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In This Issue

- [Maddy Events](#)
- [Political Briefs](#)
- [News Briefs](#)
- [Editorial Roundup](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

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

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

Denham out of lieutenant governor race -- State Sen. Jeff Denham is ending his campaign for lieutenant governor and running for Assembly. Denham, R-Atwater, met in the past two days with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, other state Republican leaders and his family before reaching his decision to run for the 25th Assembly District seat. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Gay Latino man chosen to lead state Assembly – Assemblyman John Pérez, an openly gay Latino Democrat from Los Angeles, made history Thursday when he was unanimously chosen by the Assembly's Democratic Caucus to succeed Karen Bass as the lower house's leader. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#); [AP article](#)

Dan Walters: New speaker, but old school battle lingers – The [Assembly](#) returned briefly to [Sacramento](#) on Thursday, resolved one of its internal squabbles by naming John A. Pérez as its newest speaker, but then defied Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on how to respond to pressure from the Obama White House to overhaul [education policy](#). [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

CA Dem Chair Burton: Maldonado 'will not be confirmed' – [California Democratic Party](#) chair John Burton insisted Thursday that Gov. Schwarzenegger's GOP nominee for state Lieutenant Governor, [Senator Abel Maldonado](#) of Santa Maria, "won't be confirmed" by the Democratically-controlled state legislature. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Cardoza's Blue Dog credentials – It turns out Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, is a Blue Dog after all -- not a Nancy Pelosi domesticus, more commonly known as a lap dog. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

CalPERS, CalSTRS see long-term credit ratings lowered – Hurt by big investment losses, California's two biggest state-run pension funds lost top long-term credit ratings from Moody's Investors Service on the insurance they sell to municipal governments to make it easier for them to sell bonds. [LA Times article](#)

Ennis, Worthley will seek re-election to Tulare board of supervisors -- Supervisors Steve Worthley and Mike Ennis will seek re-election to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

Sen. Dianne Feinstein: Review of Delta science is appropriate – Sen. Feinstein writes that her reason for seeking an independent National [Academy](#) of Science review of the biological opinions that govern water pumping for farms in the San Joaquin Valley is simple. The Valley is in the midst of a devastating economic crisis, caused in part by a drought that has left hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland fallowed. [Feinstein op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Experts, stakeholders discuss the Delta's future – The scenic drive along Highway 160 that winds through the Delta will look dramatically different in the upcoming decades, biologists, conservationists and other experts said at Thursday's Delta and California Water Forum in Oakland. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Latino youths straddle two worlds in America – Latino youths, the fastest growing group of young people in America, are satisfied with their lives and optimistic about the future, but they're also more likely than most other American youth to drop out of school, live in poverty and become teen parents. [San Jose Mercury News article](#); [New York Times article](#)

Kings may ask state to investigate birth defect concerns in Kettleman City -- A Kings County supervisor called on county leadership Wednesday to ask for a full state investigation into what has caused the recent spike in birth defects and infant deaths in Kettleman City. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Assembly approves education bill opposed by governor -- The [Assembly](#) approved a bill Thursday designed to obtain up to \$700 million in Race to the Top federal education funds, but Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) said he'll veto the union-backed proposal if it reaches his desk. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Most oranges survive Valley chill -- Central San Joaquin Valley citrus growers have struggled through several nights of sub-freezing temperatures, but citrus officials say they expect little damage to this year's navel orange crop. [Fresno Bee article](#)

State says farmers should review insurance for frost protection -- Although Central Valley citrus escaped damage from an early December freeze, state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner says now is the time for growers to check their insurance policies to see if frost damage is covered. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

Economy

Valley's jobless avoid training sites -- The Valley's work force training centers are awash in federal stimulus money to help jobless residents seeking new skills. There's just one problem: Some people aren't signing up for fear they will lose their unemployment checks. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Three thoughts on Bakersfield job growth in 2010 -- Local unemployment data have been a grudging source of hope these last several months. The state reported last month that some 9,600 Kern jobs were lost between October 2008 and October 2009. Over that same period, the county's unemployment rate rose from 9.6 percent to 14.5 percent. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

California agency delays 119,000 unemployment checks -- Jobless Californians are facing eviction and homelessness because the [Employment Development Department](#) has been unable to deliver an estimated 119,000 checks for extended [unemployment insurance benefits](#) after the federal government approved extra money last month. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Fresno council unable to override budget vetoes -- The Fresno City Council on Thursday failed three times to override mayoral vetoes and add its influence to the city's efforts to close a \$28 million budget deficit. But they'll try again next year, council members said. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Robert Price: 'Dad' watching, saving county money -- Since Dad took charge of Kern County's vehicle fleet, county workers' lunch hours have never been quite the same. Dad (that's the nickname Price has assigned to Kern County government's new GPS-powered vehicle monitoring system) has helped local taxpayers achieve savings of almost 122,000 miles on the cumulative public odometer during fiscal 2008-09 -- resulting in a 14 percent drop in fuel consumption over the previous fiscal year. [Price column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Online employment ads rise in California -- Job vacancies advertised online in [California](#) rose nearly 7 percent in November, according to the Conference Board's monthly online help-wanted study. [Online ads nationwide hit 387,000 last month compared with 362,400 in October.](#) [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Speaker: Recession a 1970s repeat -- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas — in the mid-1970s. During that recession, the stock market tumbled almost 50 percent, then rebounded to recover all of that and more. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Stockton redevelopment director fired -- Revitalization Director Dave Harzoff, who oversaw the city's housing and redevelopment arms, was forced out by interim City Manager Kevin O'Rourke on Wednesday, two sources said. [Stockton Record article](#); [Michael Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

