



Purple martins arrive!

Beloved birds herald springtime: Page 6A

Sub-state action

Local teams still at it: Page 7A

# The Clarke County Democrat

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## Chickasaw attack victim dies Saturday; was uncle of local druggist

From Staff Reports

An elderly Chickasaw man, severely beaten in a burglary in his home Jan. 27, died Saturday at USA Medical Center in Mobile.

Carroll Jordan, 86, had been in critical condition since the assault when he was beaten and stabbed by three assailants in the home invasion.

Jordan is the uncle of Alan Jordan of Grove Hill, owner and pharmacist at The Medicine Chest.

The Jordans are from the Frisco City area in Monroe County. Carroll Jordan was the twin brother of Alan Jordan's late father.

Three individuals have been arrested and charged with attempted murder and first degree burglary in the crime: Deangelo Smith, 21, Carlos Nottingham, 20, and Yasmine Munnerlyn, 19. Their charges have been upgraded to capital murder, which could carry a death sentence.

The burglary and assault was broken up when a neighbor went to Jordan's home and found one of the assailants at the door. The man fled and the neighbor found Jordan inside suffering from multiple stab wounds. A flat screen TV taken from the house was found in the yard.

## Politics 2014

### Norris candidate for coroner's post

From Staff Reports

Tyler Norris has qualified as a Republican candidate for Clarke County coroner.



He has no opposition in the June 3 primary and neither does incumbent Mitch Finney, a Democrat.

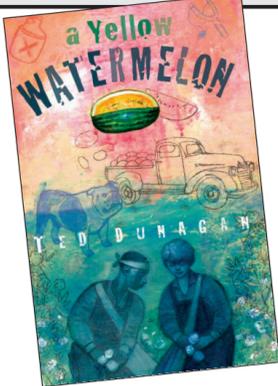
They will compete for the office in the Nov. 4 general election. Norris is one of eight investigators working statewide with the newly created Agriculture and Rural Crimes Unit. Before that unit was created he worked for the Alabama ABC Board.

Prior to that he was a patrol officer and FBI hostage negotiator with the Tuscaloosa Police Department. He then worked with the Shelby County Sheriff's Department as an investigator and patrol deputy.

Norris grew up in Fulton. He graduated from Grove Hill Academy in 1997 and joined the Marines where he was promoted to sergeant during his tour of duty. Afterwards he moved

See NORRIS, Page 3A

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## A Yellow Watermelon for C'ville

From Staff Reports

The town of Coffeeville and the Grove Hill Arts Council are joining forces on a project to restore the old Coffeeville school for community use. In so doing, they will recognize one of the school's most famous students, Ted Dunagan.



Dunagan

Dunagan is the author of three award-winning young adult novels set in that area during the late 1940s, published by NewSouth Books. A stage play based on his first novel, "A Yellow Watermelon," premieres Friday, March 7 at 11 a.m. and Saturday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the old Coffeeville High School auditorium.

"A Yellow Watermelon: A Play in Two Acts" has been written by Cathi Gunter, a local playwright. The idea for the project was inspired by the play based on the Harper Lee classic, "To Kill A Mockingbird," presented annually in the nearby town of Monroeville.

Sponsors of the project include the Town of Coffeeville, Grove Hill Arts Council, Arts Council of Thomasville and Lewis Pest Control.

The first performance of "A Yellow Watermelon," will be attended by Clarke County middle schoolers, who will also compete in



Community wants to restore old school. an essay contest about the award on which the play is based. Author Ted Dunagan will participate in a question and answer session after the morning performance and present the writing awards.

A second performance of the play will be staged for the general public on Saturday, March 8 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Prior to the Saturday performance at 5 p.m., the town of Coffeeville will host a reception honoring Dunagan.

Dunagan has been an annual presenter at Wilson Hall Middle School in Grove Hill for the past five years, following the study of his

See C'VILLE PLAY, Page 3A



## Despite the rain, work goes on

Separate crews worked doggedly on through fog and a light rain Monday on resurfacing Jackson Street through Grove Hill and on sidewalk repairs and upgrades. Tuesday's heavier rain forced them to curtail their work. South Alabama missed the latest round of snow and ice but five inches or more were predicted for portions of north Alabama. Locally, rains persisted through Wednesday.

