

Firefighters serve food, drinks to raise green for MDA

BY MORGAN DAY • The Eagle-Gazette Staff •
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LANCASTER -- Lancaster firefighters balanced pitchers and pints of green beer and brushed up on their shorthand as they served diners in Roosters restaurant from open to close Wednesday.

Several fire officials took part in the second St. Paddy's Day event to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The restaurant donated 10 percent of its total sales that day to the organization.

Greg Eisenacher, a member of the Violet Township Fire Department and union president, sat around a table of other fire personnel who stopped by to check out the "Lancaster celebrity bartenders."

"Lancaster firefighters, they always do a good job. Always," Eisenacher said before eating.

Firefighters also sold green T-shirts with the International Association of Firefighters Local 291 emblem on the back and Roosters logo on the front.

Firefighter Dave Fouch said the event brought in about \$2,100 last St. Patrick's Day, when the department launched the event. He expected to raise more for the MDA this year.

He strolled behind the bar and found an ax encased in glass above the kitchen door. Dedicated to the restaurant, the ax shows the fire department's gratitude to Roosters.

"They do a lot of stuff for us, and we wanted to show our support," Fouch said.

Firefighter-paramedic Cole Tomlin also was waiting tables and selling items that day. He expected business to really pick up around dinnertime and through the evening.

That's when things got interesting this past year, he said.

"I got a \$50 offer to take my shirt off," Tomlin said, adding that he declined the offer.

Roosters general manager Dusti Wears said the more mild pace of a weekday proves to be a perfect time for the firefighters to learn the ropes of serving.

Plus, the novelty of having firefighters serve food and drinks brings many customers to the restaurant, she said.

"I think a lot of people come in just to see the firefighters waiting on customers and running the food," Wears said. "And the (female employees) really enjoy it, too."

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