

Extension for study of chemical hormone disruption in sturgeon

Pacific University Professor Deke Gunderson, director of the University's environmental studies program, has received a two year extension to continue his study of endocrine disrupting chemicals in white sturgeon of the Columbia River.

Gunderson's \$60,000 grant is part of a \$350,000 commitment from the United States Geological Survey and the En-

vironmental Protection Agency to study the impact of chemicals on the white sturgeon. In collaboration with researchers at Oregon State University and Portland's Department of Environmental Quality, Gunderson is examining reasons for the white sturgeon's population decline.

"We suspect that one problem is the hormone-mimicking properties of certain chemi-

icals," said Gunderson, whose specialty is environmental toxicology. The sturgeons may be mistaking chemicals for hormones, leading to reproductive problems and suppression of the immune system, among other problems.

While a faculty member at the University of Southern Indiana, Gunderson found fish in the Ohio River were "loaded with pesticides not used in a

least 20 years." In the Columbia River, he similarly finds sturgeons with a chemical called DDE, a derivative of DDT, which has not been used for 25 years.

"The white sturgeon is not considered endangered in the Columbia yet," said Gunderson, "but there are certainly indications that they might be in trouble. They're definitely exposed to chemicals and have been exposed for a long time. The next step is to see how particular chemicals are affect-

ing them." Endocrine disruption, the focus of this particular research project, is one of the primary signs of pesticide poisoning. The white sturgeon is particularly vulnerable because females do not reproduce for at least the first 20 years of their lives. "In other words," said Gunderson, "they have to survive 20 years of exposure to chemicals before they can reproduce." At that point, the sturgeon eggs are frequently contaminated with pesticides.

Family cat shot in Vernonia; vandals strike again

A cat owned by Carol Brown, a resident of Washington Avenue, was shot with a .22 caliber bullet Oct. 18. In spite of a veterinarian's efforts to save her, the cat died two days later.



Vernonia City ordinance prohibits discharging a weapon within the City limits and state law specifies that intentionally killing an animal is Aggravated Animal Abuse I, a Class C Felony that is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Another senseless crime oc-

curred late Oct. 27 or early Oct. 28, when all of the decorative hanging baskets on the Rock Creek bridge were torn off and thrown into the creek. Five of the eight baskets were recovered but were badly damaged. The baskets are provided by volunteers with Vernonia Pride.

"There is no gain to persons who commit these crimes," said Vernonia Chief of Police Jim Walters, "except for some type of warped self-satisfaction. There is certainly no monetary gain when committing vandalism.

"We all know these crimes are committed by a small mi-

nority of individuals, but their acts are noticed and despised," Walters added.

Those with information regarding these crimes are urged to contact the police department. The phone number is 503-429-7335.

Pick up
The INDEPENDENT
in your mailbox for just
\$12 per year.
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
Call 429-9410
or see us at
725 Bridge Street



BAKER ROCK
RESOURCES

503-543-7141
Info at Baker-Rock.com

33485 E. CROWN ZELLERBACH ROAD.
NORTH CITY LIMITS OF SCAPPOOSE, HWY 30

- Redi-Mix Concrete
- Residential, Commercial, Industrial
- Asphalt Paving of all types
- Driveways, Parking Lots and Roads

44 Yrs. of Quality Service!
FREE ESTIMATES

Service Directory

TONY JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION
Specializing in Remodel & Repair

DRYROT FENCING
DRYWALL DECKS
TILE, VINYL SIDING
ROOFING CCB# 85280

"Have Tools Will Travel"
503-429-7009 Mobile: 503-939-8083

Vaughn's
NEHALEM VALLEY PUMP CO.
Pumps • Pressure Systems
Filtration • Chlorination
Low Well-Output Holding Systems

*Complete Water Systems.
from the well to the faucet.*

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
PVC Plumbing Pipe & Fittings
Hoisting Service Available — Roofing, Trusses, etc.

503-429-7311
CCB #84814
VAUGHN'S WATER CONDITIONING

ALAN FERGUSON CONSTRUCTION
FRAMING • DECKS • SIDING • DOORS • WINDOWS
FINISH CARPENTRY - REMODELING

Free Estimates • Prompt Service
1-503-366-4305
Licensed, Bonded & Insured CCB# 138303

DENNIS ELECTRIC, INC.
503-429-8930

ELECTRICAL SERVICE
Licensed & Bonded
FREE ESTIMATES
CCB No. 19808

Dennis & Schann Nelson
16725 Timber Rd. E., Vernonia, OR 97064

RAY PELSTER 4-HAIR
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
503-429-4000
821 BRIDGE ST., VERNONIA

the NEW WAY MOVING & STORAGE
1-800-570-5296
World Wide Movers
Paul Arpin Vanlines Agency
540 Milton Way
St. Helens, OR 97051

VINCENT BAKER CONSTRUCTION

- Excavation.....CCB #109588
- Septic Installation.....DEQ #37688
- Concrete Flatwork / Walls

LICENSED • INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES
503-429-5014

NORTHWEST EXCAVATING SERVICES
OR LIC. 106893 DEQ 37308

- Licensed Septic Installations • Ditches • Site Preparation
- Land Clearing & Leveling • Driveways • Drain Fields

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
Dick Titus - 503-429-1492
57230 Timber Road, Vernonia, OR 97064

GARDNERS FARM & HOME SUPPLY
Large & Small Animal and Pet Feed, Care Items, Dog & Cat Food, Animal Hardware, Fencing, Straw Shavings, Eastern Oregon Alfalfa & Grass Hay

GALES UPHOLSTERY
ESTIMATES - SAMPLE BOOKS
503-429-6481
Hrs: Tues-Fri 10-6...Sat 10-4 • 1-1/2 Miles north Vernonia Hwy 47

VCR Cleaning **\$18⁹⁵**
Present coupon prior to repair

\$10 OFF TV REPAIR
DOES NOT APPLY TO COMBO TV

RAINBOW TV & ELECTRONICS
232 NE Lincoln, Suite J
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
2 Blks East of Court • Ph/Fax: 503-640-5018

Meyer's Auto Body
GARY MEYER
Owner

Phone: 503-429-0248
493 Bridge Street
Vernonia, OR 97064

Building or Remodeling?

MORRISON REMODELING INC.

Kitchens, Bathrooms, Windows, Skylights, Tile, Counter Tops, Finish Carpentry, Vinyl Floors & More!

Jim Morrison Jr. 429-0154
Licensed • Bonded • Insured CCB# 112057

BE HERE WHEN THEY NEED YOU!
7,000 readers see The INDEPENDENT twice a month and when they need service, they use

The INDEPENDENT Service Directory - It Works
For Information Call 503-429-9410

POPPINO PAINTING
FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB No. 90548
503-429-7101

ECON-O-FAB Pole Buildings

CCB #51042
P.O. Box 6205
Aloha, OR 97006
503-649-5454