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Maddy Events

Maddy Forum: *"The Science of Climate Change: What are the Public Policy Implications?"* -- Host Stacie Dabbs talked with Dr. Peter Van de Water, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Fresno State, about what climate change means for the Valley and how those changes will impact the region's – and the state's – public policy debates. The show airs on 90.7 KFSR Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. It also is available on the [90.7 KFSR website](http://www.90.7kfsr.com) and on iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – Assemblymember Juan Arambula, a member of the Maddy Institute board of directors, 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 KQED 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

Brown and Whitman in dead heat in new poll – Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman are in a dead heat in the governor's race, but 18 percent of voters are still undecided a month before the election, a new Public Policy Institute of California survey says. [California Watch article](#)

Fresno Bee: Fresno debate is crucial – In the Fresno debate, the candidates must get more specific in their responses. We hope the Fresno event will be known as one in which the candidates finally threw off their campaign shackles and told voters exactly what they would do to improve California if they are elected on Nov. 2. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

State budget

Budget delay continues without Big 5 meeting – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders remain on hiatus from budget talks for a second straight day, their offices said Wednesday. [Capitol Alert](#)

Construction group warns late state budget puts 'hundreds of projects' at risk of shut down -- A construction-industry coalition is warning that without passage of a state budget "in the next few days" or other emergency actions, hundreds of projects across the state affecting up to 60,000 jobs could be halted, according to a letter sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and top lawmakers Wednesday. [LA Times article](#)

California moves closer to missing its bond-sale window – State Treasurer [Bill Lockyer](#) is concerned that the state could miss an opportunity to sell bonds this fall to finance public works projects if state lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger don't enact a budget soon. [Capitol Alert](#)

Stockton Record: Stealing from consumers -- It's not too much to ask that business owners who essentially steal tax dollars suffer the consequences of their acts. [Stockton Record article](#)

Governor's race

Former housekeeper says Whitman laughed at her, ignored warnings about her status -- Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#)'s former housekeeper and nanny, an undocumented worker, accused Whitman Wednesday of not paying her for all the hours she worked or reimbursing her for miles she drove, and she said Whitman laughed at her when she asked for her help obtaining legal status. [Capitol Alert](#); [LA Times article](#)

Whitman says she was 'stunned to learn housekeeper was undocumented' – Speaking to reporters after a campaign event at Cisco in San Jose, Meg Whitman said she and her husband were "stunned" when they discovered their housekeeper was in the country illegally. [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Whitman releases ex-housekeeper's employment docs -- [Meg Whitman's](#) campaign has released documents it says shows the Republican gubernatorial candidate was unaware that her former housekeeper was undocumented and unable to legally work for the family for nine years. [Capitol Alert](#)

Dean Florez: Whitman should have admitted undocumented worker -- Senate majority leader [Dean Florez](#) blasted Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#) for talking tough on holding

employers responsible for hiring undocumented workers when her own housekeeper worked for the family illegally for nine years. [Capitol Alert](#)

Debra Saunders: Campaign stunt: A bunch of garbage – This story goes to the heart of the dilemma that faces Californians who welcome legal immigrants, but also believe in respecting federal law. What was Whitman supposed to do, not trust Diaz because she has an accent? [Saunders column in San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Steve Lopez: Whitman has some explaining to do -- Pardon me, but I have a few questions here on California's tough-on-immigration gubernatorial candidate, Meg Whitman, who seems to have had an illegal immigrant in her house for nine years. [Lopez column in LA Times](#)

George Skelton: Jerry was Jerry and Meg was Meg: Jerry takes the debate – Brown showed a sense of humor and energy Tuesday night, while Whitman had a grasp of the facts but seemed robotic in her responses. [Skelton column in LA Times](#)

Dan Morain: Brown turns a tax cut into class warfare -- You knew the race for governor would come to this: a clash between the classes. Democrat Jerry Brown is homing in on one of Republican Meg Whitman's signature issues – eliminating California's capital gains taxes – to make his point that Whitman would help the wealthiest among us. [Morain column in Sacramento Bee](#)

U.S. Senate race

Senate candidates Boxer, Fiorina spar in second debate – Sen. Barbara Boxer and the woman vying to replace her, Carly Fiorina, tangled for an hour Wednesday during their second and final debate, arguing that their own background and experience can best help lead the economy out of its financial distress and that their rivals' resumes make them unfit for the job. [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Valley politics

