

Regional News From AAMVA – February 8, 2013

Tidbits

AAMVA's PACE Awards Program recognizes public relations, public affairs and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement and traffic safety agencies across North America. They recognize creativity, cost effectiveness and the ability to reach consumers with a well crafted, measured and executed message. [Take a look at the full list of categories and complete the 2013 PACE Awards Application form, available here.](#) To apply, complete the first page of the document, the questionnaire on the second page, and include any supporting documentation or materials. Please limit your entries to no more than six submissions to allow us to properly evaluate all the entries we receive. Entries must be submitted (postmarked) by March 25, 2013. For more information, contact Claire O'Brien at cobrien@aamva.org.

Do you have a news item you'd like to include in next week's Regional News? Send news tips and articles to Claire O'Brien at cobrien@aamva.org.

Region I News

Proposed Law: Everyone With a Driver's License Must Learn CPR (Connecticut)

I have to own up to some skepticism when I first heard that a bill had been introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly proposing that anyone obtaining or renewing a driver's license be certified in CPR first aid. Surely, I thought, no Connecticut lawmaker would make such an outlandish proposal. After all, what would follow that? Mandatory mask wearing for the sick? Nutrition certification for all mothers? Umbrella requirements for pedestrians walking in the rain? Surely, I thought, no one would suggest anything as Draconian as requiring each and every driver to learn to deliver specific first aid techniques. [Read the full article in the Day.](#)

Lawmakers Consider 'Cinderella' License for First-Time DWI Offenders (New Hampshire)

A proposal to let convicted first-time drunk drivers get a "Cinderella" driver's license is expected to get some tinkering before making it to the House floor. The bill, filed by House Majority Leader Stephen Shurtleff, D-Penacook, would let a person convicted of driving while intoxicated drive a car during limited hours and for limited purposes - getting to work or substance abuse meetings and taking family members to medical appointments. A convicted drunk driver's car would be rigged with a device that would require a positive breath test to start the engine. New technology would transmit a picture to ensure the person taking the breath test is the convicted driver. The car would have a GPS unit that would alert public safety officials if the time and range of the vehicle's use exceeded limits set by a judge. Offenders would pay the cost of the device, plus installation and a monthly \$80 monitoring fee.

[Read the full article in the New Hampshire Union-Leader.](#)

I-Team Investigation Finds Alarming Rate Of School Buses Fail Inspection (New Jersey)

Every day, thousands of kids across the Delaware Valley get on a school bus. But do you know how safe that vehicle really is? In New Jersey, nearly half the buses fail their state inspections. And as alarming as that may sound, the CBS 3 I-Team found some bus operators have even higher failure rates. Of course, the concern is that a mechanical problem could lead to an accident. So now, in an effort to be as transparent as possible, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission is posting school bus inspection results online. "Those buses should be prepared for our inspection," said New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Raymond Martinez. "By the way, those twice-yearly inspections, they're announced, they're scheduled." [Read the full story in CBS Philly.](#)

Cuomo Targets Driver's Licenses to Get Overdue Taxes (New York)

If Gov. Andrew Cuomo has his way, New York drivers who owe more than \$10,000 in state income or sales taxes will risk losing their licenses until they pay up. Roughly 9,000 taxpayers statewide fall into this category, and the administration estimates the crackdown would raise \$26 million the first year and \$6 million annually thereafter. The plan was included in Cuomo's \$136 billion budget proposal last month. The new system would be modeled after the state's 18-year-old program of suspending driver's licenses of people delinquent in child-support payments. A few states have similar laws, including Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Virginia, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. [Read the full article in the Journal News.](#)

Pennsylvania Announces New Veterans' License Plates

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs announced Monday that a new license plate honoring veterans is now available to the public. The new plate features the image of a bald eagle and an American flag. It costs \$35, with \$15 from each sale assisting Pennsylvania veterans and their families through grants to veterans service organizations and other charitable organizations. Joan Nissley, a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said that although the new plates are intended to help and honor veterans, they may be purchased by anyone. [Read the full article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.](#)

Pennsylvania Senator Calls For Increased Vehicle Registration And License Fees

A key state senator says he wants to raise vehicle registration and drivers license fees to generate more money for transportation in Pennsylvania. Governor Corbett has proposed lifting the cap on gasoline taxes at the wholesale level to raise new money for roads, bridges and mass transit. Suburban Philadelphia Republican John Rafferty is chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. "What he proposed in his budget speech I don't believe is enough to meet the transportation needs of Pennsylvania going forward." [Read the full article at CBS Philly.](#)

