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San Joaquin Valley Blueprint

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Asm. Juan Arambula

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Asm. Bill Berryhill

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan

Assemblywoman Connie Conway

Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani

Asm. Danny Gilmore

Assemblywoman Alyson Huber

Asm. Mike Villines

Sen. Roy Ashburn

Sen. Dave Cogdill

Sen. Jeff Denham

Sen. Dean Florez

Sen. Lois Wolk

Cong. Dennis Cardoza

Cong. Jim Costa

Cong. Kevin McCarthy

Cong. Jerry McNerney

Cong. George Radanovich

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein

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Fresno County

Council of Governments

Fresno County EDC

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Elections Department

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**KERN COUNTY**

Elections Division

August 12, 2009

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**MADDY EVENTS**

**Maddy Report** – The Maddy Report, a monthly 30-minute public affairs television program, will air "Health Care Reform: The Prescriptions from the Valley's Congressional Delegation." Guests Congressmen Jim Costa, D-Fresno; Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced; Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield; Devin Nunes, R-Visalia; and George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, will join host Mark Keppler, the Executive Director of the Maddy Institute, in a discussion of how the coverage, cost and quality of health care will be impacted by the proposed overhaul of our health care system. The program will air Saturday, Aug. 15 and Sunday, Aug. 16 at 5 p.m. on KSEE 24.

**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** – The Maddy Political Insider can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

**POLITICAL BRIEFS**

**Obama urged to see water-starved Valley** – Community activists and Valley politicians are stepping up their efforts to bring national attention to the area's water shortage -- pleading Tuesday for President Barack Obama to visit the drought-plagued farmlands. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Stockton council votes to oppose peripheral canal** – The Stockton City Council voted Tuesday to oppose a peripheral canal long after many other agencies did so. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Controller releases July cash figures** – State Controller John Chiang has released yesterday a monthly report comparing the state's financial situation in July 2009 to the same month last year. Capitol Alert takes a look at the key numbers. [Capitol Alert](#); [Full report](#); [Summary analysis](#)

**Dan Walters: California has amassed a mountain of debt** – The debts – many billions borrowed to keep the state afloat, spending deferrals that must be honored later, bonds issued to finance public works, and unfunded liabilities in public worker pensions and [health care](#) – are continuing to pile up. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**CD 10: Garamendi releases poll numbers** – Congressional candidate and [Lt. Gov. John Garamendi](#) released selected results from an [internal poll](#) that show him 10 percentage points ahead of his nearest competitor. [Political Blotter](#)

**Recall bid against Huber can move ahead, state says** – A Republican activist has been cleared by the California Secretary of State's Office to move forward with a recall effort against Assemblywoman Alyson Huber after the proponent resubmitted his paperwork. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Atwater turns over hundreds of emails sent by Frago** – Violent and racist e-mail jokes alluding to the assassination of President Barack Obama, the killing of Latinos and violence against black people were forwarded by Atwater City Councilman Gary Frago during the last six months, according to more than 200 new e-mails obtained by the Sun-Star from the city of Atwater. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Timm Herdt: Fallout from broken deal** – Can the governor of California, acting on his own, eliminate all state funding for domestic violence centers and community health clinics? [Herdt column in Ventura Star](#)

**Card clubs, tribal casinos pushing to legalize Internet poker** – [California](#) card clubs and tribal casinos, long bitter political rivals, are working together in a concerted, behind-the-scenes drive to legalize Internet poker in the [Golden State](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Eunice Shriver had key role in Schwarzenegger's political career** – If not for [Eunice Kennedy Shriver](#), [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) might never have become governor of [California](#). Shriver, who died Tuesday at age 88, pushed her celebrity son-in-law into public service roles, none greater than his successful bid for governor in 2003. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**McCarthy's health-care town hall meeting moved** – The venue for a health-care town hall to be hosted by Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, has changed to accommodate more people. And it also may be televised.

**BLOGS/SITES**

[Adam Ashton's After Deadline \(ModBee\)](#)

[Aquaforia](#)

[Bill McEwen blog](#)

[blognetnews.com/California](#)

[California Majority Report](#)

[Capital Notes](#)

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[Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

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[Politics, Anyone? \(Bakersfield\)](#)

[Real Clear Politics blog](#)

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[Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Modesto's district elections still require candidate cash – Modesto's district elections are meant to open doors to candidates who wouldn't normally run, in part because it's cheaper than running for citywide office. But money still will play a key role in this fall's three City Council races. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Meg Whitman talks to Modesto farmers – Former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman said Tuesday that jobs, education and state spending are at the heart of her campaign for governor. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Valley residents pray in Modesto, Stockton for health-care reform – About 40 people gathered at Tenth Street Plaza on Tuesday morning to pray for a national health care system. They also prayed for Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, and others in Congress faced with the task of making health insurance affordable for all. [Modesto Bee article](#); [Stockton Record article](#)

