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Mike Lukens

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 Asm. Bill Berryhill  
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 Asm. Danny Gilmore  
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 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

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 Fresno County EDC  
 Fresno County Farm Bureau  
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**KERN COUNTY**

Elections Division

August 27, 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.

**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**

**Cardoza to Obama: Valley a disaster** – The Northern San Joaquin Valley is an economic disaster area, and President Barack Obama should see it for himself and start spending more federal dollars in the region. That's what Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, told the president in a letter this week. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Water talks stuck in neutral** – Water negotiations appear to be going nowhere with only about two weeks left in the session. Things could change -- and there's some scuttlebutt that Democratic leaders might huddle soon to chart their course. But for now things seem pretty much stuck in neutral. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

**Jim Boren: Vilsack coy on whether administration will support an agricultural guest worker program** -- U.S. Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack wouldn't commit on whether an agricultural guest worker program will be part of the Obama Administration's immigration proposal. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

**George Radanovich: Valley ag future at crossroads** – We are at a crossroads in the effort to save agriculture in the Valley and it is imperative that we work together on solutions to save our livelihood. [Radanovich op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

**Visalia Times-Delta: Keep Williamson Act protection alive** – As the county considers cost-cutting reforms for its own Williamson Act initiative to replace the state-sponsored program, it should keep in mind that ag property threatened by urban development is the most in need of public support in the way of property tax abatement. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

**George Skelton: Charting a way out of the mess in Sacramento** – The bipartisan reform group California Forward has proposed a modest, reasonable and doable set of significant changes in how state and local governments operate. [Skelton column in LA Times](#)

**Even higher taxes coming for Californians** – For only the second time in 30 years, the tax board is lowering the point where each tax bracket begins, bumping many people into a higher category. [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**Bakersfield crowd speaks its mind on health care reform** – Some were clearly angry at what they see as a Democratic-controlled Congress trying to steamroll the American public with a hastily designed health care reform bill. Others said they were scared or concerned or just plain frustrated. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**McNerney: Health care bill will save money, not increase deficit** – Rep. Jerry McNerney told constituents during a telephone town hall meeting Wednesday that the health care reform bill before Congress would lower costs to consumers, reduce the federal deficit, make sure that everyone is covered and not require anyone to participate in a public option. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

**Merced Sun-Star: Cardoza should hold public town halls** – We think Rep. Dennis Cardoza should hold public town halls. It's in his constituents' interest. And in his. [Merced Sun-Star editorial](#)

**Governor: Assembly lacks guts on prisons vote** -- During an otherwise lighthearted "Tweetcast" video interview, Gov. Schwarzenegger took a swipe at the [Assembly](#), calling members of the lower house gutless for not

**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  
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 In the Public Eye  
 LA Observed  
 Michael Fitzgerald blog  
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 Politics, Anyone? (Bakersfield)  
 Real Clear Politics blog  
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 Talk on Water (Modesto Bee)  
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yet passing the prisons package. [Capitol Alert: LA Times article](#)

Bill McEwen: Governor has a dream and needs to wake up – When it comes to the governor's latest judicial appointment, working hard and playing by the rules matter less than taking care of friends and people serving the Republican party. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Fresno Unified discusses changing election process – Fresno Unified School District trustees Wednesday discussed the state's Voting Rights Act and whether the district should change how school board members are elected in order to avoid lawsuits, such as the one filed against Madera Unified last year. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Fresno County sheriff tries for a second term – Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims, in the hot seat of late for early jail releases, announced this week that she's running for re-election. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

Minor changes to Turlock council prayer policy – While Turlock city leaders wait for legal advice on a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation last week, seeking a stop to invocations at council meetings, Mayor John Lazar implemented a minor change. [Modesto Bee article](#)

State Supreme Court nixes two-thirds vote challenge – The state [Supreme Court](#) today rejected, without comment, a lawsuit filed by [Charles Young](#), former chancellor of [UCLA](#), challenging the constitutional requirement that new taxes obtain a two-thirds legislative vote. [Capitol Alert](#)

