



The Clinton Courier

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National softball tournament begins at Traceway Park, fireworks planned

By Janet S. Lee

In what has become a yearly economic boon for the city and a showcase for highly competitive women's softball, Clinton's Parks and Rec Department will host the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II tournament May 17-20 at Traceway Park.

Sixteen teams and coaches from across the country will arrive in Clinton on Tuesday, May 16, for a generous helping of Southern hospitality in the form of a welcome banquet at Mississippi College.

Competition begins Wednesday, May 17, with games at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; four games are slated for each time slot.

Following the second series of games,

See schedule of events on page 14.



Photo by Susalyn Bennett

each team will send its best hitter to compete in a Home Run Derby at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the derby. Admission is free.

After the home-run winner is decided, Wednesday festivities will continue with a get-acquainted party and barbecue for teams and coaches. Tickets for the social event are \$10 and feature food by local eatery Froghead Grill and music from Dailon Huskey DJ Services.

Wednesday night events will conclude with a fireworks show, free to the public, at the Traceway fields at sunset, approximately 8 p.m.

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New fire truck, portable buildings for school approved

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mayor and Board of the City of Clinton met in regular session in the Municipal Courtroom on April 11.

Parks and Recreation Director Cole Smith began the meeting with an update on park operations and the upcoming

NJCAA Division II Softball National Championships. Smith noted that the tournament will take place at Traceway Parks' Softball fourplex on May 17-20. Smith noted that all tournament information was listed on the website www.clintonms.org/njcaa.

Highlighting Smith's update was the announcement that the City of Clinton had been awarded the NJCAA tournament for another three-year run from 2018 through 2020. Noting the significant impact the tournament makes on the local economy, Smith stated that the tournament generates close to \$400,000 in revenue for local businesses. In addition, the prestige and publicity that comes with hosting Mississippi's only College National Championship each year enhances the viability of the Parks and Recreation Department to recruit and host additional sporting events.

Smith invited all residents to participate in the events and reminded residents of the fireworks show at 8 p.m.

on Wednesday, May 17. Residents with outdoor pets residing near Traceway Park are encouraged to make accommodations for them during the fireworks show.

In other business, the Board approved three conditional use items. The first was a conditional use for the addition of portable buildings at Lovett Elementary School to address growth in the Clinton Public School District. Site plans noted that the portables will be placed behind the school.

Conditional use was also granted to a new restaurant scheduled to open in Hammett's Crossing in the former Cozumel location in September. Conditional use was granted for the sale and consumption of beer and light wine on the premises. According to the applicant, the restaurant will be named Havana Nights, with a menu to include steaks and grilled items in a family-friendly, festive atmosphere.

Board members granted a conditional use for the addition of therapeutic

massage services to Rejuvenation Medi-Spa at 901 Highway 80 East. Services will complement the current medical and therapeutic services currently offered at the medical clinic.

Board members approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Morton Law Firm to locate at 402 East Main, adjacent to the Goolsby CPA offices. Variance was needed due to the irregular shape of the property adjacent to the railroad tracks on East Main Street. Existing land use for the zoning district is mixed use.

Mayor Fisher presented a proclamation for approval to declare May 20, 2017, as Kids to Parks Day in Clinton. According to the resolution, the purpose of Kids to Parks Day is to highlight the importance of outdoor exercise and encourage families and children to visit a park and enjoy the great outdoors.

In final action of the meeting, the Board approved the acceptance of the

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