

Community News

'POUNDING' FOOD COLLECTION SET FOR SATURDAY

The 19th annual "Pounding" to benefit Florence Food Share will be held at Grocery Outlet on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Founded and hosted by local businesswoman Cindy Wobbe, this annual food drive aims to fill the food bank's pantries with much needed canned, boxed and frozen food items in time for the holiday season.

Started in 2000 and held the Saturday just before Thanksgiving, the Pounding is modeled after the early tradition often practiced in small communities when a new family or preacher would move to town.

"To help folks get their feet firmly planted, everyone would join together and contribute a pound of food to fill the pantry," Wobbe said. "Someone would bring a pound of flour, another a pound of sugar and somebody else a pound of beans. When everybody chips in, we can fill those shelves pretty quickly. Over 650 families in our community rely on Food Share to keep from going hungry each month and that need is not going to go away. This food drive has been a godsend year after year."

Last year's event raised a record 13,088 pounds, pushing the total Pounding donations over the last 18 years to over 100,000 pounds.

For the second year, Top Hydraulics has announced that it will also match the total number of pounds donated.

"I'm thrilled for Food Share," said



Cindy Wobbe (far right) began the annual 'Pounding' food collection for Food Share 19 years ago. This year's event is this Saturday at Grocery Outlet.

Wobbe. "This corporate match means that for every pound we receive, Top Hydraulics will donate an additional \$1. It's a significant and generous gift and that will impact so many who are in need."

Wobbe will be joined by local radio personality Wayne Sharpe of KCST Radio, who has conducted a live radio remote on location every year since the beginning.

Florence Grocery Outlet mark specials throughout the store of items most desperately needed at the food bank and plans to have extra staff available during the event to help with pushing grocery carts, loading boxes of canned foods, and ringing in customers at the checkstands.

Grocery Outlet is located at 2066 Highway 101.

TWIN LAKES TEEN GIVING TREE BEGINS SIXTH SEASON

While it may seem early to be thinking of the holidays, preparations for the Twin Lakes Store's sixth annual Teen Giving Tree are already underway.

"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.

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Siuslaw News

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- View photos at [CindyWobbeEstates.com](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR SENIOR CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed to take Florence-area senior citizens who otherwise have no transportation to their medical appointments in Florence, Eugene, Springfield and the Coos Bay and North Bend Areas. Mileage is reimbursed at .405 cents per mile. This reimbursement is not taxable and does not interfere with OHP or Food Stamp determination.

The hours are typically weekdays and drivers decide which days or hours they are willing to help. Drivers will not be asked to drive during dangerous road conditions.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Kristine Sirmans of Florence Senior Connections at 541-902-9430 ext. 7830.

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