

# THE TRIBUNE

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

IN BUSINESS, A9

## THE RECESSION ENDED, BUT WHO COULD TELL?

IN SPORTS, S1

## SAINTS TOP 49ERS

Brees leads New Orleans to late game-winning field goal



# Paso mayor hopefuls speak at forum

Candidates discuss business, relationship between the public and the government



Gary Nemeth, center, speaks at an election forum Monday alongside Duane Picanco, left, and Mike Gibson.

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

By TONYA STRICKLAND  
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Encouraging new business and boosting communication between government and the public were among the chief issues discussed Monday during an election forum with Paso Robles' three mayoral candidates.

Addressing an audience of about 75 people, the panel answered three questions from the Republican Women Federated at the Paso Robles Golf Club.

The candidates, all Re-

publicans, included incumbent Mayor Duane Picanco, a retired shoe shop owner; Planning Commissioner Gary Nemeth, a retired San Luis Obispo police officer; and Mike Gibson, the cur-

rent Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce chief executive officer.

They agreed that the economy is top-of-mind in the community, and each posed different ways to tack-

le the downturn.

Gibson, vying to be "a new voice" in Paso Robles city government, said he wants to court businesses by help-

Please see MAYOR, A8

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

# Panel wants to protect SLO history

### City Council to consider fines for owners of historic buildings that are neglected

By ANNMARIE CORNEJO  
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The San Luis Obispo City Council will consider a new ordinance tonight that enables the city to fine owners of historic properties for flagrant neglect.

The historic preservation ordinance is the first of its kind for San Luis Obispo. It was drafted by the city's Cultural Heritage Committee, an advisory body to the council.

San Luis Obispo has long had preservation guidelines, but not the ability to enforce them — which city planners say has led to the demolition of

several historic structures over the years.

The proposed ordinance defines procedures and standards for preserving historic buildings within city limits and sets penalties of up to \$5,000 a day for ongoing violations and the possibility of a one-time fine up to \$10,000.

Some community members have expressed concern that the ordinance unfairly targets owners of historic homes and will give the city too much control over their properties.

About 175 properties are

See PRESERVATION, A8

## 1.4 MILLION-YEAR-OLD FOSSILS

# OLD TREASURE UNBURIED

### Southern California utility workers find a trove of bones that may include new species

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A utility company preparing to build a new substation in an arid canyon southeast of Los Angeles has stumbled on a trove of animal fossils dating back 1.4 million years that researchers say will fill in blanks in Southern California's history.

The well-preserved cache contains nearly 1,500 bone fragments, including a giant cat that was the ancestor of the saber-toothed tiger, ground sloths the size of a modern-day grizzly bear, two types of camels and more than 1,200 bones from small rodents. Other finds include a new species of deer, horse and possibly llama, researchers affiliated with the project said.

Workers doing grading for the substation also uncovered signs of plant life that indicate birch, pine, sycamore, marsh reeds and oak trees once grew in the area that is now dry and sparsely vegetated.

The fossils representing 35 species have all been



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rick Greenwood of Southern California Edison holds the fossilized jawbone and two teeth of a giant sloth in Riverside on Monday.

removed from the site and will be on display at the Western Science Center in nearby Hemet starting next year.

The bones are about 1 million years older than those found in the famous

La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, said Rick Greenwood, a microbiologist who also is director of corporate environment health and safety for the utility, Southern California Edison.

"If you step back, this is

just a huge find," he said. "Everyone talks about the La Brea Tar Pits, but I think this is going to be much larger in terms of its scientific value to the re-

Please see FOSSILS, A7

# Board faces choice on jail upgrades

By BOB CUDDY  
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As it goes through another fiscal year of declining revenue, the Board of Supervisors must decide whether to spend money to improve the way the county incarcerates women and juveniles, delay jail expansion plans or abandon them altogether.

County officials will give an update today on a proposal to replace the overcrowded women's jail and will follow that with a presentation on whether to fix

### Supervisors must decide whether to spend money on women's facility and juvenile center

up an aging Juvenile Services Center.

Overcrowding has prompted the plan to expand the women's jail. It has a rated capacity for 43 inmates. But between the 2007 and 2009 fiscal years, the popu-

Please see JAILS, A8

# Poll finds Americans split on tax cut for rich

### 48 percent think relief should be extended for all; 49 percent want Obama's limits

By MARGARET TALEV  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Americans are evenly split on whether Congress should extend all the Bush-era tax cuts, or retain only those for households that earn less than \$250,000 a year and allow taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent to rise, a new McClatchy-Marist poll has found.

The findings, released

Monday, show the limits of President Barack Obama's argument heading into November congressional elections that Republicans are holding tax relief for most Americans hostage to protect their rich friends and donors.

Please see POLL, A7

Obama: Frustrations vented to president at Q&A. Page A4

# Information on pipelines is hard to obtain

By GARANCE BURKE AND MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Public records can reveal a lot about a neighborhood: who's not paying their taxes, where sex offenders live, whether a house for sale has lead paint. Yet if a 2-foot-wide pipeline carrying highly pressurized,

### Terrorism fears have made it difficult for homeowners to find out location of pipes

explosive natural gas runs beneath the neighborhood, it's a different story.

Citing fears that terrorists might try to blow up the nation's natural gas pipelines, federal regulators and the

industry have made it extremely difficult for homeowners to learn the location of pipelines and any history of inspections and repairs — information that safety advocates say could save lives.

In the wake of a deadly pipeline blast earlier this month in San Bruno, and serious leaks in Michigan and Illinois, the secrecy surrounding the nation's 2.5-million-mile network of gas transmission lines is facing criticism.

Please see PIPELINE, A8

TOP STORIES, A5

## UTAH NATIONAL GUARD SORRY FOR STARTING FIRE

General admits commanders waited two hours before calling outside fire agencies for help.



## OBESITY CAN BE COSTLY TO WALLETS AND HEALTH

Researchers added sick days, lost productivity and even extra gasoline to the bill for heavier Americans. Page A4

## POST-9/11 FBI PROBES CALLED IMPROPER

But agents didn't target Greenpeace and others because of political views, Justice Department says. Page A5

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'SLOVOTES' BLOG: "It's doubtful that voters would take (Jerry) Brown at his word even if he did agree to limit himself to one term, given the track record of some former pledgers. Case in point: Rep. Lois Capps."

WEATHER AND TODAY'S INDEX



Patchy fog early, then clearing skies expected today. More on S8

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SLO Coast N. County

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