

City estimates over \$350K profit as NJCAA tourney host

By Katherine R. Dougan

For the seventh year in a row, Clinton hit a home run with a more than \$350,000 boost to the local economy by hosting the five-day National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Softball National Championship.

“The economic impact is significant; \$350,000 over five days,” Mayor Phil Fisher said. “But just as important is the exposure Clinton receives from the many junior colleges and the states they represent.”

At this year’s tourney, held May 21-24 at Traceway Park, sixteen teams from twelve states traveled to Clinton to participate in the tourney, including teams from Mississippi as well as Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina, Arizona, Ohio, Wisconsin and New Jersey, according to Parks and Recreation Director Adam Wade. This year, the LSU Eunice Bengals took home the National Championship trophy, with Phoenix College in Arizona placing second, and the Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa taking third place.

Total attendance at the tourney was 1,657, with gate sales, banquet tickets, social tickets and sponsorships bringing in \$40,150. In-kind sponsorships through local restaurants netted \$2,500, and concessions brought in a \$5,000 profit, according to Wade. Another \$6,000 is estimated from t-shirt sales, however, those



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figures are not yet available.

According to totals estimated from information provided to Wade by the teams, the fourteen teams staying in Clinton hotels brought in \$67,500, with teams spending \$45,000 in the city. Expenditures from fans are estimated at \$30 per day for a total of \$144,040; and fans brought to the tourney spent \$72,000, according to Wade. Expenses for the event were \$36,898.20.

“The Parks and Recreation Department does an excellent job of prepping the fields and managing the tournament,” Fisher said.

The tournament is the biggest event

the Department of Parks and Recreation hosts, and is a huge economic boost for the city, filling hotels and restaurants with those visiting Clinton for the tournament.

“This event and others like it fill up our hotels and generate additional sales in restaurants. It also provides an opportunity for us to showcase our city and all of our assets,” Ward 6 Alderman Mike Cashion said.

“Seeing the success of this tournament over the past seven years makes me believe we can handle a play up tournament to the Little League World Series and another junior college national championship in a different sport,” Fisher said.

When the opportunity to bid on September 1, 2019, to host the NJCAA tourney again, “we’re hoping to host another national championship,” Fisher said at the Board of Aldermen’s June 2, 2019, meeting, following Wade’s presentation at the meeting. At the June 2 meeting, Wade also mentioned the possibility of the city hosting a National Soccer Championship around Thanksgiving.

At this year’s tournament, Wade said several attendees from other states are writing letters to recommend Clinton gets the bid for the tourney next year.

“This is the smoothest run tournament I have ever been to,” an attendee from Kansas said to Wade.

“The NJCAA Softball Tournament is the only national championship played in Mississippi. It is an honor to have the teams from so many states competing in our city.”

Three states, Maryland, New Jersey and Missouri, were new to the National Championship Tournament this year, with seven new teams traveling to Clinton: Cuyahoga Community College, Hagerstown Community College, Itawamba Community College, Louisburg Community College, County College of Morris, Sinclair College, and St. Louis Community College.

The NJCAA is the governing body for 525 colleges in 24 regions. Region 23 includes community and junior colleges in Mississippi and Louisiana.

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City projects for streets, roads underway

By Katherine R. Dougan

With every passing day of good weather, the wait grows shorter for the completion of three million dollars’ worth of street and roadway improvement projects throughout Clinton. The combination of expansive Yazoo Clay underneath and heavy traffic on top of the streets and roads has required significant reconstruction in four major areas of the city.

The more noticeable project is the work on Clinton Parkway, from College to Sproles streets, which requires removal of the roadbed and



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expansive clay to allow the underlying soil to be replaced with less expansive and contractive soil types.

For the next three weeks, it is best

if motorists find an alternate route to traveling the Parkway, Bill Owen of WKG Engineers, said. In the meantime, Owen suggests that mo-

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