

December 4, 2009

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## Maddy Events

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## Maddy Events

**Maddy Forum** – The Maddy Forum, a weekly half-hour show focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley, airs Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. on 90.7 KFSR radio. The show is available on the [KFSR Web site](#) and iTunes

**Maddy Political Insider** – The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., will be on hiatus for the month of December.

**Maddy Associate Luncheon:** On Dec. 18, the *Maddy Associate* luncheon will be our "Annual Sacramento Update" with members of the Valley's State delegation. If you are not a *Maddy Associate* and are interested in attending these events and becoming a *Maddy Associate*, please contact the Maddy Institute at [mkeppler@csufresno.edu](mailto:mkeppler@csufresno.edu)

**Maddy Institute on Facebook and Twitter** – To learn about Maddy Institute activities (e.g. *The Maddy Report* tv show, *The Maddy Forum* FM radio/podcast, *The Maddy Political Insider* AM radio show, *The Maddy Associates' Luncheons*, the *Maddy Legislative Intern Program*), become a fan of the Maddy Institute on Facebook or log on to <http://twitter.com/MaddyInstitute>. And if you have a Facebook or Twitter account, please add us and follow us!

## Political Briefs

**Jim Boren: Would Maldonado change vote on oil drilling to please Schwarzenegger?** -- Some are wondering how Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's pick for lieutenant governor would vote on drilling off the Santa Barbara coast. The LG is an ex-officio member of the State Lands Commission, which has jurisdiction. [Boren in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

**Costa to Obama: We need jobs** – The federal government should make more water available to farmers and spend more money on highways and other infrastructure projects if new jobs are to be created in the Central Valley, says Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, in a letter Thursday to President Barack Obama. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

**Dan Walters: Political chess played on California initiatives** – Nobody will ever announce how these political chess games turn out. The rival measures will either appear on the ballot or quietly disappear. And even if they do make the ballot, they will either generate serious, well-financed campaigns or will wither and die. That's the way the game is played. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Sacramento Bee: Officials' relatives should reveal gifts** – If someone gives a California state official a \$1,000 gift, the official is legally obligated to report it. If the same gift is given to the official's spouse or children, the reporting obligation vanishes. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**Cedillo poll shows him with a big lead over John Perez** – A new poll commissioned by Sen. Gil Cedillo shows him with a 26-point lead over incumbent Assemblyman John Perez, D-Los Angeles, in a potential Democratic primary match-up. Cedillo's potential challenge of Perez is being used by allies of Assemblyman Kevin De Leon to try to slow down Perez's momentum in the battle for Assembly speaker. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

**Prop 8 backers likely to win disclosure fight** – A federal judge probably violated the Constitution when he ordered backers of Proposition 8, the initiative that banned same-sex marriage in California, to give their campaign strategy documents to opponents trying to overturn the measure, an appeals court said Thursday. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**LA Clerk says vote-by-mail could bring dramatic increase in turnout ... and cost** – Switching to vote-by-mail citywide elections in Los Angeles -- and doing away with traditional polling places -- could increase voter participation but be costly and pose a threat to the integrity of elections, a report by the Los Angeles City Clerk concluded Thursday. [LA Times article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: No easy answers for caregiver costs** -- A small part of state and local budgets just 10 years ago, the cost of [In-Home Supportive Services](#) has ballooned in recent years. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**Fresno mayor uses White House invitation to speak for Valley** -- Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin carried a heavy burden Thursday at a high-level White House jobs forum and brainstorming session. One of only five mayors at the afternoon event, Swearengin also was the only San Joaquin Valley representative present. Among some 130 participants, Swearengin had to convey her region's persistent economic needs. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**CSU Bakersfield budget cut announcement delayed** -- Cal State Bakersfield faculty, students and others will have to wait another month before President Horace Mitchell announces what will be cut next year because of severe budget woes. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**California high-speed rail route through Pacheco Pass could be adjusted** – Plans to bring bullet trains into the Bay Area over Pacheco Pass and through San Jose will be opened up for more study to comply with a court ruling. By a 7-0 vote, the board of the California High Speed Rail Authority on Thursday decertified the massive environmental study that the agency completed last year approving the route. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

