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Maddy Events

Maddy Forum: *"Maintaining Pediatric Health in an Era of Diminishing Resources"* -- Host Stacie Dabbs talks with Tim Curley, director of community and government relations at Children's Hospital Central California, about the pressures and challenges that pediatric hospitals are facing today and the tremendous work being done at Children's Hospital. The show is available on the [90.7 KFSR website](#) and on iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – Paul Hurley, editorial page editor of the Visalia Times-Delta, is the next guest on The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 940 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you missed the program, you can hear it again by logging on to the "Audio" link for the Alan Autry Show at: <http://www.940kyno.com>.

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!

Maddy Report – View past *Maddy Report* programs (e.g., interviews with Mac Taylor, California's LAO, Sacramento Reporters John Myers from KOED and Anthony York from Capitol Weekly and the LA Times, Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin) on our YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheMaddyInstitute#p/u>

Maddy Challenge: *How Would You Balance the State and Federal Budgets?* Try your hand at setting priorities:

State Budget: <http://www.next10.org/budgettool/site/thesim/flashcheck.html>.

Federal Budget: <http://crfb.org/stabilizethedebt/>

Political Briefs

Top stories

State's first-ever redistricting commission to kick off today – Eight inaugural members of California's first-ever citizens redistricting commission will conduct a kickoff meeting Tuesday to begin the process of selecting six additional members. [Capitol Alert](#)

Dan Walters: Schwarzenegger trying hard for legacy -- A rational man would jet to his ski lodge in [Sun Valley](#) and return to [Sacramento](#) just in time to hand the mess to successor [Jerry Brown](#). Instead, Schwarzenegger is spending his last weeks in office in legacy mode, attempting – or so it would seem – to convince Californians that his roller coaster governorship has been a success, even though three-fourths of them consider it to be a failure. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

State budget

Legislative leaders ask court to overturn Schwarzenegger veto -- Assembly and Senate leaders directed the [legislative counsel](#) Monday to submit a letter to a state appellate court in an effort to overturn Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's veto of \$133 million for student mental-health funding. [Capitol Alert](#)

Governor-elect Brown

Brown busy with budget, will skip White House visit -- Gov.-elect [Jerry Brown](#) will not be among the nation's governors-elect traveling to the White House for a Thursday meeting with President [Barack Obama](#), a Brown spokesman said Monday. Brown, who faces a \$25.4 billion [budget deficit](#), will stay in state to work on budget-related matters. [Capitol Alert](#)

Valley politics

Goh lobbies governor for Kern supervisor appointment – The campaign for 5th District Kern County supervisor has gone public. Non-profit executive director Karen Goh on Monday released copies of the documents she sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asking him to appoint her to the seat being vacated mid-term by state Sen.-elect Michael Rubio. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Legislator-to-be Perea resigns from Fresno council -- Fresno City Council Member Henry T. Perea Monday announced his resignation as District 7 representative so he can take office next week as a state Assembly member. Perea's resignation is effective Dec. 2. He will be sworn in as a legislator for the Assembly's 31st District on Dec. 6. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Propositions

Prop 8: Diverse three-judge panel named for Dec. 6 appeal – The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Monday announced the three judges who will preside over oral arguments in favor and against Proposition 8 on Dec. 6 in San Francisco. A staunch liberal, a conservative Republican from Idaho and a Clinton centrist were announced as the members of the federal court panel. [Capitol Alert](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Prop 26 limits San Francisco fee proposals -- [San Francisco](#) politicians, long enamored of controversial fees on products and services to promote their ideological viewpoints and raise cash for the city, will be significantly hampered by voters' passage of California's [Proposition](#) 26. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Other areas

