## The Clinton Courier





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## Main Street's public art

a student when Lassetter's father (known as "Prof") was a principal in Clinton's Public Schools, and later, Lassetter, and, even later, his daughter, Reeves, were Gore's students, Lassetter noted.

Even more public art punches up the color and the spirit of the lively downtown area. Wyatt Waters' mural on the side of Pentimento Books is a larger than life homage to the artist's hometown. Author Barry Hannah and education leader Sarah Dickey are honored, and an open book, cup of coffee, guitar, camera, soccer player, depot and Natchez Trace allude to and embrace the city's past, present and future.

Clinton Boulevard has its own bright spot of color with the mural by MC art professor Albert Smathers and his students (Haley Ethridge, Chris Harsch, Mary Rogers, Josh Taylor and Laura Thompson) on the outer wall of Cook Lawn and Pest Service. The partnership between Mississippi College and Main Street Clinton greets the west entry to Main Street Clinton's Boulevard Business District. Inspired by the vehicular character of what used to be old U.S. 80, the mural shows a couple in a classic car, chatting with a girl on a bike. In a sly visual gag on the side, a worker on the building's roof battles a giant cockroach.

Smathers' concept turned the wall into a looking glass into the past, like a view down the old Highway 80.

"He drew that vintage car, and he did lit like it was coming out of the wall," said Tara Lytal, Main Street Clinton executive director. "We just think it's a great addition to our community."

A trio of wind sculptures, at the point where Olde Towne Clinton and the Clinton Boulevard District meet, bring a breezy touch to the triangle at the boulevard district's apex, taking the place of diseased Bradford pears that had to be removed.

"We just wanted something prettier there," Lytal said of the sculptures by Lyman Whitaker that were purchased through an Asheville, North Carolina, gallery. More cool plans are ahead, she hinted.

Before year's end, a new public art project will add more fun, bright touches to the Clinton Boulevard District. Fiberglass kiddie cars will be blank canvases for creativity, and a variety of shapes, such as a '57 convertible and a 1930s pickup for instance, should spark more interest.

"We decided we wanted to mix it up and do these different designs," Lytal said. With few public spots in the area, Main Street Clinton will pay for some in public locations and seek sponsoring businesses for more that they could install on their properties.

Main Street Clinton will look for sponsors and artists through June and July, with a goal of installing the arty cars by the first of October.

"We love public art," Lytal said, "I think it's something that we're not really seeing in a lot of other communities. ... It gives people a reason to walk our blocks downtown.

"It's something that's setting us apart."

## CHS Arrows baseball season ends with loss to Hernando

kins. "The second game at Hernando, they threw a very good pitcher, Hunter Riggins, and he struck out thirteen. He was throwing 90 to 91 miles an hour, and we just could not get any base runners. That one arm just beat us that night. If we could have won that first game, I feel sure we would have won the third game back at home and advanced to play Tupelo for the North 6 semifinals."

"But I am proud of our team and what they accomplished this year," Hopkins continued. "We beat some very good teams this year, and we're going to miss this group of seniors. They laid a good foundation for the future of our program. All of our players believe and trust in what we do. They are a good group, top to bottom." Hopkins feels good about the future of the program and increased interest in baseball and community support.

"We had tryouts for seventh through ninth grades, and we had seventy-three guys try out for thirty-five slots," said Hopkins. "There is good talent in the younger grades, and we feel we have a chance to continue to have a real good team [for] a long time at Clinton High School."

"On behalf of our staff, I would like to personally thank the city of Clinton for their support at our games during the season and our playoff run. We were blown away by the support and the crowds at our home games. We're looking forward to next season already."