Rhonda Browning carried in hickory logs for the cooker as she readied The Barbecue Barn to open Friday. Ms. Browning has developed her own secret recipe for barbecue sauce that she uses for beef, pork, chicken and ribs. The restaurant is on U.S. 36 west of Norton.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Barbecue restaurant to open Friday

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Norton is about to get a new eatery, The Barbecue Barn.

If all goes as planned, Rhonda Browning, owner/operator will be open for business Friday with her own secret sauce, flavoring ribs, beef, pork and chicken.

"It's a secret recipe I concocted," said Ms. Browning. "Through a lot of trial and error and help from my mom and dad."

The Barn is located about a mile west of Norton on U.S. 36 on the crest of a little knoll on the north side of the highway. Look for the little red barn and the flashing sign. You can't miss it.

A self-proclaimed "army brat", Rhonda Browning has lived in lots of places.

Her father, the late LaVerne Grunert, was a career military man. But, he was raised in the Norton area and after his retirement in 1972, he and his wife, Shirley, moved back to Norton.

Ms. Browning had been living in Colorado Springs for more than 13 years when she decided to move to Norton to help her parents. Eight months ago, on Labor Day, Ms. Browning changed addresses one more time.

Ms. Browning worked as a registered nurse for 16 years. She was a foster parent, an inspector in a manufacturing plant and, at the time of her move, had just completed a year of sign language school on her way to becoming an interpreter for the deaf.

Always a good cook, Ms. Browning thought about opening a restaurant after she and her father talked about options.

"I was at a time in my life where I was ready to try something new," she said.

She recalls that her father helped her with every phase of this project. From menu selections to the design and dimensions of The Barn.

Her one regret is that her father did not live to see his dream come true. He died on April 14, one month before the opening.

Ms. Browning said she has had lots of challenges getting "The Barbecue Barn" ready for business.

Besides the death of her father, there were problems with construction, the weather did not always cooperate and appliances did not fit where they were supposed to.

But Ms. Browning said she is a positive person who solves her problems and gives other people credit for their help too.

"Larry Patterson is an angel. He pitched in and helped me, not only with the plumbing, but with the finish work, too," she said. "Everyone has been very helpful and encouraging."

Now, it's just Ms. Browning and her mother.

Mrs. Grunert will help by taking orders while her daughter fills them.

There is no dining area. The Barbecue Barn is strictly carry-out. Although, some day, Ms. Browning hopes to have a patio area where customers might sit in the shade to enjoy her house specialties.

The plan, for now, is to be open Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. and on holidays. Ribs will be a once-a-month special.

Ms. Browning hopes folks will call her for large orders as well. Besides barbecue, she can fix large batches of potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw and homemade cobbler. She will also be selling meat by the half and full pound.

Call ahead to 871-2332, or place your order at the window.

Norton children have had their shots

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County children are mostly immunized despite state statistics that Kansas youngsters are poorly prepared to combat childhood diseases.

County Health Nurse Gina Frack met with county commissioners on Monday to give them the results of a immunization assessment taken on March 16.

The assessment, of 50 children from 2 years to 35 months, showed that 94 percent of the county's children were fully immunized.

Fully immunized children have had four shots for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; three for hepatitis B; one for measles, mumps and rubella; and three for haemophilus influenza type b; and three doses of polio vaccine.

While Norton is doing well in immunizing its youngsters against childhood illnesses, the state and the rest of the country are not.

In 2000 Healthy People 2010 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set a goal that 90 percent of 2-years-olds will be immunized by 2010.

Kansas is ranked 45th in the nation for having its children immunized against childhood diseases, only 69 percent of them have received their shots.

Mrs. Frack said that she is planning to raise prices for family planning services but doesn't know how much yet.

The prices at the health department for family planning services have not gone up in three years, she said, but costs keep going up.

"We're there for people without health insurance or when there are some barriers to people paying so we have to keep our charges reasonable," Mrs. Frack said.

Mrs. Frack said that she and her people are figuring out the cost of time and materials to get reasonable prices.

She said that as soon as she has a price list she will get a copy to the commissioners and will be sending the information to patients when they get notices for procedures, such as annual pap smears.

The only prices that have changed, she said, are those on the sliding scale which are determined by the annual federal poverty level.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Discussed what might happen if the bioterrorism money from the federal government dries up.

• Learned that Mrs. Frack has been asked if she can help the city deal with unsafe environments. Mrs. Frack said that she would be happy to refer adults alone or children in need to the proper agencies. However, she said if the unsafe environment was about animals, she couldn't help.

• Received a letter Mrs. Frack has sent out to legislators reviewing the expenses of the family planning program, which is supposed to be paid for by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The program loses about $272 per patient and costs the county $21,783 a year. But, Mrs. Frack said, it saves the state money on unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, breast cancer and similar problems. In her letter she asks the state to help pay more of the expenses of this program.

Order SHAREs by Thursday

The deadline for ordering the May Heartland SHARE is noon Thursday. To order, call the Norton Senior Center at 877-5352 or Ermalea Mason at 877-3078.

Distribution will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 22, at the center.

The May package contains 1 pound Oscar Mayer bratwurst, 26 ounces chicken pot pies, a 31-ounce Digiorno's pizza, 8 ounces luncheon loaf, 2 pounds chicken thighs, potatoes, lettuce, green peppers, onions, apples, oranges, 2-pack of fruit bowls and a Jello Snak Pak.

For $17.25 plus two hours of volunteer work, you can receive all of the food or SHARE listed. You can order as many as you want. You can also order a meat only share for $10.50 plus an additional volunteer hour and a vegetable only share for $7 plus an additional volunteer hour.

After you purchase a SHARE you can order as many May specials as you want for $15 plus one additional volunteer hour.

