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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 19, 2009

In this issue

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

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

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Governor demands water bond for dams – The Legislature's fight over water is evolving into a fight over money. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today said he will not approve a deal unless it includes a multibillion-dollar bond to pay for dams and other projects. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Governor's remarks](#); [Stockton Record article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Valley continues marathon fight for clean drinking water – [David McNeir](#) is a bishop of his church and a man of faith. But he has found himself banging his hand on a table more than once when negotiating with public health authorities for clean [drinking water](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

California to get \$1.5 billion loan from JPMorgan Chase -- Major banks snubbed California last month when the state asked them to continue cashing its IOUs. Now, one of the banks is riding in to help the state end the IOU program a month earlier than expected. [LA Times article](#)

California gets some good news on credit rating (for once) – [Standard & Poor's](#) on Tuesday kept [California](#) at an 'A' rating for its long-term debt and eliminated its immediate threat of a downgrade because it said the July budget revision reduced pressure on the state's fiscal condition for the time being. [Capitol Alert](#)

California government reform proposals begin to take shape – State lawmakers tiptoed Tuesday into the roiling debate over how to overhaul California government. With less than a month left in the legislative session, proponents of change urged a state Senate panel to quickly adopt ideas that have bipartisan support while continuing to push for solutions to tougher problems -- or risk having voters do it for them. [LA Times article](#)

Dan Walters: Can California's dysfunction ever be fixed? – Two separate, somewhat competitive movements have been launched to overhaul governance in [California](#), and representatives of both testified Tuesday, along with other political stakeholders. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Fresno Bee: State reform plan offers good, if timid, start – We had hoped that the reforms proposed by a nonpartisan group looking at California government would be bold. Unfortunately, the proposals aren't reforms at all but a tweaking of the system. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Sacramento Bee: A good start on change for state – After years of talk, fitful starts and poorly executed campaigns, California is finally in the midst of a serious discussion about the future of its state and local governments. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Controller Chiang details state's budget woes in Modesto talk – California's economic woes should hit bottom in late 2009 or early 2010 -- but that won't mark the end of the state's budget problems, state Controller John Chiang told a Modesto audience Tuesday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Steinberg: Need more time to study online poker – As lobbyists for card clubs and Indian gambling tribes push to legalize online poker in [California](#), Senate President Pro Tem [Darrell Steinberg](#), D-Sacramento, said Tuesday he's open to the idea but doesn't believe there is enough time in the [Legislature's](#) remaining four weeks to make a decision. [Capitol Alert](#)

Legislature urges disclosure, transparency of state contracts – The state of California is in a major push to increase the disclosure around contracts with private firms. But it's not enough for Assemblyman Mike Eng, D-Monterey Park. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

CalPERS calls for health care reform – CalPERS, the country's second-biggest customer of health care services, urged [Congress](#) on Tuesday to act quickly to overhaul the country's much-maligned [health care system](#).

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 Division](#)
[Madera County EDC](#)
[Madera County Farm Bureau](#)
[Madera County WIB](#)
[Madera County](#)
[Madera Co. Transpt. Comm.](#)
[Office of Education](#)
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[Assn. of Governments](#)
[Elections](#)
[Merced County](#)
[Merced WIB](#)
[Merced County EDC](#)
[Merced County Farm Bureau](#)
[Office of Education](#)
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[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](#)
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saying there would be "a huge cost to inaction." [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Jim Boren: They're bringing guns to health care meetings – The Fresno Bee's editorial page editor isn't sure what guns and health care have in common other than if you use one, someone may need health care. But they are now linked in the campaign against health care reform. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Nunes sets health care meeting -- Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia, will hold a health-care reform meeting from 8 to 10 a.m. Thursday at Clovis East High School, 2940 Leonard Ave. Clovis. [Fresno Bee article](#)

McNerney tours Lodi to discuss solar project – Congressman Jerry McNerney visited with Mayor Larry Hansen on Tuesday to discuss Lodi's future as a green energy innovator and recreational paradise. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

A conservative's road to same-sex marriage advocacy – Given the traditional battle lines on the issue, Theodore Olson's decision to file a lawsuit challenging California's recent ban on same-sex marriage has stirred up stereotype-rattled suspicion on both sides. [NY Times article](#)

