

February 13, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Webinar Series This Month

AAMVA is offering two more webinars for the month of February. The first Webinar, NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training, is scheduled for February 18th. You'll learn the quick and easy benefits of the NMVTIS SWI that allows state users to perform instant title verification against NMVTIS using a web browser and an internet connection. The second webinar is scheduled for February 25th and is a partner program highlight on the IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge Awards. The webinar will provide an overview of the IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge Award Program, including a historical perspective on IACP State & Provincial agency program participation. Learn more and register for these webinars online at www.aamva.org/webinar-series/

Meet With Members One On One at the Workshop's QuickConnect Reception



Close out the first day of the Workshop with this unique one-on-one opportunity where exhibitors and qualified sponsors get a chance to meet with jurisdiction representatives. This year's format will allow jurisdictions to select, based on company descriptions, which industry members they would like to meet with to discuss products and services, or to provide answers to current challenges. Don't

wait! Register for the Workshop online today

<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx> so we can set up your one-on-one meeting while there are still time slots available!

Region I

New \$25 Million Computer System Will Cause DMV Offices to Close for Full Week (Connecticut)

Huge changes are coming to the Connecticut D.M.V. starting next week, and they will start with D.M.V. offices closing down for nearly a full week. The offices are generally open Tuesday through Saturday, but for the next six weeks, that's all going to change. Read the full story at WTNH.com.

<http://wtnh.com/2015/02/10/new-25-million-computer-system-will-cause-dmv-offices-to-close-for-full-week/>

Maryland Measure Would Create Punitive Damages For Drunk Driving

A measure in Maryland would allow punitive civil penalties against some drunk drivers. The bill outlined Tuesday has been introduced at a time when drunken driving is getting added attention in Maryland, after the state's second highest-ranking bishop in the Episcopal Church was accused of fatally hitting a cyclist while driving drunk in Baltimore late last year. Read the full story at Baltimore.CBSLocal.com.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2015/02/10/md-measure-would-create-punitive-damages-for-drunk-driving/>

Lt. Governor Guadagno Announces Motor Vehicle Commission's Launch of JustDrive.com Campaign to Curb Talking and Texting While Driving (New Jersey)

In an effort to combat the high incidence of talking and texting while driving, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today announced the launch of JustDrive.com, a multi-media outreach and education campaign designed to make people think twice before engaging in this dangerous behavior. The Lt. Governor and Raymond P. Martinez, Chairman and Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC), were joined by Thomas Louizou, Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Read the Governor's press release.

<http://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/552015/approved/20150211a.html>

Lyft Ride-sharing Business Gets OK in Pa.

Pennsylvania's regulators say they're satisfied with the plan by the ride-sharing service Lyft to comply with conditions for a two-year license for experimental service to operate everywhere in the state except Philadelphia. The state Public Utility Commission said Thursday the license is effective immediately. Read the full article in MCALL.com.

<http://www.mcall.com/business/mc-puc-lyft-20150212-story.html>

Region II

Driver's License Fees Increased by 54 Percent; State 'Losing Money' on Renewals (Alabama)

Be prepared for a little sticker shock the next time you renew your driver's license in Alabama. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency raised the rate on renewal operational driver's licenses by 54 percent. The new rate went into effect Monday. Read the full story t AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/02/alabama_drivers_license_fees_i.html

Troopers: 255 Killed in Alabama Crashes in 2014 Weren't Wearing Seat Belts

More than 60 percent of victims killed in state trooper-investigated crashes in Alabama in 2014 were in vehicles that had seat belts but chose not to wear them, state figures show. In a year when overall crash deaths dropped slightly -- from 515 in 2013 to 511 in 2014 -- 405 fatal crash victims were in vehicles where seat belts were available, according to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. Of those 405 victims, 255 people -- 63 percent -- weren't wearing seat belts at the time of their crashes. Read the full article on AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2015/02/255_auto_crash_victims_in_alab.html

Why Florida Drivers are Making Videos of Themselves Refusing to Talk to Police at DUI Checkpoints

The driver in the silver minivan approaches slowly, coming to a stop beside a group of police officers manning a DUI checkpoint in Chiefland, Fla., a small town 40 miles east of Gainesville. Instead of rolling down his window to chat with police, the man behind the wheel remains silent and hints at a plastic bag dangling from the vehicle door, which the officer illuminates using a flashlight. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/02/10/why-florida-drivers-are-making-videos-of-themselves-refusing-to-talk-to-police-at-dui-checkpoints/?tid=sm_tw

DMV: More People Failing After Driving Test Change (Florida)

Last year, the written portion of the test for a driver's license changed, and since then a lot more people have been failing the test, according to an evaluator at the Tax Collector's Office. The change was made because the old test had been in place for about 20 years and much of the test could be found online. The state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles said nearly 70 percent of people who took the test in December failed. Read the full story at News4Jax.com.