San Francisco interim mayor pick starts with the push of a button -- Picking [San Francisco](#)'s next mayor will have an element familiar to viewers of the game show Jeopardy, where the contestant who can reach the buzzer the fastest gets first crack at answering the question. The first supervisor to push a button to get his or her name on the electronic roster to speak can make the first nomination to replace Mayor [Gavin Newsom](#), [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Supreme Court ruling could kill efforts to rein in campaign spending -- The Supreme Court announced Monday it would hear another free-speech challenge to a law that seeks to limit election spending, setting the stage for a ruling that could doom efforts in several states to restrict the role of private money in politics by offering candidates public funds. [LA Times article](#)

California to ship more prisoners out of state – California, under pressure to reduce the number of inmates in its crowded prisons, has steadily increased the number of convicts it sends to private institutions outside the state since Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger began the program in 2006. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Kamala Harris' idea could ease prison crowding -- As attorney general, Harris will have no power to reduce sentences. She won't be able to alter how local prosecutors charge crimes. Nor will she be able to refuse to defend the state when federal judges challenge its overcrowded prison system. But she can use the bully pulpit to push innovative approaches to the broken justice system. If it were smarter on crime, perhaps California wouldn't need a federal court order to cut prison population. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

News Briefs

Top Issue: Jobs and the Economy

Cyber Monday: Businesses that push online sales see boost – This year, stores swamped customers with online ads and e-mail deals, and sales could top \$1 billion, making it bigger than any single shopping day last year. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Holidays boost buy-local trend – For the mass retailers and big-box stores, Black Friday is the mad sprint that kicks off the holiday shopping season. Mom-and-pop stores have more of a slow and steady slog to Dec. 25, but the season is no less crucial to the bottom line. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Kings supervisors to consider health insurance premium 'holiday' for employees -- Kings County supervisors will consider Tuesday whether to give county employees a six-week holiday from paying health insurance premiums. County officials say the health insurance trust fund has enough reserves to allow the holiday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Foster Farms Dairy acquires assets of Matterhorn Group's frozen desserts plants -- The United States Bankruptcy Court has authorized the sale of Matterhorn Group Inc. to Foster Dairy Farms of Modesto. The assets sold include the company's two processing plants in Sacramento and Salem, Ore. The transaction sale closed Nov. 24. [Merced Sun-Star article](#); [Modesto Bee article](#)

It's a bad time for job seekers with criminal records -- Inmates are being released more quickly from jails and prisons in California, but in this economy, fewer employment opportunities await them. [LA Times article](#)

Top Stories

Stanislaus farmland protection upheld – Stanislaus County can require that home builders permanently preserve farmland equal to acreage needed for new subdivisions, three appellate justices ruled Monday in a dramatic reversal of a local judge's ruling. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Report: Education reform brings higher test scores -- A major squabble between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his adversaries on K-12 funding early in his administration has had a positive outcome: higher test scores in many of the state's lowest performing schools. [California Watch article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Mark Grossi: How California's winter can be both wet and dry -- The Sacramento Bee says it looks like a wild and wet winter ahead. The San Francisco Chronicle says look for a drier, cooler season. So which is it? Probably both. This is a big state. [Grossi in Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Mark Grossi: What will they find when Shaver Lake is lowered next year? -- Southern California Edison folks last week told me they had found a sunken fishing boat at Shaver Lake -- probably the first of many discoveries to come. Edison has lowered the Shaver storage to install a flexible, plastic liner on the dam. It protects the 83-year-old concrete. About half of the job will be finished in January. [Grossi in Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Atwater water may get costlier -- Despite water rates that haven't been raised since 1992, Atwater's water enterprise fund became debt-free last year and is stable, said interim City Manager Stan Feathers. But Feathers acknowledged that a water rate increase will be needed to help maintain services. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Education

Central Unified workers mentor elementary students -- The mentoring program at Teague officially kicked off this week. It's an extension of Central Unified School District's successful 720 Project, which pairs struggling students with district employees who volunteer to work with them. The number 720 refers to the days a student spends in high school. [Fresno Bee article](#)

