

FOOD

Rotisserie chicken the star of these simple taco recipes 1B



SPORTS

Pitman boys miss chances to score against Jesuit 3B



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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20 2019

\$1

Rather cloudy, cool 54°/37° See 2A

The Modesto Bee



CRAIG KOHLRUSS ckohlru@fresnobee.com

Construction foreman Elmer Garcia walks along the deck of a bridge that crosses the San Joaquin River for high-speed rail on Oct. 31, 2018.

Feds say they will terminate state's high-speed rail grant

BY DALE KASLER AND TONY BIZJAK dkasler@sacbee.com

The Trump administration, stepping up its fight with California over the state's struggling high-speed rail project, said Tuesday it plans to rescind a \$928 million federal grant.

The action could imperil the first phase of the project, connecting the major cities of the

San Joaquin Valley, which is dependent on federal funding.

The Federal Railroad Administration, in a letter to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, said it intends to terminate the grant effective March 5, saying state officials had failed to comply with the terms of the funding. Congress appropriated the money in 2010.

Among other things, the federal agency said Gov. Gavin

Newsom's plans to downsize the project represent "a significant retreat from the state's initial vision and commitment and frustrates the purpose for which federal funding was awarded."

Newsom, in a prepared statement, said, "It's no coincidence that the administration's threat comes 24 hours after California

SEE RAIL GRANT, 8A



JOAN BARNETT LEE jlee@modbee.com

A snowy downtown Twain Harte in Tuolumne County is pictured Saturday evening. Another storm Wednesday will boost snow levels in the Sierra Nevada.

New storm bringing more snow, but levels still fall short of 2017's

BY JOHN HOLLAND jholland@modbee.com

Yet another cold storm Wednesday could bring light rain to Modesto and low-eleva-

tion snow to an already-blanketed Sierra Nevada.

As wet as this winter seems, it has a long way to go before matching what happened two years ago: The watersheds of the Tuolumne and Stanislaus

rivers both had record runoff, as measured over the 12 months ending Sept. 30.

The Tuolumne ended up at 255 percent of average that year, according to the Turlock Irrigation District, the largest

user of the river. The Modesto Irrigation District and San Francisco also tap it.

The Stanislaus had 275 percent of average runoff that year. It supplies the Oakdale and South San Joaquin irrigation

districts and the federal Central Valley Project.

The lower Tuolumne ran close to its banks for several months in 2017 because of releases from Don Pedro Reservoir to prepare for runoff from above. New Melones Reservoir had enough space to moderate the lower Stanislaus.

As of Tuesday, the central Sierra snowpack stood at 154 percent of average for the date, the California Department of

SEE SNOW, 8A

Four people rescued from sinking boat at Woodward Reservoir

BY ERIN TRACY etracy@modbee.com

A family of four people, including a child and a grandchild, had to be rescued at

Woodward Reservoir on Tuesday afternoon when their boat began to sink.

The incident occurred just after noon near the dam on the northwest side of the reservoir.

The family was out fishing

when a mechanical problem caused the boat to take on water, said Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District Battalion Chief Rick Bussell.

There were a man and a woman on board with an 11-year-old boy and a teenage girl, but they had only three life jackets. The man went without. Bussell said the 11-year-old doesn't know how to swim.

"That water is freezing and it won't take long before hypoth-

SEE RESCUE, 8A



Stanislaus Consolidated Fire

Four people had to be rescued from this sinking fishing boat when it began to take on water Tuesday afternoon.

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