



## DINING SPOTLIGHT

# Michael's Pizzeria

By John C. Stevenson

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**EASLEY** — A motorcycle-themed pizzeria? That's what Michael Hedrick came up with five years ago when he opened the restaurant that bears his name.

"I love motorcycles — anything on two wheels," Hedrick said. "We found the old blueprints

of the original Harley and made posters of those, and we've got the old 'Easy Rider' classic and Jimi Hendrix (posters) in black and white. My son built a chopper, and we talked him into letting us put it up on the wall."

Which explains the motorcycle theme. But why pizza?

"That was the first job I ever had. When I was a kid, it was my favorite food, and I thought I was

either going to go broke buying pizza every day or go work for one and get a discount."

Pizza is still a favorite of Hedrick's, and he's drawn on years of pizza experience to create his menu and his pies. Michael's is a family affair, and the family insists on freshness and quality. Wife Susan works the counter, their daughter Blake takes orders, and the two youngest — Branham and Harley — count among their tasks shredding cheese.

Speaking of cheese, one of the

shop's specialty pizzas, the St. Louis, is made with Provel cheese from Imo's, a smallish, Midwestern, family-owned pizzeria chain. With that kind of dedication to quality, it's no surprise that at Michael's they make their own dough, the spaghetti sauces, the lasagna, from scratch. What is a surprise is that — at least for lunch — pizza isn't the best seller. The lunch business leans heavily on the Steak Hoagie (\$5.25), lasagna (\$7.50) and spaghetti with meat sauce (\$7.50).

At dinner, the aforementioned

St. Louis is a popular specialty pie (10-inch, \$6.50; 14-inch, \$10.50; 18-inch, \$14.50).

Michael's also sells pizza by the slice (\$2 for one topping, 25 cents for each additional topping).

Michael's is open from 4-10 p.m. Mondays and from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. The restaurant seats 75; delivery is also available. Beer and wine are served; a smoking section is provided. Located at 5616 Calhoun Memorial Highway; call 855-0025.