

National JA Week celebrated with Spirit Nights, more

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The Junior Auxiliary of Clinton will be celebrating National JA Week from April 7 through 13. Club leaders say the annual celebration is a time to pause and thank the community, sponsors and volunteer members who work so hard year-round to make a positive difference.

The week begins with a Spirit Night at Froghead Grill on Monday, April 8, from 5 until 8 p.m. and continues with a Spirit Night at Arrow Nutrition on Tuesday, April 9, from 4 until 7 p.m. The history of Clinton's Junior Auxiliary will also be highlighted on their Facebook page and website beginning on April 7.

JA of Clinton has six main projects that benefit thousands of Clinton children. It has been a part of the Clinton community since 1986 and has thirty-two members who donated more than nine hundred hours in 2017-2018 to the chapter's various projects. The chapter raises funds each year through a date night raffle and their newest event – Spring Thing.

"This is an exciting week for us, because it gives us a chance to thank all of the citizens of Clinton for supporting us in this work, and to recognize our wonderful corporate sponsors who finance these projects," President Jolyn Stone said. "The families and children we serve are so deserving and thankful for this assistance, and none of that would be possible without the support of the entire community."

JA of Clinton is a part of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA), a non-profit organization founded in 1941 with headquarters in Greenville, Mississippi. NAJA has 15,397 active, associate, and life members in ninety-eight chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Junior Auxiliary members worked volunteered 95,166 hours in their communities in 2017-18, and invested \$2,768,767 in eight southeastern states in 2017-18.

"The National Association of Junior Auxiliaries will soon be entering into our 78th year of serving others, and many chapters have been a part of that from the beginning. Whether a chapter has been with us for seventy-eight years or one year, the fact that our members have a heart for service and a passion for making a difference in the lives of their neighbors around them has never wavered," said Leslie James, NAJA President.

The NAJA slogan is "Care Today – Character Tomorrow." Junior Auxiliary chapters are working more than ever to provide care to those less fortunate in order to make their tomorrows better.

For more information, or to make a tax deductible donation to JA of Clinton, visit its website at www.jaclinton.org or e-mail juniorausiliaryofclinton@gmail.com. For more information on NAJA, visit www.najanet.org or call 662-332-3000.

CCA basketball sets school record for wins



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The Clinton Christian Academy boys basketball team had a historic year, setting a school record with 23 wins. In addition, they came within one game of playing for a state championship.

CCA finished third at the South State Tournament and then lost a tough overtime game in the state semi-finals to the eventual state champions. Even after losing such a tough contest, the kids showed their character by bouncing back to defeat Greenville St. Joseph by 37 points to qualify for the MAIS Overall Tournament for the first time in school history.

CCA advanced to the quarterfinals of Overall and went further than any other AA school in MAIS.

The Warriors were led in scoring by senior Bray Farve, as he averaged 15

points for the year. Eighth grader KJ Sykes was the second leading scorer, averaging 14 points and also leading the team with six assists per game. Sophomore Noah Murray averaged five steals and contributed consistent scoring, rebounding and energy for the team. Senior Brandon Birks was the team's leading rebounder at eight per game and scored in double figures on numerous occasions. Senior Jamar Guy controlled the back of the CCA press and provided toughness on defense for the Warriors. Senior Parker Price hit some big shots throughout the year and provided great leadership off the bench. Other contributors on the team were Jeremy Spiller, Bobby Gibson, Keshun Banks, Grey Craft, Devin Collins, Monroe Gray and Thomas King.

Holmes announces writing contest winners



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The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recently named its Creative Writing Contest winners. Hailey Pittman of Clinton was among the winners. She received second place in the poetry category for her work, "Persephone." Pictured (l to r) are William Sutherland, Devin Ammons, Samantha Endsley, Pittman and Satoshi Maehata. Not pictured are Kamilah Brown and Rachel Hairston.

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