

PREVIEW

ROCK 'N' ROLL TEEN

Matthew Davidson dishes about
Jazz Fest, high school and his new EP Pages 4-5

IF YOU GO

What:
Matthew Davidson.

When:
6-8 p.m. Saturday. El Chico,
4015 Fern Ave., Shreveport.

Admission:
free (albums will be available
for sale).

Info:
www.matthewdavidson.net.

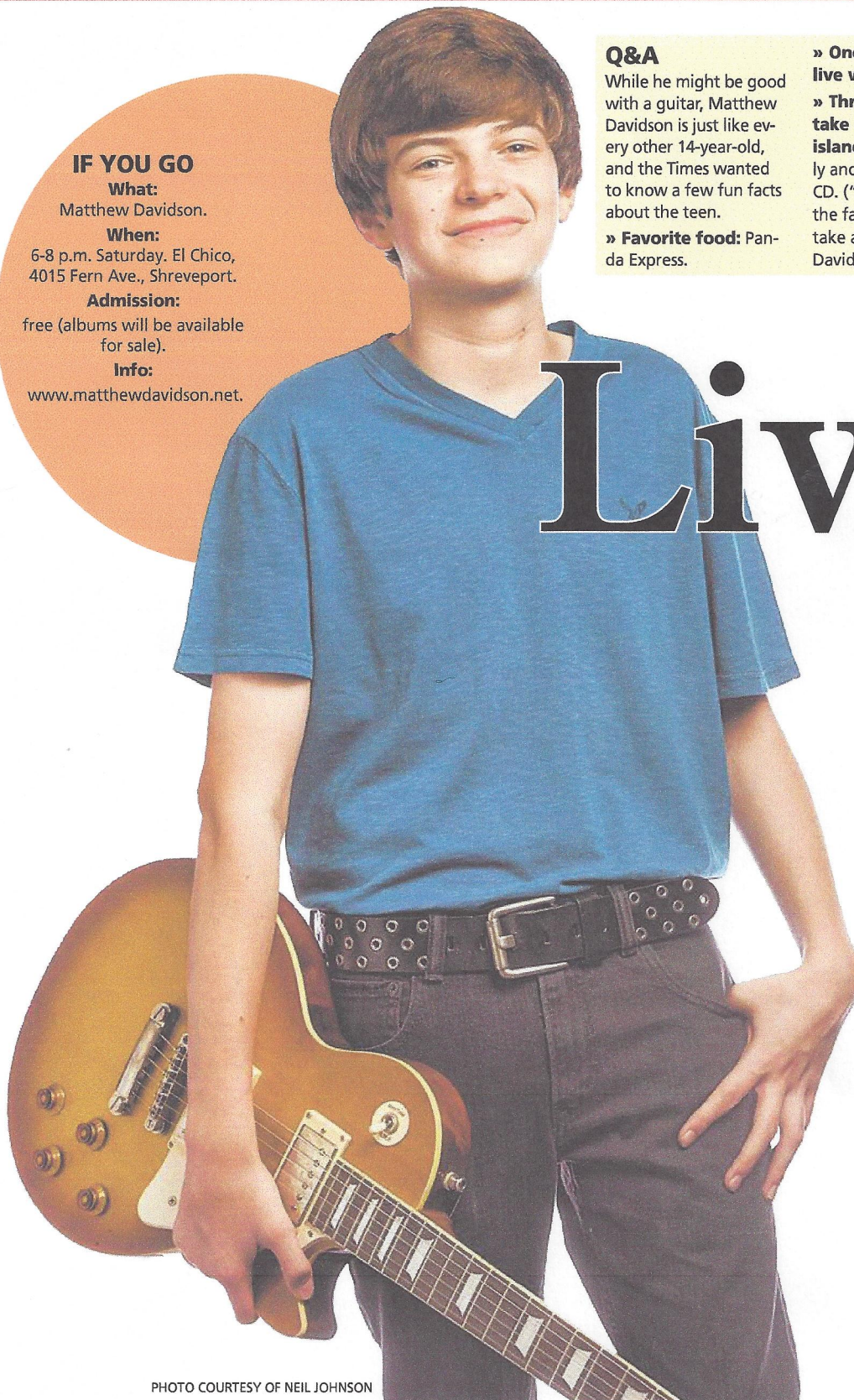


PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIL JOHNSON

Q&A

While he might be good with a guitar, Matthew Davidson is just like every other 14-year-old, and the Times wanted to know a few fun facts about the teen.

» **Favorite food:** Panda Express.

» **One thing you can't live without:** guitar.

» **Three things you'd take on a deserted island:** guitar, family and maybe a Beatles CD. ("You better leave the family at home and take a CD player," Ella Davidson, Matthew's

mother)

» **Celebrity crush:** I better reserve comment on that.

» **Sweet tooth weakness:** Reeses Puffs.

» **Song you can't stop listening to:** "Harder to Breathe" by Maroon 5.

Living

By Derick Jones

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Matthew Davidson is a pretty cool guitarist.

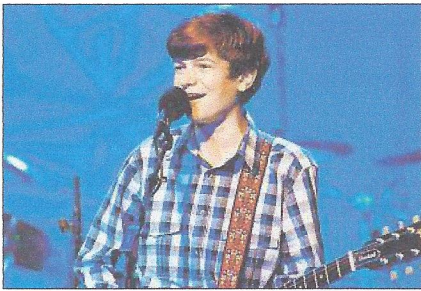
At just 14 years old, he's already shared the stage with musicians Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Patrick Stump of Fall Out Boy and Shreveporter Bruce Flett.

