

NOTEWORTHY

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According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Irving, Texas, ignition interlock laws are a key to cutting back on preventable deaths.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that 35,092 people were killed in traffic crashes last year; drunk driving was involved in 10,265 traffic fatalities-29.2% of all traffic deaths, a 3.2% increase over the previous 12-month period. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Irving, Texas, ignition interlock laws are a key to cutting back on preventable deaths. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have passed ignition interlock laws for all drunk driving offenders.

"High schools can have a transformative role in improving both registration rates and actual voting," says Rebecca Callaghan, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Texas, Austin. "Not only are educated people more likely to vote, research suggests that high school social studies courses promote voting among children of immigrants. In an era when educational accountability is based on outcomes, too often social studies falls to the wayside."

Some 71% of small business owners surveyed by First Citizens Bank report optimism about future economic conditions in the next three years, a seven percent increase from 2015. Thirty-six percent of Baby Boomer small business owners indicate that the presidential election was one of the top three factors affecting the growth of their business in the next two years.

"We applaud our next First Lady Melania Trump's commitment to make cyberbullying her cause while in the White House, and look forward to supporting her efforts to be an agent of change for Internet safety and responsibility," says Donna Rice Hughes, CEO of Enough Is Enough.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, around seven percent of people age 16 and older are victims of identity theft. The Federal Trade Commission indicates there are ID theft warning signs: unauthorized withdrawals from bank accounts, charges to credit cards, debt collectors contacting you about debts that are not yours, receiving bills for things you did not purchase, and being notified by the IRS that more than one tax return was filed in your name.

"If the goal of [the EPA's] Clean Power Plan is actual reductions in CO2 emissions, the road to green is not always a Federal highway?" explains Scott W. Tinker, director of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology. "Regardless of your perspective on climate and carbon, or on the legalities of the plan, it is valuable to examine some basic facts: 2005, the base year of the Clean Power Plan, is essentially tied with 2007 for the highest year of CO2 power-sector emissions. In 2015, U.S. power sector emissions were 1,900,000 metric tons, already a 20% reduction from 2005."

In a first-of-its-kind water transfer initiative, Audubon New Mexico, a nonprofit conservation organization, has released 260,000,000 gallons of water to the Middle Rio Grande to increase vital streamflow needed by fish and wildlife in stretches of the river vulnerable to drying out. The initiative marks the first time in New Mexico that a conservation organization has stored water in the Abiquiú Reservoir's Environmental Pool for delivery to the Middle Rio Grande when the river-and its birds and wildlife-need it most.

Ocean Cleanup, the Dutch foundation developing advanced technologies to rid the oceans of plastic, presented the initial findings of its Aerial Expedition—a series of low-speed and -altitude flights across the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the plastic accumulation zone between Hawaii and California. Using a modified C-130 Hercules aircraft, specialist spotters, and an experimental array of plastic-scanning equipment, the expedition aims to measure the biggest and most harmful debris in the ocean. This is an essential milestone in preparation for the clean-up of the patch, scheduled to begin before the end of the decade.

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