

CALIFORNIA COMEBACK

“The winds were moving the fire like a tornado. It was moving a football field’s length every 30 seconds.”

Karissa Kruse, Sonoma County Winegrowers president



Wine country is recovering from wildfires, but rebuilding tourism remains a challenge

Courtesy of Signorello Estate
A wildfire destroyed buildings that housed administrative offices, a professional kitchen, tasting room and a residence at the Signorello Estate near Napa, Calif.

By **TIM HEARDEN**
Capital Press



SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Karissa Kruse has seen the devastating impact of the October wine country wildfires at both a personal and professional level.

The Sonoma County Winegrowers president was asleep at about 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 9 when a neighbor knocked on her door to warn her a wildfire was rapidly approaching. The wind was blowing so hard she didn’t hear the knocking at first, she said.

She grabbed her purse, a laptop computer, two photos, a family heirloom watch and her pets and got out the door. Her home in Santa Rosa’s lush Fountain-grove neighborhood was destroyed minutes later.

“The winds were moving the fire like a tornado,” Kruse said. “It was moving a football field’s length every 30 seconds.”



Karissa Kruse



Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

A vineyard in the northern San Francisco Bay area’s Russian River Valley served as a natural fire-break during the October wildfires that devastated some areas of California’s iconic wine country.

Turn to **COMEBACK**, Page 12

Farm Bureau president addresses national issues at Pendleton meeting

Labor, trade, regulations all discussed

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

PENDLETON, Ore. — Driving from Portland to Pendleton on Dec. 6, Amer-

ican Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said he was amazed by the change in scenery and even more surprised by the productivity of agriculture among the sand and sagebrush of Eastern Oregon.

“I thought a desert was a desert, and it wouldn’t grow anything even if it had water,” said Duvall, a third-generation farmer from Georgia. “But I’ve seen some beautiful crops right out in the middle of nowhere.”

Duvall arrived Dec. 7 at the Pendleton Convention Center to address the Oregon Farm Bureau annual meeting, where he discussed a host of national agricultural issues including farm labor, international trade



Zippy Duvall

and what he described as over-regulation by the federal government.

The trip also satisfied Duvall’s goal of visiting all 50 states in his first term as president of the American Farm Bureau, which advocates for policies on behalf of farmers nationwide.

“This is a beautiful state, and you should be proud of it,” Duvall told the Oregon delegates.

The number one issue facing American agriculture, Duvall said, is labor. When asked later about legislation that would replace H-2A

Turn to **DUVALL**, Page 12

Ranchers, environmentalists voice objections to Oregon Wolf Plan update

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife planning to revise plan

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

SALEM — Environmental groups are alarmed by a proposal that would authorize lethal control of wolves in Eastern Oregon after only two livestock kills under “extreme circumstances.”

The regular threshold would be three livestock kills in 12 months, but the current draft of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan would reduce it to two kills if non-lethal methods proved ineffective or couldn’t be implemented.

“It moves too quickly to lethal control,” said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center of Biological Diversity, during a Dec. 8 hearing in Salem, Ore.

Wolves in Eastern Oregon have been delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act, but they’re still regulated by the state government.

Representatives of livestock and hunting

groups also found plenty they didn’t like about the plan, which the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is updating.

For example, the plan sets a minimum population threshold of 300 wolves through 2022 but it doesn’t ensure that any particular zone doesn’t become overpopulated with the predators, said Todd Nash, wolf committee chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association.

“Nowhere does it address a maximum number,” Nash said.



For more wolf coverage see Page 5

Turn to **WOLF**, Page 12



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