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Maddy Events

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Forum, a weekly half-hour show focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley, 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

State pay panel says it erred – For mud-on-your face goofups in California government, this was a whopper. Grist for a "Wanna Get Away" commercial, perhaps, involving the hot-button issue of pensions for top elected officials. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Senate fundraising ups and down – Here's a sobering thought for [Carly Fiorina](#) and any other Republican seeking to challenge Democratic Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#): Campaigns always end, but debts can endure. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

Jim Boren: Ray Appleton for Congress? -- Longtime KMJ radio host Ray Appleton suggested Wednesday on his Facebook page that he might run for Congress when he retires. Not sure if he's just toying with his listeners, but he definitely has name ID, and the possibility of an Appleton candidacy would make the Democrats around these parts very nervous. KMJ radio officials knocked down the possibility of Ray Appleton leaving the top-rated station to run for Congress. Appleton will be at KMJ "for a good long time," station officials say. [Boren on Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Prop 8 sponsors win reprieve on campaign records – A federal appeals court has agreed to consider whether the sponsors of California's gay marriage ban must turn over some internal campaign records as part of a lawsuit against Proposition 8. [AP article](#)

Jim Boren: Jerry Brown needs to release his gubernatorial papers -- Now that Attorney General Jerry Brown is running for governor again, it's time that he help change a law that locked up his gubernatorial papers for 50 years, or until his death. [Boren on Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

Health policy very person for Fiorina -- In recent days, Fiorina has talked more about her cancer experience than she might have envisioned. After a federal task force recommended last week that women get fewer mammograms, Fiorina turned her breast cancer story into a new campaign message. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

California certifies business sites ready for development – The state has launched a new program aimed at speeding up commercial and industrial projects throughout [California](#). Officials of [California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency](#) said Wednesday that the new [Site Certification Program](#) allows local governments statewide to register commercial or industrial sites that are "project ready" and market them as locations for new business investment and expansion. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

UC Merced joins sister campuses in migrant study -- UC Merced researchers will soon start a new help-save-the-world project. They're examining ways to improve well-being and eliminate health disparities of international migrants, refugees and internally displaced people around the globe. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Prison receiver moves to have medical center suit heard in federal court – Prison health-care receiver J. Clark Kelso has filed a notice to move a lawsuit filed against him over a proposed inmate medical center near Stockton to federal court in Sacramento. The move drew criticism from local leaders as being "intellectually dishonest in the extreme." [Stockton Record article](#)

Valley aims to bring back young professionals – Call it the boomerang campaign. With electronic ads at Fresno Yosemite International Airport, a Web page and social networking efforts, officials are targeting young professionals who departed from the Valley and may -- now that the unemployment market has cooled -- be willing to return for the right job. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Bureaucratic scrutiny raises hackles – If there's one thing rural landowners and farmers don't want the state tinkering with, it's the water they draw from below ground for their homes or crops. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno County farmworkers say they were paid \$2 an hour -- About 50 Fresno County farmworkers have accused their employer of paying them less than minimum wage. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Economy

Help for laid-off NUMMI workers – An estimated 3,200 San Joaquin County residents facing layoffs due to the planned closure the Toyota assembly plant in Fremont may take advantage of a federal program benefitting workers affected by foreign competition, officials said. [Stockton Record article](#)

Black Friday shoppers already in line in Modesto – Self-described campers, Diana Jimenez and Christy Karras are going to put those skills to use. The 23-year-old Modestans were the first to line up at Best Buy on Wednesday afternoon, nearly 36 hours before the popular electronic store on Sisk Road opens at 5 a.m. to what likely will be hundreds of frenzied Black Friday shoppers. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Christmas comes early -- Retailers have been putting holiday merchandise out well ahead of December for several years, now. But the trend is more pronounced when the economy is soft. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Data point to steady but unspectacular economic expansion – A new round of data released Wednesday offers evidence that the economy is continuing to grow but raises questions about the strength of the industrial sector in the months ahead. [LA Times article](#)