Nunes makes bid for redistricting reform – Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia, on Wednesday made another bid to reform the way California's congressional districts are drawn. Nunes introduced a bill he says would "end the practice of partisan gerrymandering" by setting certain nationwide rules for the drawing of district lines. [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Supporters stand by Valle after charges -- Several people from Avenal and Kettleman City came Tuesday to support Valle, who has pushed hard for development in the often-neglected hinterlands of Kings County. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Effort to oust Riverbank councilman fails – The group trying to oust Riverbank City Councilman Jesse James White failed to turn in enough signatures for a recall election. Riverbank Citizens for Fair Change needed to turn in 2,185 signatures of city voters but City Clerk Linda Abid-Cummings said today that the group was about 100 signatures short. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Merced Sun-Star: 'Censorship' fog hangs over Rove speech at UC Merced – UC Merced should be ashamed of itself for kowtowing to the ground rules Rove and his handlers have imposed: the event is not open to the public -- you have to buy a ticket to attend; all recording devices must be turned off after the first five minutes of Rove's speech; reporters are not permitted to record Rove's speech; there will be no media availability before or after Rove's lecture; the question-and-answer session is for audience participation only. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Claim of 'scare tactics' in Measure H campaign – Firefighters battling a Stockton ballot measure have swarmed city neighborhoods to make their case against the initiative that targets their department. [Stockton Record article](#)

Waterford mayor, council re-elect themselves – Nobody ran against Waterford Mayor Charlie Goeken or council members Ken Krause and Murray Day, so they re-elected themselves. The low-key vote on Resolution 2010-69, canceling the uncontested election, took place Aug. 19, at a regular council meeting. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Bakersfield council candidate profile: Marvin Dean – In an open-air office in the 700 block of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Marvin Dean operates a "boot camp" meant to help at-risk minorities and others, including people fresh out of jail, land entry-level jobs at construction sites. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kern High School District candidate profile: John Turnbull -- John Turnbull said he knows what schools board trustees can and can't do, but also what they should and shouldn't do. Trustees can't change the education system, he said. And they shouldn't try to impose religious and social beliefs on schools. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Weir for Ward 3, Couch for Ward 4 on Bakersfield council -- Experience matters in tough times. Ken Weir and David Couch have it and deserve reelection. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Amador hopes to bring more diversity, conservative values to Lodi council -- Even though Tony Amador has only lived here for a little more than a year, he has always felt at home in Lodi. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

April Kesterson: Palin appearance fee misrepresented – The executive director of Tulare-Kings Right to Life writes that in response to Saturday's article on Bristol Palin's appearance at the Tulare-Kings Right to Life (TKRL) banquet on Thursday, she would like to object to the insinuation that TKRL somehow even has enough money to pay any speaker \$15,000 to \$30,000 for a speaking engagement. [Kesterson op-ed in Visalia Times-Delta](#)

Statewide politics

Harris launches first ad of AG campaign -- Attorney general hopeful [Kamala Harris](#) is touting her work as San Francisco district attorney in her first television spot of the general election. [Capitol Alert](#)

Family of slain police officer rips Harris, endorses Cooley -- The family of a peace officer killed in the line of duty six years ago ripped San Francisco District Attorney [Kamala Harris](#) today and endorsed her opponent, [Steve Cooley](#), in the race for California attorney general. [Capitol Alert](#)

Sacramento Bee: Bowen deserves new term as elections chief -- If voters elect her to a second term, and they should, Bowen needs to view the job as the privilege it is, and help make California's elections and the transparency of money in this state's political system a model for the rest of the country. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Propositions

Voters offer different views on Prop 19 – As the November election nears, California's young voters are exhibiting unprecedented awareness of a ballot initiative that would legalize marijuana. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

California marijuana vote closely watched south of the border – Some of the most anxious observers of [California's](#) November vote to legalize marijuana for recreational use are ineligible to vote because they are located south of the border in [Mexico](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Prop 22: Nine Stanislaus mayors backing ballot measure – Stanislaus County's nine mayors will be in Riverbank tonight to kick off their campaign to support Proposition 22, a statewide initiative that would prevent the state from taking money allocated for local agencies, public safety and transportation. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Battle over Prop 23 gets airborne – The battle over California's global-warming law took to the air this week with television spots touting or bashing Proposition 23, a ballot initiative to suspend regulations aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions. [LA Times article](#)

Ad Watch: Foes of Prop 25 resort to lies -- A business-backed committee has launched its first statewide radio ad against Proposition 25, which would lower the vote threshold for budget spending bills from two-thirds to a majority. Following is the text of the ad and analysis by Kevin Yamamura of The Bee Capitol Bureau. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Modesto Bee: Vote 'no' on both Props 25 and 26 -- Vote "no" on both, and send the warring factions a message: Find common ground in the Legislature for the good of the state, and stop taking your battles to the ballot. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Other areas

