

The Press Democrat January 21, 1998

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1998

## EDITORIALS

# Making good things happen

**I**t's one thing to have a good idea. It is quite another to have the persistence to see that idea through to completion.

Those behind the good idea to protect Sebastopol's Laguna Uplands from development did. As a result, a fragile piece of wetlands habitat will be saved for future generations — of animals, plants and people.

Environmentalist Juliana Doms and Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation President Bill Haigwood were the driving forces behind the deal.

Money from the Sonoma County Open Space District was used to buy the

development rights in 1996.

But the final step came late last year when the Ghilotti family donated the property to the foundation. Now a city committee will prepare a master plan for public use of what has become a 13-mile-long laguna park.

The environmental importance and the educational possibilities of the laguna increasingly are being recognized. Efforts to provide federal protection for the area have stalled, but local people with vision, determination and a willingness to give to the community can accomplish many of the same goals.