

*From tree lightings to Santa trains, Polk County helped kick off the holiday season in style.*

# Santa Claus is coming to town



Ariana Andrade, right, waves as Santa arrives in Independence by train on Saturday afternoon.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer



Western Oregon University's 50th tree lighting ceremony had music, snacks, a light parade and a visit from Santa Claus on Friday evening.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer



Wolfie poses for a photo during the tree lighting ceremony on Friday night.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer



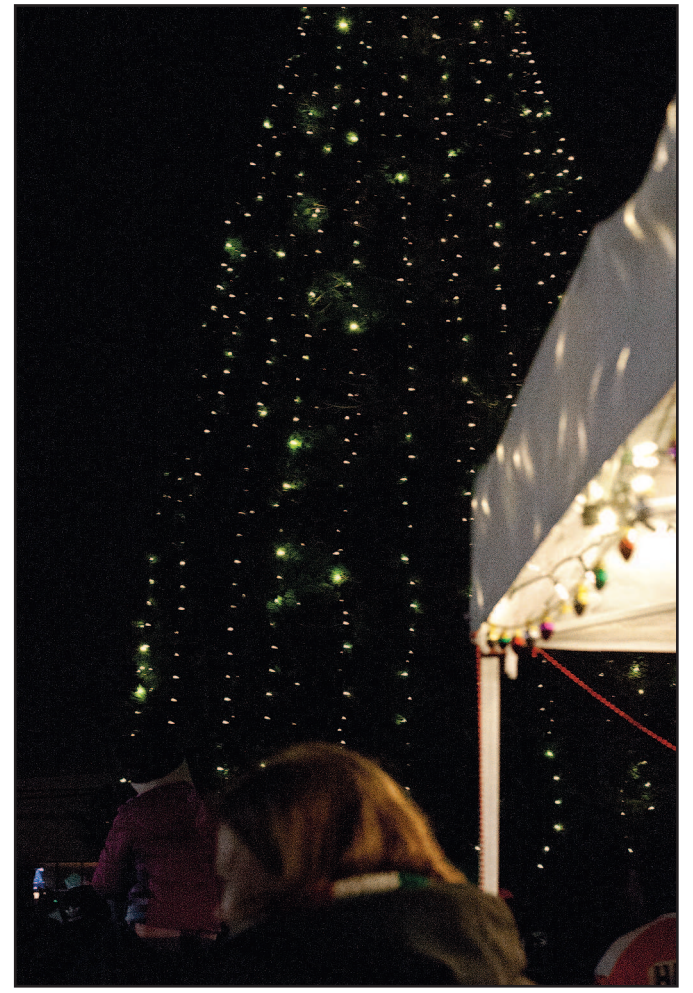
Santa waves to the crowd in Independence as he arrives on the Santa Train on Saturday afternoon.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer



Western Oregon University celebrated the 50th anniversary of its tree lighting on Friday.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer



Winterfest gave people a chance to enjoy the winter decorations.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



Calista Berringer, 6, tells Santa what she wants for Christmas during Winterfest in Dallas on Friday night.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



Jade and McKenzie helped hand out toys to children during the Santa Train on Saturday afternoon.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer