Culinary students scramble to prepare Brewers Dinner

Five-course meal to be paired with North Coast craft beers

Andrew R. Tonry for the EO Media Group

immy Griffin couldn't believe his tastebuds at last year's Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism in Sunriver. The banquet, served to many hundreds of attendees, had been prepared by the students of Seaside High School's culinary arts program.

"I was struck by the quality of it," said Griffin, owner of Seaside Brewing Company and a sponsoring participant of the Pouring at the Coast Craft Beer Festival March 7. A light bulb went off: "I thought, why can't we have the kids do that at the Brewers Dinner in Seaside?'

Griffin returned to the coast with a pitch for the Seaside Chamber of Commerce: Have the students prepare the meal and use the proceeds to benefit the program.

'I thought it was a great idea," said Chris Duffy, the chamber's events director. "We want to acknowledge this great culinary program here, that it's a pipeline for kids to get make new and exciting foods.

Griffin saw another benefit: Students cycling through the program would invent fresh and exciting dishes.

What people are looking for in brewers dinners," said Griffin, "is that they want something new and something cool."

For the meal on March 6 - the night before Pouring at the Coast — the culinary arts



KATHERINE LACAZE PHOTO

Chris Holen, executive chef at Baked Alaska in Astoria, helps seniors Porter Johnson, center, and Rey Gonzalez prepare skewers of curry chicken during a class fall. Students in Seaside High School's culinary arts program will prepare a five-course feast for the Brewers Dinner March 6.

students, led by Chef Chris Holen, of Baked Alaska restaurant in Astoria, will serve five courses to be paired with beers from breweries along the North Coast. The breweries include Buoy Beer, Fort George, Pelican, Bill's Tavern and, of course, Seaside Brewing Com-

the breweries to suggest what beers they would think would pair best with the different courses," Griffin said. The choices must be made from among a multitude.

"This is where beer actually gets a little more sophisticated than wine," said Griffin. "There are a lot more styles of beer."

"For example," he added, "I got an email from Ken at Pelican, who suggested a beer for the second course, a soup, which had a fancy cheddar kind of basing. In the notes he said, 'I would not use an IPA unless this white cheddar was the dominant flavor in the soup.""

However tantalizing the brewed pairings may be, the culinary students are creating the bigger buzz. Twice as many tickets (125) are available this year, and by all accounts they're going fast.

"If that sells out quickly enough," said Duffy, "we'll possibly open up even more seating.

Griffin, meanwhile, revels in the blooming local interest.

"I notice a lot of younger folks who are big community movers and shakers wanting to be a part of it," Griffin said of the dinner. "Before, it was a little bit more passive. Now people are kind of fighting for spots. We've got a big buy-in from local businesses who have the opportunity to sponsor tables and they're jumping at it."

All of this excites the culinary arts program, which will

"I just sent the menu out to not only receive the proceeds after expenses are paid, but will be tested on their execution. And while the students might be sweating, Griffin couldn't be happier.

"Now it's more than just enjoying a fantastic meal and a bunch of fantastic beers,' he said. "You get all of that, plus you get to help kids in your own community. It's a lot more symbiotic than just a dinner."

If you go

WHAT: Brewers Dinner

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. March 6 WHERE: Seaside Civic

and Convention Center

COST: \$65; reservations are required. Contact the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT: Pouring at the Coast Craft Beer Festival and Competition

WHEN: 3 to 8 p.m. March

WHERE: Seaside Civic and Convention Center

COST: \$10 to \$20, depending on the number of tastings; includes event glass

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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Seaside students cut loose with "Footloose"

About 25 Seaside her sights on Ren, her High School students have been singing and dancing since January, preparing to bring the school's spring musical, "Footloose," to the stage.

The show opened Feb. 27, with additional performances Feb. 28 and March 5 through 7. All shows begin at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home.

When the minister's rebellious daughter sets

boyfriend roughneck tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The story that emerges is of a father longing for the son he lost and of a young man aching for the father who left him.

Luke Surber, Claire Ogilvie and Joseph Harkins are in the lead roles of Ren McCormack, Ariel Shaw and the Reverend Shaw. They are supported period at his new high by students Patrick Leary, Swenson, Hayliehe Bell, Bekah Cox, Phoe-Miller, Jordan Davis. Ethan Taylor, Annie Stafford, Isabella Curcin, Kara Ipson, Jake Malone, Logan Griffin, Joshua Strozzi, Chasity Cozzitorto, Sabrina Anderson, Adam Morse, Nathanael Ward and Ilse Robledo.

Vocal and music direction is by Vanessa Unger. Allison Wilski is directing and choreographing for the first time at Seaside High School. Lenore Morrisson is the produc-

A live band will perform the musical's Oscar- and Tony-nominated score. The soundtrack album reached No. 1 on the Billboard charts and has sold over 15 million copies. The score is augmented with new songs for the stage.

The band consists of Julie Smith on piano; Bill Siewert, bass guitar; Drew Weil, drums; and Drew Weil's father, Joe Weil, on guitar.

Ticket prices are \$8 for adults; \$6 senior citizens and students; \$4 for students who present their SHS ASB card. Tickets are purchased at the door.



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46 Announcements

-Jewell School District #8

School Board Member

Clatsop County School Board Elections will be held May 19, 2015 The terms for Positions #1, #3 & #5 on the Jewell School Board end on June 30, 2015 and the new term will begin July 1, 2015 and run through June 30, 2019.

If you would like to consider presenting Jewell families on the governing board, please visit or call the Clatsop County Elections Department.

70 HELP WANTED



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Coast Rehabilitation Services is seeking caring and compassionat people who are seeking rewarding opportunities as he/she assists adults with disabilities to lead quality lives of their choosing in a residential setting. Warrenton, Gearhart, and Seaside.

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communicate well with supervisors and co-workers, but be able to fix issues in a timely manner without close supervision. You must be proficient in HTML/CSS, web content management systems (WordPress, Drupal or similar) and Google Analytics. Familiarity with responsive design, mobile platform, Newscycle and JavaScript preferred. At least two years experience in the world of digital content, including text, graphics and other assets or the equivalen

combination of experience/ education is preferred. Benefits for this full-time position include Paid Time Off (PTO), 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan and health insurance. Send resume and letter of interest stating salary requirements to EO Media Group

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applicants should have broad experience with all types of cuisine and must demonstrate the ability to write clearly, tactfully about honestly and their dining experiences and opinions. This columnist must meet a weekly deadline and shoot and submit quality photos of the food or establishment, in addition to the review of 550 to 750 words

olumns will cover local restauran reviews, dining news and related topics. This columnist must be travel able to travel and visit establishments in Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in Washington and Clatsop, Columbia and northern Tillamook counties in Oregon to show the diversity of culinary offerings in our region.

his is one of our most-read features, so we are eager to find the right writer to fill this void.

Send cover letter and writing samples to Rebecca Sedlak Coast Weekend editor by email to editor@coastweekend.com or by mail to Coast Weekend P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103,

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