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August 3, 2009

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MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Daily, a half-hour public affairs show dedicated to issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley, 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 – Maddy Institute board member John Harris is the next guest on The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Dan Walters: California's supermajority budget vote in crosshairs – California is just one of three states that require supermajority votes to enact state budgets, and while that constitutional provision has been in effect for nearly eight decades, only in the past quarter-century has it become a major political impediment. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Governor's inmate reduction program: How will it work? – As police officers and deputies are being laid off across [California](#), the idea is almost breathtaking: Reduce [California's](#) prison population by 27,300 inmates, partly by letting some out of the gates. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

George Skelton: Schwarzenegger is unpopular but undaunted – The fact that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's poll numbers have plummeted to where Gray Davis' were when Schwarzenegger booted him from office might humble an ordinary politician. He'd probably lower his sights. But not Schwarzenegger. [Skelton column in LA Times](#)

State budget deal may force San Jose to cut \$100 million – The state wants nearly \$100 million from the city to help balance its budget, and that means council members — just a month after closing their own \$84 million deficit — are returning in the middle of yet another dire financial scenario. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Pension repayment plan could throw L.A.'s budget into disarray -- A high-level Los Angeles pension official has recommended that the city pay off the cost of an employee early retirement package 10 years sooner than previously planned -- a move that threatens to throw the city's budget into disarray. [LA Times article](#)

State, Los Angeles talk tax reform – With city and state revenues in a continual downward spiral, government officials ranging from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa are eyeing tax reform as a boost to the economy and public coffers. [The Daily Breeze article](#)

Donald Blount: Huber recall effort just more of same tired gamesmanship -- Let's hope the leadership develops to guide us through things expediently and rights things soon. Trying to form a recall of a freshman politician with roughly 16 months left in a two-year term just stirs the pot more in the wrong direction. [Blount column in Stockton Record](#); [Stockton Record editorial](#)

CD 10: Of titles and timing -- Campaign materials referencing former Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher's endorsement of CD10 candidate Sen. [Mark DeSaulnier](#), D-Concord, do not appear to violate any rules over at her new gig as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. But a State Department legal adviser has asked DeSaulnier to stop touting Tauscher's stamp of approval anyway... for appearance's sake. [Capitol Alert](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Cities feel pinch of new state budget – Throughout the central San Joaquin Valley, local governments stand to lose more than \$73 million, according to estimates by the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association. [Fresno Bee article](#)

San Joaquin farmers say county's wells can't afford another dry winter – San Joaquin County farmers are wishing for a wet 2009-10 after the latest county data show the water levels in their wells continuing to

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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decline, steeply in some locations. [Stockton Record article](#)

Visalia police set to absorb deep cuts – The Visalia Police Department's next chief will have plenty to deal with, including getting the department's financial house in order. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Budget cuts will be felt deeply at Women's Center of San Joaquin – At the Women's Center and similar organizations throughout the state, advocates are reeling after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, in signing the state budget last week, cut about \$20 million in funding that had supported efforts to address domestic violence. [Stockton Record article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Tulare County leaders make bold, compassionate move -- Thumbs up to Tulare County supervisors and to those elected department heads who have followed their example and voluntarily accepted a pay cut. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Clunker owners swamp Modesto-area car dealers – Two unfamiliar sounds could be heard in the sales office at Central Valley Automotive on McHenry Avenue Sunday afternoon: a ringing phone and customers talking with sales agents. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Bankruptcy imperils Madera County casino – A nationally known gambling expert said last week's bankruptcy filing by Station Casinos could hamper efforts by the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians to build a Madera County casino. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Hope shines through housing gloom in Visalia -- Visalia-area home buyers and real-estate professionals sense that a market downturn lasting nearly two years has bottomed out. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Sacramento-area parents fear Healthy Families cuts – News of the [Healthy Families](#) cuts has brought more turmoil to families already struggling with an economic downturn, a looming school year with its demands for health exams and vaccinations, and a raft of difficult household budget decisions. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

