

AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

# *on the go*

**The Perfect  
Weekend in  
San Luis Obispo**

**Driving During  
the Pandemic**



**January  
February  
2023**

**Little Buffalo State Park**

**Tesla FSD Alert**

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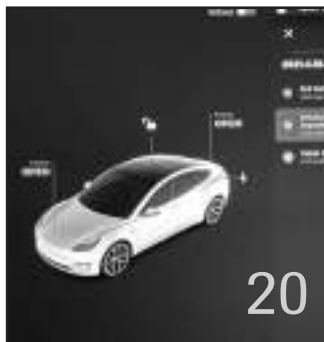
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Founded as a mission in 1772, San Luis Obispo grew into a full-fledged town only after completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1894. Today the city is accessible via US 101 and is known as the home of California Polytechnic State University, the Hearst Castle, and more. More on page 6.

## On The Go

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# President's Note

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Peter J. Armstrong  
*President/CEO*

“...paying attention while  
behind the wheel  
is crucial...”

## Deer Strikes - and Steaks? - On The Rise

It's easy to see what makes her attractive. Those large dark eyes, her thick reddish-brown hair, and oh those legs - all four of them!

If she's not putting all of her energy into avoiding amorous suitors, the smells and sounds of hunters are driving her to quickly seek safety. She deftly darts through trees and brush, only to dash into the path of a passing vehicle. Bye bye, Bambi.

Have you noticed the high number of dead and decaying deer carcasses littering the berms of Berks County roadways lately? Understandable, as vehicle-deer confrontations are rising nationally, and Berks is currently the Number 7-ranked Pennsylvania county for deer-related crashes according to one national insurance company. PennDOT says that PA residents have a 1-in-58 chance of a vehicle crash involving a big game animal - one of the highest in the U.S.

As a driver, paying attention while behind the wheel is crucial, especially when driving through corridors marked as having a high number of deer crossing sightings, aka the yellow “deer crossing” signs. Deer often move in groups and frequently walk single file - if you see one cross the road safely, there very well could be others following behind.

Passengers can help the driver by being another set of eyes. Be alert! Don't be fooled into thinking that deer are only in the rural areas. With fields and farmlands being developed at a high rate, deer and other wild animals are losing their ancestral forested homes and are forced to survive in more densely populated areas.

Would you eat a deer that was struck and killed by a vehicle? Quora, a popular question and answer website, posed this very question to its readers. Some responses said that they would - under certain conditions. Others confessed that they had indeed salvaged edible portions of the carcass of a deer that was freshly killed by a car after following the lawful steps necessary. If your hunting season came up

short and your meat freezer remained sadly empty, a freshly struck buck or doe roadside may look pretty tasty. Why let the poor thing just rot? Field-to-table? Well, sort of.

If you are among the folks that say “yeah, I'd be okay with that”, be aware of what your legal obligations are. There are presently thirty states that allow you to keep and eat roadkill. In Pennsylvania, you must first report the deer/vehicle strike to the state game commission within 24 hours to keep an animal.

Interestingly, there is a popular public event that is all about turning edible roadkill into delicious, award-winning dishes. The annual (except for 2020 and 2021) Roadkill Cook-Off festival is held in Marlinton, West Virginia. This wacky public competition has even been covered by the Food Network, the Travel Channel and the Discovery Channel. Visitors can try exotic dishes such as squirrel gravy and biscuits, teriyaki-marinated bear or deer sausage, snapping turtle stew, and more.

First prize winners get bragging rights and a sweet \$1,200 in their pocket. Judges for this contest claim to have been tested for cast-iron stomachs and promise to have no vegetarian leanings.

While I will not be found in the line waiting to try some fried venison wontons, who am I to judge?

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### **ATTENTION**

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# the perfect weekend in san luis

Halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the San Luis Obispo area includes both a palatial mansion open for tours and the Paso Robles wine country. Take a look at Samantha Brown's list of top things to do while visiting California's Central Coast.

## **Hearst Castle**

Located about 45 minutes north of San Luis Obispo, Hearst Castle is a must-see. As a boy, William Randolph Hearst traveled through Europe, falling in love with the grand homes and castles. In 1919, Hearst wanted to build a castle of his own, and because he had loads of money (back when publishing was BIG, baby!), this dream became a reality.



Hearst sought out architect Julia Morgan and over twenty-eight years the duo constructed this American castle atop a hill overlooking California's San Simeon Valley.

Opulence doesn't even begin to describe this place. The main house includes 168 bedrooms; Roman baths covered from floor to ceiling in blue and orange one-inch tile; and the iconic 345,000 gallon Neptune pool. The property once housed a zoo, complete with free-ranging

zebra. (Fun fact: though the zoo is no longer maintained, a few of the animals' descendants remain. You can sometimes see zebras grazing on the property!)

The parties thrown at this 250,000-acre estate were legendary and included old Hollywood stars like Charlie Chaplin, Joan Crawford, Errol Flynn, Clark Gable and Greta Garbo as well as Hearst's longtime girlfriend, star Marion Davies, plus the biggest names in politics and sports. Located about a four-hour drive from both San Francisco and Los Angeles, Hearst's property includes a two-runway airstrip, which made flying guests in and out a breeze. Today the castle is open all year long (with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day) and offers four distinct daily tours to choose from, in addition to seasonal tours.

## **Wine, Wine and More Wine**

Though the nearby vineyards are lesser-known than Napa or Sonoma Valley, they're churning out some of the best wines in California. You'll find over 300 wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants in the area, complete with quaint historic towns and beautiful scenery.

One definitely worth mentioning is the Hearst Ranch Winery, located just down the road from the castle. Housed in a former general store built in 1852, the business once served as the area's main shipping point for barrels of whale oil, cheese, butter and other commodities on the Central Coast.

