

TIMES-JOURNAL

NEXT WEEK

Check the T-J for a story-by-story candidate forum breakdown

INSIDE TODAY

'What is Christian?' » PAGE 4

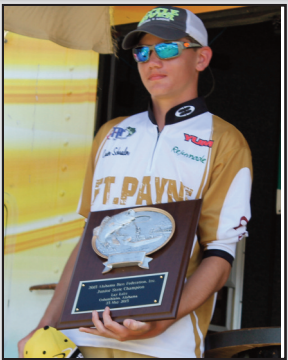
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Missing teen



Damaris Gomez is a 5'1," 115-pound, 16-year-old Hispanic female with brown eyes and black hair. Anyone with information on her whereabouts should call the Fort Payne Police Department at 256-845-1414.

Top moments



SPORTS
Angler competes at Junior World Championship
See Page 7A

#mydekalb



Tag photos from your adventures with #mydekalb on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Times-Journal may choose yours to publish on page 3.

Today's weather



Kaden Phillips

Fyffe

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Draw the Weather — See Page 3

93 **70**
High Low

Today will be partly cloudy.

Correction

In the Thursday (August 4) edition of the Times-Journal, the article "Council talks logging, fees" stated the Fort Payne City Council was looking to prevent logging; however, the council is instead researching ways to ensure logging is done in such a way that it does not negatively affect the property of adjacent or nearby landowners while at the same time allowing the owner use of the land.

T-J online

The Times-Journal has more than 11,500 likes on Facebook — 152 of those people are from Pine Ridge.



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Fort Payne Candidate Forum



Heather Buckner | Times-Journal

Fort Payne mayoral challenger David Beddingfield, left, and incumbent Mayor Larry Chesser greet each other following Fort Payne's Candidate Forum on Thursday.

By **Bradley Roberts** and **Heather Buckner**
news@times-journal.com

Eyes set on mayor seat

Chesser looks for second term leading city of Fort Payne

It's been four years since Larry Chesser took over the office of mayor of Fort Payne. Chesser applauded the city for its resilience during that time, and over the past eight years, during Thursday night's Fort Payne Candidate Forum at the City Auditorium.

Chesser and challenger David Beddingfield each answered five questions — they were submitted questions, which were vetted and selected by Times-Journal Publisher Tricia Clinton-Dunne, who hosted the forum.

Chesser said the city had come a long way in eight years considering the amount of jobs lost, and he said one of the ways to recruit more businesses was by offering incentive packages.

"We definitely have done some incentive plans, and we offer about the same as any other city in the state," Chesser said. "We offer tax abatements — just about anything we can."

Chesser said, however, large companies were hard to come by these days. He said the city just doesn't have enough in its industrial development fund to adequately recruit them — they often go to the highest bidder.

He said there has been significant job growth in the past three years, though, and the city has seen businesses create 1,070 jobs, many of which are small businesses.

Beddingfield has prepared to be mayor his whole life

David Beddingfield said all his life he has trained to be the mayor of Fort Payne, each experience making him a stronger candidate for the job.

Taking on incumbent Larry Chesser at the Fort Payne Times-Journal candidate forum on Thursday, he used those experiences to answer five voter-submitted questions, posed by Publisher Tricia Clinton-Dunne.

When asked about offering incentive packages for large and small businesses, Beddingfield said the area already has what industries want.

"When I think about incentives, I think about the area where we live," he said. "We've got the most gorgeous

area in the state of Alabama, in my opinion."

Beddingfield said when a business is looking to relocate, they look at two things.

"First, the services that are going to be provided — is it a safe environment? It is," he said. "We have great first responders in our fire and police departments."

Second, he said, is quality of life.

"We have a natural beauty here that gives people an opportunity to do things after work," he said. "What are my people going to be doing if I bring them to Fort Payne?"

He cited existing qualities, like biking



See Chesser on Page 3A

See Beddingfield on Page 2A

Teenager saves best friend's life

13-year-old: 'I'm not no hero'

By **Bradley Roberts**
broberts@times-journal.com

Sometimes a split-second decision can be the difference between life and death.

For 13-year-old Caleb Stalvey, a series of split-second decisions helped him save his best friend's life.

It was mid-afternoon, sometime around 4 p.m. Friday, July 22 when Stalvey and his 14-year-old friend — his parents requested he not be named as he faces the difficult recovery period — decided to take their off-road vehicles down a dirt path near Stalvey's home on Jennings Road in Fort Payne. The boys were dressed in gym shorts, shoes and helmets. They ditched their phones with shirts and went on their way.

