

October 24, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Register Online for the 2014 AAMVA Region III Information Exchange

The 2014 Region III Information Exchange will take place October 28th-30th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook, in Oak Brook, Illinois. Register online at <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-III-Information-Exchange/>.

Region I

Stiffer DWI Law Starts November 1 (New York)

Tougher penalties aimed at chronic drunken drivers allow prosecutors to go deeper in the past to use DWI convictions against them. "Vince's Law," which goes into effect Nov. 1, makes it a felony-level crime if a driver has three or more DWI convictions on record in the past 15 years. The current law allows prosecutors to go back only 10 years. Read the full story at PressRepublican.com.

http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/article_82fc92f8-eeb8-5183-a8bc-fbc5fccdc841.html

New Tool for Parents, Guardians to Create Safer Teen Drivers (Pennsylvania)

PennDOT announced today that a new partnership will help keep teen drivers safe and save the commonwealth nearly \$70,000 in annual printing costs. "The Parent's Supervised Driving Program," developed by the Safe Roads Alliance and sponsored by State Farm Insurance and Sheetz, provides parents with a printed handbook designed as a simple, easy-to-follow guide to help their teens become safe and responsible drivers. Read the full PennDOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/692a56902d0c32d585257d77004e451c?OpenDocument>

Region II

West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles to Receive National Digital Government Achievement Award

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin today announced the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will be nationally recognized for making services more accessible to citizens through its online vehicle registration and renewal service. Read the full story at Insurancenews.net.

<http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/2014/10/17/governor-tomblin-announces-west-virginia-division-of-motor-vehicles-to-receive-n-a-568713.html#.VEFDUKPflvs>

Region III

Teen Driving Deaths Down Nearly 55 Percent as this Week Marks National Teen Driver Safety Week (Illinois)

Secretary of State Jesse White kicked off National Teen Driver Safety Week by announcing that teen driving deaths are down by nearly 55 percent in Illinois. White presented the 2014 Teen Driver Safety Award to Naperville's Neuqua Valley High School for its outstanding driver education program. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2014/october/141020d1.pdf>

Michigan Governor Signs Anti-Tesla Bill

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed a measure Tuesday that blocks Tesla Motors Inc. from selling cars directly to consumers in the state, siding with auto dealers and General Motors Co. even after other Michigan manufacturers advocated for the Silicon Valley company. Read the full story at Online.wsj.com.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/gm-urges-michigan-gov-to-sign-anti-tesla-bill-1413912419>

Governors in Re-election Races Consider Shifting Road, Bridge Funding to Sales Taxes on Fuel (Minnesota & Wisconsin)

Two Midwest governors up for re-election this fall are talking about shifting their states' motor fuel revenue streams to sales taxes on fuel and away from the current reliance on fixed, per-gallon fees. Minnesota's Mark Dayton, a Democrat, and Wisconsin's Scott Walker, a Republican, each introduced the idea this month while discussing ways to improve funding for transportation infrastructure. Read the full story at AASHTOJournal.org.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/101714Govs.aspx>

NSP Recruit Camp 56 Underway (Nebraska)

On Monday, October 20, the 56th Recruit Class of the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) began instruction. The class consists of 42 members identified through interviews and testing conducted over the past several months. Read the NSP press release.

<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/articleDetails.aspx>

Officers Ride Rails to Promote Safety (Nebraska)

The Nebraska State Patrol along with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad in an effort to reduce the potential for serious injury and fatality crashes involving rail crossings. On Wednesday, October 22, a trooper and a deputy will join the crew of a BNSF train to ride the rails between South Sioux City and the Dakota County border as part of the "Officer on a Train" exercise. Read the NSP press release.