School award idea stirs debate -- When Charlie Pike's daughters came home from Thorner Elementary School last week with a wristband on, he asked them what they were for. They told him they received the bracelets for scoring "proficient" or "advanced" on state standardized tests, and were therefore invited to a school barbecue. What about those who scored below? They didn't get bracelets, and weren't included. Pike was not happy about that. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Valley schools get tech grants -- Millions of dollars in new federal funding will bring iPads, netbooks and other high-tech gadgets to local school districts, which learned Monday they are getting federal grants to improve technology. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Konya to succeed Carvajal as CSU Bakersfield athletic director -- Some of Jeff Konya's credentials as athletic director at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma look like a wish list for Cal State Bakersfield. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Students uncover key losses, costs -- Lodi Unified School District officials are reminding principals and staff members to safeguard their campus keys after a master key to Bear Creek High School was lost and the cost of re-keying the school was revealed in the student newspaper. [Stockton Record article](#)

Lincoln Unified holding out for better options -- The Lincoln Unified School District is back to square one in its search for a new superintendent, and Tom Uslan will continue as the district's interim leader until at least June, board President Everett Low said Monday afternoon. [Stockton Record article](#)

Energy/Environment

Roadblock: Transmission shortage threatens to halt Kern's alternative-energy boom -- Kern County is experiencing a boom in solar and wind energy development in the Mojave Desert and Tehachapi mountains. But those alternative energy projects won't be viable, the county planning director says, unless there is some way to transfer the power they produce in the remote areas where the wind blows and the sun shines to the urban areas where the power is needed. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

California energy-saving standards under scrutiny -- California regulators may soon grant [Pacific Gas and Electric Co.](#) and the state's other big utilities \$77.3 million in rewards for cutting the amount of energy their customers use, despite concerns that the companies saved far less than they claim. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

PG&E, rival utilities close to settlement that would end fees -- The end looks near for controversial

fees that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. charged to nearly 8,300 homes and businesses outside its power service area. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Merced taking green approach to lighting streets – The city of Merced is experimenting with saving energy by using new street-lights. Four lights were placed in two parking lots -- at the corner of West 18th and N streets and West 19th and N streets -- that featured two new technologies. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Waste program makes us greener – Visalia residents have another option for recycling and keeping waste out of landfills. The city is going citywide with a program that permits residents to dispose of food scraps in their green waste containers. The waste will then be composted with other biodegradable items. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Reconsider plastic bag ban, Schwarzenegger says – Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) called on lawmakers Monday to reconsider a defeated bill to ban plastic bags. The bill to ban plastic grocery bags faced fierce opposition from the Virginia-based interest group American Chemistry Council and died in the [Senate](#) this year. Schwarzenegger said the measure might fare better in the current, post-election political climate. [Capitol Alert](#)

Lois Henry: Regulating the truth and other hot air -- There I was last week, minding my own business (well, sort of), when this morsel of an e-mail popped up from the California Air Resources Board. CARB will have a workshop Dec. 1 to discuss a new regulation "Prohibiting False Statements." [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Sacramento Bee: E-waste program needs a cleanup – The more we find out about Californian's pioneering electronic waste recycling program, the more it's a classic case of good intentions gone awry. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Officials question safety of genetically altered fish – The federal government's safety review of genetically engineered salmon may be faulty, misinformed and in violation of its own laws, according to a flurry of documents released by a watchdog group in recent weeks. [California Watch article](#)

State, federal agencies likely to take land -- New owners including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the U.S. Forest Service may soon be designated to take control of thousands of acres Pacific Gas and Electric Co. holds along the Mokelumne River and nearby high-country lakes. [Stockton Record article](#)

Health/Human Services

State fines health plans \$5 million for unpaid bills -- State officials Monday announced nearly \$5 million in fines against [California's](#) seven largest [health](#) insurers, capping an 18-month investigation into late claim payments and underpayments - amounting to tens of millions of dollars -- to thousands of doctors, hospitals and other [health](#) care providers. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [AP article](#)

