

Free Lance



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LIGHTS, CAMERA: MCNETT LIVE!

Cooking classes digestible for television viewing

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Cooking aficionados can now view Dorothy McNett's cooking classes from the comfort of their own homes.

The owner of Dorothy McNett's Place, a gourmet cookware store in Hollister, now has her own cooking show.

The 30 minute show, titled "Cooking with Dorothy McNett" will begin airing Friday at noon on local cable channel 5, or KION News Channel 46.

McNett began taping her cooking classes on location at her store in January. So when KION recently approached her to do a cooking show, the transition was simple.

"This ties in perfectly with running a business," McNett said. "We do it ourselves and it's all in-house."

McNett's classroom is equipped with a top of the line digital and robotic camera system.

"We've been doing this for the last six weeks," she said. "We've got eight (shows) in the can already."

As a former teacher, McNett is not shy before an audience, and Patrick Dougherty, who operates the camera system, said McNett has a unique way of instruction.

"It's a very 'how to' kind of show," Dougherty said. "The manner of her presentation is very good. The way she presents information is easily digestible for viewers. No pun intended."

That charisma may have fueled the sales of her instructional video tapes.



Dorothy McNett prepares a meal for her cooking class Wednesday.

"The videos have become very popular," McNett said. "They're shipping all over. People are buying them in dozens."

Patrick McKenzie and his wife Billie are regulars at McNett's classes.

"I've only missed two", said Billie McKenzie, who's been attending the classes for eight years.

Even though the classes will now be on television, Patrick McKenzie may still attend in person.

"It's just nice to be able to come to a cooking class like this," he said. "You can't watch it on TV. It's not the same thing. Here you can smell it."

The business and television show are operated by McNett, her son Paul McNett and Dougherty.

Paul McNett updates the company's Web site, www.happycookers.com by making sure all recipes, products and tapings of the show are available on it.

Dougherty handles the taping and editing of the show, and McNett of course does the cooking.

"It's a well oiled machine because all of us are doing what we really love to do," she said.

During this Friday's show, McNett will prepare Chicken Divan.