

Square One Interiors in neighboring North Carolina had the challenge of making the eatery at 3295 Dogwood Lane feel like a villa overlooking the "City of Bridges."

LeFevers smiles and says it really wasn't a challenge.

"We wanted an intimate, Mediterranean-like feel," LeFevers said. "It wasn't a huge challenge. This setting has so much to offer, it's warm, cozy and intimate. It's like sitting in a villa along the Mediterranean."

The eatery, open Monday through Saturday, offers the Old World's Tuscan atmosphere, complete with the feel of looking out a villa window in Venice.

Here, patrons sit back and enjoy the hillside view of the beautiful blue waters of Lake Chatuge as they experience a savory blend of gourmet Italian cuisine.

"Pasta comes to mind really quick when you think about Café Portofino," Collins said. "It's truly Italian cuisine complete with veal and chicken dishes, Italian soups, the delicious breads and oil and home-

made desserts.

"It's not calzones and pizza," Collins said. "It's the ultimate Italian dining experience."

Café Portofino's tantalizing menu, created by Executive Chef Dennis Barber, offers delicious entrees that include Chicken Piccata, Veal Saltimbocca, Chicken Parmesan and Chianti Steak. Patrons also experience the Pork Ragu with Gnudi, grilled Salmon and Halibut and the unforgettable Porchetta.

The eatery also features select Italian wines and beer. Lunch is served between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dinner hours are 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the exception of Friday and Saturday when the eatery's hours are extended until 10 p.m.

"Anyone who comes into Café Portofino can count on great food and great service," Collins said. "They can expect to be treated like royalty. That's what we're going to do here."

"Café Portofino isn't just another diner," he said. "It's an experience. I truly believe that anyone who comes through those doors will be dramatically impressed."

She said in 2005 they were trying to book acts, such as Clint Black and Dwight Yoakam, who wanted \$75,000 to perform a show. Anderson Music Hall has limited seating (2900 maximum) so the fairgrounds had to charge \$45 a ticket to earn a profit. They soon found out that concertgoers were not willing to pay such high prices.

During the next three years, the board decided to cut back on concerts and book artists who would play for less money, but the fairgrounds had a hard time selling tickets for the lesser known musicians.

So maybe it was fate that brought Blackwell to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Since his arrival, the fairgrounds have hosted about one concert a month with more in the works.

Thomason said, "It is working real good. We rent the building to him. He pays for security and advertising."

Blackwell is also pleased with the Anderson Music Hall. He said the venue has clean, attractive dressing rooms, good catering, a good sound and light system, and a nice stage—the kinds of things musicians look for.

"The people of Hiawassee have been really supportive," said Blackwell. "People have welcomed me and made me feel comfortable."

Tickets are currently on sell for the Little River Band concert scheduled Aug. 15. Blackwell is also promoting upcoming concerts for Randy Owens, Three Dog Night, and Sandi Patty. "We feel in the next couple of weeks we will announce a date on Willie

Nelson," he added.

Blackwell said some of the problems during recent years with the Anderson Music Hall are typical with most of the smaller venues in the state, outside of Atlanta. He said the smaller cities where he promotes concerts, such as Columbus and Dothan, Al., cannot afford today's big stars, like Kenny Chesney, who performs for a half million dollars per show.

Blackwell said promoting shows is a lot like rolling dice: "If you are in the concert business, you can do some research, but it is a gamble."

Sometimes a show does not pay off for the promoter. The Conway Twitty Story last Saturday did not sell well at the fairgrounds. Blackwell called it a first rate show but said he has had troubles in the past promoting musicals about country artists.

Kathy Twitty, daughter of the late Conway Twitty, said the family did not help to promote the show until late, which may have resulted in the less-than-stellar ticket sales. "It is unfortunate that it fell under the radar," she said.

Thomason said the Conway Twitty Story sold 876 tickets and the promoter, Blackwell, lost money on the musical. In spite of the poor turnout this time, Thomason said the show was great and the fairgrounds may have them back next year during the fair or fall festival.

Thomason said she hopes local people will attend the upcoming concerts so they can continue in the future. "We would like the community to support our events."

Lowe's...from page 1

any did he give to the retail giant.

The city of Hiawassee recently approved the 1,100 gallons per day in sewer needed by the retail giant at its location at The Junction off Georgia 515.

"I have not committed one penny of taxpayer money and I have not approved one penny of tax incentives to Lowe's," Kendall said. "Lowe's has not requested nor have I given any variance of Towns County's sign ordinance. I have not granted any variance of any part of the building codes and building inspection ordinance nor has Lowe's asked for any variance."

