

Napa Valley Register

Bound for nationals

Spiritleaders seek 11-peat **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



A Fabric Journey

Tropical to traditional **HOME&GARDEN, PAGE C1**

City fixes water main

Storm erosion prompts repairs **NEWS, PAGE A2**



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017

napavalleyregister.com

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WINE INDUSTRY

Major winery to expand

Planners approve large project in airport area

BARRY EBERLING
beberling@napanews.com

Napa County planning commissioners often are wary about requests for big wineries with big production, but not in the case of Bin to Bottle.

Bin to Bottle is a custom crush facility located not in the Agricultural Preserve, where winery

expansion plans are usually hotly contested, but in the airport industrial area. Commissioners had no problem with the business adding 250,000 gallons a year in wine production facilities next to its existing 312,000-gallon facility to create a 5-acre-plus campus.

"This is exactly the kind of use we expect to see in the Napa Valley business park specific plan area, where we can see greater scope and scale with fewer impacts," Planning Commissioner Michael

Basayne said.

The airport industrial area is a south county world of warehouses, hotels, restaurants, wineries and other uses near Napa County Airport and along the main drag of Highway 29. Vineyards and wetlands are visible along the edges, but the feel is more urban.

Bin to Bottle began in 2006 on a site near North Kelly Road and serves 50 to 70 clients who for the most part make high-end, bou-

tique wines. Instead of building their own wineries, clients can make wine at Bin to Bottle.

John Wilkinson of Bin to Bottle said the wine and spirits industry is still enjoying substantial growth. Napa Valley brands that are finding it difficult to finance and win approval for small wineries on small parcels find Bin to Bottle a better choice, he said.

"And I think we've established a reputation in the valley for high-quality work ... it's also the

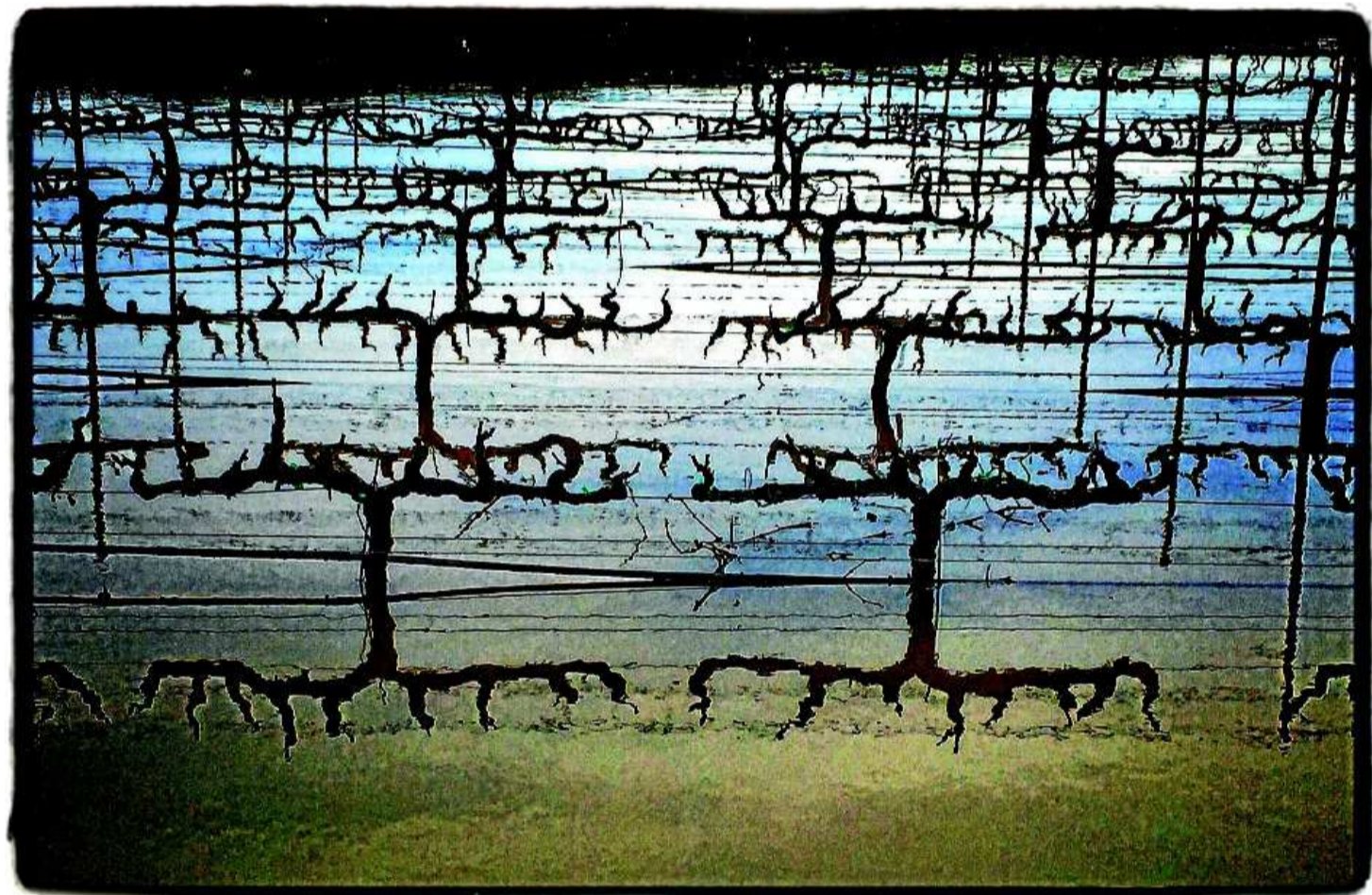
reason we're growing and need to expand," he said.

