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Ornaments Promote Peace



Edith Gillis (from left), Kate Mytron and Karen Van Hoy look over a collection of homemade "Peace on Earth" ornaments being sold to benefit the charity work of UNICEF and Mercy Corps. The sale, sponsored by The Peace Project, was held Saturday at St. Andrew's Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th Ave. "We want to affirm that peace is possible. I think in the end, we all want peace on earth," Mytron said.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

'Trees of Hope' to Grace Forest Park

Plantings to honor loved ones and serve as act of hope after Sept. 11

Portland area residents can buy 'Trees of Hope' from the group Friends of Trees in honor of loved ones and to further community healing following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The trees will be planted during a commemorative event in Forest Park on Feb. 9.

"The act of planting a tree is profound and powerful," said Friends of Trees executive director Jane Foreman. "It represents our faith that the world will continue on long after the individuals who plant them."

The trees will also help the re-

gion face a major challenge. A survey by American Forests, one of America's oldest nonprofit conservation groups, shows that the Willamette Basin has lost almost half of its tree cover in the last 28 years.

Portland's tree canopy is less than half of the 25 percent tree cover recommended by the group.

A shortage of trees leads to higher stormwater management costs because there are fewer trees to absorb rainwater runoff, higher energy bills because our homes have less shade, and greater health care costs because

there are fewer trees to absorb air pollution.

Memorial trees sold for donations of \$25 to \$49 will include a card from Friends of Trees describing the gift to the person the donor designates.

For \$50, a donor can purchase a grove of six trees and a Friends of Trees certificate suitable for framing will be mailed to the person designated. Trees of Hope without cards or certificates cost just \$10.

For more information about holiday tree purchases, please call 503-282-8846, extension 17, or visit our web site at www.friendsoftrees.org.

New Booster Seat Law Requires Proper Fit

continued ▲ from Metro

The new law addresses an age group that falls in between those two categories.

"Safety belts are made for adults and they do not fit small children. Improper fit puts the child at increased risk for head, neck, abdominal and other injuries," said Carla Levinski, occupant protection coordinator for the state of Oregon. "In some cases, the child slides right out from under the safety belt during a crash if the belt does not fit properly."

As defined in the law, proper

fit means "the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck."

Levinski warns that "Riding on someone else's lap, securing more than one person in a safety belt system, or placing the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back are extremely dangerous practices and are not acceptable under any circumstance."

The law will not apply to those passenger vehicles that are equipped with lap belts only. Transportation officials say

booster seats should be available from any retail outlet that also sells child safety seats and low-income families who are WIC-eligible may receive purchasing assistance from their local health department.

Over two hundred certified child passenger safety technicians are available in Oregon to help parents with correct use of booster seats.

For more information about booster seats or to locate a technician in your area: Contact ACTS Oregon's Child Safety Resource Center at 503-656-7207. Or visit www.actsoregon.org.



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12/01

**OMSI Takes Viewers
 on Rainforest Journey**

For centuries, the Amazon Basin has been the obsession of explorers, scientists and anthropologists the world over. The Amazon River is the mightiest river in the world, forming a network of water channels that permeates nearly half of South America.

It is the lifeblood for whole civilizations and home to 5,000 different species of fish and more than 60,000 different species of plants that live on its banks.

This unique habitat is now captured in a 40-minute, Academy Award-nominated large-format film opening at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's Omnimax theatre on Friday, Jan. 18.

"Amazon" takes audiences on a journey of discovery along the river and the basin it flows through, from its cold mountainous source to its vast lowland rain forests.

The film also follows two "medicine men" from very different worlds who share a common quest.

Filmgoers are guided through the Amazon Basin from its source high in the Peruvian Andes through rain forests in Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Bo-

livia and Brazil. Along the journey, they are introduced to a variety of rare and endangered animals, including jaguar, tapir, pipa toad and sloth, as well as several water creatures such as pink dolphins, electric eels, piranhas and pirarucus-fish that can attain a length of 15 feet and a weight of 500 pounds.

A highlight of the film is the inclusion of the Zoe, a small, indigenous tribe with little contact with the outside world. Although access to remote tribes is usually denied to outsiders by the Brazilian government, a rare permit to enter Zoe territory was granted for filming a sequence of the "Amazon."

An isolated group of about 160 aborigines speaking a Tupi tongue, the Zoe may be the only intact tribe in the Americas largely unchanged by Western culture. They are the sole human inhabitants of an upland rain forest near the northern edge of the Amazon Basin. All Zoe adults wear a large labret - an ornament made of white poturu wood - in a perforation of the lip, to distinguish themselves from others.

For more information, call OMSI at 797-4537 or go online to www.omsi.edu.