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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

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

Governor to give CalPERS more money than it asked for – Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), who's crusading to overhaul employee pensions, is choosing to absorb a major increase in the state's contribution to [CalPERS](#) next year despite a looming budget deficit. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Jim Boren: That's what all lieutenant governors say – One more politician sat across the table and promised that he would make the job of lieutenant governor relevant in California government. This one was Sen. Abel Maldonado, and he's been hand-picked by Gov. Schwarzenegger to be his lieutenant governor. [Boren column in Fresno Bee](#)

Maldonado nomination poses GOP dilemma – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's choice of Sen. Abel Maldonado for lieutenant governor was essentially a political challenge to his fellow Republicans: Expand the party or continue to wither on the vine of ideological purity. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

Sacramento Bee: California speakership has lost clout -- Two efforts are under way to reform [California's](#) dysfunctional government. They will fail if they don't do something to restore the legislative branch, including the speaker. At minimum that means ending term limits and curbing the excesses of the initiative process. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

California official exempted himself from driving state car home -- Three months after the governor moved this summer to slash the number of [state workers](#) allowed to drive government cars between their homes and offices, a top Schwarzenegger administration official personally approved his own take-home vehicle deal. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Fiorina goes national, does weekly GOP address -- Carly Fiorina is getting some national exposure Saturday after Senate GOP czar Mitch McConnell tapped her to give the GOP weekly Republican address today. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Californian leads effort to defend abortion rights in health plan -- As a [school nurse](#) long ago, [California](#) Democratic Rep. [Lois Capps](#) worked with children of the uninsured, getting eyeglasses for them with help from the local Lions Club. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Dan Walters: Book looks back on California's golden era of legislation -- The [California Legislature's](#) decline from a widely hailed national model to an ineffective laughingstock has generated many academic and journalistic autopsies, and a spate of nostalgia-tinged books. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

Fresno Bee: Rallying for Valley jobs-- Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin had an opportunity to explain the economic plight of the San Joaquin Valley at a White House jobs summit on Thursday. Swearingin knows that economic improvements so far haven't done a lot to help the plight of unemployed Valley residents. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

\$11.1 billion bill likely a tough sell with voters – Persuading voters to pass an \$11.1 billion water bond in November will be a "huge challenge," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger told leaders from throughout the state last week. Indeed, opponents already are organizing to try and stop it. [Stockton Record article](#)

Bond could increase Kings water supply – Voter approval of the state water bond could fund some long sought-after Kings County water storage projects, local officials familiar with the legislation said this week. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Dairies may benefit from clean air rules – Kern dairies could be among the early winners in a proposed "cap and trade" system now under consideration statewide as a way of reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Steve Lopez: Educators have the wrong number in answering budget crisis – By slashing Cal State and UC budgets, is the state saving money or shooting itself in the foot? [Lopez column in LA Times](#)

Two civil rights lawsuits in Stanislaus bring kudos, criticism – People might not realize that agencies up and down California are looking at Modesto, whispering and pointing fingers, wondering how two civil rights test cases here might affect them. Some say they too have fallen victim to big-city lawyers emboldened by Modesto's loss. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Small efforts can save lots of water in Bakersfield -- Bakersfield, generally speaking, is not the most water-conscious of towns. At best the average local resident spends more than twice the water at home that an average United States citizen does. A few simple alterations can make an immediate impact on consumption -- and on pocketbooks. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

San Joaquin County is fount of olives -- There's an oil boom under way in California, largely concentrated in the Central Valley. But there are no towering derricks drilling thousands of feet into the earth. Rather, farmers, tapping the first few feet of topsoil, are planting thousands of acres of olive trees in dense hedgerows to facilitate mechanical harvesting. [Stockton Record article](#)

New operating manual needed for Folsom Dam upgrade -- Nearly a billion dollars for a massive new spillway and flood-control gates at [Folsom Dam](#) promises a new level of protection for the Sacramento region. The full impact of one of the nation's most ambitious dam upgrades, however, won't be measured for some time because a rewrite of rules governing the reservoir's flood-control operations is late getting started. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Economy

