

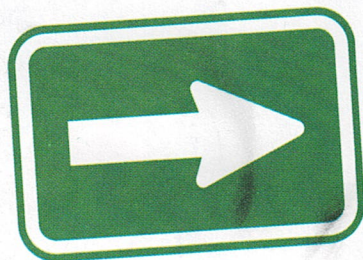


FIFTY GRANDE

Fill 'em up

In parts of Mississippi, gas stations hold a unique place in the local food scene.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY RORY DOYLE



In parts of Mississippi, gas stations serve an unlikely place in the culinary scene: They're a good place to get a meal. (No, seriously.) They're accessible and affordable options in places where supermarkets and restaurants are sometimes scarce or too expensive. In a state where 65

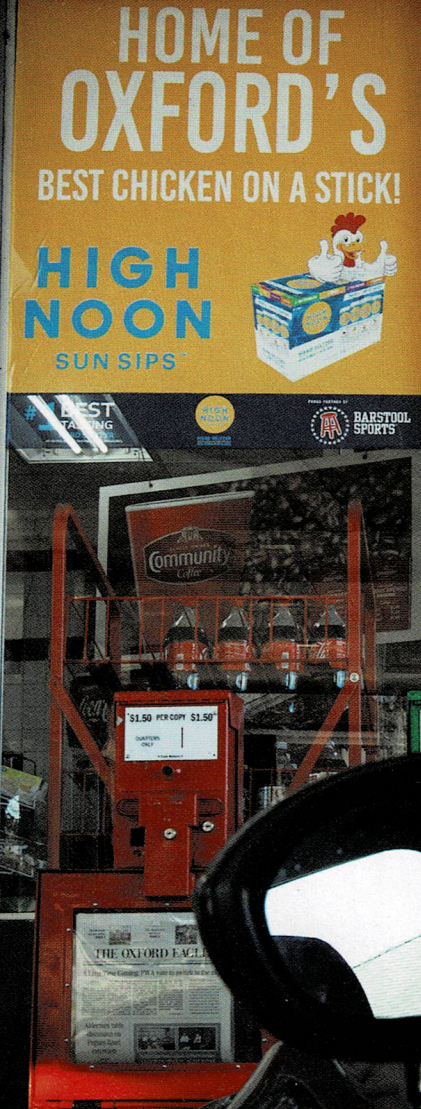
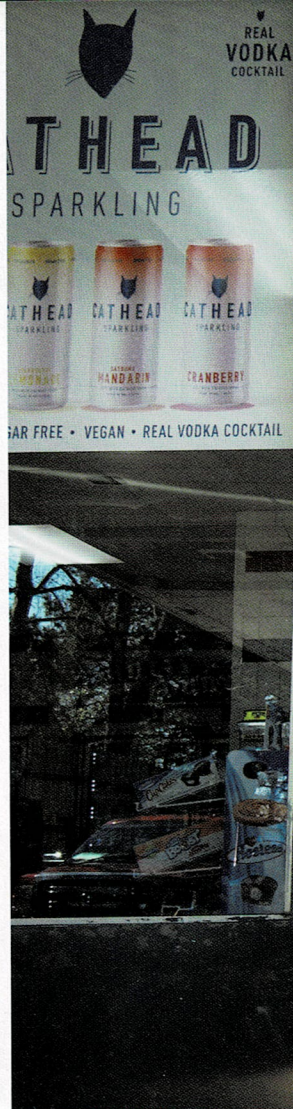
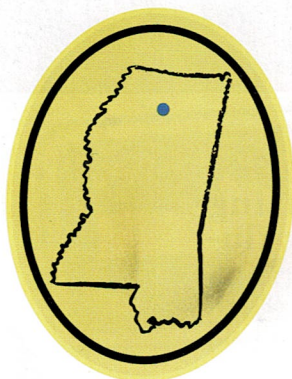


of the 82 counties are considered to be rural, the nearest grocery store could be more than 10 miles away, making gas stations a surprising dining hub for locals and travelers alike. Drawing from regional influences, some gas station owners have gotten creative with their offerings and added their own family recipes in changing daily menus.

OXFORD

In the college town of Oxford, at the intersection of North and South Lamar Boulevards and University, the chicken on a stick at the 4 Corners Chevron is a local icon. (We shit you not.) It's good too. Yeah, it's obviously considered drunk food, but it's also one that pulls in college kids and locals to this small 24-hour convenience store. There's a buffet-style counter that offers a bunch of fried snacks, like the ones you might find at the state fair: egg rolls, potato wedges. The chicken on a stick is a giant breaded and deep-fried chicken tender on, well, a stick for \$6. Tip: Don't go when there's an Ole Miss football game since the place will be A MOB SCENE.

