

A Sweet Affaire

EVENT BENEFITS PROGRAMS FOR KIDS IN SEASIDE

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Nobody went hungry at the Sunday, March 6, "Sweet Affaire" fundraiser at the Seaside Convention Center.

The annual event offered food and drink from the region's premier restaurants, wineries and breweries while benefiting programs for adults and kids.

A Sweet Affaire was jointly presented by the Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation Department Foundation and the Seaside Rotary Foundation, an entity distinct from Seaside Rotary. Proceeds provide scholarships to support access to activities for children, youth and adults in southern Clatsop County.

"We help provide scholarships for Seaside High School kids, clean water throughout the world — this year our focus is Africa," the Rotary Foundation's Susan Deshon said.

The Sunset Park & Recreation Foundation's Jan Barber pointed to the good work the organization did supplementing costs for swim lessons, adult programs and activities at the recreation center.

Scholarship recipients are either on a fixed income and unable to afford the programs or are youth who would not otherwise experience athletic events, after-school programs and senior activities at the Bob Chisholm Community Center.

Organizers spent months exploring the region's breweries, vintners and restaurants, developing partnerships leading to Sunday's event, Deshon said.

"Everything here is donated," Deshon added. "The restaurants have donated all of

their food. Wines are donated. Beers are donated. It's truly a community event."

Kendra Ward, co-owner of Seaside Brewery, served guests a light, crisp, blonde ale featuring Vienna lager malts with a touch of wheat and honey Mount Hood hops.

Ward said she was enlisted to serve two hours before the event. She said she "loved meeting": the people at the event.

Fort George Brewing came out serving "Big Guns," described as "a hoppy swath of citrus zest and tropical fruit aromas."

Buoy Beer founder and brewer Dan Hamilton, a Seaside resident, poured Buoy's Helles, a German lager.

Wineries from across the state and the Columbia Valley in Washington were represented, including a "mystery" wine sale. Guests paid \$20 for bottles that could have fetched "far more," according to Seaside Rotary Club President Kevin Leahy.

Martin Hospitality's Wayfarer in Cannon Beach cracked open oysters on the half shell and to their side Maggie's on the Prom served artisanal cheese and charcuterie.

On the dessert side, Portland Fudge Company, Bruce's Candies and Phillips' Candies sweetened the mix with chocolate candies and Michael Soprano of Seaside's Three Little Birds served his famed "Almond Joy" bars.

At his side Sea Star Gelato's Tracy and Margo Nye served their delicious iced treats, including French vanilla and strawberry. Flashback Soda and Malt Shop served cream soda and birch beer.

A silent auction accompanied the tasting, followed by a paddle auction where bidders upped the ante in support of the cause.



TOP: Shirley Yates pours Christopher Michael wines at A Sweet Affaire.

ABOVE: Tracy, Logan and Margo Nye of Sea Star Gelato.

LEFT: Event volunteers Jan Barber, Diane Somers and Laura Freedman.

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