Stockton Record: San Joaquin development officials should target small business -- For an enterprise zone to work, officials must reach all businesses, not just those with marquee names, and get them involved. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Education

Class cuts, higher fees raise anxiety at CSU Stanislaus -- In her years on campus, Renae Floyd has seen a variety of problems presented at the California State University, Stanislaus, counseling center. Homesickness, mood instability, anxiety, depression, relationship troubles, substance abuse problems, those are all norms on most college campuses. Until this year, the licensed marriage and family therapist said, she'd never had a student come in and say she couldn't feed her family. [Modesto Bee article](#); [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Sacramento Bee: Local educators need to hotfoot in Race to the Top -- Now is the time for superintendents, school boards, teachers' unions, parents and civic leaders to step forward if they want to get to the next level in the four areas -- with some extra funding from 2010 through 2014. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Ward Connerly: We must change our expectations of UC system -- The former UC regent writes that the circumstances in which UC and the state of California currently find themselves make it clear that the present structure is unsustainable. [Connerly op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Michael Fitzgerald: Pacific launches public forums as it emerges from its shell -- It's time to challenge the longstanding belief that University of the Pacific is filled with educated elites bristling with fear and loathing of the Stockton community. [Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

Mike Klocke: Pacific reaches out; Stockton must reach back -- From January to May, there will be five forums targeted toward specific community needs: health care; the economy; energy and the environment; education; and arts and culture. The forums should be informative and helpful. They can, hopefully, provide a blueprint for dealing with some community issues. [Klocke column in Stockton Record](#)

Environment/Energy

Bakersfield Californian: Suspend diesel regs, then do it right -- The California Air Resources Board has so thoroughly botched its efforts to regulate diesel emissions, the time has come to suspend rules aimed at cleaning up the estimated one million heavy-duty diesel trucks operating in California, due to go into effect in January 2011. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Lois Henry: Smackdown at the air board? I can only hope – If you happen to be in Sacramento on Wednesday, you might want to drop by the California Air Resources Board meeting to watch the fireworks. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Land Use/Housing

FHA loan changes proposed – First-time home buyers in the central San Joaquin Valley would have to come up with a higher down payment under proposed changes to the region's most popular loan program. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Legal issues surround annexation in Fresno County -- The city of Fresno wants to absorb 93 acres of unincorporated land in southeast Fresno using a state law to override the objections of residents. But there is a problem. That law, it turns out, may be unconstitutional. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Other Areas

Kern attorneys see uptick in mental competency hearings -- It seems like never before has Kern County had so many mental competency issues in high-profile criminal cases. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Inquiry targets ex-Chowchilla official's loan help -- Nancy Red, who retired this summer as Chowchilla's city administrator, helped get a \$63,000 government-funded loan approved for her husband's business even though she signed an agreement stating that the city would not engage in such conflicts of interest, records show. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – The California Air Resources Board has so thoroughly botched its efforts to regulate diesel emissions, the time has come to [suspend rules](#) aimed at cleaning up the estimated one million heavy-duty diesel trucks operating in California, due to go into effect in January 2011.

Fresno Bee – Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin had an opportunity to explain the economic plight of the San Joaquin Valley at a White House jobs summit on Thursday. Swearingin knows that economic improvements so far haven't done a lot to help [the plight of unemployed Valley residents](#).

Modesto Bee – [Change is needed](#) for CSU Stanislaus to not just survive but to thrive.

Sacramento Bee – Two efforts are under way to reform California's dysfunctional government. They will fail if they don't do something to [restore the legislative branch](#), including the speaker; Now is the time for superintendents, school boards, teachers' unions, parents and civic leaders to step forward if they want to [get to the next level](#) in the four areas – with some extra funding from 2010 through 2014.

Stockton Record – The ["graveyard of empires"](#) must not become ours; For an enterprise zone to work, officials [must reach all businesses](#), not just those with marquee names, and get them involved.

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.

- 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.
- 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. Information: Dr. Walt Buster, (559) 278-0388 or wbuster3036@comcast.net, or Dr. Marcy Masumoto, (559) 304-2190 or mamasumoto@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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