California's legislature one of nation's more diverse -- [California's Legislature](#), as befits the state's complex cultural makeup, also has one of the nation's more diverse memberships, according to a new survey by the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#). [Capitol Alert](#)

State lawmakers solicit big checks before big deadline – The end of the state's regular legislative year is fast approaching. In Sacramento, that can only mean one thing: political fundraisers, from dawn until dusk, hosted by the lawmakers who in coming weeks will cast decisive votes on many matters affecting their contributors. [LA Times article](#)

All-in-the-family fundraising could be halted in California – State Sen. [Tony Strickland](#) is pushing to ban a practice he personally engaged in but now calls an ethical mistake – paying his wife tens of thousands of dollars in [campaign donations](#) to be his fundraiser. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Political cash dash guide for Sacramento's social spenders -- If someone went to all 250 fundraisers scheduled in [Sacramento](#) so far this year (not counting golf tournaments or district-based events), they could spend a grand total of \$1,014,270, FPPC Chairman [Ross Johnson](#) said in a release. [Capitol Alert](#)

What is off-limits in lives of elected officials? -- The announcement last Sunday by Sen. Pat Wiggins, D-Santa Rosa, that she would not seek another term marked the abrupt end of a two-decade political career and open up a coveted Senate seat. But Wiggins' health issues were no secret in Sacramento. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

Kennedy had impact on California immigrants, children – Sen. [Kennedy](#) was a prime author of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. The law provided amnesty for about 2.7 million illegal immigrants, hundreds of thousands of whom lived in [California](#). And two decades after that, [Kennedy](#) was championing a 21st century immigration bill that if passed would provide legal status for about 1.5 million farmworkers. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

## NEWS BRIEFS

USDA chief, Feinstein weigh in on water problems – In a sign that Washington is paying attention to the Valley's water woes, two federal officials came to the Fresno area Wednesday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Ag chief brings listening tour to Modesto – Dairy farmers poured out their frustrations Wednesday to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who told the Modesto crowd that he would do his best to boost milk prices. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Will El Nino deliver deluge? – Could this winter be a drought buster? One San Joaquin County water official said he's "fairly confident" California will avoid a fourth consecutive dry year, thanks to the emergence of El Niño, a periodic warming of the Pacific Ocean that has triggered some of the state's wettest winters. [Stockton Record article](#)

Ruling clouds funding outlook for high-speed rail project – California's proposed high-speed rail project hit a major bump Wednesday when a judge called into question a route that would bring the bullet trains over Pacheco Pass into the South Bay and up the Peninsula. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

Valley expects to get delay on ozone cleanup – Ending years of debate, federal officials are about to grant an 11-year delay for the San Joaquin Valley's ozone cleanup campaign. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Fresno State schedules offer fewer choices after cuts – On campus, Fresno State's \$44.6 million funding gap prompted officials to cut close to 1,200 fall class sections -- about 20% of the offerings -- slash work for non-tenured faculty, eliminate roughly 135 management and staff jobs and curb spending in other areas. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Interest in UC Merced remains steady – The University of California at Merced is listed among the most popular institutions where California high school students sent their college admission test scores last spring.

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Woodlake

### [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Lemoore campus to break ground on multi-use facility next month – West Hills College Lemoore will break ground on Sept. 22 for a new \$20 million multi-use sports complex; a project that when finished will be 55,000 square feet -- twice the size of the existing library. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Stockton Unified superintendent's conduct probe moves ahead – Trustees Colleen Boardman and Sal Ramirez have been assigned by fellow Stockton Unified School District board members to lead the search for a law firm to investigate Superintendent Tony Amato's work as a consultant for a company that brings school leaders together with vendors of educational materials. [Stockton Record article](#)

