Reports & Resources

Student Debt in America
NPR | READ STORY
This report shows that the rapidly increasing national level of student debt in the United States hinges less on increased individual debt levels than on an increasing number of students attending college.

U.S. Population Getting Older
Daily Yonder | READ STORY
Data from the Census Bureau confirms that most U.S. counties are seeing increases in the median age of citizens. This is most true of rural counties, which are becoming progressively "older" than metropolitan areas.

President’s Corner
We still have some scholarships available for the 2012 Rural Community Conference, May 15-16 in Bozeman, MT. Be sure to check out the updated Agenda and Workshop Descriptions and Speaker Bios page.

Also, kudos to our Montana extension educators, Betsy Webb, Barb Andreozzi, and Dan Clark presenting at the upcoming NACDEP Conference in Park City, UT, May 20-23!

-Paul Lachapelle
MACDEP President

Upcoming Events
2012 Symposium on Small Towns and Leadership Chautauqua
June 12-13, 2012
Morris, MN
Federal Income Tax Spending
**National Priorities | READ STORY**
The Tax Day 2012 report, compiled by the National Priorities Project, charts how federal income tax revenue is spent, with 27 cents out of every dollar invested in the military, and only one cent invested in the sciences.

World Clean Energy Investments
**Pew Charitable Trusts | READ STORY**
This report from Pew Charitable Trusts evaluates investment rates in industries related to the clean energy race, showing that while national and corporate experience in this area continues to oscillate, consumer experience is on the rise.

Grants, Awards & Jobs
**Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse**
Deadline: May 11, 2012
Funder: Cardinal Health Foundation

**Innovative Programs to Address Childhood Obesity**
Walmart Effects on Local Wages
Daily Yonder | READ STORY
This story from the Daily Yonder reflects on a study performed by University of Connecticut economists on the influence employed by Walmart on local wages, particularly in rural areas of the country.

Social Security and Medicare Exhaustion
Off the Charts | READ STORY
This article attempts to clarify some of the data released in the 2012 Social Security and Medicare trustees' report, showing that while "exhaustion" of both funds has been predicted, "exhaustion" does not entail bankruptcy.

Books vs. eBooks
Pew Internet | READ STORY
With one-fifth of the American population reading eBooks in the last year, it would appear that the digital
medium has become a substantial contender in the struggle for American readers’ time and attention.

New Light on Overpopulation
Smithsonian | READ STORY
The Smithsonian online magazine provides a synopsis of recent work done by the physicist Graham Turner, revisiting and reevaluating predictions concerning overpopulation made in the 1970’s.