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/dmv-more-people-failing-after-driving-test-change/31196806>

Lawmakers Just Say No To Their Own Rules on License Plates (Florida)

Rules were made to be broken, even by the Florida Legislature. Lawmakers have proposed eight new specialty license plates so far this session --even though they agreed last year not to issue any more until 2017. Back then, they simultaneously decided to extend an existing moratorium on new plates while proposing a dozen more. Four of them passed both houses. Even legislators have a hard time explaining it. Read the full story at Sun-Sentinel.com.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-license-plate-bills-moratorium-20150211-story.html>

Georgia Lawmakers Target Ride-sharing Industry

Georgia legislators have filed a flurry of bills aimed at forcing companies such as Uber to conduct more rigorous background checks on their drivers and raise passenger liability insurance minimums. Uber spokesman Taylor Bennett said Wednesday that the House bills "would make it difficult to operate in the state." Republican Rep. Alan Powell of Hartwell said Uber is paying thousands of Georgians to use their own cars as hybrid-taxis, without regulation. He said his goal is to prevent Uber from ducking state and federal rules. Read the full article on The Augusta Chronicle.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/business/2015-02-11/georgia-lawmakers-target-ride-sharing-industry>

Oklahoma House Committee Passes Ban on Texting While Driving

A lawmaker who wrote legislation that would prohibit texting while driving said Wednesday he hopes the measure will change the behavior of some Oklahoma motorists, and ultimately save lives. The House Criminal Justice Committee voted 11-0 to send Rep. Terry O'Donnell's bill to the full House for debate

and a vote. It marks the second consecutive year that the Tulsa Republican has authored legislation to ban texting while driving in the state. Last year, a similar bill died on the House floor. Read the full story at TheNewsTribune.com.

http://www.thenewstribune.com/2015/02/11/3634317_oklahoma-house-committee-passes.html?rh=1

Region III

Illinois Driver's Licenses And ID Cards Might Not Be Good Enough To Fly Next Year

By the end of the year, Illinois residents might need more than their driver's license or state identification card to get aboard a commercial airliner. Illinois has been dragging its feet on federal security rules for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards. Read the full story at Chicgo.CBSlocal.com.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2015/02/11/illinois-drivers-licenses-and-id-cards-might-not-be-good-enough-to-fly-next-year/>

Deaths on Manitoba Highways Hit 30-Year Low in 2014, Following Trend

ROAD deaths in Manitoba hit a 30-year low in 2014 following a long-term trend of fewer fatal vehicle crashes, statistics from Manitoba Public Insurance show. Seventy people were killed on the province's public roads last year. That's 58 per cent lower than the three-decade high of 168 deaths in 1986. The vast majority of the deaths happened on rural roads, rather than in Winnipeg, which could be attributed to higher speeds on roads outside the city. Read the full story at WinnipegFreePress.com.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/deaths-on-manitoba-highways-hit-30-year-low-in-2014-following-trend-291806991.html>

Colonel Ron Replogle Retires May 1, 2015 (Missouri)

Colonel Ron Replogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, announces he will retire effective May 1, 2015, after 31 years of dedicated service. The announcement was made in Governor Jay Nixon's office. Read the MSHP press release.

<http://notes.msdp.dps.mo.gov/si01/si01p001.nsf/9300de8f24f618a68625729800536892/8c92f632d224394486257de9007a9845?OpenDocument>

Senator Wants to Repeal Motorcycle Helmet Law (Nebraska)

If you ride a motorcycle, Nebraska state law requires you to strap on a helmet. But some want to change that, giving you the freedom to choose to wear one or not. Ever since 1989, Nebraska has had the mandatory motorcycle helmet law. Senator Dave Bloomfield is the bill's sponsor, he says this is about liberty and the riders should have the freedom to choose. Read the full story at KNOPNews2.com.

