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Mike Lukens

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 Next 10

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 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  
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**KERN COUNTY**

Elections Division

August 9, 2009

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**MADDY EVENTS**

Maddy Forum - *Quality of Life: Are Cultural Arts a Luxury or a Necessity?* – Cynthia Cooper, Executive Director of FCASH, and Travis Sheridan, Chairman of the Creative Fresno Board of Directors, discuss the importance of growing the cultural arts and creative industries in Fresno on this week's Maddy Forum. 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 – Maddy Institute board member Sal Russo is the guest on the next edition of 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**

Jim Boren: Legislature has made governor irrelevant -- The Schwarzenegger era didn't have a chance because of the Legislature. And that's why it really didn't matter who voters selected in the 2003 gubernatorial recall election. [Boren column in Fresno Bee](#)

Dan Walters: Third time may be charm on budget – Twice this year, as revenues dropped and deficits widened, Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) and legislators reopened and revised the [state budget](#). In many respects, the dynamics of both exercises were similar. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Here come the pickpockets -- Just in case anyone out there is still clinging to the misguided belief that California can achieve a balanced budget merely by trimming fat, reducing waste and snatching back legislators' perks, have a look at the latest round of state-sanctioned thievery. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

The legislature's 336 new employees – While state lawmakers were contemplating deep cuts to education, children's health care and welfare payments, the legislators were also busy restocking their offices with new employees this year, according to legislative records obtained by The Chronicle. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Stockton Record: Pensions are a timebomb – California must think and do what only a few years back was not only unthinkable, but not considered doable. Today the state is sitting on unfunded pension liabilities of at least \$63 billion. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Modesto Bee: Too much spent on charity care – A distressing and illogical argument is gaining momentum in the national health care debate — that the current system is working just fine. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Cogdill discusses education benefits for National Guard – As guest host for the Governor's radio address, Sen. Dave Cogdill says California is finally giving back to the people who keep us safe from fires, floods, earthquakes and so much more. [Governor's radio address](#)

Deadline for 33 Stanislaus races extended to Wednesday -- The candidate filing deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday for 33 races on the Nov. 3 ballot, from school and irrigation districts to municipal advisory councils. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Will California's next governor be charismatic? – When voters elect a successor to the outsized Schwarzenegger next year, will they mark their ballots for a charismatic figure such as Gavin Newsom or fellow Democrat Jerry Brown, or for one of the accomplished but relatively bland Silicon Valley-ites vying for the GOP nomination: Tom Campbell, Steve Poizner or Meg Whitman? [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Willie Brown: Steve Westly may run for governor again -- Keep an eye on former state controller and multimillionaire Steve Westly – Brown thinks he might run for governor again. [Brown column in San Francisco Chronicle](#)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

Opposition to Delta salmon rules mounts – Legal challenges are mounting against new rules to protect salmon and steelhead from California's water works. [Stockton Record 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  
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 Bill information  
 CA High-Speed Rail Authority  
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 LateUpdate  
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 Merced Sun-Star  
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Not living off the land: Part-time farming the norm in Kings – Kings County may be the land of big agriculture, but the small farmer is still around. Except, unlike the giant agribusinesses that cover thousands of acres, the small-timers keep going by having a second career. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Latest Stanislaus crop report doesn't reflect struggle of 2009 – Picture an athlete with a recent spate of injuries, reminiscing about feats of strength from not too long ago. That's sort of how the 2008 crop report for Stanislaus County reads. The report, released Friday, shows agriculture doing fairly well during the year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Agritourism is one largely untapped way to make extra money – A recent University of California survey found that visitor education is one of the most common reasons - second only to increasing profits - farmers and ranchers decide to include agritourism in their operations. [Stockton Record article](#)

