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**SOUTHERN TORCH**

THE SOUTHERN TORCH / FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018 / VOL. 4, NO. 21 / \$1.00

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# Council Borrows \$45 Million

(Marla Jones | Southern Torch)  
 By **Marla Jones**  
 Reporter  
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FORT PAYNE, Ala. — The Fort Payne City Council met on Thursday, May 17, 2018 for their regularly scheduled meeting.

In March, the Council agreed to the issue of 45 million dollars worth of bonds that were partly due to the 1% sales tax that was passed in August 2017. The Council had the first

reading of the ordinance Thursday. According to City Attorney Rocky Watson, “There is no reason for us not to pass this today and get the benefit of \$45 million for our city and our schools to go forward.”

The Council authorized the pricing of the completed bond issue, which will close on June 6, 2018. The interest of the bond will be set at 3.88%.

The 1% sales tax increase was put in place to help build the reserve of

the City. According to Fort Payne Mayor, Larry Chesser the repayment of debt will definitely be aided by the sales tax revenue. The additional revenue from the sales tax increase will provide the City of Fort Payne, upwards to three million.

The Council suspended the rules and passed the ordinance.

After the passing of the ordinance, Council member Wade Hill stated, “This is a big day for Fort

Payne, folks.”

While this bond will not encompass all the city’s debt, Fort Payne does have a larger bond that matures this year. The revenue from the sales tax will help make the payment.

“This is the first time since I have become Mayor that the City has been in a position to do this kind of work,” said Mayor Chesser. “Since the collapse of the hosiery business, the City

**>> COUNCIL, P2**

Check out this week’s edition of The Southern Torch for a special graduation insert featuring ALL DeKalb County Schools!

# TOSSING TWO TASSELS

By **Zach Hester**  
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DEKALB COUNTY, Ala. — As graduations across the nation happen around this time of year, outgoing high school seniors are looking forward to that moment when they get to move the tassel perched on their caps from one side to the other.

For three DeKalb County seniors, they’ll get to toss more than one tassel this graduation season.

Christian Townson of Sylvania, Joshua Alexander Lance of Plainview and



**Christian Townson**

Audrey Biddle of Cornerstone walked across their respective graduation stages this week and thanks to the dual enrollment program provided by Northeast Alabama Community College, they



**Audrey Biddle**

will also be walking across the stage to receive their associate’s degrees at the same time.

Townson has been accepted into 21 colleges and universities from Alabama and Auburn all the



**Joshua Lance**

way to Belmont, Vanderbilt, and LSU. He has accepted a Kenneth Carnathan Crimson Scholarship to attend the University of Alabama in the

**>> GRADS, P2**

# Accident Claims Life

By **Marla Jones**  
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HENAGAR, Ala. — On Monday May 21, 2018, at approximately 1:17 p.m., the Henagar Police Department responded to a two-car accident at the intersection of Alabama Highway 40 & Alabama Highway 75 in Henagar.

According to Henagar Police Chief Randall Smith, one of the drivers, Terrell Bowden, age 47, of Valley Head, was pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident.

The second driver was transported to the hospital. At press time, an update of his condition was unknown.

The accident is currently under investigation by state and local authorities.

Southern Torch will provide updates as they become available.

**Jeff McCurdy**  
 FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE  
 9TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT | PLACE 2

The right person, at the right time, for the right reason.

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Jeff McCurdy for Circuit Judge P.O. Box 129 - Henagar, AL 35978

# BALLOT BOX BREAKDOWN

By **Zach Hester**  
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DEKALB COUNTY, Ala. — Voters across Alabama will head to the polls on June 5 to vote in the primary races of statewide and local candidates in either the Democratic or Republican Primary. The June election will contain primaries for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and many others, including local and countywide races. Here is a brief breakdown of who will be on the June 5 ballot. To

see a full sample ballot for either party’s primary, please see our website at southerntorch.com.

If you are unsure of what your state senate or state house district is, please visit [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/) and simply type in your address to see which race will appear on your ballot.

**In the Republican Primary:**

**For Governor:** Tommy Battle, Mayor of Huntsville; Scott Dawson; Bill Hightower, state senator; Kay Ivey, incumbent Governor; and Michael McAllister (who

passed away in April 2018).

**For Lieutenant Governor:** Will Ainsworth, state representative; Twinkle Address Cavanaugh, Public Service Commission President; and Rusty Glover, state senator.

**For U.S. Representative (4th Congressional District):** Robert Aderholt, incumbent Congressman, and Anthony Blackmon.

**For Attorney General:** Chess Bledsoe; Troy King, former Alabama Attorney General; Steve Marshall, incumbent Attorney General; and Alice Martin,

**VOTE 2018**

Voters will head to the polls on June 5 across Alabama to vote in local races and several open statewide races. (Zach Hester | Southern Torch)

Deputy Attorney General of Alabama.

**For State Senate (District 8):** Max D. Fuller and Steve Livingston, incumbent state senator

**For State Senate (District 10):** Mack Butler, state representative, and

**>> BALLOT, P2**

**FRIDAY 5/25**  
 78 & 65

**SATURDAY 5/26**  
 78 & 66

**SUNDAY 5/27**  
 77 & 66

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