Voters face 155 ballot measures in 36 states -- The [University of Southern California's Initiative and Referendum Institute](#) says in a new nationwide study that voters in 36 states will decide 155 ballot measures in November, virtually the same number as the 153 in 2008 but markedly fewer than the 204 in 2006. [Capitol Alert](#)

Schwarzenegger vetoes prison cell-phone bill -- Despite threats posed by skyrocketing cell-phone use by [prison inmates](#), Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) vetoed legislation Wednesday to make furnishing them such devices a misdemeanor. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

U.S. Census figures for Tulare County show greater poverty, less education -- The U.S. Census Bureau's statistics for Tulare County and Visalia show that the population is less educated and more residents are living at or below the poverty level than the U.S. average. Also, Tulare County is almost certain to become a majority Latino county when the 2010 Census figures are released later this year. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#); [How Tulare County compares in national statistics in Visalia Times-Delta](#)

Pension cost cuts on ballot in eight cities -- Proposals to cut public employee pension costs are on the November ballot in at least eight California cities and one county, led by a measure in San Francisco that is drawing national attention. [Calpensions.com article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Almond crop's late but harvest is well under way -- On a blistering hot September day, Larry and Landon Viani were harvesting the last of this year's almond crop at their eastern Merced County ranch. Well, almost the last of the crop. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Economy

Turlock employees take 5 percent pay cut -- After taking a 5 percent pay cut last year, city employees agreed to another 5 percent this year. The Turlock City Council on Tuesday night unanimously passed a budget amendment reflecting negotiations with employee unions. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Donations to Merced-area food charities down in shaky economy -- Three quarters of a million pounds of food have been donated in the past six months to the Merced County Food Bank from farmers, retailers and organizations. Just one problem. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Lodi officials examine fire station options -- Lodi officials have begun talking about replacing the east side's Fire Station 2, a building still in use despite a growing mold issue and general disrepair. [Stockton Record article](#)

Pro's Ranch sells its Kern stores to Vallarta -- Mexican-style grocer Pro's Ranch Markets is pulling out of California, selling its four Kern County stores to competitor Vallarta Supermarkets in a move to focus elsewhere in the southwestern United States. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kerman, Sanger Save Marts to close -- A lackluster economy and increasing competition are forcing Save Mart Supermarkets to close its grocery stores in Kerman and Sanger next month. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Governor vetoes ban on debit card fees – Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) vetoed a consumer protection measure Wednesday that would have barred merchants from charging people a fee when they use a debit card. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Bedbug calls flooding Kern pest control firms -- The bedbug comeback that drew some of the best minds in the country to a national summit in Chicago last week is inundating local pest management companies, but they say that hasn't translated to soaring revenue -- yet. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Pensions for Rizzo, 40 other Bell employees will be larger than first estimated -- Then-City Administrator Robert Rizzo designed a supplemental pension plan for himself and 40 other Bell city officials that will provide them far larger taxpayer-financed retirement packages than previously estimated, according to interviews and documents reviewed by The Times. [LA Times article](#)

Education

New law makes it easier to transfer to Cal State – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday signed legislation that guarantees [community college](#) graduates admission to [California State University](#), a change backers say will help more students earn four-year degrees. [AP article](#)

Stockton Record: CSU doors open a crack – CSU officials are banking on \$366 million in restored funding proposed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Good luck with that. And congratulations and good luck to all the recipients of the CSU acceptance letters. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Enrollment surges at UC Merced: Up 28 percent – This fall, more students than ever chose UC Merced for college. School officials released the university's official census this week, and the number of students enrolled is 4,381 -- a 28 percent increase from last fall. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

College of the Sequoias to admit more spring term students – More than \$100 million in federal stimulus funds will allow the California State University system to admit spring-semester semester students next year, but for some College of the Sequoias students the news comes too late. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Next Modesto city schools chief: Inside or outside? – Should Modesto City Schools be searching the nation or looking locally for its next superintendent? [Modesto Bee article](#)

Bakersfield City School District board looks at plans for two new schools -- The Bakersfield City School District school board on Tuesday got a glimpse of what two future schools near the former Mesa Marin Raceway will look like. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Teacher to teacher: Let's save art in school – A group of local teachers is finding new ways to strengthen art instruction in the schools through their membership in California Art Education Association, or CAEA. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Bill McEwen: Reedley roots ran deep for slain sheriff's deputy -- After talking it over with his wife, Victoria, Greg Marks set out to make the Joel Wahlenmaier Memorial Scholarship a reality and provide \$500 every year for a sophomore forestry student at Reedley College. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Ceres High shop classes move into the future -- Ceres High showed off its new shop buildings and academy program this week, designed with input from local manufacturers and paid for with district funds and Ceres Unified school bonds. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Texas' tall tales won't pollute our texts -- Gov. Schwarzenegger has vetoed a bill that would ensure that the Texas Board of Education's revisionist view of American history won't taint California textbooks.

