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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 22, 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. (No Insider this week.)

POLITICAL BRIEFS

California sales tax revenue dries up – In an unprecedented move, state officials this year have notified hundreds of cities and counties that their share of the state sales tax revenue has been cut because sales have dropped more severely than expected. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Prison bill hits resistance -- Legislation that would save money and reduce prison crowding remained stuck in the state Assembly Friday as law enforcement lobbyists tried to kill a proposed commission to review sentencing guidelines. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Willie Horton haunts debate as California Assembly rejects prison cuts – [Willie Horton's](#) shadow haunts the Capitol as lawmakers wrestle with how to cut \$1.2 billion from [state prisons](#) without endangering public safety. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

California scrambles to ease prison crowding – An order by a panel of federal judges that California reduce its prison population by tens of thousands of inmates could put hundreds of early-release inmates back on the streets in Tulare County. Exactly how many isn't yet clear. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Woodland police chief worried about early release plan – The last thing Tulare County law enforcement officials want is a revolving-door system in which criminals are sent to prison, serve less than their full sentences and then go home to commit more crimes. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Whitman weighs in on prison debate – Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#) jumped into the prison legislation melee Friday in an e-mail in which she called plans to release some 27,000 prisoners over the next fiscal year "an unbelievable violation of the trust Californians put in their leaders to carry out the first duty of government - public safety." [Capitol Alert](#)

CD 10: Garamendi ahead in money race – Newly filed campaign finance records show Lt. Gov. [John Garamendi](#) far ahead in the fundraising race to replace [Ellen Tauscher](#) in the [10th Congressional District](#), which sprawls across [Alameda](#), [Contra Costa](#), [Sacramento](#) and Solano counties. [Capitol Alert](#)

California removed from bond-rating watch list – California's finances have stabilized enough that on Friday the state was taken off one watch list of debtors facing possible bond-rating downgrades. [LA Times article](#)

Andrew Fiala: Getting back to basics on budget crisis – The Fresno State philosophy professor writes that now is a chance to remind our students and ourselves of a deeper and more sustainable model of living well -- one that focuses on the joyful solitude of private study rather than on the din of the casino, one that focuses on genuine human community rather than on interest rates and stock prices. [Fiala op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Turlock council prayers targeted – A Wisconsin group aiming to take religion out of government has set its sights on the prayers offered to open every Turlock City Council meeting. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno council decides not to decide quite yet -- Instead of calling for a convention, the council approved a resolution welcoming discussion on a proposed framework for constitutional changes via either convention or initiative. It pledged to follow up later with a detailed review of both options. [Fresno Bee article](#)

State GOP may restrict primary to party members -- California Republican Party leaders, in a move that could reshape state primary-election politics, are preparing a move to bar decline-to-state voters - now 20 percent of the electorate - from casting a GOP ballot in statewide and legislative primaries. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS**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
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 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 County](#)
[Stanislaus Alliance](#)
[Stanislaus County COG](#)
[Stanislaus County WIB](#)
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Valley employment rates mixed – Here are the July unemployment numbers for the Valley's eight counties released Friday by the state Employment Development Department (June numbers are in parentheses):

- Fresno: 15.0 percent (15.2 percent)
- Kern: 14.4 percent (14.7 percent)
- Kings: 14.5 percent (15.3 percent)
- Madera: 13.9 percent (13.7 percent)
- Merced: 17.6 percent (17.6 percent)
- San Joaquin: 16.0 percent (15.5 percent)
- Stanislaus: 16.3 percent (16.6 percent)
- Tulare: 15.3 percent (14.7 percent)

Fresno County jobless rate drops in July -- Seasonal job growth in farm employment and food manufacturing fueled a slight drop in Fresno County's unemployment rate last month, despite an overall decline in the number of wage-paying jobs. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kern jobless rate 14.4 percent in July – The unemployment rate in Kern County stood at 14.4 percent in July, according to figures released by the state Employment Development Department on Friday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kings remains in grip of high unemployment – Kings County's unemployment rate dropped slightly in July to 14.5 percent, but remains above the 10.1 percent it was at this time last year. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Merced County unemployment up a small percentage – Merced County's unemployment rate for July crawled higher to 17.6 percent, though it's still below this year's high of 20.2 percent. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

San Joaquin sees July jobless rate hike to 16 percent – San Joaquin County's unemployment rate jumped to 16 percent in July, up from 15.5 percent in June, reflecting a normal midsummer slump in farm employment. Still, joblessness remained far above the 10.5 percent rate tallied in July 2008. [Stockton Record article](#)

Stanislaus unemployment rate dips slightly – Stanislaus County saw its rate dip slightly from 16.6 percent to 16.3 percent in July, according to the state Employment Development Department. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Tulare County jobless rate rises – Budget problems and chronic deficits are taking their toll locally as job losses in the public sector begin to ripple to the service industry. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

State jobs report shows pain, gain – Unemployment hit another record high in [California](#) last month, state officials said Friday, but the [job losses](#) slowed considerably amid signs the recession is moderating. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Governor's statement](#)

Merced Sun-Star: 5 percent solution for county's budget crisis – Why don't each of the five county supervisors cut her or his salary by 5 percent? In fact, why not add all the senior nonunion administrators, including the county executive officer, to the bucket list? [Merced Sun-Star editorial](#)

