

# Montgomery Advertiser

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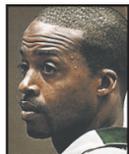
**Gustav puts Gulf on alert - 9A, 4B**

## Jury: Life in prison for Woodward

By Hilary Funk  
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Prosecutors are decrying a Montgomery County jury's recommendation that Mario Woodward serve life in prison without parole for the murder of Montgomery policeman Keith Houts.

After four hours of deliberation Wednesday, the jury voted 8-4 that Woodward should receive life without parole rather than the death penalty for his two capital murder convictions.



Woodward

District Attorney Ellen Brooks said prosecution evidence entered during the sentencing phase that began Tuesday clearly showed that Woodward should receive the death sentence.

In particular, she said Woodward's 1991 manslaughter conviction — for shooting Janice Albert to death in October

**In The Line Of Duty:**  
Tribute page to Officer Keith Houts  
[montgomeryadvertiser.com/houts](http://montgomeryadvertiser.com/houts)

1990 — showed he had no regard for life.

"He's killed not once, but twice, and we will go to court in September prepared to ask the judge to overturn this verdict," Brooks said.

On Sept. 25, the case will be back in the hands of Circuit Judge Truman M. Hobbs Jr. He will decide whether the 34-year-old Montgomerian, found guilty on two counts of capital murder, will receive life or death for killing Houts during a routine traffic stop in September 2006.

Before rendering its verdict today, the jury found that two of the three alleged aggravating circumstances existed in

Prison Page 6A

## Obama accepts party nomination

By David Espo  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think," called out the Democrats' man of the hour in a surprise late-night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joe Biden basked in the cheers.

Obama implored the delegates to help him "take back America" in the fall campaign against Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Earlier, former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked the convention to interrupt its roll call of the states and make its verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory." And they did, with a roar.



- ▶ Carter puts aside differences with party 7A
- ▶ Obama speech has special meaning for Southern delegates 7A
- ▶ Davis plays key role in nomination 7A

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from the convention floor as the outcome was announced.

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother, is now one victory from becoming president of a nation where, just decades ago, many blacks were denied the vote.

But even as he won the nomination, there was open talk in the convention city that



Zach Golson  
Hooper Academy

Dale Kemsel  
Evangel Christian

Bobby Hughes  
SMCA

Larry Ware  
R.E. Lee

Roberto Reed  
St. Jude

Barry Gibson  
Holtville

# COACHES KICK OFF

12 AREA HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE NEW HEAD COACHES

Steve Holloway  
Sidney Lanier

Chris Honeycutt  
Autauga Academy

Al Pogue  
G.W. Carver

Jamey DuBose  
Prattville

Cedric Drake  
Taylor Road

Kenny Simpson  
Ala. Christian



By Wesley Lyle  
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Almost half the River Region's 28 high school football teams are under new leadership this season.

An even dozen teams have new head coaches calling the shots. Three coaches made their debuts last week. Two walked away with a win.

The other nine are approaching their first games this weekend with a mixture of nervousness and excitement.

"I feel a lot like the kids do. I'm excited but a little jittery too," said Sidney Lanier head coach Steve Holloway. "This is a position I've been wishing, hoping and praying to be in. The Lord has blessed me and I want to take advantage of this opportunity."

Holloway's Poets open the season at 7 tonight against Opelika at Cramton Bowl.

- ▶ Mini-profiles of the coaches 6A
- ▶ McCracken returns to Cramton 1C

New Alabama Christian Academy coach Kenny Simpson spent the past two seasons as an assistant with the Eagles.

Being the head coach is a lot different from being an assistant, he said, even when you're familiar with the players, the school and the program.

"There are a lot more responsibilities, but that's part of the challenge you look forward to," he said.

Simpson's Eagles host St. Jude on Friday.

Expectations are high for all the new coaches, but few coaches anywhere face the expectations placed on the Prattville Lions' new boss, Jamey DuBose. He is replacing the program's winningest coach, and that's tough enough.

But the challenge is magnified because the Lions are the two-time defending 6A state champions, riding a 30-game winning streak dating back to the 2005 playoffs, and the team hasn't lost a regular season game since 2002.

DuBose said he and his staff want to prove that even though some faces have changed, Prattville football is the same.

"We still have the same philosophy we've had," DuBose said.

He said he doesn't feel any different now that he's the head coach — so far.

"The first time it may feel different is when we prepare to kickoff for the first time," he said.

"But once the game starts, it's not something you think about. Once everything starts, you're too busy coaching."

Prattville opens the season Saturday in Cincinnati. The Lions will face St. Xavier (Ohio) in the Kirk Herbstreit Ohio vs. USA Challenge at Paul Brown Stadium.



Ron Edmonds AP

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama joins his running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., on stage after Biden's speech at the Democratic National Convention. More coverage online at [montgomeryadvertiser.com](http://montgomeryadvertiser.com)

race remained a stumbling block to the White House.

"A lot of white workers ... and quite frankly a lot of union members believe he's the wrong race," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka told a breakfast meeting of Michigan delegates.

Obama will face McCain, who will accept the Republican nomination next week in St.

Paul, Minn.

The polls show a close race ahead with McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner of war a few days shy of his 72nd birthday, and Obama was hoping Democrats would leave their convention united despite the hard feelings remaining from a bruising primary campaign

Obama Page 7A

## Love to speak to GOP next week

By Sebastian Kitchen  
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Congressional candidate Jay Love of Montgomery is the only Alabamian scheduled to speak at the podium next week at the Republican National Convention, according to information released this week by convention officials.

Love, a state representative, will take the stage at the Xcel Energy Center in Minneapolis-St. Paul between 4 and 5 p.m. on Monday, according to his campaign.

Monday's list of speakers includes about 30 people, from congressional candidates to President Bush to independent U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman. Others include Vice President Dick Cheney, first lady Laura Bush, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Love faces Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright, the Democratic candidate, for the 2nd Congressional District seat. The winner will replace retiring

Republican U.S. Rep. Terry Everett of Rehoboth.

"The Republican committee is very committed to this race and to making sure that I win and that we hold this seat for the Republicans — that Democrat Bobby Bright doesn't win it," Love said by phone Wednesday from Dothan.

David Mowery, campaign manager for Bright, wrote in an e-mail that the mayor wishes Love luck speaking at the convention.

Love is one of only five congressional candidates who are not incumbents who will be speaking, according to his campaign.

"There are very few congressional candidates across the country that have the honor of speaking at the convention and certainly I am proud to be one of those," he said.

Bright did not attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver this week. He previously said the people in

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TODAY'S FORECAST



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For Tickets Call 323-2255 or Visit [www.biscuitsbaseball.com](http://www.biscuitsbaseball.com)

Tonight	Tomorrow	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
<p><b>Thirsty Thursday</b> \$2 Drink Specials! 7:05 vs. JAX</p>	<p><b>Fireworks Spectacular!</b> NIGHT! 7:05 vs. JAX</p>	<p><b>Fireworks Spectacular!</b> NIGHT! 7:05 vs. JAX</p>	<p><b>Kids Run the Bases</b> presented by Coca-Cola 6:05 vs. JAX</p>	<p><b>FAN Appreciation DAY</b> 3:05 vs. JAX</p>