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THE CLARKSDALE

Press Register

SERVING THE DELTA SINCE 1865



156th YEAR, NUMBER 44

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

24 PAGES IN ONE SECTION, Clarksdale, MS \$1.00

Care Station Thanksgiving meal set

Donations and volunteers sought

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

There is no such thing as a free meal.

And that includes Care Station that feeds people everyday in this

community from the donations of good people in Clarksdale.

Care Station is already making plans for its Thanksgiving Community Dinner and is making plans to feed people this year and needs Clarksdale to step up with

their time and their donation.

“We always seek volunteers for this day and it’s a great way to have a great Thanksgiving,” said Charlie Estess, Care Station Executive Director. “We also have more demand at this time of year and we appreciate any donation, too.”

Estess said those wishing to vol-

unteer their time to deliver meals or to receive meals should call Rod Spinks at 662-902-7260.

Care Station provided 750 Thanksgiving meals last year with those numbers down due to COVID and hopes to once again provide a festive Thanksgiving dinner for those in need.

A special bank account has been

set up at Planters Bank and donors can drop off a check made out to Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

“A special bank account was established in 2012 to make sure everyone that wanted to participate in giving to the community Thanksgiving meal could do so by

SEE CARE PAGE 7

Clarksdale’s cup of tea

Ilex Organics opens in Clarksdale

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

Clarksdale made its sixth economic development announcement in four years with Ilex Organics, a supplier of yaupon tea and Mississippi-grown catfish fillets, formally saying it was opening operations in Clarksdale.

Tuesday’s news was bitter-sweet, but needed, with the death of long-time business advocate Bill O. Lockett last week, coupled with his son Oliver unveiling his plans to bring business and jobs to Clarksdale on Tuesday.

“October 3, of last year, I came home to be with my dad,” said Oliver Lockett, to the crowd gathered outside the Yazoo Yaupon building in downtown Clarksdale. “In November we got the idea to

SEE TEA PAGE 5



FLOYD INGRAM / PRESS REGISTER

Oliver Lockett speaks at Tuesday’s announcement of the opening of Ilex Organic and his vision for a company that will grow, process and market yaupon tea across the Mississippi Delta and the world. Lockett’s company plans to employ 60 people over the next two years.

Community honors Bill Lockett

Former mayor, champion of Clarksdale, arts advocate remembered

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

Bill Lockett, an attorney, owner of Ground Zero Blues Club, former candidate for Governor of Mississippi and native of Clarksdale died last week.

News of Lockett’s death was reported on Facebook Thursday evening. The City of Clarksdale flew flags at half-staff Friday.



Lockett

Lockett was mayor of Clarksdale from 2013 to 2017, but one of his favorite claims to fame was to say he had lived in Clarksdale all but the first six months of his life. He has roots in the community that go back several generations.

“Bill was exceptional in everything he did,” said longtime friend Pete Johnson. “He was very smart with an endless amount of energy. He loved his family, his friends and Clarksdale.”

Johnson pointed out Lockett not only invested his heart in Clarksdale but also his good fortune.

“When it came to Clarksdale he put his money where his mouth

SEE LUCKETT PAGE 5

Press Register welcomes Tom Ward

Published author to pen news, sports

Special to the Press Register

The Clarksdale Press Register has hired veteran newspaper journalist and published author Tom Ward to join its team as managing editor. The connection brought a natural fit for both the Press Register and Ward, who has spent extensive time writing about Clarksdale and Coahoma County.

“It is an honor to join one of the

oldest and most prestigious newspapers in the South,” Ward explained. “Clarksdale and Coahoma County have so much to offer, from sports to music and of course welcoming people. Also, I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with Publisher Floyd Ingram and the team at the Press Register.”

Ward’s reporting will include coverage of Coahoma Community College, all local schools, sports, cul-

ture, music, tourism, the Jonestown and Friars Point local governments, the Carnegie Public Library and feature stories for the Press Register and its magazines, Coahoma Living and Compass.

“It was Clarksdale that brought



Ward

Tom Ward to this paper,” said Ingram. “I have no doubt he will make this paper and this town better.”

Along with years as a newspaper editor and reporter, Ward has authored several books, most recently the novel set in Clarksdale: *I Died and Went to Mississippi*. Other books include *The Grove* (about the Grove at Ole Miss) and *Alabama: The Bicentennial*, distributed by the Alabama Department of Archives and History.



CHARTER SCHOOL:
Trustees respond to shooting of student.

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PLAYOFFS UNDERWAY:
Clarksdale faces S. Pontotoc in First Round at home.

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It was said in Clarksdale:
“The Show Must Go On.”