

HERMISTON

Company provides 'cutting-edge' bovine IVF treatments

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

An international company pioneering new techniques of in-vitro fertilization for cows has its headquarters in Hermiston.

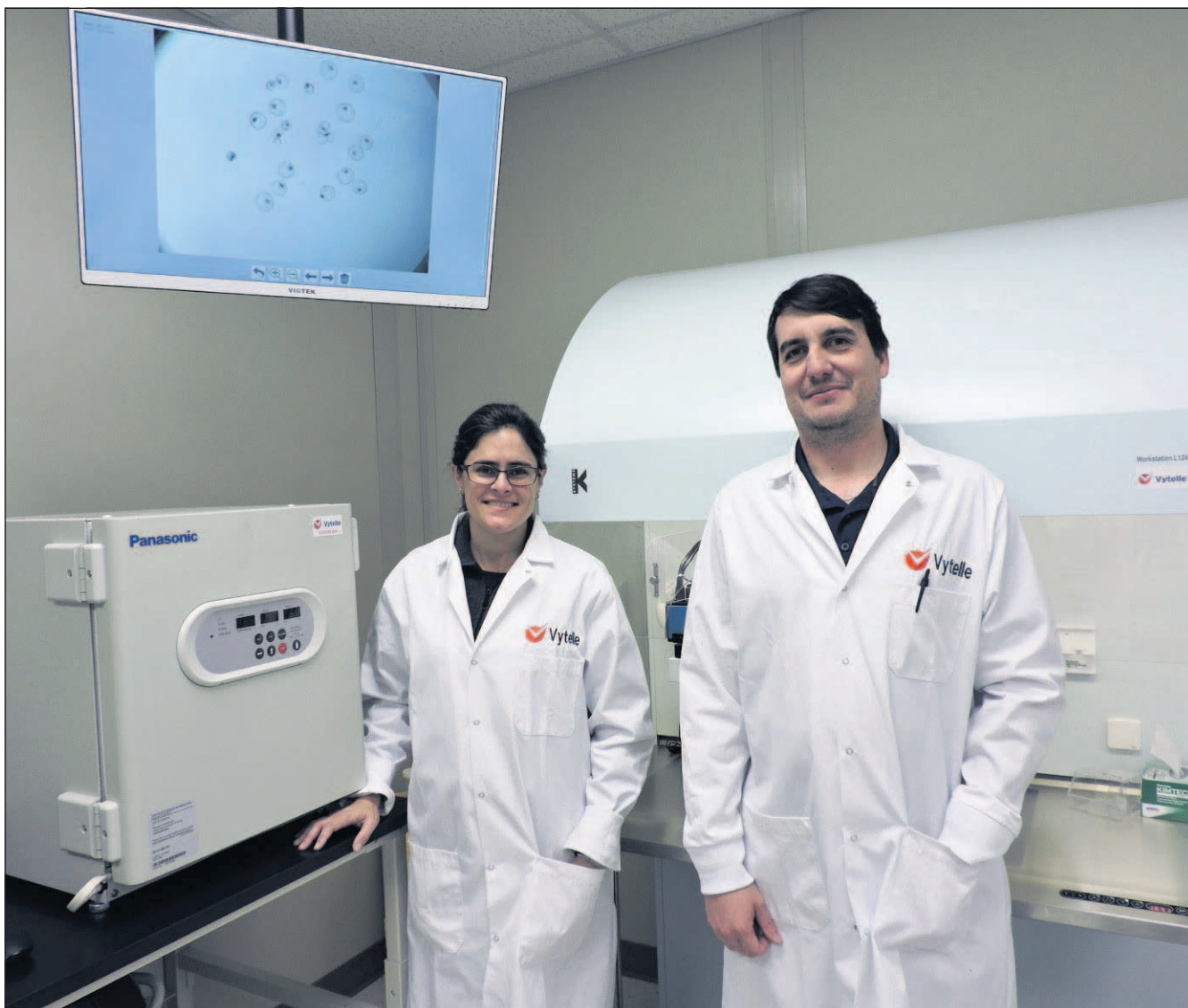
The company has been operating in Hermiston since 2015 but in August re-branded from Cogent IVF to Vytelle. The company provides services to the region from its Hermiston headquarters but also has sites in Idaho, California, Texas, Paraguay, Uruguay and South Africa.