Today, visitors love to sample wines on the deck while hearing the crashing ocean waves and taking in views of Hearst Castle. If you're looking to stay nearby, the winery rents out a four-bedroom, four-bathroom historic adobe. There are plenty of other options available.



### Where to Eat and Sleep

About an hour south of the castle (and along the route between L.A. and San Simeon), you'll find one of the most kitschy, fun and over-the-top hotel experiences. Imagine if Liberace, Elvis and Marie Antoinette designed a hotel, and boom, you've got the Madonna Inn.

This San Luis Obispo gem features 110 whimsical guestrooms, each with its own unique charm and décor, and lots of the Madonna's signature color—hot pink. You don't actually have to stay here to enjoy the place. The casual Madonna Inn Copper Cafe is straight out of the 1960s and offers diner-style staples like corn beef hash with eggs, Denver omelets, BLTs and patty melts.

The Alex Madonna's Gold Rush Steak House isn't reinventing the wheel, and that's partly why it's so great. Enjoy jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by filet mignon with a baked potato and dinner salad. A post-dinner



### Where to Get Outside

San Luis Obispo is home to Cal Polytechnic State University, a school that prides itself on its "learn by doing" philosophy. Hands-on experience is huge here, and you can see that on a walk through its architectural graveyard. This nine-acre collection of eclectic, abandoned mishmash of unconventional architecture is what remains from the school's outdoor experimental construction laboratory, where you'll find structures and sculptures imagined by former students. The easy hike is about three-miles round trip.



Manhattan at the Silver Bar Cocktail Lounge might be the perfect way to end your night. There's live entertainment most evenings, which cements the stepping-back-in time vibe. Tip: If you have a chance to check out the men's room, the urinal is priceless.

### Best Place for a Selfie

Bubblegum Alley! Imagine a 70-foot long narrow stretch between two 15-foot walls, covered in chewed bubblegum. Yes, it's kinda gross, but also pretty fun. Take a bubblegum selfie, and maybe even stick a wad on the wall—everyone else has been doing it since the 1970s! Just try not to touch anything because, well... gross.





# Local AAA Tower Recognized at Expo

Each year, thousands of people with ties to the towing industry gather at the Baltimore Convention Center to network and attend a variety of seminars during the annual America Towman Exposition. Various educational programs deal with issues faced by the towing business owner: Towing & Recovery, Business Operations, Safety, Insurance, and more.

A highlight of the expo each year is the American Towman Medal Ceremony, which honors "towers who stood out for their heroic feats and are recognized for their bravery and courage." A local AAA tower and road service provider was nominated to receive the award at the 2022 expo. Below are excerpts from the letter submitted to the awards selection committee by Chief Anthony M. Kuklinski of the Hamburg Police Department, nominating the owner of Always Towing, Phil Jamosky.

"The men and women of the Towing Industry are the most taken-for-granted, yet equally important first responders to situations involving vehicles and transportation in the world.

"...the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports there were 6,296,000 estimated police reported crashes [in 2021]. This translates to approximately 17,200 crashes daily. Thousands of drivers are injured and killed each year in traffic related accidents.

"These statistics do not account for disabled vehicles, police related vehicle investigations that require a vehicle to be towed and impounded, death scene investigations and the like.

"A significant part of all of these investigations is reputable towing and recovery companies. Towing and Recovery companies are critical in the day-to-day operations of the transportation system. Police utilize their services constantly in the pursuit of justice. Towing Operators respond to calls in the heat of day and in the cold of night as well as in all adverse weather conditions. They are the unsung and often most under-recognized components of Emergency Responders.

"There are stories of tow operators rescuing individuals from burning vehicles, collapsed buildings and crushed cars. This is selfless dedication to not only others but to their profession. The question of why do they

do what they do under all kinds of adverse situations in the dead of night, in the heat of day, in blowing snow and sub-zero weather conditions, these individuals answer the call to service above themselves. These men and women are the principles that the towing industry is built upon. All too often these individuals are overlooked for their importance in the overall picture of emergency response. As for me, I am glad that they are there, putting themselves in harms way. I can only think of the countless times when I called for them to respond. Their yellow beacons shine brightly and signal that help is on the way.

"They are members of our community that often times are asked to help in the time of need, not with just their knowledge, abilities and skill but with their benevolent support to other organizations within their community.

"This brings me to Mr. Phil Jamosky, the President of Always Towing, Hamburg, Pennsylvania...I have personally known Phil for over twenty years. Phil has been a part of the towing industry for most or all of his adult life.

"Phil is a man of virtue and integrity. Community dedication and service is engrained in him. He is part of our

community not only as business owner but as resident and friend. Phil is the kind of guy that will go out of his way to help the police, fire or private organizations and non-profits with financial support, in-kind donations and services.

"Prospective honorees must be nominated by either the local police chief or the local fire chief. I received the request to participate in the recognition program and couldn't think of anyone our service area that is more deserving of this award."

Phil started Always Towing in 2014 "for love of the craft" after working for another tow company. The facility is located at 201 S. Third Street, Hamburg. Stop by and congratulate Phil and his professional staff for receiving this prestigious honor.



# Resolving A Puzzling Drainage Issue

Dear Ask Ed,

After it rains, there is water on the passenger side front and rear floors of my 2012 Hyundai Elantra. I took it to the dealer two times. They blew clear the drain tube and sun roof drains. No other leaks were found. I used Damp Rid to dry the floor, but when it rains the same thing happens again. I am worried that the rug will get moldy. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Betty P.

Dear Betty,

This sounds like a clogged drain in the air box. Fresh air enters the car through the cowl into the air box. Any water that enters the airbox along with any condensation created when you run the A/C is drained out the bottom.