Merced housing prices still show stability – Merced County's median home price dipped slightly in July, though it seems to have stabilized after last year's free-fall. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Value of Kern tax delinquencies increases -- The value of the Bakersfield area's delinquent tax rolls as of June 30, 2008 jumped by \$752,616 over the previous year, according to lists published by the Kern County Tax Collector this week. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Riverbank wins \$1.5 million in onramps to digital superhighway— Free Internet access, high-tech training for youth and low-cost computers are headed to Riverbank, thanks to a new program meant to bridge the city's digital divide. Riverbank recently was selected — along with communities near San Diego and Los Angeles — to participate in a \$1.5 million statewide initiative called Bring IT Home. [Modesto Bee article](#)

State approves Merced enterprise zone – The Merced County Economic Zone has been granted final designation from the State Department of Housing and Community Development. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Fresno Bee: Grizzlies talks moving ahead – Here's the bottom line. Chukchansi Park must have the Grizzlies as the main tenant, and the rent must be fair. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Stockton Record: EVI greens, diversifies us – Electric Vehicles International is moving its headquarters to Stockton. It's a much-in-vogue green business that also adds much-needed economic diversity to our area. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Turlock Irrigation District pension fund gets \$3.4 million infusion – The Turlock Irrigation District on Tuesday became the latest agency to shore up a pension fund depleted by poor earnings. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Kern hydrogen power plant to undergo yearlong study -- A hydrogen power plant proposed to be built seven miles west of Bakersfield took a step forward Wednesday as the state Energy Commission voted 4-0 to undertake a yearlong study of the \$2 billion project. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Modesto Bee: Three agencies that did things right – We've had some great examples in recent days of elected and appointed officials making decisions that are right, reasonable and responsive to the public. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Tulare libraries to get \$165,000 -- The Agriculture Department is giving \$165,000 to the Tulare County library system in the latest chapter of the federal government's far-flung stimulus plan. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Retiring Visalia police chief praised for anti-gang efforts – You wouldn't know it from the still-packed schedule of daily appointments he's been keeping or the pictures and medals that still hang on the wall in his office, but Bob Carden is closing in on his last day as Visalia police chief. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

2 more quit Fresno County mental health board -- Two more people have resigned from the Fresno County Mental Health Board, bringing the total to five members who have resigned in the wake of conflict-of-interest allegations in the past month. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Port of LA is urged to stop lobbying over clean-trucks program -- Several of the nation's biggest trade associations have fired a warning shot across the bow of the Port of Los Angeles, urging it to cease lobbying efforts to change a federal law that could greatly affect the way cargo is hauled into and out of the nation's seaports. [LA Times article](#)

NUMMI's fate draws near -- Toyota Motor Corp. intends to slash its production capacity — a move that imperils the NUMMI plant in Fremont — and NUMMI management wants to meet today with union leaders to discuss the embattled auto factory's status and future. [Oakland Tribune article](#)

## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

.Fresno Bee –Remembering [Sen. Edward M. Kennedy](#); Here's [the bottom line](#). Chukchansi Park must have the Grizzlies as the main tenant, and the rent must be fair.

Merced Sun-Star – We think Rep. Dennis Cardoza should [hold public town halls](#). It's in his constituents' interest. And in his.

Modesto Bee – Sen. Kennedy was [a patriot](#) despite his flaws; Modesto Irrigation District, Caltrans, Modesto City Schools: Three agencies that [did things right](#).

Sacramento Bee – Sacramento needs a plan for [K Street fixes](#); “Liberal lion” Ted Kennedy knew how to

[get it done.](#)

Stockton Record - [Gleason Park](#) is open; Electric Vehicles International is moving its headquarters to Stockton. It's a [much-in-vogue green business](#) that also adds much-needed economic diversity to our area.

Visalia Times-Delta -- As the county considers cost-cutting reforms for its own Williamson Act initiative to replace the state-sponsored program, it should keep in mind that ag property threatened by urban development is the [most in need of public support](#) in the way of property tax abatement.

#### 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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