

June 13, 2014 - Regional News

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/.

Register for Regional Conferences

Register now to join us for our 2014 Regional Conferences. Still ahead, Region II meets from June 22-25 in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Region I meets from July 27-30 in Toronto, Ontario. Visit the upcoming events section of AAMVA's website to register! <http://www.aamva.org/EventsEducation/Upcoming-Events/>

Region IV Conference Wraps Up

The 2014 Region IV conference wrapped up last week in Vancouver, British Columbia. Region IV President Kellee Irwin welcomed jurisdiction members, exhibitors, and other guests to the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre for several days' worth of informative sessions and great networking opportunities. Presentations from the conference will be posted to AAMVA's Web site soon. See you next year in Park City, Utah for the 2015 Region IV Conference, June 1-4, 2015.

Region I

I-Team: Odometer Fraud 'Alive and Well' in New England (Massachusetts)

How many miles are on that engine? The ad says one thing - but is the seller fudging the numbers and rolling back the digits on the dashboard? . . . A quick search online turns up dozens of results on how to rollback odometers. In one video, someone plugs in a device and within three minutes takes 175,000 miles off the car. Read the full story at Turnto10.com.

<http://www.turnto10.com/story/25581540/i-team-odometer-fraud-alive-and-well-in-new-england>

Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants Going Nowhere: Cuomo (New York)

Gov. Cuomo said Sunday a proposal to let undocumented immigrants get drivers licenses in New York is going nowhere for now. . . Immigrant groups launched a push earlier this year to allow those in the country illegally to get licenses, which eleven states now allow. Bills to change New York's policy have been introduced in the Assembly and the Senate. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/driver-licenses-undocumented-immigrants-cuomo-article-1.1821985>

Tech Startup to Help Bars Prevent Underage Drinking During Summer's '100 Deadliest Days' (New York)

Cheers to this: A local tech startup will be giving its potentially life-saving app away for free to bars this summer. Bar & Club Stats, whose app verifies IDs, has launched a promo that piggybacks on New York State's proposed "Hard Card" legislation, Bar & Club Stats CEO Ben Silbert told the Daily News. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/tech-startup-bars-prevent-underage-drinking-summer-100-deadliest-days-article-1.1820234#ixzz349VbAHDf>

Lawmaker Looks to Eliminate Legislative License Plates (Pennsylvania)

In case Pennsylvania lawmakers need to get creative with their vanity license plates at least for now. Read the full story at PainDependent.com.

<http://paindependent.com/2014/06/lawmaker-looks-to-eliminate-legislative-license-plates/>

Car Black Box Data Can Be Used as Evidence (Pennsylvania)

The sheer violence of the crash told police that Ryan Safka was speeding on a Pittsburgh highway before his car slammed into a concrete barrier and ricocheted into the woods, killing three passengers. But the scene state troopers were left to investigate in the wee hours of Feb. 21, 2010, had few of the clues investigators normally use to reconstruct the final moments before a crash. Read the full story at MCall.com.

http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/pennsylvania/mc-pa-black-box-data-as-evidence-20140607_0_690626.story

State Bill Allows Courts and Law Enforcement to Suspend Licenses When People Don't Pay Fines (Pennsylvania)

Legislation in the Senate could mean more Pennsylvania motorists who don't pay fines could see their licenses suspended until they pay the court. The Senate Transportation Committee approved Senate Bill 918 Wednesday that requires the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to suspend the driver's licenses of anyone who fails to pay any court-imposed fines or penalties within 15 days of receiving a notice about their obligation to pay up. Read the full story at PennLive.com.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/senate_transportation_committe_1.html

Region II

Driver Services Commissioner Announces New Emergency Preparedness Initiative (Georgia)

Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell, under the direction of Governor Nathan Deal, is providing a new emergency preparedness initiative for customers obtaining a driver's

license or state identification card. Customers may request that their blood type be printed on the back of their permanent card. This addition is completely optional and may help medical personnel during an emergency. Read the DDS press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=347>

\$245,000 Used-Car Verdict - a Buck for Every Mile (Louisiana)

The verdict was returned for a Shreveport, La., woman who bought the car for her son from Mak Cars Inc., which at the time of the sale in 2012 operated Unique Motorsports Inc., 5801 Bardstown Road. After a three-day trial and three hours of deliberation, the jury Thursday also awarded Cherrylyn Renay Seals \$13,927 for the price of the car and an extended warranty that wasn't honored when the third-party warranty provider learned how many miles were actually on the vehicle. Read the full story at Courier-Journal.com.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/2014/06/04/louisville-used-car-dealer-hit-verdict/9961377/>

South Carolina Bans Texting and Driving

On Monday, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley made the Palmetto state the 44th to prohibit texting while behind the wheel for all drivers. The law goes into effect immediately, but police will issue warning for the first 180 days. Read the GHSA press release.

http://www.ghsa.org/html/media/pressreleases/2014/20140611sc_txt.html

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Fights To Keep Custom License Plate (Tennessee)

