

MON THE MOVE

Nebraska trucking industry searches for solutions amid national labor shortage

By David Berman,
Nebraska News Service

One of the nation's first collective pandemic memories is the clamor to buy and store as much toilet paper as possible. Shelves around the country were cleaned out as the supply chain struggled to keep up.

This situation last March inadvertently highlighted one of the parties responsible for getting those shelves re-stocked: the trucking industry. And as the nation dealt with this shortage, a different shortage within the industry — labor — was one of the factors contributing to a slower replenishing of toilet paper and other household items.

According to Dave Zelnio, director

of marketing and communications for the Lincoln-based Nebraska Trucking Association, a labor shortage in the trucking industry has been the top concern for trucking companies for four years in a row in a national annual survey conducted by the American Transportation Research Institute.

While the shortage was clearly an issue pre-pandemic, Zelnio said, the last 18 months have been especially tough for driver recruitment and retention due to the downturn in the economy and inability to get parts for truck maintenance. The industry lost 6% — almost 100,000 jobs — of its pre-pandemic workforce during the leanest days of the pandemic, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



(Photo courtesy of Dave Zelnio)

Due to factors such as an aging workforce, shifting industry expectations and the pandemic, trucking companies are faced with a major labor shortage and are working toward solutions to keep truckers like these in the industry.

A main factor contributing to the shortage is trucker demographics, as Zelnio said the average age of a trucker is around 45 years old; the BLS estimates that number is even higher at 55 years old.

"That's kind of on the higher scale when it comes to a workforce, and we're trying to work on that so we can start to bring younger people into the industry," Zelnio said.

The Nebraska Trucking Association is under the umbrella of the American Trucking Association, according to Zelnio. The association serves Nebraska trucking compa-

nies, with duties including advocating for favorable state transportation laws, facilitating networking and hosting trucking awareness and appreciation events.

The NTA is actively trying to engage with Generation Z, conducting focus groups of high schoolers to get their perspectives on trucking. What the focus groups revealed is that the industry needs to adjust its messaging to younger demographics and raise more awareness about the benefits of joining the industry.

"They just need to hear the

story," Zelnio said. "They're entrepreneurial. They like technology, they like community oriented type jobs. They want to be a part of a solution. So there's a lot of good indicators that if we do it right, we can actually pull Generation Z into the workforce."

However, the movement to shift recruiting to a younger demographic leads to problems of its own, said Ron Devall, owner of Grand Island-based Devall Trucking, a company with over 40 units in operation that

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(Photo courtesy of Dave Zelnio)

The Nebraska Trucking Association has focused on trucker appreciation to help retain drivers amid the labor shortage. Photo courtesy of Dave Zelnio (pictured right).

Winter driving tips are shared for travelers

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for travelers. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA urges drivers to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.

AAA recommends the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions:

Cold Weather Driving Tips

Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.

Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.

Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.

Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.

Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Tips for Driving in the Snow

Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.

Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.

Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill

slowly.

Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Tips for Long-Distance

Winter Trips

Be Prepared: Have your vehicle checked by a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility before hitting the road.

Check the Weather: Check the weather along your route and when possible, delay your trip if bad weather is expected.

Stay Connected: Before hitting the road, notify others and let them know your route, destination and

estimated time of arrival.

If you get stuck in the snow:

Stay with your vehicle: Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Do not try to walk in a severe storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.

Don't over exert yourself: When digging out your vehicle, listen to your body and stop if you become tired.

Be Visible: Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small

amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.

Clear the Exhaust Pipe: Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.

Stay Warm: Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.

Conserve Fuel: If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel.

Trucking

(Continued from page 1)

travel around the 48 connected states. Younger drivers will make more mistakes, leading to potential safety issues, Devall said. And with companies more and more desperate for drivers, rigorous training protocols will sometimes be bypassed to get new drivers on the road as soon as possible.

"A lot of the large companies are pushing for younger and younger drivers, [who] are inexperienced and you end up with more wrecks, more guys jumping from job to job, and you just don't get the stability out of the drivers because there's so many jobs," Devall said. "Companies start hiring more or less unqualified drivers with very limited experience and are thrown into the tough lifestyle. And they just become a commodity where they come and go."

Another factor contributing to the shortage is the attitudinal change of what truckers are willing to commit to. In the past, long-haul truckers would be out on the road for two-to-three week stretches at a time; Devall said the older truckers are used to this system. But for new recruits, the idea of leaving one's family for long periods of time is no longer appealing.

