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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  
 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 26, 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.

**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](http://www.maddyinstitute.org).

**POLITICAL BRIEFS**

**Top U.S. officials visit Valley, examine hardships** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Tuesday that the federal government is doing what it can to assist dairy operators through one of the milk industry's worst downturns in years. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo: California's agriculture needs federal help to protect its water** – The executive director of the Merced County Farm Bureau writes an open letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who visits Modesto today. [Westmoreland Pedrozo letter in Modesto Bee](#)

**Cardoza brings a House leader along to talk about issues facing Valley** – Rep. Dennis Cardoza said Tuesday he's pushing the Obama administration to emphasize job creation, especially in the Valley where the unemployment rate in some areas is at Great Depression-era levels. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Fixing Delta comes with high price tag** – The Delta fix supported by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and many of the state's largest water agencies could carry a staggering price tag of \$23 billion to \$54 billion, a consulting economist was planning to tell lawmakers Tuesday. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

**San Joaquin wants canal out of plans** – Water-related legislation under discussion in Sacramento is, for the most part, not what San Joaquin County wants to see become law, a county consultant said Tuesday. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Tax agencies criticize Schwarzenegger's worker furloughs** – The state's two largest tax agencies won't collect an estimated \$350 million in revenue over the next year because furloughs and [budget cuts](#) have harmed their ability to audit returns and collect money owed by taxpayers, top state officials said Tuesday. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**California puts on a garage sale to raise funds** -- State officials on Tuesday kicked off what has been dubbed "The Great California Garage Sale" - by posting surplus state property on eBay and Craigslist. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**Lodi activist withdraws paperwork to fix language** – A Lodi activist has put the brakes on an initiative that sought to slash management salaries at City Hall after a third-party analysis of the proposed ballot measure revealed potential legal flaws. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Bakersfield Californian: Prescription for health care debate includes respect, civility** -- Here's hoping Congressman Kevin McCarthy can keep the health care discussion usefully informational, on-topic and civil. In other words, better managed than recent meetings in other parts of the country. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

**Sen. Ted Kennedy dies at 77** -- Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat and icon of American liberal politics who was the last surviving brother of a legendary political family, died late Tuesday at his home in Hyannis Port, Mass., his family announced. He was 77. [LA Times article](#)

**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

## NEWS BRIEFS

<a href="#">Kern County</a>
<a href="#">Kern County COG</a>
<a href="#">Kern County EDC</a>
<a href="#">Kern County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">Kern_Invo_Mono WIB</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<b>KINGS COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Elections</a>
<a href="#">Kings County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">Kings County</a>
<a href="#">Kings Co. Assn. of Governments</a>
<a href="#">Kings County EDC</a>
<a href="#">Kings County WIB</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<b>MADERA COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Elections Division</a>
<a href="#">Madera County EDC</a>
<a href="#">Madera County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">Madera County WIB</a>
<a href="#">Madera County</a>
<a href="#">Madera Co. Transpt. Comm.</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<b>MERCED COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Assn. of Governments</a>
<a href="#">Elections</a>
<a href="#">Merced County</a>
<a href="#">Merced WIB</a>
<a href="#">Merced County EDC</a>
<a href="#">Merced County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<b>SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Elections</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin County WIB</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin County</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin County COG</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin Partnership</a>
<b>STANISLAUS COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Elections</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<a href="#">Stanislaus County</a>
<a href="#">Stanislaus Alliance</a>
<a href="#">Stanislaus County COG</a>
<a href="#">Stanislaus County WIB</a>
<b>TULARE COUNTY</b>
<a href="#">Elections</a>
<a href="#">Office of Education</a>
<a href="#">Tulare County</a>
<a href="#">Tulare County Farm Bureau</a>
<a href="#">Tulare County WIB</a>
<a href="#">Tulare County COG</a>
<a href="#">Tulare County EDC</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b>
<a href="#">Central Valley Ed. Leadership Institute</a>
<a href="#">California State University, Fresno</a>
<a href="#">CSU Bakersfield</a>
<a href="#">CSU Stanislaus</a>
<a href="#">Fresno Pacific University</a>
<a href="#">UC Merced</a>
<a href="#">University of the Pacific</a>
<a href="#">West Hills Community College</a>
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<a href="#">Mark Keppler</a>
<a href="#">PROGRAM COORDINATOR</a>
<a href="#">Jennifer Johnson</a>
<a href="#">GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ASSOCIATE</a>
<a href="#">Katie Stevens</a>
<a href="#">EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT</a>
<a href="#">Tamara Williams</a>
<a href="#">WEBMASTER</a>
<a href="#">Fatih Yenen</a>
<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
<a href="#">The Maddy Institute</a>