Ex-PennDot Supervisor Guilty of ID Theft

A former Pennsylvania Department of Transportation supervisor has been convicted by a Chester County jury of creating fake driver's licenses for criminals using the identities of innocent people. Khalif Abdullah Ali, 44, worked at the PennDot driver's license center in Frazer

and used his position to make fake licenses with the photos of wanted criminals. One of the criminals was caught and testified against Ali. Others remain at large. Ali was convicted Wednesday of identity theft, tampering with public records, computer trespass, and related offenses. He is being held at Chester County Prison awaiting sentencing. [Read the full article on philly.com.](#)

Drivers' Licenses Unknowingly Suspended (Rhode Island)

The licenses of 11,500 Rhode Island drivers are suspended for not filing a Department of Motor Vehicles accident report and some may not even know they're driving illegally. "It's absolutely frustrating," Matt Ezyk told Target 12, adding that he didn't know about the form and was surprised to find out his license was suspended for not filing it. "You think that you're safe and everything is all set, but you're not. It's a nightmare." Ezyk failed to file the three-page form with the DMV after a 2009 accident in Lincoln. "I wasn't at fault," Ezyk said. "When I went to pick up the accident report at the police station, I asked them, is there anything else I need to do? (They said) no." But about seven months later, Ezyk was pulled over for an alleged taillight violation and was told by the officer his license had been suspended. The suspensions attracted statewide attention after WPRO radio talk show host Matt Allen dissected the issue during a couple of recent episodes. Dozens of callers told Allen and his audience that they didn't know about the DMV accident report requirement. According to the law, Rhode Island drivers are required to file a 'motor vehicle accident report' with the DMV if they're involved in a collision that involves at least \$1000 in damage or an injury. That report is in addition to the accident report filled out by police and now electronically sent to the DMV. [Read the full article on wpri.com.](#)

Region II News

Fraudsters Use Agency's Name and Email Address for Phishing Expedition (Florida)

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles warns the public to be aware of an email spam that surfaced this morning. Fraudsters are using the Department's name and email address, DoNotReply@flhsmv.gov, to send emails that appear to be from DHSMV. The emails look like receipts from online transactions with the Department and include confirmation and tracking numbers. The numbers are not DHSMV tracking numbers, and the email addresses of the recipients did not come from DHSMV's database. An indicator that the email is fraudulent is that it comes from two senders: DoNotReply@flhsmv.gov and another address that varies and may look like a personal email address. All Department email addresses contain @flhsmv.gov as the domain, and DHSMV does not send transactional receipts from personal email addresses. For more information, visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PR020713a.pdf>

North Carolina Drivers Will Soon Pay Registration, Property Taxes Together

North Carolina drivers can soon expect a big change in how they register their vehicles and pay taxes on them. Beginning in May for bills due in July, the state Division of Motor Vehicles will begin sending combined notices that include both vehicle registration fees and property taxes,

which must be paid at the same time. Currently, the DMV sends out a bill for drivers to pay their registration fee. A few months later, drivers receive a tax bill from the county. "It's a collection-related issue, fundamentally," Wake County Revenue Director Marcus Kinrade said Tuesday. "Registered motor vehicle collections always lag real property collections." [Read the full article on wral.com.](#)

[Guilford County Teen Sues DMV for Denying Him License \(North Carolina\)](#)

An 18-year-old Guilford County student is suing the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles for denying him a driver's license. Erick Renteria Marin is what many call a dreamer. He was brought to the United States at the age of one, and hopes to eventually become a U.S. Citizen. "I want my driver's license to help my family run errands, help my mother or to have in case of an emergency," said Marin who was denied his license in early January. Marin claims he provided the DMV with all the proper documentation, passed all the road test and was given a temporary license. According to the lawsuit, Marin was later denied his full license after the DMV said he lacked documentation that the Federal Government and the North Carolina State Attorney General's office have said is sufficient. His attorney believes it is just a misunderstanding and hope it will be cleared up in the coming weeks. "I'm not the only one in this situation. I'm sure there are people who need their license more than me and can't get it because of this." [Read the full story on myfox8.com.](#)

[Denying Ohio Driver's Licenses to Immigrants in Dispute](#)

