

DRIVE

Rutherford / Wilson County



Wednesday, June 27, 2007

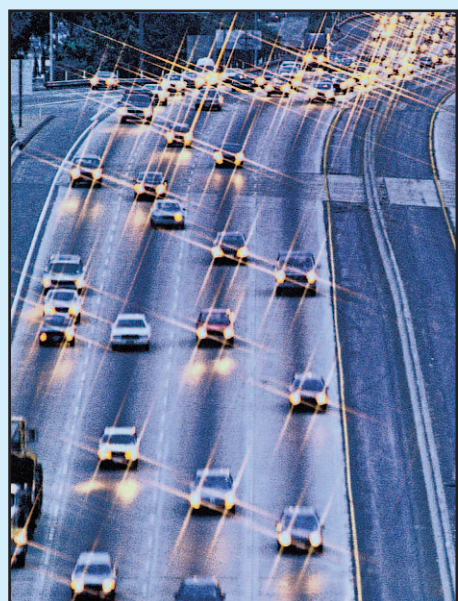
NEEDS VS. WANTS

Many times, knowing what you need out of a car is the best way to ensure that the process of buying the car — and owning it — will go smoothly.

Oftentimes, needs versus wants is the biggest hurdle to clear. For example, while most people would love to get that super-charged luxury sports car, it's probably not the best choice for a mother of three who needs to take the kids to school and sports practice every day.

Before you start looking, know what it is that you need out of a car. If your commute to work is relatively long, then you should look for a car that gets good gas mileage. Along those same lines, if your commute is short and you don't do much driving, you probably have a little more leeway with respect to vehicle choice.

— Metro Editorial Services



NIGHT LIGHTS

According to the Motor Vehicle Lighting Council (MVLCC), traffic death rates are three times greater at night, yet many drivers are unaware of the hazards that night driving poses or effective ways to handle them.

The MVLCC offers the following nighttime safety tips for motorists:

- Turn your headlights on one hour before sunset and keep them on at least one hour after sunrise.
- Make sure all exterior vehicle lights work properly, including your emergency flashers.
- To avoid glare, look toward the right side of the road (instead of oncoming headlights).
- Keep all windows and headlights clean.
- Look for flashes of light at hilltops, curves and intersections that may indicate the headlights of other vehicles.
- Increase your following distance by four to five seconds.
- Reduce your speed to minimize the dangers associated with decreased visibility.
- Align your headlights correctly to help you see the road better and to help other drivers avoid glare.
- Have your vision checked regularly.

— NewsUSA

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Parents influence teen driving habits

By BEVERLY JENKINS-CROCKETT
Tennessean Advertising Services

Think your kid's friends are a bad influence on your teen's driving behavior? Then you may be surprised to learn that parents actually have a huge impact on how well teens drive.

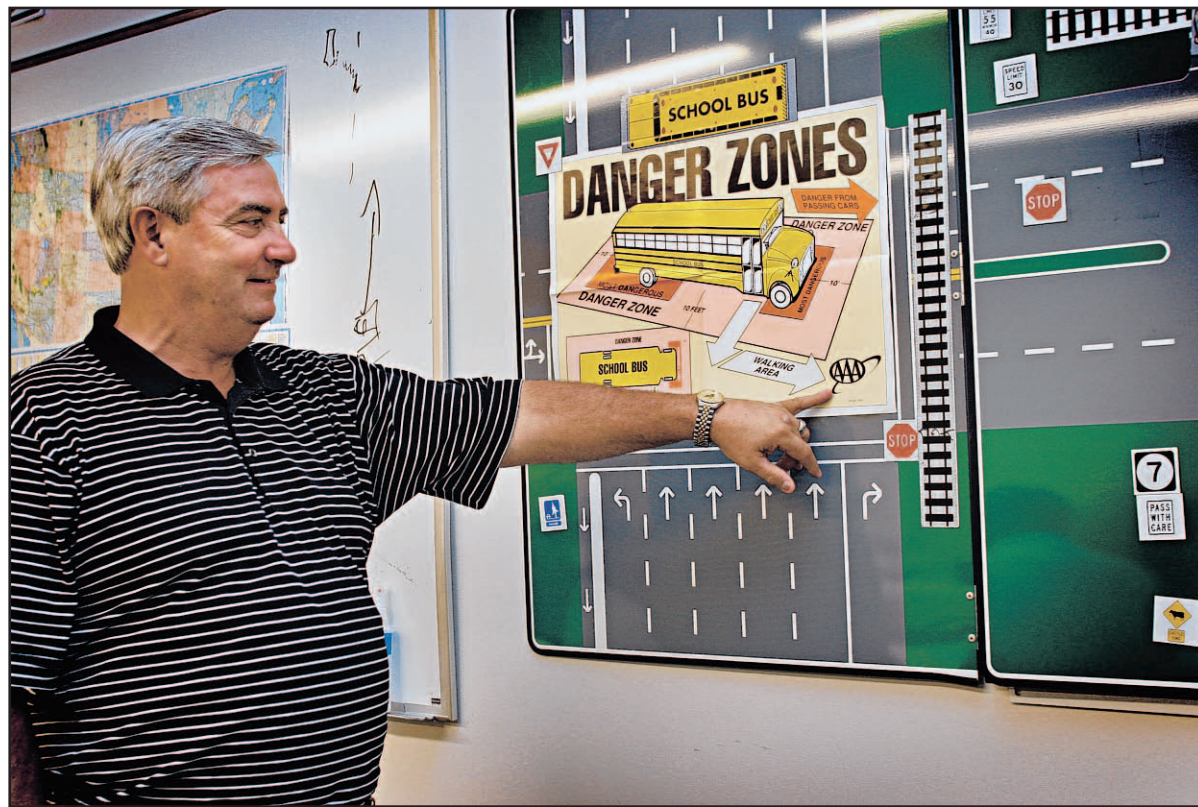
"Teens tell us that parents are the biggest influence when it comes to their driving behaviors. We know from young people themselves that many parents are speeding, not wearing seat belts and talking on their cell phones while driving," says Stephen Wallace, chairman and CEO of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). "Young people are getting a message we don't want them to get, which is it's OK to engage in risky behaviors."