Heading to the beach or campground? Open your wallet wider – Stung by budget cuts, California's state park system will increase day use parking fees by \$2 to \$5, and camping fees by \$10 to \$21 a night, state parks director Ruth Coleman announced Tuesday. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

California struggles to desegregate its prison inmates -- The riot that ravaged a Southern California prison and injured 175 inmates began with a fight between black and Hispanic gang members, a stark reminder of the difficulty of race relations behind bars and the challenges of desegregating inmates. [AP article](#)

Newsom 'not convinced' challenge to Prop 8 will succeed in 2010 -- In a week in which progressive and gay activists will decide whether to launch an effort in 2010 -- or wait until 2012 -- to repeal Prop. 8, San Francisco Mayor [Gavin Newsom](#) Tuesday cautioned he is "not convinced" such a movement can be successful next year. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Governor appoints new Consumer Affairs head -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed [Brian J. Stiger](#) as new director of the [Department of Consumer Affairs](#), which has faced growing scrutiny in recent years for lax oversight of its regulated professions. [Capitol Alert](#)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

Online textbooks offered free to students – When California math and science teachers return to their classrooms this month, they'll have 10 free online textbooks at their fingertips to help them teach everything from calculus to chemistry. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [LA Times article](#); [AP article](#)

Governor releases free digital textbook initiative Phase 1 report – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Tuesday released the first report of California's free digital textbook initiative - which outlines how high school math and science textbooks submitted under the first phase of the initiative measure up against the state's rigorous academic content standards. [Governor's Office news release](#); [Full report](#)

White House initiative forum coming to Merced – Officials announced Tuesday that Merced College will host an open forum with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans later this month. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Fruitvale reduces music program – Settling on a course of action that likely would have been unthinkable in years past, Fruitvale trustees said they had little choice as they voted 5-0 to reduce -- but not eliminate -- the district's celebrated music program. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

5 teachers get their jobs back in Atwater – Five more laid-off teachers were rehired by the Atwater Elementary School District on Tuesday night. At its peak, 19 laid-off teachers were on the district's "rehire list." Now just nine remain, Superintendent Melinda Hennes said. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

\$400,000 gift finances education chair at CSU Stanislaus – California State University, Stanislaus, announced its second endowed chair in as many months Tuesday. A \$400,000 gift from the estate of Kenneth and Shirley Whalen will go to fund an endowed chair in the College of Education, officials said. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Modesto council OKs more furloughs – Modesto police clerks, community service officers and other nonsworn employees have joined the list of city workers who will take furloughs this budget year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Tulare supervisors vote to lay off four more workers – Two welfare investigators, a legal office assistant and a supervising welfare investigator will be receiving pink slips after the Board of Supervisor's meeting Tuesday. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Losing Williamson Act could hurt Kings farmers -- The jury is still out on it, but local farmers and growers are watching with concern what happens to the Williamson Act. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Inspectors shut down Bakersfield melon harvest over heat rules – State inspectors shut down a Bakersfield watermelon harvesting operation Tuesday morning over alleged violations of heat safety regulations. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno added to federal water suit – The city of Fresno has joined a federal lawsuit that says new rules governing the endangered delta smelt will harm Californians who depend on Central Valley Project water. [Fresno Bee article](#)

School for homeless youth could reopen in Stockton – After early obstacles, supporters of a school for homeless children say they are confident it will reopen at a new location. [Stockton Record article](#)

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[Univision 21](#)  
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Woodlake

Modesto-area tomato crop headed for pasta, fries – Fear not, pizza and pasta lovers. Another summer's worth of tomatoes is making its way through canneries in the Modesto area. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Mark Evans: Bakersfield consumer sentiment increases for first time in two years – Bakersfield's Index of Consumer Sentiment finally turned the corner in the second quarter of 2009, increasing slightly from 73 to 76. This was the first increase in nine quarters. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Building bust takes toll – Blame San Joaquin Valley job losses mostly on the foreclosure crisis, not so much on efforts to protect fish, University of the Pacific researchers said Tuesday. [Stockton Record article](#)

Worst job losses may be over, U.S. labor statistician says – The nation's top labor statistician, in a speech in [Sacramento](#), said Tuesday that the economy is showing signs of nearing a bottom. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Stanislaus drops pumping contract – Tired of paying an inflated share to keep some farms from flooding, Stanislaus County leaders said Tuesday they will terminate a joint powers agreement in hopes of forcing new negotiations with landowners and state officials. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Controversial Bakersfield project vote delayed – A controversial project on Driver Road at Rosedale Highway has been, for the second time, delayed to give it a shot at success. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Lenders hesitating to repossess California homes – The backlog of homes in default is growing. In July, default notices were up 12% from a year earlier but repossessions were down 40%. [LA Times article](#)