Dying on the vine -- As another water war rages, the west side of California's storied San Joaquin Valley waits for relief that may not come. [Newsweek article](#)

California's Ground Zero in the housing crisis -- While the pace of foreclosures has slowed this summer, valley officials worry that it will spike back up once a government-imposed moratorium on repossessions is lifted. Across the valley, the unemployment rate is 15.4 percent. Many local officials are pushing for Washington to declare the region an economic disaster area, which would bring federal government assistance. [Newsweek article](#)

Can California get rid of its homeless -- Buoyed by federal housing funding, the tent cities in California's San Joaquin Valley are disappearing. But is their disappearing act permanent? [Newsweek article](#)

The Valley of Shadows: Mapping California's crisis -- Some think the Valley is a world wonder. To others, it's a world-class conundrum, with a broken water system, a penchant for sprawl, and more foreclosure-ridden cities than any other region in the U.S. Newsweek explores the main causes of the Valley's crisis. [Newsweek article](#)

Depression déjà vu: A photographer's journey through the Valley -- Newsweek photographer Ken Light talks about the history of the Valley and the legacy of Depression-era photography in the region. [Newsweek slideshow](#)

Westside farmer sells water for \$77 million -- Forget gold. In Kings County, water gets most of the attention. More specifically, it's the prospect of losing local water rights to outside entities that gets everybody's dander up. That's why the Kings County Water Commission spent a good chunk of a Monday night meeting talking about a Westside landowner who plans to sell 14,000 acre-feet of water a year to the Mojave Water Agency in San Bernardino County for \$5,500 per acre-foot. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Fresno studies water conservation plans -- Three months after forming a task force on water, the Fresno City Council will consider Thursday three water-conservation measures prompted by the drought. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Even the tax man brings recession gloom -- Some cities around Kern County are being reminded the recession's impacts aren't over. They're among nearly 340 cities, counties and other jurisdictions in California getting a smaller check than expected from state tax officials in August. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno County public defender layoffs OK'd -- The Fresno County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved the layoffs of 13 employees in the Public Defender's Office, despite concerns that the layoffs will weaken the criminal justice system and eventually cost the county more money. Fresno Bee article

Madera County juvenile camp faces deep cuts -- Madera County's juvenile correctional camp will close later this year unless the Board of Supervisors reverses its recent decision to slash the budget in half, an official said Tuesday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Tulare County Child Welfare Services workers protest layoffs -- Despite pleas from the staff of the county's Child Welfare Services, pink slips will go out to as many as 55 workers within the next few weeks. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Decisions on veteran vacancies, funding for Kern departments postponed -- Future county supervisors' meetings will be packed with suspense and action after decisions on a number of hot topics were postponed Tuesday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Prisons, youth programs brace for cuts -- Employees of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation were informed that layoff notices would be going out this week to 1,300 workers statewide, including about 1,200 in the Division of Juvenile Justice and 100 in adult programs, spokesman Seth Unger said. [Stockton Record article](#)

In Fresno, Governor pushes for school reform -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger used the backdrop of Jefferson Elementary School -- an inner-city school in central Fresno that has seen a big academic turnaround -- to push for educational reform that would allow California to compete for federal stimulus funds. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Dan Walters: Using student test scores to grade California teachers has pitfalls -- Testing data seemingly introduce dispassionate objectivity into the [evaluation process](#). Each kid's abilities are as individual as fingerprints, however. Learning is also affected by many other factors, most of which are beyond the control of the teacher, such as cultural influences, parental involvement, taxpayer financing, administrative support and availability of textbooks. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

New study details state's education woes -- The latest results from [California's](#) standardized student tests continue to show incremental improvement in academic achievement, but the state still faces a monumental crisis, [Oakland-based Education Trust-West](#) says in its annual report on the status of public [education](#). [Capitol Alert](#)

Progress seen in Merced preschool testing results -- Students in the Merced City School District's Early Reading First program posted big gains last school year. Children in the pre-kindergarten program saw a 15-point improvement on vocabulary tests last spring. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Students better in math, English -- Despite [budget cuts](#) and the challenge of educating a growing immigrant population, [California's](#) public schools are soldiering on, and they are continuing to improve. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