**Economy sheds fewest jobs since 2007** – The U.S. unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to 10 percent in November as employers cut the smallest number of jobs since the recession began. The better-than-expected job figures are a rare note of encouraging news for the labor market. [AP article](#)

**Stimulus funds boost San Joaquin hiring program** -- Economic stimulus funds will provide extra punch to a countywide apprenticeship program that provides valuable on-the-job experience to welfare recipients. [Stockton Record article](#)

### *Agriculture/Water*

**Rain in south hurts sweet potatoes but Merced crops are looking good** – The southern U.S. may be awash in a sea of rotten sweet potatoes after recent torrential rains, but Merced County's harvest of the orange tuber is tooting along just fine. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

### *Economy*

**Bakersfield area No. 36 in Best Performing Cities list** – Greater Bakersfield tops California metropolitan areas in the Milken Institute's annual Best Performing Cities list, but that may not be saying much about the local economy and job market. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Grizzlies would get help under Fresno proposal** -- The Fresno Grizzlies would continue paying \$1.5 million in annual rent at the downtown stadium but would share its profits and receive several city subsidies under a proposed deal presented Thursday evening to the City Council. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Strictly Business: Q&A with Rabobank's Andy Pederson** – The Bakersfield Californian sat down with Rabobank's Andy Pederson to hear his thoughts on the local outlook for the critical agriculture sector. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Fresno mayor vetoes three Council actions** -- Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin has vetoed three City Council actions that would open parts of her plan to fix a \$28 million budget deficit to possible council revision. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Budget troubles darken Modesto's tree lighting** – The switch was flipped, but the tree didn't light up. City officials played an inadvertent Scrooge on Thursday night, nixing decorations for a large evergreen tree at Modesto Centre Plaza to save the cost of buying new lights. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Where people shop in Kern** – As a result of the current recession, Bakersfield's retail landscape has changed significantly, including the close of major retailers like Gottschalks, Mervyns and Circuit City. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Warner Co. Jewelers to downsize** -- Economic distress is forcing Warner Co. Jewelers to close its nearly 14,000-square-foot north Fresno showroom and relocate to a smaller site in the next couple of months. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Riverbank ammo plant control an issue** – City officials worry their plans to take control of the Army ammo plant by April 1 could unravel because of the actions of the defense contractor managing the plant. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Visalia councilman: City is open for business --** For Warren Gubler, the key to Visalia's prosperity is a thriving private sector, and the new city councilman says he intends to use his voice and votes to help make prosperity happen. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Modesto Bee: Modesto gains sales tax, loses goodwill --** In 2008, when the Modesto City Council cut sales tax deals with three petroleum distributors, it was obvious that some other jurisdiction had to lose sales tax income in order for Modesto to gain it. We pointed that out at the time; so did others. But Modesto leaders were so greedy for sales tax revenue that they approved the revenue sharing contracts anyway. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

### Education

**COS' new training program for physical-therapy aides attracts Valley-wide interest –** Companies already are interested in hiring the graduates, Jonna Schnegel said. She's gotten calls from employers in San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, and Modesto. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Fresno State students offer downtown ideas --** Some Fresno State students spent much of the fall semester crawling through dusty downtown buildings, talking to real estate agents and bugging landlords in a quest to create the perfect business for the area. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Pacific forums strive to build community ties --** After a series of conversations, it's clear to University of the Pacific President Pamela A. Eibeck that community leaders want Pacific to play a central role in addressing public challenges in San Joaquin County. [Stockton Record article](#)

### Environment/Energy

**Air board under more pressure on truck rules –** The pressure is growing on the California Air Resources Board to suspend new pollution rules for trucks. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Funds lined up for Kern hydrogen power plant feasibility studies --** A clean-burning, hydrogen power plant proposed to be built outside Taft moved forward Thursday as the state Public Utilities Commission voted to allow Southern California Edison to charge its ratepayers up to \$30 million to help cover the project's preliminary costs. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Lois Henry: Is it really that hot here, PG&E? --** Remember back in July when people were screaming about power bills going up (some as much as 400 percent higher than the previous July)? And PG&E told us "Well?! It's hot in Bakersfield!" And said this July was hotter than the previous July and yadda yadda yadda. Not so fast...and not so hot, according to Michael Kelly, the El Segundo attorney working on a class action lawsuit against PG&E over its so called smart meters. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

