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Mike Lukens

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 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
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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

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KERN COUNTY

Elections Division

August 14, 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 – Former state Sen. Chuck Poochigian, a Maddy Institute board member, will be the next guest on The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

IOUs to end on Sept. 4 -- [State](#) Controller John [Chiang](#) today announced he will stop issuing IOUs to private vendors and others on Sept. 4, a month earlier than previously projected, after a review of projected [state](#) cash flow. [Sacramento Bee article](#).

California board votes to drop health care coverage for 60,000 children – The announcement by state officials that California has enough cash to stop paying bills with IOUs did little to take the sting out of other budget news Thursday: Tens of thousands of poor children are about to lose their healthcare coverage. [LA Times article](#); [Capitol Alert](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#); [Modesto Bee article](#)

California revenues slightly above new forecast – The latest [Department of Finance bulletin](#) says [California](#) received \$65 million more in revenues in July than forecast in the newly enacted budget revision. [Capitol Alert](#)

Dan Walters: Smoke tax on Legislature's agenda as fiscal noose tightens – The state's politicians are casting about for ways to relieve the financial – and political – pressure. That's why, almost by default, raising the state's cigarette tax, now 87 cents a pack, has again moved to the Capitol's front burner. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Arambula ousted as public safety chair – Juan Arambula of Fresno, who recently quit the [Democratic Party](#) to re-register as an Independent, has been stripped of his chairmanship of the Assembly Public Safety Committee. [Capitol Alert](#); [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

McCarthy's town hall meeting moved again – Constituents are clamoring for Congressman Jim Costa to attend an upcoming town hall meeting on health care reform in Bakersfield, but his office says he's not able to make it. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Valley health town halls kept to a minimum – Congressional town hall meetings can now be a contact sport, prompting San Joaquin Valley lawmakers to try different strategies for meeting with constituents. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Town hall meetings: Should they be in person or over the phone? – Should Rep. Jerry McNerney conduct town hall meetings by telephone as he did Wednesday night — or should he face the music and discuss President Obama's health-care proposal before a live audience? [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Alan Autry in 'Chinatown' redux? – Intriguingly, the former co-star of the television show "In the Heat of the Night" indicated that he is now in pre-production for a movie that he said would delve into the Valley's water issues. It's not a documentary. [Fresno Bee political notebook – scroll to item](#)

Sacramento Bee: Unequal clout leads to pay gap for state workers – [California's](#) 200,000 employees are represented by 12 different unions in 21 different bargaining units. Over the past 20 years, some state workers have gotten much bigger raises than others. [Market forces](#) play a role, but so does union political clout.

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
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 Bakersfield Californian
 Capitol Weekly
 Fresno Bee
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 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
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 San Francisco Chronicle
 Stockton Record
 The Business Journal

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[Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Merced school district races fill up but many running unopposed – Two members of Merced County school boards will be voted in -- not by citizens, but by the boards themselves. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Sacramento Bee: A welcome pause in gay marriage fight – Here's some good news: It now appears that Californians might be spared another bitter, divisive fight over the definition of marriage next year. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

2010 CA gov race: Brown leads Newsom, 29-20, in new poll, but gap narrowing – San Francisco Mayor [Gavin Newsom](#) is gaining ground on State attorney general [Jerry Brown](#) in the 2010 California governor's race, according to a [new poll from non-partisan Research 2000](#) which calls the Democratic contest "anyone's game." [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Newsom takes strong stands in Sacramento meeting – The [San Francisco](#) mayor spoke at length about environmental justice, same-sex marriage, smart [food production](#) and other nouveau ideas he has proudly championed. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

CalPERS getting share of lawsuit settlement – CalPERS will share in a \$925 million settlement of a shareholder lawsuit against a Minnesota health insurer and its former chief executive over stock manipulation. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