For Omar Rodriguez, being pulled over by police meant more than getting a speeding ticket - it could mean deportation. Rodriguez, who was brought to the United States illegally when he was 11 months old by his parents, doesn't worry about that anymore. He was given an Ohio driver's license three weeks ago. Some Ohio immigration attorneys suggest a federal policy should be enough to prompt the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to continue to grant driver's licenses to those who qualify - but that may not be the case. Rodriguez, 24, was able to get a license because of the "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" initiative, a Department of Homeland Security policy enacted in June 2012 by executive order of President Barack Obama. The policy is intended to allow those who were illegally brought into the U.S. by their parents while under the age of 16 a chance to stay here. The initiative essentially promises illegal immigrants who meet specific qualifications - and pay \$465 to apply - that the government will not deport them for two years. It does not grant citizenship or status as a permanent resident. Those who qualify pay taxes and can get a Social Security card and work legally. With those documents in hand, Rodriguez, who lives in central Ohio, got a driver's license. But Ohio House Democratic Leader Armond Budish of Beachwood said at least a dozen people came to his office this week upset that the BMV is denying licenses to people like Rodriguez. Budish said the BMV stopped issuing driver's licenses two weeks ago to those covered under the federal initiative. He also said they were "threatening" to revoke licenses already granted. "It's a matter of fairness," Budish said. "Ohio had 200 people who qualified for deferred action and obtained driver's licenses." BMV spokeswoman Lindsey Bohrer said it appears some deputy registrars who are private contractors have denied licenses and state identification cards. She did not say whether those private contractors' decision to deny licenses were directives from the BMV, or if registrars who are not private contractors made the same decision. "Our legal department is in

the process of reviewing guidance from the federal government as it applies to Ohio law," Bohrer said.

It is not known how many people were denied licenses. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch.](#)

Tennessee Self-Service Driving License Renewal Uses Face Recognition

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDOS) has unveiled self-service kiosks for renewal and replacement of driver licenses and ID cards at approximately 40 new locations. The kiosks are networked with state driver license records and are equipped with facial recognition software that compares the person posing for the new photo with the previous license photo to prevent identity theft. Kiosk users simply swipe their old license, ID or enter identifying information and in minutes the kiosk takes a photo and prints a receipt that serves as a temporary license or ID until the permanent one arrives in the mail within five to seven business days. Payment can be made with credit or debit cards. Tennessee is one of the first states to offer these kiosks in other convenient public locations, dramatically reducing customer wait times. [Read the full article on Planet Biometrics.](#)

Lawmakers Seek to Repeal License Surcharges for Driving Violations (Texas)

Three Texas lawmakers announced Thursday that they are pushing legislation to end the Texas Driver Responsibility Program, an initiative that was started to raise funds for trauma hospitals through surcharges on driving offenses. State Rep. Larry Gonzales, R-Round Rock, was joined by state Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, and state Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, in announcing House Bill 104, legislation that would repeal the 10-year old program. All three lawmakers say that though the program was created with good intentions, it has created a headache for many Texans. Turner, author of the original bill creating the program in 2003, said lawmakers need to recognize they made a mistake and repeal the program, which he agrees has been ineffective. [Read the full article in the Star-Telegram.](#)

Vital Records Could Soon be Sold at DMV (Virginia)

The Department of Motor Vehicles could be the death of you - or the birth. If legislation moving through the General Assembly is successful, the 75 DMV offices around the state could also sell copies of birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates. The move would broaden the offerings of one of the state's most prominent agencies. The records are available at the state's vital statistics office in Richmond, though they can also be ordered through the mail or via the Internet. "If you live outside of Richmond, it is oftentimes very difficult to interact with the state capital on a number of issues," said Sen. Stephen D. Newman, R-Lynchburg, who proposed the legislation. "We wanted to make sure that these vital records, which are held in Richmond, are available to the public as easily as possible. "This bill does that and only adds a small fee." Vital records cost \$12 per certificate, and DMV would add a \$2 fee. [Read the full article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.](#)

Region III News

Specialty License Plates Prompt Debate (Indiana)

Specialty license plates raise millions of dollars for universities and non-profits in Indiana, but they're also prompting debate about what kind of controls the state should exert over them. Legislation that came out a summer study committee on the issue would cap the number of organizations that could get the state-issued plates, eliminate some that currently have them, and compel groups that want one to reveal more about how they're spending their money. It would also create an eight-member bipartisan commission to review future plate requests, taking away some of the control that the state Bureau of Motor Vehicles now has. The bill's author, Republican state Rep. Ed Soliday of Valpraiso, said his intent is to bring more order and fairness - and less controversy-to what he called a "helter-skelter" system.

