

THE TRIBUNE

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

IN TOP STORIES, A5 AND INSIGHT, B1

THE POPE MEETS THE PRESIDENT

Francis arrives for six-day U.S. visit



IN LOCAL, A3

HOW SAN GABRIEL KIDS ARE FARING

Students and teachers learn to adapt as school closure drags on

ABCs NOT EASY AS 1-2-3: As SLO County schools boost staff in the wake of the recession, declining numbers of new grads and rising numbers of retirees have left several districts still in need of talented educators with the year already underway

Wanted: Teachers



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

First-year teacher Carly Smoot leads an American studies class of 40 students at New Tech High School in Nipomo with partner Samantha Millhollen and student teacher Stephen Ferrell. 'It's a lot of work,' she said of her chosen career, 'but I knew so strongly that I wanted to mentor youth for a living.'

By KAYTLYN LESLIE
kleslie@thetribunenews.com

IN THE CLASSROOM

For months, the country has been inundated with news of a nationwide teacher shortage. Reports of classes starting this fall with substitute teachers leading lessons and universities turning out fewer teachers than in years past have left many school districts and administrators wondering how they will overcome the shortage.

The situation isn't dire yet in San Luis Obispo County, but several of the eight major school districts have openings for teachers and support staff even after the start of fall classes. The county Department of Education is taking steps to stave off negative impacts to students, officials say.

"If you go on EdJoin, which is the (online) source for most teachers to go find jobs, you can see how many jobs we have in the county," said county schools Superintendent James Brescia, as he pulled up education job posting website

Please see TEACHERS, Back Page

First year filled with joy, challenges

On the first day of class Aug. 20, teacher Carly Smoot sat at her desk as her eyes welled with tears.

"When you work so hard to prepare for a job and it's at your core, and then you finally get into it, it's surreal," said Smoot, who is one of the nearly 90 teachers hired for this school year by the Lucia Mar Unified School District.

Smoot, 27, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English at Cal Poly before receiving her teaching credential from its College of Education this past spring. Fresh out of the credential program, she was hired as a freshman and sophomore English teacher at Central Coast New Tech High School in Nipomo.

"What is incredible about New Tech is that it's progressive, they are trying to do new, innovative things," she said. "The first weeks have been the best weeks of my life and also some of the most challenging. It's hard. Harder than I even anticipated."

Teaching has always been her call-

ing, though, she said, from the time she was a kid watching her mom, a school nurse in Atascadero, come home each day filled with excitement about her students.

"That was a red flag for me," she said. "I started doing a lot of volunteer work, and realized that the most important job in the world is impacting people in a positive way."

Smoot also volunteers outside of the classroom, teaching language arts at juvenile detention facilities.

The profession and its commitments aren't easy, Smoot stressed, but they are rewarding.

"I've had concerns and fears and struggles going into teaching, and I still do," she said. "But I try to be a better teacher for my students every day. And it's a lot of work. But I knew so strongly that I wanted to mentor youth for a living, and I wanted to help them, so that always outweighed any hesitations I might have had."

— Kaytlyn Leslie

77,000

Number of teaching credentials awarded by the CSU system in 2000

14,000

Number of teaching credentials awarded by the CSU system in 2014

13

Number of open credentialed teaching positions in Paso Robles Unified School District

6

Number of open credentialed teaching positions in Lucia Mar Unified School District

49

Number of new hires in the Atascadero Unified School District in 2015-16

87-89

Number of new hires in the Lucia Mar Unified School District in 2015-16

DROUGHT

SLO thirsty for more water from Nacimiento

Other communities served by the pipeline may also ask for an increase in deliveries

By CYNTHIA LAMBERT
clambert@thetribunenews.com

San Luis Obispo is seeking hundreds of thousands of gallons of additional water from Nacimiento Lake, which local officials say would reduce pressure on the city's other water sources and extend them during future droughts.

Other local communities that receive water from Nacimiento Lake may join the city in asking the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for more water. It doesn't appear that most ratepayers would foot the bill for the extra water.

But one resident, a former San Luis Obispo planning commissioner, has questioned why the city needs the extra water and who would pay for it.

The need for more water seems at odds with city documents that say current water resources are reliable during prolonged droughts, resident Richard Schmidt wrote

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Attorneys spar as Yanaga trial nears finish

Self-defense or murder will be the question presented to jurors

By PATRICK S. PEMBERTON
ppemberton@thetribunenews.com

A Paso Robles resident who claims he killed a man in self-defense should have grabbed a cellphone instead of a gun, a prosecutor told jurors Tuesday.

But the defendant's attorney said his client had a right to protect himself and his family from a "crazy, drunk, out-of-control madman" who entered his home uninvited and threatened to harm him.

"It's fight or flight," Ilan Funke-Bilu told jurors. "That's not how you repel an assailant at midnight — ask for a timeout to call 911."

Thomas Nolan Yanaga, 53, is on trial for the murder of Marshall Savoy, 32, of

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THE TWO-MINUTE TRIB: HOW ALCOHOL LIMIT COULD HURT DOWNTOWN SLO

OPINION, Page B2

HOME & GARDEN, F1 SMART MAKEOVER FOR A SLO CONDO

Clever custom cabinetry, cheery colors and a knack for finding affordable recycled materials brought new life to Lauri Sowa's 1,200-square-foot home.



MORRO BAY LOOKS TO BAN STYROFOAM

The City Council has asked staff to draft an ordinance and reach out to businesses for input. **Page A3**

THIS MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL A BIT ILL

Employers are shifting a bigger chunk of the health care bill to workers who use their insurance. **Page A5**

WHO'S MAKING THE PLAYS IN PREP FOOTBALL

Players from Mission Prep in the Northern League and Arroyo Grande in the PAC 5 top the stat sheet so far. **Page B6**

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WEATHER AND TODAY'S INDEX



The mercury is falling as patchy fog returns to SLO County. **More on B8**

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9053 N. County

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