LA analysts' project \$1-billion budget deficit gap by 2013 – Los Angeles could face a \$1-billion deficit by the time Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wraps up his second term in 2013, a dire forecast driven primarily by escalating employee pension costs and stagnant tax revenues, the city's top budget analyst said Wednesday. [LA Times article](#)

Tulare County senior centers withstand cuts -- It's been a tumultuous year for Lorraine Zorn and the city of Tulare's Senior Services. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Education

Boys & Girls Clubs positive place for youth in Kern – Abby Perez is just one of about 3,200 children ages 5 through 17 who each weekday attend after-school programs offered at four clubs and 28 school sites in Kern County. The number of children served swells during the summer. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Environment/Energy

Modesto Irrigation District will test cells that store green energy -- A \$14 million federal grant will help pay for large batteries to store some of the wind energy tapped by the Modesto Irrigation District. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Turns out Lodi power plant site is clean -- The city of Lodi may avoid a costly contamination cleanup at the site of a proposed power plant after it was discovered that an engineering consultant's report - which appeared to show unsafe levels of pollutants tested in the soil - was inaccurate. [Stockton Record article](#)

Health and Human Services

Study links Latino immigrants' HIV testing to level of adaptation to U.S. culture -- Latino immigrants considered at risk for HIV are less likely to be tested or to have access to healthcare services if they are in the country illegally and have not fully adapted to U.S. culture, according to a new study. [LA Times article](#)

Villaraigosa urges limits on medical marijuana dispensaries -- Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa urged the City Council on Wednesday to adopt a medical marijuana ordinance that would put a limit on the number of dispensaries. [LA Times article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Drop in California house prices tapers to 3.2 percent as sales climb – California single-family home prices fell 3.2% in October from a year earlier, helping lift sales, the state Association of Realtors said. [LA Times article](#)

State considers foreclosure mediation program – Californians facing rising home loan payments or foreclosures could get some help from the state Capitol, where lawmakers are considering the creation of a mediation program similar to those adopted in more than a dozen other states. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Joint Kings land-use study process seeking consultant -- A coalition facilitating cooperative land-use planning with the Lemoore Naval Air Station and surrounding urban areas has begun seeking a consultant to provide technical assistance. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Transportation

Transit JPA will take control of Merced County operations -- The regional Transit Joint Powers Authority said it will assume management oversight of the combined transit operation for Merced County July 1, 2010, after a vote by the authority Tuesday. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Other Areas

Valley police to increase patrols in shopping areas -- Valley law enforcement agencies are preparing for the holiday shopping season by putting extra units in the region's shopping areas to protect customers and merchants. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Hughson city manager returns to work – Come Monday morning, Joe Donabed will be back at work at Hughson City Hall. Donabed said Wednesday he had been informed of the City Council's decision late Monday to halt the termination proceedings it started in October. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Madera County hires auditor-controller – Almost one year after Madera County's former auditor-controller resigned under pressure, a divided Madera County Board of Supervisors has appointed an outsider to take over the troubled department. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Bill McEwen: Holiday traditions reaffirm our values -- In our house, with everyone gathered under one roof, the holiday marks the march of time: the graying of some, the move into adulthood for others, the arrival of newborns, the melding of families. More than that, it's our affirmation of kinship and the American value of humble giving. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Merced 'Christmas' parade is on again -- The Christmas Parade will live on, after the community response to calling it a "holiday parade" emerged as frigid as the North Pole. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Fresno Bee – We still have [much to be thankful for](#) today.

Merced Sun-Star – An [accurate San Joaquin Valley census count](#) is vital for us to receive federal dollars.

Modesto Bee – There is always [a reason to be thankful](#).

Sacramento Bee – Thanksgiving is a day that [adapts to all traditions](#).

Stockton Record – Take today to [pause, and give thanks](#).

Visalia Times-Delta – Let's [give thanks](#) in all the right ways.

Upcoming Events

- The San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization's Farming Clean Energy Conference will be held at AGTAC in Tulare on Dec. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. For more information, visit www.sjvcleanenergy.org/fcec09.
- 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 sjvleap@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 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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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