



Gerald Beard, left, Alberto Valdez and Alberto Bolla bale and sort Christmas trees on Tuesday at Hupp Farms in the Silverton area.

Christmas trees

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socation, said the nation’s market for trees is hardy, though drought in California and the Northeast has affected production there. She said people won’t have an issue finding trees this year.

Oregon trees go around the continental U.S. and abroad, said Bryan Ostlund, executive director of the

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association. They can go overseas to Asia, for example.

While supplies have tightened, Ostlund said, he wouldn’t call it a shortage. He attributes Oregon’s leadership in the nation to its ideal climate for the trees’ growth.

“It’s what mother nature provides us here in the Northwest,” he said, later adding, “It’s just a perfect natural growing environment for these conifers.”

Send questions, comments or news tips to jbach@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6714. Follow him on Twitter @JonathanMBach .

Tree lighting celebrations begin

CARLEE WRIGHT

STATESMAN JOURNAL

The holiday spirit comes alive at tree lighting celebrations around the area. Here’s what’s happening leading up to Christmas.

City of Silverton Tree Lighting: Beginning at 6 p.m., sip hot cocoa and listen to music while waiting for the big guy to arrive. Santa, riding on a Silverton Fire Department truck, will light the tree at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 at Town Square Park, corner of Main and Fiske streets, Silverton.

Christmas in the Country Parade and Tree Lighting: The parade will begin at 6 p.m. Dec. 3 on E Main Street at Sublimity Middle School, traveling south on

Pine, west on Church, north on Center to Starr. Following the parade, everyone is invited to Early Settlers Park, between Sublimity City Hall and fire station, for caroling and to watch as Santa and friends light the city Christmas tree.

Stayton Christmas Tree Lighting: Hear Christmas carols sung by students from Regis and St. Mary schools. Following the lighting, all are invited to the student center for hot chocolate, cookies and more Christmas music, 6 p.m. Dec. 6 at Regis High School, 550 W Regis St., Stayton.

Aumsville Christmas Tree Lighting: Santa will be at the Aumsville Fire Department visiting from 5:30 to 8 p.m., where there will be hot cocoa and cookies, pictures with Santa, caroling and a bounce house. See the lighting of the tree 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at Tower Park, 595 Main St., Aumsville.

Holidays at the Oregon State Capitol: Monday to Saturday, Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, there will be daily musical performances. Visit oregonlegislature.gov for full schedule of performers.

Dallas Winterfest: Sip hot cocoa or apple cider and nibble on a cookie while awaiting Santa’s arrival. Plus enjoy musical performances and caroling, and even get some Christmas shopping done. There will be several vendors on the lawn and downtown businesses with specials, 5 to 8 p.m. Santa arrives and will light the tree around 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2, at Polk County Courthouse Square, 850 Main St., Dallas.

City of Salem Tree Lighting: Salem Fire Department will bring Santa to light the tree in downtown Salem. Children in attendance can enter to win the chance to flip the switch and light the tree. The Holiday Ringers handbell performers will provide music starting at 6 p.m. There will be free cocoa and cookies, plus activities and live reindeer. Grant Community School Choir will perform. Lighting ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at Riverfront Park, 200 Water St. NE.

49th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting: A holiday parade leaves from Monmouth Library, 168 S Ecols St., at 6 p.m. and ventures to the giant sequoia tree on the Western Oregon University campus. After the lighting, there will be indoor activities including pictures with Santa, choir performances and cookie bake-off taking place Dec. 2 at Western Oregon University, 345 Monmouth Ave. N in Monmouth.

Holiday Celebration in Jackson Plaza: Begin your evening with a special holiday dinner, followed by a celebration in the plaza then holiday concert and sing-along. Dinner is available for purchase 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Goudy Commons. Go to Jackson Plaza for music, s’mores, cocoa and cookies while watching Hatfield clock tower get lit up. Wrap up your evening with a Family Holiday Concert & Sing-A-Long at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. The celebration takes place Dec. 3 at Willamette University.

City of Keizer Holiday Tree Lighting: Get into the holiday spirit with Christmas carols by The Grand Jazz Band. Children 12 years and younger can enter a drawing to help Santa flip the switch. Two names will be drawn. Escorted by the Keizer Fire District, Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. but festivities take place 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 6 at Walery Plaza, corner of Cherry Avenue and River Road.

Email cwright2@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6671 or follow on Twitter @CarleeWrightSJ

Mumps

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County, ages range from 1 year old to 40.

Landers said it’s taken a couple of weeks to confirm the local reports were indeed mumps, and not another viral infection masquerading as mumps.

“Since there are other viral infections that can cause swelling of the salivary glands, we had to do special viral isolation tests,” Landers said.

It’s tough to pinpoint a reason behind the sudden boost in cases, but Landers did mention some people who choose not to vaccinate their children or themselves as a contributing factor.

Landers said any time there is a low level of vaccines in a population, which can be defined as not having both doses of the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine or just one dose of the vaccine, the virus is bound to spread easily.

Oregon law requires students who attend school to receive two doses of MMR, with the first dose starting as children enter kindergarten. The second vaccine should be received at least 28 days after the first dose is administered.

As of 2015, 82 percent of 2-year-olds in Marion County were up to date on their MMR vaccines. In Polk County, roughly 77 percent of 2-year-olds were up to date on their MMR vaccines, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

“The best way you can prevent mumps is to get the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine,” Landers said.



DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Visitors at Silver Falls State Park wait in line for free refreshments and to enter a raffle. The state offered its parks as a peaceful alternative to hitting the mall.

Proposal

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Organizers kept track of attendance this year. A few visitors arrived before the official count began, but they estimate that about 2,200 visitors had arrived by 2 p.m.

This year, the Oregon State Parks Foundation and REI co-sponsored a raffle featuring outdoor gear. That was a draw for many, including Lydia Sherwood of Silverton and her son, Carson Von Weller, 7.

Sherwood said they were there to celebrate the “Opt Outside” movement and for the chance to win prizes. The rainy weather didn’t dampen their plans.

“We’re from Oregon,” Sherwood said. “Bundle up and out we go. You couldn’t pay me to go shopping on Black Friday.”

djpeterson@salem.gannett.com or follow at [Twitter.com/DPetersonSJ](https://twitter.com/DPetersonSJ)



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Go nuts at the fifth annual Mt. Angel Hazelnut Fest and German Holiday Market Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 S. Wilco Hwy. in Mt. Angel.

Hazelnuts

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dion Man’ and demonstrations by the Santiam Flycaster to visits with Santa and his helpers.

The Children’s Corner, presented by Mt. Angel Public Library, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Activities range from science to crafting. Kids can also make a festival holiday ornament out of hazelnuts, take part in a Cookie Crawl and receive a free book while supplies last.

Admission is free, making it a great family event, said Ernst, and attendees can sign up for opportunities to win door prizes.

For information, visit hazelnutfest.com. Email cwright2@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6671, or follow on Twitter @CarleeWrightSJ

Appeal Tribune

P.O. Box 13009
Salem, OR 97309

Address
P.O. Box 13009
Salem, OR 97309

Phone
503-873-8385

Fax
503-399-6706

Email
sanews@salem.gannett.com

Web site
www.SilvertonAppeal.com

Staff President
Ryan Kedzierski
503-399-6648
rkedzierski@gannett.com
Advertising
Terri McArthur
503-399-6630
tmcarthur@salem.gannett.com

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