

# June 6, 2014 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### Early Bird Registration for Annual International Conference Ends July 17th

Take advantage of AAMVA's early bird registration rate for the 2014 Annual International Conference. Get registered today and take part in this year's exciting conference at the splendid Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Dover, Delaware. Visit [www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/](http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/).

## Region I

### Lawmakers OK Limited License for Drunken Drivers (New Hampshire)

New Hampshire's House and Senate have voted to authorize a limited driver's license for first-time drunken drivers to go to work, medical treatment, school or other locations approved by a judge. They voted Wednesday to send the bill to the governor. The license must be suspended for 45 days before applying for limited driving privileges. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Lawmakers-OK-limited-license-for-drunken-drivers-5528368.php>

### New Jersey License Plates Go Flat

New Jersey is getting new license plates that officials hope will be stronger than the storm. The colors will remain the same. But instead of embossed raised letters and numbers, the new plates will feature digitally printed flat lettering. Officials hope the new plates will better withstand the wear-and-tear of weather. The state will continue to issue embossed plates until the current inventory is exhausted. Read the full story at EnquirerHerald.com.

<http://www.enquirerherald.com/2014/06/03/3055928/new-jersey-license-plates-go-flat.html?sp=/99/117/365/>

### Ontario Interim ADM Appointment Announced

Heidi Francis, Director, Safety Policy and Education Branch (SPEB) Road User Safety Division with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has agreed to act as Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Road User Safety Division, on an interim basis until a formal competition has been held. Heidi has been the Director of SPEB since 2009. Under Heidi's strong leadership, she has led a number of key files specific to driver and vehicle safety policies, road safety research, marketing and public education to promote road safety. Heidi's work has been instrumental in Ontario's ranking as having the safest roads in North America. Over the past two years, Heidi has also held the position of Vice-Chair of the CCMTA Standing Committee on Road Safety Research and Policies. Also, Peter Hurst has agreed to act as Executive Sponsor of the Road User Safety Modernization Project. The modernization project will improve the

commercial vehicle operator registration and performance monitoring system. Peter is well known and highly respected in the North American carrier safety community and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Registration Plan Inc. Please join us in welcoming Heidi and Peter to their roles.

## **Region II**

### **Louisiana to Study Use of Self-Driving Cars in State**

Where Louisiana's going, we don't need drivers. At least that's the idea behind a resolution adopted Monday (June 2) by the Louisiana Legislature ordering a study of self-driving cars. Sponsored by New Orleans lawmaker Rep. Walt Leger, a Democrat, House Resolution 133 asks the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to examine the need to adopt laws regulating "autonomous motor vehicles" on the Bayou State's roads. Read the full story at NOLA.com.

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/06/louisiana\\_self-driving\\_cars\\_go.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/06/louisiana_self-driving_cars_go.html)

### **South Carolina Considering Texting-and-Driving Ban**

Our neighbor to the south may finally join the majority of the United States in banning text messaging while driving. A bill outlawing tapping out messages while in motion is slated for debate by lawmakers from both the South Carolina House and Senate. The ban would then require one vote in the House to one in the Senate before being signed into law. Read the full story at Greensboro.LegalExaminer.com.

<http://greensboro.legalexaminer.com/automobile-accidents/south-carolina-considering-texting-and-driving-ban/>

### **Virginia Officials Order Uber, Lyft to Stop Operating in the State**

The war between app-based ride-sharing services Uber and Lyft and the state of Virginia is escalating. Earlier this year, Virginia officials slapped the app-based services with more than \$35,000 in civil penalties for operating without proper permits. On Thursday, Richard D. Holcomb, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, sent a cease and desist letter to both companies. Read the full story in the Washington Post.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2014/06/05/virginia-officials-order-uber-lyft-to-stop-operating-in-the-state/>

### **Online License Renewal Among New DMV Laws (West Virginia)**

Beginning this week, West Virginians will notice some changes in DMV laws. Details are available at WVVA.com.

