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August 25, 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 – 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.)

Maddy Legislative Intern Scholarship Program – The Maddy Institute is currently accepting applications for the fall 2009 semester for its Legislative Intern Scholarship Program. Students must be at least junior standing (grad students are welcome) and have an overall 3.0 GPA. Students must commit to a 150-hour internship. They will work in legislative offices within Fresno and tentatively set to start on Monday, Sept. 21. Deadline to apply is Friday, Sept. 4. Applications and details are available on the Maddy Institute's Web site at www.maddyinstitute.org.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Assembly delays vote on prisons package, will remove sentencing review from bill – Assembly Speaker Karen Bass has put off a vote on a package of legislation intended to trim spending on state prisons, and she intends to eliminate a provision of the plan that would have created a commission to reevaluate California's sentencing laws, according to an Assembly source who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. [LA Times article](#); [Capitol Alert](#); [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Assembly should pass prison fix – [California](#) finally is poised to do something historic to reverse two decades of prison overcrowding – and get prison budgets under control. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Corrections to issue 1,300 new layoff notices in wake of budget cuts – The [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) said Monday it will issue 1,300 new layoff notices in [Sacramento](#), Amador, Fresno and elsewhere after the assumed \$1.2 billion cut to the department's budget. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

George Skelton: On water issues, Democrats try to give up some power – They're attempting to create an independent governing body to decide how to restore the ecosystem and remodel the waterworks of the deteriorating Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a major source of drinking water for Southern Californians and irrigation for San Joaquin Valley farms. [Skelton column in LA Times](#)

Jim Boren: State's politicians are finally picking up his proposal for a part-time legislature – Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Poizner said today that he supports going to a part-time legislature in California. Great idea. A part-time legislature is one of the key government reforms proposed by [The Fresno Bee's editorial board](#). [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Dan Walters: Middle of the road strollers may just be California roadkill – Those who meander along the middle of the political road often find themselves ambushed in the crossfire between red-blooded conservatives and true-blue liberals. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Good grief? Pay raises at a time like this? – Good grief! What is it about a "budget crisis" that state legislators don't grasp? [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Business balks at tax commission's agenda – The [California Chamber of Commerce](#) and 33 other business groups are telling the state's tax reform commission it should back away from three major tax system changes now under consideration as it nears a deadline for submitting its report to the [Legislature](#). [Capitol Alert](#)

Bill McEwen: Cash-starved governments could use a Lottery windfall – Government in California -- from the Capitol to the tiniest special district -- is busted and desperate. In other words, its financial profile resembles that of a lottery player. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Naming Poochigian to appeal court is good idea – The governor is commended for recognizing Poochigian's qualifications and merits. The court and southern San Joaquin Valley residents will benefit from Poochigian's continued public service. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Poochigian judicial qualifications in question – A Southern California legal newspaper is reporting that

BLOGS/SITES[Adam Ashton's After Deadline \(ModBee\)](#)[Aquaforma](#)[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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state appellate court nominee Chuck Poochigian of Fresno was rated as "not qualified" by a State Bar committee that reviews judicial applicants. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Cardoza gets his first Republican challenger – Enter Mike Berryhill, a Turlock Irrigation District board member and former Ceres School Board member. Monday, he announced he would challenge Cardoza, who is serving his fourth term in Congress. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#); [Modesto Bee article](#)

Congressional leader will visit Valley today – House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., will visit the central San Joaquin Valley today, making stops in Fresno and Mendota. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Ag Secretary visit drawing a crowd to Modesto – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's stop in Stanislaus County this week is attracting a crowd, according to Rep. Dennis Cardoza's office. As of Monday, the luncheon at which Vilsack is scheduled to speak Wednesday was filled. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Legislature OKs protection for UC workers – The California Legislature approved a bill Monday to give UC employees the right to sue the university for damages if they are fired for reporting wrongdoing or unsafe conditions. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Kern doctors seek health reform too – Anyone who attended the townhall meeting on health care reform last month at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital will surely remember Dr. Les Burson. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Sacramento charter panel to offer option to strong-mayor plan -- It's looking more and more like city voters will have to decide between Sacramento Mayor [Kevin Johnson's](#) strong-mayor proposal and one with a little less bite to it. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Group that backed Prop 8 focuses on reinstating Iowa's gay marriage ban -- The National Organization for Marriage, which was active in getting Proposition 8 approved by voters in California, sent out an appeal for donations to run advertisements on behalf of political candidates who oppose same-sex marriage. [LA Times article](#)

Governor again asks feds for drought aid – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has asked federal officials to reconsider their decision to reject a request for emergency aid for Fresno County drought victims, his office said Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kings faces fewer layoffs – Kings County will face fewer layoffs than previously expected. Budget cuts this year will still spur the deletion of 56.5 full-time equivalent positions, nine of which are still filled, said Assistant Administrative Officer Deb West during the final budget hearing that began Monday morning. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Inmate releases follow Fresno County jail layoffs – By early evening, five inmates had been released early from Fresno County Jail on Monday, when the layoffs of 30 correctional officers became effective. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Tulare County looks into ag proposals – The Tulare County Board of Supervisors today will take another step toward deciding how to deal with the Williamson Act program, which was eliminated last month through a last-minute veto by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

State cuts force Small Business Development Centers to scramble for funding – Last-minute cuts in the California budget are threatening programs that have been instrumental in helping entrepreneurs beat back the recession's perils. [LA Times article](#)

