

Californians throwing away less trash

By Deborah Sullivan Brennan, San Diego Union-Tribune

Californians trimmed their trash to a record low last year, according to state figures showing that residents discarded an average of 4.3 pounds per day of garbage last year.

That's down from the previous low of 4.4 pounds per person per day in 2011, according to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, known as CalRecycle. By comparison Californians tossed more than eight pounds per person each day in 1989 – the year the state's Integrated Waste Management Act went into effect.

The waste average represents the total trash disposed statewide – 29.3 million tons last year – divided by the state's population of 37.7 million for 2012.

The figure represents industrial and commercial waste as well as household garbage. So the per person average includes not only what individuals throw away, but also the garbage tossed by factories, construction sites and retail establishments.

The state average has fluctuated since the waste management act went into effect, hovering at 6 pounds or more per day for the decade between 1997 and 2006. With the collapse of the housing bubble trash production fell as well, dropping to 5.7 in 2007 and declining each year after that.

“As the economy slowed, you had less consumption, less construction, or less waste produced,” Mark Oldfield, spokesman for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, said. “One of the challenges moving forward will be, as the economy continues to improve, how do we continue the strides we've taken while reducing greater amounts of waste?”

Curbside recycling has helped divert trash, while an increasing variety of plastic and other materials can be recycled. Organic waste, including food scraps and lawn trimmings, make up the biggest component of the waste stream, Oldfield said, so large-scale composting will be a high priority.

“As we move forward, organics and food waste will be low-hanging fruit,” he said.

Beach-goers critical of USFS handling of fight

By Kathryn Reed

U.S. Forest Service officials are defending their approach to the July 4 melee at Ski Beach.

A fight broke out between two guys that ended with five law enforcement agencies being called to the South Shore beach, three people receiving citations for fighting, and one person going to the hospital.

“A subject attempted to assault a Forest Service officer and the K9 was used to apprehend him. The dog is fully trained and certified in patrol, narcotics detection and handler protection. Other Forest Service law enforcement officers helped restrain the subject. At this point, the officers were surrounded and the crowd was taunting them and yelling profanities,” Forest Service spokeswoman Cheva Heck told *Lake Tahoe News*.



U.S. Forest Service officers on July 4 hold down a man who was in a fight. Photo/Julie Gardner

But that is not what eyewitnesses said happened.

Julie Gardner of South Lake Tahoe was about a foot away on the sand from where a fight broke out between two guys. What started as an argument escalated into one guy shoving another guy who was wearing a full knee brace. The latter fell on his back onto a bike.

Gardner told *Lake Tahoe News* that two guys were assaulting the man with a brace when a friend of the solo guy jumped in to break up the fight.

"The U.S. Forest Service came over and released the dog. The dog immediately ran up and attacked him," Gardner said of the friend of the man with the brace.

She did not hear the Forest Service give any warning that the dog was going to be deployed.

Many people who commented on *LTN's* first story about this fight were critical of the USFS, saying many of the same things that Gardner said.

The guy went down, officers cuffed him, but the dog didn't let go. According to Gardner, the dog kept the hold for at least a minute as officers tried to get him to release. And then the

dog allegedly bit the handler.

He was taken to Barton Memorial Hospital that night with several non-life threatening puncture wounds, according to Gardner.

Heck did not answer these questions:

- What is the policy regarding deploying a K9?
- How does the dog know whom to go after?
- When the crowd told officers they had the wrong guys, why didn't they go after the two who ran?
- Allegedly the officers could not get the dog off the guy. What happened there?
- USFS officers are accused of shoving people to the ground. Any comment?

"This is a pending law enforcement matter, and no further details are available," Heck said.

Gardner described the scene as chaotic, with people yelling at each other and law enforcement.

Forest Service officials say nearly 70 people were involved and estimate more than 1,000 people were on this beach that is just to the north of Baldwin Beach. Assisting the Forest Service were officers from South Lake Tahoe Police Department, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, California State Park police and CalFire.

