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CAPITOL

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to be special for us this year because of the fact that Codi got to spend some time at Mahonia Hall with us in about the last six months of her life," he said.

Kulongoski's wife, Mary Oberst, was dressed in red and read aloud a story, "Olive, the Other Reindeer," before lighting the 38-foot holiday tree with the help of Santa Claus. Inside the costume was Larry Campbell, a former Oregon House speaker-turned-lobbyist and father of Kulongoski's senior adviser on public safety.

The ceremony was preceded by a trumpet fanfare from West Salem High School and performances by the Salem Boys Choir and the Cummings Elementary School choir. Codi Frazier had attended Cummings.

"I'd say the Capitol looks just as nice as ever," said Fred Segrest of Salem, a retired state manager. "I know of nothing that's missing."

Tim Martinez of Salem brought his two sons, Gus, 10, and David, 6. But they had to stand at the edge of the crowd.

"I can't believe it," said Martinez, a lobbyist for the Oregon Bankers Association. "I thought



LORI CAIN / Statesman Journal

ON THE SPOT: Santa Claus waits to hear what Hailey Miller wants for Christmas on Tuesday during the 22nd annual Holidays at the Capitol celebration in downtown Salem.

we got here in plenty of time. It gets bigger and bigger every year."

Lorene Lovretich of Salem has seen many holiday celebrations in her decades at the Capitol.

"It always looks beautiful here at this time," said Lovretich, who this year wrapped up 40 years of working at legislative sessions.

Jennifer Morace of Salem brought her son, Logan, who wore white slippers with holiday bells.

"It's his second celebration here," she said. "When we came last year, he was only 4 months old."

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