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August 4, 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: Polling reveals California's fractured electorate – This fragmentation, coupled with ever-lower levels of voter participation, means politicians must cater to an electorate that reflects an ever-narrower slice of the socioeconomic whole while trying to meet the needs of an isolated, nonvoting underclass. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Down-ticket in 2010 – Here's a look at how campaign finances are shaping up in races for constitutional offices in 2010. Valley state senators Dean Florez and Jeff Denham lead the way in race for lieutenant governor. [Capitol Alert](#)

AD 32: Ken Mettler eying Assembly run – Kern High School District Trustee Ken Mettler may run for the 32nd Assembly District in 2010. Or he might run in 2012. His decision depends on what incumbent Assemblywoman Jean Fuller, R-Bakersfield, does. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Eggman leads rest of Stockton council in funds – City Councilwoman Susan Eggman, who declined in her first run for office, in 2006, to take money from developers, is taking their money for her re-election bid in 2010, if not yet a great amount. [Stockton Record article](#)

City council candidates emerge in Bakersfield -- Two hopefuls for the Bakersfield City Council seat being vacated by Irma Carson have submitted initial paperwork to the city clerk. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Lodi prayer battle draws in others – Standing outside Carnegie Forum, leaders of two out-of-town organizations argued Monday afternoon that invocations in the name of Jesus Christ should be permitted at Lodi City Council meetings. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Lodi council should stop picking faiths – The council takes up the issue of its prayer policy in September. This is a prime opportunity to acknowledge that residents of the Lodi community come from different faith backgrounds. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Political veteran Hatfield to lobby for wine industry -- The California wine industry has added San Joaquin Valley political veteran Fred Hatfield to its already muscular lobbying ranks. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Rumor mill: Newsom for lieutenant governor? He'd be 'kidnapped by aliens' first – We will now deal with the Rumor Du Jour making the rounds in the 2010 Democratic governor's race: Could [San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom](#) eventually drop down to the Lt. Gov. spot in the 2010 Democratic ballot? [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

David Keranen: A lot goes into being 'the greatest nation' – The retired Bakersfield College professor writes that if we really want to be the greatest nation on the face of the earth, we have a lot of work to do. [Keranen op-ed in Bakersfield Californian](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

State cuts for health, welfare inflict pain – What will \$3.3 billion in cuts to state health and welfare programs mean for the Valley? Children will lose health insurance. Fragile mental health programs will take another hit. Counties will have less money to investigate child abuse and pay foster homes. The list goes on. [Fresno Bee 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 Analysts 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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Carol Chandler/Peter Mehas/Russell Statham: Budget cuts create new, harsh reality for CSU – Trustees of the CSU system write that the sudden jolt associated with ripping \$584 million out of CSU's budget, however, cannot be managed without negatively impacting student access, affordability and educational quality. [Chandler/Mehas/Statham op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Public comments sought on pipeline – A plan to tie together two large canals that deliver water from the Delta to farms and cities as far south as San Diego will be the subject of a public meeting Wednesday evening. [Stockton Record article](#)

Vital Valley water sensors at risk of budget cuts -- Dozens of critical sensors tracking temperamental [Central Valley](#) rivers could blink out next year because of [California's](#) budget problems. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

YMCA child-care funds cut by state – The more than 300 families that rely on subsidized child care at the Visalia YMCA may have to look elsewhere or reach for their wallets now that state funding has been sliced from the program. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Clovis, 2 of 3 unions agree on wage cuts -- The Clovis City Council, struggling to bring its budget into balance, on Monday approved more than \$900,000 in salary and benefit concessions from two employee unions, and imposed cuts on a third union. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Jim Boren: Consolidation could save sheriff money -- It's tiring hearing Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims threatening to cut officers or let felons out of jail early because of reductions to her department's budget. Mims would have a point if she and Fresno County supervisors were doing all they could to operate efficiently. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Visalia City Council delays vote on rail – By a 5-0 margin, council members voted to wait until Aug. 17 to decide whether to support a long-standing effort to keep the San Joaquin Valley Railroad from selling off the rails. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Kern EDC to help girls find careers in energy – A \$7,500 grant from Chevron Corp. (NYSE: CVX) will fund a pilot program by the Kern Economic Development Corporation designed to encourage girls to consider careers in the energy industry. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

Modesto City Council medical change faltering – A controversial proposal allowing junior high and high school students in Modesto to leave school to seek confidential medical services without their parents' knowledge appears headed to defeat. [Modesto Bee article](#)

