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August 11, 2009

In this issue

- [Maddy Events](#)
- [Political Briefs](#)
- [News Briefs](#)
- [Editorial Roundup](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Forum, a weekly 30-minute public affairs program focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley, airs on 90.7 KFSR radio Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. and also is available on the [KFSR Web site](#) and iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – Maddy Institute board member Sal Russo is the guest on the next edition of The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Seeing red: State has \$200 billion in future liabilities, analyst says – And you think California has budget problems now ... The state has more than \$200 billion in short- and long-term liabilities on its books, according to a new memo from nonpartisan Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor, who warns that "these liabilities will continue to put pressure on the state's finances for years to come." [Fresno Bee article](#)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver dead at 88 – President John F. Kennedy's sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a champion for the rights of the mentally disabled and founder of the Special Olympics, has died. She was 88. [Msnbc.com](#)

Steinberg sues to block Schwarzenegger vetoes – Senate President Pro Tem [Darrell Steinberg](#), D-Sacramento, filed suit Monday in San Francisco [Superior Court](#) to block nearly \$500 million in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's July line-item budget vetoes. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [Full petition](#)

Riot at California prison as budget cuts loom – Inmates at an overcrowded California prison tore doors from their hinges and broke off toilets and sinks in a four-hour riot that injured 175 people, and many fear the crowding that may have helped escalate the brawl will only get worse with \$1.2 billion in budget cuts. [AP article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Bakersfield residents want bigger venue for health care town hall – Expect overflow crowds when Bakersfield's congressman hosts a town hall-style meeting on health care reform in a couple weeks, say the folks who urged him to do the event. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Valley politicians mix signals on Radanovich race – An organization now headed by former Fresno Mayor Alan Autry has pumped \$3,000 into a long-shot campaign to defeat Autry's fellow Republican, Rep. George Radanovich of Mariposa. Autry, though, still supports Radanovich's re-election. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Atwater councilman tries to make amends – City Councilman Gary Frago, who sent a series of racist e-mails to city staff and others in late 2008 and early 2009, resigned his position as mayor pro tem Monday night and said he has begun sensitivity training in the Bay Area. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Riverbank won't remove White from council – The city says it can't follow a grand jury recommendation to undo last fall's election and remove Councilman Jesse James White from office. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Sterling to seek Fresno County supervisor seat – Fresno City Council Member Cynthia Sterling on Monday announced her candidacy for the county supervisor seat held by Phil Larson. [Fresno Bee article](#)

School boards throughout Merced County need candidates – No one has applied to run in four local school board positions for the Nov. 3 elections. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Prison reform is overdue – Repairing California's prison system will require the reform of nearly every aspect of how the prisons are run. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Boren/McEwen podcast: Car chases and campaign contributions -- The Fresno Bee's political gurus talk about police chases and high-speed pursuits and offer thoughts on Council Member Bob Whalen accepting a recent contribution. [Boren/McEwen podcast](#)

Sacramento Bee: Crack down on mortgage fraud – Prosecution after the fact is one avenue, but policymakers also should pursue prevention of mortgage fraud. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Bill McEwen: Time for thoughtful debate, not politricks – This is a time for accurate information and thoughtful debate, not political tricks and emotional imagery. The more we resort to name-calling, the less likely we

BLOGS/SITES[Adam Ashton's After Deadline \(ModBee\)](#)[Aquaforia](#)[Bill McEwen blog](#)[blognetnews.com/California](#)[California Majority Report](#)[Capital Notes](#)[Capital Press](#)[Capitol Alert](#)[FlashReport](#)[Fox & Hounds](#)[Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)[Fresno Bee Political Notebook](#)[In the Public Eye](#)[LA Observed](#)[Michael Fitzgerald blog](#)[Mike Doyle's blog](#)[Modesto Bee Opinion Blog](#)[New West Notes](#)[PolitickerCA](#)[Politics, Anyone? \(Bakersfield\)](#)[Real Clear Politics blog](#)[SF Chronicle politics blog](#)[Smog Blog \(Fresno Bee\)](#)[Talk on Water \(Modesto Bee\)](#)[The Hotline's Blogometer](#)[The Roundup](#)[Valley Notebook](#)[Valley Notebook](#)**CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT**[Air Resources Board](#)[Bill information](#)[CA High-Speed Rail Authority](#)[CA Secretary of State](#)[CA State Assembly](#)[CA State Senate](#)[CA Transportation Commission](#)[Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger](#)[Legislative Analyst's Office](#)[State of California](#)**MEDIA**[Bakersfield Californian](#)[Capitol Weekly](#)[Fresno Bee](#)[KFIV Radio](#)[KFSN-TV](#)[KGPE-TV](#)[KJWL Radio](#)[KMJ Radio](#)[KMPH-TV](#)[KQED Radio](#)[KSEE-TV](#)[KVPR Valley Public Radio](#)[KVPR Valley Public Television](#)[LateUpdate](#)[Lodi News-Sentinel](#)[Los Angeles Times](#)[Merced Sun-Star](#)[Modesto Bee](#)[Rough & Tumble](#)[Sacramento Bee](#)[San Francisco Chronicle](#)[Stockton Record](#)[The Business Journal](#)