<a href="#">Tracy Press</a>
<a href="#">Univision 21</a>
<a href="#">Visalia Times-Delta</a>
<b>FRESNO CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Coalinga</a>
<a href="#">Clovis</a>
<a href="#">Firebaugh</a>
<a href="#">Fowler</a>
<a href="#">Fresno</a>
<a href="#">Huron</a>
<a href="#">Kerman</a>
<a href="#">Kingsburg</a>
<a href="#">Mendota</a>
<a href="#">Orange Cove</a>
<a href="#">Parlier</a>
<a href="#">Reedley</a>
<a href="#">San Joaquin</a>
<a href="#">Sanger</a>
<a href="#">Selma</a>
<b>KERN CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Arvin</a>
<a href="#">Bakersfield</a>
<a href="#">California City</a>
<a href="#">Delano</a>
<a href="#">Maricopa</a>
<a href="#">McFarland</a>
<a href="#">Ridgecrest</a>
<a href="#">Shafter</a>
<a href="#">Taft</a>
<a href="#">Tehachapi</a>
<b>KINGS CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Avenal</a>
<a href="#">Corcoran</a>
<a href="#">Hanford</a>
<a href="#">Lemoore</a>
<b>MADERA CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Chowchilla</a>
<a href="#">Madera</a>
<b>MERCED CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Atwater</a>
<a href="#">Dos Palos</a>
<a href="#">Gustine</a>
<a href="#">Livingston</a>
<a href="#">Los Banos</a>
<a href="#">Merced</a>
<b>SAN JOAQUIN CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Escalon</a>
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<a href="#">Lodi</a>
<a href="#">Manteca</a>
<a href="#">Ripon</a>
<a href="#">Stockton</a>
<a href="#">Tracy</a>
<b>STANISLAUS CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Ceres</a>
<a href="#">Hughson</a>
<a href="#">Modesto</a>
<a href="#">Newman</a>
<a href="#">Oakdale</a>
<a href="#">Patterson</a>
<a href="#">Riverbank</a>
<a href="#">Turlock</a>
<a href="#">Waterford</a>
<b>TULARE CO. CITIES</b>
<a href="#">Dinuba</a>
<a href="#">Exeter</a>
<a href="#">Farmersville</a>
<a href="#">Lindsay</a>
<a href="#">Porterville</a>
<a href="#">Tulare</a>
<a href="#">Visalia</a>

Calif. State Univ., Fresno  
2743 E Shaw Ave, Suite 107,  
MS OF 123  
Fresno, CA 93710  
PHONE:  
(559) 294-9119  
FAX:  
(559) 294-8118  
EMAIL:  
mkeppler@csufresno.edu  
WEBSITE:  
www.maddyinstitute.org

California seniors' SAT scores dip slightly for '09 – California's college-bound high school seniors scored somewhat better than the national average this year on the SAT exam's writing section but slightly worse on critical reading and math, according to results released Tuesday. [LA Times article](#)

SAT Results: More students setting sights on college – More high school seniors than ever before are taking the SAT college preparation examination. The class of 2009 also stands out as having the most diverse participation nationwide in SAT history, according to figures released Tuesday by the College Board. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Clovis parents refuse fees for school – Three families say the Clovis Unified School District is gouging them on fees for activities like band and color guard -- and even threatening not to let students attend graduation if the bills don't get paid. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Delta College shutdown could cost staff – The good news: Employees at San Joaquin Delta College will have a longer break over the winter holidays. The bad news: They might not get paid for it. [Stockton Record article](#)

Stockton Unified board meeting turns tense – A special meeting called so Stockton Unified's board could officially respond to a recent grand jury report degenerated Tuesday night to the point where the superintendent's second-in-command told an audience member to shut up, and the disgusted former foreman of the grand jury left early. [Stockton Record article](#)

Bakersfield College: Day 1 numbers – On the first day of fall semester more than 17,300 students were bound for Bakersfield College. The number of first-day students is down about 1 percent from last year, but there is little question given the sluggish economy that BC's total student population will rise by the time official census numbers are released in a few weeks. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Psyllids found in Orange County; insect could devastate state's citrus industry – A tiny insect that often carries a tree-killing disease and threatens to destroy California's \$1.6-billion citrus industry has moved into Orange County. [LA Times article](#)

Stanislaus County offers health care plan for kids – Stanislaus County is offering another health care option for young children denied services from the state's Healthy Families program. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Many applicants, few jobs at Modesto job fair – Some 1,500 attendees came, with résumés in hand, to the Modesto HIREvent job fair at Modesto Centre Plaza. What they found at the event sponsored by the California Job Journal was a dozen employers and organizations eager to give them information, but which had precious few jobs. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Property assessments in Stanislaus cause doubts – The turbulent real estate market has convinced thousands of Stanislaus County homeowners to challenge their property tax assessments. [Modesto Bee article](#)