Business director Luciano Bonilla said Vytelle is unique in several ways, including its "cutting-edge" hormone-free collection process for unfertilized eggs. The lack of stimulating hormones is easier on the animals, allows for weekly collection and requires no shot schedule.

Farmers and dairies using in-vitro fertilization can benefit from multiple calves born per year that are the biological offspring off their highest-producing milk cows, or animals that are superior in other ways.

"Naturally, one cow can give one calf per year," Bonilla said. "If they use this technique, they can get hundreds."

Farmers and dairies using Vytelle's services choose their best cows for harvest of unfertilized eggs,



Aline, left, and Luciano Bonilla of Vytelle are pictured in the company's lab. The screen above them shows lab-grown cow embryos ready to implant.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

known as oocytes, which can be done by Vytelle technicians on the farm or at a collection location they have on GT Land & Cat-

tle property. The process takes 10 to 15 minutes, after which the oocytes are taken to the Vytelle lab at 80383 N. Highway 395 and com-

combined with sperm from a bull of the farmer's choosing, using human-grade IVF equipment. Vytelle technicians then

grow the embryos in special incubators and a rotation serums over a seven-day period before freezing the embryos using a process

unique to the company, or immediately impregnating the desired number of cows.

Eight people total work out of the Hermiston office. Aline Bonilla, the research and development laboratory manager, said clients of the Hermiston lab come from all over Oregon, but they serve an especially high number of dairies from the Tillamook area.

Aline and Luciano are originally from Brazil and came to the United States for Ph.D. study and work. While they previously worked in Wisconsin for Vytelle's parent company WheatSheaf Group, Aline said there were partnerships the company had in the Columbia Basin area that made sense for them to start what was then Cogent IVF in Hermiston instead of Wisconsin.

She said while most bovine IVF companies use a complicated pricing structure that charges at different junctures, Vytelle's production rate is so high that it only charges farms and dairies for the number of embryos it successfully creates.

"They pay for what they get," she said.

For more information about Vytelle, visit vytelle.com or call 866-689-3477.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

STANFIELD

3D Idapro Solutions factory catches fire

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Crews were called on Monday to a Stanfield factory for a fire, one of several the business has had in the past two years.

The 3D Idapro Solutions

factory in Stanfield, which processes potatoes primarily to make dog food, had its scrubber catch fire on Monday morning.

Umatilla County Fire District Battalion Chief Corey Gorham said the factory had not been operating when the fire started, and he thinks it was closed

for routine maintenance.

He said no one was injured.

Gorham said the factory had recently installed a new fire suppression system, which was successful.

"The fire suppression system is reactive to a fire," he said. "It caught fire, and they turned it on.

We didn't spray a gallon of water."

The factory has had at least three other fires so far in 2018, as well as a few the previous year. The scrubber, which caught fire, is a piece of equipment that was installed to mitigate the smells that the factory emits.

Cutsforth to discuss Bryant foundation

HEPPNER — Kim Cutsforth will provide an update on the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation during the upcoming Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The Heppner-based foundation was recognized earlier this year for its dedication and efforts in creat-

ing an attractive environment for the community.

The no-host luncheon is Thursday, Nov. 15 at noon at Heppner City Hall. The meal, which is catered by Breaking Grounds Coffee, is \$10 each.

Those planning to attend need to RSVP by Tuesday, to ensure there's adequate seating and enough food. For more information or to reserve a meal, contact 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Vehicle thief crashes near Boardman

A car allegedly stolen from Boardman was involved in a police pursuit that ended in a crash Sunday night.

