

Napa Valley Register

Varozza on target

Ex-Saint an expert shooter **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Doomsteading

Ready for the end of days **HOME & GARDEN, PAGE C1**

Assault in Calistoga

Man dies of injuries **NEWS, PAGE A2**



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PRESERVATION



J.L. SOUSA PHOTOS, REGISTER

Land Trust of Napa County CEO Doug Parker heads back to the trailhead of the Foote Botanical Preserve on Mount George following a recent tour of the property, which was the first piece of land acquired by the Land Trust in 1977. The Land Trust, founded in 1976, is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Land Trust celebrates 40 years, 57,000 acres

Napa Land Trust marking 40th year

BARRY EBERLING
beberling@napanews.com

Doug Parker stood where land preservation began for the Land Trust of Napa County more than 1,000 feet high on the slopes of Mount George with a view of the city of Napa and the Napa Valley below.

The Foote Botanical Preserve – originally 200 acres, today 770 acres – was the first property protected by the nonprofit group 39 years ago. It was the small seed that over the years has grown exponentially.

This year, the Land Trust celebrates its 40th anniversary, having protected more than 57,000 acres of Napa County's farmland and open space – 90 square



Mount St. Helena is seen from the Foote Botanical Preserve on Mount George. The Foote Preserve was the first piece of land acquired by the Land Trust in 1977.

miles, an area almost twice the size of San Francisco.

"You need some kind of qual-

ified organization to protect land," said Parker, the organization's CEO.

Much of the Napa Valley floor visible from the Foote preserve is green with vineyards, as befits a world-famous wine country. Adjoining mountains are covered in forests or chaparral.

But to the south the fast-growing metropolises of the Bay Area are like an arrow of growth pointing toward the valley.

At least two major forces protect Napa Valley from being paved over – vineyard prices in the range of \$310,000 an acre and tough agricultural protection laws, including the agricultural preserve zoning. Given the land's wine country value, who needs a land trust?

"None of the land protected by the ag preserve or the ag watershed is permanently protected," Parker said.

Please see **TRUST**, Page A3

WATER

Lawsuit seeks monitoring at Yountville-area reservoir

HOWARD YUNE
hyune@napanews.com

The reservoir serving Yountville and the neighboring Veterans Home of California has become the latest Napa County water source to be targeted in court for allegedly siphoning excessive water and damaging fish habitats.

A lawsuit filed by Water Audit California demands a curtailing of water diversions to Rector Reservoir, which is owned by the state Department of Veterans Affairs and provides water to both the military retirement home west of Yountville and to the town itself.

In its Nov. 15 filing in Sacramento County Superior Court, Water Audit, a public benefit corporation based in Grass Valley, seeks an order to CalVet to stop diversions from the dam at Rector Creek into the reservoir between April 1 and Dec. 14 each year.

Reduced flows caused by the Rector dam, which is located east of the Silverado Trail and northeast of Yountville, have eroded downstream habitat for juvenile and adult steelhead and rainbow trout, Water Audit's attorney William McKinnon wrote the court.

The advocacy group also seeks to require the state to install equipment to monitor stream flow, volume and temperature at the creek by New Year's Day. Water Audit also seeks the state's publication by May 1 of a map of all the places receiving deliveries from Rector Dam – an accounting it says state officials have never made in full – as well as a study of the amount of water that must bypass the dam to support a fish population below the reservoir.

If CalVet breaches any part of a court order governing water releases, the State Water Resources Control Board should appoint a "water master" to enforce the order, Water Audit wrote in its complaint.

The suit does not seek monetary damages but does request coverage of Water Audit's legal expenses.

June Iljana, a CalVet spokeswoman, confirmed the agency has received the lawsuit papers

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DEVELOPMENT

New funding to help extend Bay Trail in Napa

HOWARD YUNE
hyune@napanews.com

A ring of foot and bicycle trails around the San Francisco Bay may gain a new branch in south Napa.

Grant funds from a coalition of Bay Area governments will cover 80 percent of the design cost for a 2,900-foot extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which will open up access from Stanly

Lane south of Highway 12/121 to a 19th-century ferry crossing point on the Napa River. Earlier this month, the city council accepted \$100,000 from the Association of Bay Area Governments, which approved the grant in July.

Design work is expected to run from January into September, though no groundbreaking date has been set, according to city

management analyst Brent Reed. The Napa project is expected to require \$389,750 to design and build.

When built, the pathway will form a spur from the Bay Trail, a regional network of walkways in several counties that would cover about 500 miles when completed. The Stanly Lane

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J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

The city of Napa has won a \$100,000 grant to design a 2,900-foot spur of the regional San Francisco Bay Trail toward the historic Soscol Ferry landing site, from this point near the Butler Bridge.

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