Photos by Jim Cox



## Arrests made in 4-wheeler thefts

From Staff Reports

Lawmen have recovered two stolen four-wheelers in recent days.

Sheriff Ray Norris said his department was able to make an arrest on a four-wheeler theft that occurred around Jan. 2.

Deputies responded to the report of the stolen four-wheeler and started looking for the Honda 500 in the area along the

Clarke County-Marengo County border. Investigator Patrick Champion from Marengo County was contacted by Clarke County Investigator Ron Baggette. As Baggette was coming to the scene he met a four-wheeler and turned around and gave chase but lost it.

Around Feb. 1 another four-wheeler was reported stolen in the Bashi Road area. Thomasville Police

Detective's Tobey Knight and Ashley Johnson headed this investigation and Baggette and Investigator David Connor along with Champion teamed up with the Thomasville investigators and a suspect was discovered and picked up.

Robert Jarrell Bettis, 23, of Thomasville was questioned and later charged with the theft of both four-wheelers. See 4-WHEELERS, Page 3A

## Sen. Keahey 'not ready to close the door'

By Jim Cox  
Clarke County Democrat

Marc Keahey has qualified for re-election to the District 22 State Senate seat.



Keahey

His decision to run came as a surprise to many who had expected him not to run. Keahey admitted that he did not

make up his mind until the Friday qualifying deadline approached.

"In the end it came down to realizing I was not ready to close the door on serv-

ing our state and the people of southwest Alabama," Keahey said in a telephone interview Tuesday en route to Montgomery for the legislative session.

"I enjoy serving and I enjoy helping people and the district. I know the challenges with the makeup of the new district but I believe I can get out and meet the new constituents of the district and convince them I am the best person to represent them."

Keahey, a Democrat, was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2006. In 2009, after the sudden death of

See KEAHEY, Page 3A

## License and revenue officials get by with no election opponents

By Jim Cox  
Clarke County Democrat

As the old saying goes, Linda Goodman and Terry Norris must be paying the preacher. Or maybe they are just real lucky.

The two incumbent Clarke County officeholders got by without any opposition for a new term as qualifying ended Friday with no Democrats or Republicans signing up to run for their offices.

Goodman is the license commissioner and Norris is the revenue commissioner. Both are Democrats.

There are contested races in the June 3 primaries. The emergence of local candidates under the Republican banner presents a dilemma for local voters who must decide which candidates and which offices are most important to

vote in. They'll have to choose either the Democratic or Republican ballot for the primary voting.

For sheriff, on the Republican ticket, incumbent Ray Norris is being challenged by Coffeeville Police Chief Mark Leon, a former deputy. On the Democratic ballot, former county coroner Kevin Brunson and C. J. Myers are vying for the nomination. Brunson was an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in 2010 and Myers is a Barlow Bend native retired from the FBI.

The winning nominees will face each other in the Nov. 4 general election.

The sheriff's race will be the only countywide contest on the primary ballots.

There will be a primary contest on the Democratic ballot for the District 1 County Commission seat. See CANDIDATES, Page 3A

## Improvements should begin shortly on Berry's Chapel Road

By Barry H. Hendrix  
Clarke County Democrat

The following items were addressed at a brief meeting Tuesday of the Clarke County Commission:

- An estimate of approximately \$46,602.50 from Pine City Contracting was approved for road improvements (repairs and resurfacing) on 700 feet of Berry's Chapel Road and specific spots on County Road 3.

Funding will come from 3-R (Resurfacing, Restoration and Rehabilitation) state monies because it is an existing paved road, said County Engineer Danny Overton. The project will begin hopefully in

the next few weeks.

- The commission approved a payment of \$265,302.00 for the county's match on a \$1,326,510.00 improvement project (resurfacing and traffic striping) on 13.889 miles of County Road 3 - Winn Road.

The project is being funded through ATRIP (Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program). Construction should start sometime in April or May, Overton said.

- A surplus vehicle (2004 Ford Ranger) will be transferred to the Town of Coffeeville for the cost of \$1.00.

- A county payroll clerk. See COMMISSION, Page 3A

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