

# October 31, 2014 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### **AAMVA Mourns the Passing of Colonel Anna Amos**

AAMVA is very sad to report that Colonel Anna Amos passed away Thursday, October 30, following a brave and extended battle with cancer, a battle she won more than a few times. Many of you worked alongside of Anna when she served the state of South Carolina as Deputy Director and Colonel of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's State Transport Police Division. During her state service she held numerous leadership positions, including Chair of the International Registration Plan Board of Directors.

In 2008, Anna was appointed to serve at the national level as USDOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Director of Safety during which time she provided multiple briefings and strong partnership to AAMVA and its members. Anna began her law enforcement career in 1983 with the South Carolina Public Service Commission, where she was the first female hired as an Inspector with the Commission. In 1993, she transferred to the Motor Carrier Safety program of the Department of Public Safety and was responsible for enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Anna's daughter D'Ann is an important member of the AAMVA family, she is executive assistant to our Business Services and CFO divisions. We know your prayers will be with D'Ann and her family.

### **New Studies & Reports Section Added to AAMVA Web Site**

AAMVA has collected several studies and reports from member jurisdictions, and from various like-minded organizations and is making these studies available on the AAMVA Web site. Check out the new Non-AAMVA Studies & Reports section. <http://www.aamva.org/Jurisdiction-Studies/>

### **Happy Halloween! Make It a Safe One**

This year, Halloween falls on a Friday. That being said, please take extra caution as you head home this evening. Watch out for trick-or-treaters, and keep your speed down especially when traveling through residential areas. Also be aware that law enforcement across the nation will be looking out for drunk drivers as part of an aggressive *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement effort.

## Region I

### **The PPA Is Right About UberX (Pennsylvania)**

The service seems to be operating outside the law. But Uber will eventually win. And they should. Here's why.

Read more at <http://www.phillymag.com/news/2014/10/28/ppa-is-right-about-uberx-uber-will-win/#UYkjsXxmuaWQEdX2.99>

### **Officers Mostly Warn Drivers Using Cellphones (Vermont)**

It will be weeks before the first tally of tickets for cellphone violations becomes available, but it appeared Thursday that law enforcement officers were more likely to issue warnings over tickets. Drivers, however, shouldn't bank on getting away with using their phones or other electronic devices while motoring down the road. Read the full article in the Burlington Free Press.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/vermont/2014/10/02/officers-mostly-warn-drivers-using-cellphones/16605697/>

## **Region II**

### **Popular Tourist Town Gets Tough on Rental Scooters (Florida)**

One of Florida's most popular spring break towns is cracking down on one of the most touristy things to do there — taking a breezy ride on a rented scooter. Panama City Beach recently tightened its regulations this summer, citing an almost 80 percent jump in accidents this year. Read the full article on mysantantonio.com.

<http://www.mysantantonio.com/news/article/Popular-tourist-town-gets-tough-on-rental-scooters-5855774.php>

### **Torched Police Car Calls for Road Safety Precautions (Texas)**

Police say a reckless driver is responsible for creating a dangerous situation for some of it's officers. It all started with a rollover accident late Monday night on SPID and the Crosstown Expressway. The mess from that crash caused another wreck nearby. Officers were set up further down the highway to divert traffic, when a driver sped through and crashed into a parked police car, causing it to catch on fire. Read the full article on KRISTV.com.

<http://www.kristv.com/news/torched-police-car-calls-for-road-safety-precautions/>

## **Region III**

### **IDOT Halloween Patrols (Illinois)**

It's safety first when you're behind the wheel, but if you are not on board with that this Halloween weekend, the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Police will be more than happy to arrest you. IDOT spokeswoman Paris Ervin says extra enforcement will be out to make sure everybody knows to Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Read the full article in Alton Daily News.com

<http://www.altondailynews.com/news/details.cfm?clientid=17&id=150174#.VF0dsfnF> 84

### **Iowa Study Shows Heavy Trucks More Likely to Crash in a.m., Early p.m.**

Severe crashes involving heavy trucks on Iowa roadways are more likely to occur during the early morning or midday hours, according to a study from Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education. Read more in Safety and Health Magazine.

<http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/11360-iowa-study-shows-heavy-trucks-more-likely-to-crash-in-am-early-pm>

### **GM, University of Michigan to Work on Connected Vehicle Corridor**

Connected vehicle technology will wirelessly connect vehicles to each other, and to the Internet, with the promise of a reduction in accidents and other improvements in safety records. Read the full article in GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/GT-GM-University-of-Michigan-to-Work-on-Connected-Vehicle-Corridor.html>

## **Region IV**

### **DMV Prepares to Offer Driver's Licenses to Illegal Residents (California)**

California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices are starting to offer written and driving tests for illegal residents in California. January 2015 is when a new law will be fully implemented which allows illegal aliens to get driver's licenses in California. Read the full article on News10.net.

<http://www.news10.net/story/news/local/2014/10/27/dmv-prepares-to-offer-drivers-licenses-to-illegal-residents/18031705/>

### **Spanish Videos to Boost California DMV's Outreach**

When it comes to bureaucracies, the Department of Motor Vehicles can be difficult to navigate in any language. But California's Spanish-speakers will soon have a new resource: a romance language counterpart to the popular DMV series in which "Answerman" responds to common driver queries. Appearing in a series of new videos will be "El Sabelotodo del DMV," or "Mr. Know-It-All of DMV." Read the full article in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article3352312.html#storylink=cpy>

### **Study: Dangerous Condition of California's Local Streets and Roads Puts California Drivers at Risk, Poses Threat to Vehicle Safety**

The biennial California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment is being released today and the results are alarming. The condition of the system that makes up more than 80 percent of California's roadways is on the path to failure. Read the full article on Public CEO.

