

GRACI FAMILY DENTAL
 General & Cosmetic Dentistry
 Graci Marra Bax, DDS
 ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
 SMILE... 'Happy' looks good on you!

5320 Military Road, Suite 101 • Lewiston
 716-298-3384 • www.gracifamilydental.com

Villa Coffee owner/chef Pusateri to open Bistro Avera on Center Street

LEFT OF CENTER WITH JOSHUA MALONI

A popular village restaurateur plans to open a second Lewiston location this spring.

The Villa Coffee House owner/chef Stephen Pusateri is taking over 555 Center St., space formerly occupied by The Como Deli.

He said, "The name of the new restaurant will be Bistro Avera. It will be a casual dining experience offering thoughtful food with a quality bar program, including craft cocktails and beautiful wine."

Pusateri wouldn't yet elaborate on his menu, but explained, "There is so much I have learned, want to learn and evolve on, that to put a clear definition on what we are serving would be impossible."

"I can say this: The menu will be well thought out and will derive mostly from Italian and French influence with, at times, a contemporary approach. Menu items will change frequently to reflect the seasons and the availability of products, but most importantly to reflect what I want to serve on a plate."

"Drawing inspiration from other cuisines, chefs and restaurants and making dishes your own is the most rewarding part of cooking. So, expect change and take the time to enjoy it, because it is a reflection of us – and know that a cook's only intention is to make you smile with every bite."



Chef Stephen Pusateri is preparing to open a second Lewiston restaurant, which he is calling Bistro Avera. Framing for a new bar was installed this week, and renovation work is well underway at 555 Center St.

With regard to the location, Pusateri said, "Being on Center Street will bring more visibility and accessibility, especially to those who do not live in Lewiston."

Inside the building, "The bistro will hold around 30 seats, including the seating at our newly renovated bar, which will seat four to six people. The dining area is smaller than what we currently have at the Villa, but the kitchen is bigger."

"We are very excited about seating on the patio during the warmer months, which could add 12-15 seats."

Bistro Avera will start with dinner hours Wednesdays through Saturdays.

"That is subject to change with the seasons, possibly adding a lunch service during the warmer and more heavily trafficked months," Pusateri said.

The chef, who has worked in Lewiston, Youngstown, Niagara Falls, Grand Island, Buffalo and Florida, began at Villa Coffee six years ago. At that time, he said the well-known breakfast offerings would continue – but he also hinted at doing more.

SEE PUSATERI, continued on Page 8

'Phantoms of the Opera Hall' go from print to stage



In the photo: Tim Henderson and NFP's Joshua Maloni share a glimpse of the 1824 Sentinel, acknowledging the fact that the Sentinel is just as important to our community today as it was 200 years ago! (Tim's words!)

Guest Editorial by Timothy Henderson

As we anticipate the solar eclipse on April 8, and prepare for our new production, "Phantoms of the Opera Hall," we'd like to share the rich history of the Opera Hall and some of the people who were associated with the building, whose lives were tied to the mysteries of the moon.

Years ago, I purchased an Oct. 22, 1824, edition of the Sentinel. This 200-year-old paper was in remarkably good condition and provided a window into what Lewiston and our country looked

like back in the day. There were local ads from shops and farms, but also an entire page dedicated to national and international news. There was an ad featuring presidential candidate Henry Clay and his opponent, Andrew Jackson; and an obituary announcing the death of the king of France, Louis the 18th. Augustus Porter, the postmaster, listed letters that were awaiting pickup from addressees like Sparrow Sage and Gen. S. Van Rensselear. Samuel DeVeaux, an entrepreneur in Niagara Falls, **SEE TICKETS, continued on Page 14**

Local leaders excited about FRONTIER HOUSE'S FUTURE

Billy Club team to take over basement and first floor



BY JOSHUA MALONI
 GM/Managing Editor

Less than a month removed from the 19th anniversary of the Frontier House closing to the public, the surest sign of its reopening was announced last Friday.

Restaurateurs Daniel Hagen and Jake Strawser – the duo behind Buffalo's Billy Club restaurant – will take over most of the first floor of the Village of Lewiston's now 200-year-old crown jewel at 460 Center St.

A press release noted, "At Fairbanks," which is what their Frontier House restaurant will be called, "they will showcase their signature style that combines local ingredients, seasonal flavors and creative techniques to create dishes that are both deli-

The Frontier House will reopen this year with a new restaurant tenant.

cious and memorable. ... We hope to create a place that will become a destination for locals and visitors alike, where they can enjoy great food and drinks in a beautiful setting."

It's anticipated Fairbanks will open closer to the summer months.

At that time, patrons entering through the Frontier House's main front doors will immediately notice a brand-new staircase leading to the second floor. The dining and bar areas will utilize the first floor's main room and a trio of side rooms. An open-kitchen concept is planned for the serving area that once was used by workers of former tenant McDonald's Restaurant.

Behind that, on the far north side of this level, will be an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant living unit. The building's upper levels also are reserved for rental units.

Billy Club will utilize the all-original-

stone rathskeller in the basement, plus a new outdoor patio.

Ellicott Development is overseeing construction, renovation and rental.

Mayor Anne Welch said she is impressed with the company's attention to detail, especially noting myriad new beams installed throughout the building.

"I'm excited to see all the progress on the interior of the Frontier House," she said. "The rooms are framed out with structural steel and ready for drywall, and the original fireplaces were saved. The construction of the new restaurant will be starting soon and will be a great addition to our community. I look forward to the grand opening in spring/summer!"

Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick said, "Very exciting news to see something actually come to fruition, with a name and a plan. I look forward to having a meal there and celebrating."

SEE FRONTIER HOUSE, continued on Page 8

LOOK FOR OUR INSERT IN TODAY'S PAPER

OLLIE'S BARGAIN OUTLET

OLLIE'S
 GOOD STUFF CHEAP

8460 Niagara Falls Blvd,
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304
 716-205-0023

CALL TO PLACE YOUR INSERT ORDER 716-773-7676
 Niagara Frontier Publications • wnypapers.com

Is Your Auto Insurance Increasing?
 Better Call Paul

PAUL HUTCHINS
 INSURANCE AGENCY
 AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

245 Portage Road
 Lewiston, NY 14092

Office: 716-405-7420
 paul@paulhutchinsagency.com
 www.PaulHutchinsAgency.com

Paul Hutchins

CREAMSICLE
 Scented Soap
 for January

Outlet **CARWASH**

Great Gifts Home of the
NO-TOUCH WASH

Carwash Specials
 Buy Bundles and \$AVE

Keep your car
 clean & safe this
 winter season

OPEN 24 HOURS
 Locally Owned and Operated
 2727 Military Rd, NF