

**ABOUT US**

The Maddy Institute
 Contact Editor
 Daily Report Archive
 Subscribe / Unsubscribe

MADDY DAILY EDITOR

Mike Lukens

REGIONAL ENTITIES

CA Center for Regional Leadership
 Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
 Central California EDC
 Great Valley Center
 Hospital Council of Northern/Central CA
 SJV Air District
 CA Partnership for SJ Valley
 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint
 SJV Clean Energy Organization

PUBLIC POLICY

Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise
 California Forward
 Center for Governmental Studies
 Center for Public Policy Studies (CSU Stanislaus)
 Civic Entrepreneur
 Latino Issues Forum
 Next 10

Public Policy Institute of California
 PolicyArchive
 Rose Institute of State and Local Government
 UC Davis Center for Study of Regional Change

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Asm. Juan Arambula
 Asm. Tom Berryhill
 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

FRESNO COUNTY

Fresno County WIB
 Fresno County
 Council of Governments
 Fresno County EDC
 Fresno County Farm Bureau
 Elections Department
 Office of Education

KERN COUNTY

Elections Division

August 13, 2009

In this issue

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

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

Numerous lawsuits fight California furloughs – California's government is in a state of civil war. The battlegrounds: courtrooms from [San Francisco](#) to [Sacramento](#). The fight: furloughs. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

News analysis: Steinberg lawsuit offers political dividends – The case against the governor is as much a political one as it is a constitutional one. And Schwarzenegger's decision to cut more than \$400 million from state programs in the 11th hour of last month's budget battle has given Steinberg an opportunity to articulate a formal and coherent political opposition to the Republican governor. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Families feel pinch as state cuts ripple out – Robyn Rickansrud, a 52-year-old Richmond resident who expanded his business in recent years by producing display photos for the state, is one of thousands of businesspeople who weren't paid, received IOUs or lost government work during the last few months. And the economic devastation didn't stop at the doors of his office. It spilled over to his suppliers, employees and nearby retailers. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

George Skelton: Lighting up a revenue idea – The LA Times columnist believes I believe it's time to raise the tobacco tax. Raise it by a hefty amount. Be a bully. [Skelton column in LA Times](#)

Republicans urge cutbacks over freeing inmates early – Girding for a showdown next week over cuts in the state prison system, Republican lawmakers said Wednesday that there is enough fat in the corrections budget to avert any early release of prisoners from state lockups. [LA Times article](#)

Key gay rights group backs 2012 repeal of Prop 8 – A San Francisco gay rights group that led unsuccessful efforts last year to defeat the ban on same-sex marriage in California said today it will wait until 2012 to ask voters to repeal Proposition 8 to give supporters of such unions enough time to gather the money, volunteers and support needed to overturn the ban. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Workers' comp bureau seeks 22.8 percent rate hike – An influential group controlled by the [insurance industry](#) Wednesday recommended a 22.8 percent rate increase. The Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of [California](#), in arguing for the higher rates, said rising medical costs are largely the reason. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Dan Walters: New battle looms over workers' comp rates – A new battle over premiums charged by insurers for workers' compensation coverage is looming with Insurance Commissioner [Steve Poizner](#), a Republican candidate for governor, in the middle. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

CalPERS actuary: Pension costs are not sustainable – The CalPERS chief actuary says pension costs are "unsustainable" and the giant public employee pension system plans to meet with stakeholders to discuss the issue. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Budget woes inflict pain on state court system – Beginning Sept. 16, California courts, facing an

