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* The first two hours of both days will be open to members of the University of Oregon community only; ID is required. All proceeds go towards purchasing new library materials.

For more information about the sale please contact Lisa Levitt, levitt@darkwing.uoregon.edu or 541-346-3096.
URL: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/colldev/booksale/booksale01.html>

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Two-and-a-half year old Nolan Elliott is a little apprehensive about meeting the world-renowned jolly old elf, unlike his sister Savannah. 'You have such a short time to reach the kids,' the man with the beard says. 'two or three seconds when you first meet them to gain a rapport.'

Local man is year-round Santa

■ Our own 'natural' Santa brings toys and Civil War wishes to girls and boys at Valley River

By Marcus Hathcock
Oregon Daily Emerald

He appeared in a horse-drawn carriage five days before Thanksgiving, with all the fanfare and hype of royalty.

Since his triumphant arrival at Valley River Center, Saint Nick has become quite familiar with the people of Eugene, Makiia Lucier, the assistant marketing manager at Valley River Center, said. She said Santa has been interviewed on the local radio station KDUCK, as well as other local media outlets.

"The local TV media have been out here several times," said Lucier. "He's a happening kind of guy."

This man who dons the famous red suit is sometimes known as Eu-

gene resident Allen Wade, but has adopted the persona of "Santa Claus."

"We're lucky to have found him," said Valley River Center marketing manager Amy Bresler. "He is the sweetest man — the perfect Santa."

This particular Santa is a member of Naturally Santa, Inc., a company that employs "Santa's helpers" with natural beards to roam the country year-round. Finding one of these "natural" Santas right here in Eugene is very fortunate, Bresler said.

Though "Santa" said he keeps busy until Christmas Eve, he said his work doesn't stop after the last Christmas present is delivered. He said he travels throughout the country all year catching children by surprise.

"Santa" said he sees quite a reaction when he walks through a store

such as Costco in full costume in the middle of the year.

"I never get sick of red and white and green," he said. "Pretty much everything I wear (is red, white, or green) unless I go out to check on people who I don't want to recognize me — bad boys and girls."

Santa won't be caught wearing green and yellow, though — or black and orange, for that matter.

"This Civil War time is a really fun time of the year," he said.

Saint Nick said he has a big game up at the North Pole — the Reindeer versus the Polar Bears — and that's where he gets into the game. Though he shows no particular school allegiance, "Santa" said he admits that the Duck spirit in Eugene is huge, especially with younger children.

"You'd be surprised how much

Turn to Santa, page 15

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