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**GHS special education students help with Backpack Buddies**

Counting out cans of tuna, fruit cups, and loaves of Dave’s Killer Bread, special education students at Gladstone High School work each Tuesday in the Gladstone Food Pantry located on the school campus. Together they load backpacks with donated food for children whose families are facing hard times.

“These students have the chance to develop and practice real-world job skills like inventory, repackaging, and teamwork,” said Principal Natalie Osburn. “At the same time, this is an important community service project. We could not run Backpack Buddies without their help.”

Located in a modular classroom on the north side of the Gladstone High School campus, the food pantry provides struggling families with supplemental food. The volunteer-run facility, accessed off Nelson Lane, is open to serve families on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call coordinator Tessa Dailey at 503.927.6452.

**PHOTO: Gladstone High special education students pack food for the Backpack Buddies program, which serves families in need.**

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**Gladstone High robotics team to compete Friday & Saturday**

For the Gladstone High robotics team, build season is filled with late nights and problem solving brainstorming as they work to build and program a robot for the regional competition.

Each competing team got the rules for the competition simultaneously on January 3 and immediately set to work designing their robot. The Gladstone team, with mentors from Intel, A-dec, and Boeing, includes students who specialize in fabrication, programming, electronics, leadership, and communications.

This year’s challenge, Recycle Rush, was to create a robot to stack totes and trash cans to earn points for a team’s alliance. A short video explaining the competition is available here: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/2015-game>

Gladstone will compete against other local teams at Oregon City High School’s old Jackson Campus. Opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28, at 8:30 a.m. A live stream of the event will be available at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/pnwfirst-red>.

**PHOTO: Members of Gladstone High’s Robotics Team #3131 pose with their competition-ready robot, “bagged and tagged” for competition.**

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**Kraxberger student spends day with Oregon Legislature**

During the Legislative session, Kraxberger student Isabella Dostert spent a day at the state capital, where she served as an honorary page to Oregon Representative Brent Barton.

The Gladstone 8<sup>th</sup> grader had the opportunity to tour the capital and learn about Oregon government while helping to deliver messages in the capital building.

“Isabella has been studying politics at school, and she is interested in future employment related to politics or history,” said Dostert’s mother Caryn Dostert. “Her favorite thing about the trip was meeting Representative Brent Barton. Next she is hoping to sign up for the State Senate Honorary Page program.”

**PHOTO: Gladstone student Isabella Dostert (right) spent a day in the state capital helping Representative Brent Barton’s staff.**

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**Gladstone story hour includes book giveaway**

Children six and under are invited to a March 5 Story Hour at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. The Thursday event is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. at 18905 Portland Avenue.

The theme for the event is pets. Children will enjoy entertaining stories as well as crafts, activities, songs, and games that help them build school-readiness skills. Raffle prizes will be available, and each child attending will get a free book.

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**Flapjack fundraiser supports 8<sup>th</sup> grade party**

Community members are invited to a flapjack fundraiser to support the 8<sup>th</sup> grade party at Kraxberger Middle School.

The event is scheduled for this Saturday, February 28, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee’s restaurant, 10172 SE 82<sup>nd</sup>. Admission is \$8.