Schwarzenegger signs California budget

By Jim Sanders and Torey Van Oot, Sacramento Bee

Signed, sealed and delivered.

California's record-long budget impasse ended in a whirlwind Friday that included an all-night legislative session followed by nearly $1 billion in line-item vetoes by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The $86.6 billion spending plan is no cure-all. California faces the prospect of massive red ink again next year. For now, however, the nightmare is over.

"It is often said that politics is the art of compromise and, let me tell you, this is exactly what this budget is – it's compromise," Schwarzenegger said.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg was pleased but not rejoicing.

Read the whole story

Northstar – Creating fun on and off the slopes

Publisher's note: ***Lake Tahoe News is providing a glimpse into what skiers and boarders can expect at Lake Tahoe area resorts for the 2010-11 season.***

Northstar-at-Tahoe: Providing on and off the slopes

entertainment

• Projected opening date: Nov. 20

• Daily adult lift ticket: TBA; last season’s was $84



Burton makes snowboarding at Northstar a breeze.
Photo/Provided

• What’s new?: For the first time, Northstar will host on March 18 the Nordic SuperTour, a premier cross country race series in North America that will start and finish at the Village at Northstar. The resort has also invested in more skills clinics and new rental equipment including K2 skis, Burton snowboards and Dalbello ski boots.

Also, a new pottery-making studio will join the collage of shops and restaurants in the 150,000-square-foot village.

• What’s special about Northstar?: The resort is beautiful and features wind-protected slopes, great tree skiing, and the Burton Snowboard Academy.

• Last year’s snow total: 420 inches

• Lift hours of operation: 9am to 4pm weekdays; 8:30am to 4pm weekends and holidays

• Skiable terrain: 3,000 acres

• Number of lifts: 19

• Vertical feet: 2,280

• Directions: From Highway 50, turn left on Highway 28 at Spooner Summit skirting the East Shore of Lake Tahoe, then turn right on Highway 267.

• Website

– Compiled by Susan Wood

Gooch: address the distrust of the City Council and the infamous Grand Jury Report

Publisher's note: ***Lake Tahoe News is profiling candidates for South Lake Tahoe City Council and Douglas County Commission. The stories are being published in the order they were received.***

Name: Adrian Gooch

Age: 57

How long have you lived in South Lake Tahoe? 35 years

Job/profession: Retired



Adrian Gooch

What would you build or tear down on the South Shore to make it great, as in what Whistler is like?:

I would continue every effort possible to get the convention center built. As an additional remark – I think South Lake Tahoe is pretty great.

What form of recreation do you participate in? What recreation improvements would you strive to make in SLT?:

My family and I are huge sports fans. In my younger years I participated in softball, volleyball, and bowling (I was terrible at volleyball, but had fun anyways). Now I enjoy easy hikes, walking, and a little kayaking. Many years ago when our children were younger we were involved in Little League, Babe Ruth, football, basketball, soccer, and bowling. Now we get to live vicariously through our children and our oldest granddaughter and we try to attend as many functions as possible to show our support while they play softball, soccer, basketball, and dance. The Parks and Recreation Department does a fantastic job of offering recreation options for the community. I do not have a favorite or preferred recreation. I would support any recreation improvement that is reasonable and financially prudent.

Recreation tourism is expected to be the driving force of the South Shore economy in the coming years, and according to a decade-old study, the majority of the South Lake Tahoe residents would like to see cycling-type facilities and maintenance projects. So, what do you specifically plan to do

to improve our substandard, dangerous bike paths and lanes and roads beyond hiring a consultant to tell us how bad they are?:

The city does not need to hire a consultant to tell us how bad the above noted items are. I personally am not a cyclist (however, I was the staff person who started the initial research and preparation that was needed from the city for the Bicycle Friendly Award). The city and California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) have a great partnership in which the CTC funds pay for the construction of the bike paths/trails, but those funds generally do not, or cannot, be used for maintenance. Measure S funding was structured differently so that there are funds available for maintenance and repair. I would like to see if 1) the CTC grants could be structured differently; 2) how about creating a nonprofit "Bicycle Trail" fund that interested parties could donate tax deductible dollars to; and 3) I would ask if the many great cycling events that are held here in SLT contribute any financial assistance toward the maintenance of the bike lanes/paths.

