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Gladstone announces winter recreation schedule

For those whose New Year's resolution is to try something new, Gladstone has a list of fun, affordable winter classes for seniors, adults, and kids. The Community Schools guide is available at <http://tinyurl.com/GladstoneFun>

Opportunities for youths include sports, dance, cheerleading, tumbling, baseball batting, guitar, ukulele and driver education.

Classes for adults and seniors include Zumba, first aid, genealogy, computer technology, driving safety, a variety of dance classes, investing, Spanish, gardening, sign language, cooking, guitar, ukulele, woodworking, tai chi, yoga, and more.

For more information about how to register, call Tammy Tracy at 503-650-2570.

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Gladstone Ministerial Association seeks donations for clothes closet at GHS

To help families facing hard times, the Gladstone Ministerial Association has teamed up with Gladstone Schools to create a community clothes closet located at Gladstone High. The site seeks donations of clothing for babies, kids, and teens.

Donations will be accepted from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sundays, December 15, and 22. The clothes closet is located in a portable classroom on the Northeast corner of the Gladstone High campus. Easy access is via the fire lane off Nelson St., just north of Gladstone High/

Needed items include new packages of socks and underwear, plus clean, gently used pants, shirts, sweaters, hoodies, shoes, jackets, gloves, and hats in current fashions. The group also seeks donations of clothing racks and bins to outfit the site, plus department store shopping bags for those served.

The site hopes to be up and running by January. For more information, call LaRae Applebee at 503-758-4411.

Partners in the project include St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Gladstone First Baptist Church, Gladstone Christian Church, Gladstone Nazarene Church, the Gospel Fellowship Community Church, and Gladstone Schools.

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Registration underway for free January parenting class

Parents mystified by middle schoolers will find new strategies to improve family communication, motivate kids, and use positive discipline in a free 4-night workshop presented by Northwest Family Services. Free childcare will be provided.

The Parent Power class will be held Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. on January 9, 16, 23 and 30 at Kraxberger Middle School in Gladstone. The school is located at 17777 Webster Road.

Spaces are filling fast, so register now at www.lastingrelationships.com or call 503.546.6377.

Volunteers needed to run elementary enrichment classes

Gladstone's Wetten Elementary needs volunteers who have the time and talent to teach children to knit, crochet, cook, play chess, build Legos or do crafts. The school plans to launch a number of after school classes this winter.

To get involved, contact Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564 ext. 265 (or email johnsona@gladstone.k12.or.us). The commitment is 1 hour, once a week from 2:20 to 3:20 p.m. The school is located at 250 East Exeter Street in Gladstone.

"We want every child to have the opportunity to master new skills, join a positive peer group, and connect with an adult mentor," said Johnson. "These experiences boost a student's odds of success in school."

Wetten Elementary seeks donations of used Legos

Families who need to make room for new Christmas toys will find a good home for their excess Legos at John Wetten Elementary in Gladstone. The building pieces will be used for a new after school club at the school.

"With the new educational emphasis on science, technology, and engineering, we want to start kids thinking and planning in three dimensions from their earliest years in school," said Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson. "One family's old toys can help students consider a career path of building and designing."

To donate Legos, deliver them during school hours at 250 E. Exeter Street in Gladstone.

Gladettes shine as Hip Hop state champions

The Gladstone High School dance team is the new Oregon state champion in large group Hip Hop, beating out 5A and 6A teams for the honor. The Gladettes also took home the 3rd place trophy in Kick, with strong showings in two other categories.

"These girls are more than amazing artists," said Coach Denise Harris. "Their strength as a team adds to their success."