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STILL TALL IN THE SADDLE

Brad Carlson/Capital Press
Rick Bean of RC Bean Saddlery south of Star, Idaho, tightens conchos on a saddle.

In an internet-dominated retail world, tack shops survive by featuring hand-made, one-of-a-kind wares

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

On a recent Friday in New Plymouth, Idaho, Flying V Saddlery owner Jerry Vincent is found not in his colorful retail shop but instead in a back room where he is skillfully working a small strip of leather that will become bridle reins.

“We have to do a super-good job,” said Vincent, 75, as he meticulously worked the leather. “We have to take care of our customers.”

Thirty miles to the southeast, near Star, Idaho, Rick and Kristie Bean welcome a handful of customers —

including hobbyists and a couple of horse-industry professionals — to the larger of their two shops. No one walks out with a big-ticket purchase, but almost everyone talks about current needs and future wants.

Rick Bean, 57, then goes back to work on a saddle, as he has done for 40 years.

“My love is not just to be a saddle-maker,” Rick Bean said. “I kind of evolved into a leather artist because I have built high-end saddles.”

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Brad Carlson/Capital Press
Jerry Vincent of Flying V Saddlery in New Plymouth, Idaho, shows custom Western purses he and an employee crafted to broaden the product line.

Wildfires burn 6 million acres across West



Associated Press File

More than 6 million acres of the West have been burned this fire season.

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Vicki Markley remembers the scene vividly. The owner of Pinehurst Cabins & RV Park stood on her doorstep two weeks ago as the Rattlesnake Creek Fire approached from across U.S. Highway 95 south of Riggins, Idaho.

“It was burning right across the street,” she said. “Helicopters were dipping right out of the (Little Salmon) river here.”

Neither people nor property in the immediate area were hurt, she said, and the fire eventually reversed course and

moved away from the resort property.

But as of Aug. 21 the Rattlesnake Creek Fire remained only 28 percent contained, and the Boise-based National Interagency Fire Center pegged it at 8,135 acres. It’s one of thousands of fires burning in a busy Western wildfire season.

Through Aug. 21, 41,563 fires have burned more than 6 million acres across the West.

For the same period of 2017, there were 42,977 fires that burned nearly 6.48 million acres.

Jennifer Jones, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman at NIFC, said that on a 1-to-5 scale the current preparedness level is 5.

This year, Australia and New Zealand senior firefighters and U.S. active-duty military soldiers arrived at the start of August rather than near the end of the month, as in the past, indicating staff and resources were stretched thinner, earlier, she said.

“It also feels different to have so much fire ‘on the board’ in such a widespread area,” she said. For example, Colorado and Wyoming still have active fires, whereas those states usually aren’t in play to a large extent this time of year.

“It’s rare for us to go into the end of

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Court reinstates suspended WOTUS rule

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

A U.S. District Court in South Carolina has reinstated the controversial 2015 Waters of the United States rule that expanded EPA and Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

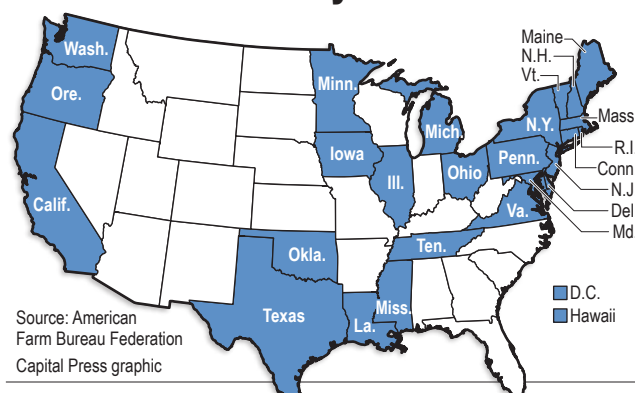
District Judge David Norton last week ruled the Trump administration failed to comply with rulemaking requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act in suspending rule.

Norton ruled that while different administrations may implement different regulatory priorities, they must comply with procedural requirements. Specifically, the government provided no “reasoned analysis” for suspending the rule and no “meaningful opportunity” for public comment, Norton stated.

The judge enjoined the suspension rule nationwide. But two federal courts — one in North Dakota covering 13 states and one in Georgia covering 11 states — have blocked

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States affected by 2015 WOTUS



Source: American Farm Bureau Federation
Capital Press graphic

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