

Napa Valley Register



Fall back

Don't forget to set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday

Vintage ends Big Game skid

First win over Napa in 11 years **SPORTS, B1**

Who goes there?

Reader submitted photos **FACES & PLACES, PAGE C1**



PARTLY CLOUDY 60 • 42 FORECAST, D4 | **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017** | napavalleyregister.com | \$2

Carneros healing from wildfire

Art museum, wineries survived close calls as flames swept area

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Napa County's Carneros wine world received an unwelcome, temporary designation in early October – wildfire country.

The Partrick Fire – later called the Nuns Fire – roared through the northern Carneros. It did some of its worst damage near the border of Napa and Sonoma counties, where it destroyed an

abandoned landmark, Stornetta dairy, torched a few homes and a senior care facility, blackened the landscape and raised general havoc.

Now the fire is gone and Carneros is back to being wine country. Such features as the Carneros Resort and Spa, Stanly Lane pumpkin patch and the Domaine Carneros chateau remain untouched and miles of vineyards and wineries are intact.

But, while much of the region is unburnt, the fire-scarred view from Artesa winery, the Lee Hudson ranch and di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art provides a

stark reminder of close calls on the nightmare night of Oct. 8.

"It's definitely something that is emotional for people to look at when they come out and see how close the fire came to us," said Susan Sueiro, president of Artesa.

Artesa is open for business on its hilltop perch off narrow Henry Road which runs up Carneros Valley. The post-fire difference is that the winery's sweeping views of the Carneros now include a blackened Milliken Peak a short distance to the northwest.

The Partrick Fire rode strong north winds, burning along the southern edge of the Mayacamas

Mountains to Henry Road and the 350-acre Artesa property.

"It entered our vineyards," Sueiro said. "Thankfully, it stopped short of the winery and the winery was untouched."

The fire burned up to the pavement of the parking lot. That's how close it came to a unique winery structure with a covering of native grasses and a newly remodeled tasting room.

Grape harvesting had finished and Artesa still had electrical power. The winery kept producing wine in the days after the fire, Sueiro said.

Whether any of Artesa's char-

donnay and pinot noir vines are harmed remains to be seen. Sueiro said the fire entered two vineyard blocks and melted irrigation lines. The winery is still evaluating how fruitful those vines might be.

"But overall, we are extremely lucky," Sueiro said.

North winds carried the fire to the nearby, 217-acre property for the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art. The late Rene and Veronica di Rosa assembled a collection of contemporary Bay Area art that is displayed on the property.

Di Rosa bills itself as "a refuge"

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MARIA SESTITO, REGISTER

Ballet Folklorico del Valle de Santa Helena dancers perform at El Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration at Harvest Middle School in Napa on Saturday.

Napans honor the dead

Altars made for El Día de los Muertos celebration

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Next to photos of lost loved ones sat skeleton figurines dancing, kissing and drinking. Brightly colored paper flowers surrounded the person's favorite food, favorite drinks and, in some cases, favorite toys.

This was the scene of the altar

exhibition at El Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, celebration at Harvest Middle School on Saturday.

"My favorite part of the Day of the Dead celebration is that we get to celebrate loved ones who've passed away," said Sofia Salazar, 8. Sofia has been interested in the Day of the Dead for as long as she can remember.

"I really do like Mexican traditions," she said. She even painted a sugar skull design on her face just for the occasion.

"Who do we celebrate in our

house?" asked Sofia's mom, Berta Delgado.

"It was my grandma ... she died before I was born," the painted-face girl replied. "I've always been wondering about what it would be like to see her."

In order to remember Sofia's grandmother, the family makes altars for her. The altar will include things her grandmother liked.

"We make everything – we don't buy nothing," said Connie Mena with OLE Health. Mena said that it took about two weeks

for her and her friend, Margarita Lopez, to make the organization's altar.

