



Confederate "Stars and Bars" official flag from March 1861 to May 1863.

**March 3,
2011**

Grove Hill Guards off to war

Reviewing the Civil War 150 years later: Page 6A

Bulldogs make it to state finals!

Pages
1B &
10A

The Clarke County Democrat

Clarke County's Oldest Business, Established 1856



David Allan Coe quits stage after being hit by beer bottle



More cameras than beer bottles were visible as Coe played. Photos by Jim Cox

By Jim Cox
Editor & Publisher

David Allan Coe fans were disappointed when the famed "outlaw country music" singer cut short a heralded concert at an area club after singing only a few songs Saturday night.

Coe abruptly ended the concert when a beer bottle struck him from the audience at the War Bama Club in Choctaw County west of Coffeeville.

Coe had played for about 18 minutes and was in the middle of his fifth song,



"How Do You Like Me Now," when he was hit. Coe, 71, finished the song, thanked the crowd, and got up and left the stage, got into a Ford Explorer that he was traveling in, and left.

Fans were disappointed but so was Chris Sherman, owner of the War Bama Club who had worked hard to bring Coe in and had seven security people on the floor of the club.

Patrick Coleman Pierce of 531 River Road, Silas—just across the Tombigbee River from Coffeeville—was es-

See CONCERT, Page 10A



State Rep.
Beech



State Rep.
Jackson



State Sen.
Keahey



State Sen.
Sanders

Legislators facing tough decisions in regular session

By Jennifer Harrison
Special to The Democrat

Local legislators expect to tackle some of Alabama's biggest budget problems ever, which might increase the number of students per teacher and cause other service cuts, as they gathered in Montgomery Tuesday to begin the 2011 regular legislative session.

"Overall, we expect this year to be the worst budget year in our state's history," said Sen. Marc Keahey, D-Grove Hill. "It's going to be a struggle in Montgomery to make sure the state budgets are not balanced on the backs of one class of people more so than another."

Democratic Rep. Elaine Beech of Chatham said she is also concerned about the state's budget. "We don't really know what we're going to see when we get there," she said. "The Alabama Legislative Fiscal Office has already told us we will have to cut the budgets to operate."

The Legislative Fiscal Office and the governor's finance director held budget hearings on Feb. 8 and announced that the state's general fund was below predictions and that budget cuts were imminent.

See LEGISLATURE, Page 10A

Where did 2,034 folks go?

Clarke County's population, along with that of 29 of Alabama's 67 counties—almost half—declined from 2000 to 2010, according to U.S. Census figures released last week.

Overall, though, Alabama's population grew by 7.5 percent to 4,779,736. The state remains the 23rd most populated state in the nation.

Clarke County's population dropped 2,034 or 7.3 percent to 25,833. The county ranks 42nd out of the 67 counties.

Grove Hill was the only county incorporated municipality that showed a gain—1,570 residents as compared to 1,438 in 2000.

Losing population were Jackson, 5,228 from 5,419; Thomasville, 4,209 from 4,649; Fulton, 272 from 308; and Coffeeville, the least loss of all at eight, 352 from 360.

Clarke's neighbors, as well as other rural counties to the north through what is traditionally known as the Black Belt, lost population also.

Choctaw County's population is 13,859. The county lost 2,063, or 13 percent of its population

since 2000.

Wilcox County declined 11.5 percent, or 1,513, to 11,670.

Marengo County's population is 21,067, a decline of 6.7 percent.

