

Poll: Calif. voters back \$2-a-pack tax

By Tracy Seipel and Jessica Calefati, San Jose Mercury News

SACRAMENTO – A day after a state senator revived a bill to hike the state's cigarette tax by \$2 a pack, a new Field Poll unveiled Thursday found that two-thirds of California voters back such a tax increase.

That's one of the key findings in the second part of the polling firm's ninth annual health policy survey, funded by the California Wellness Foundation.

The poll also found that voter satisfaction with the state's health care system overall has steadily grown from 50 percent in 2008, to 52 percent in 2012, to 58 percent today – nearly two years after most of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act went into effect.

[Read the whole story](#)

Fire destroys boat at campground



A boat is fully engulfed in flames in Tahoe City.
Photo/Provided

A boat parked at Lake Forest Campground in Tahoe City was completely destroyed Aug. 26 by fire.

A motor home and nearby vegetation also caught fire Wednesday afternoon. The flames did not spread beyond the campsite.

North Tahoe Fire Department officials said rehab of the site is not required.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Co-op to close; thousands in Nev. without insurance

By Jackie Valley, Las Vegas Sun

The Nevada Health Co-Op, a consumer-owned and operated health plan created under the Affordable Care Act, is going out of business because of high costs, state officials announced

Wednesday.

Consumers insured by the co-op will be covered through Dec. 31, said Janel Davis, spokeswoman for the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. The Board of Directors for the co-op, which received \$65.9 million worth of solvency loans from the federal government, voted to cease operations effective Jan. 1.

The co-op is one of five insurance carriers offered through the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, which was established by the Affordable Care Act. Participants in the Nevada Health Co-Op were asked to choose other insurance providers when an open enrollment period begins in November.

Read the whole story

Calif. lawmakers approve drone trespassing crime bills

By Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers advanced legislation Monday seeking to rein in the use of privacy-invading drones, passing one bill to prevent the use of drones by paparazzi and another making it a trespassing violation to fly drones over private property without permission.

In the state Senate, lawmakers voted 40-0 to approve AB856 by Assemblyman Ian Calderon, D-Whittier, classifying drone use to take pictures or video on private property as an invasion of privacy. "This bill will make paparazzi accountable for the breach of private property boundaries," said Sen. Bob

Wieckowski, D-Fremont, who carried the bill in the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Assembly voted 43-11 on AB856 by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, which would create a trespass crime for operating a drone less than 350 feet above ground over private property without consent.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto, D-Glendale, who presented Jackson's bill, said it makes sense to extend property rights upward as drones become more popular.

"If you drive on someone's property with a car, you're trespassing. If you're looking on someone's property to break in, you're trespassing. It makes no sense that a drone should be able to look in your window and the operator should not be guilty of the same trespass," Gatto said.

Assemblywoman Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, was among several Assembly lawmakers who worried the proposal would harm a growing industry and stifle innovation. She has a drone manufacturer in her district, she said.

"Don't regulate an industry out of business," Grove said.

Other lawmakers suggested the state should wait for federal regulators to develop policies.

Gatto said the bill would not affect businesses because the bill maintains a drone corridor and only targets "people up to no good."

Both bills return to their house of origin for another vote.

Kings Beach man accused of firing weapon in Truckee

A Kings Beach man was arrested in Truckee on Wednesday after allegedly firing gunshots into the air. He may also be responsible for starting a small brushfire.

Officers were notified of a man carrying a gun in the Meadows area of Glenshire on Aug. 26.

“Once the suspect was located by police, the suspect started running, and at one point, fired gunshots into the air. Officers were able to take the suspect into custody without any gunshots being fired by police or without further incident. At no point where the gunshots directed at police or witnesses in the area,” officers said in a statement.

While apprehending Frederick Santos-Coy, 24, a small fire was discovered in the area.

The connection of the fire to Santos-Coy is still under investigation, but Truckee officers does not believe there are any others suspects related to the fire.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Name of Incline drowning victim released

The youth who drowned at Sand Harbor over the weekend has been identified as Cameron St. Hilaire.

He was at the Incline Village beach Aug. 22 when he went under just before noon. People on the beach pulled the 15-year-old to shore and started CPR. He was flown to Renown Medical Center in Reno where he died.

Cameron was in the 10th grade at Carson High School in Carson City. Grief counselors have been at the school this week.

Donations are being collected to help with memorial service expenses. To donate, go **online**.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Sinclair Broadcast pulls TV signals from Dish Network

By Joe Flint, Wall Street Journal

Signals for one of the nation's biggest local broadcasters went dark on satellite TV distributor Dish Network Corp. on Tuesday, the result of a dispute over a new distribution contract.

Dish and Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. have been negotiating a contract that covers more than 150 local television stations owned or managed by Sinclair that reach more than five million customers in 79 markets. The signals were pulled from Dish after efforts to sign a new agreement or extend the existing one failed.

Besides owning 121 TV stations, Sinclair also manages 32 through partnerships. Of the 153 stations, 87 are affiliates of the four major broadcast networks – CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox – meaning customers lost access to local and national news

programming as well as sports carried by those stations.

Read the whole story

Report: Calif. drivers are the nation's most stressed

By Gary Richards, San Jose Mercury News

California's improved economy has brought commutes to an unprecedented slowdown from one end of the state to the other, making drivers here the most stressed out in the nation.

A nationwide report released late Tuesday found that motorists in California's congested population centers spend nearly two work weeks a year stuck in creep-and-crawl traffic – nearly double the national average.

According to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and a West Coast traffic organization called Inrix, which surveyed traffic on 471 urban streets and highways across the country, an estimated \$160 billion is lost annually in wasted fuel, lost income and lost time across the country while motorists cling to a steering wheel instead of a computer mouse.

The worst area is Washington, D.C., at 82 hours of lost time, but the top 10 is a roadmap from Northern California to Southern California: Los Angeles comes in No. 2 with 80 hours of delays, followed by San Francisco-Oakland with 78, New York at 74 and the San Jose area at 67. Riverside rounds out the top 10 at 59. Compare that to the national average of a measly 42 hours.

Read the whole story

No injuries when bus catches fire on Hwy. 50



Fire completely destroyed a bus traveling on Highway 50.
Photo/Provided

A bus heading up Spooner Summit was totally destroyed by a fire on Sunday.

“The driver was able to pull the bus safely to the right shoulder and assist the passengers in evacuating the bus before it became completely engulfed in flames,” Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Duncan Dauber told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The VIP bus was traveling on Highway 50 toward Lake Tahoe about 1:24am Aug. 23 when the driver lost power and the vehicle began to smoke, Dauber said. Carson City firefighters extinguished the blaze.

Eleven people were on the bus. There were no injuries.

The cause of the vehicle fire is under investigation.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Caesars stock posts strong gains in wake of restructuring announcement

By Eli Segall, Las Vegas Sun

Amid global stock-market carnage this week, shares of Caesars Entertainment Corp. bounced higher after the casino giant announced a restructuring deal with lenders.

Caesars and its largest unit, the bankrupt Caesars Entertainment Operating Co., or CEOC, reached an agreement that “secures the support” of the unit’s “largest and most senior creditor constituencies,” according to a news release Friday night.

It’s a “key milestone” in the company’s efforts “to implement a consensual restructuring of CEOC,” Caesars said.

Read the whole story