

Sunrise Theater Foundation rocks Vegas vibe at Fort Pierce Yacht Club

Casino night & auction raise the stakes for local children, theater improvements

By John Biondo
For Hometown News

FORT PIERCE — The Sunrise Theater Foundation held its annual fundraiser at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club on March 1, attracting guests for an evening filled with dinner, dancing, entertainment, and a “Night in Vegas” casino experience.

Guests enjoyed playing at legal casino tables, where charity money was used to support the foundation’s mission. The casino atmosphere, complete with Lori Emory as a vintage-style Cigarette Girl, added to the Las Vegas vibe. Emory, dressed as a classic 1940s and 1950s casino girl, offered candy cigarettes to players.

A silent auction featured exclusive items, including a guitar signed by members of the band Tesla and a model car with an authenticated Jay Leno autograph. Local artists also contributed, such as gallery owner Jill Allison, who donated a hand-painted scene of small birds in a tree.

High rollers enjoyed the gambling tables and helped raise significant funds for the foundation. All proceeds will support the foundation’s mission to bring performing arts experiences to children on the Treasure Coast and fund improvements to the theater.

“The funds raised are for the foundation’s



John Biondo/For Hometown News
Brian Dennehy and Meredith McDowell celebrate after Brian hits his number. goals to bring the theater experience of the performing arts to children of the Treasure Coast and to support improvements that



John Biondo/For Hometown News
One of the many coveted auction items was a guitar signed by all members of the band Tesla. The opening bid was \$500.

will enhance the theater to fulfill its purpose within the community,” the foundation stated on its website.



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Community Calendar

By Jeff Alexander
For Hometown News

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

CARENET GALA – The 36th Annual Carenet Gala will be at MIDFLORIDA Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Place, Port St. Lucie on Friday, March 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. Register: 772-828-3168; carenetgala.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 & SATURDAY, MARCH 8

DAUGHTER OF THE STARS – Hallstrom Planetarium of Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce will host Daughter of the Stars on Friday, March 7 at 7 and 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 8 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets: \$7. Go to irsc.edu/community/planetarium.html

MARCH 7-9

RIBS AND WINGS FESTIVAL – The 6th Annual 2025 Treasure Coast Ribs and Wings Festival will be at Causeway Cove Marina on Friday, March 7, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$10, children, 12 and younger, free. Go to www.treasurecoastribswingsfestival.com.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FAIR – The Lucie County Fair is at St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, 15601 W. Midway Rd., Fort Pierce, March 7-9. Hours are from 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday, March 7; from noon to midnight, Saturday, March 8; from noon to 11 p.m., Sunday, March 9; Tickets: \$13, adults; \$5, children, 6 to 12; free, children under 6; \$8, seniors/veterans. Go to www.stluciecountyfair.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT – The 17th Annual Empty Bowls Project will be at the Fort

Pierce Farmer’s Market, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce on Saturday, March 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. Ceramic bowls will be sold and auctioned with proceeds going to Treasure Coast Food Bank. Admission: Free. Go to stophunger.org/event/17-annual-empty-bowls-project/

RANCH ROUNDUP – Treasure Coast Hospice Foundation will host Ranch Roundup – A Taste of Olde Florida at Adams Ranch, 26001 Orange Ave., Fort Pierce on Saturday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Benefits Treasure Coast Hospice Treasured Pets Program. Tickets: \$40, adults; \$50, includes Mini Beer Garden; \$15, children, 5 to 16. Call 772-461-6321.

KIDSPACE – Hallstrom Planetarium of Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce for ages 4 to 12 on Saturday, March 8 at 11 a.m. Tickets: \$7. Go to www.irsc.edu/community/planetarium.html

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

TEA IN THE GARDENS – Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Rd., Fort Pierce will host Tea In the Gardens on Sunday, March 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$65-\$300. Call 772-464-4672, ext. 3.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

FLORESTA DRIVE CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE – Floresta Drive Construction Open House will be at Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 SE Airosa Blvd., Port St. Lucie on Monday, March 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission: Free. Info: 772-871-5176.

MARCH 12-26

OCEAN SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES – Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute’s annual John & Barbara Ferrera Ocean Science Lecture Series runs Wednesdays through March 26 at FAU

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