

December 5, 2009

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## Maddy Events

**Maddy Forum** – Two members of a coalition working to bring a medical school to UC Merced, Bryn Forham and Luisa Medina, discuss the coalition's efforts in a rebroadcast of the Maddy Forum, a half-hour show focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley. The Maddy Forum 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

**Tax board's request signals California may see more furloughs** – A key state agency is asking for a furlough exemption for its employees – for the year after furloughs are supposed to end. The Franchise Tax Board's request – prepared at the direction of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Department of Finance – indicates that the administration is prepared to extend furloughs for [state workers](#) beyond the policy's announced June 30, 2010, expiration date. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Maldonado puts both Dems, GOP in quandary** – State Sen. Abel Maldonado found an unexpected fan club at breakfast this week in San Francisco: immigrant waiters who lined up to get photos taken with the

former farmworker, who has been nominated to be the state's next lieutenant governor. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**Bakersfield Californian offers Q&A with three gubernatorial candidates** – The three California Republicans who want to be elected this state's governor next year have all made multiple stops in Bakersfield to reach out to the faithful. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Assembly cuts Columbus Day and Lincoln's Birthday holidays** – The [Assembly](#) has trimmed its paid holiday calendar to include two fewer days off next year. [Columbus Day](#) and [Lincoln's Birthday](#) were officially stripped from the 2010 holiday calendar by the [Assembly Rules Committee](#) yesterday. [Capitol Alert](#)

**California facing battle in getting more federal fire funding** – California may be known for its devastating fires, and it may represent 12% of the nation's population, but it received only about 5% of the federal funds provided last year to help fire departments pay for equipment and training. [LA Times article](#)

**Shedding light on the money race** – [Party Time](#) is a really great website for political junkies that now enables anyone to track congressional fundraising. It's also just a fun site. [Fresno Bee political notebook – scroll to item](#)

**Poizner slams Whitman spending in cash pitch** -- GOP gubernatorial candidate [Steve Poizner](#) slammed rival [Meg Whitman's](#) campaign spending in a mass e-mail Thursday while asking for donations to his own campaign. [Capitol Alert](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**State estimates \$10.6 billion for water tunnel project** – State water officials say it could cost \$10.6 billion to send water to Southern California through a proposed project of tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. [AP article](#)

**1-2-3 punch of storms could signal end of drought in northern California** – Heavy rain and snow forecast for next week look like the beginning of a big change in the current weather pattern and perhaps a signal that the end of California's three-year-long drought is near. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**California schools to get mask to curb swine flu** -- California school districts, including those in Kern, will receive 23 million masks and pairs of gloves to help curb the spread of swine flu, the state schools chief announced Friday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#); [AP article](#); [LA Times article](#)

**Lodi, other San Joaquin cities join to explore pension reform** -- City managers in San Joaquin County have joined together to take action on pension reform. City and county leaders recently released a policy document recommending a two-tier pension system. The new tier would only apply to new employees, and all the cities and the county would offer similar benefits. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

**Fresno State receives record number of applications for fall 2010** -- California State University, Fresno received a record 14,478 applications for fall 2010 admission with a flurry of submissions on the Nov. 30 deadline. [Fresno State news release](#)

### Agriculture/Water

**LA sets new water conservation record** -- Los Angeles residents reduced water consumption by a record amount in the five months since mandatory water rationing began, including a 23% cut in usage by residents of single-family homes. [LA Times article](#)

### Economy

**Fresno Bee: Support stadium proposal** -- Fresno residents will have an opportunity to see whether their City Council is more interested in solving the downtown stadium problem or will demagogue the issue by playing to the special interests. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

**Tulare city officials prepare land for building projects** -- To help bring development to Tulare's southeast — where a new college and K-8 school are planned to join new housing and the city's newest high school — city officials must complete underground and above-ground projects. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Livingston city rate increase sued for second time** -- The city of Livingston is in legal hot water again because of its controversial water and sewer rate hikes. This time a group of Livingston residents is suing the city with the help of a local legal aid group. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Modesto city workers spring for Christmas décor** -- Christmas isn't canceled after all. Some charitable elves — city employee unions — chipped in money to light and decorate Modesto's Christmas tree, saving an annual tradition. [Modesto Bee article](#); [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

### Education

**Steve Kang: UC Merced brings economic oomph to Valley** – The UC Merced chancellor writes that while the university's growing level of investment hasn't been enough to offset the most difficult financial climate our region has seen in decades, it is clearly helping to stabilize the regional economy. [Kang op-ed in Stockton Record](#)

**With no limits in place, another college fee hike likely** – With the state budget hole headed toward new depths next year, community college students likely will pay more than ever for their classes. [Oakland Tribune article](#)

**Refocused purpose for San Joaquin students** – County program taps into students' high-tech interests in the hopes of lowering dropout rates and raising test scores among black students. [Stockton Record article](#)

**COS reaches tentative deal with faculty that will save \$500,000** – College of the Sequoias and the COS Teachers Association have reached a tentative three-year contract agreement that will save the college \$500,000 per year. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**UCSF awards degrees cut short by war** -- On Friday, UC San Francisco awarded honorary degrees to 68 Japanese-American students whose careers were interrupted or cut short by World War II internment. [Fresno Bee article](#)