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[Elections](#)
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[San Joaquin County WIB](#)
[San Joaquin County](#)
[San Joaquin County COG](#)
[San Joaquin County Farm Bureau](#)
[San Joaquin Partnership](#)
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[Office of Education](#)
[Stanislaus County](#)
[Stanislaus Alliance](#)
[Stanislaus County COG](#)
[Stanislaus County WIB](#)
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[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
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are to get better health care. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Sacramento Bee: A pause, at least, for suction mining – Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) took long-overdue action last week to protect the state's endangered coho salmon when he signed a bill that slaps a temporary moratorium on suction dredge mining. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Jeff Jardine: Salmon bill thwarts gold miners – Unless the governor vetoes SB 670 — and the court lifts its injunction — the future suction dredge mining won't lie in the value of gold itself. [Jardine column in Modesto Bee](#)

Dan Walters: Gay marriage advocates debate next California move – They're still debating among themselves what went wrong with the anti-Proposition 8 campaign. The finger-pointing continues with a very sharp internal argument over whether to seek Proposition 8's repeal in 2010, or wait until 2012 for a new ballot fight. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Newsom disagrees with Pelosi that disruptive town hall meetings as 'un-American' – San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom appeared to disagree Monday with [House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's characterization of disruptive health care town halls as "un-American."](#) saying that the current passionate debate over health care is "healthy." [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Washington state revisits three-strikes law -- Many states have begun applying the severe laws more sparingly. Washington is beginning to revisit three-strikes cases, giving some nonviolent offenders another chance. [LA Times article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Water officials to discuss drought – President Barack Obama's point man on the California water crisis will meet with state officials Wednesday, and Delta advocates are urging the public to attend. [Stockton Record article](#)

Modesto police union OKs furloughs – Modesto police employees who have the most contact with the law-abiding public have agreed to take 96 hours in furloughs this budget year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Federal grants boost Tulare police – Thanks to about \$1.3 million in two federal grants, Tulare police will get their POP back the Problem Oriented Policing team, that is. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Kern businesses confident about economic conditions – Data from our recent survey indicate that Kern County businesses have turned optimistic about local economic conditions. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

42 children, all in one class – More pupils per teacher is the reality in Manteca Unified schools this year since the Board of Trustees voted in July to increase class sizes at the district's 22 elementary schools. [Stockton Record article](#)

Few shopping for Stanislaus homes in million-dollar range – Not a single million-dollar home has sold this year in Stanislaus County. Compare that with 2005, when more than 40 houses sold in the county for a million or more. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Federally-funded fix-up will be back on Lathrop tax rolls – Federal funds were used to buy and rehabilitate a foreclosed Lathrop home, which now will be resold for \$192,000. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Activist wants to trim salaries of Lodi city leaders – Activist Jane Lea is pushing a potential ballot measure that, if passed, would drastically slash the salaries of city department heads and managers. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Kings investigating birth defects concern – Kings County health officials say they are still investigating the concerns over birth defects and infant deaths in Kettleman City raised by activists. Meanwhile, the state Department of Public Health is now on board, working a fast track to analyze data on birth defects from 2005 to the current date. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Stockton officials govern local, but do their auto shopping somewhere else – That the Lowery and Holman households purchased cars recently out of town - both are used 2007 models, Lowery's from Fremont and Holman's, a CLS 550, from Modesto - has been the subject of some talk at City Hall, where in the budget crisis any loss of sales tax revenue is a sore point. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno school transforms to ease enrollment crunch – Southeast Elementary School, opening on the campus formerly called the Academy for New Americans, will relieve crowding at three other schools for two years while the district builds a permanent school. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Ag crews out to trap, prevent Asian citrus pest – State agricultural crews will be setting insect traps and inspecting the River Park area for the Asian citrus psyllid Tuesday after county officials found the pest in Fresno last month. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kings sees first West Nile case in 2009 – A Kings County man has contracted West Nile virus, the first case this year in Kings County, the county's health department reported Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Number of wasps in Merced County up this year – Here's the buzz: No one is sure why, but yellow jacket wasps seem to be swarming in larger numbers this year than usual. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Ripon workers going to Hughson -- The city has a street project that needs inspection services. Ripon has