[Read the full article in the Kokomo Tribune.](#)

Kansas Looks to Add 'Veteran' to Driver's Licenses

A Republican legislator has introduced a bill that would allow Kansas military veterans to declare their military service on the back of their state driver's license. The move by Representative Mario Goico would have Kansas join a parade of states that have added the designation on licenses. New Mexico added it in 2012. Goico, a Wichita Republican and chairman of the House Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee, said the addition would be a tool for law enforcement to identify an individual as a veteran and also see if they were a combat veteran. Such information could help diffuse a tense situation and explain why an individual may be displaying questionable behavior. The addition would also allow veterans to easily participate in business discounts based on their military service. [Read the full article on ksal.com.](#)

Snyder's Big Budget Plan Seeks Hikes in Gas Tax, Vehicle Registration Fees, More (Michigan)

Gov. Rick Snyder, the businessman turned politician who says his mission is to reinvent Michigan government, unveiled an ambitious 2013-14 budget plan Thursday that won support from some business and political leaders but left many conservatives and liberals shaking their heads. If it's approved, motorists and outdoor enthusiasts will foot much of the bill. Snyder's budget would hike the cost of gas, vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses, while pledging improvements to the state's roads and wildlife areas and expanding Medicaid coverage and early childhood education. Snyder said the bond rating agencies will like his plan because it's balanced, pays down long-term debt and adds \$178 million to two state savings accounts. [Read the full article in the Detroit Free Press.](#)

Michigan to Grant Driver's Licenses to Some Illegal Immigrants

The Michigan Secretary of State's Office reversed itself Friday and agreed to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants who were brought into the country as children. The decision by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson could affect 12,000 immigrants in Michigan. State officials acted after the federal government clarified language on deferred action two weeks ago, saying that it grants legal status to affected immigrants. Effective Feb. 19, the Secretary of State will issue driver's licenses and identification cards to "noncitizen" applicants. The licenses will expire on the date that the person's legal presence expires, according to a memo directed to all branch office staff. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan said Friday it planned to drop

the federal lawsuit it filed against Johnson in December. [Read the full article in the Detroit News.](#)

Michigan to Roll out New Initiatives for Military Vets

Michigan is rolling out new initiatives aimed at bringing military veterans closer to the services the state offers. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced Wednesday initiatives designed to benefit the more than 650,000 military veterans living in Michigan. The proposals include a recently introduced bill that would put a special designation for veterans on driver's licenses and identification cards. Johnson said the designation will allow veterans to receive military discounts at hotels and stores. She said it will also allow county veterans service officers to reach out to veterans about services to ensure they can "take advantage of the benefits they earned." Johnson also laid out plans to design a special license plate to raise money to fund veterans' programs in Michigan. [Read the full article at wxyz.com.](#)

Missouri Drivers' Licenses to Change Tomorrow

County by county, Missouri is seeing a change in the way driver's licenses are created, administered and obtained. Though larger areas like St. Louis have already implemented the changes, Perryville's switchover begins today. The change was issued after Homeland Security deemed Missouri's licenses (and many other state licenses) as having the least amount of security. "Apparently our licenses are really easily manipulated," said Della Bantle, office manager for the Perryville License Office. "But I also know that a lot of other states are taking on this change as well." Now, every new license a Missouri driver obtains, beginning today, will include new security features like laser perforations, special UV printing and a ghost image to help combat forgery and identity theft. Also, licenses administered to drivers under 21 will now be vertical. For those going to purchase a new license, the way in which you obtain it will change. [Read the full article in the Perryville News.](#)

St. Louis Police Hope Security Kits Will Thwart License Plate Thieves (Missouri)

License plates have been disappearing in St. Louis and St. Louis County this year at a rate that alarms police, and the only clue is the discovery of a small pile of them - missing their renewal stickers - in a vacant lot on the city's north side. Preliminary numbers show a 130 percent increase in plate thefts in the city this January over last, and about a 77 percent increase in the county. In response, the city police next week will begin selling security fastener kits to residents at wholesale prices. And county police officials say they may ask the legislature to consider a law requiring stickers on the inside of windshields. Such thefts are a way to avoid the cost of Missouri's requirements to provide proof of a safety inspection, emissions compliance, insurance and personal property payment to obtain a renewal sticker. Illinois, by contrast, has no safety inspections or personal property taxes. [Read the full article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.](#)