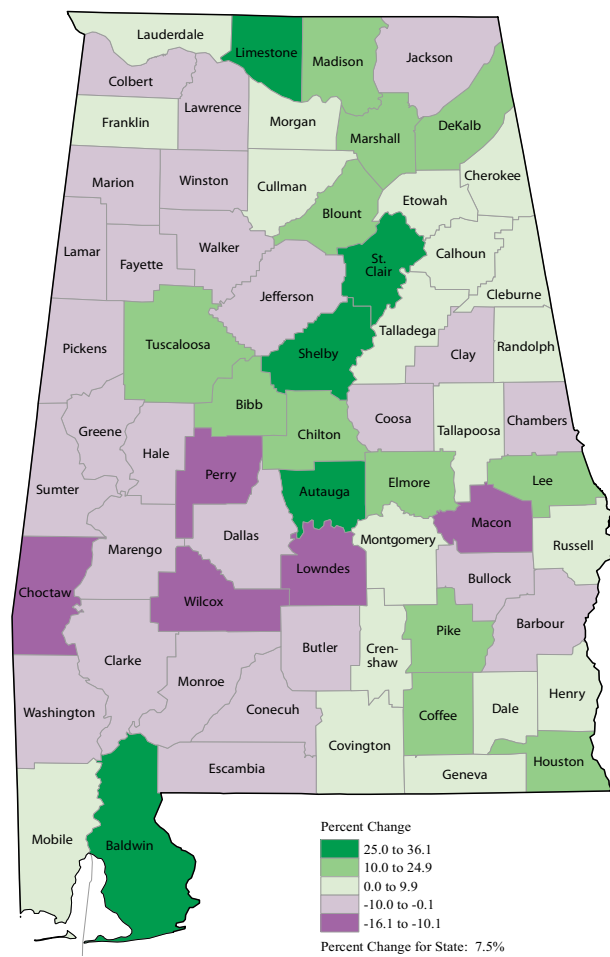
Monroe County lost 5.2 percent, or 1,256, to 23,068.

Washington County lost the least in the region, 516 citizens or 2.9 percent for a 2010 population of 17,581.

The largest loss was in Lowndes County, a 16.1 percent dip. The largest gains were in Shelby County, 36.1 percent; and Baldwin County, 29.8 percent.

Alabama's overall population did not change enough to alter its seven congressional districts but the shifting population will certainly affect the districts' makeup and could affect Clarke's representation.

Clarke County is split between the First and Seventh districts. The First District, represented by Jo Bonner, R-Mobile, grew by eight percent while the Seventh, represented by first term Congresswoman Terri Sewell, D-Birmingham, lost 5.3 percent.



Dark purples indicate most population losses followed by light purples. The light color indicates minor changes while the darker greens indicate significant population gains.

U.S. Census map

Morgan named new district judge

Finney keeps coroner's job

Gov. Robert Bentley didn't delay in naming a replacement for retiring Clarke County District Judge Bill Kimbrough.

J. R. Morgan, an assistant district attorney who had applied for the appointment, said the governor's office called him late Friday to tell him he had been appointed.

Kimbrough's 16-year tenure ended Feb. 28 and Morgan assumed the duties March 1.

A formal swearing-in will be held at the courthouse Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Finney keeps coroner's job

Also, Gov. Bentley has appointed Mitch Finney as Clarke County coroner. Finney was elected in November but did not file his bond and had to forfeit the office as the law requires.

He was appointed to the position Feb. 22.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED



Clarke County Superintendent of Education Woodie Pugh recognized Clarke County's teachers of the year at last week's school board meeting. At left, Darlene Jacobs of Gillmore Elementary was that school's teacher of the year



and won for the county system. Annelle Gordon right, represented Wilson Hall Middle School and won the secondary teacher of the year award for the system. See other nominees in the school board story inside. Photos by Jim Cox

Judgment against ex-Judge DuBose overturned

A \$1.2 million judgment against ousted Circuit Judge Stuart DuBose has been overturned by the Alabama Supreme Court, it was announced Friday.

The Supreme Court ruled that the case, which originated in Washington County Probate Court, was incorrectly transferred to Circuit Court. Consequently, the Circuit Court had no legal jurisdiction to hear the matter, the Supreme Court said.

The case dates to 2003

See DUBOSE, Page 10A

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Indictments issued by Clarke County Grand Jury

Below are individuals who were indicted by the recent Clarke County Grand Jury.

