

*Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future*



**Springfield**  
Public Schools

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Media Advisory:**  
December 15, 2015

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## **Restaurant Coordinating Holiday Meal**

*Texas Roadhouse will bring holidays to downtown students*

**Springfield, Ore.** – Eugene’s Texas Roadhouse restaurant has committed to donating holiday lunch to more than 200 students and staff at Gateways High School and the district’s Community Transition Program this week.

“What’s amazing is that they normally don’t do turkey meals,” says Principal Paul Weill. “We said we would be happy with their regular barbecue food, but they insisted on doing a traditional meal for us.”

The restaurant will be soliciting donations for turkeys and other traditional fare from area businesses. Texas Roadhouse will be cooking the food at the restaurant and delivering it to the school for lunch, complete with staff to serve.

“We started doing a holiday meal for the students about 12 years ago and the staff has felt strongly about maintaining it,” says Susan Kangail of Gateways, noting said that many of their students have not ever experienced a traditional holiday meal, and many are homeless. “Sitting down and eating together is such a small gift we can share with them.”

Citing tight budgets, she said: “This year we were really scrambling to figure out how we were going to pull off the event when one of our volunteers, Brenda Hansen, connected me with Carmel Barnhardt from Texas Roadhouse.”

The rest, as they say, is history. Jerry’s Home Improvement and Eugene Fastener and Supply are among the area businesses contributing funds for decorations; Shari’s Restaurant is donating pies; Three Beards Tree Lot is donating trees; and Mezza Luna Pizza staff will be carving turkeys.

“Just knowing that in the years past it’s been the teachers and staff that have paid for, prepared and served this meal was reason enough for my help!” says Barnhardt, who herself is an SPS parent and president of the Yolanda Elementary PTO.

**When:** Thursday, December 17, at 12:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Memorial Building gym, 765 A Street, Springfield

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