

Eastern Kentucky Sampler

By Matt O'Neil PREP Magazine Correspondent

The expansion of **Mark's Mountain BBQ** at 1435 North KY 11 in Campton continues. Mark Meyer started out with a tow-behind smoker and a tent at that location three years ago. Since then he has added a permanent structure and deck seating for 75. Mr. Meyer expects to expand further, to 150 seats, by next spring. Marks features BBQ and ribs with traditional homemade sides like potato salad and slaw. Mr. Meyer also offers blackberry cobbler, apple pie and wildly popular homemade brownies for those who leave room for dessert.

John and Kathy Hadlock have purchased the **Waterfront Café** on Athens-Boonesboro Road on the Kentucky River. The couple has remolded the property and now operates under the banner of Waterfront Restaurant and Pizzeria. The menu features fried fish, rib-eye steaks among the entrees, and banana peppers as one of the appetizers. Homemade meatloaf, barbeque ribs, and corn bred are some of the weekly specials. The couple has added a pizza oven for handmade pizzas that are available for carry out customers.

The Murphy Building, one of downtown Ashland's most recognizable structures, will soon be undergoing a face lift. Plans call for the 43,000 square foot building to be converted into an artisan center, with retail space and a yet-to-be named restaurant. The Murphy Building project is the first phase in what city officials hope will be a more extensive redevelopment of three large unoccupied buildings downtown.

The restaurant at the Budget Inn on 13th street in Ashland has a new name and new management. **Naomi's** is now under the direction of Naomi and Brad Kirk. The Kirk's offer a home-style menu that includes items like liver and onions and country fried steak. Breakfast is served all day and free coffee is offered every day except Sunday. Naomi's is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days a week and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Sam's Hot Dog Stand at 84 Weddington Branch Road in Pikeville has a new owner, Jason Zeller. The location was originally opened in 1998, but closed following the death of the owner. Sam's remained shuttered for about five months but was reopened and put back on its feet by Operational Manager, Michael Ensow. Mr. Zeller took over in April. Sam's is a regional chain based in Huntington, West Virginia, that operates about 40 stores in its home state and in Eastern Kentucky. The menu is kept simple with offerings like hotdogs, pork BBQ sandwiches, and hand-dipped milkshakes. -PREP