Kevin Ray Barnett, community notification act-minor, community notification act-moving.

Kelly Dee Bates, two counts theft of property first degree.

Joe Edward Bell Jr., possession of marijuana first degree, tampering with physical evidence.

Nickalas Andrea Bernard, possession of controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia, alcohol-possession in vehicle, driving under the influence, improper lights, drivers license not in possession, no/improper tag light.

Christopher Jack Brady, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Lee Ann Brigham, theft of property first degree, obstructing government operations.

Autumn Paige Burkett, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Victor Rashad Burroughs, theft of property second degree.

Sylvia Campbell, burglary second degree.

Joseph W. Carlisle, rape first degree, sodomy first degree.

Ronald Earl Chapman, theft of property first degree.

Joseph Wesley Council, possession of forged instrument second degree.

John D. Creer, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree, breaking/entering vehicle.

Quintin Tawaski Crowell, possession of controlled substance, possession of marijuana first degree, attempting to elude.

Tommy Lee Crum, two counts unlawful distribution/furnishing controlled substance.

Kendrick Darrington, unlawful distribution/furnishing controlled substance.

Ladarian Shanta Davis, possession of controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jeffrey Allen Daw, two counts criminal mischief first degree.

Kimberly Nicole Dement, four counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Thierno Hamidou Diallo, identity theft, two counts forgery second degree, giving false name, improper tag.

Travis Christian Dungan, possession of marijuana first degree.

Darius Jakwan Ervin, assault second degree.

Floyd Roger Feagin, theft of property second degree.

Willie James Figgers, arson second degree.

Timothy Nobles Flinn, certain persons forbidden to carry pistol.

Kristy Shante Gamble, burglary second degree.

Charlotte J. Gambler, two counts theft by deception first degree, two counts identity theft, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Jerry Wayne Gates, receiving stolen property first degree.

Nicholas Dane Gates, two counts fraudulent use credit/debit card.

Ashley Dubose A. Gilmore, burglary second degree.

Jawanika Denise Gilmore, burglary second degree.

Reginald Ginn, robbery first degree, robbery second degree, assault third degree.

Tanya McCaskey Ginn, robbery second degree.

Sharon Dixon Grant, three counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Gerald Hamilton, two counts unlawful distribution/furnishing of controlled substance.

Steven Ladon Harvell, five counts theft of property first degree, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Jessie Harris, three counts theft by deception first degree.

Gary Wayne Hicks, attempted murder.

Steven Graig Hoven, possession of controlled substance.

Anthony James Jackson, possession of marijuana first degree.

Donna J. Jackson, hindering prosecution.

Christopher Alonzo James, theft of property second degree, intimidating a witness.

Linette Johnson, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance.

Valerie Denise Jones, assault second degree.

Jenny Marie Jordan, driving under the influence - felony, possession of marijuana second degree, alcohol-possession in vehicle, driving while license revoked, operating a vehicle without insurance.

Anthony Leroy Kennedy, rape first degree.

Demario King, rape first degree, rape second degree.

Robert Gregory I. Kinman, two counts burglary third degree.

Harry Brant J. Lancaster, two counts arson second degree.

Andy David Lard, four counts theft of property second degree, theft of property first degree.

Emily Marie Lawson, attempted-commit controlled substance, forgery second degree.

Eddie Roy Leggett, enticing a child to enter.

James Legrande Lowry, trafficking-methamphetamine, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, endangering a child-chemicals, possession/sale precursor.

Lori Anne Lowry, trafficking-methamphetamine, unlawful manufacturing of controlled substance, endangering a child-chemicals.

John David Marcet, enticing a child to enter.

Michelle Newton May, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, alcohol-possession in vehicle, driving while license revoked, failure to stop at a stop sign, operating a vehicle without insurance.

Darren Levon McCaskey, possession of marijuana first degree, delivery/sale drug paraphernalia.