I would have someone check the air box drain. It is a common problem for it to clog and cause water to leak onto the floor on the right side of the vehicle. The drain hose hangs under the vehicle as shown in this picture.

While you have your trusted mechanic addressing this issue, why not have him/her check your Elantra's cabin filter? Cabin air filters trap and remove particulates like dirt, dust, insects, mildew, pollen, mold, rodent droppings and sometimes odors from the air that enters your vehicle through the heating, ventilation and A/C system but are often overlooked by vehicle owners as part of a routine maintenance program.



Like the filters for your home heating system, cabin air filters come in a variety of filter efficiencies. As the efficiency level increases, so does the cost. Prices can range from \$15 to \$50 or more. Not all older vehicles have cabin air filters; some newer vehicles will have one cabin air filter while others may have two. Your vehicle owner's manual may confirm if your vehicle has one and where your cabin air filter is located.

Some cabin air filters are treated with activated carbon



that can remove many odors, such as ammonia (animal urine) and odors related to the incomplete burning of fuel (sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, etc). Other filters may also utilize a baking soda element to neutralize a wider range of olfactory irritants like wet dog smell, mildew, etc.

How do you know when to replace your vehicle's cabin air filter? One solution is to check your owner's

manual for vehicle manufacturer's recommendations based on mileage. If you drive through or store your vehicle in an area with increased levels of dust or pollen, you may need to replace the filter more often than the manual recommendations. Do your vehicle's windows fog up easily or are hard to defrost? Are there persistent foul odors in your car? These symptoms could point to reduced air flow from a clogged filter that is placing an unnecessarily heavy load on the ventilation fan.

Don't be afraid to get a second opinion if your current mechanic isn't getting your situation resolved. There are plenty of talented automotive technicians in the industry that are up to the task of keeping your vehicle running safely and efficiently. Thanks for writing in.

Happy motoring!

Ed

Contact Ask Ed with your automotive questions:

AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

## Wildcat's Revenge - New for 2023

*Wildcat* is back, and seeking vengeance. Hersheypark's all-new wood and steel hybrid coaster, *Wildcat's Revenge*<sup>SM</sup>, takes riders through one-of-a-kind thrills found only at Hersheypark. Climb a 140 foot hill, hit max speeds of 62 MPH, dive into an 82-degree drop, invert four times, and stalk your prey through the World's Largest Underflip on three custom trains.

### What Makes the Coaster Hybrid?

Working alongside Rocky Mountain Construction, Hersheypark is adding an all-new steel track to the existing

wooden framework to enhance the ride experience, length, and number of thrills!

### More Coasters, More Thrills

One of fifteen coasters at Hersheypark, the wood and steel hybrid joins one of the largest and most iconic coaster collections in the United States in summer 2023.

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# driving during the pandemic

*AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's American Driving Survey shows disparities based on age and education level*

Research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's latest American Driving Survey offers insightful information on how much Americans drove during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. According to survey responses, drivers returned to the road in a big way in 2021, after a dramatic decrease in travel in 2020. Survey data also reveals that younger drivers and people whose highest level of education is high school spent the most time driving and reported the most miles driven during this time period.

Before the pandemic, people with higher levels of education were the ones who typically drove longer and farther. The shift to remote work during COVID changed that, as many college-educated employees were able to work from home. In contrast, younger adults and people with lower levels of education are less likely to have the option to work remotely.

At the same time, we're seeing a rise in the number of people killed in motor vehicle crashes. According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), both the traffic fatality rate (deaths per mile driven) and total traffic fatalities increased halfway through 2020, and that increase appears to have been sustained throughout 2021, the deadliest year on the roads since 2005. NHTSA's data also shows teenagers and young adults accounted for the vast majority of the increase in traffic fatalities in 2020, relative to 2019.

Previous research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety showed younger drivers generally have higher crash rates that resulted in injuries and deaths. Other studies that looked at socioeconomic disparities found people with lower levels of education and those who live in lower income communities are more likely to die in crashes. Data for this American Driving Survey shows these are the groups spending the most time behind the wheel during



the pandemic.

"These findings suggest our 'go-to' fixes for crash and injury prevention won't work like they used to," said AAA traffic safety advocacy and research director Jake Nelson. "Road authorities will need to customize solutions for people overrepresented in these crashes in order to truly turn the tide on traffic deaths in the U.S."

AAA recommends tailoring solutions to traffic safety challenges by considering the groups most impacted. It is also critical to employ a holistic approach to address traffic safety issues by considering all aspects of a transportation system – road infrastructure, vehicle, and users.

## **Method**

Members of a pre-recruited research panel were invited to participate in an online or telephone interview in which they were asked to report basic information about all of the travel that they did on the day before the interview. Approximately 5,100 participants were interviewed each year, with interviews spread approximately evenly over all days of the year. The survey was administered in English and Spanish, primarily online but also by telephone to accommodate participants who lack internet access or are more comfortable participating by phone.

### Driving Population

Overall, 93.8% of U.S. residents aged 16 years and older reported driving during 2021, statistically unchanged from the 93.6% who reported driving in 2020. The proportion of the population that reported driving was highest among adults aged 35-49 and 50-64, lowest among teenagers, and also lower among those ages 20-24 and 75+ than among those aged 25-74. Men were slightly more likely than women to report driving. The proportion of the population that drives increased with increasing levels of education across all categories of educational attainment examined. The proportion of respondents who reported driving was highest among those living in the Midwest and lowest among those living in the Northeast. Respondents living outside of metropolitan areas were more likely to report driving than were those living in metropolitan areas.

### Daily Driving Trips

Drivers made an average of 2.56 driving trips per day in 2021, a statistically significant increase over the 2.37 daily driving trips reported in 2020. The increase in daily driving trips was largest among drivers aged 75 years and older, who reported an average of 2.33 trips per day in 2021, significantly more than the 1.85 trips per day reported by drivers aged 75+ in 2020.

