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NEXT STORY > Orthotics may relieve chronic back pain, joint problems for some

Driving resources for seniors are plentiful in area

Published: October 30, 2012













COMMENTS

By Susan Hemmingway — Herald Health Correspondent

If you're over age 55, these are some of the things you probably never thought about when you got your first driver's license as a proud teenager: Arthritis would one day make it harder to turn your neck and glance over your shoulder to check for blind spots. Driving at night eventually might seem scary. You would get to an age when going slow feels better than pushing the speed limit -- much to the annoyance of the younger drivers behind you.

There's no question that aging affects driving, but being in the senior years doesn't automatically signal it's time to pull off the road. There are many resources for being a safer and more confident driver. They range from defensive driving classes for seniors offered by the AARP to car accessories such as wider rearview mirrors and swivel cushions for driver seats that make it easier to get in and out of the car.

"There's lots that can be done" in order to keep driving safely for as long as possible, said Michele Harris, AAA's director of traffic safety culture in Florida.

"To me, it's taking more control of your own destiny rather than saying 'there's nothing I can do,' " said Harris.



AAA's comprehensive website for senior drivers - at www.seniordriving.aaa.com -- offers "driving health check-ups" with interactive screening tools

Common senior driving problems include failing to yield the right of way and not checking for blind spots. METROMIX STOCK ART

that can point out problems such as diminished visual processing. The site also features information about age-related changes that affect driving, such as slower reaction times, and tips for what to do about them.

For instance, for those who aren't comfortable with left-hand turns: At a traffic light without a left-



hand turn arrow, go straight when the light turns green; make three right-hand turns around the block; return to the light and go straight across the intersection.

Insurance discounts

Many car insurance companies offer premium discounts to seniors who take refresher courses such as AARP's Driver Safety classes and Mature Driver, offered by AAA.

"When (students) first come to the class, they think they're just coming in to get the insurance

discount," said Debbie Sheppard, who teaches AAA Mature Driver classes in Bradenton.

"But almost always when they leave, they say they've learned something," she said.

The six-hour Mature Driver class, taught in a single session or broken up over two days, focuses on driving skills such as how to adjust speed in traffic and being aware of dangers such as "drowsy driving." The class also discusses how medications can affect driving.

The Bradenton AAA office also offers appointments for its free CarFit program. A trained technician examines the car to see if the steering wheel, seat and mirrors are adjusted properly to fit the driver and maximize safety.

One example: Steering wheels need to be at least 10 inches away from the driver. Any closer and the air bag could deploy in a crash and slam dangerously into the driver's chest. For those who are too short to keep that far from the wheel, pedal extenders can help.

Common problems

Two leading problems for senior drivers are failing to yield to right-of-way traffic and not checking for blind spots, said Jennifer Hall, an occupational therapist and certified driving rehabilitation specialist at the Institute for Advanced Medicine in Sarasota.

Dozens of decisions must be made simultaneously when driving, meaning driving is the "ultimate of multi-tasking," said Hall.

In her evaluations, Hall gives an in-office clinical test that measures visual acuity and factors such as flexibility and coordination, and then takes the client on a road test in a car with dual controls.

Seeing Hall for an evaluation can be prompted by changes in medical conditions, such as having a stroke or developing Parkinson's disease, or when someone is told to stop driving by doctors or family members and wants another opinion.

"There are so many issues related to driving and so many scenarios," said Hall.

"Using a walker or cane doesn't necessarily mean a person will be a good driver or not," she said. "A lot depends on why they have that walker."

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She once evaluated an elderly driver who had Parkinson's disease, which caused bad tremors. Behind the wheel, however, his hands didn't shake and he was able to drive.

Hall said she has found that most elderly are good judges of when they should stop driving, such as after having a few near misses.

The exception, she said, are those with cognitive impairments. They are more likely to want to keep driving, despite major problems.

Being able to drive safely in the senior years is something that will take on even more significance soon. Within a decade, one in six drivers will be older than age 65, said Harris of AAA.

"That's an important statistic," she said. "It's going to impact all of us."

Susan Hemmingway, Herald health correspondent, can be reached at shemmingway@hotmail.com.

RESOURCES

AARP Driver Safety courses

To locate classes, call 877-846-3299 or visit www.aarp.org/home-garden/transportation/driver_safety. Military veterans are eligible for free classes in November.

AAA Senior Driving

For information about times and locations of AAA Mature Driver courses in Manatee, call 941-798-2221, ext. 2263. Extensive information about senior driving can be found on AAA's website: www.seniordriving.aaa.com.

CarFit program

AAA in Bradenton offers appointments to have car seats, mirrors and seatbelts correctly adjusted for optimal safety. Call 941-798-2221, ext. 2263, for information.



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Posted: Oct 30, 2012 9:03 AM EDT Updated: Nov 02, 2012 9:12 AM EDT

ALBANY, GA (WALB) - AAA and Bud Light will help protect motorists on Halloween with the Tow to Go program October 31 through November 3.





The Auto Club Group has provided the Tow to Go service for more than fourteen years because it allows AAA to protect the freedom and mobility of motorists on our roadways. The program's mission is to discourage an intoxicated driver from getting behind the wheel and risking the lives and safety of other motorists.

"This program is invaluable because it brings attention to the dangers of drinking and driving beyond just giving an intoxicated driver a safe ride home," said Gerry Gutowski, Sr. Vice President, Automotive Services, The Auto Club Group.

- · Confidential local ride within a 10-mile radius to a safe location
- · Service is provided in Florida, Georgia and Tennessee
- Free and available to both AAA members and non-members
- The AAA tow truck takes the vehicle and the driver home

Tow to Go Services:

In Florida or Georgia call: (855) 2-TOW-2-GO or (855) 286-9246

Anheuser-Busch Wholesalers have been a cosponsor of the program since its inception in 1998. Not only has the company provided funding for the service, it has also worked with local bars and restaurants throughout Florida, Georgia and Tennessee to help educate servers on the importance of not over serving their customers.

"The Tow to Go program is a simple and effective way to help prevent drunk driving," said Kathy Casso, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility for Anheuser-Busch. "We are proud to join forces with AAA and their team of roadside assistance service vehicle drivers on this great program that helps to keep our roads safe."

Since its inception in 1998, Tow to Go has safely removed more than 20,000 intoxicated drivers from the roads. The service is designed to be used as a last resort. It is offered based on availability of AAA Service Technicians and tow trucks during times of high call volume.

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, travel, insurance and financial services offerings to approximately 8.8 million members across 11 states and two U.S. territories including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois, Minnesota; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with nearly 53 million members in the United States and Canada and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety.

For nearly three decades, Anheuser-Busch and its nationwide network of 600 wholesalers have invested more than \$875 million in national advertising campaigns and community-based programs to encourage responsible drinking and prevent underage drinking and drunk driving. For more information on these efforts and the progress being made in fighting underage drinking and drunk driving, visit www.anheuser-busch.com.

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Gas prices drop 13 cents in metro Atlanta in one week



"Pump prices are expected to continue their decline even as Hurricane Sandy threatens the East Coast," AAA spokeswoman Jessica Brady said Monday.

"While motorists would expect gas prices to surge with Hurricane Sandy headed for the East Coast, the storm has not yet caused prices to spike," said Brady. "Despite Sandy, retail gas prices are forecast to fall further this week and the downward trend is expected to continue into the Thanksgiving holiday."

