

VATICAN from page 2

pers ran the photo Friday.

The Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi noted that Argentine courts had never accused Bergoglio of any crime, that he had denied all accusations against him and that on the contrary "there have been many declarations demonstrating how much Bergoglio did to protect many persons at the time."

He said the accusations against the new pope were made long ago "by anti-clerical left-wing elements to attack the church. They must be firmly rejected."

The harsh denunciation was typical of a Vatican that often reacts defensively when it feels under attack, even though its response served to give the story legs for another day.

It interrupted the generally positive reception Francis has enjoyed since his election as pope on Wednesday, when even his choice of footwear — his old black shoes rather than the typical papal red — was noted as a sign of his simplicity and humility.

There was one clearly unscripted moment Friday, when the 76-year-old Francis stumbled briefly during an audience with the cardinals, but he quickly recovered. And for the second day in a row, Francis slipped out of the Vatican walls, this time to visit an ailing Argentine cardinal, Jorge Mejia, who suffered a heart attack Wednesday and was in the hospital.

This upbeat narrative of a people's pope who named himself after the nature-loving St. Francis of Assisi has clashed with accusations stemming from Bergoglio's past.

The worst allegation is that as the military junta took over in 1976, he withdrew support for two Jesuit priests whose work in the slums of Buenos Aires had put them in direct contact with the leftist guerrilla movement advocating armed revolution. The priests were then kidnapped and interrogated inside a clandestine torture center at the Navy Mechanics School.

Bergoglio said he had told the priests — Orlando Yorio and Francisco Jalics — to give up their slum work for their own safety, and they refused. Yorio later accused Bergoglio of effectively delivering them to the death squads by declining to publicly endorse their work. Yorio died in Uruguay in 2000.

Jalics, who had maintained silence about the events, issued a statement Friday saying he spoke with Bergoglio years later and the two celebrated Mass together and hugged "solemnly."

"I am reconciled to the events and consider the matter to be closed," he said.

Bergoglio told his official biographer, Sergio Rubin, in 2010, that he had gone to extraordinary, behind-the-scenes lengths to save the men.

The Jesuit leader persuaded the family priest of

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Lakes Region Casino looking to make a big impression at Taste of the Lakes Region

BY ADAM DRAPCHO

THE LAOCIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — When Shannon Corbeil was hired as the head chef of Lakes Region Casino about seven months ago, she brought with her an expanded menu and the goal of turning the facility into a dining destination as well as a gaming facility.

Word has been spreading slowly, though. She still comes across people who don't know that there's a casino in the region, let alone one that offers a full menu of food she describes as "pub fare, plus".

In an effort to raise Lakes Region Casino's profile in the local restaurant scene, Corbeil will be one of the more than 20 chefs representing their restaurant at the 23rd Annual Taste of the Lakes Region, held Sunday, April 7, at the Conference Center at the Opechee Inn and Spa.

The Taste of the Lakes Region is the primary fund raiser for the Laocia Altruus Club, a service organization that promotes literacy in the region and offers scholarships to local high school graduates. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the Coldwell-Banker brokerage or Hector's Fine Food & Spirits in Laocia, or at Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith. All proceeds will go directly to benefit the club's charitable activities.

Corbeil, though she's only been at the Casino for less than a year, has been cooking in the Lakes Region for about two decades. She recently worked at the Weirs Beach Lobster Pound, and before that, at Nadia's Trattoria. Participating in the event means a great deal of time and ingredient costs for Corbeil and the Casino, with no direct remuneration from the event. Corbeil's happy to put in the effort, for a couple of reasons. "Supporting Altruus, everything they do for the community, they do a lot. If we can help support the community, that's always a plus," she said.

Like other restaurants, though, Lakes Region Casino is hoping to do some face-to-face marketing at the Taste, putting their food in front of diners who might not otherwise taste what they have to offer.

When Corbeil came on staff at the Casino, she said, "I changed everything." That included the menu. Prior to her arrival, the Casino offered various sandwiches, pizza and appetizer-type options. She kept some of the old favorites and added many more, mostly entrees. Diners have responded, with new items such as ribeye steaks, bourbon-marinated



Shannon Corbeil, head chef at the Lakes Region Casino, chops onions in preparation for lunch service. The Lakes Region Casino is one of the more than 20 local restaurants participating in the Taste of the Lakes Region, to be held April 7. (Laocia Daily Sun photo/Adam Drapcho)

steak tips and chicken Alfredo proving some of the most popular at the Casino, which is open daily for lunch and dinner.

"I'm trying to get us out there as a restaurant," said Corbeil. She's planning to use the event to showcase her meatballs and marinara, both made by hand and in-house. "We're trying to get our name out there, how we have good food. Come in to try it out."

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