What are the three major issues facing South Lake Tahoe and how do you expect in four years to make it so they are not major issues when your tenure is through?:

The first issue I would address is the current distrust of the City Council and the infamous Grand Jury Report. I will do everything in my power to regain the community's trust in its leadership. This issue needs to be addressed immediately and never stop. I am a common sense person by nature and do not condone any "closed door meetings" (not to be confused with "Closed Session"). To me a city councilmember is someone who represents the community – this requires listening to what the community is saying whether you agree or not; set goals and policies and stay focused on those goals. Give direction to the city manager and let everyone do their job without micromanaging. Ten years ago having a council subcommittee was the exception to the rule, now it is hard to find an issue where there is not a council subcommittee.

The second issue is community. I would like to brainstorm and come up with some concrete attainable ways to bring people and families back into our community. We need community enhancements that all can enjoy. I am a supporter of affordable housing and that should remain a goal, but I would want to look at enhancing that goal by looking for options in assisting homeowners who are facing foreclosure.

The third issue I believe is directly related to the second issue and that is the economy. The city should consider offering economic incentives such as; streamlining city requirements, fast-tracking any permitting processes, offer business incentives, and encourage or possibly enter into a public/private partnership with the large employers to offer more options for employee housing. I would look at the Economic Development programs and try to find a way to offer the same programs that are currently offered to persons in the low income category and expand the programs to include persons who are in the moderate income category (similar to what was done with the First Time Home Buyer program with the addition of the Moderate Home Buyer program). I would encourage new businesses without sending the mixed message of "the city needs new businesses, but it doesn't want your business". The city has in its city code, General Plan, and community plans the requirements which define/outline if a particular business is allowed, where it is allowed, etc.

What compelling idea have you read in the citizens' input of the revamped, in-progress update of the city's General Plan?:

What I felt compelling in regards to the citizens' input was two issues that re-occurred during the process, and those were safe pedestrian and bike amenities and a sense of community/neighborhood. I agree.

How do you plan to boost revenue in SLT?:

Seriously look for and pursue a secondary revenue base. "We

need to diversify” has been said so many times, that it sounds like a broken record. Tourism is and always will be our primary source of revenue. At one time it was the gaming and the lake, well we all know about the gaming decline, but we still have the lake. I am very interested in the geotourism concept.

Grants are and have been a source of revenue to the city for a long time. However, with grants, usually come restrictions and we have to be very analytical and pencil out what a grant is going to cost the city in the long run. I would like to meet with the city manager and Lori Marino, the grant coordinator, and talk about some grants that may be available from sources that the city has traditionally not applied for.

I would also like to evaluate the amount of additional revenue the city would receive if the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) was increased from 10 percent to 12 percent for the vacation home rentals. It is my understanding that the city is collecting approximately $1.2 million a year now from vacation home rentals.

Last but not least, I would ask the public and the city employees for suggestions – never underestimate the power of collective brainstorming.

What stands out to you in the 2010-11 budget?:

Well, actually the first area I looked at was the City Council budget. Almost all other departments have been asked in the past “to hold the line” or more currently, to decrease their budgets. The City Council budget for the 2010-11 fiscal budget year is significantly higher than last this budget year. Why?

What needs to be done to allow businesses to thrive in SLT?:

The city needs to be as supportive as possible. There are various organizations that offer a wide variety of services for the business in SLT. What has never been done (to my

knowledge) is a gathering of all the various organizations (city, county, chambers, EDD, LTCC, etc.) to identify who is offering what, identify if any of the services overlap, and more important determine if there is a gap in the services and who is best suited to fill that gap. The more the city can do to help the better, if the city cannot help, it should not hinder.

