Human Trafficking in the News

Renowned Queens music teacher busted on sex trafficking charges
The founder of a Queens music school used a pimp to find sex partners as young as 8 -- about the age of his own daughter -- agreeing on one occasion to drop his prey off at Chuck E. Cheese to fool their parents, authorities said.

Abbott signs law to enlist truck drivers in fight against human trafficking
A Houston state senator Friday hailed the new state law mandating training for truckers to help combat human trafficking and said she will urge other states to follow Texas' lead.

Pimp culture glorification and sex trafficking
Sex sells. The underground sex industry notoriously eludes any efforts to officially measure its size, but those of us who study it can say one thing for sure: It's a booming industry in the U.S. and it's bigger than you think. The sex trafficking industry generates staggering profits: Human trafficking is believed to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world, after the drug and arms trades.

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Register now to bid in the auction for the Everyday Heroes truck
On June 20, someone will be the owner of an eye-catching, fully loaded 2018 Kenworth T680 tractor, specially painted with a unique Everyday Heroes design and with a
76-inch sleeper, 485-hp Paccar MX-13 engine, and Eaton Fuller Advantage 10-speed automated transmission.

Now is the time to put your name on the bidding list for the auction of this fully customized truck that will go to the highest bidder on June 20 as a creative fundraising event for Truckers Against Trafficking through the generosity of Inland Kenworth and Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers and the many sponsors who have donated parts for the creation of this one-of-a-kind ride.

According to Don Blake, new truck sales manager for Inland Kenworth, the Everyday Heroes Truck has been busy raising awareness and "is poised to make a difference." The tractor made recent appearances at the Arizona Trucking Association Golf Tournament in Chandler, the Wizard of Rods Car and Truck Show in Tucson and at a volleyball tournament for 10-12-year-olds at Northwest Christian School in Phoenix. It has continued to generate publicity in Transport Topics and through the creative marketing of many of the sponsors who participated in its creation.

"And following the auction, there is continued publicity planned about the sale and the new owner," Blake commented.

Help save lives by bidding on and perhaps becoming the new owner of this scene-stealing piece of equipment. Click here to register to bid.

New state law requires CDL applicants to be a Certified Trucker Against Trafficking

In Arkansas, a new state law requires anyone applying for a new or renewed CDL in that state to show a certificate stating he or she has received human trafficking training through Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). The law in Arkansas goes into effect on July 31, 2017.

To become a Certified Trucker Against Trafficking, the applicant will need a smart phone, device or computer. To complete the certification program:
1) Go to: education.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org
2) Click "Get Certified," register, and then complete the course by watching the video and taking the short quiz.
3) Upon passing, you will have the option to print and/or download your certificate. You may also want to take a screenshot of this image, if on your mobile device.

4) Obtain a copy of your certificate and present it to the Department of Finance and Administration when applying for/renewing your Class A CDL.

If your company has already implemented the Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) training program, please ask your employer to contact TAT about creating a co-branded certificate. This will prevent you from having to go through the certification program online. Email or call us with questions or for more info: 612-888-2050 or education@truckersagainsttrafficking.org.

**TAT to speak at national conferences for Attorneys General and District Attorneys in June**

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, and Kirsta Melton, special prosecutor for human trafficking and transnational organized crime for the Texas Attorney General, will co-present to prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers and others in the justice system at the National District Attorneys Association's National Traffic Law Center (NTLC) Midwestern Regional Training June 15-16 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The NTLC works to improve the quality of justice in traffic safety adjudications by increasing the awareness of highway safety issues through the compilation, creation and dissemination of legal and technical information and by providing training and reference services. The Midwestern Regional Training will cover topics, including human trafficking, for commercial vehicle enforcement prosecution, reporting and adjudication.

"While it is critical for drivers to make calls when they suspect human trafficking situations, it is equally imperative that the law enforcement who arrive at the scene, and the prosecutors and judges responsible for executing justice, understand the realities of domestic sex trafficking in order to prosecute all offenders to the fullest extent of the law," explained Paris. "We believe this training opportunity will do much to highlight the viable partnership opportunities that exist between law enforcement and trucking when it comes to combating human trafficking, as well as utilize the TAT materials created specifically for law enforcement personnel."
The Freedom Drivers Project will also attend the meeting, providing conference participants the opportunity to tour it on June 15.

Later in the month, June 21-22, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, will present to the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) in Big Sky, Montana. NAAG helps attorneys general fulfill the responsibilities of their office and assist in the delivery of high quality legal services to the states and territorial jurisdictions.

"To present to the National Association of Attorneys General is an incredible opportunity for TAT," Lanier said. "Enlisting the support of each state's top law enforcement officer to further raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking in their states, and also to implement needed policies to combat this crime is our goal. We know that the potential to put a dent in trafficking exists in the relationship between law enforcement and trucking, where it naturally intersects. By presenting our materials and programs that are specifically designed to bring trucking and law enforcement together to combat this heinous crime, we believe lasting change can occur."

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Ken* called the National Human Trafficking Hotline from a truck stop after being approached by a man who he believed might be a trafficker. Ken reported that the man had handed him a card advertising a commercial sex business and asked him if he were interested in meeting a girl. When Ken declined, the man moved on and approached other truck drivers parked in the lot. Although Ken did not see any potential victims at the truck stop, he was concerned and decided to contact the Hotline to make a report. Ken was able to provide the Hotline Advocate with a description of the man, the information on the card, and the location of the truck stop, which the Hotline was able to report to local law enforcement contacts.

*Names, locations, and other identifying information have been changed and/or omitted to preserve the confidentiality of the people we serve.
Upcoming Events

**June 5** - National Conference of State Transportation Specialists, Santa Fe, NM, Laura Cyrus, TAT operations director, presenting

**June 15** - National District Attorneys Association National Traffic Law Center conference, Cincinnati, OH, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**June 19-20** - TAT trainings at Inland Kenworth and Utility Trailer in Tolleson, AZ and Kenworth/Ritchie Bros. Everyday Heroes Truck Auction, Phoenix, AZ, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, Dani Allen, data entry technician, presenting, with FDP present.

**June 21-22** - National Association of Attorneys General, Big Sky, MT, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director presenting

**June 22** - American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators Region II Conference, Chattanooga, TN, Laura Cyrus, TAT operations director, presenting

**June 27** - Coalition build, Casper, WY, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting and FDP attending

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