

The Clinton Courier

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Unique gifts are offered at Nov. 11 Holiday Market

By Sherry Lucas

Christmas cheer meets brick street charm in Olde Towne yearly as the Holiday Market makes the season's biggest shopping splash outdoors.

Main Street Clinton's annual Holiday Market is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 11, with 140 to 150 vendors and a draw that hovers between 6,000 and 7,000 visitors.

While all of Main Street Clinton's seasonal markets are a prolific outlet for handcrafted goods, "this particular market is really a big Christmas shopping event, with lots of decorations you can buy, as well as unique, one-of-a-kind gifts you can purchase," said Anna Boyd Hawks, assistant Main Street Clinton director.

Prompted by the lingering good weather of a Mississippi fall and the enticing opportunity the holiday season dangled, Main Street Clinton's Holiday Market has been a must since 2008. This year will mark its tenth annual edition.

"It has been one of our strongest markets, with the highest vendor count," Main Street Clinton executive director Tara Lytal said. "It just hit that perfect time of year, when people are

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CPSD earns "A" rating; ranks in top 5 districts statewide

Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton's public schools earned the highest possible academic rating for the 2017-18 school year.

According to results released by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Clinton Public School District is an "A" rated school district with an overall score of 689.

"Today's announcement is the culmination of a lot of preparation and hard work by our students, faculty, staff and families," said Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. "While we are pleased with our district rating, we know we still have a lot of work to do. We will continue to focus on research-based best practices in our classrooms and work with each student to do his or her best."

See photos from the celebration on page 3.

The A-F grading system is set by state law, and is designed to inform parents and communities how well their schools are educating students. CPSD's score places the district fifth



Photo by Doris Bynum

Clinton Public School District Board of Trustees celebrated the district's "A" rating. Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Matt Thomas, Dr. Felicia Gavin, Derek Holmes, Paula DeYoung and Kenny Lewis.

overall among all Mississippi public school districts, behind Petal, Boonville, Oxford and Enterprise (tied score), and Ocean Springs.

The grading system considers several indicators, including how well

students perform on state tests, whether students are showing improvement on those tests from year to year and whether students are graduating on time. The system also

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Cook Out restaurant planned for Highway 80

By Janet S. Lee

In action on October 17, Clinton's Board of Aldermen approved a dimensional variance and conditional use for a Cook Out Restaurant at 650 Highway 80. The location is the current site of what is known as the French Building, currently owned by Lonnie and Diane Carlton of Clinton. The building was constructed in 1964 by Carlton's father-in-law.

Though dimensional variance and conditional use were approved by the Board of Aldermen, the proposed Cook Out Restaurant will

still need to garner approval for the design from the City's architectural review committee.

Cook Out Restaurants are a privately-owned concern, headquartered in Thomasville, North Carolina. The menu features "fresh, never frozen, hamburgers; mouth-watering chicken sandwiches; hot dogs; barbeque and hand-spun milkshakes."

The menu pays particular attention to the more than forty different milkshake flavors.

The company was founded in Greensboro, North Carolina, and has grown

to include 140 locations in North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, and now Mississippi.

Cook Out Restaurants are already situated in the college towns of Hattiesburg, Oxford and Starkville in Mississippi. The concept is popular with college students, because the restaurants' hours are usually 10:30 a.m. to 3 a.m.

The proposed 1,400 square foot building will feature double drive-through lanes to accommodate traffic flowing off Highway 80.



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