In a 2004 study from SADD and Liberty Mutual, nearly 60 percent of high school students said parents were very influential in the development of the teen's own driving habits.

"It's refreshing to validate the influence parents have on their teen drivers," Wallace says, adding that parents who establish expectations and follow



WALLACE



DASHA TITLEBAUM/TENNESSEAN ADVERTISING SERVICES

Randy Wilson, director of teen programs at Middle Tennessee Driving Academy in Murfreesboro, says that parents play a big role in setting a good driving example for their kids.

through on the consequences have a powerful effect on teenagers.

Despite the impact parents have on their children, surveyed teens reported that they have observed parents driving unsafely. Of the students surveyed, 62 percent said their parents used a cell phone while driving, 48 percent said their parents speed, and 31 percent said their parents do not wear

seat belts.

The study also found that high percentages of teens are also exhibiting these behaviors.

- 62 percent of high school teens said they used a cell phone while driving and 24 percent thought this was a safe behavior.
- 67 percent of teens said they speed, and 27 percent thought that speeding was safe.
- 33 percent said they do not

wear seat belts, and 25 percent thought that this was safe.

Randy Wilson, director of teen programs at Middle Tennessee Driving Academy in Murfreesboro, says that part of the reason parents may be setting a bad example is that driving laws have changed greatly since they first learned to drive.

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Great Race to stop in Nashville

By DIANE HUGHES
Tennessean Advertising Services

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Great American Race will make a stop in Nashville on Monday, July 2.

Nashville's Lane Motor Museum will be the site of a stop during the Great American Race 2007. Visitors will be able to view about 100 vintage cars as they arrive at the museum. There will also be a special awards ceremony and other activities.

"We think it will be a fun family event where visitors can experience this famous cross-country race first-hand," says Joan Williams, marketing director at Lane Motor Museum.

This year's Great Race will start in Concord, N.C., on Saturday, June 30. The field of cars will head southwest to Spartanburg, S.C., then west to Tennessee. The race then moves through Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada on the way to its finish (4,000 miles later) in Anaheim, Calif., on July 14. The event is organized by Great Race Sports.

"Our staff has been very working hard for the past year to ensure that the 25th Great Race



COURTESY GREAT RACE SPORTS INC.

Drivers in this year's Great American Race start their trek across country on June 30 and will make a stop in Nashville on July 2. This image from a previous race reflects the type of vintage cars that spectators might expect to see at the Nashville stop.

is the best one yet," says Bill Ewing, chief executive officer for Great Race Sports. "We have a diverse field of classics, including some heart-pounding 1960s-era muscle cars, a large roster of '32 Deuces (in celebration of its 75th anniversary), and some timeless classics including a 1966 Aston Martin DB6, a 1954 Jaguar XK-120 and a 1910 Selden, the oldest car in the race."

The Great Race commemo-

rates a 1908 event in which six drivers traveled from New York to Paris over the course of five months.

The Great American Race stop in Nashville this year has been recognized as an official "Celebrate Nashville" event by Mayor Bill Purcell.

"Having had a part in three great races, Lane Motor Museum is excited to welcome fellow great racers to Nashville," says

Susan Lane, curator at the museum. "The opportunity to bring local car enthusiasts together with vintage automobiles will make for a fun-filled evening and will give us the opportunity to showcase Music City."

Nashville will be competing with other stops along the race route for the title of the "Greatest American City." The winning city

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