Amid drought, Sacramento's water use climbed – A Bee investigation of water use in Sacramento, based on an examination of three years of metering records, reveals city government itself as the top water scofflaw. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Fresno Bee: Create right conditions for jobs – An educated society, safe streets, a clean environment and sound infrastructure are among the conditions ideal for investment. A reasonable civil justice system, common-sense regulations and a tax code that does not penalize wealth creation are also helpful. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Michael Bernick: Job-loss numbers obscure total employment picture – The former director of the Employment Development Department writes that one of the least-recognized employment dynamics in California is the enormous [job creation](#) and destruction that occurs each month, in good times and bad. [Bernick op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Jack Stewart: Employment debate focuses on creaky wheels of industry – The president of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association writes that raising taxes on business, however, is no way to help the state's economy or its manufacturing base. [Stewart op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Christopher Thornberg/Jon Haveman: Efficiency distorts job picture – The economists write that ultimately, productivity improvements are good for the economy. They result in cheaper products – potato chips or microchips – and free up resources for production in other sectors of the economy. [Thornberg/Haveman op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Fruitvale to vote on music, PE cuts – The future of Fruitvale School District's music and PE programs will be decided Tuesday as its board votes on laying off 14 teachers. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Energy, water keys to Fresno County's future – The agency charged with generating jobs in Fresno County is putting a strong focus on two industries its leaders say are tailor-made for the area: clean renewable energy and water technology. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Modesto Bee: Congressional reps save program to train and retrain Valley physicians – This past week brought the welcome news that a federal agency that had abruptly withdrawn funding for the residency program has indicated it will fund a remodeled program that is already in the works. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Study: Kern volunteerism up despite recession – Between 2005 and 2008, Bakersfield had an average volunteer rate of 20.1 percent, and clocked in at 29.7 service hours annually per resident. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno's 'cash for guns' hits its target – A first-ever "cash for guns" event at the Fresno Fairgrounds collected 447 guns in less than three hours Saturday before running out of gift cards to exchange for them. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Report finds Fresno County remiss in tracking pregnancy in foster children – Fresno County has failed to track pregnancy among foster-care children and doesn't pay enough attention to the well-being of the children born in foster care, according to a report released this month. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Lois Henry: Bakersfield developers biting the hand that feeds them – Builders have had it so good around here for so long — absurdly low development fees, few mitigation requirements and a steroidal laissez-faire attitude toward sprawl — they've forgotten the dog is actually supposed to wag the tail, not the other way around. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Homebuilders get break on Fresno's fees – In an effort to spur the construction industry and put people to work, the city of Fresno is giving some homebuilders a multimillion-dollar break on fees for parks and firehouses. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Disputed northwest Bakersfield development headed for supervisors – Kern County supervisors will step back into controversial development territory Tuesday when they take up a land development proposal on Rosedale Highway. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Kids need a proper civics education – Newly retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter thinks American schools should rededicate themselves to teaching civics, and he's absolutely right. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Complete rebuilding of Tracy High moves ahead – The signs are everywhere: Historic Tracy High School is being rebuilt from the ground up. [Stockton Record article](#)

Students get acquainted with new Aspire school – Most children are soaking up the last days of summer break — sleeping in, playing video games, hanging out at skate parks, watching movies or spending time at the mall. But Travis Ralph, along with a few hundred other kids, spent Saturday getting to know his new school —

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[Univision 21](#)  
[Visalia Times-Delta](#)  
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Aspire College Preparatory Academy. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno Unified may use ex-KIPP site – Fresno Unified School District is considering taking over the former KIPP Academy charter school property in central Fresno to use as a school. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Officials: Ex-deputy city manager in Stockton used pull for free tickets – City Manager Gordon Palmer and City Attorney Ren Nosky told the City Council in a closed session meeting Tuesday that Johnny Ford used his influence at City Hall to get hundreds of free tickets to events at Stockton Arena and other city-owned facilities he oversaw, sources said. [Stockton Record article](#)

Mike Klocke: Uiring was a good hire; let's hope he stays -- The raging debate at City Hall and in the community was about whether to hire from within or go get an "outsider" to lead the police department. The argument for going outside - in this case, a high-ranking police official from San Jose - is to bring in new ways of doing things and a fresh voice. [Klocke column in Stockton Record](#)

Sweet corn helps Fresno State market set record -- On the first day of sweet corn season, the size of the crowd at Fresno State's farm market looked like something out of Disneyland. [Fresno Bee article](#)

#### EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – Just in case anyone out there is still clinging to the misguided belief that California can achieve a balanced budget merely by trimming fat, reducing waste and snatching back legislators' perks, have a look at the latest round of [state-sanctioned thievery](#); Kids need a [proper civics education](#).

Fresno Bee – An educated society, safe streets, a clean environment and sound infrastructure are among the [conditions ideal for investment](#); The California Fish and Game Commission [made the right call](#) by approving 153 miles of new marine sanctuaries between Half Moon Bay and Mendocino.

Modesto Bee – A [distressing and illogical argument](#) is gaining momentum in the national health care debate — that the current system is working just fine; Congressional representatives save program to [train and retrain](#) Valley physicians.

Sacramento Bee – Want jobs? [Encourage entrepreneurs](#).

Stockton Record – Assisted suicide cases [raises questions](#) for all of us; We must find the [political will](#) to address the problem of unfunded pension liabilities.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Health and Human Services Work Group will meet at Lionakis Beaumont Design Group, 1207 I St., Suite 100, Modesto, on Aug. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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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