"It's not even about matching wages, you got to pay probably 20 to 30% more to even entice a guy to spend the time on the road," he said.

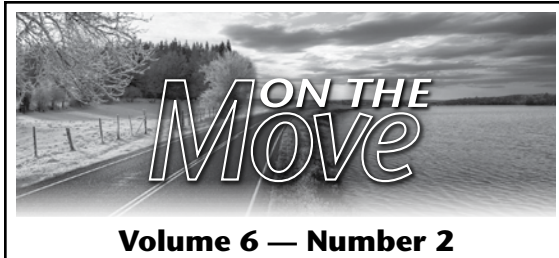
Zelnio said the industry is adjusting routes so drivers don't need to be on the road for as long or too far away from home. Other strategies include hiring and retention bonuses.

But Devall said these individual efforts can only do so much.

"I don't think it has a good answer," Devall said. "People are trying stuff, but it's not working when you try to combat one thing . . . any answer is gonna be expensive."

This issue isn't going away soon, Zelnio and Devall said. With the recent vaccination/testing mandate for all employers with over 100 employees, many trucking companies will lose even more drivers who refuse to get the vaccine. Though industry leaders are concerned about the direction of the shortage, Zelnio is confident the situation can be turned around by focusing on recruiting younger generations and adapting standard trucking practices.

"The typical messaging is, 'Oh, no, the sky's gonna fall,'" Zelnio said. "But there's a lot of good news."



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Burn out

The first-of-its-kind event was held in Wayne this fall. In conjunction with the Cruise Main in September, a burn-out competition was held in the former Riley's location on South Main Street. A variety of vehicles, from throughout the area, took part in the event. Dale Hansen was crowned the winner of this year's competition.

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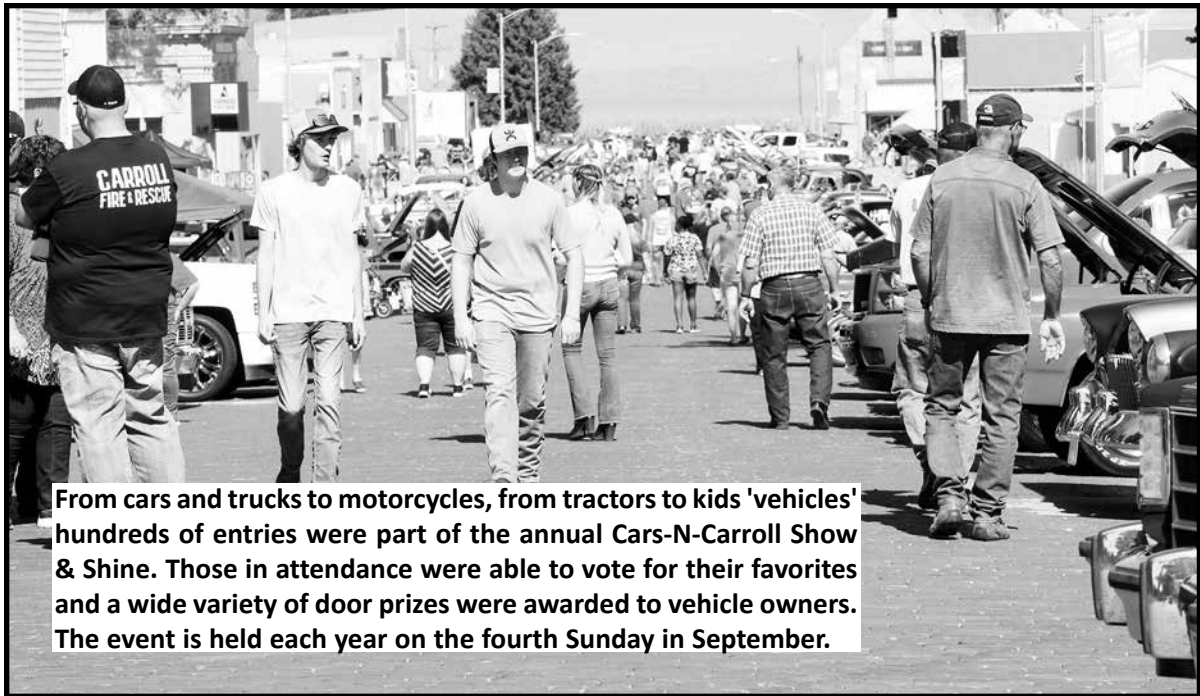
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Cars - N - Carroll Show & Shine 20



From cars and trucks to motorcycles, from tractors to kids 'vehicles' hundreds of entries were part of the annual Cars-N-Carroll Show & Shine. Those in attendance were able to vote for their favorites and a wide variety of door prizes were awarded to vehicle owners. The event is held each year on the fourth Sunday in September.