Casinos' take grows -- Indian gaming experienced its slowest growth ever in 2008, but even the slumping economy couldn't prevent the lucrative industry from posting positive year over year growth, according to a study released Thursday. [Inland Daily Bulletin article](#)

Lawmaker weighs in on Beef Packers recall -- A Fresno beef-packing plant that recently recalled nearly 22,723 pounds of ground beef over concerns that it may be linked to an outbreak of salmonella is now coming under scrutiny from a U.S. congresswoman. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Citizens Business Bank to decide staffing soon -- Citizens Business Bank expects to make a decision next month as to how many former San Joaquin Bank branches and employees it will keep. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Education

Spirit of innovation from Pacific students – From a raincoat that changes colors to a solar power source for laptops, the inventions of business students at University of the Pacific were anything but run of the mill in a contest where imagination met with business sense. [Stockton Record article](#)

Former troubled teens celebrate life's triumphs – Two years ago, 19-year-old Raymond Reyes was a gang affiliate who dropped out of high school and did time for gun possession. Today he's a high school graduate who works in the oilfields and spends his free time playing community adult softball instead of looking for trouble "in the hood." [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

College of the Sequoias unveils health building – The building — nicknamed "Hospital Rock" — is divided into two sections. The first features a large conference room and lecture hall with 79-student capacity and stadium-type seating; the second has four standard classrooms, a nursing-skills lab, allied health-skills lab and faculty offices. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Web-based exchange links Fresno, Philadelphia students -- Four girls from one of Fresno's newest charter high schools crowded around a computer monitor Thursday and talked about their lives with students nearly 3,000 miles away in Philadelphia. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Stockton Record: Stockton Unified trustees find order -- If there's ever been a deliberative body that needed a few rules of the road, it is the Stockton Unified School District Board of Trustees. This week the board got them when it adopted Robert's Rules of Order. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Environment/Energy

Governor will share California climate change story at Copenhagen – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger plans to carry [California's](#) climate change story to a conference in [Copenhagen](#) next week, a move that will burnish his international image as a leader in the war on global warming. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Enact truck rules based on reality -- The air board's reputation and its ability to protect health rest on strong science and analyses that reflect economic reality. The board's reputation has slipped with its handling of the diesel regs, but not irreparably. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Health and Human Services

Swine flu vaccine on way to California inmates – Inmates at California prisons should get swine-flu shots in the next few days, but not in time to prevent outbreaks. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Medical-marijuana facilities in Tulare County told to close down – Last month the Board of Supervisors voted to halt distribution of marijuana in unincorporated areas. The ordinance took effect Thursday. It does not affect medical-marijuana organizations within incorporated cities. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Taxpayers benefit from opportunity to evaluate Kern Health Systems -- Some might look at the questionable expenditures authorized by Kern Health Systems' board of directors, or its executive staff, and believe they're seeing evidence of government wastefulness in the delivery of health care. They would be correct. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Hard-to-kill bacterial infections becoming more common – MRSA infections are increasing in California, according to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). A study done on hospital patients with MRSA from 1999 to 2007 shows that there has been a dramatic increase in reported MRSA cases. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Corcoran tobacco ordinance still cloudy -- The proposed Corcoran ordinance to impose a fee aimed at regulating sales to minors by tobacco vendors isn't dead yet, but city officials have so far expressed ambivalence toward the measure. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Few troubled mortgages being modified permanently – Federal data released Thursday showed just how poorly banks are doing at turning the growing number of temporary loan modifications into permanent ones under the Obama administration's effort to curtail foreclosures. [LA Times article](#)

California real estate on way to recovery -- Modest recovery is on the horizon for the real estate market, the president of the California Association of Realtors said at a Visalia Convention Center luncheon Wednesday. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Lodi General Plan OK'd by planners -- The Lodi Planning Commission unanimously endorsed the city's proposed General Plan late Wednesday. The vote was a key step forward. The plan now heads to the City Council, possibly early next year. The council has the final say on the document. [Stockton Record article](#)

Other Areas

Federal appellate ruling rejects California electronic bingo machines -- The bid by [California](#) charities to use electronic bingo machines has been shot down by a federal appeals court. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – Some might look at the questionable expenditures authorized by Kern Health Systems' board of directors, or its executive staff, and believe they're seeing [evidence of government wastefulness](#) in the delivery of health care. They would be correct.

Merced Sun-Star – Frankly, politicians should [pay for their mail](#).

Modesto Bee – MIA lawmakers aren't [serving taxpayers](#); It's time to [sell San Quentin](#).

Sacramento Bee – The air board's reputation and its ability to protect health rest on [strong science and analyses](#) that reflect economic reality. The board's reputation has slipped with its handling of the diesel regs, but not irreparably; Developer [fee cuts](#) unlikely to do much in Sacramento County.

Stockton Record – If there's ever been a deliberative body that needed [a few rules of the road](#), it is the Stockton Unified School District Board of Trustees. This week the board got them when it adopted Robert's Rules of Order.

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

Upcoming Events

- 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 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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