May's Special is five individually wrapped 12-ounce Kansas City strip steaks.

Norton County Forecast for May 11th – May 17th

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
88/53	75/43	65/40	68/42	70/43	75/45	80/48

Normal High 73 — Sunrise 6:23 to 6:28am
Normal Low 46 — Sunset 8:44 to 8:50pm

The first week of May was warm and dry then Sunday brought us our first round of spring storms. Today will be windy and warm with more afternoon and evening storm chances. Tomorrow a cold front will move through keeping those chances for storms in the forecast through Thursday and also bringing cooler temperatures to finish the week. This weekend will be perfect for outdoor activity…not too hot and storm free.

www.decisionweather.com
"Call 1-866-SKY-EYES for a recorded local weather forecast"
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Jennings seniors graduate Saturday

Twelve seniors and five eighth graders from Jennings High School and Junior High will be graduating this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The senior class motto is "To give anything less than the best is to sacrifice the gift." Their class colors are black and gold and their class flower is the black-tipped yellow rose. The class sponsor is Mary Wahlmeier.

Brett McKenna, Senior class vice-president, will present the welcome and introduce the valedictorian and salutatorian.

Katie Randolph will present the valedictorian address and Grant Bailey the salutatorian address with Abner Williams as the guest speaker.

Vickie Bailey and Larry Miller, Board of Education members, presented the high school diplomas and certificates of completion to the eighth grade graduates.

The high school graduates are Grant Michael Bailey, son of Mike and Vickie Bailey; Nathan Ryan Becker, son of Paul and Linda Becker; Andrew Francis Coiner, son of Matt and Sarah Coiner; Buddy Shane Graf, son of Vonda Vacura; Matthew Paul Heinrich, son of Richard and Rochelle Mather; Sara Marie Kier, daughter of Mick and Melody Kier; Brett Michael McKenna, son of Mike and Joan McKenna; Adam Lawrence Miller, son of Larry and Mary Miller; Katie Jo Randolph, daughter of Len and Kathy Randolph, Zane Roy Smith, son of Larry Smith and Jackie Smith; Adam Ray Wahlmeier, son of Jeff and Mary Wahlmeier; and Nicholas Jon Wahlmeier, son of Jeff and Mary Wahlmeier.

The eighth-grade graduates are Ashley Renee Brown, daughter of Kirk Brown, and Hope Brown and Kerry Green; Erika Cano, daughter of David and Isabel Cano; Joseph Patrick Carter, son of David and Diane Carter; Brittany Nicole Ritter, daughter of Greg and Stephanie Ritter; and Josh David Stone, son of Lucy Stone.

Logan High School to graduate 19 Sunday

Nineteen seniors and sixteen eighth graders from Logan High School and Junior High will be graduating on Sunday in the Logan School Auditorium

The senior graduation will be 4 p.m. and the eighth-grade graduation will be at 2 p.m.

Graduating seniors are Taylor Andrew Archer, Megan Danielle Clements, Robert Dean Cox, Seth Ryan Diggs, Clorisa Marie Fish, Valerie Christine Jackson, Shawn Lee Kachel, Kyle Wade McClurg, Kelsey Lane Noel, Amber Dawn Richard, Stephanie Marie Ruff, Bailey Christina Sammons, Carolyn Mary Shank, Samuel Jacob States, Tyler Wayne Thomas, James Royce Tidball, Tyson Eugene Triplett, Eric Scott Van Der Wege and Joell Arlene Yocum.

Lanee Webb, Kyle Burge, Vanessa VanDiest and Jake McCue are the class attendants.

The class motto is "In our future there are no impossibilities." The class flower is the red rose and the class colors are red, black and silver.

The processional "Pomp and Circumstance" will be played by Vesta Jo Still. Megan Clements will give the invocation and Bailey Sammons will give the welcome, which will be followed by the class song, "The Dance".

Lonnie Jansonius will give the address.

Counselor Robin VanLaeys will present the Citizenship Award and the Charles and Evah Dougherty Scholarship, and Superintendent Robert Jackson will present the class.

Keith Forssberg will give the class roll and Cathy States will present the diplomas. Following the presentation of diplomas, Mrs. VanLaeys will present the honors and awards.

Valerie Jackson will give the Salutatorian farewell and Stephanie Ruff will give the Valedictorian farewell. A class video will be shown.

Kelsey Noel will give the benediction. Ms. Still will play the recessional.

The eighth-grade graduates are Jenny Lee Archer, Garrett Thomas Becker, Brandy Shane Breese, Payton Dean Chestnut, Amberlea Edwards, Ethan Henry Gottschalk, Zachary James Long, Shelley Rose Kemper, Aspen Renee Larson, Brian Joseph Pinkerton, Savannah Noel Sammons, Leandra Mae Sparks, Bret Alan Van Der Wege, Shaley Annamarie Van Loenen, Kodi NcNeil Wallgren, and Jessica Renee Zillinger.

Kathryn Hartman and Levi Kiser are the class attendants.

The class flowers are gerbera daisies. The class colors are red, black and silver. Shannon Kats is the class sponsor.

A processional of "Pomp and Circumstance" will be played by Kelsey Noel.

Shelley Kemper will give the invocation.

Stephanie Ruff and Tyler Thomas will give the address.

The class song "Like an Eagle", directed by Vesta Jo Still, will be sung.

Mrs. VanLaeys will present the Citizenship Award and Mr. Jackson will present the honor awards. Speeches will be made by the valedictorian and salutatorian.

Mr. Jackson will present the class. Roll call will be given by Staci Hartman. Kirk Girard will present the diplomas.

The benediction will be given by Savannah Sammons. Kelsey Noel will play the recessional.

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