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## Maddy Events

**Maddy Alert:** Californians now have a chance to apply to serve on the state's first Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization district lines. For more information and to apply visit [www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov) Application period closes on **February 12**.

**Maddy Forum --** The Maddy Forum, a weekly half-hour program 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. It also is available on the KFSR Web site and iTunes.

**Maddy Political Insider** – Don Jackson, chair of The Maddy Institute's 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 1300 AM or online at [www.1300kyno.com](http://www.1300kyno.com) Tuesdays 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

**CD 19: Water splits Valley vote** – In the battle to replace retiring Rep. George Radanovich, few endorsements are more sought after than those from the San Joaquin Valley's influential agricultural community. To date, the region's farmers and ranchers are fractured in their support, with the fault line running right down the valley's center. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Fresno Bee: Become part of California's redistricting commission** -- If you've been complaining

about how "safe" legislative seats have limited your choices to change the California Legislature, you now have a chance to make a difference. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

**Dan Morain: Whitman and Poizner a study in contrasts** – It's not easy being [Steve Poizner](#), at least not when you're compared to former eBay chief executive [Meg Whitman](#). [Morain column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Whitman repudiates 'proud racist'** – Republican gubernatorial hopeful Meg Whitman announced Saturday she was severing ties with an elected official who described himself as a "proud racist." The Whitman campaign disavowed Santa Clarita Councilman Bob Kellar's remarks a day after state Democrats called on the former eBay chief executive to distance herself from Kellar. [AP article](#)

**Campbell hits up rival Fiorina for campaign donation** – From our You Never Know Until You Ask Files, Carly Fiorina got a most unexpected e-mail from Bay Area venture capitalist William Oberndorf -- an invitation to contribute money to her rival for the state's Republican U.S. Senate nomination, former U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell. [LA Times article](#)

**Federal stimulus program pours \$54 million into wine train project** – The corporate shareholders live in tribal villages in the outback of western Alaska. The CEO is in South Carolina, where his prior multimillion-dollar venture – a dot-com for sail boaters – collapsed in bankruptcy. But the main action today is in Napa, where, without competitive bidding, this unusual construction company won a \$54 million federal contract to build a new railroad bridge and other structures for the famed Napa Valley Wine Train tourist attraction. [California Watch article](#)

**Ignorance bites California in the wallet** – Last week brought a blizzard of polling on how Californians feel about their government and the economy. In two words: dislike and despair. The fine print suggested we should save a little distaste for ourselves. [LA Times article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: City voters need ability to fix City Hall** -- The court battle involving Mayor Kevin [Johnson's](#) strong-mayor initiative has thrust some potent questions before [Sacramento](#) and all of [California](#): Can voters go directly to the ballot to overhaul or modernize their City Hall? Or does the [state constitution](#) force them to go through a lengthy charter revision process that, to some extent, can be checked by forces resistant to change? [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**Dan Walters: California gay marriages may hinge on one man** – Judge Vaughn Walker has given no overt indication of how he leans. But regardless of what he decrees, the case is headed up the ladder to the decidedly liberal 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and then the [U.S. Supreme Court](#). And if it makes it that far, Justice [Anthony Kennedy](#) may have the last word on whether barring same-sex couples from marrying is, indeed, a violation of their constitutional rights. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Modesto Bee: City politics decline in Hughson, again** -- Just when we thought city politics in Hughson couldn't get any worse, they have. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

**Cardroom owner says activist tried to extort political contribution from him** -- Lodi cardroom owner said Ramiro Reyes, who is helping Arthur Murrillo in his campaign for Stockton City Council, came with Murrillo to his cardroom and tried to shake him down for a campaign contribution days before police accused Reyes of attempting to extort political favors from a Stockton planning commissioner. [Stockton Record article](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**Class cuts wreak havoc at California universities** – California's budget crisis came into stark focus in the halls of [Sacramento State](#) last week, where many students returning for spring semester were turned away from classes they had hoped to get into, or strained from hallways to hear lectures in classes that had enrolled way more students than there were seats. It's a refrain [California State University](#) and