What have you done to help South Lake Tahoe be a better community?:

I have dedicated 18+ years to the community as an employee of the city. I did a wide variety of duties with good old-fashioned values. I treat all people the same, be fair and honest and always try to do my best.

What boards, commissions, or other experience do you have?:

My experience includes: the Olympic Torch Relay Committee, the recording secretary for the Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority, the city's Information Technology committee (now defunct), recording secretary for the Airport/City, TRPA, League to Save Lake Tahoe, and attorney general negotiation meetings, the formation of the city's housing rehabilitation and the First Time Home Buyer programs, the Heavenly Village, EVR Phase IV, the convention center, Linear Park, the author of the first successful Economic Development Technical Assistance grant, and a committee member for the retirement reception for Father John Grace.

Why should voters vote for you over someone else?:

Because I am exactly what this community needs. I have the government experience and knowledge that is needed. My time working for the city has given me the experience of knowing the "nuts and bolts" of the organization so that I am aware of what goal and/or promise is feasible and attainable. I have had positive interactions with the other governmental agencies and organizations in the community. I also have the knowledge

and experience of being a former small business owner in the private sector.

I have the time and the passion to do what I feel is right for this community. I always try to look at an issue from both sides. I am fully aware of the impacts that come from being a city councilmember and I am prepared to take them on and do my best. I want to represent this community, I do not have a desire to be the shock wave of a new higher consciousness, nor be a visionary of a new world of freedom and prosperity. I simply want to serve and improve the community that I live in and love. This council election comes at a very critical time for the community and it is imperative to vote for the right people for the right reason.

BlueGo, the public transit, is mired in lawsuits and bankruptcy. Do we need public transit on the South Shore? If so, how do you propose to make it functional?:

Yes, we need public transit on the South Shore. The profit margin in public transportation is slim to none and I would propose looking at a joint effort in obtaining and retaining a transit provider. When the convention center is built (yes, I believe it will be), there could be an opportunity to tap into a funding source for transit. We also have to remember that the bankruptcy and lawsuits with BlueGo are very unfortunate and disappointing, but the city cannot fix all – there are transit agencies in this community as well.

Do you support commercial air service at Lake Tahoe Airport? Why or why not?:

Yes, I support the Lake Tahoe Airport and feel it is an asset to the city. There are hurdles that will have to be addressed (example: the legal obligations between the city, TRPA, League to Save Lake Tahoe, and the attorney general), but with hard work, compromise and negations, it can be done. How a commercial air service would be structured will most likely be

determined by the above mentioned proponents involved in the lawsuit. The commercial air service that is feasible to this community will most likely be a smaller commuter service and that's OK – it would be a step in the right direction.

Is there any individual, group or organization you would not take campaign money from? Why?:

Actually, I have not taken any campaign money from anyone other than my family. Needless to say, my campaign budget is small, but I am also not beholden to any organization or group.

Nepotism and favoritism runs rampant in the city when it comes to hiring preferences. The council sets policy. What type of policy would you write regarding nepotism and favoritism?:

There is a city policy in place for nepotism. The city does have a number of employees that are related and/or married. The ones that I know are good employees who are very conscious of the nepotism policy. This is a small community with only a handful of what you might consider select employers (pay decent wages and offer benefits), it is very unlikely that you will find any of those employers that do not have employees who are related and/or married as well. Being that said, I do believe that the policy can be revisited and strengthened with language that is very clear and enforceable. Favoritism is different – there is not a policy in place that I am aware of. I would initiate a very specific, clearly written policy and have it go into effect immediately. If there is one accusation of favoritism, it should be thoroughly researched, if there are two accusations of favoritism, chances are very high that you do have a problem that needs to be addressed. It doesn't matter who the employee is or who they know – it is not acceptable and should not be tolerated. I have seen employees who have been let go unjustly and I have seen employees pass their probation period who should not have.

While you were employed by the city of South Lake Tahoe you were a supporter of now former City Manager Dave Jinkens' and spoke highly of him. Is he the type of leader you think is best for the city? Why or why not?:

I had the opportunity to work with David Jinkens when he was city manager and before him, I had the opportunity to work with David Childs. Both were very different in their management styles, but I can tell you that both were very dedicated and hard working individuals. If you could take the admirable traits that each man had and put them together, you would have a very good city manager.