New Nebraska DMV service tracks driver's license and ID de

The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles has launched an online service that tracks the production and mailing status of driver's licenses and ID cards.

The new service allows customers who have ordered a new license or state ID card to track their card while it is in transit. After applying for a new document, customers will be able to see online when their document has been printed and

mailed. Once a document has been mailed, expect it to arrive within 10 days via the U.S. Postal Service.

The service can be accessed at the DMV website, dmv.nebraska.gov, and instructions will be provided to all applicants on their temporary document. The information will be accessible for 90 days, so those who apply for multiple documents may see more than one listed online.

"This new service is just one example of our ongoing efforts to provide customers the opportunity to do business with the DMV anytime, day or night, when it is most convenient for them," said Rhonda Lahm, Director of the Nebraska DMV. "We encourage everyone to utilize this service and the many online services the Nebraska DMV provides."

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AAA finds better behavior behind the wheel, but there's room for improvement

By Andrew Gross
 Manager, AAA Public Relations

A new report finds unsafe driving behaviors, including red-light running, drowsy driving, and driving impaired on cannabis or alcohol, have declined in the past three years.

Some dangerous driving behaviors have fallen more than others, with drivers still admitting to speeding and using a handheld cell phone, posing a danger on the roadways, according to new survey data from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. As more Americans return to the daily commute, AAA reminds all motorists to practice safe driving behaviors by focusing on the task of driving, keeping their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

"Based on self-reported driving behaviors from our annual survey of traffic safety culture, it is encouraging to see more drivers recognize the danger of certain activities behind the wheel," said Dr. David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "However, the ultimate goal is to see the majority of drivers form safe driving habits and practice them."

The new data are from the AAA Foundation's annual Traffic Safety Culture Index (TSCI), highlighting the gap between drivers' attitudes and reported behaviors. The following shows some of the improvements in unsafe driving behaviors from 2018 to 2020.

The proportion of people who reported having engaged in the following unsafe driving behaviors at least once in the past 30 days

Driving 15 mph over the speed limit on a freeway: 2018 - 48.9% — 2020 - 45.1%;

Driven while holding and talking on a cell phone: 2018 - 52.1% — 2020 - 37.2%;

Driven while reading a text or email on a cell phone: 2018 - 41.3%

— 33.9%;

Driven through a light that had just turned red: 2018 - 31.4% — 2020 - 25.6%;

Driven aggressively by switching lanes quickly or very close behind another car: 2018 - 24.8% — 2020 - 21.3%;

Driven when so tired it was hard to keep eyes open: 2018 - 27.0% — 2020 - 17.3%;

Driven when you had enough alcohol that you thought you were over the legal limit: 2018 - 10.9% — 2020 - 5.9%;

Driven within an hour of consuming cannabis: 2018 - 6.6% — 2020 - 4.4%.

While fewer Americans took to the roads in 2020 due to the pandemic, those that did appeared to take greater risks. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that an estimated 38,680 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes—an increase of 7.2% and the largest number of fatalities since 2007. And, the numbers for 2021 look even worse, as NHTSA estimates 8,730 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the first three months of the year.

While the reasons for this increase are being studied, the AAA Foundation's TSCI reveals some areas of admitted driving behavior that remain stubbornly high, despite declining since 2018: speeding and using a cell phone. Unfortunately, drivers who participated in the TSCI survey admit to risky driving behaviors despite knowing that loved ones, family or friends would strongly disapprove. Cell phone use is one such area where perception and behavior do not match.

The proportion of people who believe people who are important to them would somewhat or completely disapprove of the following distracted driving behaviors, which shows that these behaviors are becoming more socially unacceptable:

Driving while typing an email or texting on a cell phone: 2018 - 93.9% — 2020 - 95.5%;

Driving while reading a text or email on a cell phone: 2018 - 93.8% — 2020 - 94.0%;

Driving while holding and talking on a cell phone: 2018 - 79.3% — 2020 - 92.6.