Gardner said she has never seen such ineptitude from law enforcement.

"It was a completely malicious, unwarranted attack by the dog and officers," Gardner said.

Bison Fire containment expected Monday

Updated 9:45pm:

Despite gusty winds and low humidity, fire personnel made significant progress today building containment lines and slowing the Bison Fire.

The fire is 30 percent contained, with full containment projected for July 8.

No injuries have been reported and no structures have been lost.

Pine Nut Road remains closed at the intersection of Out-R-Way to non-residents. A voluntary evacuation notice remains in effect for about 20 structures in the area.

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Updated 12:10pm:

The Bison Fire has grown to more than 7,000 acres.

High sustained winds and very low humidity have made the fire extremely difficult to contain, officials report.

An increasing number of fire crews and equipment will continue to build containment lines, with an emphasis on firefighter safety and minimizing impacts to structures.

The fire remains at 20 percent containment.

Contingency plans are in place for positioning of both air and ground resources should the fire move farther east.

No injuries have been reported and no structures have been lost.

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Changing winds have again put structures in the path of the Bison Fire.

The fire in the Pine Nut area of Douglas County has grown to more than 2,000 acres, with containment at 20 percent.

Twenty structures are in the line of the fire.

Heavy winds in the upper elevations have prevented the use of aircraft in certain locations. These winds have fueled this fire making, for extreme fire behavior and very dangerous situations, according to authorities.

The fire has crested the ridge south of Mount Siegal, the tallest peak east of Gardnerville.

Pine Nut Road at Out-R-Way is closed to non-residents.

— *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Cyclist airlifted from Sugar Pine Point



A CHP helicopter hoists an injured cyclist from Sugar Pine Point on July 6.
Photo/CalFire

Updated July 7:

The bicyclist, whose name still has not been released, crashed about four miles up the trail near Lost Lake.

At the same time there was a medical aid involving a person climbing in the rocks at Rooster Rock.

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A mountain biker was airlifted out of Sugar Pine Point State Park on Saturday evening.

The call came in at 2pm July 6 that a cyclist had hurt himself in a remote area of the West Shore park.

A California Highway Patrol helicopter was able to lift the man out of the park and deliver him to an awaiting ambulance about 6pm. He was then transported to Tahoe Forest Hospital.

El Dorado County sheriff's search and rescue, Meeks Bay Fire, CalFire and State Parks crews helped with the rescue.

The name of cyclist has not been released, nor the extent of his injuries

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Skin cancer on the rise among young women

By Emma G. Fitzsimmons, New York Times

On a hot July day last summer, I was lying on the beach at Coney Island with my younger brother when he noticed a dark mole on the back of my arm. “You should really get that checked at the dermatologist,” he said in a worried tone.

It turned out that the mole on my arm was fine, but another one on my cheek was basal cell skin cancer. A few weeks later, I had surgery to remove it and left the plastic surgeon’s office with a 1.5-inch scar sloping down my right cheek.

Friends and colleagues were surprised to see the scar because I was only 28. Even the medical resident who attended my operation said I was the youngest skin cancer patient she had met.



People flock to the beaches of Lake Tahoe on Fourth of July weekend. Photo/LTN

But as I learned more about skin cancer, I discovered that it is becoming increasingly common, especially among young women.

A recent study by the Mayo Clinic found that melanoma, the most serious type, had increased eightfold for women under 40 since 1970.

“There is this thought that, ‘It won’t happen to me because I’m young,’ but that’s not true anymore,” said Dr. Jerry Brewer, a dermatologist at the Mayo Clinic and an author of the study.

Experts say that tanning beds are a major factor behind the increase in all three types of skin cancer for young women. More than 20 million people use tanning beds each year, and 70 percent of customers are young white women, who are at increased risk of developing skin cancer. The lamps in tanning beds can give off 10 to 15 times the UVA radiation of normal sun exposure, accelerating the process of skin damage. Instead of getting skin cancer 30 or 40 years down the line, many young women are getting it five or 10 years later, Dr. Brewer said.

