

NR 090419

**Gladstone neighbors clear lightning strike debris**

On August 28, a thunderstorm shook the neighborhood, and lightning struck a giant sequoia near the intersection of Raymond Street and Oatfield Road. The tree exploded, damaging two homes and scattering four tons of wood and debris across the neighborhood.

One of the damaged homes belonged to Nancy Bailey, retired principal of Kraxberger Middle School.

“My house needs to be rebuilt on the top and two sides,” said Bailey. “Rafters were broken, and the roof was pierced in 12 places. I still have a limb poking through the bedroom ceiling. It will take months to fix, but I am OK.”

When the Gladstone community heard the news, a group of 30 school district staff, students, and recent graduates showed up to help, bringing yard tools, chainsaws, pickups, and trailers. School district employee Ryan Johnson even brought his father’s dump truck.

“In three hours, they removed almost four tons of tree debris and delivered several cords of firewood to a local church for families in need,” said Bailey. “In my 33-year relationship with the Gladstone community, I have never been more grateful for the love and support we provide each other every day. This is truly a special place.”

**PHOTO: Gladstone Schools Facility Manager Ryan Johnson uses a chainsaw to cut a Sequoia into firewood after it was struck by lightning August 28.**

**PHOTO: Gladstone High alumni Ben McCoy, Damian Zanes, and Renee Baker load firewood for donation to families in need.**

**PHOTO: Students, recent graduates and staff from the Gladstone School District turned out in force to clean up debris after a sequoia damaged the home of retired Kraxberger Principal Nancy Bailey.**

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**Grocery Outlet donates to two food pantries**

In July, shoppers at the Oak Grove Grocery Outlet participated in the Freedom from Hunger food drive to raise funds for two local food pantries. The store greatly exceeded previous efforts, raising \$15,633.

The funds will be split between the Gladstone Food Pantry, located at Gladstone High School, and King’s Cupboard, located at King of Kings Lutheran Church.

“We are excited to use these funds to get food items we cannot get from other sources,” said Gladstone Food Pantry Manager Alex Van Pelt. “Cheese, jam, eggs, and cereal bring greater variety to the families we serve.”

**PHOTO: Volunteer Dan Oberg [left] picks up a large food order for the Gladstone Food Pantry. Oak Grove Grocery Outlet raised \$15 633 in July for two local food pantries.**

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**PHOTO: Envirotest donates school supplies**