



Kalen Ponche/Index  
(Above) Bakery owner Rayna Ihnat scrapes dough from her bowl while making cinnamon crispies. Ihnat said this is the first time she's made the cinnamon-bun-like sweets. She said she is always looking for cookbooks to try something new. Two of her favorite items, baklava and napoleon's, were made because of a customer's suggestion, she said. The one year anniversary of Rayna's, which is located at 210 N. Baltimore, will be Sept. 1. Rayna's is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Rayna's offers custom-made wedding, groom and birthday cakes in addition to the many other sweets she makes on a daily basis.

Cindy First/Index  
(Right) Rayna Ihnat works in her custom-designed kitchen Wednesday afternoon. Ihnat said when she purchased the building, it was an empty shell. She designed and put in the kitchen, freezer area and front of the shop.



## Rayna's mixes cakes, flowers in first year

**Bakery owner creates custom-made sweets at customer requests**

**Maggie Wolcott**  
Staff Reporter

Rayna Ihnat has been in love with baking since age 10, when she received a cookbook from her grandma.

"Cakes are my first love," Ihnat said. "They always have been, and they always will be."

After working at the bakeries in Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee, Ihnat opened her own shop, Rayna's, off of the Square on Sept. 1, 2004.

"It is more than a bakery," Ihnat said. "People look at the windows and think it is a wedding shop. That is why it is called just Rayna's, because there is no way to put everything that we do."

Rayna's also offers wedding planning, makes flower arrangements and caters various events.

With the one-year anniversary of Rayna's opening just around the corner, Ihnat said business has picked up.

"I think I came in thinking that when the doors opened there would be packs of people, but I've come down to earth now," Ihnat said. "Business is getting there. I know it will take time."

Ihnat said more people will learn that her shop is downtown.

"I don't look forward to slowing down," Ihnat said.

Ihnat said Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee are her biggest competitors when it comes to cakes. She said she doesn't compete with anyone when it comes to other services, though, like wedding planning.

Ihant baked and decorated Kirksville resident Brittany Schoonover's wedding cake. Schoonover said the cake was pretty, and she was pleased with how it turned out.

"She wants to know exactly what you want," Schoonover said. "She is really nice. She sat down with us, answered questions and went through a magazine. ... She is more personable about it."

Ihnat said the one-on-one attention she is able to offer her customers is one of her favorite things.

"I like to help them and to watch their faces whenever you give them an idea that they really like," Ihnat said. "And to actually make it happen, that is the fun of it."

Although many bakers have professional training, all of Ihnat's teaching has been self-taught or learned from friends and co-workers at other shops.

"I had a lot of good teachers," Ihnat said. "People I would give my right arm to decorate like."

When it comes to cakes, Ihnat said all are different.

"There are no two that go out alike," Ihnat said. "... No two decorators decorate the same."

She said her customers receive exactly what they want, regardless of Ihnat's preferences.

"Whether it's a birthday cake or a wedding cake for 600 people, they still deserve the same amount of time and courtesy," she said.

Rayna's is typically stocked with bakery items that Ihnat said customers couldn't get other places in town. She said she started making pastries like baklava and napoleons at customers' requests.

Ihnat said she enjoys making new things for her customers.

"If they tell me the name of it so I can find a recipe, I am willing to try it," Ihnat said. "And then they can be my critics if it is good or if it is not good."

While Ihnat usually works by herself at the store, she said her family comes and helps out when there is a lot of business.

Her niece and nephew like to make monster cookies with multi-colored hair, she said.

"Theirs sell better than mine do," Ihnat said.

Ihnat's sister, Teresa Creason, said she has liked working at the store to experiment with new things.

"Working here you don't want too many sweets," Creason said.

Rayna's is located at 210 N. Baltimore and is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

## Golden arches get a facelift as McDonald's revamps

**New store will boast wireless Internet access, Dance Dance Revolution and video games**

**Naomi Davis**  
Staff Reporter

On the return drive to campus down Baltimore Street, students might notice a change in one of their favorite fast food venues.

Where that friendly, yellow-glowing "M" once stood, now only a construction site remains. Before students begin imagining their lives without a dollar menu, however, they can relax. McDonald's isn't going anywhere.

The south McDonald's closed for renovations June 1 and will remain under construction until the projected opening date of Sept. 15. Kirksville's north McDonald's, located in front of the Wal-Mart parking lot, has been renovated recently and remains open.

Holly Lynch, co-owner of both the north and south McDonald's locations, has been supervising the reconstruction of the south McDonald's since it closed.

"The south store will be a whole new design," Lynch said. "In fact, it's only the third one in the

nation so in the McDonald's world this is pretty exciting."

A fresh new version of a familiar place will bring change to both the McDonald's corporation and the Kirksville community. The south McDonald's new design compares only to two other locations in the nation — one in Branson, Mo., and the other on the East Coast, Lynch said.

The new McDonald's will feature a larger PlayPlace, complete with video games, Nintendo stations and Dance Dance Revolution. Specific features catering to adults and students also will be available, including big-screen TV and free wireless Internet access.

"We are trying to attract the college group, which is why we are providing the Internet access," Lynch said. "But rumor has it they like Dance Dance Revolution too."

Sophomore Ryan Farrar's hometown of Rolla, Mo., features a McDonald's with similar attractions.

"I would go to watch people do Dance Dance Revolution," Farrar said. "It had couches and flat-

screen TVs. It felt like you were at home."

Farrar said he is looking forward to the re-opening of the south McDonald's.

"I am really excited about it," Farrar said. "It's the best thing to happen to Kirksville all summer."

**"In fact, it's only the third one in the nation so in the McDonald's world this is pretty exciting."**

**Holly Lynch**  
Co-owner of McDonald's in Kirksville

The aesthetics of the restaurant also will change, taking a style similar to the new renovations at the north building. A new setup with living room-like wallpaper, furniture and a fireplace will give the new building a homey feel, Lynch said.

Students returning to town after their three-month absence might discover a few other changes in Kirksville businesses, including a Home Depot and Mug Shotz, a new drive-through coffee shop.

Whether Kirksville is in the midst of a rush of new business attractions is unclear. Assistant City Manager Kris McKim said she thinks the new businesses will have a positive influence.

"I think when one national chain comes it attracts another national chain, which helps regionalize Kirksville," McKim said. "Other places begin to see Kirksville [as an] opportunity."



Nicole Meltbarger/Index  
McDonald's, located at 1401 S. Baltimore, undergoes construction on a redesign. The renovated store opens Sept. 15.

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