

Huge Spring Planting

300 trees added to four neighborhoods

Calling trees just as important as big sewer pipes, Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman helped Friends of Trees kickoff its largest Neighborhood Trees planting of the season.

Thanks to more than 200 volunteers who participated in the first-day-of-spring planting last month, 300 large street and yard trees were planted in the neighborhoods of Cully, Madison South, Rose City Park and Roseway—an over 100 percent increase from the number planted last year.

"It's important to have trees that capture storm water and keep it from getting in our sewer system—to beautify neighborhoods, enhance property values, and to provide cooling in the summer time," said Saltzman, who oversees the Bureau of Environmental Services, a Friends of Trees project partner via the Grey to Green Initiative.

Included in the volunteers figure were about a dozen employees from the Port of Portland, the sponsor of the community planting.

"We decided we need to dig-in and kind



Friends of Trees Executive Director Scott Fogart (far left) and Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman (fifth from left) join Stephen Noble (far right) and his two sons, Stanley Lambert and Rasheed Lambert and their two friends, Deonnie Hines and Deshawn Nichols for a spring planting.

of get our hands dirty," said Director of Aviation Steve Schreiber, who also mentioned he grew up in the neighborhood, and

that his father and grandfather actually helped build the church that staged the Northeast Portland planting.

Chief Calls for Improved Interactions

continued ▲ from Front

Sizer also announced that Portland has been selected as one of five cities for a national pilot project launched by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law to develop best practices for when police interact with the mentally fragile.

Fritz—who heads the city's office of Emergency Communications, which handles 911 calls -- said that it's currently standard practice to dispatch an officer to a situation involving a mentally ill person. She said that she would be looking into better integrating mental health services into the system.

The city also plans to launch a pilot program that will pair a mental health worker with a police officer, in hopes of producing better recommendations on how to enhance coordination between the police and mental health professionals.

Don Moore, of the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, called the proposals positive steps. But he said they don't get to the root of a frayed mental health services system where people don't get the help they need and police become the first responders.

"Clearly what we're doing now doesn't work for anybody," Moore said.

The proposals drew fire from another group of mental health advocates, the Mental Health Association of Portland, which has been highly critical of the police and Saltzman's supervision of the bureau.

The association released a statement on its website, indicating that the group was upset at not being consulted on the proposals and claiming that the recommendations made no substantial changes, but instead asked for additional services from an underfunded mental health system.

"The closed-door decision-making shows the meek political softness of those who are making the proposal," the statement said.

Nuclear Security Accord

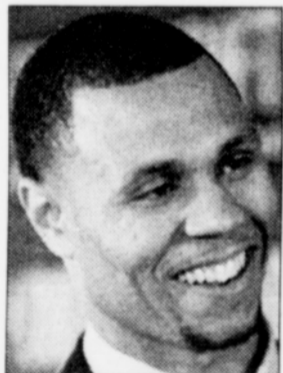


In full accord on a global threat, world leaders Tuesday endorsed President Barack Obama's call for securing all nuclear materials around the globe within four years to

keep them out of the grasp of terrorists. Obama declared "the American people will be safer and the world will be more secure" as a result.

Roy Could Miss Playoffs

Portland guard Brandon Roy could miss the postseason campaign after suffering a knee injury. Roy was injured in a Trail Blazer win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday and was found to



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have a partially torn meniscus. Roy, the team's leading scorer, missed Portland's win over Oklahoma City on Monday and will sit out the season finale on Wednesday.

Woods' Return Scores Big

Tiger Woods' losing battle to win the Masters golf tournament on Sunday in his comeback after months of sex scandal gave broadcaster CBS its highest ratings for the event in nine years, the network said on Monday.



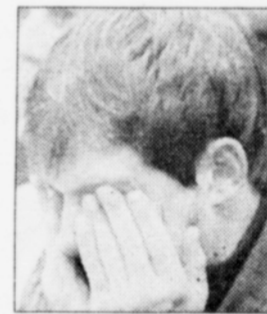
Lexus GX460 Warning

Toyota Motor Corp. is temporarily halting sales of the 2010 Lexus GX 460 after Consumer Reports issued a rare "Don't Buy"

warning amid concerns the large SUV has handling problems that could cause it to roll over during sharp turns.

Boy Scouts Held Liable

Plaintiff Kerry Lewis reacts after a verdict against the Boy Scouts of America was announced in Portland Tuesday. A jury found the organization negligent for repeated sexual abuse by assistant Scoutmaster Timur Dykes in the 1980s. Jurors awarded Lewis \$1.4 million in damages.



Cell Phone Crackdown

Millions of cellular telephone users across Mexico face the threat that their service will be cut off as soon as Wednesday for failing to register their telephone numbers with the government — a requirement aimed at curbing a rash of telephone extortion attempts.

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