The women decorated the altar with "Catrina" dolls – skeletons dressed as women. Mena said that each doll represented a different woman including a bride, a widow, a rich woman, and a cabaret dancer. One was fashioned in the style of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

"It's a lot of work," Mena said, but she sees it as a type of

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WINE INDUSTRY

County praises family winery

Reynolds allowed to expand production as well as visitation

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Reynolds Family Winery first survived a close brush with the Atlas Fire and then successfully concluded a three-year attempt to secure higher wine production and visitor caps from the county.

The Atlas Fire that started Oct. 8 menaced the 13-acre property along Silverado Trail near Soda Canyon Road. It ended up singeing an oak tree and sparing the winery and home.

That meant Steve and Suzie Reynolds still had a business to grow. On Wednesday, they won expansion approvals from the Napa County Planning Commission after spending more than \$100,000 and three years on the effort.

Consultant Donna Oldford said it will cost more than \$1 million to retrofit the winery to meet current codes and requirements. One expense will be adding a left-turn lane on Silverado Trail.

"This process is not for the faint of heart," Oldford said.

Reynolds Family Winery received approval to increase wine production from 20,000 gallons annually to 40,000 gallons

Please see **WINERY**, Page A4

MARIA SESTITO, REGISTER

City of Napa Parks and Recreation employees Wade Finlinson and Johnny Mort uproot a rose bush in Fuller Park during the 28th Annual Arbor Day celebration on Saturday.



Napa holds its own Arbor Day

Residents plant trees, renovate gardens at Fuller Park

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What better way to celebrate Arbor Day than improving a local park? That's exactly what the City of Napa, the UC Master Gardeners and the Kiwanis Club of Napa aimed to do at Fuller Park during the 28th Annual Ar-

bor Day celebration on Saturday.

"It's a great way for the community to get together and volunteer to beautify their local park," said Dave Perazzo, Parks, Trees, & Facilities Manager for the City of Napa.

Although National Arbor Day is in April, Perazzo said that the City of Napa chooses the fall to celebrate Arbor Day because it's better for the trees. "They're guaranteed to be watered (by rain)," he said, thus they have a greater chance of survival.

The event is held at a different location each year so that the improvements are done in a fair way, Perazzo said. "This is held at schools, parks, public places citywide," he said.

In addition to planting four large specimen trees, city employees and volunteers worked with the UC Master Gardeners to renovate the park's rose garden, Perazzo said. The UC Master Gardeners led a guided tree

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OBITUARIES | PAGE D2

Frank John Borges, Preston Merrill James, Hazel Clarice Pattullo, Eloise Carter Rota, Rita (Kay) Stevens

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Carneros

From A1

to view art and has three galleries and a trail winding through a meadow with sculptures. The fire spared the galleries, but burned all around the red, outdoor sculpture of steel beams called "For Veronica," leaving a black grime on its surface.

For now, di Rosa is closed for damage assessment. Heavy smoke that went into the galleries might mean paintings will need cleaning and indoor air quality needs improvement. But most of the art collection is housed offsite.

"The big, big picture is di Rosa is blessed," Executive Director Robert Sain said.

Tours are canceled through the end of the year. However, di Rosa is planning a free Nov. 16 event with art activities, wine and music at one of its galleries as an initial reopening after the fires.

An exhibit scheduled to open on Nov. 4 called "Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times" has been delayed until Jan. 27. For Napa County, these have been uncertain times, indeed.

Nearby, Lee Hudson's ranch covers 2,000 acres, with 200 acres in vines. He sells grapes, makes wine, grows vegetables and has lambs and pigs. Hudson Greens and Goods sells produce at Oxbow Public Market.

Much of the ranch burned, but the only building lost from the farm complex near vineyards and a pond was a garage.

"We were very fortunate," Hudson said. "We were really in the epicenter of the fire. We have a neighbor who lost quite a bit. It was horrific."

He wasn't home the night of the fire, which he counts as lucky, because he might have tried to fight the blaze. He saw the fire results the next morning at about 6 a.m.

