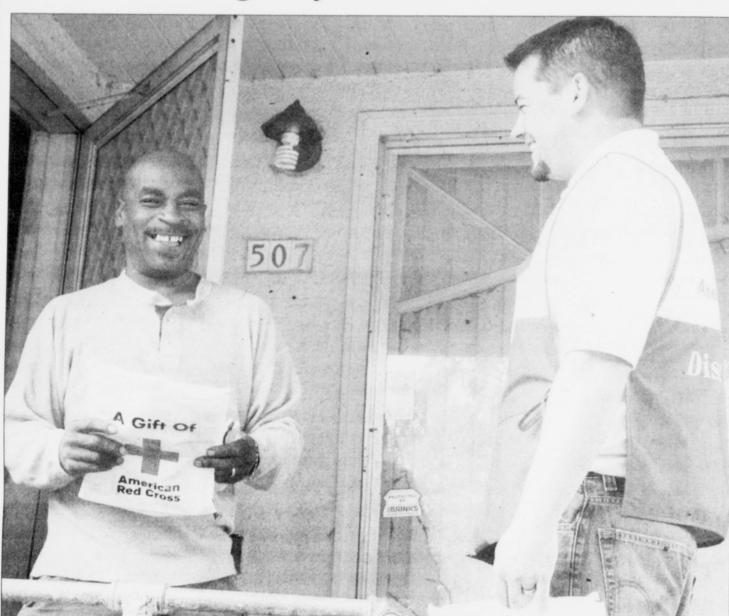
HEALTH MATTERS Students Learn Life Saving Skills, Preparedness

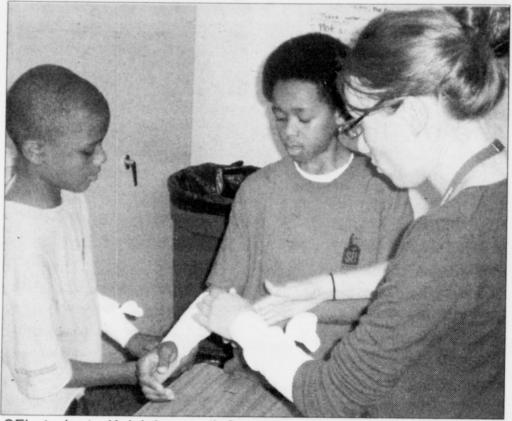
There's no better way to grab illustrate the amount of real blood nating as well as being ready to students' attention than with required after a major accident, and fake blood. The mixture is used to drives home the importance of do-

respond to all types of emergencies. Preparedness was the primary





American Red Cross volunteer Scott Cannon distributes free whistles, flashlights and safety information to a neighbor in the Boise and Eliot community. The recent distribution throughout the community was made possible by grants from Pacific Power Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Autzen Foundation and Spirit Mountain Community Fund



SEI students Kal Johnson (left) and Tyus Strickland learn first-aid techniques for bandaging an arm thanks to Jessie Shite, an instructor from the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross.

focus of an ongoing summer part-Chapter of the American Red Cross and SelfEnhancement, Inc., the nonprofit organization serving local youth, especially from north and northeast Portland.

Now in its third year, the program has just expanded beyond middle school students to include teaching life-saving skills in elementary school classrooms and train around 700 students.

"The partnership between SEI and the Oregon Trail Chapter is a much needed marriage," said Miki Hunnicutt, SEI's coordinator for the partnership. "Every year, we hear of was appropriate for all ages.

at least one incident where a stunership between the Oregon Trail dent helps save someone's life, and we attribute their life-saving skills to this training."

> During July, Red Cross instructors taught several classes per day, two days per week, at SEI Middle School and Ockley Green Elementary School.

> The curriculum included water safety, stranger danger, basic first aid, and important steps for emergencies including heart attacks and choking. All of the content was pulled from Red Cross youth courses and corresponded with the students' grade level so that the instruction

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Deadly Fungus Takes Root

Spores sicken people in Oregon

(AP) -- A fungus usually found in the tropics has taken root in the Pacific Northwest and has been blamed in the deaths of 15 people over the last six years, health officials said Thursday.

At least 60 people have been sickened in four states by the fungus, cryptococcus gattii, which grows on or around trees. Illness occurs months after people breathe in its microscopic spores, and can be treated with anti-fungal medications.

While still considered rare in North America, health officials say they want doctors to know to look for it and patients to be aware of it.

The overall risk to the public is very low, and there's no need for people to avoid going outdoors and exercising, said Julie Harris, an epidemiologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The fungal illness began to show up in British Columbia, Canada, in 1999, and may have spread southward, although at least one different strain has been found in the United States. Scientists don't know why the tropical illness has appeared in the Northwest but not in other northern locations.

Since 2004, there have been 43 cases in Oregon, 15 in Washington, one in California and one in Idaho, the CDC said Thursday.

Of those 60 cases, the outcome is known in 45, and 15 ended in death. The fungus caused nine of the deaths, and was believed to be a factor in the other six, officials reported.

Symptoms include a persistent cough, headache and shortness of breath. Some cases have worsened into a pneumonia- or meningitis-like illnesses. People are not the only victims. More than 50 cases in animals have been reported.