He's won numerous awards, competitions and was even selected as guitarist for the 2011 "Kidd Kraddick in the Morning" Rock Camp Band. This year he was invited to play New Orleans' very own Jazz and Heritage Festival.

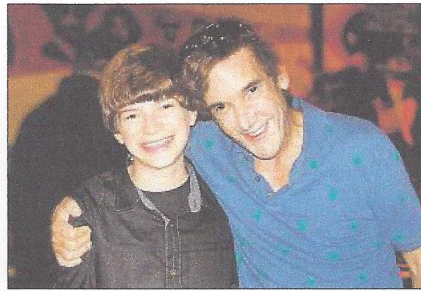
"It was such a great experience. I had so much fun," Davidson said. "Working with everyone was so great."

Very humble and modest about his talent, Davidson is a calm and collected freshman at Caddo Magnet High School. In fact, this was his first week at the new school.

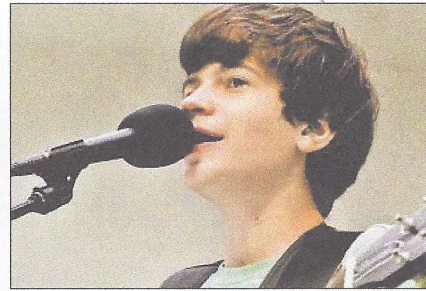
"It'll be a challenge. I've had to deal with it the past two years," said Davidson, on adjusting to balancing school with his music career. "I've been lucky enough to have principals that supported me and allowed me to miss a couple of days if I have some-



MATT DODSON



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES



BARBARA BEAIRD

the dream

thing musical. It's been difficult but I've learned to keep it under control."

While he doesn't exactly know what elective courses he will be taking, he is signed up for a piano class. "After guitar, learning piano is definitely a good skill I think I should have," he said.

Regardless of his high school adventures soon to come, the singer/songwriter/guitarist already has enough wins under his belt to have plenty to talk about around the lunch table. His first EP is due out this weekend.

"There are two cover songs and two original songs," Davidson said of "Step Up." "It's rock with a blues and pop influence."

Davidson attributes his musical stylings to his father's music collection, citing The Beatles and Stevie Ray Vaughn as inspiration.

"My dad pretty much got me started on that kind of music," he said. "I just love The Beatles. They have that good sound, those harmonies and instrumentation. I've always been a fan of the '60s, '70s style."

And you can hear that within his music, whether he's pluck-

CHECK IT OUT

"Step Up"

1. "The Middle"
2. "Gonna Be My Girl"
3. "Lie To Me"
4. "Step Up"



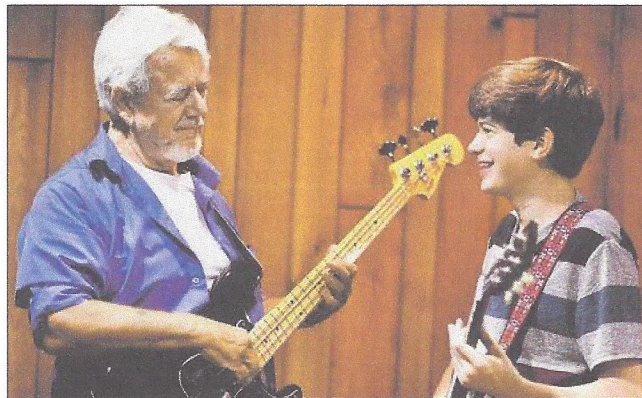
ing on his acoustic or shredding on his electric. As for contemporary music, Maroon 5 is among his favorites.

"They know how to make a mainstream sound but still stay true. It's not computerized," he said.

Working with Davidson on the album is Joe Osborn, who has performed with legendary greats The Mamas and the Papas, Simon and Garfunkel and even Neil Diamond. Osborn is the producer and bassist on "Step Up."

"I was so impressed with Matthew the very first time I saw him. His stage presence and attitude, I was actually more impressed with that than his playing," Osborn said. "I really couldn't hear him play, he was on the other side of the stage, but I watched him. I thought 'My God, this kid has something going on.'"

That was about two years



Bassist Joe Osborn worked with Matthew Davidson in producing his first solo EP, "Step Up." PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA BEAIRD

ago at the Municipal Auditorium when Davidson first began working the Shreveport-Bossier City music scene with his band, The Matthew Davidson Band.

"His talent just seems to get better daily," Osborn said.

While this album does not include band members Kyle McClanahan, Greg Walton or Zack Ebey, Davidson does feature Tyrone Harris on drums, and backing vocals from Carmen Bradford and Maddison Gilcrease, all of Shreveport.

"Working in the studio was new to me," said Gilcrease, an active theater member in

Shreveport. "I'm used to theater and having to get it right the first try, but in there you can rework things, and Matthew would have me try different vocal parts."

Gilcrease shares her vocals on three of the four tracks: "Gonna Be My Girl," "The Middle" and "Lie to Me."

"He had a clear idea of what he wanted (the songs) to sound like, but he was also open to any ideas that I had," she said. "He's a very talented young man."

Connect with Derick Jones on Facebook at derickjonesLA.