



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



ALEXANDER COOPER

MACHINE OPERATOR II,
WALK-IN METAL DEPARTMENT

Thermo-Kool Machine Operator II, Walk-In Metal Department – **Alexander Cooper** was selected Employee of the Month for January 2026. Alexander was nominated by **Thermo-Kool** Production Supervisor, **Jermaine Jones**, who commented, “Alex consistently accepts and applies adjustments related to the quality of finished ends, particularly regarding metal bending requirements for walk-in cooler panels. He assists with making necessary corrections to ensure work is completed accurately and meets specifications. Alex has helped train new employees, making sure they understand proper processes and expectations within the department. He can operate multiple machines while completing all assigned tasks, demonstrating strong focus and efficiency. Alex consistently produces high-quality work and maintains a strong work ethic, making him a reliable and valuable member of the team.” Alexander has been with **Thermo-Kool** since February 2021.



KENNETH ORMAN

DRAFTER I,
SALES DEPARTMENT

Thermo-Kool Drafter I, Sales Department – **Kenneth Orman** was selected Employee of the Month for February 2026. Kenneth was nominated by **Thermo-Kool** Sales Supervisor, **Erin Harrison**, who shared, “Kenneth has taken a strong leadership role in training while continuing to manage his own workload effectively. He takes a personal interest in each new employee’s growth and success. Kenneth is always at work on time. His dependability and willingness to help others consistently go above and beyond expectations, which makes him well deserving of this recognition.” Kenneth has been with **Thermo-Kool** since February 2022.

ONE WORD

Every year, our team selects a word to live and work by. This word is displayed in everyone’s respective office as a reminder of our commitment and dedication to make the new year as successful as possible.



Mark Fogarty
Executive Vice President
Trust

“When trust is strong, we move faster, communicate better, and solve problems the right way.”



David Whitehead
Plant Manager
Authentic

“Authenticity requires self-reflection, ownership of both successes and mistakes, and the courage to have honest conversations. It means aligning my words with my actions and holding myself to the same standards I expect of others.”



Heath Morris
Purchasing Supervisor
Genuine

“I value honesty, consistency, and being real with people, whether things are going smoothly or there are challenges to work through.”



Jon Biegel
National Sales Manager
Elevate

“Elevate reminds me to move beyond “good enough” and consistently push for excellence.”

VICIOUS BISCUIT: A DELICIOUSLY VICIOUS INSTALL



By: Lisa Hinton



When you think of the word “vicious,” what usually comes to mind? Aggressive. Savage. Maybe even a little cruel. But when it comes to one of **Thermo-Kool’s** latest installs, “Vicious” simply means delicious.

That’s exactly the flavor of excitement surrounding the walk-in cooler installation for **Vicious Biscuit** in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a fast-growing breakfast and brunch concept known for bold flavors, scratch-made comfort food, and biscuits so good they practically demand a second helping.



Founded on the belief that mornings should never be boring, **Vicious Biscuit** has built a reputation for hearty Southern favorites with a playful twist. Led by Co-Founder and Franchisor, **George McLaughlin**, the brand continues to grow its following with bold flavors and an unmistakable personality. From towering biscuit sandwiches and rich gravy creations to creative brunch cocktails and crave-worthy sides, **Vicious Biscuit** has quickly become a must-visit destination for locals and travelers alike. In short, it’s a place where indulgence is encouraged and flavor is anything but timid.

To help keep all that flavor flowing, **Thermo-Kool** delivered a walk-in cooler measuring 12’ 9” x 7’ 10” x 8’ 6” high, built with a durable stucco aluminum interior and exterior and insulated with 4-inch foamed-in-place urethane for dependable performance. A flush-mounted entrance door, vapor-proof lighting, dial thermometer, vinyl strip curtain, and energy-efficient LED fixtures round out the installation. All simple, practical features that make a big difference during the breakfast rush when every second counts.



Thermo-Kool Sales Specialist **Allison Ishee** worked on the project alongside **Matt Henson** with **PMR, Inc.**, as well as **Alan Dear** and **Tracy Cooksey** with **Singer H&R**. Project drafting was completed by **Kenneth Orman**, with production design support from **Matthew Davidson**.

