

STARS program efforts growing

Columbia County STARS program recently received a \$2,735 grant from the STARS Foundation. The grant was funded by the PGE-Enron Foundation, which is committed to supporting the popular abstinence education program targeted to middle school children in Columbia County and throughout Oregon.

STARS has grown since 1995 from a small demonstration project in five schools in Oregon to nearly 200 middle schools across the state. Promising evaluation results indicate that STARS is effective, not only in encouraging teen abstinence, but also in avoiding other high-risk activities, as well.

In Columbia County, between 40-50 teen leaders will be trained to deliver the STARS program to 500 sixth graders in the Clatskanie,

Rainier, St. Helens and Vernonia school districts. The teen leaders will present one lesson per week for five consecutive weeks, enforcing the message of saying no to early sexual involvement and to other negative peer and social pressures. Since the onset of the STARS program in 1995, the Columbia County Teen pregnancy rate has dropped by 4.8 percent, bringing it down to nine percent at the end of September, 2000. Thanks to continued support from the Foundation, local businesses and communities, these numbers are continuing to drop each year.

For more information about the STARS program or how to get involved, call Pam Powell at Columbia County Public Health, 800-244-7860, or Vernonia STARS Coordinator, Juanita Dennis at 503-429-8092.



Vernonia High School Choir members made a cold evening seem warm with the beauty of Christmas carols before the community Christmas Tree was lighted December 8.

New BOSE Corporation product aids United Way

United Way of Columbia County has received notice of a fundraiser available to via a collaboration of BOSE Corporation and acoustic technologies.

As part of their research and technology efforts, BOSE created a new product called **County meeting on transportation need**.

The future of transportation in Columbia County will be the topic of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the Columbia County Transportation Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 3, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Conference Room, Room 331, Columbia County Courthouse, St. Helens, Oregon.

If any special accommodations are required, contact the Board of Commissioner's office at 503-397-4322 the day before the meeting.

ates, arranges and records music for use on their cutting edge sound systems. Now, they have recorded a compact disc with 16 jazz, classical, rock, folk and blues selections specially sequenced for "joyous emotional impact to soothe and bring a smile to the listener." This compilation called *Free As the Wind* features such diverse performers as the Seattle Symphony Orchestra,

the Dukes of Dixieland and Livingston Taylor, and would make a great holiday gift. The CD will be made available for \$12.99 from November through January through BOSE stores, their web site and their toll free number, 1-800-919-2673. There is no shipping charge. More than \$10.00 of each sale will go to the United Way where the purchaser lives. Sales of the BOSE CD will be tracked by zip.

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