"I have not promised Lowe's one penny for construction – nor has Lowe's asked for any. I have not approved a tax break for Lowe's,"

Kendall said. "A Lowe's representative did present a proposal for reimbursing Lowe's a \$1 million tax break over a 10-year period, as they stated they have received in some other stores."

"I immediately informed the representative that I would not consider such a proposal, that it would not even be on the table for discussion, that I firmly oppose granting any retail business a tax incentive that would be unfair to all the other retail businesses and that all retail businesses should be operating on the same level playing field."

Lowe's representative told Kendall that the tax break issue was one of the items they must check off that they had requested when they take their proposal back to the Real Estate Committee.

trator Jane Holland said their annual boat parade will start at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday at Nantahala Bay. The parade route will pass underneath the Robert L. Anderson Bridge near Shoney's and end up at the Ridges Resort.

"It's a fun day for everyone," said Holland, who added the parade should be larger this year than last because Lake Chatuge is fuller and more beautiful.

She said the boat parade has been going on for more than six years, and they expect about 40 boaters to participate this year. At the end of the parade, two boats will be awarded for Best Decorated and Most Red White & Blue. In addition, WNGM-AM radio will broadcast from the Ridges.

Finally, there will be fireworks to cap off the weekend.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds general manager Hilda Thomason said they will be presenting their annual fireworks show at 9:45 p.m. She said the event has been going on for 25 years now, and the fairgrounds brought in an estimated 5000 people last year.

"This is something for the public to enjoy," she said. "It brings a lot of people into Towns for the Fourth of July."

Thomason said the parking lot should be open to the

public around 6 p.m., where spectators can arrive early to picnic. No one will be allowed on the ball fields during the fireworks display, which will be presented by Atlanta Pyrotechnics International Inc.

There is no charge to see the fireworks, but the Lions Club will be accepting donations.

Thomason also wanted to thank the fire fighters, rescue workers, and police officers who would be working the event.

For the first time ever, the City of Young Harris, Young Harris College, and Brasstown Valley Resort will have a July 4th fireworks show at Brasstown Valley Resort.

BVR executive assistant Karen Rogers said the resort will open its golf course to the public to view the display, which will take place after dusk. She said people can bring blankets and lawn chairs to the show, but no coolers will be allowed on the golf course. Rogers said they will have vendors available selling drinks and snacks.

Rogers said people in Young Harris can now see a fireworks display without having to drive to Blairsville or Hiawassee. "It gives people an option," she said.

Camp...from page 1

burden God laid on their heart to reach kids and teens with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since that time Camp Hosanna has been blessed in many ways while the camp has been a blessing to kids, teens, and families.

The camp has existed for the purpose of pointing boys and girls to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Campers are taught biblical principles of living that include honesty, hard work and unity.

Camp Hosanna is unique in that there is no charge to attend. Campers can expect friendly faces, great home cooking, good old-fashioned camp fun and great preaching.

Currently, there are several openings for the week of July 6-10 for ages 13 and up; July 13-17 for ages 8 to 12 and July 20-24 for ages 13 and up.

Campers stay in cabins built in 2006 by Christian Laymen Assisting Missionary Projects, CLAMP, from Great Hope Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Va. In addition to camper cabins, the facilities include a bath house and a pavilion where camp meetings are held.

Activities at Camp Hosanna include tubing, swimming, fireworks displays, camp fires, foosball and big ball games.

The camp is operated solely on donations.

For more details on how to register for Camp Hosanna, call (706) 897-7465, or visit www.camphosanna.org for more information about the Christian camp for youth.

Jackson...from page 1

ultimate performer and certainly left a great legacy of music, dance and showmanship."

Sammy Ensley, program director at WACF 95.1 radio, remembers Jackson as the "King of Pop" which was a common title for Michael. "When I think of Michael Jackson, I remember my Thriller album and the picture of young Michael on the cover."

Before his death, Jackson had announced a 50 date sell-out *This Is It* comeback tour. After his death, the Internet was swarmed with the news causing many websites to experience technical difficulties under the unanticipated swell of users.

When asked about when he heard that Jackson had died, Ensley replied, "My phone blew up with text messages." Sites like Twitter and Wikipedia reportedly crashed soon after the unfortunate news was out.

Just hours later, record sales increased dramatically. His album *Thriller* climbed to number one on the American iTunes music chart, while another eight have made it into the top 40.