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

[Kern County](#)
[Kern County COG](#)
[Kern County EDC](#)
[Kern County Farm Bureau](#)
[Kern_Invo_Mono WIB](#)
[Office of Education](#)
KINGS COUNTY
[Elections](#)
[Kings County Farm Bureau](#)
[Kings County](#)
[Kings Co. Assn. of Governments](#)
[Kings County EDC](#)
[Kings County WIB](#)
[Office of Education](#)
MADERA COUNTY
[Elections Division](#)
[Madera County EDC](#)
[Madera County Farm Bureau](#)
[Madera County WIB](#)
[Madera County](#)
[Madera Co. Transpt. Comm.](#)
[Office of Education](#)
MERCED COUNTY
[Assn. of Governments](#)
[Elections](#)
[Merced County](#)
[Merced WIB](#)
[Merced County EDC](#)
[Merced County Farm Bureau](#)
[Office of Education](#)
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
[San Joaquin County WIB](#)
[San Joaquin County](#)
[San Joaquin County COG](#)
[San Joaquin County Farm Bureau](#)
[San Joaquin Partnership](#)
STANISLAUS COUNTY
[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
[Stanislaus County](#)
[Stanislaus Alliance](#)
[Stanislaus County COG](#)
[Stanislaus County WIB](#)
TULARE COUNTY
[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
[Tulare County](#)
[Tulare County Farm Bureau](#)
[Tulare County WIB](#)
[Tulare County COG](#)
[Tulare County EDC](#)
EDUCATION
[Central Valley Ed. Leadership Institute](#)
[California State University, Fresno](#)
[CSU Bakersfield](#)
[CSU Stanislaus](#)
[Fresno Pacific University](#)
[UC Merced](#)
[University of the Pacific](#)
[West Hills Community College](#)
STAFF
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Mark Keppler
 PROGRAM COORDINATOR
 Jennifer Johnson
 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ASSOCIATE
 Katie Stevens
 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
 Tamara Williams
 WEBMASTER
 Fatih Yenen
 CONTACT

estimated \$415 million in state budget cuts, will be closed on the third Wednesday of every month. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Fresno Bee: Let's debate health care reform, not just shout about it - All the shouting at town hall meetings on health care reform doesn't change the fact that the current system is badly broken. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Stockton Record: We must calm the health care debate - Clearly, something has to be done. But nothing can be done, no ideas can be discussed and refined, no genuine concerns addressed if we spend the August recess of Congress in shouting matches. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Bakersfield Californian: McCarthy's opportunity to clear the air on health reform - Reform -- in whatever form -- is too important an issue for us to allow the discussion to be drowned out by ill-informed noise and politically motivated falsehood. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

San Joaquin residents weigh in on health care reform - Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, held a moderated "telephone town hall" meeting on the topic. Residents in his 11th Congressional District were set to get a call around 6 p.m., where they would be given an option to listen in and ask questions. [Stockton Record article](#)

Atwater City Council rebukes Frago - The City Council reprimanded Councilman Gary Frago for sending racist e-mails in a letter on Wednesday night before more than 90 spectators in Atwater's community center. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

8 bid for 3 seats on Visalia City Council - Eight candidates are seeking election to three seats on the Visalia City Council in November. At least one new council member will be elected because incumbent Council Member Don Landers is not seeking re-election. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Candidates for Merced seats off and running - Five candidates will challenge one another for the three open City Council seats. Three council veterans will face off for the mayor's seat, a two-year term. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Deadline close for races for Stanislaus school boards - Though the filing period for several Stanislaus County school board races closed Friday, other deadlines were extended through Wednesday. The extension happens when an incumbent does not run for re-election. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Governor wants sweeping reforms in discipline system for healthcare providers -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger acknowledged Wednesday that there are "significant" backlogs in the discipline of healthcare providers across the state and promised sweeping reforms to correct a system that doesn't protect consumers from dentists, acupuncturists, therapists and other such professionals accused of misconduct. [LA Times article](#); [Capitol Alert](#)

Top USC professor becomes third new face at FPPC -- [Elizabeth Garrett](#), a top law professor and vice-president at the [University of Southern California](#), was today appointed to the state's Fair Political Practices Commission. [Capitol Alert](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Interior official vows attention from feds on Delta - Restoring the Delta and working through California's water woes will be a high priority under the Obama administration, pledged an Interior Department official who listened Wednesday as Delta fishers and farmers pleaded for his help. [Stockton Record article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Fresno sheriff: Part of jail will likely close -By laying off 35 correctional officers, Sheriff Margaret Mims said she will likely have to release more inmates early from the Fresno County Jail -- but some county officials say the layoffs are unnecessary. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Retired police officers, workers volunteer to get more cops on the street - Retired police officers, clerks and technicians are volunteering one to a few days a week to help put more officers out in the street or reduce the backlog of work in the building, the chief said. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Visalia Unified prepares for \$16 million shortfall - The Visalia Unified School District anticipates a \$16.35 million shortfall in state funding in fiscal 2009-10, but that won't make it any easier to swallow, district officials say. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Seven Bakersfield companies make Inc. 5000 list - Creating an effective corporate culture. Paying close attention to clients' needs. Discovering a niche. These are just a few of the ways some Bakersfield business leaders said they grew their revenue so much between 2005 and 2008 that they landed Wednesday on Inc. magazine's Inc. 5000 list, which recognizes the country's fastest-growing private companies. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Southwest Fresno holds untapped wealth, study finds - Southwest Fresno has a reputation for poverty, blight and crime. It's a daunting obstacle to business development -- but the neighborhood's gritty surface hides a gold mine for investors. That's what a nonprofit group recently concluded. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kaiser cuts worry workers in Valley - As Kaiser Permanente begins to eliminate 1,200 jobs in Northern California, it's uncertain how many cuts will occur at its medical facilities in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. [Modesto Bee article](#)