30 Fresno County Jail officer layoffs upheld – The Fresno County Civil Service Commission on Friday upheld the layoffs of 30 correctional officers. The decision means the layoffs will become effective Monday and the Fresno County Jail will begin operating with fewer correctional officers. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EPA to reclassify Valley for ozone air pollution – The Central Valley would get until 2024 to clean up the ozone pollution of the air under a reclassification of the problem proposed Friday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

Bakersfield won't freeze development – There will be no development freeze in Bakersfield. Bakersfield City Council members had this week discussed the possibility of a freeze in private session with their attorney after postponing review of three development projects until Sept. 9. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

College of the Sequoias' budget woes rise as state delays payments to colleges – College of the Sequoias' budget is worse than COS expected, a school official said. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Tulare district deals with larger-than-expected cut from state – The Tulare high school district will have to make additional cost-cutting measures within the coming year. Business manager Vivian Hamilton reported to trustees Thursday that the budget reductions are more the district originally expected. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Governor discusses education reform in radio address – Gov. Schwarzenegger said he called a Special Session of the legislature to help California qualify for federal education funding. [Governor's radio address](#)

Hispanic students in focus – A White House education official on Friday campaigned for ideas to improve the academic achievement of Hispanic students during a brief swing through Fresno and Merced. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Bakersfield College braces for more students – Ridgeview High School graduate Yesenia Gomez enrolled at Bakersfield College on Friday -- and if estimates hold, she will be joined by close to 20,000 other students clamoring for a college education. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

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Woodlake

Stockton Unified superintendent to be subject of probe – The Stockton Unified school board has commissioned an independent investigation into Superintendent Tony Amato's involvement with an organization that links textbook and curriculum publishers with school administrators. [Stockton Record article](#)

Evaluation exposes infighting among Delta trustees – A self-evaluation made public this week exposes a divide among some trustees, a lack of trust and an apparent struggle for control. [Stockton Record article](#)

Move-in day at UC Merced – The colorful, snaking line of suitcases, boxes and rubber containers at the edge of Scholars Lane on Friday could mean only one thing: Move-In Day at UC Merced. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Stanislaus home prices rise – Three months in a row. Stanislaus County's median home sales price rose \$1,000 in July to \$140,000, continuing the upward trend that started in May. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Tulare County home sales see early rise – The county was turning in even larger sales increases this spring, months before the rest of the country rebounded, Carlos Aleman, president of the Tulare County Association of Realtors, said Friday. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

San Joaquin County administration building opens – Curious residents joined the elected and connected in a crowd filling the tiered lobby of the new county administration building late Friday afternoon for its ribbon cutting ceremony. [Stockton Record article](#)

Kings growers may benefit from wine industry challenges – The wine grape harvest has started in California, but the nation's chilly economic climate is casting a shadow over the wine industry, as consumers shift away from the more expensive bottles. But therein lies the opportunity for Kings County's 3,300 acres of wine grapes, which usually are used for cheaper wines. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

SmartMeter upgrade met with skepticism in Kern – Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has returned to Kern County to upgrade customers' SmartMeters, a move the utility insists will mean better service at a modest price. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Police giving out fewer tickets in Kern – We asked the Bakersfield police and California Highway Patrol to give us their ticket statistics for recent years. The results? Neither agency appears to be drumming up money through citations. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

What's driving California's high gas prices? – Taxes, the state's cleaner-burning blend of gasoline, and a lack of fuel storage and sources that have turned California into a "fuel island," according to a new report. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Renegade camp won't aid homeless – Sympathetic people of good will, including the mayor, are diligently searching for the safe ground in [Sacramento](#) that so many want. They need allies in that fight. More confrontation doesn't help in that effort. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Fresno community garden to open -- The first city-sponsored community garden will open next week in southeast Fresno with 90 plots for residents to grow food and tend to plants of their own. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Ric Llewellyn: So-called medical marijuana is a con – The Bakersfield Californian columnist writes that pot is not medicine and tagging it "medicinal" is a ruse to obscure a new surge toward comprehensive legalization. [Llewellyn column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Kern marijuana co-op that wants its pot back may get another day in court – An Oildale medical marijuana cooperative will get a chance to try to get its pot, money and books back. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Clovis forum open to new business ideas – New and early-stage businesses are invited to make presentations to potential investors at the Valley Entrepreneur Showcase at the annual Central Valley Venture Forum. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Fresno Bee's unpaid leave plan off for now -- Planned furloughs for full-time workers at The Fresno Bee have been canceled after members of a union on Friday voted to accept a revised proposal. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee –The Democrats' mishandling of the health care reform debate is [dragging down the confidence](#) that Americans have in President Barack Obama's ability to lead the nation.

Merced Sun-Star – Why don't each of the five county supervisors [cut her or his salary by 5 percent](#)? In fact, why not add all the senior nonunion administrators, including the county executive officer, to the bucket list?

Modesto Bee – [Lots of hits](#) and a few errors.

Sacramento Bee – Sacramento [railyards deal](#) nears a close; [Renegade camp](#) won't aid Sacramento homeless.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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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