Drivers aged 35-49 continued to report the greatest number of driving trips each day. Women reported significantly more daily driving trips on average in 2021 than in 2020. Women also reported a greater average daily number of driving trips than men in 2021, a reversal relative to the previous year.

Drivers across all levels of education reported greater numbers of daily driving trips in 2021 than in 2020, though the increase was only statistically significant for those with a bachelor's degree or higher. The average of daily number of driving trips was significantly lower in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the corresponding period in 2020, but higher in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2021 than the same quarters in 2020.

### Daily Driving Time & Distance

Drivers reported spending an average of 61.3 minutes per day driving in 2021, significantly more than the 55.6 minutes per day they reported driving in 2020. Increases in average daily time spent driving were observed for most age groups; however, drivers aged 25-34 were the only age group for which the increase was statistically significant.

Men continued to spend substantially more time driving each day than women did in 2021, however, both increased in 2021 relative to 2020, and the increase in time spent driving by women was statistically significant. Also of note, high school graduates spent significantly more time driving than college graduates did. Drivers spent significantly less time driving in the first quarter of 2021 than in the first quarter of 2020, but spent significantly more time driving in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2021 than in the same quarters of 2020.

Drivers reported an average of 32.7 miles driven daily in 2021, more than the 28.6 miles reported in 2020, though the difference was not statistically significant due to sampling variability. Patterns, however, were generally similar to patterns in time spent driving. The average daily numbers of miles driven in the first quarter of 2021 was significantly lower than the corresponding average in 2020, whereas the average daily numbers of miles driven in the second through fourth quarters were higher in 2021 than in the same period in 2020.

### About the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Now celebrating its 75th anniversary, the Foundation for Traffic Safety was established in 1947 by AAA. The Foundation is a nonprofit, publicly funded, 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization. The AAA Foundation's mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by researching their causes and by educating the public about strategies to prevent crashes and reduce injuries when they do occur. This research develops educational materials for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users.





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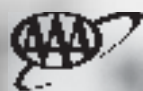
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<sup>1</sup> Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/6/2022 for the Online Savings Account. Applies to personal accounts only. APY may change before or after the account is opened. No minimum deposit to open.

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<sup>3</sup> Products offering the AAA preferred member rates are subject to change without notice and are determined at the sole discretion of Discover Bank. Preferred member rates are already reflected in quoted rates. Deposit accounts offered by Discover Bank, Member FDIC. © 2023 Discover Bank, Member FDIC. DISCOVER, DISCOVER BANK and the Discover logo are trademarks of Discover Financial Services and are used with permission.

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# GETTING PULLED OVER

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What to do and what not to do.

How you can minimize the risks to yourself and to the law enforcement officer.

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June 7 6-7PM  
August 22 6-7PM

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# Going In Reverse

A new report finds unsafe driving behaviors, including speeding, red-light running, drowsy driving, and driving impaired on cannabis or alcohol, rose from 2020 to 2021. The most alarming increase was among drivers admitting to getting behind the wheel after drinking enough that they felt they were over the legal limit - an increase of nearly 24%. According to new survey data from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, this is a reversal in the steady declines in these dangerous driving behaviors in the three years from 2018 through 2020.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, traffic fatalities have risen. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that 42,915 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes last year, a 10.5% increase from the 38,824 fatalities in 2020. According to NHTSA, dangerous driving behaviors such as speeding, alcohol impairment, and non-use of seatbelts account for a considerable proportion of the increased fatalities. Accordingly, AAA urges drivers to keep everyone safe on the roads and warns motorists against falling back into dangerous driving habits.

"The reversal in the frequency of U.S. drivers engaging in risky driving behavior is disturbing. While drivers acknowledge that certain activities behind the wheel - like speeding and driving impaired - are not safe, many still engage in these activities anyway," said Dr. David Yang, Executive Director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "We must be aware of the serious consequences of dangerous driving behaviors and change course."

As in previous years, drivers reported too often engaging in risky behaviors that they know are dangerous and would meet with disapproval from friends or family. For example:

## Texting While Driving

- 92% think it's very or extremely dangerous
- 96% think someone important to them would disapprove
- 26% admitted to doing it in the last 30 days

## Aggressive driving

- 88% think it's very or extremely dangerous
  - 96% think someone important to them would disapprove
  - 23% admitted to doing it in the last 30 days
- "The privilege of driving comes with great responsibility, which some motorists are not taking seriously," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety advocacy and research. "Fortunately, we know that reinforcing safe behavior with someone we know can influence them to change, so on our next ride with a passenger, let's show them how it's done safely."

AAA recommends these safety tips to keep in mind.

• **Out of sight, out of mind.** Stow your smartphone away, turn it to airplane mode, or activate call/text blocking features like Apple's Do Not Disturb.

• **Slow down.** Drivers tend to overestimate the time saved by speeding. Speed kills and isn't worth the cost.

• **Stay alert.** Stop driving if you become sleepy because you can fall asleep anytime. Fatigue impacts reaction time, judgment, and vision.

• **Drive sober.** If you consume marijuana or alcohol, then don't drive. If you are taking potentially impairing prescription medications, discuss with your doctor or pharmacist how best to stay safe AND healthy behind the wheel.

• **Buckle your seat belt for every ride.** It does not matter where in the vehicle you are seated.

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# Destinations & Diversions

## Little Buffalo State Park

*From the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources website.*

Certain places just attract people. The cool, clear water of Little Buffalo Creek has been attracting people for centuries.

American Indians frequented Little Buffalo Creek on hunting trips. Farmers and merchants used to gossip and pass news while the grain was ground at Shoaff's Mill. Nearby, merchants, local people, and travelers met at Blue Ball Tavern.

