CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
Study: Juvenile justice systems need to reorient to public safety, better outcomes for youth

ECONOMY
Would changing the Fed’s monetary framework help avoid deflation?

EDUCATION
Janus Decision: Potential impact on teachers unions
Financial aid award letters found to be inconsistent, unclear

EMPLOYMENT
Redefining and assessing impact, cost of green jobs in CA

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
CA Forest Carbon Plan aims to use forests as a ‘carbon sink’ in climate change fight

HEALTH
How CA could take short-term efforts to expand health care coverage, improve access

HUMAN SERVICES
Policy recommendations aimed at improving lives of children of incarcerated parents

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Long-term consequence of cyberattacks on corporations, consumers

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


The juvenile justice systems in the U.S. have made considerable improvements, but the picture is not all positive. “Nationwide, a disproportionate amount of law enforcement, probation, court, and corrections staff time and resources are spent on youth who do not pose a public safety risk.” For youth who do pose a public safety risk, courts and supervision agencies have not taken definitive steps to reduce reoffending. Using interviews with nearly 50 national experts in juvenile justice, this paper identifies innovations “to improve public safety and outcomes for youth.”
ECONOMY


The Federal Reserve’s 2 percent inflation target has been put into question. With low inflation becoming the norm, it is worrisome that the country may fall into deflation. Additionally, the monetary safety net may not be strong enough to pull the country out of the next recession. This article poses many suggestions on how to change the current monetary framework. These suggestions include increasing the target rate to 3 percent, increasing the nominal GDP target, and switching to a price level target, which is used to achieve price stability through the consumer price index. These recommended changes to the monetary framework can better allow the Fed to cut interest rates, which acts as a primary tool to fight recession periods.

EDUCATION

http://educationnext.org/after-janus-new-era-teachers-union-activism-agency-fees/

This report analyzes the effects of the end of “fair-share” union fees on teacher unions in two states: Michigan and Wisconsin. Researchers found that membership in those states’ National Education Association affiliates decreased, which contributed to a loss in dues revenue. Despite these losses, the unions in these states have adapted—continuing their political work and campaigns—but by cutting back on administrative costs and staffing. The researchers also suggest that the end of fair-share fees may shift union focus back to their original purpose, “to give voice to a set of workers,” and “to organize teachers and help them fight for what they believed they deserved.”

https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/policy-papers/decoding-cost-college/

“Researchers from the organization examined more than 500 award letters from colleges and universities and found they were inconsistent and often didn’t offer financial aid sufficient to cover the cost of attendance. Among the key findings from the analysis: award letters often use confusing jargon and terminology; more than a third did not include the complete cost of attendance; most letters fail to distinguish between different types of aid such as grants and loans; Parent PLUS loans are sometimes packaged misleadingly, making aid appear more generous; and about half of letters did not include clear information about what action to take on the award offers.” (Inside Higher Ed, June 5, 2018).

EMPLOYMENT


In a critical analysis of “the primary green job estimates in the California economy and the national estimates on which some are based,” the Center, “identifies the results and some of the key differences among them.” Authors follow with an estimate that suggests similarity to some prior estimates finding “[t]he combined level of 361,300 direct jobs represents 2.2% of total jobs in 2016…. Reclassifying jobs as ‘green’ remains a major component of the overall numbers, in this instance comprising 53% of the total. The net direct jobs that can be more clearly connected to current state policies represents only 1.0% of
total jobs in 2016…. Government jobs also remain a major determinant of overall green job levels, accounting for 30% of the total.”

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**


“California is blessed with 33 million acres of forestland and an urban forest canopy that together capture and clean our water supply, provide habitat for countless wildlife, cool our cities, support local economies, and serve as spiritual and cultural centers for indigenous and local communities across the state. Forested lands are also the largest land-based carbon sink with trees and underbrush drawing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in their cellulosic structure and in forest soils. Growing evidence, however, suggests these lands will become a source of overall net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if actions are not taken to enhance their health and resilience and to reduce the threats they face from wildfire, insects, disease, and a changing climate…. This Forest Carbon Plan considers opportunities to reverse these recent and historic adverse trends (i.e., destruction of trees from recent wildfires, drought, and insects) and firmly establish California’s forests as a more resilient and reliable long-term carbon sink…. The Plan provides multiple strategies to promote healthy and resilient wildland and urban forests that protect and enhance forest carbon and the broader range of public benefits from all forests in California.”

**HEALTH**


“A unified publicly financed health care system offers a means to a less complex health care system, but the process of transitioning to it would be a substantially more disruptive path of expanding coverage in the state than building upon the foundation of the current system. Californians and their elected representatives will need to assess whether the financial risks and disruption of transitioning from the current multi-payer system to a publicly financed system is in the best interests of the state; make a judgment about the likelihood of obtaining necessary federal statutory changes and waiver approvals; and, if they believe that moving forward on this path makes sense, what timing and practical steps are needed to make it possible. Even if California were to decide today that it was prepared to transition to a publicly financed universal health care system for its residents, it would take years to accomplish the necessary steps at the state and federal level to make that possible. In the meantime, there are steps California can take in the near term to improve coverage, affordability and access to care while also building its capacity to pursue a broader change agenda.”
HUMAN SERVICES


“Parental incarceration has been linked to a wide range of negative outcomes for children [including] behavioral outcomes such as aggression, educational outcomes such as grade retention, health outcomes such as depression, and hardship and deprivation such as homelessness and food insecurity…. Because incarceration rates are racially disproportionate, the incarceration of African American parents may well contribute to the racial achievement gap in schools…. Racial inequality [also] touches every aspect of the foster care system. About one black child in 10 spends some time in foster care, approximately twice the rate for white children.” The authors assert that “improving foster care should have a disproportionately positive impact on minority children.” Using a system of targeting, testing, and tracking could help plan focused intervention programs.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


“In late 2017, a cyberattack exposed personal information on nearly 70 million customers of Target Corp…. Costs directly related to the attack, including settlements of lawsuits, totaled $292 million.” This paper examined 188 public and private corporations that experienced cyberattacks over a nine-year period, and analyzed the immediate effects and long-run consequences to both the corporations and their consumers. “Credit ratings of the victims of corporate cyberattacks remained depressed for three years. Further, the firms endure heightened cash flow volatility and report a lower ratio of net worth to total assets, reflecting less capacity to weather adversity.”

About the California Research Bureau

The California Research Bureau at the California State Library develops independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the executive and legislative branches. We provide policy research, 50-state reviews, academic and media summaries, data analysis and much more. To learn more about us, contact crb@library.ca.gov, or call (916) 319-2691.

To subscribe to Studies in the News and view past issues, visit our website at http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/newsletters.