### Health and Human Services

**H1N1 hospitalizations hit all-time high in California –** Nearly 800 people in California were hospitalized with the H1N1 flu last week, the largest one-week total of hospitalizations since flu cases began escalating this fall, state officials said Thursday. [LA Times article](#)

**Health and Human Services in Tulare County may add 66 jobs –** The agency, which laid off nearly 200 workers last year, will add 66 workers to the roster if the Board of Supervisors approves the move at its Tuesday meeting. All but a few would be welfare workers with the county's TulareWORKS department. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**'Off the 99' podcast: Hungry Merced County –** Off the 99 explores hunger and access to wholesome food in Merced County with three people intimately involved with the issue. [Off the 99 podcast in Merced Sun-Star](#)

**Valley stores offer shoppers weapon against flu –** Target, Jo-Ann Fabric & Crafts and Trader Joe's have all begun offering disinfecting wipes for carts at their stores. Some stores, including Jo-Ann's and

some Target stores, are offering liquid hand sanitizer for employees and customers as well. [Fresno Bee article](#)

### Land Use/Housing

**Bakersfield home prices rose 3.5 percent last month** -- Bakersfield's housing market posted mixed results last month as fewer homes sold but prices rose among those that did sell, according to a preliminary report released Thursday by local appraiser Gary Crabtree. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

### Transportation

**Modesto joins airport lobby** – The Modesto Airport on Thursday joined a state lobbying group that is pushing for increases in facility taxes and new rescue and firefighting regulations. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**New segment of Highway 180 opens in Fresno County** -- The new freeway segment between Clovis and Temperance avenues cost \$53.4 million for construction with funding from two state sources and Measure C, Fresno County's half-cent transportation sales tax. [Fresno Bee article](#)

### Other Areas

**Recruiting firm hears input on new Stockton city manager** – Sixteen business and community leaders picked by Mayor Ann Johnston and City Council members were at City Hall on Thursday to tell the company conducting the recruitment for a city manager what kind of person they would like that manager to be. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Valley private prisons underused, grand jury says** – Underused community prisons in Coalinga, Delano, Shafter and elsewhere should be filled with state inmates to save California taxpayers money, the Fresno County grand jury says. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Stockton told to pay lawyer fees** -- Two months after the City Council rejected its own attorney's advice and voted not to pay the legal fees of former City Manager Gordon Palmer and Human Resources Director Dianna Garcia in the Johnny Ford matter, a lawyer for the city told City Hall it is required by law to pay, officials said. [Stockton Record article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Fresno Bee** – It's Obama's war now, to [win or lose](#).

**Merced Sun-Star** – [New gift rules](#) are just what are elected officials need.

**Modesto Bee** – Modesto gains sales tax, [loses goodwill](#).

**Sacramento Bee** – A small part of state and local budgets just 10 years ago, the [cost of In-Home Supportive Services](#) has ballooned in recent years; If someone gives a California state official a \$1,000 gift, the official is [legally obligated to report](#) it. If the same gift is given to the official's spouse or children, the reporting obligation vanishes.

**Stockton Record** – San Joaquin health officials owe residents [clear, accurate, immediate facts](#).

**Visalia Times-Delta** – [Cheers](#) to Tulare County people and businesses.

## Upcoming Events

- The San Joaquin Valley Green Jobs Summit will be held at the Fresno Holiday Inn Downtown on Dec. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Rey Leon, executive director, Valley LEAP and SJV Regional Green Jobs Coalition Chair, at (559) 269-9563 or [svleap@gmail.com](mailto:svleap@gmail.com).
- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Air Quality Work Group will meet in conjunction with the Fast Track Advisory Committee on Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District office in Fresno. Information: Jennifer Johnson at [jejohnson@csufresno.edu](mailto:jejohnson@csufresno.edu).
- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's PreK-12 Education Work Group will hold its second annual Exemplary Practices in Education conference on the California State University, Fresno campus on Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Dr. Walt Buster, (559) 278-0388 or [wbuster3036@comcast.net](mailto:wbuster3036@comcast.net), or Dr. Marcy Masumoto, (559) 304-2190 or [mmasumoto@csufresno.edu](mailto:mmasumoto@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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