As commodity prices fall, Kings farmers scramble to adjust -- Tim Larson has been farming on the Westside of Kings County for a long time, but this year he's done something new: Leafy green tomato plants in

[Tracy Press](#)
[Univision 21](#)
[Visalia Times-Delta](#)
FRESNO CO. CITIES
[Coalinga](#)
[Clovis](#)
[Firebaugh](#)
[Fowler](#)
[Fresno](#)
[Huron](#)
[Kerman](#)
[Kingsburg](#)
[Mendota](#)
[Orange Cove](#)
[Parlier](#)
[Reedley](#)
[San Joaquin](#)
[Sanger](#)
[Selma](#)
KERN CO. CITIES
[Arvin](#)
[Bakersfield](#)
[California City](#)
[Delano](#)
[Maricopa](#)
[McFarland](#)
[Ridgecrest](#)
[Shafter](#)
[Taft](#)
[Tehachapi](#)
KINGS CO. CITIES
[Avenal](#)
[Corcoran](#)
[Hanford](#)
[Lemoore](#)
MADERA CO. CITIES
[Chowchilla](#)
[Madera](#)
MERCED CO. CITIES
[Atwater](#)
[Dos Palos](#)
[Gustine](#)
[Livingston](#)
[Los Banos](#)
[Merced](#)
SAN JOAQUIN CO. CITIES
[Escalon](#)
[Lathrop](#)
[Lodi](#)
[Manteca](#)
[Ripon](#)
[Stockton](#)
[Tracy](#)
STANISLAUS CO. CITIES
[Ceres](#)
[Hughson](#)
[Modesto](#)
[Newman](#)
[Oakdale](#)
[Patterson](#)
[Riverbank](#)
[Turlock](#)
[Waterford](#)
TULARE CO. CITIES
[Dinuba](#)
[Exeter](#)
[Farmersville](#)
[Lindsay](#)
[Porterville](#)
[Tulare](#)
[Visalia](#)

The Maddy Institute
 Calif. State Univ., Fresno
 2743 E Shaw Ave, Suite 107,
 MS OF 123
 Fresno, CA 93710
 PHONE:
 (559) 294-9119
 FAX:
 (559) 294-8118
 EMAIL:
mkepler@csufresno.edu
 WEBSITE:
www.maddyinstitute.org

Woodlake

long rows, with black plastic irrigation lines dribbling precious water to the roots. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Raisin grapes 20 percent lighter than 2008 – The forecast for the state's raisin grapes is 2.10 million tons, based on survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The survey showed grape bunches per vine were 20% lighter than last year. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Bakersfield farmer faces charge restarting harvest shut down by state – The Bakersfield farmer whose watermelon harvest was shut down Tuesday now faces misdemeanor charges after state inspectors returned to the site Wednesday morning and found five people on the job, a state official said. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kern economist measures housing, inflation, more – Here are some nuggets on the local economy from Abbas Grammy's writings in the Kern Economic Journal, 2009 second quarter issue. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno councilman hopes for light on Redevelopment Agency – Less than three months after winning approval for tighter scrutiny of city investments in outside projects, Fresno City Council Member Lee Brand wants to do the same for the city's Redevelopment Agency. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Audio of Dinuba police pursuit released – Dinuba police Wednesday released a dramatic three-minute audio recording of a police chase that ended in tragedy when a carjacked car ran a stop sign and crashed into a pickup, killing five young children and three teenagers. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Charity care an option for some facing tough times – At Mercy Medical Center Merced, the hospital's commitment to charity care allows it to give free care to those who qualify for it. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Green building code will begin this month – The state's green building code, the first of its kind in the nation, takes effect this month, the [California Building Standards Commission](#) announced this week. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Foster Farms to scoop up dairy – Foster Farms Dairy plans to buy Humboldt Creamery, a move that would make the Modesto company a major player in the organic milk business. [AP article](#)