<http://www.wvva.com/story/25672432/2014/06/02/online-license-renewal-among-new-dmv-laws>

## Region III

### **'Sound Cannon' Road Safety Tool Makes Debut on Highways (Missouri)**

Drivers may have thought they were hearing things when a robotlike voice invaded their cars as they traveled a Northland interstate last fall. They weren't. State highway workers had beamed a message through a "sound cannon," a high-tech gizmo that allows communication over long distances under noisy conditions. Read the full story at [KansasCity.com](http://www.kansascity.com).

<http://www.kansascity.com/search/?q=%E2%80%98Sound+Cannon%E2%80%99+Road+Safety+Tool+Makes+Debut+on+Highways+%28Missouri%29>

### **Bill Would Require Seat Belts for Students on Ohio School Buses**

Ohio school buses would have to be outfitted with safety belts under legislation introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives. House Bill 578 would require all school buses bought, leased, or rented after January 1, 2016 be equipped with lap and shoulder safety belts for all passengers. The bill also would require school districts to adopt a disciplinary policy governing the failure of a student to wear a seat belt on a bus. Read the full story at [Cleveland.com](http://www.cleveland.com).

[http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/06/bill\\_would\\_require\\_seat\\_belts.html#incart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/06/bill_would_require_seat_belts.html#incart_river)

## Region IV

### **New Driver License Security Ringtail Needs Name (Arizona)**

The ringtail, incorporated into the new Arizona driver license background image as a security feature, needs a nickname. The Arizona Department of Transportation is kicking off the "name the ringtail" contest to solicit ideas on what to call the critter. The ringtail – officially designated as the state mammal – is included among the security features on the newly designed driver license. Ringtails are cat-sized carnivores, resembling a small fox with a long raccoon-like tail. Almost wholly nocturnal, they are expert climbers found throughout the state. Read the full story at [ArizonaDailyIndependent.com](http://www.arizonadailyindependent.com)

<http://www.arizonadailyindependent.com/2014/06/04/new-driver-license-security-ringtail-needs-name/>

### **Scammers Trying to Charge Undocumented Immigrants for California Driver's Licenses**

Undocumented immigrants should be wary of scammers trying to charge money for procuring California driver's licenses, according to an alert issued by the San Jose Police Department. A new state law passed in 2013 will make it possible for undocumented immigrants to get valid California driver's licenses starting on Jan. 1, 2015. Read the full story at [NBCBayArea.com](http://www.nbcbayarea.com).

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Scammers-Trying-to-Charge-Undocumented-Immigrants-for-Driver-Licenses-SJPD-261400461.html>

### **Buyers Beware of Online Vehicle Registration Scam (Idaho)**

Two Blaine County residents were victims of an online scam when they renewed their vehicle tabs through the Access Idaho government website. Blaine County DMV Supervisor Carma Angelo urges all Idaho residents who have recently renewed tabs online to go back and check their bank statements. Read the full story in the Idaho Mountain Express.

[http://www.mtexpress.com/vu\\_breaking\\_story.php?bid=99959#.U43stFM1BCo](http://www.mtexpress.com/vu_breaking_story.php?bid=99959#.U43stFM1BCo)

### **New Dedicated Traffic Units to Enforce Tougher Laws (Saskatchewan)**

The chances of getting caught speeding, using a cell phone while driving, or driving while impaired in Saskatchewan are going up as two special traffic enforcement units take to the highways. Read the full story at TheStarPhoenix.com.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/dedicated+traffic+units+enforce+tougher+laws/9902090/story.html>

## **Other News**

### **New York, California Among Eight States Promising to Release 3.3 Million Zero-Emission Cars**

Representatives from the states of New York, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oregon and Vermont announced on Thursday a collaborative plan to release 3.3 million zero-emission vehicles by 2025. Read the full story at FashionTimes.com.