Whitman discusses California immigration issues – Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#) said Tuesday that she supports toughening federal enforcement on employers who hire illegal immigrants and also expanding guest worker programs for farmworkers and highly skilled immigrants. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Carly Fiorina files paperwork to explore 2010 Senate bid -- Former Hewlett-Packard CEO [Carly Fiorina](#) announced today that she has taken another step toward launching a U.S. [Senate](#) bid. [Capitol Alert](#)

Senate bid dogged by Fiorina's failure to vote -- Republican Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, took her first formal step Tuesday to challenge incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer - but does she pass the Citizenship 1o1 test? [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Merced County lays off 89, cuts \$33 million from budget – Despite emotional, tear-filled pleas from Merced County employees and the public, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved drastic cost-cutting measures aimed at closing a \$44 million budget gap. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Livingston avoids cuts with 'bare bones' budget – The Livingston City Council adopted a bare bones 2009-2010 budget Tuesday night, which reduced spending across the board but stopped short when it came to major cuts in staffing or service levels. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

San Joaquin supervisors approve 17 new sheriff's deputies – Without any discussion Tuesday morning, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors committed themselves to spend nearly \$2 million so they could accept a \$5.1 million grant to hire 17 deputies. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

California students making slow but steady progress on state tests – Public school teachers are beginning the school year with a keen understanding of how well or poorly their students performed on standardized tests taken last spring—and the enormous challenge ahead to meet ever-tougher federal goals. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Big lag in test scores for blacks, Hispanics – Despite a seventh straight year of improved test scores statewide, results released today show California schools failed to make a significant dent in a historically immovable achievement gap - one that leaves black and Hispanic students lagging well behind their white and Asian peers. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Fresno Unified tests rise, still trail state – Students in Fresno Unified School District made gains in California's standardized testing, but still lag behind most of the rest of the state, according to results released this morning. Clovis Unified's students, meanwhile, continued to outperform most schools statewide. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kern school test results a mixed bag – On the whole, Kern County schools posted improved test scores over last year on the annual tests, which measure student proficiency in history, science, math and English. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kings STAR results are in -- Kings County students improved their scores on state STAR tests, according to results released Tuesday by the state. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Merced students still behind state average but are making progress – Merced County schools are mostly getting by with a C average. But that's better than report cards of years past. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Encouraging signs in San Joaquin schools – Though continuing to make progress on standardized tests, San Joaquin County students still trail their counterparts from around the state, and Stockton Unified students trail those in neighboring school districts. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

State tests show Stanislaus County students improving – Westport is one of many schools in Stanislaus County that improved on state test scores, according to the data released by the California Department of Education on Tuesday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Visalia Unified's test scores improve – For the third year in a row, Visalia Unified School District students showed improved performance in California Standards Tests scores released Tuesday. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Visalia Unified plans three new schools, bond – The Visalia Unified School District has three schools on the drawing board. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

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[Univision 21](#)
[Visalia Times-Delta](#)
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[Sanger](#)
[Selma](#)
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[California City](#)
[Delano](#)
[Maricopa](#)
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[Ridgecrest](#)
[Shafter](#)
[Taft](#)
[Tehachapi](#)
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[Avenal](#)
[Corcoran](#)
[Hanford](#)
[Lemoore](#)
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[Chowchilla](#)
[Madera](#)
MERCED CO. CITIES
[Atwater](#)
[Dos Palos](#)
[Gustine](#)
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[Merced](#)
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[Escalon](#)
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[Lodi](#)
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[Ripon](#)
[Stockton](#)
[Tracy](#)
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[Ceres](#)
[Hughson](#)
[Modesto](#)
[Newman](#)
[Oakdale](#)
[Patterson](#)
[Riverbank](#)
[Turlock](#)
[Waterford](#)
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Woodlake

Valley embraces trend of online college courses – Locally, Fresno State's Web-based courses expanded from 14 in fall 2001 to 148 in spring 2009. In West Hills Community College District, close to 42% of the students enrolled for fall are taking at least one online class. Both for-profit and nonprofit colleges and universities now offer entire degree programs online. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Lodi Unified takes renewed look at graduation requirements – The class of 2016 could be required to take an additional year of math and a new, yet-to-be developed technology proficiency course to graduate. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Stockton Unified OKs contracts with vendors – Four contracts with three vendors of educational services and materials were approved by the Stockton Unified School District Board of Trustees at a special meeting Tuesday. [Stockton Unified article](#)

