

GHS to tackle state championship game on Saturday

Gladstone will play in the state championship football game at 5 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 29, in Hillsboro Stadium. This is the school's first state championship game in 36 years.

A student-only Rooter Bus is available, departing at 3:30 p.m. and returning around 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$10, bus & admission included. Permission slips and money must be turned in to Mrs. Durkee in the Athletic Office by Tuesday noon.

Presale tickets to the game for anyone who wants to attend are on sale now at the GHS bookkeeper's window. Please purchase from Debbie Poyser by noon Tuesday. The price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Please purchase by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Event parking will be \$4. Free on-line radio broadcast of the game is available here:

<http://www.osaa.org/radio-network>

Gladstone High School opens new food pantry; coordinator needed

Nationally, one in five families with children 18 and under lives below the poverty line. To help stabilize families so students can succeed in school, Gladstone High School is opening a food pantry.

Starting December 4, the pantry will open Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. The pantry is located next door to the Clothes Closet in a portable on the north side of the GHS campus (18800 Portland Avenue). Side road access is available off Nelson Lane.

The school is searching for the right volunteer to coordinate the food pantry, a leader willing to contribute eight hours a week. Those who wish to apply can contact Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt at 503.656.6564.

"The pantry will give families an emergency food box to help stretch their budget in tough times," said Principal Natalie Osburn. "In time, we hope to offer cooking classes and to partner with a community garden to provide fresh produce."

Partners providing food for the project include Gladstone Christian Church, First Baptist Church of Gladstone, the Gladstone Education Foundation, Gladstone High and Kraxberger Middle School.

The food pantry will close for winter break starting December 18. It will reopen January 8, 2015.

Family Resource Coordinator supports Gladstone families

Thanks to a \$65,000 grant from Family Care Health Plans, the Gladstone Center for Children & Families will continue providing social service navigation and referral to struggling families.

When families face challenging situations, Family Resource Coordinator Katrina Navarrete helps them restabilize their lives by accessing social service programs to help with housing, health care, counseling, food resources, parenting support, and vocational support.

Run by Northwest Family Services, the program serves families with children age eight and under who

live in the Gladstone, Jennings Lodge, and the Holcomb area in Oregon City. To access services, families in these areas can call 503.496.3943. The program serves over 400 individuals each year.

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Fifth graders launch mitten drive

Two Gladstone fifth graders have launched a mitten drive in support of the Fill a Stocking holiday giving program. Elizabeth Bailey and Aaliyah Madison, students at John Wetten Elementary, are coordinating the effort, asking community members to bring donations of mittens, socks, and gloves to the school.

Last year the effort provided needed items to over 3200 people. The students hope to help the effort serve even more people this year. Through December 12, donations can be delivered during school hours to John Wetten Elementary, 250 E. Exeter Street in Gladstone.

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GHS Adopt-a-Family gift drive begins

To help local families, Gladstone High students will begin their annual Adopt-a-Family gift drive on December 1. The effort will provide clothing and toys to families facing hard times, along with food and toiletries gathered earlier this fall.

Community members who wish to help can drop off new, unwrapped jackets, hoodies, jeans, and toys during school hours. Gift tags with other needed items are available in the school office.

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Family Zumba night to support GHS grad party

Looking for a fun family workout to support a good cause? Don't miss Zumba night, a dance aerobic fundraiser for the Gladstone High School graduation night party. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3. All ages are welcome. Admission is a \$5 per person donation.

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Booster Club tree sale to benefit Gladstone athletes

Need to simplify your holiday season? Choose your Christmas tree at the Gladstone Boosters tree sale, and proceeds will benefit sports programs at Gladstone High.

The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, in the parking lot at Gladstone High, 18800 Portland Avenue. Choose from Douglas fir, Grand fir, Nobles, or wreaths. Local delivery is available.

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Winter activities guide offers fun & learning

If you've made a commitment to try something new in 2015, registration is underway for a number of opportunities in the Gladstone Community Education & Recreation Guide.

From genealogy, youth sports, and ukulele classes to dance, fencing, Zumba, and art, there are offerings for all ages and interests. Driver Education is also available.

To view the course guide and register, visit <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/about-us/community/community-education/>. For more information, call Sue Surratt at 503.650.2570.

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Clothes Closet shuttered over winter break

Families needing warm jackets, sweaters, and school clothes are invited to visit the Gladstone Clothes Closet before winter break, as are donors of new socks and underwear, needed to replenish supplies.

The Clothes Closet provides free clothing for youths on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The facility is located in a portable off Nelson Lane, on the north side of the Gladstone High campus.

The Clothes Closet will close for winter break beginning December 18, but emergency help will be available by calling LaRae Applebee at 503.758.4411.

The center will reopen on Thursday, January 8, 2015 for regular Thursday and Saturday hours.

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Gladettes excel in competition

The Gladettes dance team is gaining a reputation for excellence, taking first in Hip Hop, first in Contemporary, second in Kick, and third in Jazz in a recent competition.

They have qualified to compete December 6 in the state category championships.