



The Oak family found their perfect 12-foot fir last weekend at Kalamataca Ranch.

PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

search of the prey. Just when the perfect specimen was thought to be discovered, another family member found an even better one and so it went until at last, there it was, bathed in sunlight. A 12-foot fir, exquisitely proportioned.

Felling the prize is a family effort, each taking turns with the saw and shouting in unison t-i-m-b-e-r as the beast toppled over; then came the real work, carrying it out and loaded. Mom was spared the carry part with everybody else pitching in.

"We bought a tree last year, the COVID thing," Johnny said. "Never again," was Rena's input, both saying that the "... shared family experience of going into the woods cannot be found at a street corner lot."

The Oaks imagined an hour ride home and all the talk of decorating the tree, stringing lights outside and being able to tell others of their tree hunting adventure.

Shannon Miller of the Young Life staff said, "This has never been about raising

money. We are just so delighted that we can sponsor something that has such meaning to families, bringing them together in way they can remember all their lives."

Laurie Adams told of how some families come as they cannot otherwise afford a tree, especially this year when prices are up substantially. Several factors are driving the trend including over-the-top sales last year during the first Christmas during the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues this year exacerbated by drought.

Experts said tree buyers should expect to pay between 10 percent and 30 percent more for both live and artificial trees this year, and also have a smaller selection to choose from.

Oregon is the nation's top producer of Christmas trees, responsible for 31 percent of the U.S. harvest in 2020, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Growing the trees in the state is a \$100 million industry.

The Jewel

For over 30 years The Jewel has been a landmark and repeat destination for visitors and locals alike. This eye-popping gallery is filled with unique gold and silver jewelry designs, quality minerals and fossils, and dramatic solid stone (alabaster) lighting and hand-carved bowls. The gallery's dramatic visual impact is worth the visit and with prices from \$40 to \$12,000, there's something for every budget.

From the very beginning owner/designer Jan Dagggett's keen eye for design and unique ability to sculpt both stone and precious metals, gave her work a distinctive style. By age 17 she had sold her first jewelry collection on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, and in 1980 bought and developed an important agate mine, selling specimens to The Smithsonian Museum and collectors around the world. The Jewel in Sisters is her ultimate showcase for the Spectacular Stone in all its forms, and art of jewelry design.



Susan Waymire CTC, Travel Store

The new year of 2022 is just around the corner and you are one of those that is burning to get out of town. It's time to seek out the assistance of your friendly local travel advisor. One thing that COVID-19 has taught us is there are many more regulations to traveling overseas now.

Domestic travel is surging and international travel is on the upswing now that borders are slowly opening. Many tours and cruises are already booked as previously canceled reservations were forwarded to 2022.

Right now, Mexico, Central America, and South America are great destinations to travel if you are vaccinated. From expedition wildlife cruising to beach stays at remote resorts, there are many options available to finding that winter warmth. If you are looking for an adventure or active vacation, Susan Waymire is an expert in this area. Contact her to book that trip of a lifetime.



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