Georgia's average price of \$3.41 for regular unleaded gas was down 13 cents from last week. Tennessee at \$3.32 and Florida at \$3.52 both saw their average prices drop 12 cents: The national average price of \$3.55 is 13 cents less than last week, according to AAA.

Ample supply numbers and contracting demand pushed oil prices to a three-month low last week, Brady said. U.S. oil supplies jumped almost 6 million barrels last week to 375 million barrels, the highest level for this time of year since 1982, according to the Energy Department. While production holds at a 17-year high gasoline consumption dropped to its slowest rate since March.

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"Fuel demand in Europe remains weak with Spain's unemployment rate at 25 percent and the

"Fuel demand in Europe remains weak with Spain's unemployment rate at 25 percent and the euro area at 11.4 percent unemployment."

A barrel of oil settled Friday at 86.28 on the New York Mercantile Exchange — 3.77 less than the week prior.

Find some of the lowest prices in metro Atlanta here. We found \$3.15 at Chevron, 5975 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain; \$3.25 at QuikTrip, 1912 US-78 E and Rockdale Circle, Snellville; and \$3.25 at Shell, 2395 Buford Dam Road & Shadburn Ferry Road, Snellville.







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Metro and State

Metro OCTOBER 3, 2012 AT 1:00 AM

Biker group claims motorcycle deaths fell since helmet law took effect

But state, AAA say any perceived drop in fatalities is premature

BY TOM GREENWOOD THE DETROIT NEWS 2COMMENTS



Proponents of the helmet law repeal say the motorcycle fatality rate has decreased. (Daniel Mears / The Detroit News)

Proponents of the new law that allows motorcyclists to ride without helmets claim fatalities have dropped this year, despite fears the measure would cause deaths to increase.

But Michigan's Office of Highway Safety Planning and AAA of Michigan say any perceived drop is premature and based on insufficient evidence.

Members of American Riders Aiming Toward Education — which lobbied





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for the new law for two decades — said in a press release that the drop was based on statistics from the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Secretary of State.

According to ABATE, from 2011 to 2012, motorcycle fatalities between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 dropped from 89 to 85 in Michigan, a 4.5 percent reduction.

"If the fatality rate is adjusted to the total of motorcycle registrations, it shows that the fatality rate has decreased from 0.034 percent to 0.031 percent since the helmet-law amendment — a 7 percent reduction," said ABATE in a press release.

"This proves conclusively that the helmet law amendment had no adverse effect on motorcycle safety," said Vince Consiglio, ABATE Michigan president.

On April 12, the state's law was amended to allow adult choice for motorcyclists 21 and older, providing they completed an accredited motorcycle-safety course or had a minimum of two years' riding experience.

Anne Readette, spokeswoman for the Office of Highway Safety Planning a division of the Michigan State Police — said the findings are premature.

"It is not possible to conduct an analysis or draw conclusions regarding motorcycle deaths until the entire year's crash data is finalized sometime in the spring of 2013," Readette said.

"The state's traffic crash, injury and fatality information for the current year is provisional and changes on a daily basis."

She said incapacitating injuries for the first eight months of the year rose 14 percent, from 441 in 2011 to 504 in 2012.

AAA of Michigan spokeswoman Nancy Cain said the report was based on "very preliminary data."

"It's far too early to suggest motorcyclists are safer now," Cain said.

"We know by looking at data from every other state that has repealed its helmet law that fatalities and injuries went up."

AAA is forecasting an additional 30 fatalities and 127 incapacitating injuries annually in Michigan now that the new law is in effect.

"The riding season is still under way," Cain said.

"We stand by our belief that the safest thing a rider can do is to wear a helmet."

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I have two things to add to this article, the first one is to correct this author's statement about two decades [quote] " which lobbied for the new law for two decades" This took four decades- 40 years to



More Tom Greenwood

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Saturday, Oct 6, 10:00 am The Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak



Jerry Seinfeld

Saturday, Oct 6, 7:00 pm Fox Theatre, Detroit

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AAA Michigan rolls out pink tow trucks for Breast Cancer Awareness Month In October



AAA Michigan supports Breast Cancer Awareness month with pink tow trucks. Chuck Podowski, President and CEO of AAA's The Auto Club Group is seen at the wheel of one pink tow truck. Photo by: AAA Michigan

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Posted: 10/12/2012

DETROIT, Michigan (WXYZ) - Pink tow trucks are rolling down the streets of Downtown Detroit, helping stranded drivers. It's a move By AAA Michigan and the American Cancer Society to raise awareness in the fight against Breast Cancer.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. AAA Michigan painted two of its trucks pink to cruise the downtown area through the entire month, helping those in need.

"Our hope is that these pink tow trucks will garner attention and spread awareness to help in the fight against breast cancer, which is the second leading cause of cancer death in women," says Gerry

Gutowski, Senior Vice President, AAA Automotive Services, AAA Michigan.

Breast Cancer Walk Saturday AT Ford Field

In addition to the pink trucks, AAA will also play a key part in a major event at Ford Field Saturday October 13 th. It's a special walk called: "Make Strides to End Breast Cancer." Thousands of people are expected to participate in the walk that starts and ends at Ford Field.

AAA is a sponsor of the event and will host its own team of walkers to raise money for the American Cancer Society. AAA's two Pink tow trucks will be on hand to offer free roadside assistance to any walkers who may have car troubles with lockouts, flat tires or dead batteries. You don't even have to be an AAA member to get the free help.

"I am a cancer survivor and I know how much cancer affects everyone, from yourself to your family members and friends," says Brent Stahlheber, Senior Vice President and Chief Brand Officer for AAA Michigan. He will lead the AAA Michigan team at the Ford Field cancer walk event.

The company released photos showing Chuck Podowski, President and CEO of AAA's The Auto Club Group, at the wheel of one pink tow truck, and a crew of employees posing in front of another.

AAA also has pink tow trucks operating in both Chicago and Orlando to help support the American Cancer Society's walks in those markets.

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DES MOINES, Iowa

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The Des Moines Register

TOM HANKS SIX-PACK

HE AND OTHER ACTORS TAKE ON MULTIPLE ROLES IN THE AMBITIOUS 'CLOUD ATLAS'

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A GANNETT COMPANY

ARE RED LIGHT CAMERAS

It will take 4 years to gather enough data o draw conclusions

By Josh Hafner

Sixteen months after red light cameras were installed at five Des Moines intersections, it re-mains unclear whether the de-vices have made travel in the city

safer.

City leaders today say the cameras must stay in place four more years before enough data can be collected to draw conclusions.

more years before enough data can be collected to draw conclusions on the program's impact and whether more cameras should be installed. In the 12 months before the cameras went up, 25 accidents occurred in the lanes covered by devices. In the camera's first year of operation, 21 accidents occurred.

"One of the things that we can't quantify—and nobody can is how many accidents did we prevent by installing these red light cameras?" Des Moines police Sgt. Chris Scott said. Ones There years ago, Des Moines police Sgt. Chris Scott said. Ones the control of the properties of of t

See CAMERAS, Page 6A

BY THE NUMBERS

accidents at red light

540,000 ollected from red light cameras

A red light camera at the intersection of Ninth Street and

RED LIGHT CAMERA INTERSECTIONS

1. 15th & Maple streets 2. 19th & University Citations: 1,338

Citations: 1,991

3. Ninth & Grand Citations: 942

4. S.E. 5th & Army Post Road Citations: 1,308

5. MLK Pkwy. & School Citations: 3,617

SEE A FULL MAP OF THE RED LIGHT CAMERA INTERSECTIONS ON PAGE 6A

CAMERAS

soundly assess the cameras' performance.

