

Author takes romance to alpacas

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Romance novels often have a ranch for the beautiful backdrop as two people find love. But an alpaca ranch?

"I don't know if they're romantic," said author Maren Anderson, 42, about alpacas.



Anderson

"I think they're adorable. They make amazing sounds." Why not an alpaca ranch? Anderson, an avid reader of romance novels, said she is attracted to books with horses.

She and her husband have owned an alpaca ranch in Monmouth since 2004.

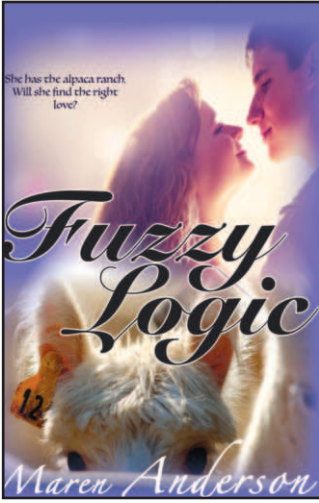
"There's a whole genre of romance novels on horse ranches," she said. "I'd never read any of them that had an alpaca in it."

And so Anderson set out to rectify the situation. She wrote "Fuzzy Logic," which tells the life of a divorcee who moves to the country and buys an alpaca farm.

"There's certainly some lonely points in the story," Anderson said. "When she first moves in, there's nothing in her house because her furniture hasn't caught up with her."

The book is set in the Willamette Valley.

Going from the country to the city, the heroine, Meg, has to acclimatize to the true darkness one experiences without nearby neighbors or



Courtesy of MAREN ANDERSON

city lights. "The problem she has is, she has gone through a couple nights of being really lonely, and then suddenly, it's raining men," Anderson said.

But who should she choose?

"She's gone through this terrible divorce and a year of really bad dates, and now she has two really good choices and doesn't know what to do," Anderson said.

This is Anderson's fourth book — her first three were self-published. "Fuzzy Logic" is published through Black Opal Books, a small, independent publisher.

Andersen has always been a story-teller and writer.

"I've been a writer basically since I was a little bitty kid," she said. "When I couldn't go to sleep, I'd just tell myself stories. I started writing them down in third grade. My first book was called, 'T-shirt Trouble,' about a pair of identical twins who would switch shirts and get in trouble." "Fuzzy Logic" took one



Courtesy of MAREN ANDERSON

month to write the first draft, a habit she developed through NaNoWriMo, or National Novel Writing Month, which takes place each November online at www.nanowrimo.org.

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BIZ BRIEFS

Edward Jones to host open house

DALLAS — Kelly Denney, from Edward Jones, will host a holiday open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the financial services firm, 244 E. Ellendale Ave., Suite 2, Dallas. For more information: 503-623-2146.

West Valley Taphouse open on Main St.

DALLAS — Craving a good brew? Or maybe wine or cider? West Valley Taphouse, 957 Main St., Dallas, has 63 taps to help you find just what you are looking for. West Valley has a full menu, and craft soda and kumbuca (fermented tea) on tap as well.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week. Minors are welcome.

For more information: 503-420-4277.

Book store opening in downtown Dallas

DALLAS — Calmlee's Bookstore, at 147 SW Court St. in Dallas, will host its grand opening on Saturday.

The book store will feature best-selling titles and authors, with all in-stock titles priced at less than \$10.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more information: 503-623-3025.

A good read

What: "Fuzzy Logic" release party.

Where: Yeast Beasty, 167 Main St. W., Monmouth.

When: Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m.

Admission: Refreshments and books will be for sale.

Of note: Enjoy specialty pizza and beers on tap available, while meeting author Maren Anderson. Pick up a signed copy of her new book, "Fuzzy Logic." A second signing party will be at Rick's Coffee House from 10 a.m. to noon on Dec. 12. Book marks and a signed copy of the book will be given away.

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9	7	2	8	5	6	3	1	4
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