

# Aldermen make no decision on baggy pants law

## ■ Nuisance furniture ordinance passed.

By J. Lynn West

New Albany's outdoor furniture and appliance nuisance ordinance has become law but the proposed public indecency ordinance which addresses wearing pants well below the hips was placed on hold after a public hearing degenerated into personal comments.

The so-called "baggy pants" ordinance was introduced by Ward Three Alderman Tommie Beasley, concerned, he said, that outstanding young people might be incorrectly judged because of the way they wore pants, and because in some cases the wearers simply showed too much underclothing or skin.

The law would have prohibited exposure of genitals, public urination or defecation, partial nudity and a variety of lewd acts but the part that drew discussion and dif-

fering opinion prohibited "Intentionally wearing pants or skirts more than three inches below the top of the hips (crest of the ilium) exposing the skin or undergarments."

A few residents at the public hearing on the ordinance this past Tuesday spoke out in opposition to it. One criticism was that the problem is not that bad, and is a fad already going out of style. "I don't think police should confront young people and tell them how to dress," Southside community

activist Larry Dykes, who opposed Beasley in the 2009 municipal election, said.

Jennifer Jones was opposed to the low-slung pants but said she had no trouble with asking the young people to pull them up herself. "I don't want it to turn into a racial profiling thing. I want to teach the young people to respect the police," she said.

Dykes argued that police should enforce current laws before getting into the business of telling people how to dress, com-

plaining that young people are allowed to cause noise and make a mess on Wall's parking lot but when his lodge has event police come and tell him to be quiet or shut it down.

Jones noted that the pulled-down pants are worn by white young people as well as black and others said they just did not think the police should be involved in telling people how to dress.

After Dykes and Beasley began

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## Christmas coffee with Santa



18-month-old Evan Cruz peers around the corner, not sure whether he wants to get any closer to Santa at the Union County Heritage Museum Saturday. In addition to photos with Santa, games and a scavenger hunt were available for the kids and the Historic Northside District Garden Club held their Christmas Coffee.



Youngsters who had no hesitation about visiting with Santa were Micah Reed, 8, and Jobe Reed, 5, sons of Bro. Matthew and Jennifer Reed.



Garden club members served refreshments to the steady stream of visitors to the museum.

Photos by J. Lynn West

## Grant awarded to help fund 'whistle-stops' on Tanglefoot Trail

GM&O Rails-to-Trails Recreational District of North Mississippi Chairperson Betsey Hamilton of New Albany today announced the awarding of a \$40,000 grant by the Carpenter Foundation to fund construction of two "whistle-stop" rest area facilities along the Tanglefoot Trail in Ecru and Algoma. Tanglefoot Trail is being developed from a 44-mile stretch of abandoned railroad corridor from downtown New Albany to Houston.

"We are extremely grateful to the Carpenter Foundation and are honored to have their generous support in construction of our planned Whistle Stops," said Mrs. Hamilton. "These facilities located in Ingomar, Ecru, Algoma and New Houka will provide rest areas for users including restroom, water fountain, bike rack, benches, picnic table, waste receptacles and parking," she said.

The Tanglefoot Trail, which will meander through the rural countryside of Northeast Mississippi, will offer multiuse recreational opportunities for area residents and travelers. The rails-to-trails project will preserve the abandoned railroad corridor, and its right-of-way, for recreational trail use and possible future reactivation for economic development if needed, Hamilton added.

Ecru Mayor Tom Todd, a Tanglefoot Trail board member, joined in praising Carpenter for their donation. "The Carpenter Foundation is most generous in recognizing this need in our area. For years they have used their resources to fund worthy projects, and we are pleased that ours was one of them."

Tanglefoot Trail is situated in Union, Pontotoc and Chickasaw Counties and runs through New Albany, Ecru, Pontotoc, Algoma, New Houka and Houston. Tanglefoot Board Member Jay Blissard of Algoma said, "The Carpenter Foundation grant of \$40,000 will offer opportunities for children and adults, walkers, runners, skaters and cyclists to experience the history of this area in the hills of Mississippi."

"In addition to positively affecting our communities, this project will benefit our region from the statewide recreational, tourism and economic aspect due to its length and scope," Hamilton said.

Three Rivers Planning and Development District serves as administrative and fiscal agent on behalf of the GM&O Rails-to-Trails Recreational District.

# Architecture alumnus gives back to alma mater

Ted Porter may be a long way from home, but that hasn't stopped him from saying connected to his Mississippi roots.

Porter, principal at Ryall Porter Sheridan Architects in New York, recently won the Brick Industry Association (Southeast Region) Design Award for a project he created in his hometown of New Albany. The award is given each year to an architect who uses brick in a notable way.

Porter designed a house to fill a vacant lot in downtown New Albany, and he is now leasing out the home.

"The idea was to fill a missing tooth," he said.

The Brick Industry Associa-

tion Award came with a \$2,000 scholarship that Porter could designate to an institution of his choice.

"Of course I chose the Mississippi State University School of Architecture," he said, but his giving didn't end there.

Porter said he was recently talking to Jim West, the dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Design, about how some students don't have the means to be able to travel, so he decided to set up a scholarship for that purpose.

"I think it's really important that everyone has the same opportunity for travel in the school," he said. "It's good to be able to see great works of

architecture, and often that means traveling to far, fun places. Architecture can't truly be represented in books and online."

Porter named the travel scholarship after an art history professor he had while studying at Mississippi State, Paul Grootker.

"He opened a lot of interests for me that I've enjoyed pursuing for the last 35 years or so," Porter said. "I think it's good to recognize professors who have an influence on you."

Porter presented the award money to the School of Architecture on Nov. 30 in Starkville and also served as a guest juror for fourth-year student final reviews.



Ted Porter

