

NR 121714

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**Gladstone Electric Vehicle Club seeks donations to advance project**

The Gladstone Electric Vehicle Organization (GEVO) is on a mission: converting an old Chevy pickup into an electric vehicle. The high school club is in its second year of the project.

Thanks to partnership with the National Guard, the newly painted cab and bed have been delivered to the high school. Soon a group of students will begin assembling the truck's drive train, including an electric motor, a new heavy-duty clutch, and the transmission. Battery support boxes, donated last year, will be installed in January and February.

"We hope to recruit some skilled volunteers to help with a number of things," said project advisor Steve Carigg. "Donations of skills and parts are always welcome.

"We plan to do a crowd-funding campaign to raise funds for an on-board charging system," said Carigg. "We need the charging system to complete our electric components. Then, if we can raise enough funds, we may also purchase lighter-weight lithium batteries to reduce weight and increase the range of the truck."

Businesses who donate expertise and parts will have their decals placed on the truck in recognition. The group seeks skilled volunteers to help with the following:

- Installing brake lines and a power braking system
- Designing and installing interior upholstery in the truck cabin
- Installing wiring and hooking up components to run the secondary 12-volt system to run the lights and heater
- Installing helper springs or an air suspension in the back to support the heavy batteries
- Installing windshield wipers and windows in the cab

To volunteer or to donate to the project, contact Steve Carigg at [steve.carigg@gmail.com](mailto:steve.carigg@gmail.com).

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**Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary helps students**

Winter is a hard season for kids without a warm winter jacket. That's why the Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary club has stepped up to provide \$1,530 in grant funds to John Wetten Elementary, Kraxberger Middle School, and Gladstone High.

The funds will provide students in need with everything from eyeglasses and clothing to coats and shoes. Earlier this fall, the group also provided dictionaries to all 150 third graders, \$1,000 for Story Hour at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, and \$400 to purchase a new computer for the Kraxberger Robotics Club.

“We are truly blessed that this small town is filled with so many caring neighbors,” said district spokeswoman Leslie Robinette. “The Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary consistently steps up to help children across our community.”

**PHOTO: Rotary members prepare to hand out free dictionaries to every third grader at Gladstone’s John Wetten Elementary. [Photo by Jal Duncan Photography]**

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**Grant supports kindergarten preparation**

About half the children in Oregon cannot afford preschool, and this puts them at an academic disadvantage when they start kindergarten. The Byron & Cynthia Grant Foundation is addressing this issue directly by funding a new, month-long Kindergarten Summer Camp at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.

Providing opportunities for inquiry-based learning and an introduction to school routines, the program is designed to help children develop self-regulation, focus, and group interaction skills, while also building a foundation for literacy and math.

“By leveling the playing field in a child’s earliest years, we have the best opportunity to leverage success in ways that impact life-long health, social skills, and learning,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “We are grateful to the Grant family for their partnership in this project and their generous \$17,000 contribution.”

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**Gladstone AP students to visit Oregon Historical Society**

AP United States History students at Gladstone High School will travel to the Oregon Historical Society this spring, thanks to a \$700 field trip grant from Target.

“The field trip will kick off a local history research project, giving students the opportunity to choose their own topic,” said teacher Matt Misely. “I am excited about the opportunity to use the document room at the museum.”

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