

One Fun Center

■ This couple keeps the games flowing.

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Wednesday, April 12, 2023

The Sonoma Index-Tribune

OUR 143RD YEAR SERVING SONOMA VALLEY

Sonoma Valley, California ■ SonomaNews.com

An edition of The Press Democrat

■ OPEN SPACE ■

174 acres protected



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Chris Carlson, Sonoma Valley stewardship program manager with Sonoma Land Trust, right, and Katherine Iantosca, senior stewardship specialist with Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District, talk March 23 on the Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools property, east of Santa Rosa.

Sonoma Land Trust acquisition boasts endangered flower species, vernal pools

By SARA EDWARDS
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A 174-acre span of land along Sonoma Mountain that features lush green meadows, seasonal pools of water and a variety of endangered flower species has been conserved so future generations may discover its qualities as a natural haven.

Known as Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools, the property was purchased March 10 by the Sonoma Land Trust, a charitable nonprofit that buys land with the goal of conservation, in partnership with the Sonoma County Ag + Open Spaces, which acquired a conservation easement for the tract of land. The purchase further contributes to California's goal of conserving 30% of the state's lands by 2030. The land is considered a



Weber Creek flows through the Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools.

"biodiversity hotspot" and is adjacent to Trione-Annadel State Park. The goal is to eventually transfer the land to a recreational agency and make it accessible to the general public as part of a

neighboring park. "It saddens me that we are seeing large pristine areas developed by urban sprawl leaving fewer natural, unspoiled spaces," Patricia Dinner, owner of the land, said

in a statement.

Dinner owned the land with her sister, Carolyn Ferris, and used the property as a family gathering spot. They celebrated the land's beauty and the natural resources it boasted.

Their grandfather, real estate developer Benjamin Swig, purchased the 174-acre property on Bennett Valley Road in Glen Ellen in 1959 to serve as a refuge from his busy, urban life in San Francisco.

Dinner and Ferris never wanted to see the land developed, so they sold it to the Sonoma Land Trust to secure its future. Sonoma Land Trust will own and manage the land while Ag + Open Spaces will focus on conservation efforts.

The property is unique in that it features vernal pools, many of such historical

See Land, A7

Former police chief dies at 67

Paul Day, an Army veteran, was also a father of two daughters

By DIANNE REBER HART
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

To many, Paul Douglas Day was a poised, take-charge cop known for his calm demeanor under the most trying of circumstances.



Paul Day

To his family and friends, he was a humble man who demonstrated impeccable integrity and courage on a daily basis.

And to his kids, he was the consummate dad, goofy and fun but always rock solid.

Day died April 1 after a long, valiant battle with early onset Parkinson's disease. The Sonoma Valley resident was 67.

An Army veteran, he worked in law enforcement with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office for 30 years, rising from deputy to chief of police for the town of Windsor in 2002 and the city of Sonoma in 2005.

In the 1980s, he twice was credited with saving lives. He was awarded a silver Medal of Valor for rescuing a resident from a house fire and helping firefighters battle the blaze. He and a fellow deputy revived an unconscious 2-year-old girl after she nearly drowned in her family's swimming pool.

Mike Cahill, a former fire chief in Sonoma County, met Day several decades ago. "Paul was always one of my favorite folks that I worked with," Cahill said.

"He represented law enforcement in a way I always felt it needed to be done. He never led with his badge."

Cahill recalls Day had a "calming, very professional" manner, someone who stood out in the best way.

Day retired from full-

See Day, A11

Dunbar, Altimira build bilingual libraries

Making reading more approachable with books that appeal to more students

By DANIEL JOHNSON
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, when teacher Maria Ptucha asked a group of her second-graders at Dunbar Elementary School to pick up a book, the response was often "I can't read" or "I'm not a reader."

Thanks to a Classroom Grant from the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, Ptucha has been able to build a library that contains early-level Spanish and bilingual books that connect with students' heritages and

enable them to explore new places, cultures and people. Some 75% of her students are native Spanish speakers.

"I purchased books that inspire a love of reading," she said. "Now those same students cannot wait to read to me from their leveled readers that are perfectly tailored to where they are right now. When they are in their group centers, they fight over who gets to read which page. They are gaining pride and confidence in their reading."