Southeast Fifth Street and shows: Army Post Road - have number of tickets issued during the red light cameras first year of operation, a review by The Des Moines Register shows. At the three other intersections, changes in driver behavior were negligible.

"I guess if our goal was to curb behavior, I don't see that occurring in the number of citations," said Des Moines City Councilman Halley Griess, who opposed the cameras' installation.

Some residents, though, support the cameras.

"I'm seeing the flow of traffic has slowed considerably," said Roger Jorgenson, who lives near the camera at Southeast Fifth and Army Post Road. "It had become a raceway."

9,196 citations

of data must be collected to issued in first year

The Register review of Two intersections — the first year of the red 15th and Maple streets and light cameras' operations

» Between July 1, 2011 had a substantial drop in the and June 30 red light cameras generated 9,196 citations. Forty percent of the tickets -3,617 — were issued to motorists who failed to stop at the red lights at Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and School Street near Interstate Highway 235. That is the most tickets issued of any of the five intersections with cameras.

» At \$65 per slip, those violations are worth more than \$540,000 in potential revenue for the city of Des Moines and for Gatso, the Massachusetts company that runs the cameras. (Only warnings were issued the first month the cameras were operational.) The city's revenue portion - as much as \$312,000 went to the a general fund to pay for core services in-

DES MOINES, Iowa

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the number of accidents in

the lanes covered by the

cameras compared with

the previous year; one in-

tersection recorded one

more accident; the fifth had

Bradshaw said the city

two goals in mind. The first

was to raise awareness of

city both for and against the

program: "We get an A-plus

change behavior, and police

officials believe they are

doing that. "Our repeat of-

fenders are nominal," Scott

said. "You just don't have

tended to detect and photo-

graph vehicles running red

lights can be found in a ma-

jority of states in the coun-

first debuted in Iowa in Ce-

dar Rapids in 2010. The de-

vices are also in Sioux City

and Clive; Des Moines is the

largest city in Iowa to in-

lawmakers each of the past

two years to ban the cam-

eras statewide have failed.

Brad Zaun of Urbandale,

said the cameras increase

cities' revenues, not safety.

Others in the Legislature

say the cameras are best

concerned more about safe-

ty or money has sparked

vigorous debate over air-

Whether officials are

handled at the local level.

Efforts by some Iowa

stall the cameras.

In Iowa, the cameras

Red light cameras in-

for public awareness."

accidents.

them.'

cluding police and fire ser- like that idea."

Bradshaw disagrees. » Three of the five interciting widespread commusections saw a decrease in nity support for the program.

"I get that there's a campaign (of people) that don't want these cameras up, but our neighborhood associations have said they want no change in the number of them," she said.

Juanita Slaughter, vice president of the Martin Luinstalled the cameras with ther King Jr. Park Neighborhood association, said her group received letters the cameras and of the need but had no input on the need but h for safe driving. That goal's era put up at Southeast 15th been met, Bradshaw said, and Maple streets near her citing vocal feedback to the home.

"It was just announced where they were going to install them," she said of The other goal was to the cameras.

Cameras' contract expires in 2014

Des Moines' contract with Gatso, the firm that operates the cameras, ends in 2014. That means the city will either renew the contract for another three vears or cancel it.

Until then, police are conducting their own internal study of the cameras' first 12 months to get what they call "a pulse" on the da-

The department expects to compile that study this month, said Scott, the spokesman.

"Is it a trend? No," Scott said. "But, is it a pulse that ize can at least give some indi-Lawmakers critical of the cations? Yeah, I would think technology, such as Sen. so."

Much criticism of the traffic city's revenue agreement with Gatso, which gets \$27 for every paid red light camera citation.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Boston said in a 2011 report that such "types of contracts are less common now than a decade ago, and a handful of states have passed legisyear. "I think people don't lation banning this pay-

ment method outright."

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Traffic enforcement cameras become "almost a no-brainer" as cities like Des Moines struggle with budget constraints, said John Bowman, communications director of the Wisconsin-based National Motorists Association. "Really, with that type of (perticket) arrangement, there's no incentive on anyone's part to look at other ways of managing safety."

Griess. the council the cameras, said profit was never a motive for Des Moines' cameras program.

"It does indeed generate revenue, but from the opposition and someone who's been in those meetings, I've never heard revenue discussed as a rationale," he said.

Still. Griess is anxious to revisit whether to keep the cameras operational after the police department completes an analysis of data collected during the devices' first year.

Griess notes that four of the city's seven council members voted for the cameras in 2010. The majority might shift, he said.

Council woman Christine Hensley, a supporter of the cameras, wants to wait for another one to two years to let the technology's effects more fully material-

Drivers should hold their judgments until then, she said.

Hensley, though, is not cameras sure she would support stems from its per-ticket adding more cameras in Des Moines. She said she believes most residents support the ones in place. Bradshaw, the police chief, said that while the speed camera on Interstate Highway 235 seems to have slowed freeway traffic, she's waiting for further analysis from the city's Traffic and Transportation Department before making

making further calls on the increase to \$80 for drivers camerăs.

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"The only negative stuff after a while is what you heard on Simon Conway," Hensley said. Conway is a talk radio host.

Bill Cappuccio leads the neighborhood association for Drake Park, a small neighborhood northwest of downtown that hosts the red light camera at 19th Street and University Ave-

He said he hasn't noticed strong change in driver behavior at the intersection, but that a out-of-town friend noted the cameras' effects.

'Obviously they're doing something," Cappucio recalled the friend saving. "You don't have to go far beyond Des Moines to see people driving like crazy.'

Even when city staffers and officials feel they have enough months of traffic camera data to analyze for conclusions, there are several ways to parse that data, said Justin McNaull, director of state relations for

Crash totals are one way to gauge intersection safety, McNaull said, but what if an intersection has fewer but more severe crashes? Analysts could also choose to give more weight to crashes that occur near a pedestrian heavy area, he

The limitations of the cameras must be considered, too.

DES MOINES' SPEED CAMERAS

When the city of Des Moines put up its red light cameras, it also set up two speed detections cameras, one fixed at Interstate Highway 235 and one mobile unit. Both cameras flagged as many as 4,000 drivers in a month since going live in June 2011.

Citation for speed cameras start at \$65 and

breaking the speed limit by 16 to 21 mph. Gatso, the Massachusetts company that operates the cameras, gets \$25 of each fine. (Gatso takes \$27 from each red light citation.) The city takes the rest for its general fund.

Police point to a drop off in violations between the speed camera's first month (more than 9,000) and August (2,600) as evidence that drivers in Des Moines are more aware of the cameras. and driving accordingly.

"It appears as though it's calmed traffic on the freeway," Police Chief Judy Bradshaw said.

BROADSIDE WRECKS DATA

Red light cameras installed at five Des Moines intersections are designed to ward off one type of violation — running traffic lights — that results in mostly one type of accident - the broadside, or "T-bone"

During the year before cameras went live in July 2011, broadside collisions resulting from traffic light violations accounted for 53 percent collisions at the five intersections, data from the lowa Department of Transportation shows.