California Endowment broadens ambitions and narrows scope – By nurturing nascent community efforts, funding pilot projects and partnering with local groups and other charities in ways that government once did before budget problems began to curtail the social net, the endowment is functioning as a social incubator, hoping that its initial investment will pay dividends for years to come. [LA Times article](#)

Central Valley hospitals explain 'error-free' status -- Six central San Joaquin Valley hospitals and a rehabilitation center are on a state Department of Public Health list that's getting a lot of scrutiny. The Valley seven are among 87 hospitals that the state says reported no medical errors or adverse events for the past three years. [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Errors may put 3 hospitals on state list – for no errors – Three local hospitals made the list of 87 hospitals in California that haven't reported any "adverse events" to the state since 2007. However, local hospital officials say they have reported medical errors, as required by the state. So they may be on the mistake-free list by, well, mistake. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

State approves move-in date for Adventist Medical Center -- Officials with the California Department of Health Services have deemed Adventist Medical Center officially prepared to accept patients on its target move-in date this Sunday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Plastic surgery centers that fail state standards still allowed to accept patients -- Patchwork rules permit facilities to operate without a state license. Private accreditation agencies don't have to release records of complaints and offices that lose accreditation can quickly be certified by another agency. [LA Times article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Fresno council embraces bicycles – For decades, Fresno never met a car it didn't like -- or a freeway it didn't want to extend. Now, city officials want to turn Fresno into one of the nation's most bicycle-friendly communities. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Transportation

Agencies prep for bullet-train station – Jobs might be created almost immediately in Tulare and Kings counties as a result of a decision by California's high-speed rail officials to start building the \$45 billion system with a 65-mile test track with stations in Fresno and a site just east of Hanford, officials report. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Amtrak to let passengers bring guns on most trains – Reversing a near decadelong ban, [Amtrak](#) will allow passengers to bring guns on most trains starting next month, including several that stop in [Sacramento](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Allegiant attendants begin voting on union -- Flight attendants at Allegiant, the leisure-travel airline serving Stockton Metropolitan Airport, will begin voting today on joining the Transport Workers Union. [Stockton Record article](#)

Other Areas

Tulare hopes to replace manager – Tulare City Council will meet in special session today to potentially select an interim replacement for City Manager Darrel Pyle, who announced his resignation two weeks ago. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Stockton adds Locke to payroll – The chief executive officer of the county's top economic development organization will soon be one of the highest-ranking officials at Stockton City Hall. City Manager Bob Deis announced Monday that he has hired Mike Locke, president and CEO of the San Joaquin Partnership, to fill a vacant deputy city manager position. [Stockton Record article](#)

Aranaz to be named Fresno fire chief – Fresno interim Fire Chief Joel Aranaz will be installed as fire chief at a ceremony Wednesday. City Hall officials said it is a permanent appointment. But Aranaz won't be chief for long -- he is scheduled to retire in July. [Fresno Bee article](#)

LAPD charging jaywalkers \$191 in new crackdown -- Pedestrians should think twice before jaywalking in downtown L.A. -- or they could walk away with a \$191 fine. [LA Times article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – First Lady has vision of [leaner, healthier kids](#); First ladies have a long history of using their positions for good. Palin's "intrusive government" song-and-dance [rings hollow](#) here.

Fresno Bee – Senate needs to vote on [nuclear treaty](#).

Merced Sun-Star – State needs to [seriously deal with e-waste](#).

Modesto Bee – Audit of [top pensioners](#) will pay off; In Jerry Brown's new administration, the state Department of Public Health has an [opportunity and an obligation](#) to help drive home the implications of climate change.

Sacramento Bee – The more we find out about Californian's pioneering electronic waste recycling program, the more it's a classic case of [good intentions gone awry](#); Kamala Harris' idea could [ease prison crowding](#).

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on a smooth election count, 10 years of the St. John's Chamber Orchestra Festival and other issues.

Visalia Times-Delta – Visalia residents have [another option](#) for recycling and keeping waste out of landfills.

Upcoming Events

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors will meet at the Madera Municipal Golf Course on Friday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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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