The truth is, none of that biscuit magic happens by accident. There’s a kitchen behind the scenes working hard to keep things fresh, safe, and moving fast. Because when the brunch crowd rolls in, you either stay ready or get left behind. That’s where **Thermo-Kool** quietly does what it does best, delivering cold storage solutions that support the moments guests remember long after the last crumb is gone.



Vicious Biscuit’s Hattiesburg location, led by franchisees **Cliff** and **Hunter Russum**, is now serving up its signature Southern hospitality, and if you’re in the area, we highly recommend stopping by for a biscuit experience that’s truly savage... in the very best way.

IN THE NEWS

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE: VR INSTALL TRAINING LAUNCHES AT THERMO-KOOL



Thermo-Kool is excited to introduce our new Virtual Reality (VR) Install Training program, CyberKool, designed to provide an immersive, hands-on learning experience for installers and team members. This innovative training allows participants to step inside a simulated walk-in environment, gaining practical knowledge of proper installation techniques in a safe and controlled setting.

Upcoming training sessions will give attendees the opportunity to explore warehouse training remotely, improve confidence in the installation process, and better understand the craftsmanship and precision that define the **Thermo-Kool** difference. By combining cutting-edge technology with our long-standing commitment to quality, **Thermo-Kool** continues to invest in tools that support both our customers and our employees.

We look forward to welcoming participants to upcoming classes and to continuing our tradition of innovation in training and development.

Scan the QR code to sign up for training!

CHRANE FOODSERVICE SOLUTIONS VISITS THERMO-KOOL FOR REP TRAINING

Thermo-Kool was pleased to welcome members of the **Chrane Foodservice Solutions** team to our Laurel headquarters March 4–6 for an in-depth rep training experience. Traveling from Texas, the group spent several days gaining hands-on insight into **Thermo-Kool's** manufacturing process, product features, and the people and craftsmanship that set our walk-ins apart.

During their visit, Chrane representatives toured the factory, explored key design and engineering considerations, and participated in training sessions focused on helping them better support customers in the field. The time together also provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, share ideas, and align on strategies for continued growth in the foodservice marketplace.

At **Thermo-Kool**, we believe that strong partnerships are built through collaboration, transparency, and shared knowledge. We were honored to host the Chrane team and look forward to building on the momentum created during their visit as we continue working together to deliver dependable cold storage solutions.



Pictured from left to right: Jon Beigel, Justin Bickford, Kevin Sine, Nick Hughes, Maddie Gootos, Taylor Kimball, Elise Carney, Cale Laaser, Brian Mock.

IN THE COMMUNITY

A TRADITION OF GIVING (AND GREAT COOKING!)

On February 17, **Thermo-Kool** was proud to once again sponsor the annual Red Beans and Rice event at St. John's Day School, which is a long-standing tradition that has become a meaningful part of our connection to the Laurel community.

Each year, **Thermo-Kool** provides the ingredients for the event, while our very own **Paul Moss**, Vice President & Comptroller, takes the lead in preparing the meal. Known around the office for his legendary recipe (and even more legendary leftovers), Paul dedicates countless hours to soaking, seasoning, and slow-cooking the beans to perfection.

While many of us eagerly await his return, hoping he might bring a little taste of the tradition back to the office, the true highlight is seeing the smiles this event brings to the students. Supporting opportunities that uplift and bring joy to local children is something **Thermo-Kool** is proud to be part of year after year.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Paul for his continued commitment to serving both great food and our community. It's traditions like this that remind us how meaningful it is to give back.



TEAM KOOL BEANS TURNS UP THE HEAT FOR YEAR FOUR!

On Saturday, February 7th, Team Kool Beans returned to downtown Laurel for our fourth year of chili cooking and community support at the Bank First Chili Cook-Off. What started as a fun competition has become a tradition we look forward to each year, bringing together bold flavors, friendly rivalry, and plenty of **Thermo-Kool** spirit.



While the competition is always exciting, the true heart of the event is giving back. This year, all proceeds benefited Laurel Main Street, supporting the ongoing maintenance and preservation of our historic downtown area. We're proud to play a small part in helping keep Laurel beautiful and thriving.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, cast a vote, and shared a bowl with us. Whether we bring home the trophy or not, showing up for our community is always a win. We'll see you at the next cook-off, ladles ready!