Though I have never used a tanning bed, my dermatologist said I had an unlucky trio of risk factors: fair skin and blue eyes, an upbringing in Texas, where I spent long days in the sun growing up, and a family history of skin cancer. My grandmother and aunt had melanoma and survived, and my mother had basal cell carcinoma too.

While more than three million cases of basal and squamous cell carcinoma are diagnosed each year, only about 2,000 people a year die from these non-melanoma skin cancers. Melanoma is a far more ominous diagnosis, causing about 9,400 deaths each year in the United States.

Dr. Darrell Rigel, a dermatology professor at NYU Langone Medical Center, says that every month at his New York practice, about two women in their 20s are found to have early melanoma, a dramatic rise from 20 years ago. Once melanoma is the size of a dime, there is a good chance that it has already

spread and treatment may not work, Dr. Rigel said. "I know I'm looking at a death sentence on their arm, and they feel perfectly fine," he said. "It's absolutely awful."

This year, the Food and Drug Administration proposed new regulations for tanning beds that require them to have labels warning that they are not recommended for people under 18. And in April, New Jersey joined several other states in passing a law to prohibit indoor tanning for those under 17.

Even children can get melanoma. A recent study in the journal *Pediatrics* found that the number of cases among children and adolescents has been increasing each year by about 2 percent.

Another recent study, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that while young women are more likely to be given a diagnosis of melanoma, young men are more likely to die from it. Researchers said the disparity was probably a consequence of behavioral tendencies – men are less likely to see a doctor or perform a skin self-examination – and possibly biological differences as well.

My brush with skin cancer has certainly changed how I view the sun. I don't want another scar – or worse, a diagnosis of melanoma. I wear a 30 SPF sunscreen on my face every day and bought several sun-protective long-sleeve shirts to wear outdoors this summer. I am visiting my dermatologist every three months for a full body scan. (One annual checkup is recommended for those without a previous diagnosis.)

I returned to Texas in April for a friend's wedding at a resort in the woods. After a long winter in New York, my husband and I were excited to go swimming at a pool near our cabin. In the past, I would have grabbed a lounge chair in the sun, seeing it as the perfect opportunity to arrive at the ceremony with a sun-kissed glow. But this time, I picked a chair under a wide umbrella. It's just not worth it anymore.

Even a few sunburns can significantly raise your risk of skin

cancer, Dr. Brewer said.

“Deciding how much sun you want to get is like asking how much cyanide you want in your breakfast cereal,” he said. “There is no amount of tan that is healthy.”

Winds whip Bison Fire



Smoke tumbles into the Lake Tahoe Basin on July 5 from the Bison Fire. Photo/LTN

Update 10:25pm

Winds whipped up the Bison Fire on Friday afternoon.

It now stands at about 2,000 acres. And containment has been reduced to 15 percent.

Update 2:50pm:

The Bison Fire is at 1,400 acres and is moving in a north, northeast direction.

It is 20 percent contained.

The fire is burning in a mix of pinion and juniper trees with

extreme fire conditions.

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The Bison Fire burning in the Pine Nut Mountains of Douglas County has charred 1,200 acres and is 15 percent contained.

There is no estimated time for containment.

No structures have been lost.

The fire started July 4 by lightning.

The goal is to make an assault on the fire early this morning before the afternoon winds pick up.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Pedestrian hospitalized after being hit by cyclist

Just before the fireworks were to go off in Truckee on July 4 a pedestrian was hit by a bicyclist.

Petra Bakker-Borhani, 24, of Truckee was booked into jail on charges of driving under the influence.

The pedestrian, whose name has not been released, was taken to Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee after sustaining major trauma to his head.

