Studies in the News is going on hiatus for the holidays. We will resume publication on Wednesday, January 2.

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**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**


“The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights urged the Trump administration Thursday to resume federal oversight of troubled police departments and reinstate the Justice Department’s community policing
office—steps that would reverse an effort by Jeff Sessions, the recently departed attorney general, to limit federal oversight of local police departments. [The report] concludes that black Americans, among others, have valid concerns about police violence and lack of officer accountability.” (Washington Post, Nov. 15, 2018).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“What are the best metro areas for millennials to find jobs and higher pay? Turns out, of the top 50 cities in the United States, six of the best for millennials are in California, according to recent studies…. San Francisco tops the list, with San Jose coming in fifth. Other California cities in the top 50 include Los Angeles at No. 29, San Diego at No. 40, Sacramento at No. 41 and Riverside at No. 43…. The study analyzed millennial participation in an area’s labor force, millennial unemployment rate and median wages. The study used data from the U.S. Census to determine its rankings.” (Sacramento Bee, Oct. 28, 2018).

ECONOMY


“When China finally has its inevitable growth recession—which will almost surely be amplified by a financial crisis, given the economy’s massive leverage—how will the rest of world be affected?... The International Monetary Fund’s assessments of country risk, suggest that an economic slowdown in China will hurt everyone. But the acute pain, according to the IMF, will be more regionally concentrated and confined than would be the case for a deep recession in the United States. Unfortunately, this might be wishful thinking.” (Project Syndicate, Nov. 7, 2018).

EDUCATION


This report assesses each state on whether it meets nine model policies to promote computer science: 1) having a state plan for K-12 computer science education, 2) developing standards, 3) providing state-level funding, 4) offering state computer science teacher certification, 5) offering state-approved preservice teacher preparation at post-secondary schools, 6) having a state-level computer science supervisor, 7) requiring all high schools to offer computer science, 8) allowing computer science to satisfy a core high school graduation requirement, and 9) allowing computer science to satisfy a core admission requirement as post-secondary schools. California was found to meet four of the nine criteria.
EMPLOYMENT


A meal kit fulfillment center in California is the subject of this employment report. “[I]t covers a lot of ground summarizing worker-condition areas like food-safety policies, career-advancement opportunities, training, and diversity…. Take, for example, problems around hours and scheduling. While workers were scheduled for 40 hours per week that could change at a moment’s notice…. Also adding to the unpredictable nature of hours and pay is the technology used to track employee clock-ins and clock-outs…. The study doesn’t say whether the meal-kit company in question actually owns the fulfillment center or if that work is outsourced, so it’s unclear how directly responsible they are for sub-par technology or unpredictable scheduling (or any of the other issues the study covers).” (*The Spoon*, Oct. 31, 2018).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


Seeking to understand the effects of wildfire on water quality and treatability, as well as the effects on treatment plant costs and operation, the research team set out to accomplish three tasks: “evaluate the effects of a wildfire on a particular treatment operation; simulate post-fire runoff using conventional processes; and evaluate the best treatment practices to deal with wildfire-impacted source waters.” The report includes a framework for utilities to assess the impacts of wildfire on water quality and treatment, and also recommendations “made around the design and operation of treatment systems for utilities threatened by wildfire.” (*Public Works*, Nov. 28, 2018).


“[T]he actual stuff that needs to be cleared out of the woods are the brush and small diameter trees that provide kindling for today’s mega fires. Those don’t tend to be worth that much to the timber industry. It’s the big trees that make the money. This has long been an impediment to joint public-private forest restoration and wildfire mitigation efforts. But there are signs this is changing…. The Forest Service says there is a sustainable market—and opportunity—when you consider that upwards of 80 million acres of forest lands nationwide are considered at risk of major fires and in need of treatment. So far only about two million acres of public land have been treated through logging and other thinning projects or prescribed burns, according to the agency.” (*NPR*, Aug. 29, 2018).

HEALTH


“The two-year study found that migrants, in general, have a greater life expectancy than residents of host countries and were less likely to die of illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. They were, however, more prone to diseases such as hepatitis, HIV and tuberculosis, but tended to spread those infections
among immigrant communities rather than the general population, the study found…. The report, which
looked at 96 studies and 5,464 mortality estimates for more than 15 million migrants, found
inconsistencies between migrant groups. Mortality was lower, for instance, among migrants from east
Asia and Latin America than the general population of six European host countries studied. However, it
was higher among migrants from north Africa and eastern Europe.” (Reuters, Dec. 5, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES

Fostering Youth Transitions: Using Data to Drive Policy and Practice Decisions. Annie E. Casey
https://www.aecf.org/resources/fostering-youth-transitions/#lists

“Fostering Youth Transitions is a state-by-state data compilation designed to show state policymakers
and other key stakeholders how young people are faring as they move from foster care to adulthood…. When transitioning out of foster care, young people face a surplus of challenges and a shortage of
support. Young people who experience foster care lag behind their general population peers when it
comes to graduating high school or getting a job. Targeted transition services can help. Yet, among all foster youth who participated in a federally funded transition service in 2015, just 23% received education
support or employment assistance.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“Impacts of Automated Vehicles on Travel Behavior and Land Use: An International Review of
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01441647.2018.1523253

“This paper provides a comprehensive review of modelling studies investigating the impacts of AVs on
travel behaviour and land use. It shows that AVs are mostly found to increase vehicle miles travelled and
reduce public transport and slow modes share. This particularly applies to private AVs, which are also
leading to a more dispersed urban growth pattern. Shared automated vehicle fleets, conversely, could
have positive impacts, including reducing the overall number of vehicles and parking spaces. Moreover, if
it is assumed that automation would make the public transport system more efficient, AVs could lead to a
favouring of urbanisation processes. However, results are very sensitive to model assumptions which are
still very uncertain.”

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