The following year, 21 of 37 accidents were broadside collisions resulting from traffic light violations, or 56 percent.

At two of the five camera-monitored intersections, Southeast 14th and Maple Streets, and Southeast Fifth Street and Army Post Road, violations in June 2012 were less than half that of the July 2011, the cameras' first month.

At the three other intersections, 19th Street and University Avenue, Ninth Street and Grand Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and School Street, violations from July 2011 and those from June 2012

waves, in city hall and at the statehouse. "It's kind of a big brother thing," Gov. Terry Branstad said this

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wavered, on average, less than 11 percent.

Scott stressed that 12 months of data fell well short of five-year observation window he said city traffic engineers required to identify trends related to camera effectiveness.

– Josh Hafner

camera only monitors one direction of traffic, "it's only monitoring a quarter of the intersection," said Scott, the police spokesman.

July 2011 and June, three Des Moines' 6,000-plus inout of four broadside accidents at Southeast Fifth sheer awareness of them Street and Army Post Road involved traffic heading prove safety citywide. other than east, the direc-

faces.

more than two cameras per intersection is rare, and most cities only install one. sorts of things, people are In contracts like the one be- looking for a kind of end-all, tween Des Moines and Gat-be-all: Yes, it was worth it; so, the city doesn't cover a no, it wasn't worth it camera's operational costs. those sorts of things," said The device must instead Gail Weinholzer, AAA's Because each red light face a busy enough inter- Iowa public affairs direcsection approach to ensure tor. "Rarely is it that simenough citations are generple." ated to help pay for the sys-

While the red light cameras monitor just five di-For example: Between rections of traffic among tersections, police hope will bleed through to im-

But even four years tion its red light camera from now, gauging that

safety - and the effective-McNaull said installing ness of red light cameras may be hard to do.

"Typically with these

TODAY'S QUESTION

Have Des Moines' red light cameras changed your driving habits - perhaps after receiving a ticket? Share your answer at DesMoines Register.com.

INTERACTIVE GRAPHIC ONLINE

See detailed information on revenue, tickets and traffic crashes at all of the Des Moines red light camera locations at DesMoines Register.com/redlights.



A red light camera at the intersection of Southeast Fifth Street and Army Post Road is on the watch for violators. RODNEY WHITE/THE REGISTER

DES MOINES, Iowa

Date: Friday, October 26, 2012

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 155420

Clip Size: 308.02 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$224.4 Page/Section: A 0001

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Red light violations result in 9,196 tickets

The intersection at Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and School Street in Des Moines generated the most tickets issued to motorists caught by Des Moines' five red light cameras. More than 3,600 tickets were issued to motorists who failed to stop at the red lights at MLK and School; citywide, 9,196 tickets were issued in the 12-month period that ended June 30. The data below show the number of citations issued by month at each intersection and the number of accidents that occurred the year before the cameras were installed and the year after. For an interactive graphic online, go to www.DesMoinesRegister.com/redlights.



\$1.8 million generated from red light and speed cameras

The city of Des Moines received more than \$1.1 million in revenue between August 2011 and June 2012 from tickets issued from red light and speed cameras. The city has a mobile speed camera that is set up in a different location each weekday. There is also a speed camera on Interstate Highway 235. Overall, the red light and speed cameras generated more than \$1.8 million in revenue; about 36 percent of the total revenues went to Gatso, the firm that operates the cameras.

the firm th	at operates the	cameras.	
CAMERA REVENUE	Citation	Flat fees to Gatso	City not revenue
July 2011	n/a	n/a	n/a
Aug.	\$20,215	\$975	519,240
Sept.	\$53,573	\$19,531	\$34,042
Oct.	\$53,289	\$18,618	\$34,671
Nov:	\$130,257	\$34,805	\$95,452
Dec.	\$270,866	\$78,501	\$192,365
Jan. 2012	\$219,580	\$86,971	\$132,609
Feb.	\$216,175	\$96,125	\$120,050
Mar.	\$286,480	\$74,596	5211,884
Apr.	\$102,751	\$67,653	535,098
May	\$250,254	\$82,778	\$167,476
June	\$228,556	\$103,622	\$124,934
Total	\$1,831,996	\$664,175	\$1,167,821
	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE		

Source: City of Des Moine

THE DECIVE

MILIMPED	OF TICKETS	ICCITED	FOR RUNNING	DED LIGHTS

	15th and Maple St.	19th and University	9th and Grand Ave.	S.E. 5th and Army Post Rd.	Pkwy. and School St.	Monthly total
July 2011	255	195	119	254	150	973
Aug.	124	208	53	87	176	648
Sept.	97	185	63	213	162	720
Oct.	66	183	45	208	298	800
Nov.	81	81	22	46	312	542
Dec.	84	165	46	54	441	790
Jan. 2012	89	122	44	69	354	678
Feb.	104	100	126	76	379	785
Mar.	91	102	90	86	391	760
Apr.	109	185	101	74	258	727
May	131	266	132	85	524	1,138
June	107	199	101	56	172	635
Total	1,338	1,991	942	1,308	3,617	9,196

Source: City of Des Moines

NUMBER O	OF ACCIDEN	TS			MLK Jr.	
Total pre- camera	15th and Maple St.	19th and University	9th and Grand Ave.	S.E. 5th and Army Post Rd.	Pkwy. and School St.	Total
July 2010- June 2011	6	4	6	1	8	25
Total post	-camera					
July 2011- June 2012	4	3	4	1	9	21

Source: Iowa Department of Transportation

Students learn about distracted driving

Virtual simulator shows teens what it's like to text and drive

BY SHEILA RHOADES

srhoades@wabashplaindealer.com

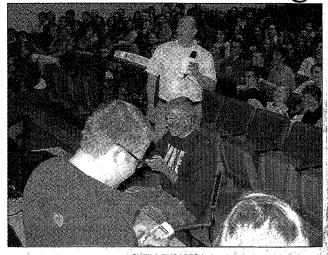
Teenage students across Wabash County received a lesson this week on the dangers of distracted driving.

Wabash County high schools partnered with AAA, Crossroads Bank and Insurance One to present this important program and remind teens of the ramifications of texting and driving.

"The brain can only process one thing at a time," said Nick Jarmusz, with AAA. "The research shows texting is one of the most dangerous forms of distraction and teens are among the most dedicated users of this technology."

He proved his point by having random students "drive" on AAA's virtual driving simulator to create the experience of texting while driving.

See DRIVING / Page A8



SHEILA RHOADES / shoades@wabashplaindealer.com
SIMULATOR — Nick Jarmusz, representative from AAA, directs juniors Corey Ross (seated) and Jake Smith as Jake tries to get a texted response from Corey.

Driving: Teens overestimate ability to multitask

Continued from Page A1

Jarmusz asked some students helping him to choose two random students for the testing. One would drive while the other would text to him or her.

Immediately, several boys threw their hands up claiming "I can beat that," or "I'm really good at this!"

There were several pairs of students that attempted the test and the results were embarrassing for most of them. Jarmusz allowed the driver to get used to the mechanics then asked the partner to text the driver and have the drive respond.

One driver crashed into a pole. Another struck a truck, while another went the wrong way on an off ramp. All would go slower, speed or swerve.