Anyone who has information about the incident is asked to call Sgt. Robert Womack at (530) 550.2335.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Cops busy July 4 with 'normal' holiday calls

South Lake Tahoe police responded to fewer calls this Fourth of July than years past.

In the 24-hour ending at 6am July 5 city cops arrested seven people.

One driver was arrested on DUI charges and one person was arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence.

Although officers responded to a number of complaints regarding fireworks, even these types of calls were fewer than in past years.

In Douglas County, 24 people were arrested throughout the day and evening. Charges included burglary, battery, trespassing, larceny, DUI, disorderly conduct and minor consuming alcohol. In addition to the arrests, six people were issued citations for minor consuming, larceny and possession of paraphernalia.

Deputies said the crowds in the Stateline, Round Hill and Zephyr Cove areas of Lake Tahoe were large and that with the exception of a few altercations in the casino area, Nevada Beach and Zephyr Cove Beach, the crowd was relatively well behaved.

Not everyone was thrilled though with the deputies because 11 patrol cars were blocking the lower entrance to the county garage, which is a popular fireworks viewing area. A vehicle blocked the garage at the end of the show, which created a traffic jam.

Lake Tahoe News has a call into DCSO.

The U.S. Forest Service still has no comment on what happened at Ski Beach on the South Shore.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

GOP votes split along generational lines

By Jim Puzzanghera, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON – Lawmakers in Congress are voting more often along party lines. But within the ranks of Republicans, there is growing evidence of voting along age lines.

The generational split, fueled by a surge in young lawmakers who won seats in recent elections, has been emerging on a number of tax and spending bills, including last year's transportation funding bill and this year's pending farm bill.

And that divide may be deeper even than differences over Tea Party issues, now that most Republicans in Congress are conservative.

"Clearly, as a group, the younger members coming in the last two or three classes have been more ideologically conservative ... than most of the older members," said Norman J. Ornstein, a congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank.

The tension between young and old was on display at a recent Senate committee hearing over technology companies stashing hoards of cash offshore to avoid paying income taxes on profits earned overseas.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, 76, criticized Apple Inc. for using foreign subsidiaries to avoid paying billions of dollars in U.S. taxes. But Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., 50, defended Apple as “a great American company” simply trying to find legal ways to minimize its tax bill.

No legislation, however, has brought the generational divide into focus more clearly than the Internet sales tax bill, which would allow states to require larger online retailers to collect sales taxes from customers as bricks-and-mortar merchants must do.

Senate Republicans split nearly evenly on the legislation, with most older members supporting it and younger ones in opposition.

“Every single Republican under the age of 50 voted against this bill in the U.S. Senate, and I think it has a great deal to do with being part of the Internet age,” said freshman Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, 42, a Tea Party favorite. “We should not be messing with the Internet.”

Like most of his older Republican colleagues, Sen. Mike Enzi, 69, who owned three small shoe stores before entering politics in the 1970s, sympathizes with conventional retailers who want to end the nation’s long online sales tax holiday.

As a former mayor and state legislator, he also knows that states and local municipalities need to collect sales taxes to bolster their budgets and help keep the roads in repair and the sewers working.

“It is pretty hard to flush your toilet on the Internet. Those taxes are very important to almost all of the communities across the United States,” said the Wyoming Republican, who helped pass the Marketplace Fairness Act in the Senate.

Freshman Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., 42, like Cruz one of the young Turks in Congress, opposes the legislation as a threat

to e-commerce and an expansion of state taxing powers.

"All of my post-college life has been in a world where the Internet has been a ubiquitous part of our lives," Massie said.

The opposition of young members such as Massie has left the bill's fate unclear in the House, where the average age of lawmakers is five years less than in the Senate.

"Younger generations are more e-commerce-oriented," said Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., 56, the leading Republican sponsor of the House legislation. "The House is a younger bunch ... and that may contribute to the fact that it's harder to get younger members on board."