Today, thousands of people meet at Little Buffalo State Park to picnic, swim, fish, hike, and experience nature and history.

The park is open every day of the year, sunrise to sunset. Day use areas close at dusk.

The park office is open specific hours. The pool, overnight areas, and other areas are open specific seasons and hours. Contact the park office for facility seasons and hours. For your GPS, the park office's address is 1579 State Park Road, Newport, PA 17074. You can contact the park office via email at [littlebuffsp@pa.gov](mailto:littlebuffsp@pa.gov).

Special events at the park include an Old Fashioned Apple Festival that is held the third weekend in October.

Festival visitors will see and taste apple butter cooked in a large copper kettle in front of Shoaff's Mill. Apples are ground and squeezed in a century-old water-powered press. Shoaff's Mill grinds cornmeal, cracked corn, and apples. Visitors may taste samples of apple cider, apple butter, and cornmeal recipes as long as supplies last.

Little Buffalo State Park offers a wide variety of environmental education and recreation programs.

Through hands-on activities, guided walks, and campfire programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office at 717-567-9255.

Programs are offered year round. Many programs feature Shoaff's Mill. More than 12,000 people visit the mill annually. Contact the park office for more detailed information on programs.

You can take a self-guided tour through Little Buffalo's historic district to learn about the park history and find out what was the most important resource for the development of the Little Buffalo Valley. The Little Buffalo Quest starts in front of the Blue Ball Tavern and is less than a mile long.

Drivers of EVs will be happy to see the two-plug, electric-vehicle charging station that is available for public use in the parking lot near Shoaffs Mill and the Entertainment Pavilion.



### History

It is unknown why the stream is called Little Buffalo Creek or the adjacent ridge is called Buffalo Ridge, but local tradition holds that the buffalo, also called bison, inhabited the area.

Little is known of the original inhabitants of the land that became Little Buffalo State Park. It was occupied by many American Indian tribes and nations for short periods of time as they migrated away from the increasing European population. The Albany Purchase of 1754 acquired the land from the Iroquois League of Six Nations.

The park area was gradually settled after the American Revolution. These settlers farmed the fertile land, a lifestyle that continues even today. John Koch opened the Blue Ball Tavern in 1811 along the Carlisle Pike, the main road between Carlisle and Sunbury, currently called the New Bloomfield Road.

In 1808, David Watts of Carlisle built a charcoal burning iron furnace along Furnace Run just south of the present day park. The need for charcoal brought colliers to the area of Little Buffalo Creek.

The Juniata Iron Works smelted iron until the prized hardwoods used in charcoaling were depleted around 1848. Visitors can see remains from these "burns" along Buffalo Ridge Trail. Look for the 20 to 25-foot diameter circles of darkened earth along the trail.

When you visit Little Buffalo State Park, you will have fun learning the history about Shoaff's Mill, the Blue Ball Tavern, Clays Covered Bridge and the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad. Learn more at [dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov).



# Can You See Me Now?

Winter weather brings various forms of precipitation – all of which can challenge the best of drivers and be downright dangerous to the less experienced.

Safety starts before you drive, and your goal should be to see and be seen. Replace windshield wiper inserts that leave streaks or don't clear the glass in a single swipe. Make sure all headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals are properly functioning so other drivers will see you during downpours or snow events.

We can't repeat this enough: Turn on your headlights whenever you drive. It's not only to help you see to drive; it's also to make you more visible to other roadway users.

In fact, in Pennsylvania it is the law for drivers to turn on their vehicle's headlights any time their windshield wipers are on. By the way, your vehicle's daytime running lights **DO NOT** satisfy this law. It is necessary for driv-

ers in vehicles with daytime running lights to turn on their headlights in order to activate their taillights.

Another area where your headlights are required legally is in all posted work zones, active or not. Don't believe us? There's a citation with your name on it should you get caught. The Pennsylvania State Police report that they have given out as many as 600 citations for this infraction annually.

If you don't want your lights on when it's not raining, at least turn them on between dusk and dawn, in fog, snow, sleet, or anytime visibility is less than great.

When was the last time you checked your tires for suitable tread and air pressure? Proper tire tread depth and inflation are imperative to maintaining good traction on wet roadways. Check tread depth with a quarter – not a penny – inserted upside down into the tire groove. If you can see above Washington's head, start shopping for new tires. Check each tire's pressure, including the spare, at least once a month... and be sure to check the pressure when the tires are cold.

Find more driving safety tips at [exchange.AAA.com](http://exchange.AAA.com).



## Increased DUI Penalties Now In Effect

*Posted on Capitolwire.com*

Legislation increasing the penalties for repeat drunk drivers, signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf, is now in effect.

Wolf signed Act 59 on July 11, 2022 and a provision in the law that gave the state 120 days before it took effect.

Act 59 of 2022 – referred to as “Deana’s Law” – which amends the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code by increasing the grading for certain DUI offenses, requiring consecutive sentencing for certain repeat DUI offenders, and imposing an 18-month driving privi-

lege suspension for a DUI conviction graded as a felony of the second degree.

Under the new law, an individual charged with DUI (general impairment) who refuses a breath or chemical test or who is charged with DUI with a BAC of .16 or higher or a DUI involving controlled substances, and already has the following number of prior offenses, commits:

- A felony of the third-degree for two prior offenses (previously two or more prior offenses); and

- A felony of the second-degree for three or more prior offenses (previously a third-degree felony).

AAA reminds everyone that alcohol consumption is known to impair a driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Drinking alcohol before getting behind the wheel significantly increases the likelihood of a traffic crash.

All states have per se laws that make it illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. Impairment can happen at BAC levels as low as .02.

