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**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**


“States send less than half as many youth to residential facilities as they did in the late 1990s, but new data from the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention show that many juveniles in out-of-home placements were not confined for serious and violent crimes.” California’s figures are slightly higher than the national average, with 27% of our detainees in custody for noncriminal violations. Some of these (25%) are for technical violations of their supervision orders (skipping mandatory meetings, etc.) rather than the 2% in custody for status offenses (truancy, underage drinking, etc.).

**ECONOMY**


“Using data collected through Adobe Analytics, which tracks online prices and quantities, University of Chicago economist Austan Goolsbee and Stanford’s Pete Klenow find that online inflation averaged about 100 basis points lower than inflation in the CPI for the same categories between 2014 and 2017. What’s more, there was a huge variety of products sold online – goods were introduced and removed rapidly – and factoring that in implies shaving off another 90 to 150 basis points from online inflation versus the matched CPI indices. This research is in its early stages, but it could be a big deal, because it quantifies that internet commerce could be weighing on goods prices and making them harder to measure.” ([Bloomberg](http://www.bloomberg.com), Jan. 9, 2018).

**EDUCATION**


(Free registration required)

“Adult learners appear conflicted when it comes to the quality of higher education, specifically online education. Nearly two-thirds of all respondents believe the overall quality of online education to be ‘excellent’ or ‘very good.’ Respondents perceive face-to-face learning as preferable to online learning in most respects, but recognize that access to a quality education online can be ensured through practices supported by research on teaching and learning effectiveness. More specifically, regarding quality, the survey found: more respondents judge online learning (38%) as better than face-to-face learning (26%) in meeting the needs of adult students; more than three quarters (76%) of those who have considered going back to school judge the quality of online learning to be excellent or very good; students feel better about the concept of online learning when presented with attributes relating to quality, such as small class sizes and instructors who are industry experts.” ([BusinessWire](http://www.businesswire.com), Jan. 23, 2018).

The experiences of Colorado and Florida charter schools in how they have attempted to steer local tax dollars to support their schools could be a lesson for other states. “As these different stories demonstrate, growth doesn’t necessarily lead to acceptance. In states like Colorado, where charters are perceived as public schools serving local students, advocates may find they can build bipartisan support, especially in light of traditional conservative support for charter schools and the sector’s continued focus on serving disadvantaged, urban students, which appeals to liberals. But in states like Florida, where charters are perceived by many as vehicles for privatization and profiteering, even as they grow in popularity with families, charter advocates are likely to face continued controversy and conflict.”

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**


“Under the new projections, San Francisco International Airport could see half of its runway submerged by the year 2100. Original estimates that did not include land subsidence were much lower. Other areas around the Bay that have been built on engineered landfill, like parts of Foster City and Treasure Island, are particularly vulnerable to the dual impact of subsidence and sea level rise.…. [T]he new estimates take into account a range of outcomes, from a ‘best case scenario’ of sea level rise—assuming countries follow the 2015 Paris agreement for emissions reductions—to more extreme cases, where the sea level rises faster because of an accelerated melting of Antarctic ice. At the more severe end of the spectrum, the level of flooding would far exceed the effects of sinking land.” (*New York Times*, Mar. 7, 2018).

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**


“In red, blue or purple states, in middle America or on the coasts, most Americans loathe the nation’s legislature. One big reason: Most think lawmakers are listening to all the wrong people…. 85% of Americans, including 89% of Democrats and 82% of Republicans, disapprove of the job Congress is doing…. Instead, most said Congress does listen to lobbyists, donors and the wealthy…. That’s exactly the opposite of the way people think Congress should function, the study found…. Among the other reasons for all the Congress hate, fewer than 2 in 10 Americans in the new study said they think Congress passes mostly good laws.” (*Associated Press*, Feb. 26, 2018).


“It can seem like lobbyists run Washington from behind the scenes. But their work isn’t completely opaque: They’re required to register with the House and the Senate when they lobby for a new client. Our new lobbying database will help you cover Congress and the organizations that may try to influence lawmakers. We hope this new database will be helpful to a wide variety of people, from informed citizens
and civic activists to journalists…. You can search by an organization name, a lobbying firm’s name, an individual lobbyist’s name, policy issues or even the name of a Congress member a lobbyist used to work for.”