Older Nebraska Drivers Respond to Cognitive Test Bill

Supporters and opponents of a bill that would require drivers older than 80 to pass a cognitive test to renew their licenses spoke out Tuesday about the measure, which according to its sponsor would be the first to call for such a test. Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms told lawmakers

that Nebraska would be the first state to require a cognitive test if his bill passed, but not the first to require extra requirements for older motorists to renew their driver's licenses. "It's about medically impaired drivers. We want to try to identify them," he said. But motorists like 76-year-old Jack Sample argue that the bill discriminates against seniors. [Read more in the Post-Intelligencer.](#)

North Dakota RFP Opportunity

You are invited to participate in the following North Dakota state procurement opportunity.

Solicitation Number: 918-58-13-050

Type: Request For Proposal

Title: Motor Vehicle Supportive Services Issuing Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

Issued: Monday, February 04, 2013

Deadline for Questions: 02/26/2013 05:00 PM CT Proposal Closes: 03/11/2013 05:00 PM CT

Procurement Officer: Marilyn Langehaug

Telephone: 701-328-4466

TTY: 8003666888

Fax: 701-328-0310

Email: mlangehaug@nd.gov

Short Description: The N.D. Dept. of Transportation is soliciting proposals for Motor Vehicle Supportive Services. The RFP can be downloaded from the N.D. State Procurement Office website: <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/csd/spo/services/bidder/main.htm>

Ohio Drops License-Plate Replacement Effort

The Ohio Department of Public Safety has abandoned its efforts to require residents to pay for new license plates. DPS Director Tom Charles told members of the Ohio House's finance committee Wednesday that he would not be offering what he called a "dumb idea." "No, you're not going to hear any more from me [on the issue]," he said. "That was a suggestion, and I've had a number of calls, but it's not hidden anywhere. It won't be. Unless you all put it in, I don't think you'll see it." [Read the full article in the Vindicator.](#)

South Dakota Senate OKs Teen-Driving Reforms Package

Driver's education would return to South Dakota schools and significant new restrictions would be placed on 14- and 15-year-old drivers in South Dakota under a package of changes approved Wednesday by the state Senate. The four pieces of legislation now cross to the House of Representatives, where passage could be more difficult. Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, led the way in getting the package through the Senate. He was chairman of the state's teen-driving task force last year. [Read the full article in the Daily Republic.](#)

Region IV News

[Young Drivers Who Don't Buckle Up Could Be Pulled Over, Cited Under Proposed New Law \(Idaho\)](#)

Idaho still has no "primary" seat belt law, allowing police to pull over a driver just for a seat belt violation - but Rep. Rich Wills, R-Glenns Ferry, a retired state trooper, wants to enact one for drivers age 14-18. "We're losing too many of our youth," Wills declared. "Once they become drivers and get into the vehicles, they get around their peer groups and I think they get careless and imprudent." Under his bill, officers could pull over young drivers and cite them for seat belt violations even if they didn't have another, primary offense, such as speeding; a primary offense still would be required to cite those over age 18 for not wearing seat belts. Wills said he included 18-year-olds "simply because ... there's so many of 'em that are still in high school, and they are the ones that become the leaders, because the other kids look up to them as mentors." Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia have primary seatbelt laws for front-seat occupants. [Read the full article in the Spokesman Review.](#)

[Oregon Adds Quick-Charge Stations, Completes Its Part of 'Electric Highway'](#)

With more quick-charge stations installed for electric vehicles, Oregon has completed its portion of the West Coast Electric Highway. When completed, the electric highway will be equipped with quick-charge stations every 25 to 60 miles, according to The Salem Statesman Journal. The highway is a tri-state effort of Washington, Oregon and California, and extends from British Columbia to Baja California. The quick-charge stations can typically charge a car battery in 20 to 30 minutes. Depending on battery-charge levels, it can take between four to eight hours at a non-quick charge station. [Read the full article in the Oregonian](#)

[Bill Would Expand Definition of DUI in Oregon](#)

Oregon lawmakers are considering a bill that would expand the definition of drunken driving to include prescription drugs and synthetic substances that mimic drugs. Currently "intoxicants" cover only alcohol, controlled substances and inhalants. The Statesman Journal reports (<http://stjr.nl/UsPqCl>) the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing Monday on the bill that would include any drug that affects a driver's mental or physical faculties. Drivers could claim they had an adverse reaction to medicine, but they'd have to disclose medical records to the prosecutor. [Read the full article in the Argus Observer.](#)

