

February 28, 2010

If you want to subscribe/unsubscribe to the Maddy Daily or view the Maddy Daily with our comprehensive list of links to all federal, state and local government, public affairs institutes/regional entities, Valley media and public policy blogs click <http://maddyinstitute.org/news/dailyreport.html>. (Editor's note: We are having technical difficulties with the site. Please be patient.)

## In This Issue

- Maddy Events
- Political Briefs
- News Briefs
- Editorial Roundup
- Upcoming Events

## Maddy Events

**Maddy Forum:** *"Valley Blueprint: To Sprawl or Not to Sprawl – That is the Question"* – John Wright, former planning director for the City of Clovis, and Barbara Steck, deputy director of the Fresno County Council of Governments, will discuss the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process. The half-hour public affairs show can be heard on 90.7 KFSR Radio Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. It also is available on the KFSR Web site and on iTunes.

**Maddy Political Insider** – Don Jackson, Chairman of The Maddy Institute Board of Directors, will be the guest on the next edition of The Maddy Political Insider. The Maddy Political Insider can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

**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!

*(Editor's note: The Stockton Record's Web site, [www.recordnet.com](http://www.recordnet.com), is a paid subscription site. Information on how to sign up for a joint print-online subscription or an online-only subscription is available on the Web site. There are various levels of Web site access, beginning with three free visits per month. Registered members can get up to 10 free articles per month.)*

## Political Briefs

**Jim Boren: Candidates must give voters something** -- It's time to get past the tired old politics that dictate that you can't debate an opponent if you're way ahead in the polls or you don't have to announce your candidacy until nomination day if you don't have an opponent. [Boren column in Fresno Bee](#)

**Your guide to the California governor's race** – It's 100 days before the June primary, and California is about to be treated to a governor's race for the ages. And for those of you who haven't been following the festivities so far — hey, we don't blame you — we're here to catch you up and tell you what to look for in the months ahead. [San Jose Mercury news article](#)

**Dan Walters: California wants and needs fixing** – Nearly 90 percent of [California](#) voters believe that state government needs an overhaul to make it more effective, a new statewide poll found, with virtually identical numbers among Democrats, Republicans and independents. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Jeff Jardine: Now it's Christianson's turn to be campaign's other guy** -- When Adam Christianson ran for Stanislaus County sheriff in 2006, he executed a well-proven campaign strategy: Win simply by not being the other guy. [Jardine column in Modesto Bee](#)

**GOP U.S. Senate candidates to debate Friday** – The three Republican U.S. Senate candidates will debate for the first time Friday on Sacramento radio host Eric Hogue's show. [LA Times article](#)

**Prop 13 flexes its political muscle** -- Proposition 13 made its return to electoral politics last week, proving anew the continued political heft of the 32-year-old measure. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., named for the long-deceased champion of the property tax-limiting proposition, gave its imprimatur to Meg Whitman's campaign for governor. [LA Times article](#)

**New California Speaker says Maldonado's chances improved** – Minutes after new Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez is sworn in Monday, he will make it clear that government can – and must – do better. Pérez, succeeding Speaker [Karen Bass](#), said he will talk of childhood lessons he learned about the power of family, community and perseverance. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**California Assembly Speaker-elect Perez has ties to deep pockets** – Pérez, a Democrat who was chosen as speaker in December and will be sworn in Monday, has something that left-leaning former labor leaders and freshman lawmakers usually lack: a financial pipeline to billionaire developers and white-shoe investors who rank among the most politically active power brokers in the state. [LA Times article](#)

**Peter Schrag: California's Supreme Court could limit initiatives, but hasn't** – For nearly a decade, [California](#) Chief Justice Ron George has been increasingly vocal in his criticism of the state's initiative process. At a conference at [Stanford](#) on state constitutions recently, he leveled what was probably his fiercest attack. [Schrag op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Stockton Record: We must reform health care and not just posture** -- While we would prefer a true bipartisan reform effort, if that can't happen then the Democrats must show the will to begin the changes that are so obviously necessary. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**Bakersfield's SmartMeter troubles worry industry** – Kern's SmartMeter backlash has raised red flags around the world and sparked debate within the electric utility industry over whether what some call "The Bakersfield Problem" is merely a public relations warning -- or worse, a significant obstacle to efforts to modernize the U.S. power grid. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Education protests on tap this week in California** – The protests, teach-ins and walkouts that swept through [University of California](#) campuses this fall are scheduled to come back this week. But this time the activism is moving beyond UC – to include [Cal State](#), [community college](#) and K-12 campuses – and beyond [California](#) to other states as well. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Some fear high-speed rail won't deliver on early promises** – Despite a new \$2.25-billion infusion of federal economic stimulus funding, there are intensifying concerns -- even among some high-speed rail supporters -- that California's proposed bullet train may not deliver on the financial and ridership promises made to win voter backing in 2008. [LA Times article](#)

**San Joaquin cities look for ways to patch financial hole left by struggling auto sales** – Cars not long ago yielded one out of every five sales tax dollars for local governments in San Joaquin County. Now, city officials count themselves lucky to get half that. [Stockton Record article](#)