New hours, bigger classes in Atwater elementary schools -- The administration and teachers at Atwater Elementary School District have crafted a memorandum of understanding for the coming school year that includes new hours and bigger classes. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Bailey gets \$190,000 settlement from Modesto schools – Modesto City Schools trustees publicly released the details of Debbe Bailey's settlement Monday, a week after she signed it. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Stanislaus program for MD training should qualify for funding – Stanislaus County has achieved a breakthrough in talks with federal officials over the future of all-important physician training in the county, officials said Monday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Mental Health Board examined in Fresno County – Two Fresno County officials say they worry the county is breaking state law by allowing people with conflicts of interest to sit on its mental health advisory board. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Bidding deadline brings Big West closer to a sale -- Big West refinery took a key step toward its eventual sale Monday as parent company Flying J Inc. accepted bids from as many as 10 potential buyers, a manager at the plant said. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Tejon Ranch asks court to lift gag order on negotiations – The 270,000-acre ranch and industrial development company has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Justice to support vacating a protective order that a U.S. District Court issued to maintain the confidentiality of settlement talks between Tejon Ranch and the Fish and Wildlife Service. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kings group receives \$2.4 million Head Start grant – Kings Community Action Organization has been awarded a \$2.48 million grant for early its pre-school program for poor children, Rep. Jim Costa, Kings County's congressman, announced Monday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Merced council seeks helping in serving the homeless – The Merced City Council pledged Monday to take the lead on helping the area's homeless people with the caveat that other governments step up their efforts as well. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Cost to meet emissions goal could double – Without nuclear power and "clean coal," the cost of cutting greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity industry could almost double, according to a study released Monday by a Bay Area think tank. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

David Hill: Biotech in Valley not so incredible -- The Northern San Joaquin Valley could be home to biotechnology firms employing thousands of area residents in all kinds of science and technology jobs. [Hill column in Modesto Bee](#)

Cash for clunkers program paying off for San Joaquin car dealers – San Joaquin County car dealers said Monday that the "cash for clunkers" program is stimulating the economy, especially on the county's car lots

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Woodlake

this past weekend. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Fresno police will collect guns in buyback program -- With a 9.4% surge in violent crime this year, Fresno police decided it was time for the city's first gun buy-back program, Chief Jerry Dyer said Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Visalia council approves interim chief – Colleen Mestas, who celebrated her first anniversary as Visalia's assistant police chief on June 25, was named interim police chief Monday during a closed session of the Visalia City Council. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Former Stanislaus deputy sues county, sheriff for \$1 million – A former Stanislaus County deputy who says she was the victim of sexual harassment and gender discrimination has filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the county and Sheriff Adam Christianson. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Cash-strapped Alameda County public defender starts turning away cases – The Alameda County Public Defender's Office has begun telling judges it can't represent certain defendants because it lacks enough money and staff members to give them a constitutionally adequate defense. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

FoodLink program helps people learn more about nutrition – When it comes to grabbing a quick bite to eat, nutrition often falls by the wayside. FoodLink for Tulare County officials hope to change that with its Nutrition on the Go! program, which creates a one-stop location for nutrition education, healthful food recipes and fresh produce. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

From garbage to garb -- The old adage, one man's trash is another man's treasure, couldn't have rung more true than it did on July 23, when children in the Lemoore Summer Day Camp strutted down a runway wearing just that -- trash. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Fresno Bee: Payday lenders prey on their consumers – In this economy, consumers need to understand the ramifications of their spending habits, and the high cost of so-called easy money. There's a huge cost that comes with payday loans, and these deals only create more debt for consumers. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Two SE Fresno postal branches face change -- The U.S. Postal Service is considering major changes at two branches in southeast Fresno, including possible closure, that could mean longer trips and reduced services for customers in a low-income area. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Modesto post offices on consolidation list -- Postal officials have sent a list of almost 700 offices to the Postal Regulatory Commission to be considered for consolidation. That list includes the Modesto Main (Kearney Avenue) and Paradise offices. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Postal pain may go up in Stockton -- The main post office on West Lane is one of hundreds nationwide being considered by U.S. postal officials for closure or consolidation with other offices. [Stockton Record article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee – In this economy, consumers need to understand the ramifications of their spending habits, and the [high cost of so-called easy money](#).

Merced Sun-Star – As the results of the May 19 special election proved, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers are [radioactive](#) when it comes to pushing measures for voter approval.

Modesto Bee – State needs to [bring our tax system](#) into 21st century.

Sacramento Bee – Lodi council should [stop picking faiths](#).

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on bald eagles, California's toxic water and other issues.

Visalia Times-Delta – "Cash for Clunkers" was a good idea, but [poorly executed](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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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