

Eggstra Special Event planned for April 14

Special to The Clinton Courier

The annual Clinton community Eggstra Special Event is set for Sunday, April 14, from 2 until 5 p.m. at Traceway Park. Open to children ages twelve and younger, the event will have the traditional lineup of egg hunts and carnival games.

New for 2019, an Egg Hunt for Special Needs residents has been added and will start at 2:15 p.m. This additional hunt highlights the continued services of the City of Clinton's Therapeutic Recreation Departments to the Special Needs residents of the community.

The Eggstra Special Event has been one of Clinton's premiere events for years and is a continued partnership between the Junior Auxiliary of Clinton and the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Held at Traceway Park, it provides an opportunity for the entire community to come together for a family-friendly egg hunt, with special activities and a visit from the Easter Bunny himself.

"Year after year, the Eggstra Special event continues to grow and provide an opportunity for children to enjoy one of the much-anticipated rites of



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childhood, the Easter egg hunt," said Adam Wade, Director of Clinton's Parks and Recreation Department.

"Eggstra Special provides the opportunity for families of all ages in the community to enjoy playing outdoors, as well as hunting for eggs." Egg hunts will begin at 2:30 p.m., with zero- to 2-year-olds hunting first at 2:30 p.m. Ages 3 and 4 will hunt at 2:50 p.m., ages 5 and 6 at 3:10 p.m., and the 7- through 9-year-olds will wrap up the hunt at 3:30 p.m. Event organizers strongly request that only parents of 0-2-year-olds and special needs children enter the hunting area to assist their child.

In addition to the egg and scavenger hunts, children can enjoy prizes, carnival games, space jumps and refreshments. For more information, visit www.clintonms.org/eggstra.

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Dr. Blake Thompson Inauguration set for March 29



Dr. Blake Thompson and his family

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Dr. Thompson hit the ground running as a student-oriented leader since arriving July 1, 2018. He and his wife, Jana, along with their three children, have been warmly received on campus and in Clinton.

"The authenticity and consistency that Dr. Thompson brings to the table is something that fellow administrators, faculty and staff, the student body, and the community of Clinton strive to exercise within ourselves," said Student Government Association President Anthony Jackson. "He's open, honest and always puts his students first," added the Mound Bayou resident.

The Thompson family has enjoyed their homecoming, but they are happy to see the series of inaugural events spotlight MC's stakeholders. MC students and faculty will host the many ceremonies, which will showcase the university's role in metro Jackson, the state and around the globe.

"I am animated by this MC family, especially the remarkable students on our campus. I am pleased that so many Mississippi College supporters, our friends from across higher education, and many who will be visiting Mississippi for the first time will have the opportunity to find what makes MC such a special place," Thompson said.

Early in the Thompson administration, enrollment rose to 5,138 students for fall 2018. There are several major academic initiatives in the works to strengthen university programs for years to come. The inauguration will point to what's next for MC as it approaches its 200th anniversary.

A native of Rienzi, Mississippi, in Alcorn County, Thompson received three degrees, including his doctorate from

the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. He holds an executive master's degree from the Georgetown University School of Business.

Following a national search, the Board of Trustees selected Dr. Thompson for the university's top post after his nine years as a vice president at The Ohio State University. He previously worked for Battelle, the world's leading nonprofit R&D organization. He has also served in Washington as a senior staffer to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and to recently retired Senator Thad Cochran.

The chair of the MC Board of Trustees, Roy Ward says Dr. Thompson's "commitment to excellence in all his endeavors, his visionary thinking and Christian faith have prepared him to build upon the firm foundation established at Mississippi College."

Thompson served as a volunteer leader with a number of philanthropic and civic organizations in Ohio, including KIPP Columbus, a public charter school; Rev1 Ventures, a technology-based business incubator; and Our Ohio Renewal, a nonprofit addressing social challenges. He was the founding board chair of The Thompson Institute, a campus ministry serving faculty integrating their faith with their profession.

"Inaugurations reveal new horizons in the life of a university," says MC trustee Andy Taggart, an attorney and MC graduate. "And we see a horizon full of adventure ahead as we welcome Blake Thompson back to lead in his home state of Mississippi."

For additional details on the inauguration of Dr. Blake Thompson, visit mc.edu/inauguration.

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