# Real Heroes of the Road

## **Sometimes Members Need More Than a Tow**

Brett Letourneau of Citywide Towing Services in Minneapolis, MN has been a service provider for AAA for over 45 years. He is a second generation owner, inheriting the business from his parents who worked with AAA since they opened their shop.

One day, Brett responded to what he thought was a member who needed a tow. When he arrived,



however, he was met by the state patrol and the member who was in a state of confusion.

The troopers asked Brett if he would help get the member off the road and to a place of safety. He agreed and as he was talking with the member, he quickly realized the man was suffering from some form of dementia. He was only able to tell Brett his name but could not remember where he lived, his phone number or who could be contacted to pick him up.

Brett reached out to the AAA dispatcher who was unable to locate any membership information for the man in their system. Brett began to look through the man's vehicle and found a fast food receipt from earlier that day. The restaurant was in a town about 150 miles north of where Brett responded to the member. He

called the number on the receipt and asked the girl that answered the phone if she remembered seeing the member. She started to cry, said she was his niece and that they had been looking for him all day. Apparently, when he left the restaurant he became disoriented and just drove until he ran out of gas.

Brett told the member's family that he would tow the car and bring the member to an agreed upon meeting place. On the way, Brett and the member chatted and even stopped for some lunch. When recalling the memory, Brett says, "When we met his family, you could see how filled with joy they were to be reunited with him. It brought a tear to my eye and in all of my years of working with AAA, it was by far the most rewarding call I have ever been on."

## **Food for the Soul**

Early in 2020 when the pandemic started, calls for roadside assistance came to a near standstill. But Michael Montalbano of Five Star Towing in Lodi, NJ still wanted to find a way to help people. So he and his son-in-law, Joe, began making food deliveries for the local Meals on Wheels assistance program. Each week, they would pick up baskets of food and make deliveries to the list of people on their route.

About three weeks after they started, they were unable to reach one of the residents to make her delivery. They contacted the Meals on Wheels program coordinator who was able to reach the person by phone. When they went back to make the delivery, the woman thanked them for coming back and asked if they could deliver her food before 10am. The reason? She only had enough food to get through the night before and had to wait to eat until their delivery the next afternoon.

Michael and Joe made sure she was one of the first deliveries on their route and they would even spend a few extra minutes chatting with her. Eventually, the regular volunteers began returning to work and Michael and Joe's time delivering for Meals on Wheels came to an end. When they went to make their final stop at the woman's house, they delivered her food along with a grocery store gift card so she wouldn't have to struggle to find her next meal for at least a few weeks.

When thinking about the time he spent delivering food, Michael says, "It really touched me to see how some people in my own community struggle every day and I knew I needed to help. While we no longer deliver food to our friend, we continue to stay in touch with her to make sure she is doing ok."

Brett, Michael and Joe were Real Heroes of the Road to these people in crisis. When you're driving along the highway and you see a tow provider like them or other first responders working, think of these stories and what their bravery meant to others. And when you do, please move over AND slow down so they can do their job safely. We need tow providers like Brett, Michael and Joe and so do our members; but most of all, so do their families. Help us keep them safe.



# Rental Car Dos & Don'ts

Flight booked? Check! ... Hotel reserved? Check! ... Car rented? ... Still haven't done that?

Don't wait too long!

As you're planning your getaway travel, AAA recommends booking your car rental well in advance to lock in a good rate and give you peace of mind. Here are some Dos and Don'ts to make the process a smooth one.

**Do book early.** Waiting until the last minute is risky. Rates are often more expensive the closer you get to your desired rental date. Added bonus: when you reserve with plenty of time, you may be offered a pre-pay option that includes a discount. Cancellation fees may apply, though, so check with the company first.

**Do share your flight details.** If you're flying into the city where you're renting a car, include your flight number, airline, and ETA when booking the vehicle. That protects your rental reservation if your flight is delayed.

**Do consider non-airport locations.** During the busy travel seasons, airport car rental locations may be crowded and low on inventory. You may have better luck renting from a neighborhood branch. And check with the rental company: it may even offer a free pickup service.

**Don't just drive off.** When you pick up the rental car, take a moment to check out the vehicle. Familiarize yourself with the controls. Plug in your charger. Connect to Bluetooth. Activate maps/navigation. Get settled now, so you're not distracted later.

**Don't go it alone.** AAA travel agents can help members – for free! – book their rental vehicles plus find discounts and bundled travel options. AAA members can also receive up to 20% off base rates at Hertz car rental locations. Other Hertz benefits exclusively for AAA members include one free child safety seat and waiving additional driver fees \*and\* young renter fees for drivers ages 20-24.

Don't forget to plan ahead! Whether it's mapping out gas stations or electric vehicle charging stations along your route and at your destination, or planning which attractions and activities you want to visit when you arrive, AAA offers TripTik and Trip Canvas, two free travel tools to keep you organized and prepared.

Learn more at [Triptik.AAA.com](http://Triptik.AAA.com), [AAA.com/tripcanvas](http://AAA.com/tripcanvas) and [discounts.AAA.com/travel-discounts/hertz](http://discounts.AAA.com/travel-discounts/hertz).



**It's back!**

## Dare to Prepare

What You And Your Teen Need To Know Before They Drive

**FREE Parent/Teen Pre-Permit Workshop**

Fun, interactive presentation for parents and teens that provides critical information teens need to know before they take the wheel. It's free, but preregistration is required. Call 484-987-7025 to register.

April 5, 6-7:30PM • August 14, 6-7:30PM • November 13, 6-7:30PM

AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Rd, Wyomissing



## Alert: Tesla Full Self-Driving Mode Announcement

Last November, Elon Musk announced via Twitter that Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) mode is now available to all owners in North America who have purchased the FSD package. According to the company, FSD enables vehicles to drive on highways and city streets when a location is entered into the navigation system.