"Teens, generally speaking, greatly overestimate

their ability to multi-task," Jarmusz said, "and are less likely to see texting as a real threat to their safety."

But the presentation that followed hopefully changed their minds.

AT&T created a 10-minute documentary that chronicled the experiences of four teens whose lives were forever changed by texting related crashes.

A state trooper in Missouri recalled a crash that took the life of a young girl.

"Her face was disfigured from sliding on it," the trooper said. She had been ejected from the vehicle. He noticed inside the car was a cap and gown. "She was going to graduate the next day."

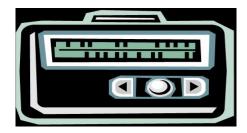
Another girl talked about the guilt she fell because she had been texting to her sister as her sister was driving. "The last message I sent to her was 'YEAH'. Those four little letters killed my sister."

Another teen was reading and responding to text messages while he drove the car and his girlfriend rode in the seat beside him.

"My girlfriend yelled and I heard a sound," he said. He had struck a man on a bicycle and killed him instantly.

Another teen who had been texting and driving was clearly brain damaged after his car crashed. Declared "dead at the scene" three times, he survived but is unable to do anything by himself.

Similar programs were also seen by students at Northfield, Wabash and Manchester high schools. At the end of each program, teens were invited to sign a banner pledging to drive safely. Illinois: WBBM Radio "AAA Paints Tow Trucks Pink"



NORTHERN LIGHT

WILLIAMS, Minnesota

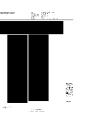
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Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Frequency: W
Circulation: N/A

Clip Size: 36.23 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$N/A
Page/Section: 0001: Tee



Teens asked to take Buckle Up and Pay Attention TV Commercial Challenge AAA provides grand prize of \$1,000

ST. PAUL—Minnesota teenagers, here's your chance to go viral: Students in grades 9–12 are called on to produce a 30-second TV public service announcement promoting the importance of buckling up or the dangers of distracted driving. The top teen will win \$1,000 and their spot will air during the televised MTV Video Music Awards in 2013.

The Buckle Up and Pay Attention Teens! TV Commercial Challenge allows teens to choose their safety topic: seat belts or distracted driving. The contest is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety and AAA. The deadline for entries is Monday, April 15, 2013.

The contest's finalists will be selected by DPS and AAA for a public online vote in May 2013. AAA will award first-, second- and third-place winners with \$1,000, \$600 and \$400, respectively.

"Traffic crashes are the leading killer of teens and this contest is one way to steer attention to common problems with teens behind the wheel," says Gordy Pehrson, DPS teen driving coordinator. "When teens share their creations with peers, it enhances the value and importance of the message."

Driver inexperience, risk-taking behavior, distractions, nighttime driving and seat belt non-use are the leading reasons for teen driving crashes and resulting deaths. In Minnesota during 2009–2011, 108 teen vehicle occupants (ages 13–19), were killed and only 35 (32)

percent) were belted. Another 408 teens were seriously injured in crashes and only 226 (55 percent) were belted.

"Every year, new teen drivers take to the wheel, so it is critical that we stay focused to educate them and keep them safe," says Gail Weinholzer, director of Public Affairs, AAA Minnesota/Iowa. "This contest promotes teen enthusiasm and creativity to encourage safe driving behavior."

2012 Contest Winner

The 2012 Buckle Up, Teens! contest winner was St. Michael's Eli Guillou, who produced "Big D e a l " — http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QuiKZ0EnTqo. View contest-winning spots from previous years.

Parent Roles and Responsibilities to Develop Safer Teen Drivers

DPS urges parents to talk to their teens about the life-saving importance of seat belts, and the dangers and consequences of speeding, distracted driving and alcohol use.

Parents are encouraged to continue to provide supervised experience for their teen driver in a variety of conditions and road types and use a parent-teen driver contract to establish road rules, reinforce the laws and follow through with consequences. Find more teen driving resources for parents.

"Parent involvement is especially important during the first year of licensure, which is the most dangerous time for teen drivers," says Pehrson.

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

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Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 187,976

Clip Size: 69.38 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$191.82 Page/Section: B 0001



MIDLANDS

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012 OMAHA.COM

Motorcycle deaths up as riders lured by nice riding days

Figures spike in Nebraska and Iowa, and include crashes with deer

By Julie Anderson

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A mild winter, a warm spring and a long string of warm, dry summer and fall days.

For anyone who enjoys the out-doors, it doesn't get much better.

But the mild weather came with a big downside: a spike in motorcycle fatalities in Nebraska and Iowa.

The death of an Omaha man Thursday in a motorcycle-deer collision on U.S. Highway 75 in Washington County was the 23rd motorcycle-related death in Nebraska this year. That puts the state even with all of 2011 and ahead of every year since 1987.

Iowa, with 50 fatalities so far this year, is up sharply from what appears to be a relatively low number — 34 — last year.

"The nicer it is, the more people are going to ride," said Fred Zwonechek, administrator of the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety. More riding, in turn, means more chance for harm.

This year, the nice weather started early. In January, Nebraska recorded its first-ever motorcycle fatality for that month.

Clear, warm weather also means drivers moving faster. "People have a natural tendency to reduce their speed when poor road conditions prevail," said Rose White, a spokeswoman for AAA Nebraska.

Dena Gray-Fisher, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Transportation, said drought has played a role in that state. With less water available, wild animals have changed their

movement patterns. "We've seen a number of crashes involving large animals," she said.

At the same time, more motorcyclists are on the roads in both states. Nebraska listed nearly 89,000 licensed motorcycle drivers in 2011, a high in records dating back to 1986.

Iowa's story is similar. The number of licensed motorcyclists was higher — more than 280,000 — than at any time since at least 1990.

White, the <u>AAA Nebraska</u> spokeswoman, said rising gas prices play a role in having more motorcycles on the highways.

"People simply look for the more economical way to get to work and school," she said.

The motorcycle-riding population tends to be older, with the majority ranging from their late 30s to their early 60s. Most are experienced riders.

Most new motorcycle riders, in turn, have taken motorcycle rider training courses, Zwonechek said. The classes aren't required. But those who successfully complete them can have their written and driving tests waived.

Officials are looking at whether those who take the course perform better on the road, he said. The preliminary results of work with researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln indicate that young drivers who take driver training courses have significantly fewer crashes, suspensions and citations than those who don't take them.

Meanwhile, Zwonechek said, the best thing motorcyclists and motorists can do to prevent accidents is to watch out for each other.

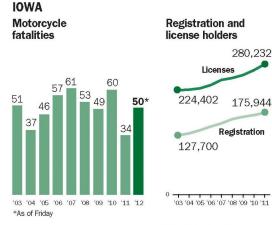
Contact the writer:

402-444-1223, julie.anderson@owh.com

DEADLY YEAR BLAMED ON NICE WEATHER

Motorcycle fatalities Registration and license holders 23 23* 88,728 Licenses 13 15 15 14 53,773 55,913 Registration 29,794 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 10 11 112 *As of Friday

SOURCES: Nebraska Office of Highway Safety; Iowa Department of Transportation



THE WORLD-HERALD

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

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Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 187,976

Clip Size: 69.38 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$191.82 Page/Section: B 0001

KEEPING SAFE TOGETHER

For motorcyclists:

- **»** Take a rider training course. Find one by following the link on this story at omaha.com.
- **»** Make yourself and your bike visible. Use modulating headlights like those on locomotives. They flicker and draw attention.
- » Wear brightly colored clothing.
- $\ensuremath{\mathbf{\mathcal{y}}}$ Wear a helmet. They're required in Nebraska but not in lowa.
- » Don't linger in the blind spots of other vehicles.

