

<https://napavalleyregister.com/opinion/letters/loosening-restrictions-on-hospitality-industry-would-be-a-mistake>

Loosening restrictions on hospitality industry would be a mistake

Joyce Black-Sears et al.

Nov 4, 2020

We write to express our strong opposition to the extension and/or weakening of regulations as relates to winery hospitality and visit in Napa County as proposed by Coalition Napa Valley ("**Hurt by the pandemic and wildfires, some Napa Valley vintners request loosening of winery regulations,**" Oct. 23).

While the Board of Supervisors and the county of Napa were very kind to place temporary overrides of certain restrictions (for example, allowing out tastings) through Oct. 31 due to the COVID pandemic, we as the wine industry must now honor the promise we made then and go back to where we were prior to the implementation of these temporary measures.

We offer the following salient points:

1. We have an Agricultural Preserve, which was adopted 50 years ago, whose integrity we have a moral obligation to protect. It has allowed Napa Valley to thrive, with the recognition that agriculture (not hospitality) is the highest and best use of our amazing land.

2. Our county is moving through the re-opening process, having recently been upgraded to Orange status. This is good news for all, and we all need to be vigilant and abide by the process so as to keep COVID in check.

3. Wineries staying open until 7 p.m. puts them in direct competition with our restaurant colleagues, who are already suffering greatly from the pandemic. They need and deserve our local support, and we want our visitors to patronize them.

4. The fires and smoke have been horrific all the way around, impacting all who live and work in Napa Valley, as well as impacting those who wish to visit our valley.

a. These fires – their frequency and intensity – are the result of climate change (our drier, hotter, and windier climate) and our many decades of fire suppression in the American West. We must put our energies toward helping our neighbors and our natural environment, rather than on bringing more visitors to our valley.

5. Appointment-only is what many of us have always adhered to, and with the ease of communication (cell phones, etc.), it is far easier for potential visitors to reach those wineries they wish to visit. Consequently, this seems to be a non-issue from our vantage point.

It would be wonderful if the members of Coalition Napa Valley would join with others to focus on the health of all aspects of our economy, rather than on their personal gain.

After fires of this magnitude, we envision coming together as a community to collectively address the many issues that we face. Pushing for decreased regulation at a time like this seems wrong on so many levels.

As an industry, we must honor the promise we made, gratefully accepting the concessions the county of Napa allowed in the wake of COVID and willingly going back to where we were.

Growers/Vintners for Responsible Agriculture

Joyce Black-Sears, Black-Sears Vineyard

Laurie & Tom Clark, Clark-Claudon

Randy Dunn, Dunn Vineyard

Mike Hackett

Julia Levitan, Dominus Estate

Beth Novak Milliken, Spottswoode

Cio Perez, Perez Vineyard Management

Jim Wilson

Warren Winiarski, Arcadia Vineyards

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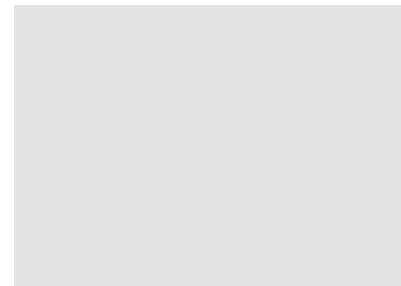
Updated 20 min ago



Hurt by the pandemic and wildfires, some Napa Valley vintners request loosening of winery regulations

Updated Nov 4, 2020

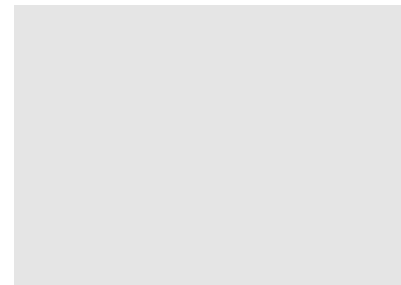
Wineries need help from the Board of Supervisors to survive the economic impacts of wildfires and the pandemic, local vintners say.



Ensuring our water security

Updated Nov 3, 2020

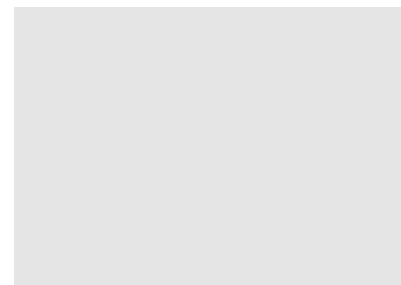
Letters: Supervisors should put this measure on the November ballot.



