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MADDY DAILY EDITOR

Mike Lukens

REGIONAL ENTITIES

CA Center for Regional Leadership
 Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
 Central California EDC
 Great Valley Center
 Hospital Council of Northern/Central CA
 SJV Air District
 CA Partnership for SJ Valley
 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint
 SJV Clean Energy Organization

PUBLIC POLICY

Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise
 California Forward
 Center for Governmental Studies
 Center for Public Policy Studies (CSU Stanislaus)
 Civic Entrepreneur
 Latino Issues Forum
 Next 10

Public Policy Institute of California
 PolicyArchive

Rose Institute of State and Local Government

UC Davis Center for Study of Regional Change

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Asm. Juan Arambula
 Asm. Tom Berryhill
 Asm. Bill Berryhill
 Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan
 Assemblywoman Connie Conway
 Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani
 Asm. Danny Gilmore
 Assemblywoman Alyson Huber
 Asm. Mike Villines
 Sen. Roy Ashburn
 Sen. Dave Cogdill
 Sen. Jeff Denham
 Sen. Dean Florez
 Sen. Lois Wolk
 Cong. Dennis Cardoza
 Cong. Jim Costa
 Cong. Kevin McCarthy
 Cong. Jerry McNerney
 Cong. George Radanovich
 U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer
 U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein

FRESNO COUNTY

Fresno County WIB
 Fresno County
 Council of Governments
 Fresno County EDC
 Fresno County Farm Bureau
 Elections Department
 Office of Education

KERN COUNTY

Elections Division

July 31, 2009

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MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Forum is a weekly half-hour public affairs program focused on issues of interest to the Valley, can be heard on 90.7 KFSR Radio Saturdays at 1 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. It also is available on the [KFSR Web site](#) and on iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – The Maddy Political Insider can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

California could have \$15 billion shortfalls – The plan signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this week to balance the state's budget could leave California facing shortfalls in future years of more than \$15 billion, according to an analysis released Thursday by a major Wall Street credit rating firm. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Fresno business leaders told state budget is shaky – The new California budget is fragile, relies heavily on gimmicks and stop-gap measures, and could easily topple into the red, forcing legislators to make more cuts this year, Fresno business leaders learned Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Dan Walters: California tax changes may lie ahead – [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) believes – correctly – that a huge factor in [California's](#) chronic budget travails is the feast-or-famine nature of the state's revenue stream. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Sacramento Bee: State needs tax code for new era -- When it comes to taxes, [California](#) is in a pinch. The state's tax burden is already among the 10 highest in the nation. But the revenue generated by those taxes has fallen far short of what's needed to finance the services to which residents have become accustomed. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Sacramento Bee: Keep parks open with \$10 vehicle fee – [California](#) state parks belong to all the people of [California](#) and they should have access to them – in good budget times and bad. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

State workers to get health premium break – Legislation allowing thousands of [state workers](#) and other public employees a temporary respite from health premiums was part of the budget Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed on Tuesday. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Former govs back Villines -- Assembly Member Mike Villines, R-Clovis, today named former governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson as chairmen for his campaign for state insurance commissioner. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

Assemblywoman recall efforts hits snag – Just days into an attempt to recall Assemblywoman Alyson Huber, the proponent will have to start over again. The California Secretary of State's Office on Thursday rejected Tony Andrade's initial paperwork because it did not contain some of the legal language required. [Stockton Record article](#)

FPPC chief questions trips supported by polluters – The chairman of [California's Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Ross Johnson](#), said widespread overseas travel by top state climate and energy officials on the tab of nonprofits funded by industry "raises very serious questions of propriety." [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Stockton Record: Pray for a resolution in Lodi – The solution, if the council wants to continue its tradition of an opening prayer, is to aggressively follow the city policy and use a non-sectarian prayer. [Stockton Record article](#)

Q&A: House's food safety bill -- The House on Thursday approved a big food safety bill by a 283-142 margin. The legislation could affect every facet of the nation's food supply chain, from farm to grocery store. Questions still linger about the 159-page Food Safety Enhancement Act; some of them have answers. [Fresno Bee article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS**BLOGS/SITES**

