

HOWES CAVE

Howe Caverns featured on TV

Rachael Ray program focuses on local foods

BY JESSICA HARDING
Gazette Reporter

One of the region's most famous natives will feature one of the region's most famous attractions on one of her Food Network shows.

Rachael's Vacations: Outdoor Adventures, featuring Howe Caverns, will air July 2 on the Food Network.

Rachael Ray's crew visited the Schoharie Valley in July 2009. The trip included not only a visit to Howe Caverns but stops at the Schoharie Valley Farms, home of The Carrot Barn, and the American Hotel in Sharon Springs for separate segments that aired last year.

According to Kathy Condon, spokeswoman for Howe Caverns, the segment featuring the cave was supposed to appear much earlier, but was held until now.

While visiting Howe Caverns, the crew was taken on a traditional cave tour, Condon said, and sampled some of the foods offered at the Caverns Cafe and The Sweet Shop.

The Howe Caverns Cafe is open daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day and on a limited schedule the rest of the year.

"It has the most marvelous view of the whole Schoharie Valley," Condon said. "It's just breathtaking up there."

The crew tried Breakfast Pizza, made with bacon, sausage and mozzarella; Cave House Chowder, a homemade soup made from shrimp, clams, chicken, hot Italian sausage, potatoes and corn; and Tanzella Panini, mozzarella, fresh basil, tomato, olive oil and balsamic vinegar on grilled Ciabatta bread.

The experiences ended with homemade Peanut Butter Explosion Fudge, which includes marshmallows, chocolate chips and walnuts in the recipe. Condon said the crew was especially interested in Howe Caverns' fudge, which is made on the premises.

"We think it's terrific that Rachael Ray had selected us," general manager Bob Holt said. "Obviously they had been to Schoharie County before."

Ray did not visit the area herself, Condon said.

"She is from the area, so I'm sure she could do the narration without any problem," she said.

Ray is a Glens Falls native and currently owns a home

See **RAY**, page B7

Ray

Continued from page B1

in Lake Luzerne. She got her start in television with "30 minute meals" on WRGB Channel 6.

Howe Caverns is no novice when it comes to film crews, either. This will be the third time

in recent months that the attraction was featured on national television. In March, Howe Caverns was used as the setting for a show on The History Channel called "The Real Face of Jesus?" and in May 2009, Orange County Choppers unveiled its cave-themed motorcycle at Howe Caverns for an episode of "American Choppers" on The Learning Channel. The motorcycle is still on display in the Howe Caverns Visitors Center.

"We've had a lot of notoriety lately," Holt

said, "but we like it when people think about us."

Rachael's Vacations: Outdoor Adventures is scheduled to air on The Food Network at 11 p.m. July 2, according to the show's Web site. The Food Network is on channel 42 for Time Warner cable customers.

Reach Gazette reporter Jessica Harding at 843-2830 or jharding@dailygazette.net.