



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters preschoolers made ornaments for the City Hall tree.

Children bring season’s joy to City Hall

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The true Christmas spirit arrived at City Hall last week when 30 bright-eyed preschoolers came to admire their handcrafted ornaments adorning the City Christmas tree in the lobby of City Hall.

A better-behaved passel of 3- to 5-year-olds probably couldn’t be found. Under the guidance of teachers Valerie Selig, Carissa Gascon, Ashley Nordell, Stephanie Connor and Clare Nieto, the Grasshoppers (3- to 4-year-olds) and Dragonflies (4- to 5-year-olds) filed into the lobby, coming in out of gray, rainy weather after walking over from the elementary school. Quickly following directions, they found seats

and settled in.

City staff was there to greet them, watch the excitement, and thank the children for their lovely ornaments, all made by the children especially for the City Hall tree. The project was the brainchild of Julie Pieper, finance administrative assistant for the City, who coordinated with the SPRD preschool teachers to make it happen. The ornaments were ready when the tree went up after Thanksgiving, although more had to be made to fill the tree.

Many photos were snapped as the children enjoyed warm chocolate chip cookies.

The preschoolers, with a show of hands, claimed which ornaments they had made as candy canes, teddy bears, and Christmas trees were pointed

out by Miss Val. After cleaning remaining chocolate off their faces and hands with wipes knowingly brought by the teachers, the preschoolers serenaded the staff with a rousing version of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” complete with accompanying gestures.

The children were asked if any of them had ever been to City Hall before. No one responded in the affirmative, although City Finance Director Joe O’Neill had a daughter among the visitors and assured everyone she has spent many hours at the City with him. When asked what they thought of City Hall, young Henry replied, “It’s cool.” And the vote was unanimous in their appreciation of the cookies.

HISTORIC: Lodge is being restored to former glory

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community members and foundations to renovate the CCC-built Lodge to its former

condition. You can learn more about the work they are doing by visiting their website www.santiampassskilodge.org.

Learn more about the Forest Service Heritage Program at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/heritage.



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Santiam Pass Ski Lodge in 1940.

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