



Tax deal ends big Medi-Cal shortfall

By Melody Gutierrez

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers have reached a deal to close a \$1 billion hole that the state's health care program for the poor was facing this summer by expanding a tax on managed care organizations.

The deal also provides a big boost to services for the developmentally disabled that were cut during the recession, and moves to pay down the state's retiree health care debt.

Gov. Jerry Brown called a special session on health care last year, tasking lawmakers with finding a long-term solution for funding Medi-Cal so the program doesn't rely so heavily on the general fund, which pays for most state services. One of the key priorities was to expand the state's tax on managed-care organizations — a tax that the Obama administration said did not comply with federal law.

That tax — which raises revenue for Medi-Cal — is set to expire July 1, but under the deal would be expanded and continued.

"We think this is crucial for maintain-

Tax continues on D4

Family sues after inmate dies in jail

By Kimberly Veklerov

The family of an inmate who died in an Alameda County jail last year filed a lawsuit against the jail system's private for-profit health contractor and the county Tuesday in federal court, charging that the man's death was "totally preventable" and caused by negligence.

Mario Martinez, 29, died July 15 in Dublin's Santa Rita Jail because of acute asthmatic respiratory insufficiency, according to the coroner's office. In the wake of his death, family members and supporters alleged that he did not receive adequate, timely medical treatment and that his death could have been avoided.

More than two dozen of Martinez's family members and friends gathered on the steps of the Rene C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse near Oakland's

Jail continues on D4



Photos by Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

Caan Ty (left) and Poeun Pal look through the rubble after fire destroyed the Oakland Cambodian Buddhist Temple.

Buddhist temple burns in Oakland

2 homes also destroyed — ceremonial candles believed to be cause



Flowers line the front gate of the temple after the three-alarm blaze. Four resident monks were among those displaced by the early-morning inferno.

By Kimberly Veklerov and Evan Sernoffsky

Four resident monks and seven visitors scrambled for their lives as a three-alarm inferno gutted a Buddhist temple and destroyed at least two other homes — displacing nearly a dozen people — in Oakland early Tuesday morning, firefighters said.

The fire broke out around 2 a.m. as hundreds of candles burned inside the Oakland Cambodian Buddhist Temple at 5212 E. 10th St. and quickly spread to adjacent buildings.

The fire was raging through the converted center when firefighters arrived.

Vantha Som, 42, a monk at the temple, was asleep inside with 10 others and rushed to get out of the building as the fire erupted.

One of the residents, a woman who is sight-impaired, tripped on a staircase on her way out of the temple, Som said.

Fire continues on D4

Praise, protest for recreation area's off-leash rules

By Steve Rubenstein

The dogs let the humans do the talking for them Tuesday, and for some of them, the words were plenty yappy.

"If they write me a ticket, I'm just going to tear it up," said 83-year-old Lee Walker, who has walked dogs off leash at Fort Funston every day since 1980. "Topper and I have some rights, too, don't we?"

Topper, a Doberman, wagged his tail to signal his agreement with his master's outrage at plans, announced Mon-

"My wife is scared to death of dogs. When a loose one comes to sniff her, she freaks."

Tony Cavalli, on Golden Gate National Recreation Area's new rules on off-leash dogs

day, to drastically cut back the areas where off-leash dog walking will be allowed in the 80,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

"We're not going to

stand for it," Walker said. "We're going to have a big march or a Critical Mass or something. We're mad."

Feelings were just as strong on the other side of the fight over where dogs should be allowed to run off leash in the GGNRA, just as they have been since debate over changing the rules began in 2002.

"Muzzled, leashed and diapered — the only way dogs should be allowed in any public space," Lani Mulholland said.

On Monday, GGNRA *Leashes continues on D5*



Connor Radnovich / The Chronicle

Danny Yang holds his 1-year-old son, Marco, as Ruby the golden-doodle jumps on her owner, Elisa Legon, at Fort Funston, where off-leash dogs are still allowed.



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