

Letters to the editor, July 11

July 11, 2011

There have been three grizzly maulings in Yellowstone National Park this year, the most recent a human fatality "amid growing numbers of grizzlies and tourists" ("Fatal mauling," July 7).

Why must human beings be everywhere? And why in the park's backcountry? Yellowstone is a natural environment for *wild* animals, and such animals and people were never meant to mix.

Why aren't the number of tourists limited? Very simple: Admit only a certain number of people at any given time of the year, and tickets must be purchased in advance. There's obviously no control of human numbers, and there has to be in order to save this area from ruin and to permit the animals to live their lives in peace without our infernal presence all over the place.

Rosemary Gilbert, San Francisco

New hole in safety net

Are you ready for the elimination of Adult Day Health Care?

And where do you expect the 37,000 medically fragile seniors and disabled in the 300-plus ADHC programs to go?

Our governor made a deal with our legislators to keep a scaled-down program for their votes to pass his budget. Guess what? He lied - he eliminated the program ("Lawmakers quickly OK [state budget](#)," June 29).

The consequences are significant. Our safety net is already full of holes. Very few will get the services that they need to remain independent and in their homes and out of nursing homes, emergency rooms and hospitals. They will end up using more dollars. Their family caregivers will have to quit their jobs to take care of them. Think of all of the staff who will lose their jobs - at least 20 from each center plus the other businesses that work with ADHC centers. More unemployed will impact everyone who lives in California.

The governor has made it very clear to California's most vulnerable population - the poor, disabled, people of color and women: You don't matter, so drop dead.

Roxie Kellam, Oakland



A grizzly roams in Yellowstone National Park, where a backpacker was recently fatally mauled in the back country.

Credit: Jim Urquhart / Associated Press

Death penalty bill is sound

We applaud Sen. Loni Hancock's well thought-out legislation (SB490) to abolish the death penalty ("Death penalty far costlier than life sentences," June 21).

The cost of prosecuting and defending such cases; the unimaginable societal costs of executing the innocent; the costs of appeals; the misuse of monies that could have been spent elsewhere in our cash-strapped state - all these costs make abolishing the death penalty a reasonable, sound and ultimately just decision.

Margo George, president,

California Public Defenders Association, Sacramento

Good ol' boys go to a party