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August 17, 2009

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MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Forum is a weekly 30-minute public affairs program focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley. The show 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 discuss “California government: What Went Wrong and How Do We Fix It?” on the next Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Lawmakers, back from recess, must act fast – The California Legislature reconvenes today, after a three-week break following a bruising budget battle, to face some of the state’s thorniest issues: water, prisons and spending. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Dan Walters: Legislature’s in last inning of age-old game – Other than passing two [state budget](#) revisions that failed to close a chronic deficit, the [California Legislature](#) has done almost nothing so far this year. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Governor wants to revamp battered public-worker pension programs – Weeks after wrapping up a deal to close a \$26 billion [budget deficit](#), Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) is taking aim at what he calls [California’s](#) next great fiscal problem: the state’s battered pension system. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Jean Ross: Surveying the wreckage in California budget – The executive director of the California Budget Project writes that those of us who look at the budget for a living are just getting started on the long task ahead: Understanding the impact of this and other recent agreements on the state. Though there’s much work to do, here are some initial observations about the state of the state’s budget and what it means for California’s future. [Ross column in Calbuzz](#)

Democrats wonder if there could be more than Brown and Newsom – Democrats are playing a parlor game as they map out the possibilities in the governor’s race, asking such delicious questions as: If Lt. Gov. John Garamendi loses in his bid for the 10th Congressional seat, will he jump back into the governor’s race? [Contra Costa Times article](#)

Who will be the next Lt. Gov.? Garamendi gives his views – It’s getting to be a very interesting guessing game in Sacramento -- and we asked Lt. Gov. [John Garamendi](#) himself to weigh in on who might succeed him should he win that special Congressional election in the CD 10 district of the East Bay. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

LA budget deal threatens to unravel – Nearly three months after he signed off on a plan to eliminate a \$530-million shortfall, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa still has not won enough concessions from city workers to avert deep cutbacks that could hit L.A.’s police hardest. [LA Times article](#)

Sacramento mayor has sizable volunteer staff – He assembled a team of more than two-dozen paid interns, volunteers and other staffers. Eleven of them are unpaid, while the rest receive funding through donations to a nonprofit group administered by the city or from the mayor’s discretionary budget. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

BART strike averted, tentative deal reached – BART management and union leaders reached a tentative contract agreement Sunday evening, averting a threatened strike that would have crippled this morning’s commute. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Terra Bella fisherman fights against license wearing -- Terra Bella fisherman Jeff Gletne doesn’t wear his driver’s license when driving to Morro Bay. So why, the recreational angler wants to know, must he display a fishing license when he gets there? [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Budget cuts rock Valley cities, counties – Victims include 1,135 people who no longer work for

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 Analysts 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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Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced counties and 20 of their cities, representing about 6 percent of the local government work force. Those remaining will miss at least 36,000 workdays because of furloughs this fiscal year, according to a Bee review. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Businesses fear green law will put them in the red – Green-minded businesses want to know: How much green will it cost them to comply with sweeping new climate change regulations? [Stockton Record article](#)

A drifting danger for Valley schoolchildren – Despite regulations and laws to protect children, Fresno County authorities say school buses are still being exposed to pesticide clouds once or twice a year. [LA Times article](#)

Quality of life sees slip in Visalia – Major changes in a quality-of-life survey circulated in Visalia last year including the use of a smaller, more diverse sample group and face-to-face interviews coincided with a steep decline in respondents' level of satisfaction with the city. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Grass roots action renews city of Visalia – Thumbs up to the city of Visalia for helping its citizens become empowered to take action. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Herb Opalek: The crime of being poor – It is tragic how low we have sunk in this country when dealing with poverty and homelessness. [Opalek column in Merced Sun-Star](#)

New Stockton police chief wants to reassess how department does its job – Having secured his position at the top of the Stockton Police Department, Chief Blair Ulring plans to give it a thorough going-over. [Stockton Record article](#)

Powered parachute allows Ripon police to fly over crime, hazards – Look up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. No, it's the Ripon Police Department's powered parachute, an aircraft able to search for missing children and lost river rafters in a single bound. [Modesto Bee article](#)

UC Merced, Yosemite work together – One of UC Merced's selling points is its proximity to Yosemite National Park. Not only can students make the short trip to hike, swim, climb, camp and bike in the park, they can participate in two university partnerships with Yosemite. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Ever wonder what's behind the academic resting acronyms? – As schools head into session, state officials are preparing their annual homework: test scores and school performance results that start coming out this week. [Modesto Bee article](#)