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Woodlake

inspection staff whose work has slowed because of the recession. So the two will work together in what officials called a win-win situation for the cities and save taxpayers \$150,000. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Two more leave Fresno County mental health board – Three members of the Fresno County Mental Health Board have resigned since officials questioned whether they were in violation of a state conflict of interest law. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Three Kern banks show improvement – Three of four locally based banks managed to improve their bottom line in the second quarter of this year, though only two reported a profit over those three months, federal filings show. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

ZAP gets new funding for electric vehicles – ZAP, the Santa Rosa-based maker of electric vehicles, said Monday it has secured up to \$25 million in new financing from Cathaya [Capital LP](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Tejon Ranch reports second-quarter loss – Lebec agribusiness and real estate development company Tejon Ranch Co. posted a \$1.5 million loss, or 9 cents per diluted share, for the three months ending June 30, according to a filing Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Jim Boren: Are high-speed chases necessary? – The tragic [Dinuba case](#) raises the issue of whether it's wise to conduct high-speed chases when crooks run from a traffic stop. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Rural trash contract up for OK in Stanislaus – Stanislaus County's little guy in rural garbage is ready for a growth spurt. Turlock Scavenger Co., by far the smallest of four firms hauling refuse in unincorporated areas, will jump to second largest if county supervisors approve a new contract today. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Ceremony ushers in Ulring as Stockton's new chief of police – At the end of a badge-pinning ceremony Monday for Blair Ulring, who was made chief of police last week, city administrators, elected officials, police officers and family members lined up in a room on the Second Floor of the Police Department, as is the custom, to shake the new chief's hand. [Stockton Record article](#)

Rarely-used hazmat resources still considered critical in Tulare – Come January, if no public or private entity can be found to foot a \$200,000 annual bill, the Visalia Fire Department's hazardous materials response team will cease to exist. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Sacramento City Schools introduce new superintendent – [Jonathan Raymond](#) stressed the importance of transparency, accountability and a culture of collaboration during a media conference Monday, where he was introduced as [Sacramento City Unified School District's](#) new superintendent. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Boat shop tied to Vartanian investigated -- Investigators with the state Department of Motor Vehicles Monday raided a Madera County boat dealership with ties to Fresno businessman Krikor "Kirk" Vartanian after receiving reports that it was selling warranties that were never provided. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee – The police chase on Saturday afternoon in Dinuba again [raises the question](#) of when police should pursue criminals fleeing at high speeds.

Merced Sun-Star – Create [right conditions](#) for new jobs.

Modesto Bee – The public always has [a right to know](#) how and where its money is spent; If state legislators hope one day to [rebuild the public's shaken confidence](#) in their institution, they could start by ending their practice of erasing controversial votes from the public record.

Sacramento Bee – Gov. Schwarzenegger took [long-overdue action](#) last week to protect the state's endangered coho salmon when he signed a bill that slaps a temporary moratorium on suction dredge mining; Prosecution after the fact is one avenue, but policymakers also should pursue [prevention of mortgage fraud](#).

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on post offices, court closing and other issues.

Visalia Times-Delta – Repairing California's prison system will require the [reform of nearly every aspect](#) of how the prisons are run.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Health and Human Services Work Group will meet at Lionakis Beaumont Design Group, 1207 I St., Suite 100, Modesto, on Aug. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A California Solar Initiative workshop will be held on Sept. 1 at 1129 Enterprise St. in Stockton from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. September 1, 2009, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Information: <http://www.pge.com/mybusiness/edusafety/training/stockton/contact/>

The Central Valley Venture Forum will be held on September 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Fresno. Registration will open in August. Contact: Nancy Kobata, nancyko@csufresno.edu.

The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno was established to honor the legacy of one of California's most principled and effective legislative leaders of the last half of the 20th Century by engaging, preparing and inspiring a new generation of governmental leaders for the 21st Century. Its mission is to inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide non-partisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public policy issues important to the region, state and nation.

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