

OPINION

Our View
Welcome
Image Industries

For the second month in a row a company has picked Clarksdale as the place to bring their business and employees and set up shop.

And your Clarksdale Press Register wants to be one of the first to formally thank Image Industries for choosing our community and bringing a minimum of 50 good-paying jobs to town.

Image Industries owners Blake Hobson and Stacia Hobson looked at a number of opportunities and locations across Mississippi and even the Southeast and they picked us.

Image Industries makes a variety of items and markets itself as one of the few companies that offers complete stud welding solutions. To lay people that means they attach brackets, bolts and fasteners -- typically to steel -- in a variety of industrial and commercial markets. They stamp and form those items, too. They also sell some high-tech welding equipment that can attach those studs, brackets and fasteners in a jiffy.

A quick visit to their website -- <http://www.imageindustries.com> -- shows just how complete and competent this company is. They occupy a niche that sells in all 50 states.

Tuesday's announcement at The Pinnacle on the campus of Coahoma Community College was impressive. The college will also play a key role in training those 50 employees to work some very high-tech machines that produce thousands of parts an hour.

And the jobs those technicians will hold are positions that pays well above the local average.

Maybe the best news is the company is moving their headquarters to Clarksdale. That tells us this 60-year-old family business is linking up with our community for the long haul.

We have also heard part of the reason they are heading south is to grow their business, expand their operation and continue to be a leader in their market.

Welcome to Clarksdale and Coahoma County Image Industries, you are the kind of corporate neighbor this community needs and wants.



You never really know when
someone might be looking

How many of you have been driving down the highway in a hurry and spotted a police car on the side of the road?

I'm always in a hurry and so my first reaction is to get on the brakes, even if I am driving the speed limit.

My mother had this nasty habit of sneaking up on her boys when they were playing in their room, in a corner of the yard or even at church.

My brothers and I learned very quickly to always be on our guard, because Momma might be watching!

My point is we all act different when we know people are looking.

Image Industries

The owners of Image Industries were taken to Rest Haven restaurant on one of their many trips to Clarksdale.

It seems it was a busy morning and one of the customers picked up the coffee pot and carried it around from table to table warming up everyone's cup.

Not being from the Mississippi Delta, our visitors asked why he did that.

It was explained that politeness, hospitality and helping others comes very natural around here.

And that simple civility and kindness made an impression on our guests.

Now I don't think any of us

believe that was the only reason Image Industries picked Clarksdale and Coahoma County.

There were incentives and deals and numbers and concessions by this community that also enticed this company to come.

But that "coffee captain" did something that is so very common in our community and our culture -- he saw something that needed doing and quite naturally he stepped into the gap to serve.



Floyd Ingram
Clarksdale Press Register

Image Mississippi

This state and our community often get a bum rap.

There is an image of this state that has persisted for way too long.

It's an economic issue, an education issue, and yes, a racial issue.

Thankfully there are people working against that image every day. And most do it quite naturally and without a second thought.

It's how their Momma taught them to act. It's how our preachers tell us to act. It's an understanding that politeness and kindness often open doors that many see shut so very tight.

Image Clarksdale

One of the qualities that brought me to Clarksdale just two short months ago was a positive vision for what can happen in this community and this part of the state.

The folks at Image Industries talked of how they are taking a risk moving a family-owned business lock-stock-and-barrel to the Mississippi Delta.

They also talked about being a family-owned business that treats employees and customers, well . . . like family.

As the world grows smaller and so much more impersonal it is impressive to see a company from the Windy City look around and pick us as a new place to call home.

And there is not a doubt in my mind they have found that home in Clarksdale.

I hope we realize people from around the world come to Clarksdale every day for our music and culture.

I hope we realize a smile and warm greeting still go a long way in a sad and often cold world.

Stand up straight and proud Clarksdale. Let's do our best, because you never know when someone might be looking.

Floyd Ingram is the Editor of your Clarksdale Press Register and he is always watching. He can be reached at 662-627-2201.

Public Safety Contacts

In an emergency call 911.

Clarksdale Police Dept.

Chief Sandra Williams: 621-8129
Asst. Chief Vince Ramirez: 621-8156
Asst. Chief Robbie Linley: 621-8156
Asst. Chief Fernando Harris: 621-8156

Clarksdale Fire Dept.

Chief Rocky Nabors: 627-8685
Asst. Chief Chris Chicorelli: 627-8685
Asst. Chief Jordan Sledge: 627-8685

Clarksdale Public Works

Director Todd Jones: 621-8142
Code David Walker: 621-8142

Municipal Court

Judge Carlos Moore: 227-9940
Judge Derrick Hopkins: 621-8120

Coahoma Co. Sheriff Dept.

Sheriff Charles Jones: 624-3086
Chief Deputy Fernando Bee: 624-3081
Chief Deputy Leon Williams: 624-3081
Investigations: 624-2411
Domestic Violence: 902-4405

Emergency Management

Director Johnny Tarzi: 624-3041

District Attorney

Brenda Mitchell: 627-9877

County Court

Judge Kent Haney: 624-3036

Miss. Bureau of Narcotics

601-371-3600

Submission Policy

The views expressed on this page are those of the individual columnists and letter writers, or those of *The Clarksdale Press Register*.

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Send direct opinion articles and letters to the publisher, Floyd Ingram, at: publisher@pressregister.com or by FAX to 662-624-5125, or by U.S. mail to 128 E. Second St., Clarksdale, MS, 38614.

Letters should not exceed 700 words as a general rule.

We reserve the right to edit letters for content and length.

The Clarksdale Press Register

Clarksdale, Miss. (USPS 115-960)

• (USPS 115-960) • Founded 1865

Floyd Ingram, publisher/editor
floyd@pressregister.com

Josh Troy, managing editor
jtroy@pressregister.com

Brenda Keller, advertising manager
bkeller@pressregister.com

Sandy Hite, business manager
sandyhite@pressregister.com

Tracey Hankins Riley, graphic designer
thankins@pressregister.com

Larry Liddell, senior writer

Published Wednesday by Delta Press Publishing Inc., 128 East 2nd Street, Clarksdale, MS 38614. Subscription rates: \$30 for one year.

To subscribe, call 662-627-2201, fax to 662-624-5125 or e-mail to sandyhite@pressregister.com. Entered as periodical postage paid at the post office in Clarksdale, Mississippi POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 128 E. Second St., Clarksdale, MS 38614.