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Bauman's Farm & Garden

A hay ride is one of many activities farms offer as they get involved in agritourism.

AGRITOURISM ON THE RISE



Desiree Bergstrom/Capital Press

Brian Bauman is the great grandson of the founders of Bauman's Farm near Gervais, Ore. The farm's current agritourism operation began with his second-grade class when it took a field trip to the farm to get pumpkins.

For a growing number of farms and ranches, opening to the public provides an enjoyable, educational and profitable additional business



Desiree Bergstrom/Capital Press

Bauman's Farm and Garden on Howell Prairie Road near Gervais, Ore., aims to offer visitors an authentic farm experience.

By **DESIREE BERGSTROM**
Capital Press

GERVAIS, Ore. — White wooden-block letters on the side of a large red barn near this small town in Oregon's Willamette Valley spell out the name of one of the state's most popular agritourism destinations.

Bauman's Farm and Garden isn't at a busy urban intersection or along an interstate highway. Rather, it's on Howell Prairie Road, a two-lane that meanders through the east side of the valley. "Our location is our greatest disadvantage because we are on the way to nothing. There is no reason you would be driving by Howell Prairie Road unless you were like, 'I need to take the back road to Mount Angel,'" another small town down the road, said Brian Bauman, the farm's general manager.

While that may be true, Bauman's has grown from a small roadside stand into an agritourism hub in the last 30 years. The large red barn houses a retail store for fresh fruit and vegetables, baked goods, candles, honey, a coffee shop and other items. There is also a nursery operation and a hard cider company, and every fall the farm hosts its annual harvest festival, pumpkin patch and other family-friendly activities.

As guests enter the red barn, the smell of bread and other fresh-baked goods lingers in the air from the bakery in the corner. Looking around, visitors see fresh produce, pickled vegetables and canning supplies in every direction.

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Wolves wouldn't let woman leave Washington forest

Researcher in tree with no exit

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

The U.S. Forest Service employee rescued from wolves in north-central Washington climbed a tree twice to get away from a barking and howling wolf that cut her off when she tried to walk away, according to a report by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The second time up, the 25-year-old woman called her boss on a satellite phone and "informed him that she did not think the wolves would allow her to leave," according to Fish and Wildlife officer Justin Trautman's report.

The woman "observed the wolf appear several times and howl in the distance," Trautman reported. "Once in the tree, she waited for help to arrive."

The Fish and Wildlife report, obtained by the Capital

Press, describes the July 12 confrontation between the woman and the Loup Loup pack in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Officials say she was researching salmon habitat and apparently did not know she was walking into the heart of the pack's summer territory.

Fish and Wildlife had told a Forest Service biologist that the pack was there, but the woman was from a Utah-based program that surveys habitat on federal lands and did not check

in with the ranger district, forest spokeswoman Debbie Kelly said.

Efforts to reach the woman were unsuccessful.

The Capital Press is withholding her name. State lawmakers require Fish and Wildlife to withhold the names of ranchers who report conflicts with wolves to protect their privacy and shield them from threats.

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

A wolf chased a U.S. Forest Service researcher up a tree twice in Washington state, according to newly released documents.

Western wildfire season keeps firefighters busy

By **DESIREE BERGSTROM**
Capital Press

An army of firefighters and an air force of planes and helicopters are working around-the-clock to battle more than 1,700 blazes across the West as the wildfire season hits full stride.

As of mid-week, 23,409 firefighters, 143 helicopters and 1,527 fire engines were battling fires scorching 1.1 million acres of the West, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center. The center didn't have

the number of airplanes included in the fight.

The 10 Western states account for the vast majority of wildfires in the nation and 23,000 of the 25,409 firefighters dispatched across the U.S.

Most of the fires are in the Northwest, Great Basin and northern California, according to the center. The Great Basin has 573,645 acres burning, and northern California has 256,115 acres burning. The Northwest has 180,637 acres on fire.

"Year to date in the Northwest re-

gion there have been 1,726 fires," Carrie Bilbao, public affairs specialist for the National Interagency Fire Center, said. The Northwest includes Oregon and Washington.

High temperatures hurt efforts to contain the fires, said Lori Wisheart, an information officer for the Klondike fire, approximately 17,987 acres, and the Natchez fire, approximately 6,174 acres, burning in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

The crews fighting those fires were forced to redirect their efforts from

containment to managing incidents such as spot fires, Wisheart said.

"We have been working both day and night shifts" on the fires, Wisheart said.

Though this year's fire season is busy, it's not a record-setter. This year fewer fires have broken out than last year at this time, Bilbao said. There were 38,617 fires across the U.S. for a total of 5.4 million acres last year, she said.

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