[University of California](#) students are muttering at campuses up and down the state, as they find themselves in the grips of a historic budget crunch. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**UC sleuths seek proof for glorious claims on admission applications** – Like no other higher education system in the nation, the University of California has a quiet team of vigilant auditors that review the accuracy of randomly selected applications — and may yank ones shined up by too much balderdash, big-talk or bull. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

**Fresno Bee: High-speed rail is gaining momentum** -- Most of the naysayers have gone silent, and the main question now is how to put together the billions of dollars it will take to build the system that will run through the heart of California. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

### *Agriculture/Water*

**'Snow pillows' let public monitor snowpack online** – As five blizzards pounded California's high country this month, people around the state tracked the swiftly growing snowpack without leaving their offices or homes. A remarkably accurate network of sensors fed estimates to state officials, who posted them on a Web page the public can easily use to track the snowpack, California's biggest source of water. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Powerful Valley water district challenges friends and foes in campaign to turn out Delta spigot** – The farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley are confederated as the [Westlands Water District](#), the largest irrigation [district](#) in the United States, which has a reputation for bare-knuckle combativeness. But Westlands has fared badly in the face of both the drought and water-pumping restrictions to protect a threatened fish called the [Delta](#) smelt. [High Country News article in Sacramento Bee](#)

**State of the cheese: Valley seeing end to dairy profit freefall** -- Industry people said sales at U.S. retailers are fairly strong, as people eat out less to save money in a weak economy. [Modesto Bee article](#)

### *Economy*

**Bakersfield voters to choose pension outcome?** -- If Zack Scrivner and David Couch prevail, Bakersfield residents will vote June 8 on whether to reduce pension benefits for new city employees. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Stockton council implements recovery fee** – To raise revenue the Stockton Fire Department is to start charging insurance companies for its services to nonresidents at-fault in car crashes, but also for its response to water rescues, fire investigations and hazardous waste spills, regardless of residency. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Labor dispute threatens to tear Kern mining community apart** – Citing a 25% loss in its share of the global market, mining company Rio Tinto has spent the last five months trying and mostly failing to extract concessions from the union, including changes in the cherished seniority system. The company now has threatened to lock out its roughly 600 hourly employees and bus in replacements as early as this morning. Workers say it's all a thinly veiled attempt to break the union. [LA Times article](#)

**California got (phone) wires crossed on jobless help in 2009** – The state spent at least \$4.6 million during 2009 to play a message that told thousands of jobless Californians like [Michael Meloy](#) the obvious. Nobody at the state's [Employment Development Department](#) was available to take their calls as they struggled to file or untangle [unemployment insurance](#) claims and the jobless rate hit 12 percent. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Lose the commute, keep the community** – The coffee is ready by 9 a.m. The office is toasty warm. A friendly face greets you at the door. And a coffee mug marks your desk. A typical day at work? Not quite. Welcome to Tracy Virtual Office, a co-working community where a variety of business professionals come to work, find inspiration and set up shop. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Bakersfield Californian: Welcome, Padre** -- The \$18 million renovation of the 82-year-old Padre Hotel, which celebrates its grand re-opening this week, is a development that truly promises to reinvigorate a central corridor that hasn't sparked since the 1970s. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

**Nummi workers demand action by union leaders** -- Leaders of a United Auto Workers local answered questions from skeptical members Saturday about why it was taking so long to negotiate the final payments to the 4,700 people who will lose their jobs when New United Motor Manufacturing in Fremont shuts down April 1. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

### Education

**John Fensterwald: Tough graduation goals for CSU campuses** – The California State University System has set an ambitious goal of raising student graduation rate 8 percentage points, including 10 percentage points for low-income and minority students, over the next six years. [Educatedguess.com article](#)

