

Twin Lakes annual Teen Giving Tree has begun, applications available

Christmas is around the corner and there is no stopping it. No matter how busy people are at home and work, the holidays are near. While it may seem early to be thinking of the holidays, October is kickoff time for the Twin Lakes Store's sixth annual Teen Giving Tree.

"What a great way to put the holidays in your heart, by helping the youth right here in our own community," said Vicki Ambrosio, owner of Twin Lakes Store. "I started designing the flyers for this year's event and immediately felt the spark of excitement."

"This is our sixth year, and I've seen how it affects not just the teenagers, but also the parents and the grandparents that are raising many of our area youth."

An event like the Teen Giving Tree takes several months of planning. It also includes shopping and organizing, not just the gifts but stocking stuffers and a small snack box as well.

Twin Lakes Store does go all out on this event. Rather than handing the gifts to the teenager, the store hosts a Christmas party at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue's Sutton Lake Fire Station in a "Distribution Party."

Last year, the hall was maxed to capacity as community members and volunteers enjoyed this fast paced, crazy holiday occasion.

"We will make a few changes again this year," Ambrosio said. "We want to keep the party at the Sutton Lake Fire Station and we want to accommodate all the participants, so changes in format will have to come."

Stop by Twin Lakes Store, on Highway 101 north of Florence, anytime to pick up an Application/Wish List. Teens are encouraged to seriously consider their list of needs and wants, including any educational supplies, and be specific in their choices including colors, sizes etc.

This year's Distribution Party is scheduled for Dec. 20.

"It takes a community to pull off an event like this. We have very kind and generous neighbors that make a point to participate each year," Ambrosio said.

For more information, to help with fundraising or to inquire for a teen, call Twin Lakes Store at 541-997-3021 or email twinlakesstore@gmail.com.

SALON OPENING ON WEDNESDAY



COURTESY PHOTOS

The public is invited to a grand opening ribbon cutting of Salon Chic, located at 2825 Highway 101 next to Rosa's Mexican restaurant, on Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be served. Come meet the staff, who offer services for hair, nails, waxing and makeup.

LOGO from page 1A

While it was originally expected that the board would make a final decision on the matter during the meeting, there were concerns that by doing so, the community, including current students and alumni, would not be included in the decision.

To help alleviate this concern, the board decided to let community members decide.

"Anyone can cast their vote for the design they would prefer to see in the center of the Mapleton High School gym floor," the district said in a press release.

The board defined "community" as students past and present, along with non-students.

"Everyone should get an equal vote," the release said.

Whichever the community

votes for, the board stated they will be committed to honoring the choice.

The board whittled down the choices to two renderings the community can choose from: Either the traditional Salty design that currently rests on the gym floor, or a big "M," coupled with the phrase "Home of the Sailors."

"The photos of the logo designs are 'renderings,' therefore, they may not be exactly as shown in the pictures, but we will get as close as we can (especially with Salty)," Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said.

While there had been alternate designs of Salty presented to the school board, including one designed by a Disney artist, the board opted to stay with the more traditional Salty logo that has been seen on the gym floor since the 1970s.

The community can vote in one of two ways: Visiting the link on the Mapleton School District website at www.mapleton.k12.or.us, or by coming to the high school office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Voting closes at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13.

The gym floor design with the most votes will be approved at the Wednesday, Nov. 14 board meeting at Mapleton High School at 6 p.m.

While each choice comes with its own caveat, the board stated they chose the two options to ensure that the history of Mapleton is represented in the gym in the most responsible way. Both of the options for voting include preserving Salty's presence in the gym.

If the community chooses the "M" design, this does not mean that Salty will disappear from the gym all together. While the floor design will change, a mural will be installed on the wall including the past iterations of Salty, Salty and any other mascots that have been designed throughout the school's history.

If the community decides to keep the traditional Salty design on the gym floor, it's possible that the school could be forced to change the design in the future.

The board received advice from the Oregon School Board Association that "a mascot should not discriminate in any way or have the effect of favoring one protected class over another."

During the past year, there have been three statewide cases involving high school mascots that were deemed non-inclusive, including a controversy in South Eugene surrounding the name "Axemen." The name was changed to simply "Axe."

If state laws eventually do change prohibiting mascots from being non-inclusive, Mapleton could be forced to incur additional costs to replace the logo. The current estimate to sand, seal, stripe, paint and apply three coats of finish is \$26,795.

Refinishing the gym floor is what began the current controversy surrounding Salty in the first place, when the school board began asking questions on whether or not mascot was inclusive of all Mapleton students and alumni, and if everyone was being represented by Salty. This led to a round of sometimes heated public comment, with the majority of the community asking to keep Salty as is.

This final community vote will only affect the gym floor logo, and not the use of Salty on the school district's website, nor will it be a deciding vote on any other mascots the school uses, such as the anchor or schooner boat.

And, as stressed by the board, this will not affect the Mapleton's use of the term "Sailors."

"We will always be Sailors," board members wrote in the press release.

And it's as Sailors that the community will decide the fate of Salty on the gym floor.

Buying or Selling? I can help.



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Editor's Note: Siuslaw News previously covered the Mapleton mascot question in depth in "Worth his salt?" on Oct. 13, 2018.