"Everything around my



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

A burned fence post, a victim of the Partrick Fire, is seen along Henry Road.



COURTESY OF DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

The Partrick Fire burned around Mark di Suvero's 1987 sculpture "For Veronica" at the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art in the Carneros region.

house except for the house burned," Hudson said. "It was shocking to see when we returned."

Hudson credits the vineyards as saving much of the property by acting as a buffer. Livestock survived. But the fire took a toll on the wildlands.

"It certainly did horrible damage to the forest," Hudson said. "I think the fire was very, very hot. It will certainly be interesting to see it recover."

Hudson in October 2015 received county Planning Commission approval to build a 9,238-square-

foot winery that can produce up to 80,000 gallons annually. The fire didn't destroy the construction that is underway. Hudson said the winery should be completed in July.

By then, he expects his property will look different.

"A little bit of rain will turn everything bright green, rather than black," he said. "In a month, it will be remarkably different looking. While it's been a horrific and frightening thing, it's a natural thing."

The Carneros region is located in both southern Napa and Sonoma counties and received its American Viticultural Area designation in 1983. Burn maps posted by Napa County and CalFire show the damage from the Partrick/Nuns fire.

In Napa County's Carneros, 13 structures were destroyed and four were damaged. In Sonoma County, about three dozen structures were destroyed and another dozen damaged, with 15 of these structures part of the Stornetta dairy at the corner of Highway 121/12 and Napa Road. Many other structures were destroyed just outside of the official Carneros border.



MARIA SESTITO, REGISTER

The Kiwanis Club of Napa installs a new play structure geared to children between ages 2 and 5 at Fuller Park on Jefferson Street in Napa on Saturday during the 28th Annual Arbor Day celebration.



MARIA SESTITO, REGISTER

Steve Kroyer and Nancy Tesch help build a playground at Fuller Park on Jefferson Street in Napa on Saturday during the 28th Annual Arbor Day celebration.

Arbor Day

From A1

walk through the park.

Just a few feet away, the Kiwanis Club of Napa built a brand new playground. The blue, yellow and green playground featured a slide, talking tubes, a tunnel to crawl through and educational information displayed in both English and Spanish. Organizers said that the play area is for children between ages 2-5 years old.

The playgrounds usually take two days to put together - one day to dig holes, which the city helps with, and one to put the equipment together, said Diane Brown of the Kiwanis Club. On Saturday, she expected that the group would be out there between six and

eight hours building.

"These are the best in the world," said Jim Roberts of the playground equipment. Roberts, known as "Mr. Playground," brought the idea of building playgrounds locally to the Kiwanis Club in 1998 after a little girl fractured her skull playing at a school that he volunteered at. Since then, the club has built 68 playgrounds in parks and schools across the county.

Before the building began, Roberts, 91, was honored with a special plaque for his commitment not only to the club but also the community.

"All the schools in Napa have playgrounds because of Jim," Brown said. "He's so well known for it now; people approach him because they know that's what we do."

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3:00 PM

Odd Fellows Hall
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E. Elliot Adler has recovered millions of dollars for his clients in wildfire and property damage cases. Elliot sat on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee for the Butte Fire litigation in Sacramento against PG&E. He has represented over 2,000 individual fire victims against power utility companies.

Dave Fox is a former federal prosecutor for the United States Department of Justice that has dedicated his career and his firm to help victims of wildfires and serious personal injuries. Dave sat on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee for the Butte Fire litigation in Sacramento against PG&E. He has recovered over \$50 million for his clients.

Christopher Sieglack exclusively litigates wildfire cases. He has litigated over 20 wildfire cases across the nation, including taking a lead role litigating the Mountain Fire in Riverside County, where he represents clients whose damages total over \$30 million.