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, a deputy attempted to make a traffic stop in Boardman about 7:45 p.m. The driver did not stop, and the deputy pursued the vehicle west-

bound onto Interstate 84.

During the chase a resident called to report the vehicle stolen, and deputies determined it was the same vehicle.

The car crashed and the driver, Jeffrey Scott Connors, 41, was ejected. Life Flight was called but was unable to respond due to weather conditions, and

Connors was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center by ground ambulance.

Connors was convicted in September of fourth-degree assault and menacing, which constituted domestic violence. He was scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 8. That incident took place in Clackamas County. Connors

had previously been living in Arizona.

The interstate was closed during cleanup near the rest stop outside of Boardman at mile marker 161. Boardman Police Department and Oregon State Police assisted.

Icy conditions were reported on roads in Morrow County on Monday morning.

Umatilla County upgrades big equipment

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Public Works Department is upgrading some big pieces of equipment.

The county board of commissioners on Wednesday gave its approval for the department buy a new motor grader and two dump trucks.

Tom Fellows, public works director, in a memo explained the department tries to turn over graders every five years or at 5,000

hours of use to have the best possible maintenance equipment for the county's gravel roads. The new John Deere grader from Pape Machinery, Pasco, costs almost \$312,000.

The county is selling its old Cat grader to Harney County for \$125,000, according to Fellows, and those proceeds plus the difference from money in the budget for capital outlay equipment and miscellaneous expenses will cover

the price.

The county is buying the two dump trucks from Woodpecker Truck and Equipment Inc., Pendleton, for about \$147,600 each to replace older trucks. The county will sell the old ones at auction.

Commissioner George Murdock noted the purchases were local. Fellows said in future months the department will look to buy another dump truck and two transport vehicle from

Woodpecker, which makes equipment available on Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing organization.

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

11/12-13

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie

11/14 • 12pm

The Big Heat

DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH (PG)
4:30 7:00

DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH 2 (PG)
9:30

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (PG13)
3:50* 6:50 9:50

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS (PG)
4:40 7:10 9:40

HUNTER KILLER (R)
4:00 6:40 9:20

HALLOWEEN (R)
4:50 7:20 10:00

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

FREE CAR SEAT CHECK

Walmart Parking Lot
Nov. 14th, 2018 • 3:00PM - 5:00PM



DID YOU KNOW...

7 out of 10 children are improperly restrained for car travel? Let us help you make sure your child is as safe as possible!

Our Fully trained Child Passenger safety Technicians are ready to help you. We offer our services free of charge. Come visit us at one of our Car Seat Check Events, or call to make a private appointment. To learn more or to schedule a visit, call (541) 278-2627

CAR SEAT AGE GUIDELINES:

- Rear facing = Birth to age 2+
- Forward-Facing with Harness = Ages 2 to 5+
- Booster Seat = Age 5+ until child is 4'9" or age 8 and adult belt fits properly
- Children ages 12 and under should never ride in the front seat.

For a complete listing of regional events, visit eastoregonian.com

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Gifts, Crafts and Bake Sale

1350 NW Carden Ave,
Pendleton, OR.
November 16 & 17, 2018
9AM to 6PM

Seeking Vendors
\$25 per table.
Call Gann 541-561-3024

comfort and cheer

Give the Gift of **HAMLEY'S**
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE
for all occasions, in any amount

HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE & SALOON
8 SE COURT, PENDLETON • 541.278.1100

FREE HELP WITH MEDICARE

The Hermiston SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) Office has certified volunteers to help with Medicare questions. **FREE** service is available to people with Medicare, (or eligible for Medicare) & their families and caregivers.

One on One Consultations:

SHIBA office located in the Good Shepherd Medical Group Lobby Area.
Call **541-667-3507** to schedule an appointment with a certified SHIBA volunteer

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

2801 St. Anthony Way
Pendleton, OR 97801
www.sahpendleton.org