California steps up efforts to prevent heat-related deaths among farmworkers – The state has expanded training for growers and outreach to workers. But officials say limited resources have made it nearly impossible to ensure that all employers follow the law. [LA Times article](#)

Report: California should gird for rising tide, heat – Even if the world is successful in cutting carbon emissions in the future, California needs to start preparing for rising sea levels, hotter weather and other effects of climate change, a new state report recommends. [AP article](#)

Northern Valley hospitals footing more of the bill -- In Stanislaus County, where unemployment has risen to 16.6 percent, hospitals are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the recession. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Small businesses finding help they need in Kern – Charles Lewis was the "pie guy" of Bisbee, Ariz. Before that, he reigned over Brian Head, Utah, where he perfected his brianberry pie. Two years ago, he moved to Tehachapi where he now hopes his tehachaberry pie will become the rage. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno's Eaton Plaza to lose its trees – The city of Fresno will soon rev up the chain saws and clear-cut a part of its urban forest, all in the name of transforming Eaton Plaza into an idyllic green space amid downtown's asphalt and concrete. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Lots of talk, little action on Eaton Plaza](#)

Offshore windfalls hold clean-energy promise – Someday decades from now, California's sprawling coastal cities could draw their power from floating windmills that bob on the sea like buoys, far from shore. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Authorities rip out pot plants worth estimated \$50 million near Los Banos – Authorities discovered and destroyed more than \$50 million worth of marijuana during a weekend sweep in western Merced County. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

After four years, Riverbank to review city manager – Like most city managers, Rich Holmer's contract says he's supposed to have a yearly evaluation. Unlike most, Holmer hasn't had one in several years. That's about to change. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Clovis attorney cuts through veil of secrecy -- In winning a key court victory last month, Clovis lawyer Brian Leighton advanced his marathon legal battle for a longtime friend -- and attracted national attention for beating the CIA in court. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Merced Sun-Star – The federal stimulus money will help for now, but [real changes](#) in how the Valley uses its water are needed.

Modesto Bee – The state's public pension shortage is [too dire](#) to leave unresolved.

Sacramento Bee – A move uncovers [what we value](#).

Stockton Record – We've got [regular recalls](#): They're called elections; The closing of Stockton's Black Angus, a March Lane fixture for 32 years, is [painful](#), especially for those who lost their jobs.

Visalia Times-Delta – [Thumbs up](#) to Tulare County supervisors and to those elected department heads who have followed their example and voluntarily accepted a pay cut.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Tracy Press](#)
[Univision 21](#)
[Visalia Times-Delta](#)
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[Clovis](#)
[Firebaugh](#)
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[Fresno](#)
[Huron](#)
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[Kingsburg](#)
[Mendota](#)
[Orange Cove](#)
[Parlier](#)
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[Sanger](#)
[Selma](#)
KERN CO. CITIES

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[McFarland](#)
[Ridgecrest](#)
[Shafter](#)
[Taft](#)
[Tehachapi](#)
KINGS CO. CITIES

[Avenal](#)
[Corcoran](#)
[Hanford](#)
[Lemoore](#)
MADERA CO. CITIES

[Chowchilla](#)
[Madera](#)
MERCED CO. CITIES

[Atwater](#)
[Dos Palos](#)
[Gustine](#)
[Livingston](#)
[Los Banos](#)
[Merced](#)
SAN JOAQUIN CO. CITIES

[Escalon](#)
[Lathrop](#)
[Lodi](#)
[Manteca](#)
[Ripon](#)
[Stockton](#)
[Tracy](#)
STANISLAUS CO. CITIES

[Ceres](#)
[Hughson](#)
[Modesto](#)
[Newman](#)
[Oakdale](#)
[Patterson](#)
[Riverbank](#)
[Turlock](#)
[Waterford](#)
TULARE CO. CITIES

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[Exeter](#)
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[Tulare](#)
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The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at the Arnold Rue Community Center in Stockton on Aug. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at Westside Union Elementary School in Los Banos on Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

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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