A 2022 state report card from the California Reading Coalition ranked Sonoma Valley Unified School District as the worst performing of the five districts included in Sonoma County, with only 15% of students

See Libraries, A10



ROBBI PENGELY / INDEX-TRIBUNE

Sixth grade teacher Bridget Paul reads "Jack and the Beanstalk" to students Rosario Napoles Avalon, left, and Iker Trejo-Perez April 5 at Altimira Middle School.

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WEATHER

REPORTED CONDITIONS	Date	High	Low	Rainfall
	Sat., 4/8	66	45	0.0 in.
	Sun., 4/9	75	40	0.0 in.
	Mon., 4/10	73	55	0.0 in.
	Tues., 4/11	69	40	0.0 in.

FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
67°/38°	67°/39°	68°/39°	72°/40°

RAINFALL HISTORY
Year-to-date: 32.90 in.
Last-year-to-date: 15.62 in.
Rainfall year calculated from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Libraries

Continued from A1

reading at grade level. To help students catch up, the school district launched a new reading curriculum called Wonders in 2021, but teachers are also getting creative to inspire a love of books in their students.

Student Mal'yah Zaragoza is particularly excited about the new books.

"They are really interesting; I love them," she said. "I've learned a few new words, and they are helping me with reading. I can read chapter books now and the little books also help me learn new, little words. The books are really awesome. My favorite new book was 'Fiesta.' It was fun and it reminded me of a fiesta I just had."

Gail Chadwin, director of development for the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, said that students' adoration of the books was readily apparent during her visit to Ptucha's classroom.

"Several students shared with me that they really love the new books," Chadwin said. "They appreciate having the opportunity to practice their reading using new, interesting books, and are learning new words."

The library includes bilingual (Spanish/English) and Spanish picture books, classroom favorites, soccer books, books centered on Latino characters, books dealing with grief, and books that explore the diversity and richness of the world.

"Most of my students are third-culture kids,"



ROBBI PENGELLY / INDEX-TRIBUNE

Some of the bilingual books purchased with Classroom Grants funding from the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation on April 5 at Altimira Middle School.

Ptucha said. "Every day on their way to school, they cross borders of language and culture. My students deserve to grow their literacy in both languages. More than that, though, I have students who are more confident in their Spanish or more confident in their English. They deserve to have bilingual books that can help them make sense of new words and give them a stronger base for understanding the story."

Ptucha applied for the grant because she felt that her students' reading needs couldn't be entirely

met through Sonoma Valley Unified School District's English language arts curriculum. She also requested desk dividers to help students concentrate. The Classroom Grant paid for \$1,000 of the expenses and Ptucha's friends contributed \$171.

Bridget Paul, an English teacher at Altimira Middle School, also received a Classroom Grant to purchase beginning-level bilingual (Spanish/English) and Spanish books. Most of her students speak Spanish, but fewer read and write in the language.

Key to her approach at

Altimira is translanguaging, which in a classroom setting refers to teaching students to become bilingual or multilingual through the use of two or more languages simultaneously. This is a departure from most second-language teaching, which focuses on teaching one language. Two students switching between languages in the same conversation are translanguaging.

Translanguaging also is intended to help students develop better understanding of their native language by seeing

how it compares to other languages, and enhanced cultural awareness by perceiving variations in words and patterns of expression.

"A Spanish sentence will have an adjective after a noun," Paul said. "For instance, 'el pollo loco' means 'the chicken crazy,' but in English we say, 'the crazy chicken.' So many other countries learn more than one language, and it makes people more culturally aware and better communicators, and it's just plain healthy for our brains to learn more."

Chadwin adds, "There

is also an element of cross-cultural exchange when Spanish-speaking students are able to share these books with their English-speaking peers, and help translate the text."

Osmar Lopez Morales, a sixth-grade student in one of Paul's classes, says that he is enjoying this approach.

"The books are very interesting and they have the ability to get my attention," he said. "When I read aloud in class in Spanish, I was used to it because we speak it at home. I am equally comfortable reading in Spanish and English."

Paul recalled that one day, she asked students to read aloud a children's book written in English.

"It was awesome to hear some students read it aloud in Spanish, and when they needed help, others were able to assist," she said.

"Instead of the students feeling embarrassed that they couldn't read well in Spanish, they were celebrated as the few who could!"

The Classroom Grant enabled Paul to purchase more than two dozen books, costing \$294. She asks students to read 25 books per school year.

"While many find this is a challenge that is unattainable, most still report reading more books for my class year than ever before because I let them choose most of the books and encourage reading in their native language," she said.

Reach the reporter, Dan Johnson, at daniel.johnson@sonomanews.com.