What do FPPC's 3 new deciders face? Big backlog – [Elizabeth Garrett](#), a University of Southern California law professor, Chapman University law professor [Ronald Rotunda](#), and [Lynn Montgomery](#), a veteran Sacramento political hand and ex-FPPC spokeswoman, join a watchdog that has been hampered in its efforts to bring more criminal prosecutions over the years though it remains the envy of other states, said [Robert Stern](#), president of the Center for Governmental Studies. [Capitol Alert](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Tulare County cutting 55 child welfare jobs – Tulare County will eliminate 55 positions in the Child Welfare Services division because of an unexpected \$2 million to the Tulare County Health and Human Service Agency in state budget funds, Supervisor Phil Cox said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Stockton Record: Diversity is essential for Valley economy -- We can no longer depend on agriculture to hold the economy up. There are just too many people living in the Valley who have no connection to that industry. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Budget woes close books on wife's beloved library job – Thank you, city of Stockton. Darn you, city of Stockton. What the city giveth, the city taketh away. And its budgetary adjustments - that's a nice word for cutbacks - do have human impact. [Stockton Record article](#)

More than half of Bakersfield homes with mortgages are underwater – Owners of more than half of all mortgaged homes in Bakersfield are upside down on their loans. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Taking blighted yards of foreclosures into their own hands in Stockton – When the weeds in the backyard of a foreclosed property neighboring George Checchi's south Stockton home grew to 7 feet tall, seemingly peering over his fence, the 36-year-old decided he could no longer wait for an incoming home buyer to move in and maintain the yard. [Stockton Record article](#)

Query on pensions requested by Stanislaus board – The Stanislaus County Employees' Retirement Association has rejected another request seeking information about public service retirees getting more than \$100,000 a year in pension. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Academic gains at Fresno Unified touted – Students in Fresno Unified School District posted significant gains in California's standardized tests this past school year, the fourth straight year of improved student achievement, district officials said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Budget cuts leave Delta College struggling to meet needs – Record numbers of recent high school graduates as well as the county's unemployed or underemployed are turning to Delta. But just when the college's training services are needed most, budget cuts are making it more difficult to satisfy these students' needs. [Stockton Record article](#)

Former governor, community rally to save Exeter freshman football team – For a couple of months, it appeared as if Exeter High School was going to have to cut its 2009 freshman football program. That's when Exeter alumni, including former Nevada Gov. Guinn, decided to step up and help save the team. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

UC launches fall extension classes in Fresno – University of California officials hope a new schedule of extension classes this fall will generate more interest in Fresno. [Fresno Bee article](#)

UC awarded grant to research solar energy – The most abundant source of renewable energy is the sun, but current technology used to convert sunlight into electricity still is relatively costly for wide-scale use. That's why researchers at the University of California at Merced are looking for ways to make solar energy more efficient and cheaper. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Plotting the path of renewable power lines – A new state report tries to tackle one of the touchiest issues in California's effort to expand renewable power, suggesting possible routes for new transmission lines to carry electricity from wind farms and solar plants. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

[Tracy Press](#)
[Univision 21](#)
[Visalia Times-Delta](#)
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Woodlake

Cal State Fullerton abruptly begins cancelling classes – Cal State Fullerton officials say the university has suddenly begun canceling classes, including those that were already underway, because it's being required to make cuts to help the state balance its budget. [Orange County Register article](#)

Hanford's newest high school opens -- The bells rang loud and clear at 7:45 this morning, signaling the start of the first day of classes at Hanford's newest and third high school, Sierra Pacific. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Bottled water sales see a drought – The recession has finally answered the question that centuries of philosophers could not: The glass is half-empty. That's because sales of bottled water have fallen for the first time in at least five years, assailed by wrathful environmentalists and budget-conscious consumers who have discovered that tap water is practically free. [LA Times article](#)

Marijuana co-op sues Kern sheriff – An Oildale medical marijuana cooperative wants its pot and money back from the Kern County Sheriff's Department. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Bakersfield's Padre Hotel taking applications for 250 new jobs – Developers working to renovate the Padre Hotel are looking to fill some 250 open positions in advance of the downtown landmark's October. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Tulare County agency to be closed every Friday – The new hours now mean the Resource Management Agency, or RMA, which houses the planning, engineering and permit operations, will not open its offices at all on Fridays for the next 10 weeks. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Jobs cut, hours reduced at Fresno Art Museum – The Fresno Art Museum this week is cutting its budget by a third, laying off a still undetermined number of its 15 employees and declaring furloughs for those who remain. The museum also is reducing the number of days it will be open. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Telecom companies reject stimulus funding – The Obama administration made it a national priority to spread high-speed Internet access to every American home and it offered stimulus money to help companies pay for it, but the biggest network operators are staying away from the program. [LA Times article](#)