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FACES & PLACES

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A reunion of old neighborhood friends of Ray Guadagni was held in September at the home of Tom and Jeanette Bennett. These are his friends that were featured in the first chapter of his book, "The Squeezebox Kid."

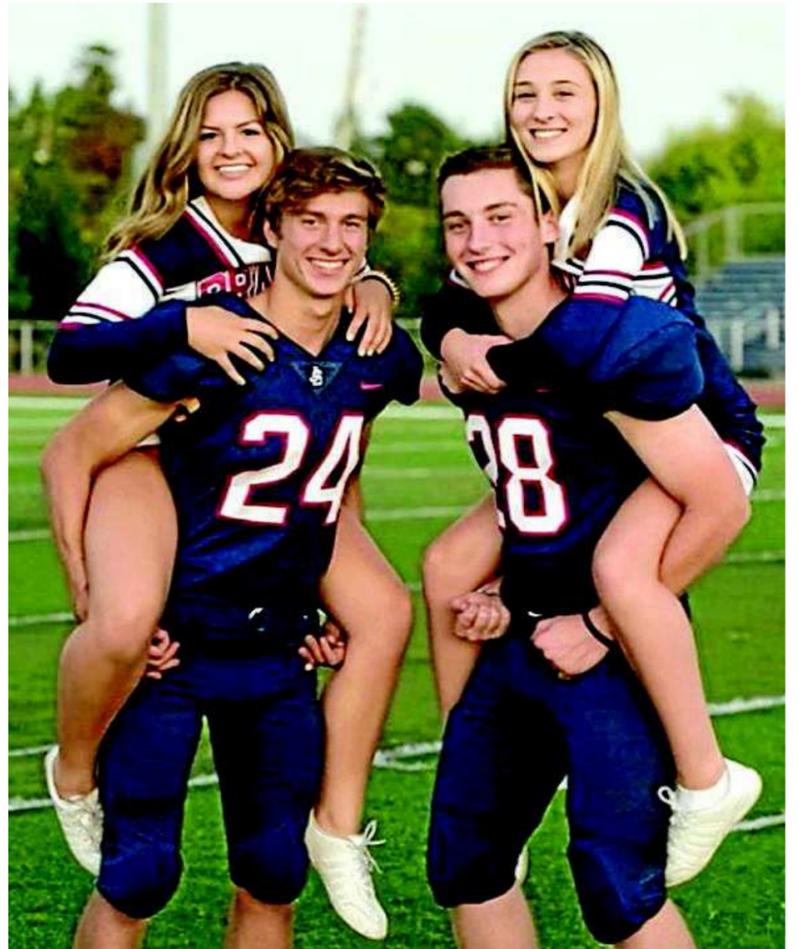


AURORA HEITMAN PHOTO

Napa Moms 10-year anniversary mixer held Oct. 1 was an afternoon of a mom's only event to mix and mingle with past and current members. Napa Moms started with a couple of dozen moms and the organization now has more than 200 members.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
St. John's Lutheran School preschoolers celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday by peeling and coring apples to make applesauce.



SASHA CRAIG PHOTOGRAPHY

Justin-Siena High School seniors John Craig and Jordan Richied with their younger sisters who are sophomores, Sophia Craig and Rachel Richied.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Pat Hitchcock, Yvonne Rasmussen, Eva Garcia and Jill Rae proudly display their ribbons as winners of the 2017 Napa Master Gardeners Tomato Tasting Contest. They did not eat the most tomatoes but rather, grew the tastiest ones. Of the 63 tomatoes recently consumed, standards, Kellogg Breakfast, Black Krim, Summer of Love, Goldie and cherries, Sungold, Juliet won the opportunity to be featured at the 2018 Napa Master Gardeners Tomato Sale. Absent from the photo is John Durham.

Submit your photos

The Napa Valley Register welcomes your contributions to the Faces and Places gallery. To submit a photo, go online to <https://napavalleyregister.com/forms/faces-and-places> and fill in the required information. You can also access the submission page by going to NapaValleyRegister.com and selecting "Virtual Newsroom" from the drop-down menu located at the upper left of the screen. View Faces and Places online at napavalleyregister.com/lifestyles/faces-and-places.