2 dogs sniff out ag disease in Fresno County -- On the front lines of Fresno County's battle against agricultural pests and diseases are two four-legged inspectors with a knack for finding bad bugs. [Fresno Bee article](#)

TV ad warns Californians about agricultural pests – The commercial, debuting this week, is the federal government's warning to Californians that even the healthy looking fruits and vegetables they might smuggle into the state could harbor something deadly and damage its \$39 billion agriculture industry. [AP article](#)

Doctors' top priority: Care – When people lose their health insurance, it's often the routine checkups they sacrifice first. [Stockton Record article](#)

Older workers hang on to jobs – Americans have been losing their jobs in droves, yet one group has gained ground in employment during this recession: workers 55 and older. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kern awash in unlicensed drivers – Sobriety checkpoints set up in Bakersfield in recent months haven't nabbed huge numbers of drunken drivers. But they're netting unlicensed drivers by the dozens — with 92 cited at a checkpoint in east Bakersfield last month. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Project to ease Fresno traffic jams -- Federal stimulus money might be used to ease dangerous commute congestion at the junction of three Fresno freeways -- five years ahead of schedule. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Traffic fatalities fall again in Kern – Last year, Kern County had the second highest drop in traffic fatalities out of all the counties in California. However, data collected so far this year show that decrease may not be holding up. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Workers bracing to say goodbye to Toyota plant – Most industry analysts believe it's a foregone conclusion that the Japanese automaker will shut California's last remaining auto plant. That leaves 3,600 union workers to hope against enormous odds. [LA Times article](#)

Kern patients must be aware of Valley fever – Kern County is a valley fever "hot spot," where in some years the number of reported cases is so large that an epidemic is declared. An endemic fungal infection, valley fever is contracted when someone inhales an airborne spore released by the wind from the soil of southwestern United States, Mexico and some parts of South America. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

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Obesity a crushing weight on U.S. health care – Obesity is the elephant in the room of health care reform, a public health catastrophe that kills more than 100,000 Americans a year, cost the nation \$147 billion last year and threatens to shorten U.S. life expectancy for the first time since the Civil War. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Some saw the housing bubble and solid; trick now is finding the bottom – Just as experts couldn't precisely time the bursting of the housing bubble, no one claims to know exactly when the market will hit its bottom. [LA Times article](#)

Grim forecast for LA, Long Beach ports – As the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach post another round of dismal monthly import statistics, a new assessment finds that the nation's busiest seaport complex will need at least four more years to fully recover its momentum -- not to mention the jobs, incomes and revenues that went with it -- after the worst global recession in 60 years. [LA Times article](#)

Fresno's Tower District studies update -- A conceptual plan for Tower District street improvements is drawing attention -- some of it critical -- over the idea of traffic circles on Olive Avenue at Wishon and Van Ness avenues. [Fresno Bee article](#)

With water and artistic glass, San Joaquin County to open – It is green, stuffed with art, and cost \$92.9 million. It is not just a building, but a destination. After two years of planning and construction, the new six-story county administration building in downtown Stockton is coming to life. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Stockton Record: City's probe of Ford firing should be quick and its results public – True, personnel matters generally are kept private. But this is no longer a private matter. It involves allegations of a high city official misusing his position. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Stockton mayor to discuss reopening park – That Edna Gleason Park remains closed almost three years after it was rebuilt came up in last year's mayoral race. Mayor Ann Johnston, then a candidate, featured it in a mailer and said the fence around the park should come down. [Stockton Record article](#)

Developer wants to restore Fresno hotel -- The developer who converted the old Hotel Virginia into offices is now asking for a loan from Fresno's Redevelopment Agency to help restore another downtown eyesore. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Merced Sun-Star – Anyone who still doesn't recognize that the 46 million Americans who lack medical insurance are a problem for the 250 million who do should consider [the predicament of hospitals](#) in the state and the Valley.

Modesto Bee – [Important meetings](#) in Stanislaus this week.

Sacramento Bee – [Drive to succeed](#) led Hmong student to MIT.

Stockton Record – City's probe of Ford firing should be [quick and its results public](#).

Visalia Times-Delta – Thumbs up to the city of Visalia for [helping its citizens become empowered](#) to take action

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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