<http://www.publicceo.com/2014/10/study-dangerous-condition-of-californias-local-streets-and-roads-puts-california-drivers-at-risk-poses-threat-to-vehicle-safety/>

### **DMV Announces Winners in 150th License Plate Photo Contest (Nevada)**

Dave Quandt of Spring Creek is the winner of Nevada DMV's Sesquicentennial license plate photo contest with his entry, "Old Timers," which captured a procession of classic cars traveling through Lamoille Canyon in Elko County. Read the press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14014-Plate-Photo-Contest.htm>

## **Other News**

### **Carmakers Prepare to Shift to Hydrogen Fuel Cells**

Concerned about slow sales of electric cars and plug-in hybrids, automakers are increasingly betting the future of green cars on hydrogen fuel cell technology. Even Toyota Motor Corp., maker of the popular Prius gas-electric hybrid, will use hydrogen instead of batteries to power its next generation of green vehicles. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-fuel-cell-cars-20141026-story.html#page=2>

### **Report Shows Too Many Drink Before Biking**

Most know that drinking and driving is dangerous, but what about drinking and biking? A report by the Governors Highway Safety Association shows that 25 percent of the cyclists killed in the U.S. were drunk, with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 or higher. Read the full story at WTOP.com.

<http://www.wtop.com/41/3730241/Drinking-and-biking-Too-many-do-it>

### **AAA Studies Suggest Extending Teen Driver Licensing Laws Could Prevent Crashes**

Vehicle crashes involving teen drivers could be reduced if graduated driver license requirements were extended, according to two studies by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Teen drivers continue to have the highest crash rate of any age group, and vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers, according to the studies. Read the full article in The Intelligence.

[http://www.theintell.com/news/communities/bensalem/aaa-studies-suggest-extending-teen-driver-licensing-laws-could-prevent/article\\_7ca067d4-3169-55ae-9844-3bb3dc9488a9.html](http://www.theintell.com/news/communities/bensalem/aaa-studies-suggest-extending-teen-driver-licensing-laws-could-prevent/article_7ca067d4-3169-55ae-9844-3bb3dc9488a9.html)

### **Next-generation Car Safety: Obese Crash Test Dummies**

Crash test dummies are used to test the safety of vehicles -- but what happens when they no longer reflect bodies of the general public? The world's leading crash-test dummy producer, Humanetics, has developed a new, obese human stand-in which weighs 273 pounds with a Body Mass Index of 35. Read the full article in USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2014/10/30/obese-crash-test-dummies/18168679/>

### **Investigation: ET-Plus Guardrail System**

Eighteen states will stop using the Trinity ET-Plus guardrail system on new installations, and that number includes Texas. Last week, a federal jury found the Dallas-based company defrauded the federal government by failing to disclose design changes relating to the safety of the product. The Federal Highway Administration is asking all states for information regarding the performance of the ET-Plus in the field, paying particular attention to all crashes involving the device. Read the full article on myfoxdfw.com.

<http://www.myfoxdfw.com/story/27148755/investigation-et-plus-guardrail-system>

### **Battling Safety Rules for Off-Road Vehicles, Industry Gets Boost From Senators**

Manufacturers of off-road vehicles have enlisted the help of a dozen U.S. senators to try to block regulations intended to prevent rollover crashes that have killed hundreds of riders. In a letter to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the senators urged delaying a pending vote on safety standards for the popular trail machines known as recreational off-highway vehicles, or ROVs. Instead, the lawmakers called for the commission to continue long-running discussions with the industry. Read the full article on FairWarning.org.

<http://www.fairwarning.org/2014/10/trying-fend-safety-regulations-road-vehicle-makers-get-boost-senators/#sthash.h4i3AHE3.dpuf>

## **Did You Know**

### **HALLOWEEN**

- The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.
- Fifty percent of kids prefer to receive chocolate candy for Halloween, compared with 24% who prefer non-chocolate candy and 10% who preferred gum.
- The owl is a popular Halloween image. In Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches, and to hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.
- According to Irish legend, Jack O'Lanterns are named after a stingy man named Jack who, because he tricked the devil several times, was forbidden entrance into both heaven and hell. He was condemned to wander the Earth, waving his lantern to lead people away from their paths.
- According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.
- There's a \$1,000 fine for using or selling Silly String in Hollywood on Halloween.
- A full moon on Halloween is extremely rare.

Learn more online:

- 13 Facts You Never Knew About Halloween (Business Insider) <http://www.businessinsider.com/13-facts-you-never-knew-about-halloween-2013-10#ixzz3F5m9Zm6b>
- 40 Fun Facts About Halloween (RandomHistory.com) <http://facts.randomhistory.com/halloween-facts.html>
- The Fantasy and Folklore of All Hallows (American Folklife Center) <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/halloween.html>
- History of Halloween (HalloweenHistory.org) <http://www.halloweenhistory.org/>