<http://www.knopnews2.com/home/headlines/Motorcycle-Helmet-Law-Up-For-Debate-291330711.html>

Region IV

Walker Proposes to Reassign Highway Patrol Troopers (Alaska)

The state's multibillion-dollar budget deficit could nearly eliminate the Alaska State Troopers' highway patrol unit, with the administration of Gov. Bill Walker proposing to lower spending \$3 million by transferring most of the highway troopers to different jobs. The Department of Public Safety budget, if approved by legislators, would move 16 of the 18 troopers in the highway patrol bureau to vacant general patrol jobs in Anchorage, Wasilla, Fairbanks and Soldotna. Read the full story at ADN.com.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150209/walker-proposes-reassign-alaska-highway-patrol-troopers>

Self-Service Terminals Expand to More DMV Field Offices (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced today that there are now 50 DMV field offices with Self-Service Terminals (SSTs). An additional 15 DMV field offices recently received the blue and yellow terminals. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel15/2015_13

Colorado: Senate Rejects Funding Plan for Driver's Licenses for Immigrants

An effort to fund the state program that provides driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants has failed, leaving the program with little ability to function. On Thursday, State Senator Jessie Ulibarri, a Democrat, submitted an amendment that would have assigned funds collected from immigrant applicants to pay for the program. The Republican-controlled Senate voted down the measure. Read the full story at NYTimes.com.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/us/colorado-senate-rejects-funding-plan-for-drivers-licenses-for-immigrants.html?_r=0

Senate Barely Passes 'Friends of NRA' License Plate on 18-15 Vote, Sends it to Governor (Idaho)

The Senate has barely, on an 18-15 vote, passed HB 16, to create a specialty license plate to benefit the Friends of the NRA. "We have a plethora of them. Half the time they go away because they never get enough support," Sen. Elliot Werk, D-Boise, told the Senate. "In other states we've seen them cause some pretty deep embarrassment for some of the causes that come forward." He said he's against all specialty license plates. Read the full story at Spokesman.com.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2015/feb/10/senate-barely-passes-friends-nra-license-plate-18-15-vote-sends-it-governor/>

Bill Proposes Vehicle Registration Fee Hike to Fund Roads and Bridges (Idaho)

A bill introduced in the Idaho Legislature hopes to pull in additional funding for the state's roads and bridges using drivers' vehicle registration fees. The House Transportation and Defense Committee introduced a bill Wednesday that would allow voters in a county to temporarily increase their vehicle

registration fees in order to pay for improvements to a specific road or bridge. The money could fund county roads, or state roads in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department. Read the full story at KBOI2.com.

<http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/Bill-proposes-vehicle-registration-fee-hike-to-fund-roads-and-bridges-idaho-news-boise-291777601.html>

One State Wants To Let You Carry Your Drivers License On Your Phone (Iowa)

There's now a technology to replace almost everything in your wallet. Your cash, credit cards, and loyalty programs are all on their way to becoming obsolete. Money can now be sent via app, text, e-mail – it can even be sent via Snapchat. But you can't leave your wallet home just yet. That's because there is one item that remains largely unchanged: your drivers license. If the Iowa Department of Motor Vehicles has its way, that may no longer be the case. According to an article in Des Moines Register, the agency is in the early stages of developing mobile software for just this purpose. Read the full article in Forbes.com.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/tarunwadhwa/2015/02/12/one-state-wants-to-let-you-carry-your-drivers-license-on-your-phone/>

Driver's Licenses for Immigrants Spur Debate in New Mexico

Alejandro Altamirano from Durango, Mexico, has called New Mexico home for a dozen years, and it's where his two U.S.-born daughters are being raised. But the 36-year-old dairy farmworker fears he will be forced into the shadows if he loses his driver's license. For years, New Mexico led in handing out driver's licenses to people suspected of being in the country illegally. Now, legislation to stop the practice is gaining traction despite a trend sweeping through several states to offer driving privileges to everyone regardless of their status. Read the full story at SanLuisObispo.com.

http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/02/10/3484997_drivers-licenses-for-immigrants.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Other News