Modesto, Turlock irrigation districts bill too big? There's a reason – Electricity customers could see especially high power bills this summer, and it's not just because they cranked up the air conditioning. The Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts have implemented rate increases approved months ago. That's on top of their usual switch to higher rates for the warmest part of each year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

SBA's small business loan program fizzles – [Business owners](#) have flooded the [phone lines](#) since the [Small Business Administration](#) rolled out a new stimulus-fueled loan program in June. But frustration has come with the high demand. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Village One businesses worry by center's vacancies in Modesto – The owners of Village One Plaza have learned that if you build it they will come, until a recession gets in the way. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Valley sees increase in truck-driving school applicants – Derrick Holt, of Exeter, is a student at Proteus Inc.'s truck-driving school in Visalia, where he is one of a growing number of people across the country trying to start careers as truck drivers. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Fresno Bee: What about consolidation? – Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims and the Board of Supervisors continue to play politics with public safety, while ignoring the money that could be saved through law enforcement consolidation. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Bill McEwen: Carmakers stop riding the brakes on mileage – The race finally is on. Car buyers soon won't have to settle for incremental fuel-mileage improvements from manufacturers half-heartedly embracing the green movement. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

1st Fresno County West Nile case confirmed – A 27-year-old man is Fresno County's first confirmed case of West Nile virus this year, health officials said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Swine flu kills Merced woman – Merced County's first death from the swine flu has been reported by the Merced County Department of Public Health. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Scores of dead fish in Atwater canal prompt investigation – Hundreds of dead fish that filled canals around the southwest rural area of Atwater on Thursday afternoon were probably killed by a lack of oxygen. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Lois Henry: Cracks in Kern's domestic violence system a grave threat – The deaths of Annette Sowders and her mother show at least two substantial cracks in Kern County's domestic violence protection system that need fixing – pronto. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Food vendor ban protested in Stockton – A swell of protests and complaints have hit the Downtown Stockton Alliance since the agency temporarily eliminated most food vendors from the farmers' market, held Fridays at midday, in an effort to protect sales at downtown restaurants. [Stockton Record article](#)

Illegal styling products targeted in Stanislaus, San Joaquin counties – Call it "Hairspray: The Lawsuit." The Stanislaus County district attorney's office is holding firm against unlawful hair products by taking part in a statewide lawsuit against several national retailers who stock beauty supplies alleged to violate California environmental law. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Deal would save downtown Fresno trees – Tree Fresno has made an offer it figures Fresno City Hall can't refuse: Call off the chain saws, and we'll take care of Eaton Plaza's historic grove of camphor trees. City Hall's

response: Maybe. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Hanford master-planned community clears first hurdle -- Step one is done. Brentwood developer MMV Development cleared the first hurdle Tuesday night toward building a 390-acre master-planned community in south Hanford. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Visalia pole yard taken off EPA list - Federal environmental authorities officially removed the old Southern California Edison pole-yard site in Visalia from the Superfund cleanup list July 27, officials reported. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Sacramento County offers \$480,000 in homeless lawsuit; city won't settle - [Sacramento County](#) has agreed to pay \$488,000 to partially resolve a class-action lawsuit on behalf of homeless people who have had their property seized and destroyed by city and county authorities. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Kern river named a top rafting spot -- Praising her "adrenaline-charged" white rapids, National Geographic Adventure has selected the Kern as one of the top rivers in the country for rafting. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee - Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims and the Board of Supervisors [continue to play politics](#) with public safety, while ignoring the money that could be saved through law enforcement consolidation; You can [make a difference](#) to a hungry neighbor.

Merced Sun-Star - Let's [debate, not shout](#) about health care reform.

Modesto Bee - Stanislaus races are set; [voters, get ready](#); In this difficult economic time, distressed homeowners [need to be wary of schemes](#) that offer to help them for a substantial fee.

Sacramento Bee - Unequal clout leads to [pay gap](#) for state workers; Here's some good news: It now appears that Californians might be spared another [bitter, divisive fight](#) over the definition of marriage next year.

Stockton Record - We can [no longer depend on agriculture](#) to hold the economy up. There are just too many people living in the Valley who have no connection to that industry.

Visalia Times-Delta - [Cheers](#) to Tulare County people and businesses.

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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