

Enoteca serves up fundraising for Tsunami All-Starz

February 25, 2020



When customers walked into Enoteca on Saturday, Feb. 22, they found Crescent City's competitive cheer team, the Tsunami All-Starz, serving up plates of spaghetti and tri-tip.

Enoteca, a restaurant in downtown Crescent City, hosted the Tsunami All-Starz Senior 3 team fundraiser to help them raise money for their upcoming competition, the D2 Summit.

The Tsunami All-Starz is one of many U.S. All-Star Federation cheerleading teams in the country. All-star teams compete in creative and stunt-filled 2.5-minute routines. In November, Crescent City's team qualified for the D2 Summit for the second year in a row, only the third time in the team's history.

"People need to know that this town is amazing," said Senior 3 team coach Nicole Soule. "These girls are amazing. We love them to death because they are like our family. We take care of them."

The D2 Summit is the all-star season's final three-day-long competition held specifically for gyms that have 125 or fewer cheerleaders and takes place in Orlando, Fla., on May 8-10.

Not only will the team compete against cheer teams from all over the country, but they will get to do so at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Walt Disney World.

"This year should be fun because I've never been to Disney World," said Leya Pofahl, 19, who is in her last year on the team.

Though the team qualified last year, she was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, so she is excited to get to participate in her last year.

"It's kind of nerve-racking to go," Pofahl said. "Being a small team, [it's] kind of neat to go against teams that are huge."

However, this esteemed competition costs a great deal of money, especially considering airfare. So ever since the troupe found out they qualified for the summit, the cheerleaders and their directors have hosted several fundraisers, scrambling to raise enough money by the Feb. 26 deadline. They have hosted bake sales, enchilada sales and, of course, their dinner at Enoteca.

Intending to raise \$1,500 that night, Tsunami All-Starz director Linda Wanner, coach Soule and a portion of the Senior 3 team set up a station in the back of the restaurant from 3 to 8 p.m. with raffle prizes and homemade goodies.

People could get a tri-tip dinner with a pasta salad and a drink for \$15 or a spaghetti dinner with salad, French bread and a drink for \$10 — all prepared by Enoteca. Then the cheerleaders, sporting baseball jerseys and the classic cheerleader hair bows, acted as the waitresses and served the customer.

Also, customers could purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win items such as Starbucks coffee, handmade crafts or a guided fishing trip.

The director and coach encouraged the members of the team to attend and help out with the fundraiser so the people could meet the cheerleaders.

"To get where we want to go, we have to put in some effort," said Haven Diehl, 14, who is in her first year on the Senior 3 team. "They [the coach and director] are putting in so much effort."