

cont. from front page

## National softball tournament at Traceway Park, fireworks planned

"Residents are invited to attend the fireworks show and join the celebration," said Mark Jones, the City's public information officer. "City officials do remind residents that the fireworks show will start around 7:45 to 8 p.m. Residents in the area who have outdoor pets are encouraged to make arrangements to move the animals inside during the fireworks show."

Games continue Thursday, May 18, at 1:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the course of the double elimination tournament. Friday games will be played at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The championship round on Saturday features games at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; but, should a previously undefeated team suffer its first loss, the deciding game would be played at 3:30 p.m.

The teams will bring about 400 players and coaches to participate in the fast-paced seven-inning games. Spectators can enjoy the competition with a \$12 day pass or a complete tournament pass for \$35. Groups of ten or more receive a group discount at \$10 per ticket. Children under the age of twelve will be admitted free. Parking is also free.

The 2017 tournament is the final year of a three-year contract for Clinton's Parks and Rec Department to host the tournament; but, with the recent renewal by the NJCAA Events Committee, Clinton will welcome participants for another three years, through 2020.

In addition to bringing favorable exposure to the City of Clinton, the economic value of the national tournament adds about \$300,000 to the City's sales tax collections, primarily from hotel room bookings, restaurant meals, and gas purchases the teams and their fans make during their week-long stay.

"The NJCAA is the only national cham-

pionship held in the state of Mississippi and is a major boost to our economy," said Clinton Mayor Phil Fisher. "Hav-

junior college athletic departments throughout the United States. Similar to the organization and governance of

representatives have included Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jones County and Itawamba.

As in previous years, it will be "all hands on deck" for Clinton's Parks and Rec Department, according to department Director Cole Smith. He serves as the Tournament Director, with Adam Wade as Assistant Tournament Director.

"We always want to be good hosts and see that this tournament is well-run for the teams who qualify to play for a national junior college championship," said Smith. "Our staff works hard to prepare and keep the fields in good playing condition, making this a signature event in women's softball. After hosting for several years now, we have a great track record and want to continue that level of excellence."

To help promote and kick off the tournament, the City is bringing in Head to Head radio with Richard Cross and Matt Wyatt. Wyatt and Cross will broadcast to a statewide and southern regional radio audience live from the softball fourplex at Traceway Park from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on May 17. Locally, residents can listen to the show on Supertalk Mississippi 97.3 FM. "We have geared this event from more than just a tournament to an all-out experience we hope players, coaches and spectators never forget," said Smith.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit the NJCAA Softball National Championship webpage at [www.clintonms.org/NJCAA](http://www.clintonms.org/NJCAA). For the schedule and daily weather updates for the tournament, see [www.clintonms.org/njcaa](http://www.clintonms.org/njcaa).

Games will be livestreamed through on NJCAATV.com beginning with the semifinals.



### NJCAA tournament schedule of events:

(NOTE: All events will be held at Traceway Park, unless noted.)

#### Tuesday, May 16

6 p.m.  
Opening ceremonies and banquet  
BC Rogers Student Center at MC

#### Wednesday, May 17

1:30 p.m.  
Opening games for tournament  
3-6 p.m.  
Head to Head Radio will broadcast from Traceway Park  
Supertalk Mississippi 97.3 FM.

3:30 p.m.  
Second round of tournament games  
5:30 p.m.  
Home Run Derby  
Traceway Park, fields 1 and 3

6 p.m.  
Dinner socials for players  
Sunset (approx. 8 p.m.)  
Fireworks show

#### Thursday, May 18

1:30 p.m.  
Games begin, first loser bracket  
3:30 p.m.  
Winners bracket games  
5:30 p.m.  
Elimination games

#### Friday, May 19

Noon  
Games begin, winners/losers bracket  
2 p.m.  
Losers bracket games

4 p.m.  
Winners bracket games  
6 p.m.  
Losers bracket games  
6 p.m.  
Dinner and a Movie with Main Street Clinton  
Olde Towne Clinton/Jefferson Street

#### Saturday, May 20

11:30 a.m.  
Championship game 1  
1:30 p.m.  
Championship game 2  
3:30 p.m.  
Final championship game (only if necessary)

**NJCAA Softball National Championship webpage [www.clintonms.org/NJCAA](http://www.clintonms.org/NJCAA)**

**Schedule and daily weather updates [www.clintonms.org/njcaa](http://www.clintonms.org/njcaa)**

**Semifinals games, beginning Friday, May 19, will be televised on NJCAATV.com.**

ing these outstanding scholar/athletes in our community sets a wonderful example for young girls to see and meet. It shows them that there are no barriers, if you work hard."

The NJCAA, founded in 1938, is the association of community college and

the NCAA, it is divided into divisions and regions and currently consists of 24 separate regions.

Mississippi, with its extensive system of community colleges and strong athletic programs, is classified in Region 23, with Louisiana. Past Region 23 rep-

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