For a wildly different experience, the Marketplace at Oxford Commons is just beyond campus in a Shell station. Their menu includes chicken pot pie like your mom makes (without the guilt trips), tacos and fresh shrimp from the coast.





DELTA

The Mississippi Delta, that 200-mile region of land between the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers in Northwest Mississippi, is a culturally and agriculturally rich area that is the birthplace of blues legends like B.B. King and Robert Johnson, and has a long history of cotton, rice

and corn farming, but is short on food options. Convenience stores, which include gas stations, accounted for 32% of the food options in the Delta, compared with grocery stores making up 4%, according to a study offered from the National Library of Medicine.



BREAKFAST		DRINKS OR TEA	149 - 229
EGGS OR PANCAKES		SALADS	495 - 695
WITH GRITS & HAM		TACO SALAD	795
BACON OR SAUSAGE	695	SOUP	595 GUMBO 795
BREAKFAST SANDWICH	275	STEAK BASKET	795
STEAK EGG & CHEESE	300	CHIC TND BASKET	795
SAUSAGE & BISCUIT	250	SHRIMP BASKET	1095
CHICKEN & BISCUIT	250	ODDS & ENDS	
OMELET	795	CHIC ON STIC	325
GRILLED CHEESE	250	FRIED PICKLES	495
HASH BROWN	129	CHEESE STICKS	495
EXTRA EGG	75	FRIED OKRA	299
COFFEE	100	REG FRIES	249
CAPPUCINO	199	SEASONED FRIES	269
PLATE LUNCHES		HOT OR SWEET TOT	295
MON-THURSDAY	795	ONION RINGS	395
FRIDAY CATFISH	1095	FRIED GREEN TOM	495

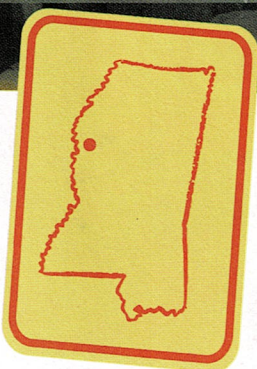


Put
your
thirst
on
ice.

DELI HOURS
MON - FRI 6-6
SATURDAY 6-130

Enjoy
Coca-Cola

SANDWICHES	PO BOYS
COLD CUT	295 HAM OR TURKEY
TUNA OR CKN SALAD	395 ROAST BEEF
BLT	395 CHICKEN TENDER
H BURGER	475-775 MEATBALL
C BURGER	495-795 SW CHICKEN
CHKN FILET	595 ITALIAN SAUSAGE
TURKEY MELT	595 BAHAMA MAMA
BBQ PORK	595-795 VEAL ROMANO
PANINI	695 CHICKEN PARMESAN
CLUB	795 FRIED OLIVE
PASTRAMI	795 PHILLY CHICK
RUEBEN	795 PHILLY STEAK
CATFISH	795 SMOKIN JOE
GRILLED TUNA	895 CLUB
MUFFULETTA	1095 SLAP YO MAMA
BEAR LAKE BURGER	1095 SHRIMP



LELAND

In Leland, Miss., a small town with a population of about 4,000 where Muppets creator Jim Henson spent his formative years, Fratesi Grocery and Service Station is the go-to

for locals. Fratesi's was opened by Italian immigrants and serves a mix of Italian and New Orleans-style foods. The afternoon menu board includes sandwiches like



muffalettas alongside plate lunches. But the most popular dish is the fried olive po' boy, made on crusty French bread with battered whole olives.





TUPELO

The three locations of Papa V's convenience store in Elvis' birthplace of Tupelo are known locally for their stand-out barbecue. Served in what is essentially a downtown gas station/deli/convenience store/barbecue restaurant, they offer ribs, wings, biscuits, fried catfish sandwiches — crunchy cornmeal-breaded filets of Mississippi farm-raised fish — and more. The offerings change often, but include chicken and dumplings and black-eyed peas. The convenience store even sells craft beers from Lazy Magnolia Brewery and Natchez Brewing Co. If it weren't for the line of people buying cigarettes and lottery tickets, you'd forget you were eating in a gas station.