What I respect most in a leader is: high integrity, transparency, leadership by example, fairness, connected to the community, the employees, and the City Council (in that order), and be a team player. I do not want/support a CM to tell me what they think I want to hear – I want a CM to have the courage to tell me what I need to hear.

Do you see any potential conflict as former employee going back and setting policy for friends and former colleagues? Why or why not?:

The answer to this question is probably the easiest one and the answer is – no. You cannot run for City Council without the knowledge that at some point you are going to set policy that some people will like and others will hate – that goes for friends, former colleagues, and the public in general. The employees of the city are very knowledgeable and reasonable. I have to go forward believing that they would trust me to do what I feel is best for the community and the organization. (In anticipation of a "comment" – most city employees do not live in the city limits, so they are unable to vote for me.)

Tell us something about yourself that voters don't already know:

I am a smart good listener and very down to earth. I can feel

passionate about an issue, but I am not an “in your face, I am right” person. I am goal oriented and strive to keep a positive attitude. I love to surround myself with people who are upbeat, trustworthy and who love to laugh as much as I do. I am patient, but persistent. On the lighter side, I can survive adversity – after all, I am a Red Sox fan.

Decision made on travel routes in Tahoe National Forest

Tahoe National Forest Supervisor Tom Quinn has chosen a modified version of one of the alternatives in the Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement.

“I have selected Alternative 6 with some modifications. I believe this alternative strikes a balance between providing motorized recreation access and protecting critical natural and cultural resources. This decision recognizes the extensive network of roads and motorized trails that currently exist on the Tahoe National Forest,” Quinn said in a statement. “Although the decision will reduce the amount of motorized opportunities as compared to the existing condition, approximately 83 percent of the forest will be within a half mile of an authorized road or motorized trail.”

The existing National Forest Transportation System of roads and motorized trails for public use in the TNF is approximately 2,400 miles and includes one open motorcycle area, Prosser Pits north of Truckee. With this new decision, the following will be added to the existing motorized system for public use:

• 13.1 miles of roads (346) segments

• 48.9 miles of motorized trails (107 segments)

• 11.4 miles of closed roads will be open for motorized use (13 segments)

Other attributes of the decision include:

• Prohibition of Cross County Travel: Motorized travel will be prohibited off designated roads or motorized trails on 835,800 acres.

• Open Areas: 244 acres at Boca, Prosser, and Stampede Reservoirs will be available for highway legal vehicles to access the shoreline of the reservoirs in select, established areas while protecting cultural, aquatic, and other sensitive resources.

• Seasonal Restrictions: Wet weather seasonal restrictions will be placed on 1,369.5 miles of road and motorized trails. On the westside of the forest, these restrictions will be in effect from Jan. 1 to March 31 and on the remainder of the forest, from Jan. 1 through April 23.

• Over the Snow Use: On the Fordyce Jeep Trail, over the snow use will be permitted on 3.6 miles when 15 inches of snow are present on the ground. In addition, Maintenance Level 3, 4, and 5 roads will remain available for wheeled-over-the-snow use, except for roads on the Truckee District and those roads designated as snowmobile trails.

• Motorized Mixed Use: Mixing both highway legal and non-highway legal vehicles will be limited to roads less than 3 miles in length (as per California Vehicle Code 16.5) except that 117 miles of longer segments will be open for mixed use during deer hunting (rifle) season when log hauling does not occur.

• Lowering Maintenance Level: Mixed use will be allowed on 122

miles of road previously listed as Maintenance Level 3 (smoother dirt) roads which have been downgraded to Maintenance Level 2 to reflect their existing rougher conditions.

• Dispersed Recreation Spurs: Hundreds of short unauthorized road segments are added to provide dispersed recreation opportunities.

• Protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs): The majority of existing unauthorized routes within the IRAs have not been added to the National Forest Transportation System to protect the values of solitude, old forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and other resources. With only one congressionally designated Wilderness on the TNF, opportunities for quiet recreation and solitude are limited. A few short trail segments totaling 4 miles, however, have been added to the West Yuba, East Yuba, Grouse Lakes, Duncan Canyon, Bald Mountain, and Castle Peak IRAs that would not adversely affect roadless area characteristics.

The Final EIS and Record of Decision are available online.

For questions, contact the Tahoe National Forest Headquarters, (530) 265.4531.

California parks' history subject of display at state museum

The California State Capitol Museum, managed and operated by California State Parks, is featuring an exhibit about the

diversity of state parks and its early pioneers, as well as how the system continues to evolve and promote environmental awareness while meeting the public's demand for recreation, experiences in nature and preservation of cultural heritage.

"A Most Glorious Heritage: The Grandeur and History of California State Parks" officially opened Sept. 30.

This exhibit chronicles the rich history of the California State Parks system since its inception in the 1860s through today. With the collective help of a dedicated staff including more than 24,000 volunteers, California State Parks provides an unrivaled hands-on experience for an estimated 72 million annual visitors.

Transporting visitors to the "redwoods" of a state park, a re-created park scene transforms the State Capitol's Archives Exhibit Room into the beauty of the outdoors. The v exhibit will include photos of California 's most iconic parks, including state beaches, recreation areas, off-highway vehicle parks, state historic parks, and monuments. Movie and video clips, as well as oral histories from state park employees, will be featured on monitors.

Additionally, the exhibit will showcase the uniform of Harriet Weaver, parks' first female ranger as well as information about various types of parks, ecosystems, site restoration efforts, historic preservation efforts and the important role California State Parks has played in the movie and film industry. The exhibit will also include a time line of the individuals, groups, activists, organizations, agencies and pivotal moments instrumental in the building and preserving the California State Parks system.

Planned in coordination with a one-hour movie showcasing California State Parks currently in development and scheduled to be released later this year, the exhibit demonstrates the vision and collective commitment it has taken over time to

build the California State Parks system.

The “A Most Glorious Heritage: The Grandeur and History of State Parks” exhibit is located in the Archives Exhibit Room (Room 105) of the State Capitol Museum, and will remain on display through Sept. 1, 2011.

The California State Capitol Museum is managed and operated by California State Parks under contract to and supported by the California State Legislature. Open daily from 9am to 5pm for guided and self-guided tours of the Capitol Building and its extensive outdoor gardens, the museum is located in the California State Capitol, in downtown Sacramento on 10th Street between L and N streets. Admission is free. For more information, call (916) 324.0333 or visit the website.

Opinion: A plan to get locals back to work

By Steve Kubby

South Lake Tahoe is in the middle of an economic catastrophe. Unemployment is above 20 percent. Our construction industry is in collapse.

We need immediate action to create jobs in our struggling community.



We have thousands of homeowners and businesses who desperately want to make property repairs and improvements. People want to renovate or expand their homes and businesses yesterday, if not sooner. There is such pent up demand for construction, it's ready to burst like a dam and flood South Lake Tahoe with jobs and money.

But this can't happen with today's system.

Our city needs a simple and timely process to get building permits. Once we find a way all the pent up construction work can be authorized, we can unleash a flood of new construction jobs.

There is a catch. There's no way to get from here to there without taking on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and their mountain of red tape, bureaucratic delays, excessive fees and job-killing inefficiency.

I propose an emergency three-part plan to get our contractors, carpenters, plumbers, and electricians back to work. This is not rocket science. Our City Council must simplify and speed up the process of obtaining a building permit.

Here's how it would work:

1. The city of South Lake Tahoe must exercise its constitutional authority, as an incorporated city with elected officials, to issue its own building permits. The permit process should have a two-week approval deadline – if you haven't received your permit or an explanation for rejection (with the steps needed to get approval) in ten business days, approval should be automatic.

2. In lieu of the current TRPA fees, our city could collect permit fees no greater than half the TRPA charges. All revenues exceeding permit expenses will be held in reserve.

The city will create a multi-million dollar legal defense fund in case we have to take TRPA on in court.

3. Any litigation against points one and two above would have to be initiated by TRPA, not the council. We would simply be exercising our constitutional authority as a City government. Since the burden of proof would be on the TRPA, this should be very expensive for them.

All of this can and should be avoided with a simple memorandum of understanding between South Lake Tahoe and TRPA. On the other hand, we need to be prepared to win in court, if TRPA refuses to be reasonable.

Of course the TRPA could always red tag construction. If that happens, you could just let our city attorney know about it and he would be authorized to handle the matter at the city's expense. Our police and city staff will be instructed to ignore any TRPA citations. We have the constitutional authority to do these things and if the TRPA thinks otherwise, they'll find themselves in an expensive and difficult tenth amendment battle they can't win.

As George Washington famously reminds us, "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

Tahoe residents know all too well the dangers of a fire raging out of control. Our city is in political flames that have cost us dearly. We let government get out of hand, burning a hole in the heart of downtown.

The time has come for the City Council to stop serving as a TRPA lapdog. Instead, our City Council must become a vigilant guard dog, ready to defend us from any further interference or harassment by the TRPA.

Let's bypass TRPA and give homeowners and businesses the opportunity to make reasonable repairs and improvements to

their property. Once we open up the process of obtaining building permits, we'll automatically put our contractors, carpenters, plumbers and electricians back to work.

In less than a month we could be back on our feet with a booming construction industry with a fresh influx of money for our now struggling community.

Right here in South Lake Tahoe, let us redefine politics in a revolutionary return to common sense and smaller government. Let's return power to our local community and restore our constitutional rights. Government should be our servant, not our master.

Steve Kubby is running for South Lake Tahoe City Council.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• U.S. Forest Service fire management officer Kit Bailey, in conjunction with local fire chiefs, has lifted the ban on residential burning in the Lake Tahoe Basin. To learn more about residential burning, local restrictions and permits, contact your local fire department or fire protection district.

• Restaurants participating in the inaugural Lake Tahoe Restaurant Week report an average 23 percent increase in the number of guests and a 20 percent increase in revenue, compared to Labor Day week 2009.

• Lake Tahoe South Shore Travel Planner is looking for advertisers. Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce put out this marketing publication. Call Susan O'Brien at (775) 831.2094 by Oct. 15.

• Fall Cleanup On The Run is Oct. 23 from 9am to noon. Ski Run BID members, Friends of the BID and members of the community are encouraged to roll up their sleeves, grab some gloves and help business and property owners beautify Ski Run Boulevard. Volunteers will meet at 9am at the Blue Angel Cafe (1132 Ski Run Blvd., South Tahoe). Blue Angel Cafe will provide a free lunch for volunteers.

• The 12th Annual Mountain Magic Dance Convention and Championship is at MontBleu in Stateline from Nov. 4-7. For more info, go online.

Ed Foundation providing 'extras' to S. Tahoe students

By Kathryn Reed

Excited energy fills the rooms. Youngsters are eager to get outside and start pedaling.

These 22 Bijou Community School students are willingly extending their school day. They are part of the weekly Bike Club.

Other classrooms are also abuzz after school each week as teachers and parents volunteer their time to lead one of the 10 clubs. Ballet and cross country skiing will be added in December.



Jackson Trew, 5, has his helmet fitted by Pete Fink. Photos/Kathryn Reed

“One teacher is doing a computer class. There were so many who wanted in she’s doing it every Tuesday instead of every other,” explained Principal Karen Tinlin.

These clubs – which range from sports to rocketry to cooking – are in their second year. Participation keeps growing – with half of the student body in at least one club. The offers change, too, to keep things fresh and relevant.

Supplemental dollars have long been the source of keeping schools filled with the extras, that generations ago were considered the basics.

One of the key funding sources for students in Lake Tahoe Unified School District is the Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation. This nonprofit volunteer-run foundation is all about providing cash with few strings attached.