<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/NewsArchive.aspx>

Attorney General Could Immediately Ban New Synthetic Drugs Under Proposed Law (Ohio)

Proposed legislation in the Ohio House would give the Attorney General's Office emergency powers to temporarily ban new types of synthetic drugs as soon as the drugs are discovered. The bipartisan bill, introduced Monday, would allow the attorney general to impose an immediate one-year ban on any compound believed to be an imminent hazard to public safety. The state pharmacy board would first have to sign off on the temporary ban, according to the legislation, House Bill 640. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/10/attorney_general_would_get_exp.html#incart_river

South Dakota Highway Patrol Graduates Nine New Troopers

After eight months of training, nine recruits are prepared to officially join the ranks of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. A graduation ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda on Friday. The nine new troopers, formally members of Class 55, completed the basic law enforcement training, followed by the South Dakota Highway Patrol Recruit Academy and then field training. The period from initial application to graduation is about one year. Read the SDHP press release.

http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/Newsroom/newsroom.aspx

Region IV

Medical Marijuana Users 'not Immune' to DUI Prosecution (Arizona)

A state appellate court ruling says Arizona's medical marijuana law doesn't give authorized users immunity from prosecution under a law against driving while there is marijuana or its chemical compound in a person's body. Read the full story at WJHL.com.

<http://www.wjhl.com/story/26852854/medical-marijuana-users-not-immune-to-dui-prosecution>

Motorcycle Lane-Splitting Study Finds: the More Speed, the More Danger (California)

A yearlong California study of motorcycle lane-splitting has concluded the practice is no more dangerous than motorcycling in general, if the rider is traveling at speeds similar to or only slightly faster than the surrounding traffic. The maneuver becomes more dangerous, however, when a motorcyclist is speeding or riding more than 10 mph faster than the traffic the cyclist is passing. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/transportation/article3204990.html#storylink=cpy>

Driver Licenses for California Undocumented Starting January 1, 2015 Under AB 60 (California)

On January 1, 2015, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will begin issuing driver licenses to undocumented California residents under Assembly Bill 60 (AB 60). Under the previous law, in order for a person to obtain a California driver license, he or she had to prove his or her identity and that they were in the US "legally." AB 60 still requires people to prove their identity, but they no longer need to prove they are in "legal status." The license will also have a special mark or seal, to note it was issued per AB 60. Read the full story at AsianJournal.com.

<http://asianjournal.com/immigration/driver-licenses-for-california-undocumented-starting-january-1-2015-under-ab-60/#sthash.SJG1rVdt.dpuf>

Colorado Retrieves More Than 90 percent of Misprinted Licenses from Immigrants

More than 90 percent of misprinted ID cards, driver's licenses and permits issued to undocumented immigrants in August have been returned, according to Colorado Department of Revenue. A software error caused the cards to be printed without the black band across the top that says, "Not for federal identification, voting or public benefit purposes." Of the 524 misprinted cards issued under the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act, 43 have not be returned; those 43 cardholders will have their cards canceled and their licenses revoked, according to department spokeswoman Daria Serna. Read the full story at Gazette.com.

<http://gazette.com/colorado-retrieves-more-than-90-percent-of-misprinted-licenses-from-immigrants/article/1539886#UKxaxa5GDf4Tq8ut.99>

Oregon Driver Cards: Rural Voters Could Decide Divisive Immigration Issue

When it comes to driver cards for undocumented immigrants, Prineville Mayor Betty Roppe and her husband, Jim, are like much of the rest of the state – sharply divided. Unlike past elections, however, where urban and suburban voters controlled the outcome, the Roppes and other rural voters may have the final say on whether Measure 88 passes Nov. 4. Read the full story at OregonLive.com.

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/10/post_159.html

Collector Licence Plate to Have Retro Look (Saskatchewan)

A new licence plate will soon be up for grabs in Saskatchewan, and Gord Green has already added it to his Christmas list. President of the Saskatchewan Ford Mercury Club and owner of a 1956 Thunderbird, Green is excited to see what the new collector car plate looks like. He might even personalize it to match his car. Read the full story at LeaderPost.com.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/life/Collector+licence+plate+have+retro+look/10306365/story.html>

New Breast Cancer Washington License Plates

A new special license plate going on sale in Washington will feature a pink ribbon and promote breast cancer awareness. The plates were approved by the Legislature and will go on sale generally in January for \$60 through the Department of Licensing. In a special promotion the first 18 breast cancer plates are being auctioned to help pay for screenings for women without insurance. Read the full story at KOMONews.com.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/New-breast-cancer-Washington-license-plates-279333752.html>

Other News

2011-'14 Chrysler 300 Among 434,581 Vehicles Recalled for Possible Engine Stall

Chrysler Group is recalling 434,581 2011-'14 Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger, Dodge Durango, Dodge Challenger, and Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles because the alternator may fail, leading to engine stall, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Read the full story at Edmunds.com.