Adam Ashton's After Deadline (ModBee)
 Aquaforia
 Bill McEwen blog
 blognetnews.com/California
 California Majority Report
 Capital Notes
 Capital Press
 Capitol Alert
 FlashReport
 Fox & Hounds
 Fresno Bee Opinion Talk
 Fresno Bee Political Notebook
 In the Public Eye
 LA Observed
 Michael Fitzgerald blog
 Mike Doyle's blog
 Modesto Bee Opinion Blog
 New West Notes
 PolitickerCA
 Politics, Anyone? (Bakersfield)
 Real Clear Politics blog
 SF Chronicle politics blog
 Smog Blog (Fresno Bee)
 Talk on Water (Modesto Bee)
 The Hotline's Blogometer
 The Roundup
 Valley Notebook
 Valley Notebook
 CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT
 Air Resources Board
 Bill information
 CA High-Speed Rail Authority
 CA Secretary of State
 CA State Assembly
 CA State Senate
 CA Transportation Commission
 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
 Legislative Analyst's Office
 State of California
 MEDIA
 Bakersfield Californian
 Capitol Weekly
 Fresno Bee
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 KFSN-TV
 KGPE-TV
 KJWL Radio
 KMJ Radio
 KMPH-TV
 KQED Radio
 KSEE-TV
 KVPR Valley Public Radio
 KVPR Valley Public Television
 LateUpdate
 Lodi News-Sentinel
 Los Angeles Times
 Merced Sun-Star
 Modesto Bee
 Rough & Tumble
 Sacramento Bee
 San Francisco Chronicle
 Stockton Record
 The Business Journal

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\$9.5 million in water aid flowing to Valley – The Westlands Water District, where farmers have struggled because of a water shortage, is receiving a \$9.5 million boost from the federal government to help it increase water efficiency and stretch its supply. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Tunnel under Delta could be alternative to canal – A possible answer to Southern California's water-delivery woes has emerged right underfoot, literally. The state Department of Water Resources is exploring the price and engineering challenges associated with digging a roughly 35-mile tunnel under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to bring more supplies to Southern California. [San Diego Union-Tribune article](#)

Valley coalition wants med school sooner – In a break from previous timelines for establishing the medical school, coalition leaders announced at the meeting that they hoped for an independent medical school at the 4-year-old campus by 2015, a full five years ahead of the campus' original plan. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Kern courts hit with furloughs, judge cutbacks as workload increases – At a time when Kern County courts are busier than ever, they will join the rest of the state courts in closing one day a month. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kids, seniors programs in Tulare hit hard by budget cuts – John Davis, the director of the county's Health and Human Services Agency, says the latest round of cuts means a reduction in critical services for thousands of Tulare County residents. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

State cuts funding to Visalia domestic violence shelter – It took less than a day after the last round of budget cuts for Karen Cooper, the director of Visalia's domestic violence shelter, to lay off three of the shelter's staff. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

California's higher education system could face decline – The state's budget cuts to the three-tiered system -- UC, Cal State and community colleges -- may threaten the system's world-class reputation and the future of a generation of students. [LA Times article](#)

Students scrape to meet rising college costs -- After two separate fee increases over the span of three months, full-time undergraduates at Fresno State and other CSU campuses will pay nearly \$1,000 more in fees compared to last year. The cost is even higher for out-of-state students. [Fresno Bee article](#)

\$51 million in stimulus funds flow to Stanislaus schools, Hughson – Hughson and schools are the big winners in Stanislaus County when it comes to federal stimulus money. More than \$51 million in federal funds have flowed to the county, according to the governor's office, and all but \$174,000 is devoted to an expansion of Hughson's waste-water treatment plant and dozens of school districts. [Modesto Bee article](#)

California's Healthy Families program hunts for funds – The task of shedding hundreds of thousands of children from the state's [Healthy Families health insurance program](#) was put off Thursday amid efforts to find more money that could ease the impact of [budget cuts](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Cash in clunker fund all used up -- After an unanticipated response from car owners seeking new car discounts under the "cash for clunkers" program, the government was reported Thursday evening to have exhausted the funds available, leaving unclear whether further applications would be accepted. [New York Times article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Big roads, little trails, bedeviling details in Kern – Rich O'Neil swears his group "is not just a bunch of environmental crazies" fighting a bridge under construction at Mohawk Street. They're environmental crazies trying "to make Bakersfield a better place to live." [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno Bee: Consolidate to save money – Instead of threatening to reduce 48 employees in her department, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims should be leading an effort to consolidate overlapping and wasteful law enforcement services in the Fresno metropolitan area. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Stockton ranks fifth in foreclosures – The city has shed its title as the nation's epicenter of foreclosures, and a steady decline in filings over the past 12 months could indicate the county is nearing the bottom of the housing market, experts said. [Stockton Record article](#)

Vacancies in Modesto among highest in state – Apartment rental prices are down, vacancies are up and tenant credit-worthiness is declining, analysts report. While Stanislaus County rents have remained fairly flat, vacancy rates in Modesto and Merced apartment complexes are among the highest in the state. [Modesto Bee article](#)

California's default rate soars to 9.5 percent – About 1 in 10 Californians with a home loan is now in default, and there's growing evidence that the mortgage meltdown is spreading to commercial real estate. [LA Times article](#)

