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Funny name, serious BBQ

By Stephen Woodward/Staff Writer

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CUMBERLAND GAP — Barbecue joints are springing up all over the Tri-state area, from Heavy's BBQ to Haymaker Farms, both located in Harrogate. Now there's one more to add to the list: Chew Choos Barbecue and Brew, in Cumberland Gap.

I came in Chew Choos on a Thursday night. Inside the rustic train depot building in Cumberland Gap, families gathered around tables, enjoyed tasty barbecue, cold beers, and conversation. The menu offers barbecue specialties of pulled pork barbecue and chicken, along with many other appetizers, entrees, and side dishes. The restaurant hosts regularly changing desserts and, of course, beer.

Everything was very reasonably priced. I ordered a pulled pork barbecue sandwich, along with potato wedges and cole slaw. A meal without drinks came in around \$7.

The sandwich was served on a big sesame seed bun that had been slightly toasted and buttered. It complemented perfectly the barbecue, which tasted fresh out of the smoker. The potatoes were all freshly cooked as well, and everything was prepared well.

Overall, the restaurant was clean, new, and well furnished. There are three dining areas inside with tables covered in the traditional checkered mats. Diners can also eat on the porch outside, taking in quaint Cumberland Gap.

In the main room, there is a jukebox and souvenir stand. The kitchen is located below the dining area, and food is sent up on a dumb waiter. But hey, that's nothing against the service. My waiter was prompt and brought anything I needed.

When you're at Chew Choos, you can't have a barbecue sandwich without some Road Kill.

The restaurant specializes in Road Kill BBQ Sauce, made locally by Jim and Lois Appleby in Ewing, Va. Their slogan is "The BBQ Sauce 'That Makes Raccoon Taste Almost As Good As Possum.'" Jokes aside, the sauce is great and makes Chew Choos barbecue taste even better. The sauce is put on every table and is even sold in the restaurant.


Along with the trademark sauce, Chew Choos sells souvenir shirts for tourists and locals who want to advertise a great place to find barbecue in the area.



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