### Environment/Energy

**PG&E bills rate some explaining** -- Summer brought a rude shock to some San Joaquin Valley residents who say their PG&E bills were hundreds of dollars higher than they expected. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**\$20 million grant for Visalia biofuel research** -- A \$20 million federal stimulus grant will help fuel a Visalia company's efforts to convert prairie grasses and other materials into ethanol. [Fresno Bee article](#)

### Health and Human Services

**Updated figures show 13 H1N1 in San Joaquin County** – The H1N1 influenza virus has claimed 13 lives in San Joaquin County, Public Health Services officials announced Friday. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Swine flu relatively mild in Merced despite record outbreak statewide** – While the state of California saw record numbers of people hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, Merced County is bucking the trend. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Breast cancer screening program for poor women to stop accepting new patients** – A cigarette tax-funded program that pays for breast cancer screenings for low-income women will stop accepting new patients Jan. 1, public health officials said this week. Officials said the decision came as a result of “unprecedented fiscal challenges” to the program which they hope to reopen by summertime. [LA Times article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: Medically uninsured out of the loop on prices** – The recent [Rand](#) Corp. survey that found most California hospitals are failing to comply with a state law requiring them to furnish price quotes upon request wasn't particularly surprising. But it was troubling. And it served as yet another reminder of how desperately the system needs to change. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**Golden Valley plans big for grant** – Golden Valley Health Centers received a second dose of federal stimulus funding, but needs to clear some hurdles before spending the money on brick-and-mortar projects to serve 6,600 additional patients. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Kings, United Way launch lifeline for residents in need** – Kings County residents who are in need and seeking information now only have to remember one phone number to get help. The county's new 211 information and referral system began last week, a culmination of efforts to bring local residents better access to health, food, shelter and other help in times of crisis or otherwise. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

**Tulare County lacking in abortion services** – The short answer is that surgical abortions don't appear to be available in Tulare County, except in cases of medical necessity. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Social barriers remain for adoption** – Of the hundreds of teenage girls going through unplanned pregnancies that Karen Pringle deals with in her job, few — maybe 1 percent — tell her they plan to put their babies up for adoption. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Anti-tobacco advocates target sales in Corcoran** -- Kings County's health advocates are calling on Corcoran city leaders to adopt a fee aimed at city tobacco vendors, one to help pay for police enforcement of a law prohibiting sales of cigarettes to minors. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

**Inga Barks: Dems right on Kern Health pay dispute** – The Bakersfield Californian's conservative columnist agrees with Democrats! Is it a Christmas miracle or...are they're right? At issue is pay and bonuses for the CEO of Kern Health Systems, a health-insurance provider for the poor that works under an independent board of directors but is taxpayer-funded. [Barks column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

### *Land Use/Housing*

**Bob Keenan: Hopeful signs, careful plans for housing market** – The president and CEO of the Home Builders Association of Tulare/Kings Counties shares his thoughts on the economy and housing market as it relates to his industry in a q&a with the Visalia Times-Delta. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Homeless camp on tap for Merced council meeting** – The homeless are back on the agenda for the City Council on Monday night as they consider removing from consideration a homeless camp at Mission Avenue and Tyler Road. Three new members -- Bill Blake, Josh Pedrozo and Mary-Michal Rawling -- were sworn in since the last council took action on the matter. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

### *Transportation*

**Underground high-speed rail trains at Diridon Station unlikely, rail leaders say** -- Despite requests from San Jose officials and neighborhood groups to build a bullet-train station underground at Diridon Station, high-speed rail leaders confirmed Friday that the station would likely be built above current train tracks. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

### *Other Areas*

**Madera County auditor pick backs out of job** -- Bryon Karow, the Madera County Board of Supervisors' pick to take over the county's troubled Auditor-Controller Department, said Friday that he has decided to back out of the job. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

**Fresno County DA probes Sanger council vote** -- The Fresno County District Attorney's Office is investigating whether the Sanger City Council's vote on hiring a city manager recruiting firm veered from the published agenda and violated open-meeting laws, an official said Friday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**City's ban on liquor sales at Stockton market ruled illegal** -- Stockton abused its discretion and acted illegally when it declared south Stockton's New Grand Save Market a nuisance and prohibited liquor sales there, a state appeals court has ruled. [Stockton Record article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Fresno Bee** – Fresno residents will have an opportunity to see whether their City Council is more interested in [solving the downtown stadium problem](#) or will demagogue the issue by playing to the special interests.

**Merced Sun-Star** – The Sonoma County judge's decision to reduce the 12-year sentence of Dylan Morse is [puzzling on so many levels](#).

**Modesto Bee** – Modesto [tree flop](#) wasn't the worst thing ever.

**Sacramento Bee** – “No” is [not enough](#) for Placer GOP; The recent [Rand](#) Corp. survey that found most California hospitals are failing to comply with a state law requiring them to furnish price quotes upon request wasn't particularly surprising. But [it was troubling](#).

## 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 8:30 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).

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