<http://www.fashiontimes.com/articles/7915/20140602/new-york-california-among-eight-states-that-promised-to-release-3-3-million-zero-emission-cars-by-2025.htm>

### **Staggering Toll: Car Crashes Cost \$871 Billion a Year (U.S.)**

Highway crashes create an enormous economic toll on the lives of Americans, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in a new study. The annual price tag for those crashes: \$871 billion in economic loss and societal harm in 2010. Read the full story in USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/05/29/steep-economic-toll-of-crashes/9715893/>

### **Wind River Teams with TTTech for Autonomous Driving and Advanced Automotive Applications**

Wind River(R), a world leader in delivering software for intelligent connected systems, announced that it is working with TTTech to develop safety-related electronic control units (ECUs) based on networked multi-core system-on-chips (SoCs) for advanced automotive applications, such as autonomous driving. Wind River contributes as a key software partner and provides its VxWorks(R) real-time operating system (RTOS) -- conforming to the ISO 26262 safety standard -- for the new ECU platform. Read the full story in the Wall Street Journal.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140605-910483.html>

## **Auto Accidents are No. 1 Cause of Death for U.S. Teens**

Auto accidents are the No. 1 killer of American teenagers, a new study finds — killing almost as many drivers as passengers, and killing more kids than homicide or suicide. The new report, called “Teens in Cars,” was paid for by the General Motors Foundation and based on a national survey of 1,000 teens between 13 and 19. Read the full story on LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-auto-accidents-top-teen-killer-20140603-story.html>

## **Secretary Johnson Announces Process for DACA Renewal**

Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson today announced the process for individuals to renew enrollment in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has submitted to the Federal Register an updated form to allow individuals previously enrolled in DACA, to renew their deferral for a period of two years. At the direction of the Secretary, effective immediately, USCIS will begin accepting renewal requests. USCIS will also continue to accept requests for DACA from individuals who have not previously sought to access the program. As of April 2014, more than 560,000 individuals have received DACA. Read the full story at USCIS.gov

<http://www.uscis.gov/news/secretary-johnson-announces-process-daca-renewal>

## **Did You Know**

### **GRADUATION'S DONE. NEXT STEP—LETTING GO**

I was one of many proud parents earlier this week at my son's Kindergarten Graduation. Like many other parents, I arrived 30 minutes early in order to get a good seat in the front so I could snap pictures and cheer him on. When the last of the students skipped off the stage after being handed a certificate, the principal said something that pulled my heartstrings. He said, "Without further adieu, I introduce to you the future Class of 2026!" Of course I acted on my first instinct to cheer and clap, but suddenly I felt an overwhelming sense of sadness at the thought that one day my babies will both embark on their own life journeys.

I can imagine that there are probably many parents out there right now who are beginning to feel the walls of their nest slowly crumbling apart as they do their best to help their young-adult prepare for life as a college freshman. Fortunately, there are some tips out there to help college students AND parents successfully navigate through this next chapter in life.

- Set up guidelines for staying in touch
- Give advice sparingly, but always offer a thoughtful response when asked what you think about something.
- Recognize that your child is an almost adult who may still need help taking responsibility for all of her own care.

- Emphasize the importance of knowing when to ask for help and don't hesitate to step in until he or she regains equilibrium and can assume control of a recovery plan.
- Remember that emotions are particularly cranked up during times of transition. Cut each other some slack.
- In general, prepare to be sympathetic, supportive and patient. Recognize that doing nothing is often the best option.

Here are some more resources:

- Parents of College Freshman: Don't Let Go Too Fast (PsychologyToday.com)  
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-couch/201008/parents-college-freshmen-dont-let-go-too-fast>
- Some Advice for Parents of New College Students (Forbes)  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/collegeprose/2013/08/20/some-advice-for-parents-of-new-college-students/>
- Start of College Can be Harder on Parents than Freshmen (USA Today)  
[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-09-05-freshman-coping-parents\\_N.htm?csp=hf](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-09-05-freshman-coping-parents_N.htm?csp=hf)
- Letting Go: Tips for Parents of New College Students (greatschools.org)  
<http://www.greatschools.org/college-prep/planning/304-letting-go-new-college-students.gs>