For other motorists:

- **»** If you've noticed a motorcycle in a rearview mirror and then suddenly don't see it, check your blind spots.
- **>>** When changing lanes, always use turn signals and check mirrors. Turn your head to check blind spots.
- » Take a second look at motorcycles approaching at intersections. They may be moving faster than you think.
- » Never tailgate a motorcycle.
- » Motorcyclists often travel in pairs or groups. If you see one, look for others.

Sources: AAA Nebraska; Nebraska Office of Highway Safety; World-Herald archives

ENTERPRISE

SPALDING, Nebraska

Date: Friday, October 19, 2012

Frequency: WEEKLY

Circulation: 683

Clip Size: 11.78 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$5.26 Page/Section: 0007



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HALLOWEEN TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS INCLUDES REMOVING POLITICAL SIGNS

In preparation for young goblins visiting your home this Halloween holiday, AAA reminds homeowners that some preparation may be required to make your property a safe environment. Keeping in mind that children may cut through front lawns, AAA recommends that homeowners temporarily remove all yard signs, such as political signs, that may pose a hazard. After sunset, signs may be extremely difficult to see especially if a child is approaching the sign with a side view perspective. Thick doormats, small

yard ornaments near walkways, and garden hoses, should be removed from any area that may cause a child to trip or fall. Low hanging tree branches should be trimmed to prevent eye injuries. If you have pets that are easily excited by strangers, make certain they are properly restrained safely inside the home. If children are required to walk across your driveway to reach your front door, park your vehicle in a position that will provide children with maximum walkway space. Doing so will not only help to prevent their costume from becoming snagged on your bumper or side view mirror, it will help to prevent damage to your vehicle unintentionally caused by costume accessories. Instead of lit candles in your carved pumpkins, consider using glow sticks or battery operated flicker lights. AAA also recommends keeping the driveway and entry lights on, as long as you are providing treats.

88-193

Safe Driving 'Prescription' for Seniors on the Go

More than 80 percent of drivers age 65 & older regularly take medications, yet only half have talked to a medical professional about possible safety issues related to driving. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, AAA today promotes Roadwise Rx to help the seniors understand how medications may affect their ability to drive safely.

Developed by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Roadwise Rx is an online tool that details common side effects of prescription and over-the-counter medications. The tool generates personalized feedback on how medications, herbal supplements and foods, and their interactions with each other, can impact safety behind the wheel. Drivers are encouraged to discuss the confidential results with their doctor or pharmacist to learn how to mitigate possible crash risks.

"With seniors often visiting primary and specialty doctors regarding their health care needs, it's important to know how medicines can affect driving fitness," said Gene LaDoucer, AAA North Dakota spokesman. "Roadwise Rx provides users an easy way to virtually pool together their pill

bottles and initiate a discussion with their doctors."

Due to chronic medical conditions, older adults often must take multiple medications. Certain types of medications, like antidepressants, have been shown to increase crash risk by up to 41 percent. Ingredients like Diphenhydramine, commonly found in over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines, can have the same effect on driving as being above the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration.

"Earlier research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly one out of five older drivers use five or more prescription medications. With medical conditions typically on the rise as people age, and treatment often dependent on medicinal interventions, there was a critical need to develop a tool to help older drivers understand the safety risk," said AAA Foundation President and CEO Peter

Kissinger.

"Roadwise Rx is the only tool of its kind that looks at medications and associated driving hazards."

It is estimated that by 2020, just eight years from now, nearly one in six people will be age 65 or older and most of them will still be licensed to drive. As a leading road safety advocate for 110 years, AAA continues to provide expert advice and helpful resources for older adults and their families - working to support them as they tackle the challenge of balancing safety and mobility.

SeniorDriving.AAA.com provides convenient, online access to a wealth of interactive resources including Roadwise Rx at no cost to all seniors and their families.

To view results from AAA's survey of older drivers, visit NewsRoom.AAA.com. For more information on AAA's free resources for senior drivers and their families, visit SeniorDriving.AAA.com.

Record number of submissions in ND Governor's photo contest

Bismarck, N.D. - Six winning photos and 14 honorable mentions were recently selected in the 2012 North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest.

Nick Hornbacher, Bismarck, was deemed the Best of Show winner for the photo titled Docked Riverboat at Sunset, fea turing the Lewis & Clark Riverboat on the Missouri River.

This year's contest, which started in May, attracted a record 987 photo entries.

"For almost a decade, North Dakota's amateur photographers have shared their talents by submitting fantastic photos showcasing our state's unique attractions, events and people," Gov. Jack Dalrymple said. "Through their camera lens, they've captured our state's beauty and all the fun things to see and do statewide."

Photos were judged on originality, subject matter, visual appeal and ability to portray North Dakota as a legendary travel destination in the categories of events, attractions, people, scenery, wildlife and outdoor adventure.

For the third year, photographers were able to submit photos online through image and video hosting site, Flickr. North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman said this method of submitting a photo has grown in popularity each year.

"Along with a record-breaking total number of entries received this year, the number of photos submitted via Flickr increased dramatically. More than 830 photos were submitted via Flickr for the 2012 contest, an increase of almost 300 from last year," Otte Coleman said.

Winning photographers will receive a \$200 cash prize for each winning photo and have their work featured in North Dakota Tourism's marketing materials, along with even greater exposure through contest partner AAA. A Best of Show photo was selected from the winning photographs, and the photographer received an additional \$300 cash prize and a free, one-

year basic membership to AAA. Honorable mention winners will receive \$50 and may also have their images featured in tourism marketing materials.

The contest is held annually and is open to any North Dakota amateur photographer. Next year's contest, which will be the 10th annual, will begin in May 2013. Winning photos can be seen at the North Dakota Tourism Web site at www.ndtourism. com

2012 Governor's Photo Contest Winners (by category):

BEST OF SHOW

Photographer: Nick Hornbacher, Bismarck Winning photograph: "Docked Riverboat at Sunset" -Missouri River, Bismarck

SCENERY CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Sheri Leas, Rolla

Winning photograph: "Mirror" - Lake Upsilon, near St.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Photographer: Jason Wingenbach, West Fargo, "Wheat Sunset", near Horace

Photographer: Brian Heskin, Minot, "Bully! Badlands in all its Glory" - Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora

Photographer: Rebecca Olson, Souris, "Home Sweet Home" - near Souris

WILDLIFE CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Gary Anderson, Minot

Winning photograph: "Three Mooseketeers" - near Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Photographer: Meredith Ehli, Bismarck, "Snowy Owl" - near McKenzie

Photographer: Paul Duffy, Minot, "Tough Guy" - Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora

ADVENTURE CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Gary Anderson, Minot

Winning photograph: "One last cast" - Lake Darling, near Souris

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Photographer: Paul Duffy,

Bottineau Courant Bottineau, ND

> From Page: 5b 10/2/2012



County: Bottineau

Bottineau Courant Bottineau,ND Circ. 2929 From Page: 5b 10/2/2012 393148 Minot, "Trekking through the Valley" – Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora

Photographer: Chris Lizakowski, Minto, "Bliss" – near Minto

ATTRACTION CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Nick Hornbacher, Bismarck Winning photograph: "Docked Riverboat at Sunset" – Missouri River, Bismarck

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Photographer: Stacy Nordstrom, Minot, "Mystic Nights 3" - Mystic Horizons, Bottineau Photographer: Jose Medina, Fargo, "Fargo Theater 1" - Fargo

Photographer: Jacob Bean, Bottineau, "School House Teaching" – Bottineau Historical Museum

PEOPLE CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Sheri Leas, Rolla

Winning photograph: "Wedding celebration" - Northwood

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Photographer: Whitney Rabbithead, Minot, "North Dakota State Fair Fun" – Minot

Photographer: Katherine Plessner, Verona, "Wintertime Fun" - Verona

EVENTS CATEGORY

Winning photographer: Jeremy Fonkert, Bismarck
Winning photograph: "Wide
Open" – Chippewa Downs, Belcourt

HONORABLE MENTIONS

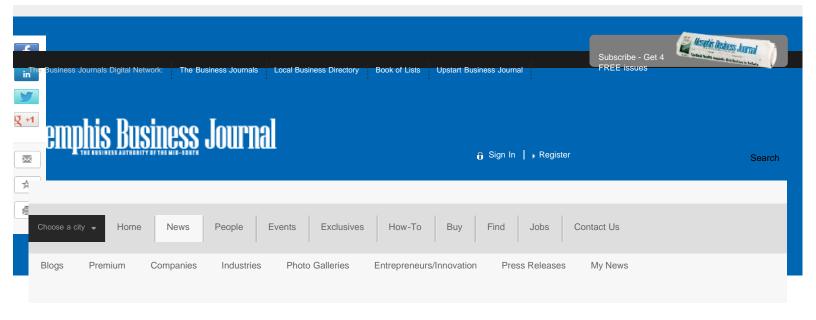
Photographer: Meredith Ehli, Bismarck, "Sleepy Hollow production of Grease" – Sleepy Hollow, Bismarck

Photographer: Jacob Bean, Bottineau, "9-11 at the Peace Garden" - Bottineau.

- Submitted



Best of Show winning photo – "Docked Riverboat at Sunset" by Nick Hornbacher. (Submitted)



News Made Easy Get today's news delivered to you

Fuel prices fell last week, AAA reports, expected to go lower

Memphis Business Journal by Cole Epley, Staff writer Date: Monday, October 22, 2012, 12:18pm CDT



Cole Epley Staff writer- Memphis Business Journal Email | Twitter

Consumers across the country were paying less at the pump over the past week and should expect to see prices continue to fall, according to a weekly report from AAA/The Auto Club Group.

On average, Memphis fuel prices have fallen 8.5 cents per gallon to \$3.41 over the past week, according to fuel price analyst GasBuddy; Tennessee fuel prices fell 10 cents over the same period to settle at an average of \$3.44 per gallon of regular unleaded fuel, AAA reported.

"We're back to the basic fundamentals of supply and demand moving the market," Jessica Brady of The Auto Club Group said



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People on the Move











in a release. "Oil supplies continue to increase as demand weakens across the board. Both oil and gas prices are likely to fall this week with a weakening euro, lackluster demand and growing supplies."

Crude oil on Oct. 19 settled at \$1.81 per barrel below week-ago prices. The trend to declining prices is in line with the onset of autumn, when demand falls off from the peak travel season. But there is more at play that helps steer prices lower at the fall's onset.

A blog entry at Popular Mechanics describes the difference in seasonal fuel blends that are deployed to coincide with the seasons. There are different blends for a variety of reasons. Winter gasoline blends, typically introduced in early autumn, require different chemical

formulations that are essentially less pure than summer blends. Essentially, less pure fuel means less costly fuel.

Thanks to these factors, prices could fall as much as 50 cents per gallon in the next few weeks, according to national reports.

Cole Epley covers banking and finance; health care; law; insurance; and economic development. Contact him at cepley@bizjournals.com.

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Improve Your Auto Repair Experience with Better Communication Says AAA



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SOURCE AAA

As part of AAA Car Care Month, motor club offers tips for a better experience with your repair shop

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct. 18, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- A trip to the auto repair shop can be intimidating if you don't know much about your vehicle or have had a negative experience in the past. However, AAA says a trip to the repair shop can be much easier-and less stressful-if you select a quality facility and do a little preparation before going in for a visit.

- · Write down notes on the vehicle's symptoms and performance beforehand so important information is not overlooked or forgotten. Include all of your observations, even if they seem silly or irrelevant.
- Describe the symptoms to the technician rather than suggesting solutions. Explain what has been seen, smelled, heard and felt while driving the vehicle. For example, does it vibrate or pull to the left? Explain under what type of driving conditions the problem takes place and how long ago it
- Try to be precise. For example, "a rattle under the hood starts at 40 mph" or "the smell occurs only on cold days after the engine has been running for 10 minutes."
- When describing symptoms, refer to the driver or passenger side of the vehicle rather than the right
- Resist the temptation to use technical jargon unless you are absolutely sure what it means. Explain what is being experienced in terms that minimize the possibility of misinterpretation or misdiagnosis.
- If the vehicle has been serviced recently, bring copies of the previous repair orders rather than trying to explain what work was done.

When taking a car to a shop for maintenance or repair, AAA recommends motorists do the following:

- Read the repair order before authorizing any work. Look for specific instructions outlining what the technician is supposed to do. If there is vague language, such as 'fix engine noise,' ask that the repair order be rewritten. If you want to see the parts that will be replaced, be sure to let the shop know before work begins so they can set them aside for you.
- Ask questions if terms used are not easily understood or something is not clearly explained. A quality repair shop should be willing to take the time necessary to clearly explain the work to be done in advance of the repair. If the service advisor is unable to satisfactorily explain a job, or suggests the repair is too complicated to explain, get a second opinion from another shop
- When picking up the car, read over the bill and question any charges that are not clear. Insist on descriptions of parts, not just the part numbers, on the final invoice.

There also are some things motorists can do to help protect themselves from unexpected charges or unneeded repairs. AAA recommends that motorists:

Finding a quality auto repair shop that can be trusted is key to a good auto repair experience. To assist motorists in their quest of, AAA offers a free public service where it inspects and certifies auto repair facilities. AAA Approved Auto Repair shops must meet and maintain stringent quality standards for customer service, training, equipment and cleanliness. There are nearly 8,000 AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities across North America. They can be located online at AAA.com/repair.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 53 million members with travel, insurance, financial of and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at AAA.com.

AAA news releases, high-resolution images, broadcast-quality video, fact sheets and podcasts are available on the AAA NewsRoom at NewsRoom.AAA.com.



From the AP



Man has 'Popeye' arms O Anna Nicole's child modeling **US-sized ice mass melts** Ex-Elmo puppeteer sued

Lottery winner killed

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Thursday, October 18, 2012 FORT ATKINSON, WI Newspaper (D) 2 Main AAA Wisconsin

Watch out for deer

A Fargo, N.D., radio station's podcast of "Donna, the Deer Lady" has gone viral, with nearly 2 million YouTube listeners. For those who haven't heard it, the caller to Y94 Playhouse morning show voiced her frustration about state transportation officials allowing deer crossing signs to be placed in spots where the deer are likely to be struck by oncoming cars and trucks. "Why are we encouraging deer to cross the Interstate?" she asked.

