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By JASON PATTERSON and JAMIE PATTERSON The Yazoo Herald

Horace Johnson Sr. always had a joke and a smile, and he treated every customer who walked in the door like family.

Johnson always opened the doors to Fannie's Cafe to allow local families to celebrate events like birthdays and anniversaries and to allow families to gather after funerals. He never charged them a dime. He considered it a way to give something back to the community.

Johnson's jovial nature is one of the reasons his restaurant has thrived in one of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods for over three decades, and many Yazooans are still trying to come to terms with how someone could take his life.

The 73-year-old business owner was murdered Friday night after he tried to remove a disorderly man from his local business. Johnson died from a gunshot wound to his throat.

-----for the rest of the story see The Yazoo Herald printed edition or subscribe to the Digital Edition.----