NAPA JOURNAL

Are we recovered yet?

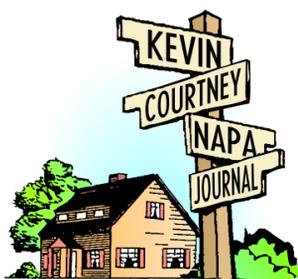
After our October trial by fire, I'd say Napa's return to normalcy is still very much a work in progress, never mind this weekend's rain.

Store clerks, the guy behind me at Starbucks, everyone in my circle of friends and acquaintances — they all still want to tell their fire stories.

It changes a person to live through a week of ridgelines glowing like portals to hell, as gagging smoke and ash engulf everything you hold dear.

Most Napans didn't have their houses burn, most didn't have to evacuate, but virtually everyone got the warning to be ready to run and felt the fear of the apocalypse.

Napa is supposed to be a mellow place, but in what mellow universe do all the schools abruptly shut down for two weeks, does half the town get blacked out, do tourist zones sit empty, do convoys of fire engines



plug our streets?

I've lived on the western edge of Napa for four decades and never once thought I was at risk of a wildfire. I was protected by the city fire department. My street had hydrants. My front lawn was watered and a small vineyard was planted across the way.

That complacency evaporated once the Nuns (Partrick), Atlas and Tubbs fires roared to life and ringed the Napa Valley, rampaging day after day with humans showing little ability to stop them.

If the blow torch winds on that historic Sunday night had been

pointed my way, the Partrick Fire could have leapt from the surrounding countryside and incinerated our house in a heartbeat, not unlike those hundreds of homes wiped out in east Napa and those thousands of homes in Santa Rosa. There's no doubt about it.

Who could have imagined such a scenario before Oct. 8? In future dry days of autumn, who will ever escape such thoughts?

I'm late to the what-if game. During the mayhem, I had the luxury of going to work each day to a safe newspaper office in the heart of town.

It was left to Cheryl, who was called off from her work, to fret at home and strategize how our house might be saved. Her feelings of utter vulnerability didn't end with fire containment.

How long will it take before a person can again feel comfortable living in proximity to — or in view of — wildlands?

That sunrise the other morning that turned the eastern horizon golden? Lovely, indeed, but only if you can disremember those boiling Atlas Fire sunrises.

Cheryl, working in her garden under clear skies last weekend, suddenly tensed. What's that smell? The Partrick Fire sprung back to life?

A string of sirens cut through the Browns Valley quiet earlier that weekend. The heart beat faster. What now? Is there a Nixle?

Cheryl would like to drive around to see the fires' devastation for herself. She wants to personally come to terms with how wind-driven flames can lay waste to whatever we humans so innocently, foolishly put in their path.

I've balked. I don't want to see the charred ruins. I've had my fill of media images of the fires' destruction. I've read too many of the stories about those who survived and those who did not.

I want time out from all that. I crave normalcy.

So we did what we thought would be a safe thing. We went on one of our little weekend walks up lower Partrick Road, below where the flames lit up the horizon for four straight days.

At this elevation, all seemed normal. The tree canopy, the golden fields, the homes tucked behind long driveways.

Then something caught my eye. Across the creek that flows through Browns Valley, the ground beneath a hillside of healthy bay laurels was blackened. The char ran up the hill, then disappeared toward Carneros and Sonoma.

How did this disturbing sight come to be, less than a half mile from our house?

Cheryl knew. Here is where firefighters had made a stand. Here is where they had set the backfires that helped save our neighborhood.

The emotional wallop of this scene — the blackened grass beneath the bay laurels, the sharp line on the ground where the threat of annihilation was turned back — is beyond words.

I choke up just thinking about it.

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