U.S. worker productivity surges in second quarter – It jumps at a rate of 6.4% in the nonfarm business sector, Labor Department says. Analysts say that bodes well for corporate profit margins but are split on how it will affect unemployment. [LA Times article](#)

Stockton Record: No time to be a caretaker – The announced retirement of Stockton City Manager Gordon Palmer demonstrates one of two things: either he's smarter than the manager he succeeded, who was fired, or he's less arrogant. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Panel to oversee Ford firing in Stockton – The City Council appointed three of its members Tuesday to oversee an investigation into the firing of Deputy City Manager Johnny Ford. [Stockton Record article](#)

Mercy Medical Center Merced helps out nonprofits with health grants – In an economy that's seeing more and more people losing their jobs and their health insurance, small nonprofit groups that help local people with their health care are finding it harder and harder to get grant funding. That's when Mercy Medical Center Merced steps in. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Kaiser Permanente to cut 1,850 jobs -- Kaiser Permanente eliminated 1,850 jobs in California on Tuesday, serving notice that the recession is sickening the health-care industry at long last. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Stockton Record article](#)

Swine flu claims second Stanislaus victim – A second person in Stanislaus County has died from swine flu. County health officials said Tuesday a 37-year-old man died Monday in a local hospital from complications of the flu. His name and place of residence were not released. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Program helps fledgling west-central Fresno firms – A new program by Fresno City Council Member Blong Xiong is putting upstart businesses in west-central Fresno in contact with city agencies, lenders and chambers of commerce that may help them survive their infancy. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Nevada ads target California businesses – In a series of aphorism- laden ads running this week on TV, on radio and in print, the Nevada Development Authority once again is trying to lure businesses from the Golden State, this time by comparing the California budget to a swine and lawmakers to monkeys. [LA Times article](#)

Lodi OKs cleanup for new power site – The Lodi City Council on Tuesday approved a cleanup plan for a contaminated 4.4-acre parcel that will be the site of a new power plant near the city's Interstate 5 sewage treatment center. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Turlock council says no to all Carnegie bids – The future of the Carnegie Arts Center remains uncertain after City Council members decided to reject all the bids to rebuild it. [Modesto Bee article](#)

California's gas usage drops again, data shows – California motorists continued to cut down on [gasoline consumption](#) in the spring, according to statistics from the [State Board of Equalization](#). [LA Times article](#)

California lauded for blunting gas price spikes -- California has done more than any other state to break its addiction to oil and protect its citizens from price spikes at the gas pump, according to a report released Tuesday by an environmental group. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Interest in 'cash for clunkers' waning, Web site says -- Consumer interest in the federal "cash for clunkers" car program is waning, according to Edmunds.com, the Santa Monica-based auto information site. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

GM to list new cars in California on eBay – Starting Tuesday, consumers can bid for new [GM](#) cars from [California](#) dealerships online at eBay Motors. It's a novel strategy for the nation's largest automaker. eBay, the San Jose-based online marketplace, runs a brisk business in used cars, but this is the first time sizable quantities of new cars have been offered on the site. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Morgue plan approved by Fresno County supervisors -- The Fresno County Board of Supervisors today approved a scaled-down plan for a new morgue, which will replace the maggot-infested building that's drawn the ire of Coroner David Hadden. [Fresno Bee article](#)

San Francisco slashes big pay for overtime -- As San Francisco laid off hundreds of workers and struggled to cut \$576 million from its budget this spring, 89 city workers raked in more than \$30,000 each in overtime and other special pay during the first six months of 2009. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Lois Henry: Warning signs didn't save women -- It's hard to look at the smiling picture of Annette Sowders and not feel that she was horribly and irrevocably let down by a system that should have protected her. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

#### EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee – Bills address state's [mortgage fraud problems](#).

Merced Sun-Star – In a family that has included a president, three senators and untold numbers of political movers and shakers, Eunice Kennedy Shriver may well be remembered as [the most consequential](#) of Joseph P. Kennedy and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy's nine children.

Sacramento Bee – If Sacramento's public officials expect the region's residents to conserve water as the state endures its third year of drought, they are going to have to [set an example](#) themselves; Eunice Kennedy Shriver's legacy is that [disabled can thrive](#).

Stockton Record – The announced retirement of Stockton City Manager Gordon Palmer demonstrates one of two things: either he's [smarter than the manager he succeeded](#), who was fired, or he's less arrogant.

Visalia Times-Delta – First day of school [needs preparation](#).

#### 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](mailto: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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