

# A Sweet Affaire adds more to life than romance

## Proceeds benefit Seaside recreation scholarships

By **ANDREW R. TONRY**  
For EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Martha was in second grade and homeless.

"She and her family were in and out of the Helping Hands shelter for quite a while," said Ryan Stanley, recreation coordinator for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Pool days, said Stanley, afforded Martha — not her real name — a rare chance to shower.

"Her parents were going through a really rough time, and she had taken on a lot of adult roles at the home," said Stanley. "Only being a second-grader, this was a chance for her to be with kids and be a kid again."

Along with her classmates, Martha was given an after-school snack and a safe, supervised environment, along with access to the pool and myriad other extracurricular activities.

She was able to attend these after-school classes because she qualified for a scholarship. Such scholarships are paid for, in large

part, by A Sweet Affaire, a smorgasbord of sugary indulgence in service of charity.

This year's A Sweet Affaire runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Seaside Convention Center.

More than 30 businesses along the North Coast — including those from outside the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District — have donated time, product and an abundance of sweets in hopes of helping fill the scholarship coffers.

But the sweets will be countered by the savory appetizers, including seafood, pizza and more from Tsunami Sandwich Compa-

ny, the Water Boy Grill and Pizza Express.

There will also be libations. Regional brewers from Buoy Beer and Bill's Tavern, along with Walnut City Wine Works and The Wine and Beer Haus are donating as well.

Regardless of taste, ticket holders should come in need of satiation — A Sweet Affaire is all-you-can-eat, all-you-can-drink.

### Sweet scholarships

Attendees also will be encouraged to bid on donated packages, including those for swim lessons or summer camps.

### IF YOU GO:

#### A Sweet Affaire

**When:** 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** Seaside Civic and Convention Center  
**Cost:** \$35; tickets are available at the Sunset pool, 1140 Broadway  
**Why:** To raise funds for scholarships to fitness facilities  
**Information:** 503-738-3311, ext. 101



Ryan Stanley

Proceeds from ticket sales will be split down the middle between the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District and the Seaside Rotary.

Despite sharing funds with the Rotary, A Sweet Affaire is responsible for the majority of the Sunset Park and Recreation District's scholarship fund.

In total, last year, the district gave out more than \$22,000 in scholarships. Proceeds from A Sweet Affaire accounted for more than 72 percent of that figure.

"Last year, A Sweet Affaire was able to raise over \$16,000 towards those scholarships," said district General Manager Justin Cutler.

Scholarships to the district include not only after-school programs for young students like Martha, but swimming lessons, preschool and a summer camp

that counts more than 20 attendees during July and August.

In all, last year, 314 individual scholarship grants, totaling almost \$18,000, were provided to children from elementary to high school, according to district documents.

Adults, too, benefited. In 2014, adults received 119 grants — mostly for access to the pool and recreation center — from the district. The scholarships added up to \$4,000.

Cutler said he wants to keep the doors open to anyone who might benefit.

"Our goal is to get people into the facility," Cutler said. "If there is somebody who doesn't have the financial means to enter our facility on a regular basis then we want to make sure that we can provide that."



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*sweet nothings*

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-John Wayne

*In the Bedroom*

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-Proverbs 10:10

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*Valentine's Day*

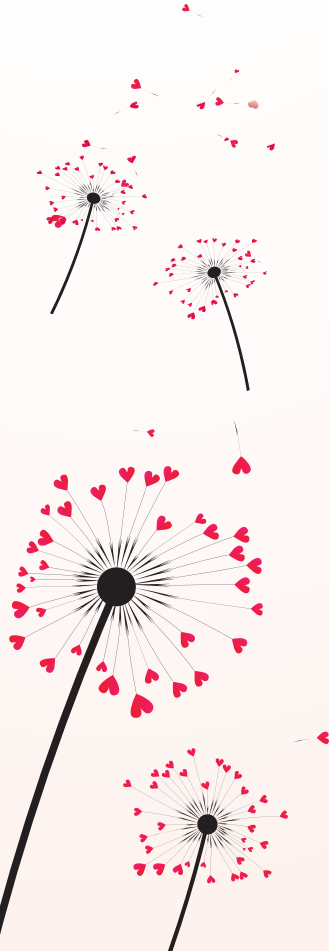
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