Emmett Anderson McCollum, murder.

Johnnie McKinley, murder.

Roger Dwain Moody Jr., rape first degree, sex abuse of a child less than 12 years old.

Taylor James Moss, dog/cat cruelty first degree, reckless endangerment.

Frenechise D. Nickerson, trafficking stolen identities, fraudulent use credit/debit cards.

Kathryn Pope Odom, identity theft, possession of forged instrument second degree.

Randy Joe Overstreet, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance.

Ramond Lee Overton, assault second degree, disorderly conduct.

Brandon Shavonta Paige, assault second degree.

Eric Scott Parnell, receiving stolen property first degree.

Keri Amber Paul, receiving stolen property first degree.

Kristal Lynn Philon, burglary second degree.

Johnathan S. Presnall, possession of controlled substance, driving while license suspended, operating a vehicle without insurance, inoperable brake light, no seat belt.

Mark Stephen J. Presnall, theft of property second degree, receiving stolen property second degree.

Jihad Abdur Rauf, murder.

Ronald Lee Ridgeway, possession of controlled substance, possession of marijuana first degree, use/possession drug paraphernalia, driving while license suspended, operating a vehicle without insurance.

Amanda Lynn Rollins, trafficking-methamphetamine, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, endangerment of a child-chemicals, five counts possession/sell precursor, three counts illegal purchase of ephedrine.

Robert Lemans Rollins, trafficking-methamphetamine, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, endanger-

ment of child-chemicals, four counts possession/sell precursor, firearm-persons forbidden to carry a pistol.

Jasmine Donita Rowell, hindering prosecution, resisting arrest.

Jeffrey Oneal Scandrick, six counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Shane Allen Simpson, two counts possession of forged instrument second degree.

Joshua Deshun Stabler, two counts criminal mischief first degree, criminal mischief second degree.

Dejoun Ontario Taylor, robbery second degree, resisting arrest.

Paul Anthony Walker, unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia.

Michael Washington, burglary third degree.

Herbert Earl Watkins Jr., theft by deception first degree.

Johnnie Ray Watson, two counts sex abuse-child less than 12 years old.

Mike Ladanial Welch, two counts theft of property first degree, criminal mischief first degree, two counts assault second degree, escape third degree.

Veronica M. Welch, burglary third degree, harassment.

Michael Westbrook, assault second degree.

George Edgar White Jr., unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia.

William Lowery Willis, sex abuse-child less than 12 years old.

Concert

Continued from front

corted out by War Bama security and turned over to Choctaw County Sheriff Tom Abate. He was charged with second degree assault and taken to the Clarke County Jail because the Choctaw jail is shut down. His bond was set at \$5,000.

Further complicating the story is that the Explorer reportedly struck a deer somewhere between the club and the Waynesboro, Miss. hospital where Coe was headed.

Sherman said Tuesday he had heard from Coe's manager who said Coe did suffer a cut to the forehead.

Even though in his 70s, he still makes more than 200 appearances a year.

Sherman has been trying to book name singers at the War Bama recently. Ashton Shepherd played the War Bama New Year's Eve and Brantley Gilbert was there last month.

Sherman said, "I hope everyone still has faith in us. We will continue to bring you top-notch acts beginning with Colt Ford, Friday, March 18. David Allan Coe is OK and his management and I are working toward a solution for the fans that attended Saturday night,"



Riding from one capital to another

The "Capital to Capital" Trail Ride passed through Grove Hill Monday on its way from St. Stephens to Montgomery for the Southeastern Livestock Exposition Rodeo on March 10. The ride, to benefit Washington County's Relay for Life, started Saturday with partici-

pants camping in Jackson Saturday night, at Ray Clarke's in Helwstern Sunday night and at the Horse Arena in Thomasville Monday night. The horses and wagons average about 20 miles a day. St. Stephens was the territorial capital of Alabama, hence the name of the

Legislature

Continued from front

"All you can hear from leadership is cuts, cuts, cuts!" said Democratic Rep. Thomas Jackson of Thomasville. "In the process, a lot of people are going to be hurt."