HEALTH


“Studies have shown that physicians tend to over-estimate prognoses, which in combination with treatment inertia results in a mismatch between patient’s wishes and actual care at the end of life. We describe a method to address this problem using Deep Learning and Electronic Health Record (EHR) data, which is currently being piloted, with Institutional Review Board approval, at an academic medical center. The EHR data of admitted patients are automatically evaluated by an algorithm, which brings patients who are likely to benefit from palliative care services to the attention of the Palliative Care team. The algorithm is a Deep Neural Network trained on the EHR data from previous years, to predict all-cause 3-12 month mortality of patients as a proxy for patients that could benefit from palliative care. Our predictions enable the Palliative Care team to take a proactive approach in reaching out to such patients, rather than relying on referrals from treating physicians, or conduct time consuming chart reviews of all patients.”

HUMAN SERVICES


“Homelessness is no longer confined to our major metropolitan areas—it has spread to every part of our state…. That is why the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties formed the Joint Homelessness Task Force in 2016 to examine these issues and discuss collaborative local solutions to address homelessness….. This report provides practical tools for cities and counties in California to use in addressing homelessness in their communities. It offers details on how to create a homelessness plan, identify resources and funding for homelessness and build support in communities to address homelessness.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


This report offers an in-depth look at malicious cyber activity in the United States, including case studies on recent incidents such as the Equifax data breach of September 2017. It concludes with a discussion on public sector initiatives that could be employed to improve security. “Cyber threats are ever-evolving and may come from sophisticated adversaries…. Overall, we estimate that malicious cyber activity cost the U.S. economy between $57 billion and $109 billion in 2016. Malicious cyber activity directed at private and public entities manifests as denial of service attacks, data and property destruction, business disruption (sometimes for the purpose of collecting ransom) and theft of proprietary data, intellectual property, and sensitive financial and strategic information.”
This report provides a high-level overview of cybercrime and its recent impacts on bitcoin transactions, intellectual property, and business email security. "The cost of cybercrime amounts to 0.8% of global GDP, with the $155bn jump since 2014 attributed to the speed with which new technology is adopted by cybercriminals and an increase in the number of internet users in parts of the world with weak cybersecurity. In addition, cybercrime-as-a-service is allowing low-level hackers to easily make money from targets, while sophisticated cyber-espionage and hacking operations are able to divert significant amounts intellectual property and funds from lucrative targets without being spotted." (ZDNet, Feb. 21, 2018).

**TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

https://cloudfront.escholarship.org/dist/prd/content/qt68g2h1qv/qt68g2h1qv.pdf?t=p4u2s9

“Transportation is arguably experiencing its most transformative revolution since the introduction of the automobile. Concerns over climate change and equity are converging with dramatic technological advances... [This white paper] aggregate[s] current information and research on the state of key trends and emerging technologies/services, documented impacts on California’s transportation ecosystem, and future growth projections.”

**RECOMMENDED READING**

*California, the Great Exception*  

**Call Number:** F861 .M25 1999  
**Location:** California History Room, 900 N Street, Second Floor

Depressed about U.S. News & World Report ranking California as the worst state for quality of life and only 32nd best state overall? We recommend Carey McWilliams's "California: The Great Exception."

“The value of The Great Exception today lies in its remarkable ability to cut through the myths—the sanguine vision of the land of sunshine and the dark view of the cesspool of self-loathing, the polarizing tales of the state’s boosters and detractors. McWilliams foresees a California that towers above the rest of the nation, yet is constantly being inundated by storm waves, convulsed by shifting tectonic plates. He is a master at depicting the apogee and perigee of the California orbit, the tensions that underlie its magnificent cultural and economic formations, and the threats to this all-too-accessible Eden. The tension between the quest for paradise and the fear of paradise lost is central to the culture of California.” (Harvard Design Magazine, Summer 2000).

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