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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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The Ten Riskiest Foods Regulated By The U.S. Food And Drug Administration. Center for Science in the Public Interest. October 6, 2009.

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Reports

Item#1

AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2007. U.S. Bureau of Census. September 2009.

Some highlights of the report are: sixty-eight percent of households in 2007 were family households, compared with 81 percent in 1970, the proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2007, from 17 percent to 27 percent, between 1970 and 2007, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6, and most family groups with children under 18 (67 percent) were maintained by married couples.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p20-561.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#2

BANKS RUNNING WILD: THE SUBVERSION OF INSURANCE BY "LIFE SETTLEMENTS" AND CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Marshall Auerback and L. Randall Wray. September 2009.

Oblivious to any lessons that might have been learned from the global financial mess it has created, Wall Street is looking for the next asset bubble, according to the study. Perhaps in the market for death it has found a replacement for the collapsed markets in subprime mortgage-backed securities and credit default swaps (CDSs). Instead of making bets on the "death" of securities, the new product will allow investors to gamble on the death of human beings by purchasing "life settlements," life insurance policies that the ill and elderly sell for cash. These policies will then be packaged together as bonds,

securitized, and resold to investors, who will receive payouts when the people with the insurance die, according to the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn_09_09.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#3

CHINA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE. World Resources Institute. Deborah Seligsohn et al. October 2009.

The report discusses the successes and challenges to effective regulation in China. It also addresses U.S. competitiveness concerns in relation to the introduction of U.S. cap-and-trade policies, and specific opportunities for enhanced climate change cooperation between the two countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://pdf.wri.org/china_united_states_climate_change_challenge.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#4

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION – SEPTEMBER 2009. U.S. Department of Labor]. October 2, 2009.

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 7.6 million to 15.1 million, and the unemployment rate has doubled to 9.8 percent.

In September, the number of persons working part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers, was little changed at 9.2 million. The number of such workers rose sharply throughout most of the fall and winter but has been little changed since March.

Full Text:

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#5

IMF-SUPPORTED MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND THE WORLD RECESSION: A LOOK AT FORTY-ONE BORROWING COUNTRIES. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Mark Weisbrot et al. October 2009.

The paper finds that 31 of 41 of countries with current International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreements have been subjected to pro-cyclical macroeconomic policies that, during the current global recession, would be expected to have exacerbated economic slowdowns. The pro-cyclical conditions noted in the report are either pro-cyclical fiscal or monetary policies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/imf-2009-10.pdf> [PDF format, 97 pages].

Item#6

NATIONAL PARKS IN PERIL: THE THREATS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. National Resources Defense Council. Stephen Saunders et al. October 1, 2009.

Climate change from human activity is the leading threat to wildlife, plants, water and ice in 25 of America's national parks, according to the report. The report outlines climate-related threats in 25 parks spanning 22 states. The top risks include: loss of snow and water, rising seas, more extreme weather, loss of plants and wildlife, and more pollution.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.rockymountainclimate.org/website%20pictures/National-Parks-In-Peril-final.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages].

Item#7

OVERLOOKED AND UNDERSERVED: THE CRISIS FACING AMERICA'S OLDER WORKERS. Experience Works. September 2009.

The study of more than 2,000 low-income unemployed workers age 55 and older, 46 percent need to find jobs so they don't lose their homes or apartments, and approximately half, 49 percent, have been looking for work for more than a year. In July 2009, there were two million unemployed workers age 55 plus; the unemployment rate for this age group was the highest since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tabulating data by age in 1948.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.experienceworks.org/site/DocServer/EW-ExecSummary_09-Final.pdf?docID=10381 [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#8

RISING SENIOR UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE NEED TO WORK AT OLDER AGES. Urban Institute. Richard W. Johnson. September 28, 2009.

Unemployment rates for older workers reached record levels in 2009, partly because fewer workers eligible for early retirement benefits are dropping out of the labor force. Growing concerns about the adequacy of retirement savings and whether retirees will have enough money to live comfortably in

later life appear to have discouraged early retirement. Instead, more older workers are now remaining in the labor force and searching for work after they lose their jobs. The need for older adults to keep working raises the imperative for new policies that help address the special challenges that older job seekers face.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411964_senior_unemployment.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#9

A SUCCESS STORY IN AMERICAN HEALTH CARE: USING HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE IN A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER IN WASHINGTON. HealthReform.GOV. October 2009.

The report shows how health information technology can improve health care for Americans living in rural communities. The report examines how the Columbia Basin Health Association in Othello, Wash., uses health information technology to improve health care quality and patient safety as well as promote care coordination and continuity.

Full Report:

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/ruralsuccess/index.html> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

THE TEN RISKIEST FOODS REGULATED BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. Center for Science in the Public Interest. October 6, 2009.

Leafy greens, eggs, and tuna are on the top of a list of the 10 riskiest foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Those and seven other foods account for nearly 40 percent of all foodborne outbreaks linked to FDA-regulated food. That's no reason to forgo the occasional salad says the report, nor need one pass up tomatoes, sprouts, and berries, even though those foods are also on the list. But it also says that the presence of so many healthy foods on such a list is exactly why the United States Senate should follow the House and pass legislation that reforms our fossilized food safety laws.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/cspi_top_10_fda.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].