

North Douglas

HERALD

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Elk Creek Glass Starts 2nd Year in Elkton

Story and Photos by Rusty Savage



Elkton, OR - Elk Creek Glass launched their art school and studio last year in Elkton. Elk Creek Glass is an art school and studio. They focus on teaching glass blowing and fusing in their two studios. One thing for sure, after meeting Avi Zohar and his wife, Heather, it is far from his first year in the business of glass blowing and glass fusion.



Elk Creek Glass has evolved from a decades long love of Glass blowing and ultimately Glass fusion that has fired his passion for working with Glass. After spending years in Southern Oregon working at an extremely high level of Glass making, his knowledge and experience extends to his ability to conceptualize and assemble an impressive array of material, equipment and technical know how to organize it into a highly creative and productive Glass Shop and a unique set of courses he designed to pass his knowledge on.

After working for many years in the highly stressful world of world class Glass works, where projects take many months and the quality and intricacies mean 10's of thousands of dollars worth of beautiful works

of art, sold around the world. At one point, Avi was creating art for solely for New York galleries where the highest quality of works are sold. As tends to happen, Avi became



more and more disillusioned with the high stress "Big Bucks" operation it takes to perform at that level. Big bucks he says, as in big bucks in your equipment, your materials and your overhead and it still gets harder and harder to get those "Big Bucks" to pay for it all and try to still make a living. Along the way he became a teacher which is where it turns out that his heart is anyway.

So, eventually, the time came where he and Heather wanted to continue that dream along with making a new one. And so they found the beautiful property on the edge of Elkton right on the Elk Creek and made the move of a lifetime. They then started making their mark on the new paradise ranch. Along with the dog, the chickens and farm animals and the

domestic improvements, Avi started building his workshop complex.

The first makeover began in the Chicken Coop. Completely revamped,



it became the "Hot Shop" where the glass is worked in the large ovens or "Glory Holes". With several size and type of ovens he can create pieces and parts for creating his beautiful fused glass pieces. Watching him work in this amazing workplace is reminiscent of craftsmen from an earlier time. Graceful yet precise and detailed he whips these brittle doodads out with out effort or fanfare.

In addition to the Hot Shop he then assembled parts and equipment

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First-ever Known US Case of Bird Flu found in a Pig in Central Oregon Farm

Story by Rusty Savage



Crook County, OR - U.S. Department of Agriculture officials say there is no concern about the safety of the nation's pork supply at this time. The first known case of avian influenza in a pig in the United States was confirmed at a small farm in Central Oregon on Wednesday.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, confirmed at least one of five pigs at Crook County backyard farm tested positive for the H5N1 virus — the same strain that's made its way across the country and has caused an outbreak in over 100 million poultry birds since 2022. Usually sick birds are euthanized to prevent them from entering the food supply.

Necropsies done on two other pigs showed no evidence of infection, but a swab taken from another pig, one of two "teacup mini" pigs that were co-housed with infected chickens inside a chicken coop, did test

positive. Those pigs were also euthanized and results of the testing of their tissues are still pending.

Pigs are sometimes called a "mixing vessel" for flu viruses, because they can be infected with both bird flu viruses and human flu viruses. If the animals are co-infected at the same time with two or more viruses, the viruses can swap genes, potentially creating a hybrid virus that is better able to spread to and among people than bird flu viruses typically are. This phenomenon, called reassortment, is what gave rise to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

Because pigs can play this role, flu experts have been worried that the H5N1 virus currently spreading in cows in the United States could make its way to pigs — though any version of the H5N1 virus in pigs would be an unwelcome development.

USDA officials say the farm was

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