[TOP-Ed article](#)

[Environment/Energy](#)

Stockton ethanol plant may reopen – Pacific Ethanol Inc., trying to stage a comeback, is buying back a share of the ethanol plants it lost to bankruptcy and may be close to reopening its production facility at the Port of Stockton. [Stockton Record article](#)

New law requires California air board to explain its fines – State air pollution regulators must explain how they issue fines to businesses under a new law signed Tuesday by Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Water quality improving at California beaches -- Water quality at California beaches has continued to show improvement, even as the future of monitoring programs remains uncertain because of state budget shortfalls, according to a report released Wednesday by Heal the Bay. [LA Times article](#)

Yosemite hits buses with 'fix-it' tickets -- Twelve buses were given "fix-it" tickets during a surprise inspection Friday of commercial multi-passenger vehicles in Yosemite National Park, National Park Service spokeswoman Kari Cobb said. [Fresno Bee article](#)

[Health/Human Services](#)

Schwarzenegger vetoes health reform bills – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bushel of bills Wednesday that Democrats sent him to implement and expand on the health reform passed by Congress and President Obama earlier this year. [HealthyCal.org article](#)

San Joaquin County hospital to adjust fiscal plan – San Joaquin General Hospital closed out last fiscal year \$19.2 million in the hole, but losses slowed toward the end of the year, and officials are hoping recent and planned changes will shore up the county hospital's fiscal health. [Stockton Record article](#)

Free background checks on California home health aides haven't materialized – Although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has demanded that the Legislature prevent violent felons from working in the state's home health aide program, activists say his administration's inaction has kept vulnerable recipients from learning if their caretaker has a criminal record. [LA Times article](#)

How much IHSS fraud is there? -- Nearly a year after the Schwarzenegger administration awarded \$26.5 million to county district attorneys to combat fraud in the state In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) system, DAs are beginning to report some results. [Capitol Weekly article](#)

\$1 million given to fight smoking in Stanislaus – Nearly \$1 million in grants over three years will be used to fund anti-smoking education programs through the Stanislaus County Office of Education. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Lisa Project should change our world -- The Lisa Project not only confronts us with the reality of child abuse, it demands that we become involved. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

[Land Use/Housing](#)

Fresno foreclosure rates fall in July -- The foreclosure rate in Fresno decreased in July and continues to remain lower than the national foreclosure rate, according to CoreLogic, a real estate tracking company in Santa Ana. [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Valley mortgage fraud grows -- The Central Valley is becoming a hot spot for new kinds of real-estate scams involving loan modification and short-sale fraud. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

[Transportation](#)

Fresno hangar is bought out of bankruptcy -- Former Pelco owner David McDonald didn't have a hangar large enough to park his private jet in -- a problem that created a new business opportunity in Fresno. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Other Areas

California Supreme Court blocks execution of Brown -- The California Supreme Court issued an order today that thwarts the state's plans to execute convicted murderer Albert Greenwood Brown on Thursday night. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Merced police unveil online crime mapping service -- Merced residents aiming to keep tabs on local crime now have another arrow in their information quiver. The Merced Police Department has signed on to CrimeMapping.com, an online service that allows residents to view calls that officers responded to in their neighborhood. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian -- Experience matters in tough times. Ken Weir and David Couch have it and [deserve reelection](#).

Fresno Bee -- We hope the Fresno event will be known as one in which the gubernatorial candidates finally [threw off their campaign shackles](#) and told voters exactly what they would do to improve California if they are elected on Nov. 2; Ignore the [scare tactics](#) being used on health reform.

Merced Sun-Star -- ["Censorship" fog](#) hangs over Rove speech at UC Merced.

Modesto Bee -- [Vote "no"](#) on both Props 25 and 26.

Sacramento Bee -- Debra Bowen deserves [a new term](#) as state elections chief; Term-limit measures [weaken voter clout](#).

Stockton Record -- It's not too much to ask that business owners who essentially [steal tax dollars](#) suffer the consequences of their acts; CSU doors [open a crack](#).

Visalia Times-Delta -- The Lisa Project not only confronts us with [the reality of child abuse](#), it demands that we become involved.

Upcoming Events

- The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions will host a CALAFCO University course, "Fire Service Challenges and Cooperative Solutions, at the Modesto Junior College Regional Fire Training Center on Friday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: Katie McKenna at (831) 754-5838.

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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