The Tennessee Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been fighting to keep part of its funding through its custom license plate program. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, gets \$15,000 a year in contributions as a result of people ordering their custom license plates. Read the full story at NewsChannel 5.com.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/story/25724493/mothers-against-drunk-driving-fights-to-keep-custom-license-plate>

Virginia DMV Orders Lyft, Uber to Stop Operating

As Uber and Lyft compete with each other for customers, their combined struggle with local governments is intensifying. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles demanded this week that both halt operations in the Commonwealth. In similar letters sent to the California-based transportation companies, the DMV requested Uber and Lyft "cease and desist operating in Virginia until it obtains proper authority" and threatened to fine their drivers.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2014/06/06/virginia-dmv-orders-lyft-uber-to-stop-operating/>

Arlington County Employee Sentenced for Falsifying DMV Paperwork (Virginia)

A former Arlington County employee was sentenced Monday to two years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for accepting more than \$11,000 in bribes from a luxury vehicle exporter. He was also ordered to pay \$21,000 in restitution to the Virginia DMV and to turn over the money collected in the bribes to the government, according to U.S. Attorney Dana J. Boente. Read the full story at NBCWashington.com.

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Arlington-County-Employee-Sentence-in-Falsifying-DMV-Paperwork-262428731.html>

DMV to Implement Legislative Changes Effective July 1, 2014 (Virginia)

As a result of 2014 General Assembly action, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is advising customers of important new laws. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.state.va.us/general/news/pressReleases/#/News_Article:8160

Region III

Indiana BMV Asks Judge Not To Force Restart of Vanity Plate Program

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, saying it fears Hoosier motorists driving about with offensive messages on their license plates, is asking a Marion County judge to reconsider his recent ruling. Indiana BMV Commissioner Don Snemis on Monday issued a statement announcing the bureau's decision to ask Marion Superior Judge James Osborn to rethink a portion of his ruling related to Greenfield police officer Rodney Vawter's ironic license plate. Read the full story at IndyStar.com.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2014/06/09/indiana-bmv-asks-judge-force-restart-vanity-plate-program/10225051/>

Iowa Texting Ban Not Reducing Crashes, Hard to Enforce

Iowa's law banning texting while driving is failing to reduce crashes, and officers seldom enforce it because of legal restrictions, an IowaWatch investigation shows. Although texting-related crashes have increased in recent years, Iowa convicted on average only 2.5 drivers per county for texting last year, the investigation revealed. Read the full story at AmesTrib.com.

<http://amestrib.com/news/iowa-texting-ban-not-reducing-crashes-hard-enforce>

Specialty Licence Plates on Tap for University of Winnipeg (Manitoba)

Wesmen fans can now get into the race to show their pride for the University of Winnipeg. The U of W is getting its own speciality plate which will be available for \$70 at more than 300 Autopac agencies starting on June 9. Read the full story at WinnipegSun.com.

<http://www.winnipegSun.com/2014/06/02/specialty-licence-plates-on-tap-for-university-of-winnipeg>

Unique Vehicle Designed to Prevent Drunken Driving Wins National Advertising Award (Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's "Choose Your Ride" vehicle, which is half State Patrol cruiser and half taxi, always gets plenty of attention on the highway and at public events. Now, it's also a national award winning advertisement that warns of the dangers—and expense—of drunken driving. Read the DOT press release.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

Registry Agents to Help Albertans Become Organ and Tissue Donors

Albertans will have another avenue to become organ and tissue donors, following the recent launch of the online Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. When renewing their driver's licence, Albertans will soon be asked if they wish to register to be an organ and tissue donor. Read the Alberta press release.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xid=366040c20bd4c-e035-6808-a65efdb814a3c47d>

Google's Driverless Car Will Need More Testing, Watchdog Group Warns (California)

A consumer group wants the California Department of Motor Vehicles to slow Google's rush to get driverless cars on the road. Consumer Watchdog said the state's regulations don't allow enough time to test the self-driving cars before allowing them on California streets and highways. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-consumer-watchdog-warns-dmv-on-googles-driverless-car-20140610-story.html>

Colorado's Online Vehicle Registration Renewal Campaign Wins Award

Colorado's Online Vehicle Registration Renewal (OVR) marketing campaign recently took home a big honor - a Bronze Horizon Interactive Award. The leading international interactive media competition saw over 1600 entries this year, all competing for being recognized as the industry's best in the coveted annual awards. The campaign was a collaborative effort between Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Colorado Interactive, (dba Colorado.gov). Read the full story at OnLine.WSJ.com.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140610-907510.html>

DOT Launches Campaign to Eliminate Deaths and Injuries on State's Roadways (Montana)

Last month, Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley visited the University of Montana campus to kick off a new safety campaign that aims to cut deaths and injuries on the state's roads to zero. Read the full story at AASHTOJournal.org.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/060614MontanaVisionZero.aspx>

New Vehicle Seizure Consequences for Impaired, Distracted Drivers Coming to Saskatchewan

Several changes are coming to Saskatchewan related to vehicle seizures for people engaging in high risk behaviour while driving. The new consequences for impaired driving and distracted driving come into effect June 27. Read the full story at CanadianUnderwriter.ca.