More classes offered for Spanish medical interpreters -- The rising need for interpreters in the medical field is fueling growth in local training programs. Both Reedley College and College of the Sequoias in Visalia are expanding health care interpreter programs with grants from local workforce investment boards. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Governor in Fresno today to talk about school funding – Governor Schwarzenegger is scheduled to be in Fresno Tuesday to talk about new federal funding coming to California schools. President Obama's Race for the Top plan will be used for long term improvements, such as classrooms. [KSEE 24](#)

Rise in class size hits Kern schools -- While most elementary school districts held close to the 20 students-per-class maximum in grades K-3 last year, some classrooms on Monday were five, six or even a dozen or more students over the limit. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Modesto schools retain medical absence rules – Reversing their earlier position, Modesto City Schools trustees Monday night decided not to adopt a policy change that would have granted junior high and high school students excused absences to leave school for confidential medical services without parent knowledge. [Modesto Bee article](#)

More Lodi-area students in dual-grade classes – There are more dual-grade elementary classrooms in Lodi Unified School District than in years past, partly due to class-size reductions and declining enrollment at some schools. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

State's first utility-scale PV solar farm breaks ground in Fresno County – Cleantech America broke ground Monday on California's first utility-scale photovoltaic solar project to be approved under the state's

NEWS BRIEFS

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Woodlake

Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) program. Named CalRENEW-1, the solar farm is located in the City of Mendota in California's Central Valley. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Atwater council rejects hikes to water rates – Several proposed water and sanitation rate hikes died Monday night after Atwater's City Council shot them down but failed to come up with any workable alternatives. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Merced Planning Commission recommends approval of Wal-Mart distribution center – Support for the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center gained more momentum Monday with the Merced Planning Commission unanimously recommending its approval. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Cash for Clunkers reaches end of the road – For some local car dealers, the Cash for Clunkers program feels a lot like Christmas from a parental standpoint: No one wants to say it's anything short of magical -- but boy, what a headache, huh? [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Tax credit expires; housing construction slumps – Home builders pulled fewer permits in July in Fresno County and California as a \$10,000 tax credit expired, a trade association reported Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

California mortgage delinquencies expected to rise through 2009 – Mortgage delinquencies will continue to rise and set records the rest of this year in California, according to projections to be released today by TransUnion, one of the three big U.S. credit-reporting companies. [LA Times article](#)

Report rates road conditions throughout Merced County – A new report examining road conditions across Merced County rates Livingston's streets as the county's best and those in Dos Palos and Gustine as its worst. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

County corridor switch relieves some in Stanislaus – An uneasy calm has settled on dozens of homes no longer in the way of a future freeway north of Modesto. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Application solicits federal funds for San Joaquin transit – An application submitted by the state on Monday for federal economic stimulus dollars includes a request for about \$97 million to fund rail projects in San Joaquin County. [Stockton Record article](#)

Porterville clinic loses recruited doctors – Harry Foster, president of Family HealthCare Network, managed to do the impossible a few months ago. He recruited three pediatricians to work at his Porterville clinic. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Kaiser petition earns nurses' backing – The California Nurses Association, one of the most powerful unions in the state, has endorsed Desiree Menchaka's grass-roots effort to petition Kaiser Permanente to maintain its after-hours care clinics as they operate in Stockton, Manteca, Tracy and Modesto. [Stockton Record article](#)

Housing Authority begins process to build affordable housing in Tulare -- The Tulare County Housing Authority will issue \$10 million in bonds to help pay for the construction of a 57-unit affordable housing project in southwest Tulare. Construction is expected to start in spring. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Fresno County farmers fight back against aggressive wild pigs -- Fresno County farmers and ranchers are accustomed to dealing with tiny insects and plant diseases. But their latest pest is a big one, weighing in at more than 100 pounds. And it has a voracious appetite. Wild pigs are ranging over more of Fresno County and causing more damage. [Fresno Bee article](#)

City hires help for Grizzlies negotiations -- The city of Fresno has hired a consulting firm to help city officials gather information for their stadium-lease negotiations with the Fresno Grizzlies. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Truck builder coming to San Joaquin – Electric truck producer Electric Vehicles International said Monday that it would move its headquarters and primary U.S. production facility to Stockton. [Stockton Record article](#)

Merced's first Latino chief is sworn in -- Merced Police Department Cmdr. Norm Andrade was promoted Monday to chief, the first Latino to hold the position. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

State gets new plant for climate control -- California officials on Monday inaugurated a new \$181 million central heating and cooling plant that brings the state back into compliance with its own environmental standards. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Swine flu protection will take awhile -- Early results from clinical trials suggest that the swine flu vaccine is safe and effective, but it won't be ready until mid-October and even Americans who get it first won't be protected from the virus until Thanksgiving, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – Good grief ... [pay raises](#) at a time like this?; Naming Chuck Poochigian to state appeal court is [a good idea](#).

Fresno Bee – [Oversight and transparency](#) are needed in state contracts.

Merced Sun-Star – California finally is poised to [do something historic](#) to reverse two decades of prison overcrowding -- and get prison budgets under control.

Modesto Bee – Finally, a [plan to save Delta](#) heads upstream; [Clean water](#) is a human right, but one that

needs funding.

Sacramento Bee –California finally is poised to do something historic to [reverse two decades of prison overcrowding](#) – and get prison budgets under control; CalPERS board needs [tighter rules](#).

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on H1N1, a teen on the right track and other issues.

Visalia Times-Delta -- Visalia Convention Center is [justifying the investment](#) by the city of Visalia, generating millions of dollars in local business each year.

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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