"AAA has some positive news to share about trends in safer driving behaviors, but it's not quite time to declare victory," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety advocacy and research. "Downward trends in self-reported impaired driving, red-light running, and drowsy driving is the kind of progress we need to curb the recent spikes in traffic fatalities. It's my hope we are turning a corner. I know we can do better."

AAA recommends these safety tips to keep in mind:

- Obey speed limits. Drivers tend to overestimate the time saved by speeding. You'd have to travel 100 miles to save roughly 5 minutes, moving at 80 mph instead of 75 mph. Speed kills and isn't worth the cost. And recent AAA Foundation research shows that small speed increases were enough to raise a driver's risk of severe injury or death.

- 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.

- Only drive sober. If you consume marijuana, alcohol, or use potentially impairing prescription medications, then don't drive. And if you're going to drive, then don't consume these substances.

- Stay alert. Stop driving if you become sleepy because you could

fall asleep at any time. Fatigue impacts reaction time, judgment, and vision, causing people who are very tired to behave in similar ways to those who are drunk.

The annual TSCI identifies attitudes and behaviors related to traffic safety. The survey data are from a sample of more than 2,800 licensed drivers ages 16 or older who reported driving in the 30 days before the survey, which was administered between Oct. 23 and Nov. 23, 2020. The AAA Foundation issued its first TSCI in 2008, and the latest report is online: AAAFoundation.org

About the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety 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.

About AAA: AAA provides more than 62 million members with automotive, travel, insurance, and financial services through its federation of 30 motor clubs and more than 1,000 branch offices across North America. Since 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for safe mobility. Drivers can request roadside assistance, identify nearby gas prices, locate discounts, book a hotel or map a route. New data shows drivers still speeding and using the phone via the AAA Mobile app. To join, visit AAA.com


License tracks driver's activities

on the mailing status of a license was to contact the DMV directly during business hours. Now, customers can freely access that information any time from their own computers or phones. Since launching about a month ago, more than four thousand customers have already taken advantage of the new service.


"This new service has already proven to be very beneficial for both our customers and our team," said Sara O'Rourke, Administrator of the Driver Licensing Services Division of the Nebraska DMV. "Customers will have access to more accurate and timely information that can be accessed any time they wish."

Many DMV services can be accessed quickly and easily online any time at dmv.nebraska.gov/services.





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Rained out: Vehicle safety systems struggle to “See” in bad weather

By Ellen Edmonds,
Manager, AAA Public Relations

New research from AAA finds that moderate to heavy rain affects a vehicle safety system’s ability to “see”, which may result in performance issues.

During closed course testing, AAA simulated rainfall and found that test vehicles equipped with automatic emergency braking traveling at 35 mph collided with a stopped vehicle one third (33%) of the time. Lane keeping assistance didn’t fare any better with test vehicles departing their lane 69% of the time. Vehicle safety systems, also known as advanced driver assistance systems or ADAS, are typically evaluated in ideal operating conditions. However, AAA believes testing standards must incorporate real-world conditions that drivers normally encounter.

“Vehicle safety systems rely on sensors and cameras to see road markings, other cars, pedestrians and roadway obstacles. So naturally, they are more vulnerable to environmental factors like rain,” said Greg Brannon, AAA’s director of automotive engineering and industry relations. “The reality is people aren’t always driving around in perfect, sunny weather so we must expand testing and take into

consideration things people actually contend with in their day-to-day driving.”

Research Shows Rain has the Biggest Effect on Vehicle Safety Systems

AAA, in collaboration with the Automobile Club of Southern California’s Automotive Research Center (ARC), simulated rain and other environmental conditions (bugs and dirt) to measure impact on the performance of ADAS like automatic emergency braking and lane keeping assistance. Generally, both systems struggled with simulated moderate to heavy rain, with results showing:

Automatic emergency braking engaged while approaching a stopped vehicle in the lane ahead

- In aggregate, testing conducted at 25 mph resulted in a collision for 17% of test runs.

- In aggregate, testing conducted at 35 mph resulted in a collision for 33% of test runs.