Stalvey, who celebrated his birthday in May and is going into the eighth grade at Fort Payne Middle School, said he climbed on his dirt bike and took the lead. His friend followed closely behind in an ATV built specifically for racing.

Stalvey scouted the area, he knew the power of his bike and that any false move in the unfamiliar location could be detrimental — this foresight would prove to be extremely important.

The two boys have been best friends

See Stalvey on Page 8A

Bus donated to EMA and DeKalb schools

School will use bus as a mobile classroom

By **Katie Poe**
kpoe@times-journal.com

At their latest meeting on July 26, the DeKalb County Commission accepted the donation of a 1990 touring charter bus by Carolyn Martin.

The bus will soon be used by both the DeKalb County School System and the Emergency Management Agency as soon as it's been renovated.

Money for the renovation comes from a grant from the Virtual School Program, which allows students in the county to take online classes from home.

The school system plans to use the bus as a mobile classroom for the program, travelling to different communities in the county. DeKalb County Board of Education Transportation Supervisor Keith Atchley said the bus will also host a teacher.

"It will allow that teacher to have

See County on Page 2A

Deadline for voting in municipal election ends Monday

Residents can register either online or at Board of Registrars office

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

2016 VOTE

By **Staff Reports**
news@times-journal.com

Unregistered DeKalb County voters have little time remaining to register to vote for the Aug. 23 election.

The deadline to register is Monday, Aug. 8.

According to DeKalb County Alabama Board of

Registrars member Jo Stiefel, citizens can register to vote several different ways.

"You can completely register to vote online now, and it only

Briefly

- Any citizen may register to vote in the DeKalb County municipal elections if he or she meets a certain set of requirements.

takes about 15 minutes or so to complete," Stiefel said. "You can also register at the Board of Registrars office."

Additionally, people can

register at public libraries, the DeKalb County Probate Judge's Office, or they can mail them to the Board of Registrars.

In order to become eligible to vote for the Aug. 23 election, applications must be turned in to the Board of Registrars by 4 p.m. on

See Deadline on Page 3A

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From Page A1 Stalvey: ...Scott said they used a belt to create a makeshift tourniquet

their entire lives. Caleb's father, Scott Stalvey, said the duo regularly spend time with each other on the weekends and then every day during the summer.

"They're best buddies," said Scott. "They stay up at night playing video games and drinking Mountain Dew, and when I get up for work in the morning, they're still up."

Caleb's friend goes to Sand Rock, and he only recently moved within the Fort Payne city limits, closer to Caleb.

Caleb said the summer had been filled with those long nights at each other's houses and hours outside in the sun. They had even started constructing a tree house — they had the plans, at least. Caleb said he wouldn't drive the first nail in the project until his friend was back home to supervise.

They had a track in the backyard that they would ride. The family built individual jumps and the teenagers would go in circles for hours. But, on July 22 they decided to ride up the road, cut across the expanse of the countryside and explore the terrain.

"I kind of knew this trail and how it was going to go," Caleb said. "We had a creek, and we lived there a lot longer than he had. I was taking the turns real easy."

Caleb said as he pulled ahead he slowed down.

"I knew how fast (my bike) could go," Caleb said. "I was scared. I was on a different path and neither of us knew what was straight ahead."

Caleb said he was on the outskirts of a neighboring property, and he could see the barbed wire fence marking off the property line. He said the fence straightened out, veered to the left and then a hard right before straightening out again.

Caleb topped out on the other side of a ditch, and he slowed his bike almost to a complete stop. Then, he heard a crash.

Caleb looked back and saw his best friend's four-wheeler flipped over on its top. The ATV's back wheel was wrapped in barbed wire. The vehicle took out five wooden fence posts. Caleb saw the four-wheeler first, and then he scanned the area in search of his friend.

"He was about 10 feet away from me," said Caleb. "He was just looking at me in shock."

The teenager's arm had been sliced open by the fence, and blood was pouring from the open wound.

"It was kind of dark, and he kind of went down into a ditch and when he came up it was in the barbed wire," Caleb said.

Caleb's mind started racing. What was he going to do? He had left his phone at home. Did he have enough time to race back and get help? He couldn't just leave his friend in the pasture.

Caleb decided he had to act quickly to save his friend's life.

"He just kept saying to me, 'Is this a dream?' Get me home!" Caleb said.

His friend outweighed him by 60 pounds and stood around 9 inches taller. But, Caleb draped his friend's bad arm across his body and then pulled the boy up and over the front of his bike.

