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# The Gadsden Times

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**GOVERNMENT**

## Riley counting on federal funds

BY PHILLIP RAWLS  
 Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Gov. Bob Riley is relying on Congress to pass a second federal stimulus bill that he doesn't support so Alabama can get more than \$1 billion to balance the next state budgets and prevent major cuts in services.

The Republican governor presented budget proposals Wednesday that count on the U.S. Senate passing the "Jobs for Main Street Act" that cleared the U.S. House in December.

Riley said he doesn't like the design of the second stimulus package, but he expects it to pass and would need it to balance his spending plans. Riley said the federal money would help Alabama enter fiscal 2011 without reducing the number of school employees or the level of most state services.

Democratic Rep. Artur Davis was the only member of Alabama's House delegation who supported the "Jobs for Main Street Act" when the House passed it 217-212. Alabama's Republican U.S. senators are still deciding where they stand on the bill; both voted against the first stimulus package.

But Riley said he is optimistic, based on his conversations with members of Congress.

"If you anticipate something is going to pass, it would be asinine for us to go in and build a budget that would require people maybe to be laid off and maybe furloughed," Riley said.

Riley, a former congressman, said he appreciates federal funding that helps states, but he's not encouraging anyone in Congress to pass the \$174 billion legislation.

If he were still in the U.S. House he would have had a hard time supporting the bill, he said.

Riley said part of the money is set aside for road construction, which doesn't create jobs quickly, and he agrees with President Obama that the bill should have included a tax credit for businesses that create jobs.

Riley isn't the only Alabama Republican expressing concerns.

PLEASE SEE RILEY | A5



**'If you anticipate something is going to pass, it would be asinine for us to go in and build a budget that would require people maybe to be laid off and maybe furloughed.'**  
 — GOV. BOB RILEY

**TRAGEDY**



JORJE CRUZ | ASSOCIATED PRESS

An injured person is seen after an earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday.

## Chaos continues in Haiti

### Death, panic crippling devastated nation

BY JONATHAN M. KATZ  
 Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The tiny bodies of children lay in piles next to the ruins of their collapsed school.

People with faces covered by white dust and the blood of open wounds roamed the streets.

Frantic doctors wrapped heads and stitched up sliced limbs in a hotel parking lot.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, still struggling to recover from the relentless strikes of four catastrophic storms in 2008, was a picture of heartbreaking devastation Wednesday after a magnitude-7 earthquake.

Tuesday's quake left a landscape of collapsed buildings — hospitals, schools, churches, ramshackle homes, even the gleaming national palace — the rubble sending up a white cloud that shrouded the entire capital.

On Wednesday, ambulances weaved in and out of crowds, swerving to miss the bodies lying in street and the men on foot who lugged stretchers bearing some of the injured.

Shocked survivors wandered about in a daze, some wailing the names of loved ones, praying or calling for help.

Others with injuries fast growing into infections sat by the roadside, waiting for doctors who were not sure to come.

Search-and-rescue helicopters buzzed over the bodies of partially clothed victims who lay face-down in mounds of rubble and twisted steel.



RICARDO ARDUENGO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

An injured child sits on the sidewalk in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday.

Everywhere, there was panic, urgency, pleas for help.

"Thousands of people poured out into the streets, crying, carrying bloody bodies, looking for anyone who could help them," Bob Poff, divisional director of disaster services in Haiti for the Salvation Army, said in a posting on the agency's Web site.

Poff wrote that he was driving down the mountain from Petionville, a hillside city bordering the capital, when the

earthquake struck.

"Our truck was being tossed to and fro like a toy, and when it stopped, I looked out the windows to see buildings 'pancaking' down," he wrote.

Poff said he and others piled bodies into the back of his truck and took them down the hill, hoping to get them medical attention.

There was no reliable count, but officials feared thousands, maybe tens of thousands, had died in the quake.

PLEASE SEE HAITI | A5

**EDUCATION**

## Baker says she's ready to lead

This is the second in a series of articles about the six finalists for the position of superintendent of Etowah County Schools. Board of education members for about an hour on Monday and Tuesday interviewed each candidate. The articles based on their interviews are being presented in alphabetical order.

BY ANTRENISE COLE  
 Times Staff Writer

Johnna Baker sharpened a pencil during her interview Monday with the Etowah County Board of Education.

As she did, she said her position as director of human resources attorney for Walker County Schools and her track record in school leadership, finance, staff development, curriculum, human resource management, conflict resolution and grant writing has "sharpened" her skills and prepared her to be superintendent of Etowah County Schools.

"I have been sharpening my skills my entire life to be the superintendent of Etowah County Schools," Baker said while holding up the pencil.

"I have a very sharp pencil, and I've got a toothbrush in my purse — and I'm ready to come be the superintendent of your school system."

Baker said the superintendent should know how to create a budget and keep it balanced.

"The superintendent should have an extreme understanding of the budget," she said.

"The superintendent should know how much money you have to work with, have an understanding of the foundation programs, know what the salaries are, the fringe benefits. The superintendent has to understand the line items and understand how to code those items. I think the superintendent's role in budget development is to work with the chief financial officer to try to keep a balanced budget."

Baker, who also has served as elementary supervisor and textbook coordinator in Walker County schools, said she has overseen budgets that have many line items.

"I have experience with textbook budgets," she said. "I have experience in payroll. I have experience with looking at line items and giving them budget cuts."

Baker said if budget constraints forced her to make difficult decisions as superintendent, she would cut programs before laying off employees.

"I'm about people, and I would do everything I can to protect the people," she said.

PLEASE SEE BAKER | A5



Baker

## Alabama churches planning Haitian relief

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTGOMERY — Alabama churches prepared shipments of disaster supplies and volunteer workers were on alert Wednesday to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Haiti after a major earthquake there.

Alabama Baptists said they had put 16 trained volunteers on alert for deployment to the island nation to feed people. They will take a portable kitchen capable of providing 3,500 meals daily.

"It includes a water purification unit, cooking equipment and other hardware needed to provide safe, nutritious meals in a disaster relief setting," Mel Johnson, disaster relief strategist for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said in a statement.

Alabama Methodists were shipping 3,000 health kits to Haiti from a warehouse in Decatur, and church members were being encouraged to make financial donations to help with the massive relief effort. Alert 1 Weather Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 2008 to assist after natural disasters in the United States, was taking donations to help in Haiti.

"Due to the magnitude of this, we're going overseas," said founder Dennis Sherrod of Birmingham.

"There was one children's medical mission that was completely devastated, and they have over 100 kids now out on the street."

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**TODAY'S WEATHER**



A nice day with sunshine and seasonable temperatures.  
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