Stockton Record: Air service with a purpose – A record number of passengers hopped on Allegiant Air flights to Las Vegas last month, demonstrating again that with the right destination and careful control of the service level, Stockton Metropolitan Airport can be a viable service point. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Alpaugh parents mixed on four-day-week plan – Alpaugh Unified School District's plan to move to a four-day school week is drawing mixed reactions from parents. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Tulare City School District adopts policy limiting time spent on homework – The Tulare City School District has adopted a new homework policy that limits the minutes students work on assignments. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Union asks Stockton Unified to put superintendent on leave – Union leaders have called on Stockton Unified School District trustees to place Superintendent Anthony Amato on administrative leave over his involvement with an organization that links textbook and curriculum publishers with school administrators. [Stockton Record article](#)

Ceres community garden is a classroom – Christina Hemming volunteers at a school garden, helping kids learn while they sink their hands into the dirt. [Modesto Bee article](#)

San Jose State to tell repeating students: Get help elsewhere – San Jose State University has a tough message for the hundreds of students who fail pre-college math or English courses and need to take them again: You're on your own. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Grant to improve Valley school rates – A Caltrans grant will pay for street work aiming at a safer route to several Valley schools, the agency announced this week. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Financial links between colleges, nonprofits draw scrutiny – Free-speech groups are trying to force the state's public universities to disclose financial relationships worth more than \$6.25 billion. At issue are scores of nonprofit foundations linked to the schools. The University of California and the California State University say unveiling the finances would cost millions of dollars in staff time. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Declining student count closes Modesto school – August is when the staff at Wood Colony Brethren School in northwest Modesto usually begins gearing up for a new school season. But not this year. Declining enrollment because of the recession has led the private Christian school to close its doors for good. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno no. 14 in foreclosed homes – Las Vegas is number one, with Stockton, Modesto, Fort Myers, Fla., and Merced rounding out the top five foreclosure hot spots. Fresno ranked No. 14. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Median home price jumps in San Joaquin – The San Joaquin County real estate market appears to be on the rebound, industry professionals said after a July sales report posted a significant gain in the median price. [Stockton Record article](#)

Despite down market, buyers facing hurdles – The real estate bust pushed home prices in San Joaquin County off a cliff, but some would-be home buyers are still finding it difficult to buy houses. [Stockton Record article](#)

Plan for low-income housing sparks debate in Ivanhoe – Residents have flooded meetings of the Tulare County Planning Commission and the board of supervisors, giving emotional testimony about crime, traffic,

ambulance response times and the lack of jobs and transportation in the area. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

State puts shady foreclosure consultants on notice – California Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown Wednesday increased the heat on businesses that prey on struggling homeowners, ordering nearly 400 mortgage foreclosure consultant companies to post \$100,000 bonds and register with his office or risk prosecution. [LA Times article](#)

California exports down sharply again in June -- [California](#) exports were sharply down for the eighth straight month in June as the state's struggling economy and fiscal problems among trading partners continued to put the brakes on trade. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Lodi electric utility manager leaving – Lodi Electric Utility Director George Morrow, who took over San Joaquin County's only city-owned electric utility at its financial brink and oversaw its sometimes controversial turnaround, will step down Aug. 30, city officials announced Wednesday. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – Health care reform -- in whatever form -- is too important an issue for us to allow the discussion to be drowned out by [ill-informed noise and politically motivated falsehood](#).

Fresno Bee – All the shouting at town hall meetings on health care reform doesn't change the fact that the [current system is badly broken](#); Eunice Kennedy Shriver's [legacy is monumental](#).

Merced Sun-Star – In this difficult economic time, distressed homeowners need to be [wary of schemes](#) that offer to help them for a substantial fee.

Modesto Bee – State's college fees [need to be stabilized](#).

Sacramento Bee – Pedestrian [risks can be reduced](#) in Sacramento; Bus fare hikes will [hit transfers hard](#) in Sacramento.

Stockton Record – We must [calm the health care debate](#); [Air service with a purpose](#) at Stockton Metro.

Visalia Times-Delta – Crash could lead to [a better policy](#) on high-speed chases.

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.

This document is to be used for informational purposes only. Unless specifically noted, the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno does not officially endorse or support views that may be expressed in the document. If you want to print a story, please do so now before the link expires.