Veteran lawmakers – that is, older ones – are more inclined to support conventional retailers arguing for a level playing field and to back their state and local officials, who want to generate more revenue without raising tax rates.

Younger members, many of whom are Washington newcomers, tend to back Internet companies such as online auction site EBay Inc. in opposing the measure as an undue burden on online retailers and an expansion of a state's taxing authority outside its borders.

"I think there is a bit of a divide in Congress between those who understand the potential the Internet has to revolutionize the way we do commerce in this country and those who are trying to protect special interests," said Evan Feinberg, president of Generation Opportunity.

The libertarian group, which represents young people, launched a protest on Enzi's Facebook page against the Internet sales tax legislation.

"I applaud that he was a small-business man before he entered public service," Feinberg said of Enzi. "It's just that

commerce has changed dramatically since he owned that shoe store in 1974.”

Older lawmakers frequently have been criticized for not being technologically savvy. In 2006, then-Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, at 82, was mocked by bloggers for a rambling speech in which he described the Internet as a “series of tubes.”

In the last few years, Congress has seen a flood of younger lawmakers.

The average age of newly elected senators dropped to 53 this year from 57.1 in 2009, according to the Congressional Research Service. The average age of new House members dropped to 49.2 this year from 49.8 in 2009.

In the online sales tax debate, the average age of Republican senators who voted in favor of the bill in May was 64, according to an analysis by Heritage Action for America, a conservative advocacy group. The average age of Republican senators who voted against the bill was 58.

The group noted that 12 of 13 Senate Republicans ages 55 or younger opposed the legislation.

Overall, 22 Senate Republicans voted for the bill and 21 opposed it. The legislation passed 69 to 27, with most Democrats voting for it.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., 45, who is not in the Tea Party caucus, said she hadn’t thought about why younger Republicans like her were more likely to oppose the bill. She voted against it because the legislation clashed with her conservative philosophy that government should be smaller and more limited.

Massie, the young congressman from Kentucky, said he thought the generational split on the Internet sales tax and other

issues reflected more skepticism among newcomers about Washington's ways.

"It may be that the younger folks haven't been here as long," he said. "They're still in touch with their constituents and less with the constituency inside the beltway – the lobbyists."

David French, senior vice president for government relations at the National Retail Federation, said that many of the Senate Republicans who opposed the legislation did not have experience in state government.

"It's not about technology versus the old way of doing things," said French, whose group has been lobbying for the legislation. "I think this is a lot more about the callow inexperience of youth."

It will take some time to build support in the House, and a lot of small retailers will be contacting their lawmakers over the next few months to push for the legislation, he said. The trade group includes small retailers and large ones, such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., one of the leading backers of the legislation, rejected the idea that supporters, regardless of party, did not understand the Internet.

"I guessed I'd be on the older side, but I certainly appreciate the immense benefit of the Internet and how important it is in commerce," said Welch, 66. "But this in no way is going to inhibit the Internet."

Enzi agreed.

"I'm encouraging every businessman I know to make sales on the Internet," he said. "But they need to help follow the law, which is to help collect the sales tax that's due."

DUI checkpoint ends with 4 arrests

During the July 4 DUI checkpoint in Douglas County four people were arrested on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and one for marijuana.

The checkpoint was set up on eastbound Highway 50 near Spooner Summit.



Officers stop drivers at the July 4 DUI checkpoint in Douglas County.

Photo/Provided

Officers were out from 2-8pm. Reno and Sparks police departments, deputies from the Washoe and Lyon county sheriff's offices, and troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol briefly spoke to each driver of the 3,547 vehicles that were stopped.

Officers also issued traffic citations for all violations observed as motorists were contacted. Those offenses included three for marijuana less than 1 ounce, three for drug paraphernalia, nine child safety seat violations, four seat

belt tickets, and seven additional traffic citations for various other violations.

Ten minors were cited for alcohol consumption and their ages ranged from 16- to 20-years-old.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*