

August 23, 2013

Gladstone High athletes plan second benefit game for injured alumnus

Jake Wheeler, a former Gladstone High football and basketball player, was injured in a July 14 swimming accident. A fractured neck vertebra left him paralyzed below the torso, but with daily therapy, doctors are hopeful he will be walking again in a year.

Gladstone's varsity football team plans their annual endowment game against Astoria, with half the proceeds to support a recovery and rehabilitation fund for Wheeler. Earlier this month, a Gladstone girls soccer match between the state defending champs and alumni players raised nearly \$7,000 to help the young man through a challenging time.

"Jake's in really good spirits," said alumni soccer event organizer Amanda Schumaker. "He's making great progress, and so many people are supporting him."

The football game will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 30 at Gladstone High School's Dick Baker Stadium, 18800 Portland Avenue. Tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. (No passes will be allowed for this game.)

Wheeler is now a college student at Portland State University and plans to continue his studies this fall. He lives in Gladstone, where his mother is remodeling the family's house for easier access.

For more information about this event, contact Athletic Director Ted Yates at 503-655-2544, ext. 403.

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Church volunteers pitch in to help Gladstone schools

August 17 and 18, more than 125 people from churches across Gladstone joined forces as part of the annual "Church Out Day," tackling a variety of projects to ready the community's schools for the arrival of students in September. The event was organized by the Gladstone Ministerial Association.

A group of 25 people worked to repaint the interiors of two modular classrooms at the high school, preparing the rooms to house a community clothing bank that will open this fall. The new clothes closet will serve Gladstone students of all ages, and families who are clients of the Gladstone Center for Children and Families.

In addition, more than 100 volunteers worked on weeding, maintenance, and bark dust spreading in planters and grounds around Gladstone's four school buildings.

“The volunteers spread a four inch layer of bark over more than 7,700 square feet,” said Maintenance Supervisor Chris Green. “The Church Out Day lasts about four hours, and it’s amazing what can be accomplished by such a large, hard-working group in that time frame. We are so grateful for the effort.”

Participants in the event included families from Gladstone Christian Church, Gladstone Church of the Nazarene, Gladstone First Baptist Church, Gospel Fellowship Community Church, and St. Stephen Lutheran Church.