Get the latest Sonoma Valley news updates online at sonomanews.com

NORTH BAY PEOPLE & BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Our People & Business Showcase appears in Sunday's edition of The Press Democrat and the next edition of the Petaluma Argus-Courier, Sonoma Index-Tribune and North Bay Business Journal – that's more than 340,000 adults who will see your posting! A great way to promote your company's awards, new hires, promotions and other announcements. Starting at \$99.

For more information, Call 707-546-7355 Opt. 2 or Email people@sonomamediainvestments.com

Summit State Bank Promotes Jason Hipkiss to Vice President and Finance Manager

Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSBI) has promoted Jason Hipkiss to Vice President and Finance Manager.

"We are pleased to promote Jason to Vice President and Finance Manager. With over 26 years in the financial industry, we are fortunate to have someone of Jason's caliber and expertise, as he plays a key role in supporting the Bank's growth initiatives," said Brian Reed, President and CEO of Summit State Bank.

Prior to joining Summit State Bank, Jason worked as Finance



Director at Ygrene Energy Fund, and as Director of Analytics at Allianz Global Corp. & Specialty. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Sonoma State University. He resides in Sonoma with his spouse and three children. In his spare time Jason enjoys traveling, motorcycle rides, and supporting his children's school events and fundraisers.

About Summit State Bank

State Bank, a local community bank, has total assets of \$1.1 billion and total equity of \$89 million as of December 31, 2022. Headquartered in Sonoma County, the Bank specializes in providing exceptional customer service and customized financial solutions to aid in the success of local small businesses and

nonprofits throughout Sonoma County.

Summit State Bank is committed to embracing the diverse backgrounds, cultures and talents of its employees to create high performance and support the evolving needs of its customers and community it serves. At the center of diversity is inclusion, collaboration, and a shared vision for delivering superior service to customers and results for shareholders. Presently, 63% of management are women and minorities with 60% represented on the Executive Management Team. Through the engagement of its team, Summit State Bank has received many esteemed awards including Best Business Bank, Best Places to Work in the North Bay, Top Community Bank Loan Producer, Raymond James



Bankers Cup, Super Premier Performing Bank, and Piper Sandler's Bank & Thrift Sm-All Stars. Summit State Bank's stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SSBI. Further information can be found at www.summitstatebank.com.

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500 Bicentennial Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
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Mishel Kaufman Promoted to Chief Administrative and Risk Officer

Mishel Kaufman has been promoted to chief administrative and risk officer for Redwood Credit Union. In her new role, Kaufman is responsible for offering strategic direction and oversight of enterprise risk management, including internal audit, compliance, and enterprise fraud and security, as well as marketing, communications and public relations, market data analytics, and community and government relations.

Kaufman joined RCU in 2007 as vice president of internal controls. In her 16 years with the credit union, her roles have also included senior vice president of risk management and now chief administrative and risk officer.



"Mishel has been an instrumental part of our success," said Brett Martinez, President & CEO for RCU. "Elevating her to this new role was easily the best decision for our organization. We are more than confident in her ability to provide safety and stability, promote further growth, and foster a culture of excellence and service for our members."



Redwood Credit Union
3033 Cleveland Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Summit State Bank Welcomes Don Cliver as Vice President and Branch Manager

Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSBI) welcomes Don Cliver as Vice President and Branch Manager of their Healdsburg Branch. "It is with pleasure that we welcome Don to our team. We are fortunate to have his 30 years of industry experience and strong leadership skills as we continue to serve businesses and nonprofits in Healdsburg," said Brian Reed, President and CEO of Summit State Bank.

Prior to joining Summit State Bank, Don worked for National Bank of the Redwoods, Umpqua Bank, and as Branch Manager for JP Morgan Chase. Don has been very involved in the



North Bay community, serving as President of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, President of Downtown Novato Business Association, and has served on the boards of North Bay Children's Center, Children and Family Circle, Rotary Club, and Government Affairs Committee Novato. He is a graduate of Leadership Santa Rosa and Leadership Novato. He has two children and lives in Santa Rosa with his wife Tracy. In his spare time, Don enjoys an active lifestyle, playing golf, riding motorcycles, cheering on the SF Giants, and walking his dog Kona.

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Loan Producer, Raymond James Bankers Cup, Super Premier Performing Bank, and Piper Sandler's Bank & Thrift Sm-All Stars. Summit State Bank's stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SSBI. Further information can be found at www.summitstatebank.com.

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