Lane keeping assistance engaged to maintain the vehicle’s lane position

- In aggregate, veered outside of the lane markers 69% of the time.

During testing with a simulated dirty windshield (stamped with a concentration of bugs, dirt and water), minor differences were noted, however, performance was



not negatively impacted. While AAA’s testing found that overall system performance was not affected, ADAS cameras can still be influenced by a dirty windshield. It is important drivers keep their windshields clean for their own visibility and to ensure their ADAS system camera is not obstructed.

Also, some systems may provide an alert or deactivate in extreme situations, however, the conditions AAA tested under provided no such alert or warning.

To simulate rainfall, AAA engineers designed a system using a reservoir to hold water, a high-pressure pump for a consistent flow of water and a precision injector nozzle to spray the windshield. This system was secured in the cargo area of the test vehicle and was connected to a nozzle positioned above the windshield so that the spray pattern covered the entire windshield. It should be noted that water sprayed by this system did not reach the pavement or interact with the test vehicle’s tires.

A Helpful Aid but Not a Replacement for an Engaged Driver

Previous AAA testing of vehicle safety systems in both closed-course and real-world settings

show that performance is greatly impacted by driving scenarios, road conditions and vehicle design, finding issues like the following:

- Struggling to stay within in a marked lane in moderate traffic, on curved roadways and on streets with busy intersections.

- Failing to stop for pedestrians in common scenarios like crossing in front of a vehicle, a child darting out between two parked vehicles, or walking at night.

- Colliding with a simulated disabled vehicle and instances of coming too close to other vehicles or guardrails.

AAA’s research continues to show that vehicle safety system performance varies widely, reinforcing that they are not a replacement for a fully engaged driver.

“AAA recognizes these systems have the ability to lessen the chance of a crash and improve the overall safety of driving,” continued Brannon. “Fine-tuning their performance and providing drivers with a more consistent experience will go a long way in unlocking their true potential.”

Optimizing Use of Vehicle Safety Systems

It’s essential for drivers to be familiar with how their system

operates. AAA urges drivers to take time to read the vehicle owner’s manual to learn when, where and how to use them. 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. It will give clear guidance on when and where the system operates best, as well as how to use it properly.

Vehicles with ADAS cameras located behind the windshield, like those used in this research, “see” the same things a driver does. If the windshield wipers are worn and streak across the window, this could interfere with the system’s performance. Drivers should regularly inspect their wipers and replace at the first sign of streaking, chattering or if the blades appear hard and brittle. A good rule of thumb is to replace each year, especially in hot, sunny climates or if a vehicle sits outside all day.

Wet conditions present challenges to drivers regardless of whether their vehicles are equipped with safety systems. AAA recommends using extra caution in slick conditions by doing the following:

- Keep windshield clean and ensure that wipers are not streaking the windshield.

- Slow down and avoid hard braking and sharp turning. If possible, follow in the tracks of other vehicles.

- Increase following distance to 5-6 seconds behind the vehicle ahead.

- Do not use cruise control in order to stay alert and to respond quickly if the car’s tires lose traction with the road.

- If the car begins to hydroplane, ease off the accelerator to gradually decrease speed until the tires regain traction, and continue to look and steer where you want to go. Don’t jam on the brakes—this can cause further traction loss.



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Ten gifts for automotive enthusiasts

The roar of the engine and the feeling of the wind in your hair is part of the magic of taking to the open road behind the wheel of a beloved vehicle. Whether a person is the ultimate gear head who needs to have the latest aftermarket accessory or someone who simply appreciates a pristine ride, auto enthusiasts come in all shapes and sizes. Luckily, there are all types of automotive gifts that can make it easy to impress car guys and gals this holiday season.

1. Dashboard cell phone holder: Using a mobile phone while driving is not a good idea. However, many people use their phones as GPS devices. Holding a phone while navigating is dangerous, but a phone mount near the dash can keep the phone visible without compromising the safety of drivers and their passengers.

2. Customized floor mats: Know



an auto fanatic who's also a sports fan? Offer a gift that mixes the two passions, such as floor mats featuring a favorite sports team's logo.

3. Cleansing wipes: When drivers are short on time, a full car wash

and wax may not be possible. Drop Wipes are a product made from a neutralizing acid that destabilizes stains or bird droppings for an easy cleaning.