State sued for heat work rules, enforcement – The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) and the [United Farm Workers union](#) filed a lawsuit Thursday against Cal-OSHA, alleging the agency is incapable of protecting the state's 650,000 farm laborers from heat injury and death. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Michael Fitzgerald: Stockton arena still gushing money as it struggles to book big acts – So the arena, which costs about \$6 million a year to operate, lost \$2.2 million in the fiscal year just ended. It is projected to lose a roughly similar amount in 2009-10. Moreover, based on the arena's performance as an adult rock concert venue so far, it appears easier to book rock 'n' roll into the Chernobyl nuclear facility. [Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

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CSU Stanislaus earns high marks – Drawing high praise from students and strong marks on academic services, campus life and environmental policies, California State University, Stanislaus, has been rated as one of the nation's best higher education institutions for the fourth straight year by The Princeton Review. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Foster Farms gives CSU Stanislaus \$500,000 -- Ron Foster, president and chief executive officer of the Foster Farms poultry company, has donated \$500,000 for an endowed chair at California State University, Stanislaus. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Water agency serving central Stockton seeks 18 percent rate hike – While admitting that times are hard for many of its customers, the California Water Service Co. is seeking a water rate increase that would boost average residential bills 18 percent in 2011. [Stockton Record article](#)

Modesto Bee: Money not only factor in MID solar decision – Modesto Irrigation District directors took the cautious middle ground this week by delaying a decision on a raft of applications for commercial solar rebates. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Turlock Irrigation District offers rebates to customers – The Turlock Irrigation District has started offering \$500 rebates to residential customers who replace central air conditioners or heat pumps with highly efficient models. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno County reports first swine flu death -- A 28-year-old Fresno man is the first person to die of swine flu in Fresno County. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Kern swine flu tally reaches 60 – There have been 60 laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza, or swine flu, involving Kern County residents, the county Public Health Department said Thursday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Stanislaus tallies year's first West Nile case – A 52-year-old man tested positive for West Nile virus, the first reported case of the mosquito-borne illness in Stanislaus County this year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Work on rickety bridges put off for now – Tens of thousands of unsafe or decaying bridges carrying 100 million drivers a day must wait for repairs because states are spending stimulus money on spans that are already in good shape or on easier projects like repaving roads, an Associated Press analysis shows. [AP article](#)

Needy Kings residents get shot at prescription drug assistance – When a bus tour program rolled into the heat of Hanford on Wednesday to help needy residents get low- or no-cost prescription medication, there were about 20 people waiting for assistance. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Census comes to 'hard to count' Kern – When Bakersfield resident Kent Lenhard said earlier this month he would defy the law by refusing to complete his U.S. Census form, he was also defying his own demographic. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Tulare waste plant nears completion – The city's \$80 million industrial water treatment plant is 93 percent complete and, if things progress as they're supposed to, could be in use by November. The plant will expand industrial water treatment capacity to 12 million gallons a day, which could attract new food-processing plants and create job opportunities. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Fresno hires new development boss – Fresno will have a new planning and development director on Sept. 1, city officials announced Thursday. John Dugan, currently deputy director of planning for the city of Los Angeles, was hired for Fresno's top planning spot after a national search, said City Manager Andy Souza. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Modesto Bee: Keyes district should be open about error and fix it quickly – Initially, the leaders of the Keyes Community Services District deserved the benefit of the doubt when it was discovered that they misunderstood the results of a 2008 election and in January started sending out higher bills for street lighting. The confusion was because of the way the fee increase was proposed: It required two-thirds majority approval, not just 50 percent plus one. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Fresno Unified information officer is resigning -- Peri Lynn Turnbull, Fresno Unified School District's \$162,000-a-year chief information officer, is resigning. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee – The latest budget dance reveals, once again, that California's education finance system is a mess. It [needs an overhaul](#); Instead of threatening to reduce 48 employees in her department, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims should be leading an effort to [consolidate overlapping and wasteful law enforcement services](#) in the Fresno metropolitan area.

Merced Sun-Star – We need a [plan for state spending](#).

Modesto Bee – Modesto Irrigation District directors took the [cautious middle ground](#) this week by delaying a decision on a raft of applications for commercial solar rebates; Keyes district should be open about error and [fix it quickly](#).

Sacramento Bee – California needs [a tax code](#) for a new era; Keep state parks open with [\\$10 vehicle fee](#).

Stockton Record – The solution, if the council wants to continue its tradition of an opening prayer, is to [aggressively follow the city policy](#) and use a non-sectarian prayer.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at the Arnold Rue Community Center in Stockton on Aug. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at Westside Union Elementary School in Los Banos on Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Central Valley Venture Forum will be held on September 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Fresno. Registration will open in August. Contact: Nancy Kobata, nancyko@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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