<http://www.edmunds.com/car-news/2011-14-chrysler-300-among-434581-vehicles-recalled-for-possible-engine-stall.html>

Toyota Warns Against Using Front Seats Amid Air-Bag Probe

Toyota Motor Corp. is advising U.S. owners to keep passengers out of the front seats of several models until dealers can repair defective air bags, four months after taking similar actions in Japan. Read the full story at BusinessWeek.com.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-10-20/toyota-says-keep-front-seat-open-as-air-bag-probe-deepens>

Government Ups Air Bag Warning to 7.8M Vehicles

The U.S. government is telling 3 million more car owners to get their air bags repaired immediately, but its message has generated some confusion about which cars are actually affected. The government's auto safety agency is now warning 7.8 million car owners that inflator mechanisms in the air bags can rupture, causing metal fragments to fly out when the bags are deployed. The original warning Monday covered 4.7 million vehicles. Safety advocates say at least four people have died from the problem, which they claim could affect more than 20 million cars nationwide. The inflators are made by Japanese parts supplier Takata Corp. Read the full story at Roanoke.com.

http://www.roanoke.com/business/wire/government-ups-air-bag-warning-to-m-vehicles/article_4f181e68-6c04-53a0-9b08-4e87d15adcc4.html

Uber Drivers Across The Country Are Protesting Today — Here's Why

Some Uber drivers are unhappy with the company. Several times this year, drivers have organized and protested the company's practices, in cities like New York, Santa Monica and San Francisco. But the next step for the drivers is a multi-city protest on Oct. 22, which will take place in front of Uber's various offices from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. EST, in cities across the country including Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and even across the pond in London. Read the full story at BusinessInsider.com.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/uber-drivers-across-the-country-are-protesting-tomorrow--heres-why-2014-10#ixzz3GtLXFuWt>

Survey Shows Teens are Not Buckling Up

It may surprise some to know that more teens die in car crashes than any other way, about 2,500 per year. According to a survey released by Safe Kids Worldwide, fatalities are split almost equally between teen drivers (56 percent), and passengers (44 percent). In half of the fatal crashes, the teen was not wearing a seat belt. Read the full story at DDDNews.com

<http://www.dddnews.com/story/2130582.html>

Eyes On the Road: Searching for Answers to the Problem of Distracted Driving

...A new study by IIHS in partnership with Virginia Tech helps clarify the risk of cellphone use behind the wheel and offers insight into other distracting things drivers do when they aren't using cellphones. The research points to the need for a broader strategy to deal with the ways that drivers can be distracted. Read the full status report on IIHS.org.

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/sr/statusreport/article/49/8/1>

Did You Know

SCHOOL BUSES

In light of the fact that this week (Oct. 20-24) was National School Bus Safety Week, I did some digging around online to find some interesting facts about school buses. This is some of what I found:

- The first school buses were horse-drawn carriages known as “school hacks” or “kid hacks.” They were being made by Wayne Works starting around 1886, though it’s possible they were around earlier.
- In 1914, Wayne Works moved on to automobile chassis, allowing eager students to get to school faster. With these “buses” students would sit on the perimeter of the bus facing inward rather than toward the front as they do today.
- Before 1920, school buses had cloth curtains rather than glass windows.
- In the 1930s, school buses underwent a series of standardizations. A “California top” design—the rounded roof of the bus—patented by Gillig Bros was widely used, but parents were still worried about school bus safety and there was interest in standardizing the way that children got to and from school.

- In 1939, Dr. Frank Cyr rose to the occasion and organized a conference at the University of Manhattan in order to develop school bus standards.
- The result of the conference was 44 national standards for school buses being developed. One of these standards was school buses should be “national school bus glossy yellow”. Initially called “national school bus chrome,” the color was chosen because of its attention-grabbing qualities. It gets noticed faster than any other color.
- By 1974 all school buses in the United States were painted this color.

Find more interesting information online:

- Why School Buses Are Yellow (Today I Found Out)
<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2013/11/school-buses-yellow/>
- Bus Facts: How Well Do You Know Bus History? (National Bus Sales)
<http://nationalbus.com/blog/bus-facts/>
- Fast Facts About School Transportation (National Wildlife Federation)
<http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/Transportation/Facts.aspx>
- National School Bus Safety Week (NAPT)
<http://napt.org/resources/national-school-bus-safety-week.php>