

LOCAL

BREAKING NEWS AT SANLUIOBISPO.COM

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THE TRIBUNE **B**

INSIDE | PAGES B5-B6

IN BUSINESS

California's jobless rate doesn't budge, **B5**

 DOW 11,491.91 -7.34	 NASDAQ 2,642.97 +5.66	 S&P 500 1,243.91 +1.04	 DOLLAR 83.90 yen -0.22
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EXPANSION

Aviation company spreads its wings

San Luis Obispo firm ACI will become full-service operator at Paso Robles Municipal Airport

A San Luis Obispo company is marking its official expansion into Paso Robles as the chosen full-service fuel operator at Paso Robles Municipal Airport.

Aviation Consultants Inc. will continue services that businessman David Weyrich left behind when his Paso Robles Jet Center was evicted in April for not paying the lease and for having poor reliability of the fuel supply.



ACI will also take on the Paso Robles Jet Center name because, as a generic term, "jet center" implies the services offered, company President Bill Borgsmiller said.

The Paso Robles City Council unanimously approved ACI's business proposal at its Dec. 7 meeting. Lease negotiations are expected to begin in January, followed by a specific move-in date.

ACI will provide a selection of pilot "concierge services," such as power, fuel and maintenance as well as arranging any catering service requests and ground transportation. The firm, which has 63 employees, was one of five applicants vying for the contract.

The selection committee, composed of Councilmen Ed Steinbeck and John Hamon, screened the companies and interviewed their leadership to assess management experience and the firms' prospects for success at the airport.

"We need someone in there that can pitch Paso Robles as a stopping spot," said Hamon, a pilot.

ACI will work out of the 18,000-square-foot operator building on-site as the sole

Please see BIZ BUZZ, B2

Forestland in SLO County likely to remain roadless

By DAVID SNEED
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More than 52,000 acres of Los Padres National Forest land in San Luis Obispo County could be more likely to remain roadless as a result of a court settlement announced Wednesday.

The agreement calls for the Forest Service, state agencies and groups that use the Forest Service lands to work together to prevent road building on a total of 900,000 acres in four na-

36,923 acres in the Los Padres National Forest will be considered for wilderness designation

tional forests in Central and Southern California, including Los Padres.

"Today's agreement brings us one step closer toward securing the permanent protection of our region's wild places," said Jeff Kuyper, director of Los Padres Forest Watch, a Santa Barbara-based conservation group.

As the name implies, roadless areas are places into which no roads have been built. They lack the stringent restrictions of wilderness areas but still provide wildlife habitat, sources of clean water and other ecological benefits.

The settlement stems from a lawsuit by various environmental groups challenging updates

to land management plans for the Los Padres, Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino national forests. The court ruled that the updates lacked sufficient roadless-area protection and monitoring.

"No one is talking about building any roads, but the ruling is an additional safeguard," said Andrew Madsen, Los Padres National Forest spokesman.

Please see ROADLESS, B2

A BOY AND HIS DOG



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

Five-year-old Cooper Giron, above, and Chip, his specially trained allergen-detection dog, made a special visit Friday to Kevin Hill's sixth-grade class at Bishop's Peak Elementary School in San Luis Obispo.

Last December, the Giron family received an unexpected \$5,000 donation to obtain the Australian Labradoodle in a collaborative effort by the local nonprofit group Jack's Helping Hand and

the sixth-grade class, which contributed \$139 earned in a recycling program.

Chip helps Cooper stay safely away from the tree nuts and peanuts that cause a severe allergic reaction and could endanger his life.

Jack's Helping Hand assists local children with special, unmet needs.

- Julia Hickey