Steve Matthiasson, owner of Matthiasson Wines, is a client and wrote the county a letter supporting Bin to Bottle.

"At Bin to Bottle, I am a member of a collective of winemakers and business people who are committed to doing everything we can to produce high quality wines while limiting our impact

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AGRICULTURE



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

Vines are reflected in a flooded vineyard along Silverado Trail.

Soggy start for grape crop

Effects of surplus rain on vineyards depend on location, style

HENRY LUTZ
hlutz@napanews.com

"We're not going to be able to turn all this water into wine."

That's one grapegrower's take on the surplus rainfall of recent months and what it will mean for

vineyards in Napa County as the rain season ebbs and the growing season draws near.

Frank Leeds, vice president of vineyard operations at Frog's Leap Winery in Rutherford, and the grower in question, said that while the vineyards in his area have received more than 35 inches of rain since October, "our soils can only hold so much moisture..." and once they're full, "the rest just runs off."

"Having a bunch of extra water around is not going to give us a bigger crop."

But as grapegrowers from Carneros to Calistoga gear up for the growing season, which is estimated to begin with the first bud break around mid-March, some are anticipating the heavy rainfall will prompt "vigorous" vine growth driven by a wealth of available resources and nutrients, boons of the saturated soil.

"The grapevines are going to start the season with all the water, all the nutrients they want," said P.J. Alviso, director of viticulture at Duckhorn Wine Company. "They're going to grow more than they would in say, a normal year."

Caleb Mosley, senior viticulturist with Michael Wolf Vineyard Services, agreed. Working with 45 vineyards totaling

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REAL ESTATE

BurgerFi building on the market

Former garage turned into restaurant

JENNIFER HUFFMAN
jhuffman@napanews.com

The downtown riverfront property formerly home to the short-lived BurgerFi restaurant has been listed for sale by owner Steve Hasty and partners.

The asking price is \$4.9 million.

Hasty said that after BurgerFi closed abruptly in December, he and his partners "thought it might be a good time to see if there was an owner operator that would be interested," in buying the property, instead of trying to lease the space.

The businessman first announced plans to renovate the corner, which overlooks the Napa River and is located at 967 First St., in 2012. Before that, it was a long-vacant auto repair garage called the Riverside Service Station.

"It's a good opportunity," said Hasty of the building now for sale. "These small pieces of property in downtown are getting scooped up by bigger players."

The restaurant is also situated right at the edge of the river, he noted. "You can't build that close

Please see **BURGERFI**, Page A2



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

A city of Napa street sweeper works in the Browns Valley neighborhood on Friday morning. The Napa City Council has approved hiring a contractor to take over street sweeping services and increase the frequency in most areas to once every four weeks.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Street sweepers privatized

Expect more frequent road cleanup

HOWARD YUNE
hyune@napanews.com

The trucks that sweep leaves and litter off Napa streets will soon pass by more often - and a private partner will operate them.

A new city agreement puts day-to-day control of Napa's street sweeping services in the hands of a contractor for the first time. Contract Sweeping Services, a Milpitas company that serves

various cities in California and Arizona, won a \$289,860-a-year contract to take over street clearance from city public works employees, who will be reassigned but keep their jobs.

The contract approved this week by the City Council gives Contract Sweeping the responsibility for servicing local streets at least once a month, compared to the six-week intervals of the existing service. During the October-to-January period, after trees shed their foliage, sweeping will be stepped up to twice monthly.

While the contracted service is expected to cost about the same as Napa's in-house work, the move will save the city from having to replace sweepers that can cost up to a quarter-million dollars while freeing up workers for more vital tasks, according to Phil Brun, deputy public works director.

"Workers are not losing their jobs; I'm able to repurpose them to higher-priority work like sidewalks and paving and potholes," he said Wednesday. "Therefore,

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OBITUARIES | PAGE D2

Anne Corna, John C. Granado, Elaine Marie Kocarnik, Jack Lee Moore

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