Sen. Hank Sanders, D-Selma, said the General Fund will need \$700 million "to provide the same level of service that we have right now." He was referring to the fiscal year that will start in October and run to September of next year.

It isn't just the General Fund that local legislators are concerned about.

According to Sanders, the Education Trust Fund has lost \$1.5 billion since 2008, and any cuts to the education system would be detrimental.

"Anything that you could cut from has already been cut," he said. "So you've cut out the flesh and the muscle, and now you're down to the bone."

Beech said that education cuts could lead to a loss of teacher units, meaning more students per teacher, and that students could be spending less time in school.

"There was a mention of cutting days in a school year, and that some programs may not be funded at all," she said. "These were only suggestions, and no definite decisions will be made until the session begins."

Jackson said: "You're going to have 50 to 60 kids per class, and that's going to be chaos. I see that coming."

Despite the statewide budget crisis, Keahey said he feels Alabama will overcome the economic slump.

"Over the past 130 years, Alabama has managed and passed budgets that fund state services while remaining one of, if not the lowest, tax states," he said. "That's something I and everyone in the state takes pride in. That's something I hope to continue."

Sanders also expressed optimism about the upcoming session.

"I'm an optimistic person, so I think we'll take what we have and make what we need and do the best we can," he said. "Just getting a budget is a positive thing because you

can't operate without one."

Beech, now a member of the minority party, said she hopes legislators can, as citizens, put aside party differences and work for those they represent.

"If we all can remember who elected us and do what is right, we will fare fine as lawmakers," Beech said. "We will not always agree, but we should be able to compromise for the overall good of Alabama."

Jackson said this is a crucial time for Alabamians, and citizens should stay informed.

"These decisions could have devastating effects on all of us if we don't get involved," he said. "If we sit back and allow the Republicans to tax organized labor the way they are in the state, we will no longer be a democratic republic, but a utilitarian state run by aristocrats. We will lose this form of government as we know it."

Troy University journalism student Jennifer Harrison of Mobile wrote this story as part of a project partly funded by the Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation.

Clarke County Records

Marriage license applications

Michael Neil Taylor, to Shana Renee Gates.

Marriage license applications are just that-applications for licenses, not necessarily actual marriages.

Property deeds listed Dated Feb. 17-23

Estate of Christean Davis-Leggett, to Christopher Martin Leggett.

Estate of Christean Davis-Leggett, to Ryan O'Neal Leggett.

Megan B. Agee, to Megan B. Agee.

Kathy Virginia Bryan Gartman, to Alabama 1031 Property Exchange, Inc.

Robert Dunagan, to Letizia Chapman.

First United Security Bank, to Grace Baptist Church.

Asberry Daffin III, to Adrian D. Daffin.

Herman Stephens, to Vickie K. Fisher.

Nikki Linder Parden, to Wanda Denise Howell.

Brenda R. Griffin, to Jason Harrell.

Petrenia Stewart, to Petrenia Stewart.

Alexander White, to Anjali Lashay White.

Deleon Burroughs, to Auburn Martin.

Troy Dale Hayes, to Troy Dale Hayes.

Jackson Center Associates LTD, to Regency Commercial Associates, LLC.

Elizabeth G. Bonner, to Jimmy L. Bonner Jr.

Jimmy L. Bonner Jr., to Jimmy L. Bonner Jr.

Leonard H. DeLoach, to Danny F. Jackson.

Fannie Mae, to Harbour Portfolio VI, LP.

Lillian Chapman, to Butler Telephone Company.

Matthew J. Grayson, to Clifford Twilley.

Vicky M. Morris, to First Bank of Linden.

Evelyn Juanita Hayes, to Larry L. Hayes.

The index to deed recordings is used for this listing. The index lists only one grantor and one grantee party while the actual recorded deed may list more.

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