**California pays millions in accrued time off** – Amid a crippling fiscal crisis, managers throughout California's government have routinely allowed their employees to amass unused vacation time, enabling hundreds of workers to end their public-service careers with payouts topping \$100,000, a California Watch investigation has found. [California Watch article](#)

### *Agriculture/Water*

**Modesto Bee: Why Modesto should protect groundwater** -- Don't let the rain of the past few weeks fool you. Water remains a scarce commodity in most of California, and there will be no let-up in the creative ways people will seek to satisfy their thirst. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

### *Economy*

**Dan Morain: NUMMI closure shows failure of California's talk about job creation** – The fate of [NUMMI's](#) workers raises questions whether politicians, particularly at the state level, can do much to alter basic business decisions related to hiring and retaining jobs or lure new business. Politicians' pronouncements notwithstanding, the state has been unable to block this latest hit to [California's](#) dwindling manufacturing base. [Morain column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Bakersfield Californian: CEQA 'reform plan' open to shadiness** -- California's Environmental Quality Act should be reformed to prevent its abuse. Creating a new avenue for corruption and abuse is not the way to reform it. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

**'Bonus bucks' fee may be a thing of the past in Manteca** -- The city of Manteca is looking to jump-start new home development with a proposal to shelve a developer fee that was introduced during the housing boom when too many builders were competing for a limited number of construction permits. [Stockton Record article](#)

### *Education*

**Modesto school boards agenda includes layoff notices** – Modesto City Schools trustees could vote to send layoff notices to more than 300 teachers, nurses, counselors and librarians Monday night -- and that's not the only budget decision in front of them at their meeting. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: To help UC, first slow bloat the top** – The University of [California](#) should take the lead in cutting the explosive growth in senior management. It would put public universities in a better position in calling for the state to shift its own [spending priorities](#) away from prisons and toward higher education. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**Governor says racial incidents must stop** – Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) said the recent "horrific incidents" that have caused racial unrest at the [University of California](#) San Diego must stop. [San Diego Union-Tribune article](#)

**Some question new power held by school site councils** -- The problem, some teachers and school officials say, is that site councils are often ill-equipped to make these types of major decisions. Some observers worry that council decisions are dominated by the priorities set by principals. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**College students weigh in on new credit card rules** -- Michelle Jose, an 18-year-old nursing student at Cal State Bakersfield, has a credit card that she mostly uses to buy books. She pays off the balance every month, but has friends who don't manage credit as well. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

## Environment/Energy

**Future of Yosemite cabins weighed** – The superintendent of California's Yosemite National Park wants input on what to do with 233 historic cabins that are off limits to visitors because the towering cliffs rising above them are known to dump tons of granite without warning. [AP article](#)

**Valley seismologist keeps eye on Chile** – A researcher from the central San Joaquin Valley is paying special attention to the earthquake in Chile and its aftermath. Dr. Steve Lewis, a seismologist in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at California State University, Fresno, regularly spent time in Chile while he was involved in the National Science Foundation Ocean Drilling Program from 1988 to 1992. [Fresno Bee article](#)

## Land Use/Housing

**Building on hope** -- Stanislaus County home construction in January hit its lowest level in more than two decades, but at least one local builder thinks there's an opportunity in this down market. [Modesto Bee article](#)

## Transportation

**San Joaquin to get \$22 million for freeway congestion** – San Joaquin County is set receive more than \$22 million in voter-approved bond funds to relieve traffic congestion on some well-traveled stretches of freeway. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Kings to get GIS-based traffic tracking system** -- Kings County will soon be saying good-bye to the age-old method of using pushpins to plot tracking traffic collisions in the area. A \$30,000 grant from the Office of Traffic Safety is allowing the county Public Works Department to better track crashes within county boundaries through a new geographic information system. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

## Other Areas

**New San Joaquin group reaching out to parolees** -- They launched InSync Interventions, a nonprofit organization that tries to provide coaching to parolees leaving prison so they can become productive citizens rather than returning to crime and prison. [Stockton Record article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Bakersfield Californian** – California's Environmental Quality Act should be reformed to prevent its abuse. Creating [a new avenue for corruption and abuse](#) is not the way to reform it.

**Fresno Bee** – The University of California could cut costs by [cutting from the top](#).

**Modesto Bee** – Don't let the rain of the past few weeks fool you. Water remains [a scarce commodity](#) in most of California, and there will be no let-up in the creative ways people will seek to satisfy their thirst; Visiting editors address [water, homeless in Turlock, college cuts](#).

**Sacramento Bee** – The University of California should [take the lead](#) in cutting the explosive growth in senior management. It would put public universities in a better position in calling for the state to shift its own spending priorities away from prisons and toward higher education; Goodwin Liu is [more than qualified](#) to serve on appeals court; Sacramento mayor's [green dream](#) needs to go to the next level.

**Stockton Record** – While we would prefer a true bipartisan reform effort, if that can't happen then the Democrats must [show the will](#) to begin the changes that are so obviously necessary; The [18-year-run](#)

[of the Hummer](#), arguably America's most visible symbol of gas-guzzling automotive excess, is about to be no more.

## Upcoming Events

- More events coming soon.

**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.**

This document is to be used for informational purposes only. Unless specifically noted, the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno does not officially endorse or support views that may be expressed in the document. If you want to print a story, please do so now before the link expires.