### How It's Supposed To Work

Tesla customers who bought the \$15,000 FSD package (or pay the monthly \$199 subscription) can now download it via a "request button." According to a Musk tweet in September 2022, anyone with a safety score of 80 and above with 100+ miles of driving will automatically get the FSD download invitation on their screens. Media outlets report the score is determined by driver behavior, such as hard braking, aggressive turning, and unsafe following, as well as how many times Tesla's Autopilot disengages itself.



### The Government's Role

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued an order in June 2021 requiring automakers and tech companies to immediately report all crashes involving ADAS (Advanced Driver

Assistance Systems) features and vehicles with automated driving systems tested on public roads.

Separately, in June 2022, NHTSA upgraded its investigation into Tesla's Autopilot active driver assistance system from a preliminary evaluation to an engineering analysis. Through this expanded investigation, NHTSA plans to extend the existing crash analysis, evaluate additional data sets, perform vehicle evaluations, and explore the degree to which Autopilot and associated Tesla systems may exacerbate human factors or behavioral safety risks by undermining the effectiveness of the driver's supervision. In doing so, NHTSA plans to continue its assessment of vehicle control authority, driver engagement technologies, and related human factors considerations. This is an ongoing investigation.

### A Deadly Game

Based on its research, AAA has warned drivers that advanced driver assistance systems, especially those that partially automate the driving experience, are not a replacement for an engaged driver. The latest, released in May 2022\*, found that the highest automated system available to consumers – Level 2 – continues to struggle with performing as expected and can become a distraction to drivers instead of an aid.

The release of Tesla's software serves as an important reminder to drivers that despite the name or promise of vehicle technology, there is no replacement for an attentive

driver. Fully self-driving vehicles are not available to consumers at this time. Misusing a system without understanding its capabilities and limitations could lead to a crash, severe injury, or death.

In July 2022, AAA led the way in forming the Clearing the Confusion Coalition, to encourage universal naming of advanced driver assistance systems. Activities include industry briefings and publicly urging automakers, regulators, safety organizations, journalists, and other stakeholders to adopt these terms.

Previous research and member polling has revealed that 40% of Americans expect active driving assistance systems, with names like Autopilot, ProPILOT, or Pilot Assist, to have the ability to drive the car by itself, indicating a gap in consumer understanding of these technologies and reality. The name of Tesla's software, "full self-driving", could easily confuse drivers, leading them to believe the system can control the car without driver engagement.

AAA recommends that drivers educate themselves about their vehicle's technology by requesting a demonstration at the dealership. It's also a good idea to read the vehicle owner's manual to learn when, where, and how to use a specific vehicle's technology. The vehicle owner's manual or online materials provided by the automaker are the best resource for understanding the ins and outs of an individual vehicle's safety system.

\*Read the AAA research article at [newsroom.aaa.com/2022/05/consumer-skepticism-toward-active-driving-features-justified/](https://newsroom.aaa.com/2022/05/consumer-skepticism-toward-active-driving-features-justified/)

# What will you Discover?



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## Blue Angels in Annapolis, MD

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

\$229\* per person

Be entertained by jaw-dropping flight demonstrations

- Exploration of Maryland waterfront
- Two-hour cruise to view the Blue Angels
- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
- Services of a Discoveries Journey Manager
- All taxes and gratuities

## Sicily in Depth

August 3-11, 2023 \$3,429\* per person, dbl occupancy

- Seven-night hotel accommodations
- Sightseeing by luxury coach with WiFi
- Audio headsets for flexible sightseeing
- Services of a professional Insight Vacations Travel Director & Driver, gratuities
- 7 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch with Wine, 4 Dinners with Wine
- Services of a Discoveries Journey Manager

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
- Lunch at Allegro Restaurant
- Local guide service; services of a Discoveries Journey Mgr
- All taxes and gratuities

## Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

October 6-11, 2023 \$3,619\* pp, dbl occ, AAA Mbr Rate (air add'l)  
Small Group Tour - Maximum of 12 Passengers

The Fiesta's 51st year! Enjoy an enchanted world made up of hundreds of colorful balloons floating overhead each morning as dawn breaks over the Sandia Mountains.

- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Additional local attractions, tour entrance fees
- Roundtrip transfers - airport/hotel
- 5-night hotel accommodations
- Services of/gratuities for a Southwest Adventure Tours Tour Director/Driver
- 5 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 3 Dinners
- Services of a Discoveries Ride Along Host to and from the airport

## Niagara Falls Weekend

July 14-16, 2023 \$1,199\* per person, dbl occupancy

- Niagara Falls Illumination, Tour, and Cruise on the Hornblower
- Niagara-On-The-Lake Tour and Wine Tasting
- Journey behind the falls
- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
- 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner
- Services of a Discoveries Journey Manager
- All taxes and gratuities

## Horseshoe Curve

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 \$249\* per person

Welcome to The Curve, known as one of the eight engineering marvels of the world.

- Tour of the Railroaders Memorial Museum - three floors of exhibits dedicated to revealing, interpreting, commemorating and celebrating the significant contributions of the Railroaders and their families to American life and industry
- Additional local attractions

\*Rates are per person based on a minimum number of passengers. Subject to availability at time of booking and include taxes, fees and fuel surcharges which are subject to change.



# Let's go!

## Virginia Beach "Rockin' the Boardwalk"



October 3-6, 2023 \$925\*

Tour highlights:

- Two Big Shows
  - Beach Boys Boardwalk Bash w/music by "Still Surfin"
  - Evening with The Jersey Boys "Let's Hang On"
- Free Evening on Boardwalk
- Lunch & Tour at VA Beach Military Aviation Museum
- Dolphin Watching Cruise & Lunch
- Three Nights Oceanfront Lodging
- Three Hotel Breakfasts, One Lunch, Two Dinners
- All Taxes, Tips and Luggage Handling
- Motorcoach Transportation

For more information or to book this getaway, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or [rfisher@aaardgberks.com](mailto:rfisher@aaardgberks.com).



