued by the family of William Powers. The internist had been treating Sullivan for dementia in the two years before the crash. At issue is whether he should have initiated a process to take away her driver's license - and whether by not doing so he bears some responsibility for the death. The case casts a spotlight on a problem that will grow more common as the population ages and doctors see more dementia and other conditions related to old age, such as slowed reflexes, lack of alertness and diseases that can trigger lapses of consciousness. At what point do doctors have a responsibility to notify authorities that their patients may pose a threat on the road? By 2030, the number of U.S. drivers older than 65 is expected to reach 57 million, nearly double the number in 2007. [Read the rest of the story in the Morris Daily Herald.](#)

#### **State Releases Anti-DWI Smartphone App (New Mexico)**

Had a few too many? There's an app for that. State and anti-DWI officials on Wednesday unveiled a mobile phone application that aims to prevent drunken driving by allowing users to estimate their blood alcohol content, store a list of designated drivers and easily find taxi companies. The free application, ENDWI, is available for Android phone users and is expected to be available soon for iPhone users. The app also features a game that monitors a user's reaction time and a one-touch button allowing users to report suspected drunken drivers. Users can determine their estimated blood alcohol content before getting behind the wheel by typing in how many drinks they've had. One of the goals of the app is to eliminate repeat drunken drivers. The state DOT earlier this year released a study showing that almost 60% of DWI fatalities last year involved a repeat offender. That statistic has risen, up from 30% in 2006 and from 47% in 2010. A spokesman for the governor said she plans to again push for legislation that takes aim at repeat offenders with changes to habitual-offender laws, vehicle seizure statutes and penalties. A variety of other DWI apps are already on the market. One app, Emergency Info LLC, lets friends and family know with one click that you've been arrested, and includes the GPS location of the arrest in an automated text or email. Others use quizzes and a "drink diary" to help guide users as to whether they've had too much to drink, and one provides legal guidance about what to do after being arrested. [Read the full story in the Santa Fe New Mexican.](#)

#### **Other Items of Interest**

#### **Hunter Announces Bill Punishing States That Give Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants**

U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter announced draft legislation Wednesday to punish states—including California—if they issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. A California bill that would give drivers licenses to some

undocumented immigrants awaits Governor Jerry Brown's signature or veto. But Congressman Duncan Hunter isn't very happy with that idea. The California legislature recently passed a bill that would give licenses to immigrants who meet the requirements of President Barack Obama's new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. To be eligible for that federal program, immigrants must prove they arrived in the United States before they turned 16, are 30 or younger, have been living in the country at least five years and are in school or graduated or served in the military. They cannot have been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise pose a safety threat. In California, that could be about 400,000 people. Hunter's legislation would take away federal funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program to states like California that he says would be breaking the law. California received more than \$23 million this year from the COPS program to hire or retain 117 police officers.

[Read the full story at KPBS.org.](#)

#### Did you know . . .

- *Your body contains enough iron in it to make a nail 3 inches long.*
- *Everyone has a unique smell, except for identical twins, who smell the same.*
- *The lifespan of a human hair is 3 to 7 years on average. Every day the average person loses 60-100 strands of hair. But don't worry, you must lose over 50% of your scalp hairs before it is apparent to anyone.*
- *The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as an encyclopedia. Your brain uses 20% of the oxygen that enters your bloodstream, and is itself made up of 80% water. Though it interprets pain signals from the rest of the body, the brain itself cannot feel pain.*
- *The tooth is the only part of the human body that can't repair itself.*

*OOPS! Sorry for the publisher's blunder in last week's edition. Canada too has a Labour Day. It's just spelled differently. Hope it was a great one! Hope this one is too for you all!!*