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## Maddy Events

**Maddy Forum: Health care reform** – A panel of experts discusses health care reform in a Maddy Forum rebroadcast airing Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. on 90.7 KFSR radio. The show, a weekly half-hour program focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley also 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

**Perez expected to be elected speaker Thursday** – Assemblyman John Perez, D-Los Angeles, is set to become the California state Assembly’s next speaker during a vote on the Assembly floor Thursday, Assembly sources tell Capitol Weekly. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

**Might redistricting process run out of cash?** – Just a little over a year after voters created an independent commission to draw most of California’s political maps, the process is costing a lot more money than was allocated. [Capital Notes blog](#)

**Stockton Record: A bit closer to their worth** – Lawmakers, constitutional officers and members of the Board of Equalization who had their pay slashed 18 percent starting Monday. Call it a bit of what-goes-around-comes-around government. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

**Fresno Bee: Politicians should have to pay for mail** -- Unfortunately, members of Congress regularly abuse the franking privilege by sending political material to voters in their districts. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

**Congress slashes subsidy for jailing illegal immigrants** – [California](#) and other financially strapped states will lose tens of millions of federal dollars that they spend to jail illegal immigrants charged with crimes, under Congress' latest spending bill. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Is CalPERS shifting position on retirement-benefit legislation?** – CalPERS board has played a part in retirement benefit legislation in the past, sponsoring a landmark increase and even a kind of cut that cracked down on pension-boosting maneuvers. But the policy of the giant system, which faces questions about whether current benefits are affordable in the long run, is apparently changing. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

**FPPC, prison health care czar at odds over financial disclosure** -- Months of negotiations between the state's campaign-finance enforcer and the prison health care receivership are making headway and may head off a threatened lawsuit against correctional officials over conflict-of-interest rules. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**California's universities will see enrollment surge** -- [California's](#) state university system will face a surge of enrollment demand in the next half-decade, according to a new statistical study by the [California Postsecondary Education Commission](#). [Capitol Alert](#)

**Air board orders truck pollution redone** -- The state's air pollution board voted Wednesday to redo a key report guiding truck regulations that was prepared by a staff member who lied about his credentials. But the California Air Resources Board stopped short of suspending the rules while the work is repeated -- a move pushed by a Valley member of the board. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Lois Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#); [Stockton Record article](#)

**Merced goes to top in nation's foreclosures** -- Merced was No. 1, with one of every 83 housing units receiving a foreclosure filing. Stockton was second; Modesto was third; and Fort Myers, Fla., was fourth. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Disparities abound in federal stimulus awards** -- The federal government has showered billions of stimulus dollars around the country this year to jump-start the economy and save jobs. But a Mercury News analysis of reported stimulus spending so far shows it has flowed unevenly, with wide gulfs between California's largest counties. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

### Agriculture/Water

**Modesto-area grower to head California Farm Bureau Federation** – A Modesto-area almond and walnut grower was elected president of the California Farm Bureau Federation on Wednesday during the group's annual meeting in Anaheim. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Government steps up immigration enforcement** -- As the federal government clamps down on employers with increased audits and added pressure to enroll in an employment verification program, California farm groups say the problem remains that farmers and ranchers need an effective system that aids in hiring workers legally. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

## Economy

**Tulare County may lay off 12 more Resource Management Agency workers** – An additional 12 workers with the county's Resource Management Agency will be laid off next month if the proposal is approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Visalia Times-Delta: Debate looms over use of Visalia's reserves** – Visalia is in a comparatively strong position, and it got that way by careful husbanding of its reserve funds. The city next year will probably have to commit an additional \$5 million in reserves to its budget, but it ought to try to draw the line there. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

**New jobless claims rise more than expected** – The number of newly laid-off workers seeking jobless benefits rose more than expected last week, after falling for five straight weeks. [AP article](#)

**Stockton clubhouses suffering from lousy economy** – The doors of Stockton Boys and Girls Club clubhouses stayed locked during Thanksgiving break this year for the first time. And the club will likely close again over the Christmas and New Year's school holiday, a time during which it used to offer refuge to children who needed a safe place to go. The kids are being shut out by economics. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Relatively stable workers' comp rates predicted for 2010** – California workers' compensation insurance rates will be relatively stable and increase by an average of only 4 percent in 2010, says state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

**The State Worker: Do charges on pensions add up?** – True or false: "Many civil servants can retire at 50 or 55 years old with virtually full salary and health care benefits until the day they die." [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Sacramento County considers cutting developers' fees** -- [Sacramento County](#) officials are facing a dilemma: They want to stimulate the local economy by lowering the financial and regulatory hurdles for developers. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**New facility to serve I-5 travelers** -- From a retail development perspective, there are two kinds of people who get off Interstate 5 at Laval Road: the ones heading north, and the ones going south. Those headed north are in for a change. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

## Education

**Clovis Unified approves \$10.8 million in cuts** – Clovis Unified School District's board is getting an early start on its budget for next year by making \$10.8 million in cuts going into next July. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Merced district revenues down \$3.7 million from early projections** – The Merced City School District's budget will be tight this year, meaning that the school system could be forced to borrow later this fiscal year, according to the district's first interim budget report. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Assembly panel struggles with education bills** – The [Assembly](#) Committee on Education pushed forward a bill Wednesday favored by unions and effectively shut down a bill supported by some education advocates and Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**UC charges higher fees to broad range of graduate students** – Future social workers, architects and urban planners studying at the University of California are about to get a change in status they might not want. Starting next year, these UC students will be considered "professional" degree candidates and will be required to pay as much as \$8,000 more a year in student fees than they do now. [LA Times article](#)

**College options available to undocumented students** – At a workshop and resource fair this week at San Joaquin Delta College, Sarai Torres brought to her mother a packet of information from California

State University, Sacramento, and a list of private scholarships open to undocumented students.

