

Oregon Zoo makes green New Year's resolutions for better world

Even the elephants have signed on to help out with the Oregon Zoo's annual Green Resolutions. A new composting system for elephant manure made the list, along with waste-free company picnics and electronic registrations for classes and camps.

The zoo annually publishes a list of resolutions that set operational goals in the areas of recycling and energy, paper and water conservation.

"Because we exist to help conserve endangered species, the zoo must walk its talk and set an example," said Zoo Di-

rector Tony Vecchio. "By publishing the list, the zoo hopes to give other businesses ideas about how they can "green" their operations.

Some of the zoo's green resolutions for 2005 are:

- Institute a program offering a \$.50 discount off zoo admission for visitors who show proof of arriving by light rail or bus.
- Revise the recycling specifications in construction bid documents to tighten up what is required from contractors.
- Establish a program to recycle 100 percent of the waste from our catered picnics — including leftover food and used plates, cups and flatware.
- Implement a paperless, web-based registration system for our classes and camps.
- Create a facility for com-

posting animal manure on grounds for use in our gardens (This project was delayed from last year.)

- Use the garden in our farm exhibit to demonstrate sustainable home gardening, reduced pesticide use and wildlife-friendly gardening methods.

- Increase the sophistication of our electronic forms so that forms and processes can remain electronic through their entire cycle.

- Increase the percentage of memberships and donations made online by 14 percent.

- Institute an electronic application process for new volunteers.

- Eliminate paper RSVP cards for member/donor events in favor of email or phone RSVPs.

- Work with our local utility company on a solar cell demonstration project.

- Revisit proximity sensors for lighting in bathrooms and other intermittently occupied areas.

- Initiate a "Green Awards" program for employees.

This is the sixth year the zoo has published green resolutions. Many prior resolutions have become ongoing zoo policy, including recycling everything from wine corks to animal manure, using the least toxic products in grounds maintenance and custodial operations, and striving for a paperless office.

The zoo opens at 9:00 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. It is also accessible by MAX light rail line.

Letters, cont.

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ing hunger in Columbia County.

The St. Helens Police Department and the Columbia Pacific Food Bank would like to convey our thanks to those that contributed and to those that volunteered their time and efforts to make the event a success.

Our special thanks to Bill Eagle, Keith Goodwin, Anita Goodwin, Fergus Pilon, Chuck Parks, Larry Weaver, Joe Schultz, John Moore, Neal Sheppard, Monty Gustafson, Kevin Whitcomb, Dave Elder, Ann McConnell, Diane Dillard, Phil Donovan, Pam Powell, Mike Reedy, Lonny Welter, Jay

Tappan, Bill Mallory, Stan Mendenhall, Skip Baker, Jim Huff, Bob Brown, Melvin Moore, Lori Peterson, Rita Bernhard, Judy Lugar, Gary Heide, Karen Punch, Karen Ladd, Paula Beeks, Cindy Matzen, Tim Homann, Bob Hill, Brian Little, Cheryl Fantz, Leah Williams, Dow Tobin, Eric (Ho-Ho-Ho) Bunday, Clark Signs, Insurance Services Northwest, Red Apple Market, Midway Electric, Express Lane Espresso, Columbia River P.U.D., Mayor and Council—City of St. Helens, Columbia River Fire and Rescue.

Department of Police
St. Helens

Did You Know

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Columbia and Washington Counties. Please be courteous and respectful to other drivers and remember that not everyone is as comfortable and as skillful driving down or up the hill as you may be. Patience is not only a virtue but may actually be the difference between a safe or a dangerous trip.

My last comment is just a

simple reminder to show pride in our town by using trash cans and cleaning up after your animals. I have seen an increase in animal feces in the downtown area and accumulating garbage along Bridge St., particularly in the area of the Senior Center. Keep Vernonia beautiful by throwing that wrapper in the trash can, not on the ground.

Free K-9 demo sponsored by Drug Free Coalition

The Vernonia Drug Free Community Coalition will have a special meeting on January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park. All are welcome to come to this meeting.

Vernonia Police Officer Mike Kay will put his K-9 police dog,

Kruger, through his paces. Included will be an example of his drug sniffing abilities and an apprehension demonstration.

The Vernonia Drug Free Community Coalition meets the second Monday of each month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Vernonia School District office,

located at 475 Bridge Street.

The Coalition's goal is to reduce alcohol, drug and tobacco use by youngsters, by providing information and structured after school activities.

For more information call 503-704-3588.

Ike Says . . .

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tend not to lose their hair when infested with lice. The presentation revealed that the primary cause of HLS is due to an infestation of Old World lice, which must have been transported here through some means. Secondary infections of lungworms lead to respiratory distress in the deer and the combination of pneumonia and loss of hair leads to their death. This is counter to what Washington State University thought was the order of cause and effect. Regardless, the disease can be spread to Mule deer, but

there seems to be a barrier preventing the spread of the disease to the East. This may be an environmental barrier but, as of now, that is unknown.

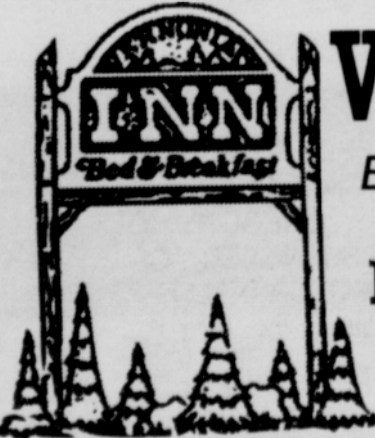
Another unknown is why some fawns, even twins, do not come down with the symptoms the same. I have also noticed that one fawn will be on its last legs and the other has only moderate or minor symptoms. While there is no proof (and twins would tend to discount this theory), it is thought that genetics may provide some protection to HLS. Personally I think this is a stretch, but if it is

true, then we should be offering all the protection that we can to the animals that are immune to HLS. Shooting Does who may be immune is like shooting ourselves in the foot at this point in the game.

What was discouraging to hear was that the funding for the study is running out and at the end of the study, all deer will be euthanized. If the theory of genetic immunity is valid, then allowing these study deer to progress through life, while observing the offspring of the deer that did not show symptoms should answer the question of immunity. Currently, I have heard of no talk of extending the study. In my opinion, we don't have time to play these games with such a valuable resource.

Have a happy New Year.

Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter
meets on the third Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Call 503-429-7193 for location of meeting.



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