**Teacher pay can vary greatly by district, California report says** – The amount of money a California teacher makes these days depends greatly on the school district that cuts the paycheck, according to a state report released this month. And the gap between the high and low salaries is wide. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Schools face fight to stay open in Salida** – Salida Union School District leaders are preparing for \$3.25 million in budget cuts for next school year and one of the two elementary campuses likely will be closed. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**State cuts hurt programs that educate inmates** – Staggering under historic budget problems, state leaders are slashing \$1.2 billion in yearly prison spending, including two-thirds of inmate education, vocation and substance abuse programs, the very things most likely to turn ex-cons away from crime when they get out. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Bakersfield Californian: A school's responsibility** -- What do you call a situation in which an adult takes aside a 13-year girl and instructs her not to tell her own mother about the sexual assault she has just endured? [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

### Health/Human Services

**IPad, anyone? Hospitals looking at the mobile device** – [Apple's](#) new creation, the iPad, may be a novelty to many consumers, but hospitals are already starting to abandon paper-and-pen clipboards for hand-held digital tablets. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**New life breathed into Lodi ER** – At 7 a.m. Tuesday, the ER off Vine Street on the north side of Lodi Memorial Hospital will close after more than 40 years. At the same time, the hospital's new emergency room will open for walk-in patients on the south side of a four-story South Wing. [Stockton Record article](#)

### Transportation

**Kern wants you to take a second look at Meadows Field offerings** – The Kern County Airports Department has launched a new marketing campaign urging people to take a more detailed look at flying out of Meadows Field before booking a trip out of Los Angeles, Burbank, Fresno or other southern and central California airports. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Tracy officials say transit just the ticket** – The long-awaited Tracy Transit Station, a transportation hub designed to bring more visitors to downtown Tracy, will be ready for riders Monday. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Hopes still high for northwest interchange in Bakersfield** – Kern County Roads officials are still hopeful they can leverage \$17.5 million in bond money to build a critical \$35 million interchange in northwest Bakersfield. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Traffic deaths in Kern down over three decades** -- Since 1980, Kern County's population has doubled and the miles traveled by vehicles in California have more than doubled. That could mean there's a better chance of getting killed on the road. Yet traffic deaths per year in Kern fell by nearly half during the past three decades. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

### Other Areas

**Sides meet, talk prisons in Stockton** – In remarks at a public forum Saturday morning about prison facilities planned for Stockton, County Supervisor Steve Bestolarides noted that, in a deviation from historical precedent, the city and the county were on the same side of a lawsuit. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Stockton Record: Stockton taxpayers foot the bill for city's mistakes** – Stockton taxpayers, who've seen their services shrink, their potholes deepen and their fees rise, just got handed a \$250,000-plus bill. Blame this one on mismanagement from start to finish. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

**Modesto teens invited to drop gang life** -- Project SAFE forces gang members on probation or parole to meet with a team of representatives from law enforcement and community organizations. The ultimatums will be given to a new group of gang members at least once a month. The meetings will take place at locations considered to be safe havens in the gang's neighborhood. [Modesto Bee article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Bakersfield Californian** – What do you call a situation in which an adult takes aside a 13-year girl and instructs her [not to tell her own mother](#) about the sexual assault she has just endured?; The \$18 million renovation of the 82-year-old Padre Hotel, which celebrates its grand re-opening this week, is a development that truly promises [to reinvigorate a central corridor](#) that hasn't sparked since the 1970s.

**Fresno Bee** – High-speed rail is [gaining momentum](#) in California; If you've been complaining about how "safe" legislative seats have limited your choices to change the California Legislature, you now have [a chance to make a difference](#).

**Modesto Bee** – Just when we thought [city politics in Hughson](#) couldn't get any worse, they have.

**Sacramento Bee** – City voters need ability to [fix City Hall](#); A [tale of two cities](#) – one civil, the other rude.

**Stockton Record** – Stockton taxpayers [foot the bill](#) for city's mistakes.

## Upcoming Events

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's board of directors will hold its quarterly meeting in Bakersfield on Friday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

**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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