

The Clinton Courier

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Wedding bells ring despite COVID-19

By Katherine R. Dougan

Ian Dettwiller popped the question to Lauren Nicole Wilson during a trip to San Diego in early 2019. The Clinton couple set the wedding date for April 4, 2020, and started planning their special day. A meticulous planner, Lauren made sure to check all the boxes for the perfect wedding; The Dress. Check. The venue for an outdoor wedding and reception. Check. Cupcakes, food, beverages, decorations, photos, invites, gift registrations, website, officiate. Check to all.

On a dry-erase board in her office, Lauren posted a countdown to the wedding day. Ian planned a two-and-a-half-week European honeymoon for the newly-minted Dettwillers.

Their bachelorette and bachelor parties, and showers, went off without a hitch. Then, something unforeseen and unimaginable happened: COVID-19.

Lauren's Facebook post on March 18:

"It would be stupid to make people travel during this. Let's postpone the big wedding; we'll just do a small thing with just the parents on April 4."

Then Lauren announced that the April 4 family wedding would be postponed:

"Keeping our April 4 date would have been selfish and socially irresponsible. Our new date is August 15.



Photo by John Lanford

All other plans, such as location and times, are remaining the same."

Lauren's Facebook post on April 1: "Statewide shelter in place. Skype wedding it is. 'Rona, you ain't stopping us.'"

Lauren and Ian are millennials, members of that youthful species which are incredibly comfortable with all things related to phones and online communications. Here's the story of how they met, as told by Ian:

"Our story begins with a lot of luck, an app, and one wonderfully pushy friend who stole Lauren's phone and started it all...We'd shared the same town for three years and never once

crossed paths...One night and two right swipes later, though, we were connected."

The couple met in person at Local Culture Frozen Yogurt in Starkville and started hanging out around town. Two graduations, two new jobs, a new house, a few new critters, and three-and-a-half years later, Ian proposed to Lauren on a trip to San Diego.

After the shelter in place order April 1, plans for the perfect wedding changed a bit:

Outdoor venue - gazebo in Bruenburg subdivision, a five-minute walk from the couple's home. Check.

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City of Clinton files complaint against Entergy with PSC

Special to The Clinton Courier

In an action that could impact other municipalities, the City of Clinton has filed a formal Billing and Services Complaint against Entergy Mississippi, LLC (Entergy). In the filing, City officials are asking the Public Service Commission (PSC) to investigate and determine if Entergy's charges in regards to street lighting are contrary to Mississippi Code §77-3-41.

Entergy is the provider of street lighting services to more than 25,000 residents of the City of Clinton via billings to the City of Clinton. City officials are asking the Public Service Commissioners to investigate several areas of concern in billing documentation acquired by the City:

- Paying monthly fees for lighting poles that are decades old and far exceed any known depreciation schedule,
- Paying monthly fees for obsolete mercury vapor lights that should have long since been replaced by more energy efficient fixtures, and
- Paying monthly fees for underground supply lines installed as far back as 1946.

It is the City's position that Entergy's charges for street lighting are contrary to Mississippi Code §77-3-41 as the rates are unjust, unreasonable, and materially excessive, particularly given that the amounts charged by Entergy are never reduced.

The City pays for this equipment in perpetuity, long past any reasonable useful life or statutory depreciation schedule.

One particular example involves 331 concrete poles installed in 1979 as best as the City can determine, for which the City is still paying a monthly fee. By the City's calculations, the cost of these poles at the time of installation would have been approximately \$104,642, yet the City has paid to date approximately \$1,100,000 and is still paying every month. If installed at today's prices, the cost of the poles would be approximately \$397,000.

It is the City of Clinton's contention that street light assets fall within the residual asset class, to which applies a

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Clinton High School's Class of 2020 to have unique graduation ceremony

Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton High School's class of 2020 will get to have a graduation ceremony with many of the traditional trappings, like Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," as well as caps-and-gowns. But the Clinton Public School District (CPSD) has incorporated necessary changes that will make this graduation ceremony different from any past graduation.

Traditionally held at the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College, this year's graduation will be held in the Clinton High School (CHS)

auditorium.

Initially, CPSD officials originally scheduled a drive-through ceremony, where students were to receive their diplomas in front of CHS. However, that plan was recently reevaluated; and the administration, along with parents and students, have constructed a new plan allowing for a more personal celebration of Clinton High School graduating seniors.

The district's new plan allows for seniors to graduate in the CHS Auditorium separated in groups of twenty.

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