## Philadelphia Flower Show

**Back at the Pennsylvania Convention Center!**

March 8, 2023 \$89\*\* per person

One of the world's largest indoor flower exhibitions! Usher in Spring 2023 with an enticing floral experience. Updated returning favorites and new, exciting offerings.

- Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
- Flower Show Admission Ticket
- Driver Gratuities

For more information or to book this getaway, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or [rfisher@aaardgberks.com](mailto:rfisher@aaardgberks.com).

## Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre



### Murder on the Orient Express

January 25, 2023 \$129<sup>Δ</sup> per person

Agatha Christie's plot twist masterpiece will keep you guessing "Whodunit?"

- Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
- Matinee show ticket
- Lunch from salad to dessert
- All taxes and gratuities
- AAA Escort

For more information or to book this getaway, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or [rfisher@aaardgberks.com](mailto:rfisher@aaardgberks.com).



\*Per person based on double occupancy. \$100 deposit due with reservation; final payment due by 8/8/23

\*\*Full payment of \$89.00 per person is due only upon confirmation of reservation and is payable by cash, check or credit card no later than 2/22/23 and is non-refundable.

<sup>Δ</sup> Full payment of \$129.00 per person is due only upon confirmation of reservation, no later than 1/12/23, and is payable by cash, check, or credit card to AAA Travel. Non-refundable.



# Swiss Splendor by Rail

## Grand Train Tour of Switzerland

*An Escorted Experience*

12-Day Rail Tour

Includes 1 pre-night in Zurich

May 31-June 11, 2023

\$4,274\* land only, per person dbl occ

\$5,109\* land only, per person single occ

Small in size, endless in amazing scenery: Welcome to Switzerland. Experience the best of this incredible destination on a grand rail tour highlighted by the country's scenic trains.

\*\$500 deposit due at time of reservation. Final payment due 2/17/23. Hotels are subject to change. Travel insurance is recommended. Passport required. Air & hometown airport transfers are optional and will be added later for an additional cost.



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Six scenic rail excursions, including the *Bernina Express*
- Take a mountain railway excursion to the Top of Europe, the Jungfrauoch, an UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Cruise on Lake Lugano

Contact Rosemary Fisher

610-374-5600 x 7938 [rfisher@aaardgberks.com](mailto:rfisher@aaardgberks.com)

## Additional Offerings...

Contact AAA Travel for details and to book.  
610-374-5600. Agents available by appointment.

### Best of Ireland and Scotland

June 3-17, 2023 \$4,675 land only, per person\*  
Travel to see the very Best of Ireland and Scotland, from delicate Waterford Crystal to the golfing greats of St. Andrews.

\*Rate is land only, based on dbl occ. Subject to availability, additional restrictions and conditions apply. Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change.

### Italy, Croatia & Montenegro Cruise

June 16-26, 2023 from \$2,429 per person\*  
10-night cruise on the *Celebrity Beyond*.

\*Rate is cruise only, based on dbl occ for Deluxe Inside Stateroom. Subject to availability, taxes & govt fees are extra and subject to change.

### Colors of Provence Wine Cruise

July 27-Aug 3, 2023 from \$4,498 per person\*  
7-day cruise onboard the *AmaKristina*. Exquisite, locally-inspired cuisine and traditional, Western offerings. Your choice of included port excursions.

\*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ for Cat. D-Fixed Window Stateroom. Govt taxes and fees are additional, subject to change and availability.

### Rocky Mountaineer Journey

Aug 30-Sept 6, 2023 from \$4,894.66 per person\*  
Experience the Canadian Rockies via rail.

\*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ. Inc govt taxes and fees but are subject to change and availability.

### Flavors of Portugal and Spain

Sep 10-25, 2023 from \$5,999 per person\*  
Lisbon, Tagus River Cruise, Coimbra, Porto, Port Wine Tastings, Braga, Douro River Valley, Douro River Cruise, La Rioja, Pamplona, much more!

\*Rate is per person if booked by 2/11/23. Inc RT air from PHL, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers. Additional restrictions apply.

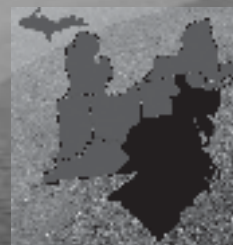
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#### Bill's Emergency Roadside Service LLC

740 Lancaster Ave, Shillington 610-207-2946

#### Dave's Auto Service

925 W. Philadelphia Ave, Boyertown 610-367-1844

#### Dubble's German Motors

2697 Bernville Rd, Rdg 610-375-8330

#### Dulin's Tire & Service Co.

3151 Centre Avenue, Reading 610-929-5820

1530 Lancaster Avenue, Shillington 610-775-0375

#### Fred Beans Ford

525 Route 100 N, Boyertown 610-367-2081

#### Haldeman Ford

15465 Kutztown Road, Kutztown 610-683-3553

#### Lee Myles Transmissions & Auto Care

914 Fern Avenue, Reading 610-775-3820

6720 Perkiomen Avenue, Birdsboro 610-404-4227

#### Patriot Buick/GMC

933 E. Philadelphia Ave, Boyertown 610-367-8800

#### Rich's Automotive Sales & Service

Rt. 12/1340 Clarion St, Reading 610-376-4045

#### Trupp's Garage

1550 North Sixth Street, Reading 610-376-4255

#### VJ Wood Service Center

411 South Third Street, Hamburg 484-662-4004

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