Take real action on water and development

Updated Nov 3, 2020

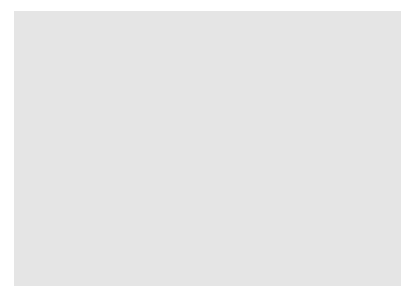
To the Board of Supervisors: I'm now hopeful that the county will take a more holistic approach to our rivers and streams in the county ("Stat...



Your Turn: Climate change, upland development and Napa's drinking water reservoirs

Updated Nov 3, 2020

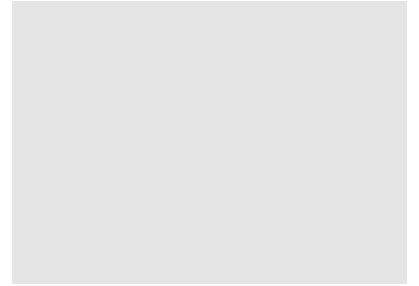
There are prudent limits to development, because nothing can provide the ecosystem service of clean water better than wild upland areas of a watershed.



Your Turn: A good first step, but not enough

Updated Nov 3, 2020

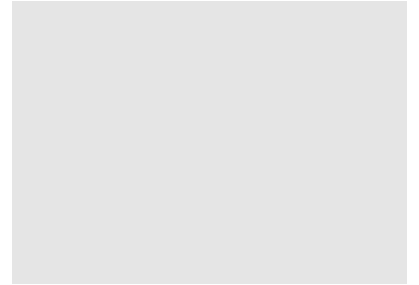
Although the new ordinance is a positive step in the right direction, our ultimate goal was to preserve the watershed as mother-nature intended.



Your Turn: Is this an extreme lack of integrity?

Updated Nov 3, 2020

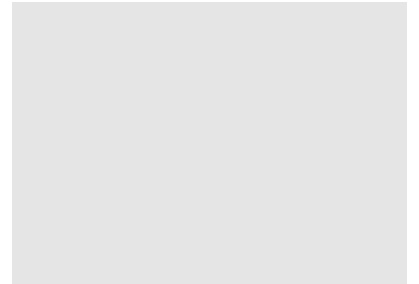
It is common knowledge that “All is fair in love and war,” but obviously “politics” has found its way into that phrase as well.



Your Turn: Join together to protect our resources

Updated Nov 3, 2020

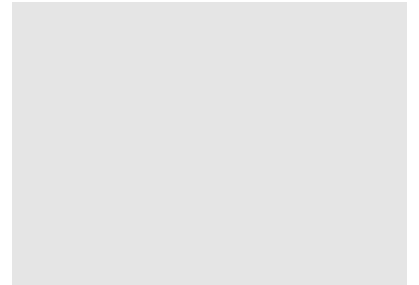
The Agricultural Preserve, though once surrounded by controversy and fear, has proved to be an extremely successful proactive step.



Open letter to voters regarding post-Measure C: clarifications

Updated Nov 3, 2020

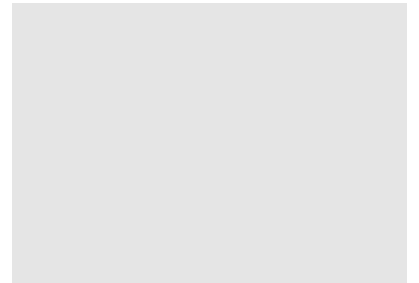
I would like the opportunity to set the record straight about oppositional distortions from those interested in further development on our hil...



Sen. Dodd, Napa County officials push for COVID-19 cooperation from families

Updated 1 hr ago

Napa County residents need to do more in their personal lives to stay safe from COVID-19, local officials said.



A promotional banner for 'Best of REMIND' puzzles. The banner has a red background. On the left is the 'Best of REMIND' logo. In the center, the text reads 'PUZZLES PLUS NOSTALGIA!' followed by 'Mad for the Mob - 1980 Oh What A Year - Superheroes - Fighting for Justice & more'. On the right is a red button that says 'COMING 11.15.20' and the 'Napa Valley Register' logo. A small circular icon with an 'X' is in the top right corner of the banner.