Michael Fitzgerald: A solid manager is the heart of a city's success – Crime remains high, blight widespread. Revival spends too much and serves too few, or so many believe, making redevelopment controversial. Which brings us to the city manager. That person hires or promotes supposedly superb department heads - of police, public works, etc. - to run city functions well. [Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

Patterson-Stanislaus County meeting called a success – Stanislaus County supervisors' first stab in many years at meeting with a city council went down Tuesday as smoothly as an apricot milkshake. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Allensworth officials hope to keep park open – Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park officials remain optimistic that their park won't be on the closure list once the California State Parks department finalizes its budget in September. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Tulare supervisors raise utility rates in small communities – Residents of six communities El Rancho, Delft Colony, Seville, Traver, Yettem and Wells Tract will see their monthly sewer bills rise by \$4 to \$7. In Delft Colony and Yettem, water rates will increase by \$4 a month. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

West Side farmers take case against power line to Modesto Irrigation District – A West Side farming family complained Tuesday about damage from new power transmission lines strung by the Modesto Irrigation District. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Customers might get a break from Modesto Irrigation District rate hike – Electricity customers of the Modesto Irrigation District might get a break from the large rate increase set for Sept. 1. The district board Tuesday discussed reducing or canceling the hike, which would average 16 percent if it went through. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Wal-Mart sides sharpen their battle plans in Merced – On the eve of the project's first public hearing, distribution center proponents and critics have intensified their effort to reach citizens who support their causes. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Kern supervisors reject northwest Bakersfield home development -- Kern County Supervisor Jon McQuiston cast the deciding vote against a northwest Bakersfield development Tuesday, saying it goes against the spirit of legislation to reduce climate change and global warming. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Lois Henry: Developers have had the wheel long enough -- Here's an idea: Those who put an extra burden on the system by building housing subdivisions should help ease that burden by paying a fee toward traffic improvements from the profits they'll reap from that very subdivision. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Turlock stadium funding has strings attached – School board members Tuesday night unanimously agreed to take nearly \$3 million from the city to install an all-weather track and synthetic field at Joe Debelo Stadium. [Modesto Bee article](#)

How Kern Medical Center did it: Profit may carry over to 2010, or not – Paul Hensler faced a fair amount of skepticism last month when he declared a \$10.16 million profit at Kern Medical Center. The hospital hadn't made money in a decade. Last fiscal year it lost \$5 million. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Conflicting information from Kaiser – Kaiser Permanente continues to confuse and confound many of the 253,000 members in its Central Valley Service Area, after the premature mailing last week of a letter outlining changes to its after-hours care services. [Stockton Record article](#)

Merced Sun-Star: Death from swine flu goes underreported because county's information pipeline is backed up – If the county doesn't give us enough truth, or any truth, we can't give it to you, our audience, the taxpayers, the residents affected every day by what these people decide behind closed doors at their many offices. [Merced Sun-Star editorial](#)

Visalia commission launches anti-smoking efforts in city parks – Visalia officials are considering using peer pressure to discourage smoking in all 40 of the city's parks and numerous playgrounds. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Fresno fined for diesel violations -- State air regulators have fined the city of Fresno \$49,500 for violating California diesel emission regulations. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Can Kettleman City uncork itself? Kings supervisor explores area's potential as gateway to wine country -- A team of Kings County leaders led by Kings County Supervisor Richard Valle and a group of Paso Robles wine industry promoters, along with his like-minded counterpart from San Luis Obispo County, met Friday in Kettleman City, toasting to a new inter-county partnership and a plan to turn its highway commercial area into a double-door "gateway" that can showcase wine and olive oil from the coast and, perhaps, fresh produce from

the Valley. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Bakersfield police admit mishandling two potentially dangerous 911 calls -- People who called Bakersfield police on two dangerous and potentially life threatening emergencies were left hanging for hours because dispatchers mistakenly downplayed their importance. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee – We had hoped that the reforms proposed by a nonpartisan group looking at California government would be bold. Unfortunately, the proposals aren't reforms at all but a [tweaking of the system](#).

Merced Sun-Star – Death from swine flu goes underreported because county [information pipeline is backed up](#).

Modesto Bee – State [budget follies](#) prolonged by Steinberg suit.

Sacramento Bee – After years of talk, fitful starts and poorly executed campaigns, [California](#) is finally in the midst of [a serious discussion](#) about the future of its state and local governments; Cash for Clunkers is [cash for dealers](#).

Stockton Record – Stockton clamors for [more big-time concerts](#).

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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