

CELEBRATE

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career of 32 years as a teacher.

He was feted many times as an educator while at LHS and about 15 years ago was named Oregon’s high school art teacher of the year by the Oregon Art Education Association.

The educator came to La Grande High after teaching 15 years at Nyssa High School. Judy Jensen recalled the interview team at LHS did not deliberate long after interviewing him.

“I received a call from LHS offering him the job before he got home,” she said, speaking of a time when landlines ruled, not cellphones.

Bob Jensen said his stint at the high school was the most enjoyable of his education career because he so liked working with its students and faculty.

“Everything clicked,” he said.

One of the most popular programs the Jensens have run at the Potter’s House is a Christmas show that was conducted annually for 17 years through 2017 at their gallery and home, which are connected. Each room at their business and



Staff photo by Dick Mason/EO Media Group

Judy Jensen restores old furniture at the Potter’s Gift House & Gallery, La Grande. She and her husband, Bob Jensen, have operated the business for 20 years.

house would be filled with Christmas gift items for weeks. The Jensens would move out of their house during this time to allow its use for the show.

Visitors became so accustomed to visiting the Jensens’ home during this time that some came to think of it as a permanent part of the Potter’s House. Today, people occasionally walk into the Jensens’ home expecting to find a

continuation of the gallery.

The Potter House’s 20-year celebration started Wednesday, Aug. 5, and will continue through Aug. 25. The Jensens have not planned any big parties during the celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic but are offering special sales and drawings.

Sales during the celebration will be monitored in intervals of 20 and the customers making every

20th sale will receive a 20% discount. There also will be drawings for prizes of \$20.

A 25th anniversary celebration may be only five years away. Judy Jensen said she cannot imagine a time when she and her husband will not be running the Potter’s Gift House & Gallery.

“It is what we do,” she said, “and we do it together.”

WEDDINGS

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large or small, indoor or outdoor, masks have become a sticking point for photos and video. Some couples argue that masks spoil their visuals and are banning them altogether. Others are making them optional. Still more are going the opposite route, wearing bedazzled satin and lace masks to match their gowns.

“I get that this is not how they want their weddings to look,” Alvarez said. “The big question everyone needs to be answering right now is what’s the moral responsibility, and also what’s their liability in hosting an event that potentially could

lead to an outbreak?”

She said that breaking her contract for the indoor wedding, where masks would be optional, would cost her \$4,000. It’s her first job this year.

In a normal year, she would be juggling 28 weddings from March to September.

While the couple trimmed their guest list from 175 to help with social distancing, “masks are not a concession that they’re willing to make,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez plans other safety measures, such as spreading out tables and offering wider-spaced seating grouped by households, when possible. She also suggested a tactic used by other couples, offering color-coded wrist-

bands for guests to declare their comfort levels with contact.

To avoid crowd issues, some couples are holding their ceremonies and receptions with different groups of guests invited at staggered times.

“There’s just so much emotional baggage that has come with weddings this year that the idea of masks at their weddings is the last straw,” Alvarez said. “But of course there’s danger in that.”

‘There’s always someone’

Wedding planner Lynne Goldberg has a December wedding scheduled for 200 guests at the home of the bride’s parents in New York.

“They have emphati-

cally shared that this pandemic is not going to get in the way of their wedding plans and that there will be no masks handed out and no signs promoting social distancing at their wedding,” she said. “The bride has said that when she shows her children her wedding video, she doesn’t want it to be a documentary of the 2020 pandemic.”

Most of Goldberg’s couples have rescheduled or downsized, but “there’s always someone who doesn’t want to follow the recommended path.”

Planning a wedding for 200 guests while social distancing is challenging but doable, Goldberg said, but: “Asking 200 guests to not wear masks is crazy.”

SPENDING

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this past week.

The firm concluded that online shopping is likely to retain much of the boost it is enjoying during the pandemic, and that for the foreseeable future people are likely to focus their spending on essentials given the enduring economic uncertainty.

Oregon allowed many

sectors, notably manufacturing and construction, to continue operating throughout the pandemic. And thousands of office workers continue doing their jobs from home.

But some sectors of the economy simply won’t be back until the virus is gone, the Oregon Business Plan concluded in a new report on the state’s recovery. Leisure and hospitality in particular may not have a clear path forward.

CALF

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Van Eenennaam aimed to use SRY, a gene that instructs mammalian embryos to develop male traits. Her goal, she said, was to use Crispr to cut DNA and insert SRY onto the X chromosome of bovine embryos to increase the likelihood of producing a male herd.

For years, they avoided inserting DNA from other species, because that would make the calves “transgenic,” and according to FDA, genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. In 2017, FDA classified any edited animal DNA as though it were a new kind of drug.

“To call an animal a drug is a bit wonky,” said Van Eenennaam.

seemed fitting: Cosmo’s dad was a Holstein named Swordfish and his biological mom was an ovary donor from a processing plant.

Critics contend Crispr has too many risks.

Other Crispr animals have had odd side effects: pigs with extra vertebrae, cattle that die prematurely, rabbits with huge tongues.

Lisa Moses, animal bioethicist at Harvard Medical School, told the Wall Street Journal last year, “It’s really hubris of us to assume that we know what we’re doing and that we can predict what kinds of bad things can happen.”

Van Eenennaam said because of public sentiment, Crispr challenges and FDA rules, there likely won’t be a U.S. market soon, if ever.

“If you’d told me 30 years ago this still wouldn’t be allowed by U.S. regulators, I wouldn’t have believed you — and I would’ve for sure pursued a different career,” she said.

The rule meant a genetically engineered calf could never enter the food supply, GMO or non-GMO. So, because it made no difference, the researchers inserted bioluminescent jellyfish DNA into the calf embryos. If the SRY insertion worked, the embryo would glow green under ultraviolet light — making the researchers’ job easier.

The scientists moved the SRY gene and jellyfish DNA to chromosome 17 of 200 embryos. Of those, 22 survived. Nine glimmered green. Only one grew to maturity.

Cosmo was named after a glowing green character from the animated Nickelodeon television series, “The Fairly OddParents.” The show’s title also

Jim Reecy, researcher in Iowa State’s Department of Animal Science, said he thinks regulatory agencies should treat genetically engineered or modified animals no differently than engineered plants.

“Genetically modified corn, tomatoes and other vegetables are accepted by a large portion of society,” he said. “So why should an animal be any different?”

Cosmo won’t become steak, but the little calf has work to do: get weaned, grow up, and breed to see if his offspring really are 75% male.

“Time will tell,” said Reecy.

Funds available to advance Eastern Oregon’s workforce

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Workforce Board in a press release Tuesday, Aug. 4, announced it has \$48,000 available to help launch projects/programs that support job advancement and training.

The EOWB serves Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties and invites businesses and organizations in the area to apply for these funds. An organiza-

tion may qualify for funds if the project/program:

- Supports business growth or job creation and/or advancement opportunities.
- Supports advancement of the health care, manufacturing or transportation industries.
- Expands a qualifying project into a new area based on a proven successful model.
- Pilots a qualifying project that has a high likelihood of success based on business need

with metrics.

- Serves as a model for other Eastern Oregon areas that have shown interest in the successful project.

For more details on qualifying for the grants or to apply, visit www.eowb.org.

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