

ENTERTAINMENT

Stella gets groove on

BY MARTA HEPLER DRAHOS
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — Since it opened in June, Trattoria Stella has enjoyed a steady weekend business with diners anxious for an authentic taste of Italy.

Now co-owners Amanda and Paul Danielson are hoping to entice more guests mid-week with live entertainment by well-known local musicians.

The restaurant introduced music in August and now features original acoustic jazz one night a week, from 7-10 p.m.

Tuesdays. Besides guitarist Ron Getz, musicians include mandolinist Don Julin, bassist Jack Dryden, vocalist Claudia Schmidt and others.

Danielson said the entertainment was designed to complement the Old World ambience of the restaurant's brick walls, arches and intimate alcoves.

"We focus on strings because those are traditional instruments that you hear in Italy," Danielson said.

"Ron Getz and Don Julin, in particular, play once a year in Italy and that's why we chose them."

The 6,000-square-foot restaurant is located in the south wing of Building 50 at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, the in-progress redevelopment of the former state hospital facility off 11th Street. Billing itself as a "neighborhood restaurant and bar," it features Italian food with an emphasis on fresh, regional ingredients.

In addition to dining room seating for 140, the restaurant boasts a 45-seat bar next to which the musicians



Ron Getz

are strategically stationed.

"The idea is that people can come in and enjoy appetizers and a drink without having to order a full meal if they don't want to," Danielson said. "We have enough small items on our menu that people can come in and not have to spend a lot of money to hear music."

This month's entertainment line-up features Getz and Dryden Oct. 5, Getz and Julin Oct. 12; Getz and Schmidt Oct. 19; and Julin and Schmidt Oct. 26.

Area Nitelife

ANTRIM COUNTY

Club 131, Mancelona.
Lulu's Bistro, open Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; N. Bridge, Bellaire, 533-5252.
Oasis Red Bull Tavern, Kewadin, 264-5821.
Riverwalk Grill, 106 Ames St., Elk Rapids, 264-9121.
Shanty Creek: Resort and Club, Nelson Olstrom Oct. 15-16 in Lakeview Lounge, 8-11 p.m.; Chris Ventzke Oct. 15-16 7-10 p.m. in La Vigna; Bellaire; (800) 678-4111, ext. 7880.
Short's Brewing Company, open mic 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Tues., Live music, mostly bluegrass & folk, Fri.-Sat. with The Lash Oct. 15-16; Greensky Bluegrass Oct. 22-23; Halloween party with Grasshoppah Oct. 29-30; the Sunday Afternoon Players 3-6 p.m. Sun.; Bellaire, 533-6623.
Town Club, 133 River St., Elk Rapids, 264-9914.

BENZIE COUNTY

Cabbage Shed, Don Jones and Friends (jazz/Dixieland) 7-10 p.m. Thurs.; acoustic open mic Sun., no cover; Elberta.
Crystal Palace, DJ and dancing 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat., Thompsonville, 378-3104.
Hotel Frankfort, Kim Keithly (piano) 6-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 231 Main, Frankfort, 352-4303.
Laughing Horse Saloon, Ladies' Night Wed.; live music Fri.-Sat.; open mic 8 p.m. Sun.;

Thompsonville, 378-4876.
Sleepy Bear Lounge, Blue Frog Oct. 15-16; Incognito Oct. 22-23; Code Blue Oct. 29-30 (Halloween Party Oct. 30); Detroit Blues Project Nov. 5-6, 9:30 p.m.; Steel Toe Nov. 12-13; John Ufer Band Nov. 19-20; Clearwater Nov. 26-27; New Year's Eve Party Dec. 31 with Incognito; no cover; Honor, 325-2262.
Thompsonville Bar & Grille, 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-midnight Sun.; 378-2554.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Villager Pub, Bridge Street, Charlevoix, 547-6925.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Holiday Inn, Blufrog Nov. 17-20, Grayling.

EMMET COUNTY

City Park Grill, Brothers Groove Oct. 15-16; Mojo & the Boogieman Oct. 22-23; The Mudbugs Oct. 29-30; Maybe August Nov. 5-6; Huckleberry Groove Nov. 12-13; Greensky Bluegrass Nov. 19-20; Grasshoppah Nov. 24; Ghattobillies Nov. 26-27; Petoskey, 347-0101.

Horizon Books, live entertainment 7:30 p.m. Fri.; Petoskey, 347-2590.

Latitude, entertainment 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; Bay Harbor.

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