<http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/news/new-vehicle-seizure-consequences-for-impaired-distracted-drivers-coming-to-saskatchewan/1003105880/?&er=NA>

Yakima Driving Survey to Play Big Role In High While Driving Testing (Washington)

One of the major issues with recreational marijuana in Washington is keeping people from smoking it, then driving impaired. Researchers conducting a groundbreaking new survey for the State Transportation Safety Commission stopped in Yakima Friday to look at how many people are driving high. Read the full story KHQ.com.

<http://www.khq.com/story/25717043/yakima-driving-survey-to-play-big-role-in-high-while-driving-testing>

Funding Shortage Could Put DUI Drivers Back on Road (Washington)

Funding has unexpectedly dried up for a program to help low-income DUI offenders in Washington state afford ignition interlock devices, and that could put some of them back on the roads without those devices. The device requires a driver to blow into a straw and prove they are not impaired before driving. It allows DUI offenders to keep their vehicles, is a more popular alternative to a suspended license, and has been known to significantly cut down on drivers re-offending. Read the full story at NWCN.com.

<http://www.nwcn.com/news/washington/DUI-interlock-device-funding-shortage-262517611.html>

Other News

New Laws to be Drawn up to Allow Driverless Cars on Britain's Roads in Race to Develop Transport of the Future

New laws are to be drawn up to allow driverless cars to take to Britain's roads. Ministers admit the current Highway Code and rules of the road are inadequate for the new generation of vehicles which pilot themselves. Read the full story at DailyMail.co.uk.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2652056/New-laws-drawn-allow-driverless-cars-Britains-roads-race-develop-transport-future.html>

STUDY: Eating While Driving Just as Distracting as Texting While Driving

If you're sipping on a latte as you drive to work, you're as much of a danger as the person who's texting while driving, at least that's what a new study says. Drinking that coffee and downing that doughnut are

both a danger, according to a new study by Lytx, a leader in video-based driver-safety technology. Read the full story at KFBK.com.

<http://www.kfbk.com/articles/kfbk-news-461777/study-eating-while-driving-just-as-12445547#ixzz34FhKJVFz>

Marijuana Playing Larger Role in Fatal Crashes

As more states are poised to legalize medicinal marijuana, it's looking like dope is playing a larger role as a cause of fatal traffic accidents. Columbia University researchers performing a toxicology examination of nearly 24,000 driving fatalities concluded that marijuana contributed to 12% of traffic deaths in 2010, tripled from a decade earlier. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2014/06/09/marijuana-accidents/10219119/>

Jarring PSA Wakes Up Movie Goers to Not Text While Driving

This is one way to get an audience's attention. In a video posted to You Tube, Volkswagon showed the PSA to a theatre full of unsuspecting movie goers in Hong Kong. Once the seats are full, the lights go down and the show starts," reports Fox 25. The commercial is shot in a first-person perspective. Watch above as a driver starts the car and turns on the radio. You'll see movie goers actually bopping their head to the tune playing during the PSA. Then, "using a location based broadcaster from inside the theatre, the movie guests get a phone message at the exact same time" as the driver in the video, further reports FOX25. Read the full story at JRN.com.

<http://www.jrn.com/kivityv/nw-trending/Jarring-PSA-wakes-up-movie-goers-to-not-text-while-driving-262613121.html>

Scientists Use Lasers to Detect Drunk Drivers

Polish researchers have developed a laser that can be fired at cars to find out if their drivers are drunk. The device, detailed in a study published by scientists at Warsaw's Military University of Technology, can detect alcohol vapor inside moving vehicles by using special curved mirrors and beams of light. Read the full story at TheVerge.com.

<http://www.theverge.com/2014/6/11/5799574/lasers-can-detect-drunk-drivers-according-to-scientists>

Did You Know

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADS!

Don't forget to wish all the dads out there the happiest of days on Sunday. Here are some quick and interesting facts about Father's Day:

- Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June.
- Father's Day is the fourth-largest card-sending occasion with 87 million cards given every year.

- Fifty percent of all Father's Day cards are purchased for fathers. Almost 15 percent of Father's Day cards are given to husbands.
- Two top-selling categories are "Dad from Daughter" and "Dad From Both."
- The U.S Census Bureau estimates there were 70.1 million fathers in the United States in 2008, and 214,000 stay-at-home dads in 2013 taking care of children while a spouse worked outside the home.
- Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash., is credited with starting Father's Day after hearing a sermon on Mother's Day.
- Dodd wanted to honor her father William Jackson Smart, a widower who raised six children on his own.
- Timeline: 1910 – Spokane celebrated the first Father's Day on June 19, the anniversary of William Jackson Smart's birthday.

More facts are available online:

- Father's Day Fast Facts (FOX13) <http://fox13now.com/2014/06/13/fathers-day-fast-facts/>
- Dad Facts You Should Know for Father's Day (Infographic) (Epoch Times) <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/731540-facts-about-fathers/>
- Father's Day (USA.gov) <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Fathers-Day.shtml>
- Interesting Facts About Father Day (Pioneer Woman) <http://thepioneerwoman.com/homeschooling/2010/06/interesting-facts-about-fathers-day/>