"God was telling me how to do it and what to do," Caleb said. "I just wanted my buddy back. I'm not no hero."

Caleb said the color was quickly draining from his friend's face. He

said he had to kick start his bike and then turn and direct it toward the nearest road. It was struggling under the added weight, and Caleb was trying to keep his friend from sliding off — he drove along with one hand and kept his friend steady with the other.

Blood began dribbling down the back of Caleb's bike. Caleb recalled his friend losing consciousness at least two times. He kept talking to him. "He was laying all over the place," Caleb said. "We got to the top of a hill, and he passed out. I was trying to go to the inside of the lane, and I was rocking back and forth, and then his arm hit the kill switch."

The bike stalled, and Caleb knew he had to get him off the bike in order to restart it.

"He had to lay him out in the middle of the road, start the bike up and then reach over and put him back on the motorcycle," Scott said.

Caleb started again down the road. He was about 2 miles from home, but he said he was going to flag down the first car he saw and ask for help.

There was a black truck out on the horizon, and he began frantically waving for help. The driver helped Caleb load the boy up into the back of the truck. He said he told the driver to follow him and sped away toward his house.

He said he was unsure

of the driver's identity, but "he looked familiar."

"Everybody knows Caleb," Scott said. "There was a black truck, and I was standing out by my shop. I saw Caleb speed by, and then the truck came by."

Scott knew something was wrong, so he ran after the vehicle and on to the neighbor's home. The boy's parents had just arrived from work, as well.

Scott said he ran to his son and the truck. He was

worried about Caleb who was covered from head to toe in blood — the toes of his shoes were shredded from dragging the ground behind his bike.

"He was just vibrating," Scott said of his son. "I said, 'Are you hurt?' and he just said, 'I'm fine. I'm just hurting on the inside.'"

Scott said they opened the tailgate to the truck, and he and the boy's parents helped load the injured teen into the back of the family's car.

The group worked to stop the bleeding, and Scott said they used a belt to create a makeshift tourniquet.

The parents called

DeKalb Ambulance Service and told them they would meet them at Westmoreland Tire in Fort Payne — Caleb's

See Stalvey on Page 10A



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From Page A8 **Stalvey: 'I'll tell you right now — my son is a hero'**

mom, Robin, said the police and fire departments had a difficult time reaching their home. Meeting the medics halfway was the best possible way to ensure the boy's safety.

The car raced ahead; Scott said his son wanted to ride with them, but he told him to calm down and clean himself up.

"He begged me to go," Scott said. "I told him, 'Caleb, you can't go right now.'"

He said the boy was transported by DAS to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Medics called to have the boy airlifted by helicopter, but a delay forced the ambulance to transfer the boy instead.

Robin, Scott and Caleb Stalvey were right behind the ambulance and the boy's family. Caleb couldn't relax on the

drive to the hospital. The shock of the situation had been too much for the teenager.

He had to know that his friend was going to be OK.

The Stalveys arrived in the emergency room of Erlanger and Caleb marched up to the front desk. Doctors and nurses had stopped the bleeding and Caleb's friend could take some visitors. He asked — demanded — to go into the back room, which would only allow people ages 14 and up.

"I ran in there," Caleb said. "I didn't listen to them. That was my best friend."

Caleb said he talked to his friend the next day about the accident.

"He doesn't really remember most of it," Caleb said. "He remembers getting into the truck, standing up and

then his mom sitting him back down."

Caleb said the boy had surgery on his arm about four days later — doctors performed a surgery on the arm on Wednesday.

"I'll tell you right now, my son is a hero," said Robin.

The injured boy's mother agreed Thursday with Robin.

"Their boy is a hero in our eyes," she said. "We're glad that he was there, and we wish we could pay him back for saving our son."

Robin's son doesn't like to take any credit for the incident. He doesn't think of himself as a hero. That was his friend, and he would do whatever it takes to make sure he was OK. So, he said he wanted to help raise money for the family to help pay for

their medical bills.

That's not surprising, though. That's just the kind of person Caleb is.

Scott said his son is always the first to help someone when they need it. He said Caleb always wants to offer assistance if the family sees a car on the side of the road. Caleb would give them the shirt off his back, money out of his own pocket.

"It's not shocking that Caleb's done that," Scott said. "Anybody else and it'd be a surprise, but not when somebody hears Caleb did it."

"But, it gets to you. It puts a lump in (my) throat any time we talk about it. We know him, and that's exactly how he is."

"If he had just told that boy, 'Hang on. Let me get help,' then he would've died."

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