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Safeway donates to kindergarten program

The Safeway Foundation contributed \$1,375 to the Gladstone Center for Children and Families to support the Little Leopards Camp, a summer program that prepares at-risk children to start kindergarten.

“Most of the children served by the program did not have the opportunity to attend preschool, so this gives them the opportunity to prepare for school both academically and socially,” said Early Learning Director Jere Applebee. “The program also provides classes for parents to show them how to support their child’s learning at home.”

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GHS student wins scholarship

SELCO Community Credit Union awarded \$1,500 college scholarships to Gladstone High School senior Kyle Anderson. The award, one of 22 given across Oregon, provides assistance for college-related expenses.

Scholarship recipients were selected from 26 Oregon counties based on criteria that include both academic performance and community involvement.

Photo: Kyle Anderson

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Gladstone Backpack Buddies honored

The Gladstone School Board presented a Growing Great People award to Gladstone’s Backpack Buddies program. Each week, the program provides a bag of nutritious food to low-income families with children in Gladstone schools and Head Start. Since the beginning of the school year, the number of families served in Gladstone’s four schools has increased from 60 to 94.

“We know good nutrition is important to stabilize families so kids can learn,” said teacher Linda Fletcher.

Gladstone High special education students from Fletcher’s vocational skills class sort, inventory, and pack the food each week, learning practical job skills and the importance of community service.

Food donors include Gospel Fellowship Community Church, Gladstone First Baptist, The Table Church, The Source Church, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, and Gladstone Christian Church.

The program also gets regular donations from Dave’s Killer Bread and Bob’s Red Mill. Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary donated \$3,200 to the program this year.

PHOTO: Steve Gifford of Gladstone First Baptist, teacher Linda Fletcher, and special education assistant Teresa Watts were recognized for their contributions to Gladstone’s Backpack Buddies program.

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Photo: Kona Ice made a \$500 donation to John Wetten Elementary. Principal Wendy Wilson 4th grader Alex Thrush, and Head Secretary Linda Alberico celebrate the contribution, which will support classroom technology.