4. Magazine subscription: A wide

selection of publications are geared to auto enthusiasts. They provide plenty of pertinent information, and some car lovers like to collect and display certain issues. Yearly subscriptions are affordable and can make ideal stocking stuffers.

5. Racing experience gift certificate: Research racing car schools and experiences where you live. Chances are you can find an opportunity for an automotive enthusiast to get behind the wheel of a race car with professional drivers offering tips for navigating the course at high speeds.

6. Car cleaning kit: Taking care of a ride means making sure it is clean inside and out. A quality car cleaning kit can ensure the job

is done effectively and the car or truck always looks its best.

7. Personalized leather keychain: Ensure that a person can drive and keep their keys handy in style with leather keychains engraved with a driver's name or initials.

8. Racing video games: A love for the open road may not end when cars pull into the driveway. Modern racing games and consoles produce incredibly realistic graphics and action that mimics real life.

9. Automotive cufflinks: As a nod to a love of driving, find quirky cufflinks that are shaped like everything from gear shifters to speedometers to steering wheels.

10. Roof or car racks: When a love of driving merges with the call of the great outdoors, drivers may need something to help haul their stuff. Various racks have been designed for toting around bicycles, kayaks, luggage, and more.

When gifting automotive enthusiasts, look no further than their favorite hobby for inspiration.

The many ways walking benefits your body

Life changed dramatically in 2020. When the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, hundreds of millions of people across the globe were forced to change how they go about their daily lives, including how they exercise.

Health-conscious adults accustomed to exercising at local gyms had to find new ways to exercise in the wake of the pandemic. Many gyms were forced to close in areas hit hard by COVID-19, and that left many people without access to fit-

ness equipment like weights and cardiovascular machines. Resilient men and women soon found ways to exercise, and many of them embraced walking.

Though walking might not provide the same level of intensity that fitness enthusiasts are accustomed to, the Arthritis Foundation® notes the various ways walking benefits the body.

- Walking protects against heart disease and stroke. Walking strengthens the heart and protects it against heart disease. The AF also

notes that walking lowers blood pressure. In fact, post-menopausal women who walk just one to two miles per day can lower their blood pressure by nearly 11 points in 24 weeks, while women who walk for 30 minutes a day can reduce their risk of stroke by 20 percent.

- Walking strengthens the bones. New York-based Plancher Orthopedics and Sports Medicine notes that walking can stop the loss of bone mass for people with osteoporosis. In addition, post-menopausal women who incorporate 30 minutes of walking into their daily fitness regimens can reduce their risk of hip fractures by 40 percent.

- Walking can extend your life. The AF notes that one study linked walking to longer life expectancy, finding that people who exercise regularly in their fifties and sixties were 35 percent less likely to die over the next eight years than



people who never walked.

- Walking can improve mood. One study from researchers at California State University, Long Beach, found that the more steps people taking during the day, the better their moods were.

- Walking can lower risk for cognitive decline. Walking also has been linked to a lower risk for age-related cognitive decline. A study from the University of Virginia Health System found that men between the ages of 71 and 93 who walked more than a quarter of a mile per day had half the incidence of dementia and Alzheimer's disease compared

to men who walked less. In addition, a study from researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, found that age-related memory decline was lower among women ages 65 and older who walked 2.5 miles per day than it was among women who walked less than half a mile per week.

Foot traffic increased as people were forced to find new ways to exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic. Walking is a great way to stay in shape and even provides some lesser known benefits for people who walk each day.

Did you know?

The United States and Canada have two of the lowest minimum age driving requirements in the world.

Minimum driving age requirements vary by the state and province in the United States and Canada, respectively. However, in many areas of the United States, drivers can begin driving with a learner's permit around the age of 14 (drivers with learner's permits often must be accompanied by fully licensed drivers), while the minimum driving age in most Canadian provinces is 16 (it is 14 in Alberta).

Throughout much of Africa, including in countries such as Egypt, Kenya and Morocco, the minimum driving age is 18. The Central American countries of Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua also make young people wait until the age of 18 before they can get behind the wheel.

Much of South America is the same, with only Argentina (17) and Chile (17 with parental approval) allowing young people to drive before they turn 18.

Many countries in Asia, including China (18), India (18 for cars, 16 for gearless bikes under 50 cc) and Japan (18 for cars and motorcycles over 401 cc), also have higher minimum age driving requirements than the United States and Canada.

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