Britain Starts Public Trial of Driverless Cars

Driverless cars are hitting Britain's public roads for the first time, giving a glimpse of future travel that's billed as safer and more efficient. Britain unveiled four prototype self-drive cars Wednesday, launching the country's first public trials ahead of a series of planned rule reviews to accommodate the new technology. Officials showed off four types of autonomous vehicles under trial, including a shuttle that looks like a larger golf cart and a compact two-seater "pod." Read the full story at SacBee.com.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/business/technology/article9725267.html#storylink=cpy>

Self-Driving Cars Could Slash Auto Sales By Nearly 50%

America's auto market is booming right now, but a study from the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute suggests that today's sky-high sales figures could plummet in the next decade, as autonomous cars start hitting the streets. Read the full article in theCarConnection.com.

http://www.thecarconnection.com/news/1096761_self-driving-cars-could-slash-auto-sales-by-nearly-50

Nearly 64 Million Vehicles Recalled in 2014, NHTSA Reports

For the American auto industry, 2014 was the year of the recall. Automakers issued 803 recalls totaling almost 64 million vehicles, more than double the record from a decade ago, according to government figures. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which released the numbers Thursday, said its investigations influenced 15 percent of the recalls. Automakers did the rest on their own. The total number of recalled vehicles shattered the record of 30.8 million from 2004. The record for number of recalls was 684, in 2008. Read the full story at TribLive.com.

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/7767549-74/recalls-million-vehicles#ixzz3RdUSLDh0>

Driving While Stoned Is Much Safer Than Driving Drunk, Says a New Study

Driving while stoned is not as dangerous as driving while drunk — in fact, according to a new report, it's about as safe as driving while sober once variables are adjusted for. While drunk driving dramatically increases the chances of getting into an accident, researchers from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found no evidence to suggest the same was true of marijuana use, the federal agency's Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers reveals. Read the full story at Time.com.

<http://time.com/3706491/driving-stoned-drunk-study-safety/>

USCIS to Accept Expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Applications Starting February 18, 2015

President Barack Obama's November 20, 2014, Executive Order addressed many significant issues of immigration law and allowed more individuals to qualify under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Consequently, on January 29, 2015, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) announced that it will start accepting applications for expanded DACA beginning on February 18, 2015. Read the full story at NatLawReview.com.

<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/uscis-to-accept-expanded-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-applications-starting-fe>

Did You Know

Vehicle Connectivity – Changing the future of the auto industry

Cars are undergoing a dramatic transformation with a huge focus in the digital connectivity area, and it would behoove any consumer to at least attempt to grasp some of the basics of what it will mean for the future. It is becoming more and more apparent that the auto industry is spreading its wings is

beginning to work with experts and groups outside of the traditional auto industry sphere. Connectivity technologies will require understanding not only the nuts and bolts of putting it all together, but also the rapidly-changing digital needs of the consumer, consumer safety (both bodily and digitally), the management of high-tech vehicle maintenance, and of course, the well-being and comfort of the consumer.

Plenty of information can be found online, but here are just a few resources to get you started:

- In the fast lane: The bright future of connected cars (strategy&)
<http://www.strategyand.pwc.com/global/home/what-we-think/reports-white-papers/article-display/in-the-fast-lane>
- Connected cars are accelerating consumer benefits and driving privacy issues (TheHill)
<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/technology/224954-connected-cars-are-accelerating-consumer-benefits-and-driving>
- Smart Vehicles, Technologies and Main Applications in Vehicular Ad hoc Networks (INTECH)
<http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs-wm/42787.pdf>
- Connectivity will make cars safer, GM's other Mary says (Fortune)
<http://fortune.com/2014/08/06/gm-car-safety-mary-chan/>
- Wireless Technology Powers In-Car Connectivity (Murata)
<http://www.murata.com/~media/webrenewal/about/newsroom/tech/rf/ta1341.ashx>
- A road map to the future for the auto industry (McKinsey&Company)
http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/manufacturing/a_road_map_to_the_future_for_the_auto_i
[ndustry](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/manufacturing/a_road_map_to_the_future_for_the_auto_i)
- 2015 Predictions: The connected car – connectivity table stakes in 2015 (RCRWirelessNews)
<http://www.rcrwireless.com/20150105/opinion/2015-predictions-the-connected-car-connectivity-table-stakes-in-2015-tag10>