Yes, you read that right: Donna said that three times, her car has struck a doe or buck right after it passed a deer-crossing sign, and that the deer should be directed to cross at safer areas where there is less traffic.

After laughing hysterically, we checked to make certain that the call wasn't a hoax. It was, indeed, real, and the folks at Y94 did a follow-up interview in which a sheepish Donna said she now realizes the signs are erected to warn motorists of a high-density deer area and not to direct deer to cross the road at that particular site.

While we enjoyed the YouTube podcast, deer crashes are not a laughing matter. October and November are historically the most likely months for deer-vehicle crashes, especially along rural stretches of roads. That's because it's the rut, or mating season, and bucks are chasing does all over the place. Deer especially are active at dusk and dawn when they move to and from their bedding and feeding areas. Of course, a vehicle can hit a deer at anytime night or day — and anywhere.

The DNR, <u>AAA Wisconsin</u> and Whitetails Unlimited offer the following tips to avoid deer-vehicle crashes:

- Stay aware, awake, alert and sober.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs, and drive cautiously at all times. Reduce your speed through posted deer areas.
 Watch the edge of the road, treeline and ditches.
- At night, drive within the limits of your headlights and use high beams when you are able. Headlights will pick up reflections from the deer's eyes long before you will be able to see the entire deer.

- Be especially alert during early morning and evening when deer are feeding. During the rut, the deer's desire to mate makes them less cautious during the day and more active at night. Also be careful when driving over a hill or around a curve.
- Look for more deer to follow when one appears on a roadside. Deer often travel in groups and a doe might also have a buck chasing her. A buck pursuing a doe will not be cautious or fully aware of his surroundings and might run into the path of a car.
- Do not rely on deer whistles or highbeam headlights to deter deer. They might give a false sense of security.
- Scan a wide swath of the roadside. Slow down when approaching a deer standing near the shoulder and be prepared. If startled, the deer could bolt onto the road into your path. If necessary, honk your horn and flash your lights to try to scare it away.
- If a collision with a deer is inevitable, do not cross the centerline into oncoming traffic and avoid violent swerving to miss the deer. Most expert drivers advise hitting the deer instead of swerving sharply into the side of the road and possibly losing control of the vehicle, hitting a roadside object or rolling the vehicle.

If you should be so unfortunate to meet a buck or doe head-on, keep in mind that:

- You should call 911 if there are injuries or if your vehicle is disabled. Notify a law enforcement agency if you sustain reportable vehicle damage or to obtain a tag for the deer killed. A deer may not be moved until it has been tagged or an officer has given verbal instructions on where to take the deer to obtain the required tag.
- The deer also may be given to another person or a charitable organization such as a food pantry after it has been tagged.
- Do not approach an injured deer that is still alive. It will be scared and want to flee and hooves and antlers can hurt you.

There are 1.3-million whitetails out in the woods, but it only takes one to wreak havoc with a passing car, truck or SUV. Deercrossing sign or not, keep an eye out for whitetails on the road ... and keep yourself and your passengers safe and sound.



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Date: Location: Type (Frequency): Page: Section: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 MAUSTON, WI Newspaper (2WK) A1,A18 Main AAA Wisconsin

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING! Simulator gives students lesson in dangers of distractions

By Gail Boehm Star-Times

Texting while driving kills and, if they didn't know it before last week, a group of New Lisbon High School students know it now.

"I am a better driver than that," said junior Thomas Berndsen, who has had his driver's license for about four months. "I didn't know where I was going (while texting)."

Berndsen was among many New Lisbon students who got a safe but very realistic look at the consequences of distracted driving Thursday, courtesy of the New Lisbon Police Department, the State Patrol Bureau of Transportation Safety and a computerized driving simulator.

"I contacted AAA and the State Patrol," said New Lisbon police officer Kevin Weinschrott. "The state patrol and the Department of Transportation set it up for me to bring the computerized distracted driving simulator to New Lisbon High School."

On Thursday, Weinschrott offered virtual driving challenges to students, who were asked to "drive" a car on a simulated roadway, obey traffic signs and speed limits, use turn signals and stay on their own side of the road while sending a sixword text message to their homes.

The traffic violations started as soon as the students looked at their cell phone to text. A printout of the violations appeared on the simulator screen afterward.

"It is used to educate the students regarding distracted driving and how dangerous it is," Weinschrott said.

Distracted driving, Weinschrott said, isn't just a problem among young people.

"It affects everyone," Weinschrott said. "People of all ages die from distracted driving. It isn't just using the cell phone. It is looking at the GPS, eating, putting make-up on, talking to friends, adjusting the radio or yelling at your kids in the back seat."

Weinschrott said that a little mistake can be a big mistake while driving. "If you are going 60 mph, you look down for less than a second, you

Please see **DANGERS**. page A18 could have a head-on collision," he said. "Or if you went on the shoulder, you could hit a tree."

At Thursday's session, one student "drove" while two or three students took seats in back, where they could also see the screens.

"I should have pulled over to text," said senior Joe Zloza. "If I killed someone I could go to prison."

Zloza said when he took the driver's education class, students were required to stand on a street corner and document the distractions they observed in drivers travelling by. "One woman was breastfeeding her baby while driving!" he said.

Berndsen said he was surprised at just how closely the simulator mimics the driving experience.

"I didn't know where I was going (while texting)]," Berndsen said. "I was surprised how sensitive it was. It was more sensitive than a car, but it still could be as bad."

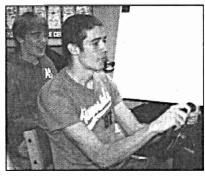
Berndsen said the simulator underscores how bad texting while driving can be, though he doesn't practice that habit. "I do pull over to use the phone, or my dad would kill me," he said.

Weinschrott, 35, has been a patrol officer for 10 years and lives in New Lisbon. He also took the simulator to the New Lisbon Correctional Institution earlier in the week as part of that facility's Health and Wellness Program.

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"It affects everyone. People of all ages die from distracted driving. It isn't just using the cell phone."

> **Kevin Weinschrott** New Lisbon police officer



Thomas Berndsen takes the wheel while fellow New Lisbon High School junior Tyler Allard critiques his performance.

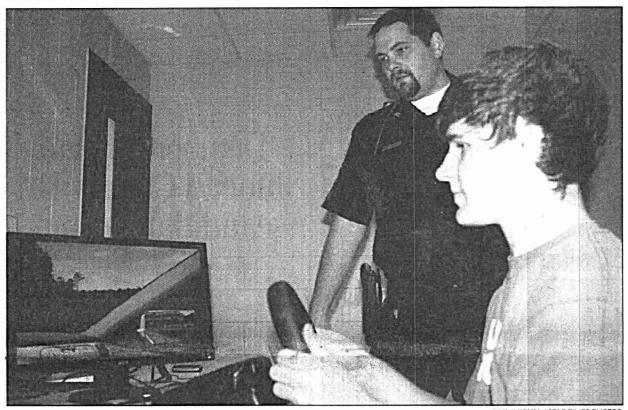


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GAIL BOEHM / STAR-TIMES PHOTOS

New Lisbon High School senior Joe Zloza takes the wheel of the distracted-driving simulator Thursday while New Lisbon police officer Kevin Weinschrott watches.