

DEKALB COUNTY'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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Ivey gets dose of DeKalb arts

By Jared Felkins

The Times-Journal

Alabama Treasurer Kay Ivey said she has an edge over her opponents in a race for governor because she has experience in maintaining finances and budgets.

The Republican candidate made her remarks just before she attended the Children's Advocacy Center's annual Dinner Theatre Friday night at the First United Methodist Church in Fort Payne.

Ivey said the main focus of her campaign is industry recruitment and job creation across the state.

"We want to recruit new industry and expand our existing industry, but we want to diversify what we recruit," Ivey said. "The focus should no longer be in the automotive industry. We should set our sights on new industries, such as aerospace and biomedical."

Ivey also said industrial recruitment should be set based on size – placing smaller industries in smaller areas, mid-sized industries in mid-sized markets, etc.

Ivey said to successfully recruit industry, the available workforce has to be well trained and informed. In the education arena, Ivey said standards need to be changed so that students are no longer learning to just take tests.

"We need to pass the enabling act for charter schools in Alabama," Ivey said.

Ivey said a solution to funding the failed Prepaid Affordable College Tuition plan would be the passage of two bills in the Legislature. The first, she said, would guarantee the state honor agreements with contract holders.

The second bill would divide the assets of the current PACT Trust Fund be divided among colleges and universities throughout the state and those universities honor PACT contracts.

Ivey said the program should be closed when all contracts are honored and offer the 529 Plan to parents as an option for college savings.

"No student has missed a payment, and no child will miss a payment," Ivey said. "I am

the only candidate who has offered a solution.”

Ivey also said she does not support legalizing gambling of any kind in Alabama.

“It’s a poor business model and only distributes wealth, not contributes wealth,” Ivey said.

However, Ivey said she supports allowing voters the chance to consider it. She said she would encourage voters to vote no on the measure and encourage them to be aware of language in any legislation or constitutional amendment.