Ernestine Chasing Hawk
Native Sun News Today Editor

Queen of Italian cuisine
new owner of Piesano’s Pacchia
Lady from Wambli provides perfect dining

“Food traveler” is a term that has recently been dubbed for those in pursuit of a unique and memorable food and drink experience. Well, Black Hills food travelers, we have found the perfect dining experience for you: Piesano’s Pacchia, a pizzeria nestled on the west side of Rapid City.

Walking in the door you are greeted by the spicy new owner Stacey Livermont, who will not only escort you to your seat but will entertain you at the same time. The interior décor is casual trattoria style reflecting the tradition of a family owned Italian “ristorante.”

However, this savvy new business owner of Piesano’s Pacchia is an unlikely connoisseur of Italian cuisine, although she could be called a seasoned Italian, having spent nearly two decades rolling in pizza dough.

Stacey’s career as Rapid City’s queen of Italian cuisine began shortly after she moved to Rapid City in the late ‘90s when she was employed by Bill Meahan, the original owner of Piesano’s Pacchia.

Stacey quickly learned the art of crafting from scratch staple Italian fare including spaghetti and meatballs, ravioli, manicotti, calzones, lasagna and, of course, the specialty of the house: pizza.

In 2004, Stacey’s mother, Peggy Livermont, purchased the west side trattoria. As one of the only mom and pop pizzerias left in town, a large customer base supports them, as do tourists looking for that special eating nook that compliments their Black Hills experience.

After years of managing Piesano’s, Stacey decided it was time to jump in with both feet and purchase the pizzeria.

“I asked around if there were any Native American programs that help Indians with businesses,” Stacey said and was directed to Lakota Fund, which is located in Kyle. “I called and talked to Yolanda Clifford and she told me everything I needed for the application.” Stacy completed her application and was approved for a down payment toward her purchase.

Stacey, who is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the community of Wanbli, where her family owned and operated a grocery store called Livermont Service. Her mother was the Postmaster and her father, Paul Livermont, operated the family ranch.

So buying Piesano’s is a business venture Stacey is prepared for coming from a family of entrepreneurs who know the meaning of hard work and what it takes to be successful.

Stacey arrives at the pizzeria before 6 a.m. every morning to prepare the dough so when customers place an order their pizza begins with fresh ingredients. Every item on the menu is made from scratch, including their soups and sauces.

So next time you’re craving a little taste of Italy, try Piesano’s Pacchia at 3618 Canyon Lake Dr. in Rapid City. They are open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are closed on Mondays.

“I doesn’t matter what you drive to Piesano’s, lawn mower, go cart, tractor — we can always guarantee you a great meal,” Stacey said as she giggled about a new ad she has been planning to shoot.