The Ed Foundation is paying for these after-school programs.

“We want to generate something that won’t otherwise be able to be done because of the current economics in the school district and No Child Left Behind’s focus on test scores,” said Chris Campion, president of the Ed Foundation.

But a check is not just written. Each school must apply for

the money, explaining in detail where it will go and how it will benefit students.

For the past few years the Ed Foundation has been working with the school sites on enrichment programs like the after school clubs at Bijou. Before that the Foundation was responsible for spending thousands of dollars to keep class-size reduction in lower grades.

“Well, LTEdF is wonderful. Do I need to say more? Also, this year, Dr. Greg Bergner, a LTEdF member, is doing our Rocketry Club,” said Kathy Haven, an active Bijou parent. “He approached us after seeing my presentation for the foundation. So, now LTEdF is giving us financial backing and a volunteer to boot.”

Although the clubs are designed to be fun, education is still part of the mix. Before anyone goes riding around the South Tahoe neighborhood where Bijou is located, parent volunteer and bike guru Pete Fink makes sure helmets are fitted correctly, brakes are in working order and students know the rules of the road.

This is Hannah Lucas’ second year in the bike club. The 8-year-old has learned the importance of checking tires for flats before heading out.

The Foundation gets the bulk of its money through the annual Food Fest. The Oct. 15 event is casual, centered on eating and drinking with friends. Membership is another form of income. Donations are always accepted.

Other things the Foundation has funded are the Mad Science program out of Sacramento doing presentations at all the elementary schools, money for music/choir groups, and mini-writing sessions for eighth-graders.

“We are taking a more broad-based approach to providing enrichment for all of the kids to increase their curiosity, to

increase their ability to dream what they want to do with their lives," Campion said.

Food Fest details:

Website

Date: Oct. 15

Hours: 6:30-10pm

Location: Harveys Convention Center, Stateline

Cost: $35 in advance, $40 at the door

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Prescribed burn on Oct. 9 in South Tahoe

U.S. Forest Service fuels management crews expect to conduct prescribed fire operations in the North Upper Truckee are on Lake Tahoe's South Shore Oct. 9. The project will include 2 acres near Kiowa, Grizzly Mountain, Cochise, Kickapoo and Delaware streets.

State and local fire management agencies may also be conducting prescribed fire work during this period.

Residents and travelers can expect to see smoke from prescribed fire project areas.

This and other prescribed fire projects are designed to reduce wildfire risks to communities and critical resources. Smoke management is part of every prescribed fire burn plan, and

efforts will be taken to reduce actual or potential smoke impacts on community areas.

$30,000 grant helping restore Truckee River watershed

The Truckee River Watershed Council received a matching grant of up to $30,000 a year for five years from the Martis Fund for their Together for the Truckee Society.

“The impact of this leadership gift has already served as inspiration to others to come along side the Martis Fund and support the restoration of the Truckee River watershed,” Lisa Wallace, executive director of the Truckee River Watershed Council, said in a press release. “We thank the Martis Fund for helping society donations go even further.”

Together for the Truckee Society provides an opportunity for community members to join together to protect water quality and restore habitat in local rivers, streams and lakes.

The Martis Fund will match pledges each year up to a total of $30,000 a year, a potential grand total of $150,000.

So far 19 individuals, families and local businesses have contributed in 2010, resulting in $26,000 toward the match.

If you are interested in learning more about the Together for the Truckee Society or the matching grant from the Martis Fund, please contact Michele at (530) 550.8760.

The Martis Fund supports programs to secure open space, promote habitat restoration, and create workforce housing in the Martis Valley region. It was established in 2006 as a

collaborative project of DMB/Highlands Group, Mountain Area Preservation Foundation, and Sierra Watch. For more, visit www.martisfund.org.

Truckee River Watershed Council brings the community Together for the Truckee. It focuses on collaborative solutions for the protection, enhancement and restoration of the Truckee River Watershed. For more info, visit www.truckeeriverwc.org.