State assessed property values mark first-ever decline – The total value of county-assessed property in [California](#) declined in the current 2009-10 period, the first year-to-year decline since the [California](#) Board of Equalization began keeping records in 1933. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Realtors say home prices rose 12 percent in state – The California Association of Realtors' latest report of monthly home sales offered a mixed bag. CAR said Tuesday that statewide home sales increased 12 percent in July compared with July 2008, while the median price of an existing home declined 19.6 percent. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Ridgecrest ordinance to help renters in foreclosed homes – In the aftermath of a real estate debacle that put about 300 tenants at risk of eviction, the city of Ridgecrest has become the first in Kern County to pass an ordinance to protect renters of foreclosed homes. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Stockton council Oks funds for Delta pumping – The City Council awarded \$184 million in contracts Tuesday to build the Delta Water Supply Project, Stockton's bid to pump drinking water from the Delta. It is the largest public works project ever undertaken by City Hall. [Stockton Record article](#)

Modesto Irrigation District keeps rates steady – Electricity rates will not jump next week in the Modesto Irrigation District, thanks to a unanimous vote by its board Tuesday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Tulare council Oks ag parcel moratorium – No new parcels of Tulare County farmland will be protected under the Williamson Act after a Tulare County Board of Supervisors vote Tuesday. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Valley health, school officials stress swine flu prevention – Valley public health officials continue to stress prevention -- cover, clean and confine -- as the best available defense against the H1N1 flu. [Bakersfield Californian article](#); [Merced Sun-Star article](#); [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno Grizzlies pledge to return in 2010 – Leaving is not an option, said Chris Cummings, the leading spokesman and member of the partnership that owns the Grizzlies, the Triple-A affiliate of the Giants in the Pacific Coast League. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Turlockers take council to task over stadium spending – Neighbors of Turlock High School, arts supporters, longtime city residents and football fans came to the City Council meeting Tuesday night with one message: Don't spend city money to renovate the high school's football field and track. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno Bee: Outsider gives Fresno fresh chance in planning -- Fresno has a chance for a new era in planning. John Dugan, Fresno's new planning and development director, will take over the post on Sept. 1. He is

the first outsider in the job in more than a quarter-century. His perspective will be an important one. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Tulare council frees up land for racetrack – Despite strong opposition from Tulare City Councilman Wayne Ross, the council approved the cancellation of a Williamson Act contract for 418 acres to be developed as part of the Tulare Motor Sports Complex project. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Jim Boren: California Hall of Fame again snubs Bob Mathias -- This gets Boren riled up. They just announced the 2009 inductees into the [California Hall of Fame](#) and Tulare's Bob Mathias isn't one of them. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver unveiled the list of 2009 inductees Tuesday. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile in Riverdale -- The Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District announced Tuesday that a mosquito batch collected in Riverdale has tested positive for West Nile virus. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Funds to prosecute graffiti cases erased in Fresno -- A Fresno City Council member Tuesday denounced a Fresno Police Department decision to end funding for a city lawyer to prosecute graffiti cases. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Sheriff takes issue with Merced County's civil grand jury critical report – Merced County Sheriff Mark Pazin issued a stern rebuttal this week to the county's civil grand jury, dismissing claims that his department has failed to properly assist and cooperate with the Gustine Police Department. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Pinnacle Armor forced to downsize its offices -- Pinnacle Armor, the Fresno company that has been battling the military over the merits of its innovative Dragon Skin body armor, has moved to new offices after losing its lease. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Lois Henry: Not much equality to celebrate in Kern -- Here's what women should do to celebrate the 89th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving us the right to vote -- GET OUT! [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – Prescription for health care debate includes [respect, civility](#); Ben Bernanke is [a wise re-hire](#).

Fresno Bee –Fresno has a chance for [a new era in planning](#); California Hall of Fame [overlooks Bob Mathias](#) once again.

Merced Sun-Star – Despite budget cuts, a growing immigrant population, and a general lack of respect from the political class, California's public schools are soldiering on, and they are [continuing to improve](#).

ramento Bee –Despite budget cuts and the challenge of educating a growing immigrant population, California's public schools are soldiering on, and they are [continuing to improve](#); Sheriff's job is not just [about handguns](#).

Stockton Record – [Stockton's Ticketgate](#): Freebies for those who are supposed to be guarding the henhouse.

Visalia Times-Delta -- Vacant space is being [put to good use](#) all over Visalia in the form of community gardens.

### 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](mailto: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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