

# January is Stalking Awareness Month

January has been designated as National Stalking Awareness Month, the Columbia County Women's Resource Center has announced.

While public awareness of stalking is low, the pervasiveness of stalking is very high. Most of the publicized stalking cases are those involving celebrities, though these cases are serious and dangerous, they are rare.

More commonly, victims are people being stalked by someone they know. About 77 percent of female and 64 percent of male victims know their stalker. Victims could be neighbors, friends or family members.

Considered a crime in all 50 states, stalking is usually defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person which would cause "a reasonable person" (in legal terms) to feel fear. Stalking behavior may range from harassing and annoying to dangerous and terrifying. Stalking may also escalate to violence and even result in murder.

More than one million women and 370,990 men are stalked annually and about one

in 12 women and one in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime.

"Stalking is often invisible to everyone except the victim," said Mary Lou Leary, Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. "Our hope is that National Stalking Awareness Month will serve to bring stalking to the attention of policy makers, law enforcement officials, and the general public so that, when stalking victims need help, we will all respond appropriately - doing every-

thing we can to keep them safe and hold offenders accountable for their actions."

Columbia County Women's Resource Center is encouraging all community members and the State of Oregon to promote awareness and public education about stalking during the month of January and throughout the year.

For more information or to schedule a free training on stalking, call Katie at Columbia County Women's Resource Center, 503-397-7110.



This picture was taken on December 23 during installation of the first Gateway Project archway. Above, on ladder is Dan Brown, standing below are Dan Murphy and Brett Costley, all members of the Gateway Project. Installation of the second archway, next to Grey Dawn Gallery, is now complete.

## Come see plan for Skills Park

A presentation on the proposed Vernonia Bicycle Recreation Skills Park will take place January 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Vernonia City Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your ideas on what you'd like to see in a bicycle skills park.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Hap - py, Hip - py, Hop - py, Flip - py, Flap - py, Flop - py, tear - tier, laugh - I a f f (slang), flam - flimflam, flick, flack, flunk, see - sea, alter - altar, bow - bough, lam - lamb, shtick - shtik, reign - rain, stick, stack, stuck, tare (vetch) - tear (eye fluid) - tear (rip) - tier (dock). No - I haven't lost my mind. I was gearing up for the Spelling Bee for seniors at Vernonia Senior Center on January 13. Did you go? Did you join in? Did the weather keep you stuck at home?

Just another thing you can put in your winters to remember. Cold, snow and ice. 18° - 20° on January 12, 2007.

I'm going to break from the norm so I, as President of Vernonia Cares, can say "Thank You" to all that have supported the Food Bank this past year. We have had several downs but with the support of our food

drives, especially the grade, middle and high school competitions, postal-workers, and attendance at our fund raiser events, the monetary donations from individuals, small groups, small businesses, corporations, and your prayers. we at our January business meeting had much to be happy and excited about for the year ahead. Not knowing what we can expect, we are looking forward to serving our area of Columbia County with a smile and a happy heart.

To all those folks that have so generously given us their free time daily or when they had some spare time: Every minute was and is deeply appreciated by the officers of Vernonia Cares. Again, THANK YOU.

President Jacqueline Ramsay, Vice President Andy Nebergall, Secretary Tammy Tankersley, Treasurer Josette Mitchell, Chairheads; Carolyn Velasco, Terry Grosnick and Director Sandy Welch.

If you need us, we are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. Be sure to bring proof of address.

## Please Don't Drink and Drive

Because we know how important your pet Is to you.....



We've added *no* extra fees for your pet at **The Grove Assisted Living**



ASSISTED LIVING & ENHANCED CARE COMMUNITY

2112 Oak Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116  
**(503) 359-1002**



### Products & Services

- PC parts & Service
- Low Rates for PC repair
- We build new computers
- Cingular Service and a Wide Variety of cell phones
- Office Supplies
- 24 hr. Ink & Toner Refill

Tel: 503.429.8324

Open Mon. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
842 Madison Ave., Vernonia

Tell your Valentine how you feel with an ad in **The Independent's** February 1 issue. Call today to order your very own affordable ad - 503-429-9410