[Drunken Driving 'Loophole' Targeted \(Oregon\)](#)

While state legislators have embraced policies in recent years that require more drunken driving offenders to install alcohol-detecting breathalyzers in their vehicles, some lawmakers believe those rules need more tweaking this year to make them effective. Chief among the proposed changes is House Bill 2117, which received an initial public hearing on Monday, as lawmakers reconvened for the first working day of the 2013 legislative session. HB 2117 would close what proponents see as "a loophole" in the law regarding the devices - called ignition interlocks - that prevent a vehicle from starting when a driver fails a breathalyzer test. [Read the full article in the Register-Guard](#)

[House Supports Expanding 80 mph Speed Limits on Freeways \(Utah\)](#)

Lawmakers in the House overwhelmingly approved a bill Wednesday to increase the speed drivers can travel on certain stretches of Utah freeways. HB83, sponsored by Rep. Jim Dunnigan, R-Taylorsville, would expand the portion of I-15 where the Utah Department of Transportation may raise a posted speed limit from 75 mph to 80 mph. It also allows for speed limit increases on portions of I-80 and I-84. The bill passed the House with a 69-5 vote and now moves to the Senate. If approved, the new speed limits would be posted by July 2014. [Read the full article in the Deseret News.](#)

Layton Lawmaker Links ID Theft to Utah Public Records Access (Utah)

Public records shouldn't be an easy gateway for thieves to gain access to key personal information, a local lawmaker argues. Rep. Stephen Handy, R-Layton, wants to ensure information kept in the glove compartment of a car - items such as vehicle registration and insurance information - doesn't become an easy way for burglars to find out where people live, and then exploit them when they are least suspecting. Handy's bill, HB 79, would modify provisions of state code so motor vehicle registration and insurance information would not contain addresses of the people identified on the documents. His bill received a favorable recommendation from a House transportation committee and has advanced to the House for further consideration. [Read the full article in the Standard-Examiner.](#)

Utah House Passes HOV Limits, 'In God We Trust' License Plates

Drivers of clean-fuel vehicles, enjoy freeway carpool lanes while you can. The Utah House took another step Monday toward limiting such access in the future. The House also passed two other transportation bills on Monday - one to allow issuing a new "In God We Trust" license plate, and another to allow drivers at some unusual new interchanges to turn either right or left on red lights. The House voted 51-23 to pass HB23 to allow the Utah Department of Transportation to limit how many clean-fuel vehicles it allows in carpool lanes... The House also voted 64-9 to pass HB34 to allow selling the "In God We Trust" license plate. The idea for the plates came from 11-year-old Tate Christensen of Salt Lake City. [Read the full article in the Salt Lake Tribune.](#)

Charges Can No Longer be Filed Using Breathalyzers (Wyoming)

State police statewide have been ordered to stop using breathalyzers to file charges. That's according to Trooper Tom Kelly of the Wyoming barracks. He said it comes after a Dauphin County Judge threw out more than a dozen cases, questioning the accuracy of the tests. Trooper Kelly said troopers at the Wyoming barracks have not used intoxilyzer breathalyzers, like the one inside the training center, for several years, but portable field breathalyzers are being used to determine if a driver needs to be taken for blood tests. [Read the full article on wnep.com.](#)

Did You Know...

- The largest recorded snowflake was 15 inches (38 centimetres) wide.

- 'Champagne powder', 'corduroy' and 'mashed potatoes' are terms used by skiers to describe different kinds of snow.
- Very light snow is known to occur at high latitudes on Mars.
- It is a popular urban legend that the Inuit or Eskimos have an unusually large number of words for snow. In reality, the Eskimo-Aleut languages have about the same number of distinct word roots referring to snow as English does.
- Roughly twelve per cent of the Earth's land surface is covered in permanent snow and ice.
- Japanese physicist, Ukichiro Nakaya, is credited with making the first artificial snowflakes.
- The U.S. state of Utah's car license plates proclaim that Utah has 'The Greatest Snow on Earth'.
- The heaviest snowfall in the UK was in 1695. It snowed every day in London for 5 weeks, and the River Thames froze. The snow didn't fully clear until mid-April.
- The average snowflake is made up of 180 billion molecules of water.
- If you are terrified of snow, then you suffer from Chionophobia.