[Stockton Record article](#)

**Fresno Unified backs new election map** – The Fresno Unified school board Wednesday recommended a new trustee-area map -- part of an overhaul for how trustees will be elected next year. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Online charter school plan rejected throughout the state** – A group that wanted to start the first statewide kindergarten through 12th grade online charter school, has been rejected by all of the nearly 100 California school districts asked to approve its plan. [Oakland Tribune article](#)

**Lodi Unified rejects charter petition** – President Richard Jones said the board denied the petition submitted by Robert Closson to turn the shuttered Turner Elementary School into a 150-student charter called Turner Academy Charter School. [Stockton Record article](#)

**LA school budget proposal foresees up to 8,000 layoffs by next fall** -- School officials Tuesday unveiled a worst-case budget plan that could, if enacted, result in up to 8,000 layoffs by next fall. The tentative budget proposal, which responds to next year's projected deficit of \$470 million, is an early salvo in a process that will play out over the next six months in the Los Angeles Unified School District. [LA Times article](#)

### *Environment/Energy*

**Modesto Bee: Stanislaus made right call on ConAgra sludge** -- Do Stanislaus County supervisors show favoritism to our No. 1 industry — agriculture? Probably so — and most of the time that's appropriate. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

**Rise in sea levels threatens California ports** -- Global warming and a resulting rise in sea levels present a direct threat to the world's seaports -- and many of California's harbors are nowhere near ready, state officials say. [LA Times article](#)

### *Health and Human Services*

**Fresno, Merced clinics get stimulus funds** – The Obama administration Wednesday injected \$9.5 million into the Golden Valley Health Centers so the Merced-based medical system can build a clinic. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Foster kids pull no punches on cracks in Kern system** – Some of the biggest critics of Kern County's foster care system are its foster children. On Wednesday four of them got a chance to speak. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: State has wrong prescription for addicted doctors** – A well-designed system based on assessment, early intervention, treatment and monitoring will be the greatest benefit to all Californians. A simplistic system based on punishment will create a greater threat to the health and safety of [California health care consumers](#). [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**California rapped for puny anti-smoking spending** -- [California](#) was once a national leader among in programs to discourage children from smoking but has dropped to 25th place in its commitment to anti-smoking education, a consortium of health groups said Wednesday. [Capitol Alert](#)

### *Land Use/Housing*

**Fewer home sales cutting prices** -- An extension of a federal \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers and positive economic signs are taking pressure to sell off owners, analysts said. [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

## Transportation

**Tulare officials: High-speed rail station near Hanford a possibility** -- Visalia officials say they're optimistic that a high-speed-rail station will be built in Kings County. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

## Other Areas

**Fresno City Manager Souza to resign** -- Fresno City Manager Andy Souza announced his resignation Wednesday, saying he is grateful for the chances to help lead the city through challenging times but is ready to try something new. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**More Bay Area and California residents stay local as out-of-state migration slows** – Their flight from the Bay Area and California to more affordable places was a cause for worry after the dot-com bust, but college graduates now are more likely to stay in the region, according to a population analysis released Wednesday by the Brookings Institution. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

**Meeting today to discuss San Joaquin prisons** – State prison officials will present plans and take input on a 500-bed inmate re-entry facility southeast of Stockton in two public meetings to be held today. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Madera County names auditor** – Madera County's deputy auditor-controller has been appointed as the new auditor, a county official said Wednesday. Janet Kroeger will begin her new job in January, chief administrative officer Steven Rodriguez said. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Women not common in California fire stations** -- Are women underrepresented in the Fresno Fire Department? Data from California's 10 largest local fire departments (as designated by the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Census) suggest that they are, although Fresno is far from the worst of the list. [Fresno Bee article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Bakersfield Californian** –

**Fresno Bee** – Unfortunately, members of Congress regularly [abuse the franking privilege](#) by sending political material to voters in their districts; We pay legislators to [take a stand](#).

**Merced Sun-Star** – U.S. shield law needed with [no strings](#).

**Modesto Bee** – We are critical of both parties for [abusing the franking privilege](#), and Radanovich just offers the latest local example. Some Democrats have been just as guilty; Stanislaus County made [the right call](#) on ConAgra sludge.

**Sacramento Bee** – State has [the wrong prescription](#) for addicted doctors; A [reasoned shield law](#) is within grasp.

**Stockton Record** – Lawmakers, constitutional officers and members of the Board of Equalization who had their pay slashed 18 percent starting Monday. Call it a bit of [what-goes-around-comes-around government](#).

**Visalia Times-Delta** – Debate looms over city of [Visalia's reserves](#).

## 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. 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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