

# The Modesto Bee

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Today's Scoop



## 2 DIE IN HOME FIRE

A fire tore through a mobile home in a quiet area of Gustine on Wednesday night, killing two people. **Page B-1**

## CAP-AND-TRADE

Manufacturers, oil refiners and others appeared before a state board to protest the pending cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions. They say the program's fees amount to a \$1 billion-a-year increase. **Page A-3**

## SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Six more candidates had applied for appointment to the Modesto City Schools board of trustees as of Thursday morning. **Page B-1**

## BIRTH CONTROL

Teen girls may prefer the pill, the patch or even wishful thinking, but their doctors should be recommending long-lasting and more effective birth control, a group said Thursday. **Page A-4**



## AMERICAN SLUMPS

American Airlines expects to cancel up to 2 percent of its flights through the end of October because of a dispute with pilots. It's a setback for American, which is struggling to reverse years of heavy losses. **Page A-9**

## RIVER RESTORATION

A University of California at Merced report on the benefits of the San Joaquin River restoration fails to take into account several relevant factors, argues the executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition. **Opinions, Page A-11**

THE MODESTO BEE

TODAY'S DEAL

A family vacation to one of three great theme parks. Get this deal today at [dealsaver.com/modesto](http://dealsaver.com/modesto). See ad on Page A-3.

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WEATHER

# Officials alter freeway plans

North County Corridor to use Kiernan Avenue

By GARTH STAPLEY  
[gstapley@modbee.com](mailto:gstapley@modbee.com)

Transportation officials are dropping plans for a future freeway north of Modesto but still intend to build the North County Corridor's eastern segment, from Modesto's McHenry Avenue to Highway 108 east of Oakdale.

Kiernan Avenue essentially would replace the west leg near Modesto, appeasing people worried that an expressway north of Kiernan and Claribel Road would consume thousands of acres of private property.

For past stories related to this issue, click on the link with this story at [www.modbee.com/local](http://www.modbee.com/local).

A group east of Oakdale remains anxious at another route revision on that end, preserving the possibility that homes and farms could be sacrificed. Reactions were mixed at news of the revisions. "I think it's good for the community," Modesto Mayor Garrad Marsh said of the Kiernan portion. Stanislaus County Supervisor Terry Withrow agreed.

tingent urging officials to "make Kiernan work" instead of running a new freeway through farmland between Salda and McHenry. "From my perspective, that makes good sense," agreed farmer Gary Darpinian. County Supervisor Bill O'Brien, who represents Oakdale and Riverbank, said he is disappointed that long-range planning yet again seems to have caved to popular pres-

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## BRIDGE BRACED AGAINST QUAKES

Seismic retrofit under way on Tuolumne River span

BEE STAFF REPORTS

Workers are putting massive casings and rebar into place this week as a seismic retrofitting project on the Carpenter Road bridge over the Tuolumne River continues.

When complete in June 2013, the bridge south of Paradise Road will better withstand an earthquake.

"There's a lot of work going on to stabilize the abutments," said Collin Yerzey, project design manager for the city of Modesto. "They're putting in deeper piers on either side of the existing piers."

The bridge will remain two lanes, but there will be more room for pedestrians and bicyclists.

"Before, it didn't meet the current acceptable pedestrian traffic width," Yerzey said. "We're bringing it up to standards."

The 625-foot span was built in 1960. A study conducted after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake found that it could be weakened if sandy soil under the Tuolumne River is liquefied during an earthquake. In 2009, the city approved a \$357,450 contract for Dokken Engineering of Folsom to update the plans and position the city to secure state and federal grants. The city was awarded \$10.75 million in funding for the project last year.

Plans call for widening the bridge from 34 to 69 feet, with 12-foot pedestrian walkways on each side. Concrete barriers will protect people crossing on foot or bicycle.

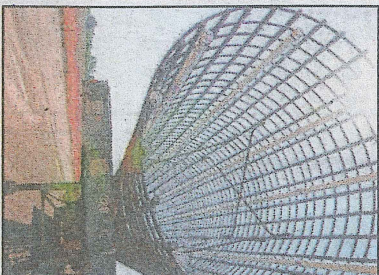
Workers also will replace a line that delivers water to south Modesto.

Traffic continues over the bridge during the work, though it may occasionally be reduced to one lane.

Yerzey said his department will send out regular updates, which will appear in the "Road Work" column Mondays on Page B-1.



At top, a crane moves metal casings that will form concrete footings for the project. Above, a rebar form awaits its placement before concrete is poured. At right, part of a metal casing is dropped into place. At left, workers from Malcom Drilling grease one of the casings.



PHOTOS BY ELIAS FUNEZ • [efunez@modbee.com](mailto:efunez@modbee.com)

## Poll: Brown's tax idea teeters

More voters say they're undecided

By DAVID SIDERS  
[dsiders@modbee.com](mailto:dsiders@modbee.com)

Public support for Gov. Jerry Brown's ballot initiative to raise taxes has slipped to just more than 50 percent, a precarious majority with a growing number of voters now undecided, according to a new Field Poll.

Less than two months before Election Day, 51 percent of likely voters support the Nov. 6 initiative to raise the state sales tax and income taxes on California's high-



est earners, according to the poll.

That level of support, down three percentage points from July, is "ominously close to 50," poll director Mark DiCamillo said. Meanwhile, the proportion of likely voters who are undecided grew five percentage points, to 13 percent.

The poll, co-sponsored by the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, is Field's first measure of Proposition 30 since the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association began airing radio ads against it. The spots highlight Brown's approval of initial construction of California's \$68 billion high-speed rail project, as well as legislative pay raises and the recent state parks scandal.

The effect is unclear. Support for Proposition 30 has dipped marginally, but the Democratic governor's own public approval rating ticked up slightly, to 47 percent.

Brown's measure continues to outpoll a competing measure backed by wealthy civil rights lawyer Molly

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