



# The Gadsden Times

GADSDENTIMES.COM | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 | 50 CENTS

CONGRESS

## House GOP pledges fast review of job proposals

BY DAVID ESPO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans unexpectedly pledged an immediate review of President Barack Obama's jobs proposals on Friday as he launched a public campaign for urgent passage of his day-old \$447 billion program of tax cuts and new spending.

"The time for gridlock and games is over," the president declared.

"Nothing radical in this bill," Obama told a large crowd at



**'I'm an optimistic person. I believe in America. I believe in our democracy. I believe that if you just stay at it long enough, eventually, after they've exhausted all the options, folks do the right thing.'**

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

the University of Richmond on the afternoon after his dramatic speech to Congress. "Everything in it will put more people back to work and more money back in the pockets of those

who are working. Everything in it will be paid for."

Obama's contentions are unlikely to go unchallenged by Republicans, who have worked without letup for months to cut

spending rather than increase it.

But he had barely completed his remarks when Speaker John Boehner and other top House GOP leaders released their letter to him declaring "our desire to work with you to find common ground."

With unemployment at 9.1 percent, they wrote that while their own proposals may differ from Obama's "we believe your ideas merit consideration by the Congress and believe the American people expect

them to be given such consideration."

The letter was far different in tone from remarks earlier in the day by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Announcing plans to begin work on the legislation as soon as possible, the Nevada Democrat offered no timetable, and urged "reasonable Republicans to resist the voices of those who would oppose this legislation — and root for our economy to fail."

They must not "continue to bow to tea party Republicans

willing to do anything to hurt the president." That is hurting our economy instead, he said.

Taken together, the day's events underscored the primacy of the issue of joblessness in a country where millions have been out of work for months, true unemployment exceeds the government's measurement of 9.1 percent and the economy is barely growing.

"This has been a terrible recession," Obama said in Richmond, although by **PLEASE SEE PROPOSALS | A5**

CRIME

## Another charged in sexual torture case

Renter charged with rape, aiding and abetting

BY LISA ROGERS  
Times Staff Writer

A man who rented a room at the home of the couple charged with sexual torture, unlawful imprisonment and sodomy of a 23-year-old mentally challenged woman now has been charged with rape and helping the couple carry out other crimes against the woman.



Holder

Steven William Holder, 26, was charged Friday with aiding and abetting first-degree sodomy, aiding and abetting second-degree domestic violence and second-degree rape, Gadsden Police Capt. Regina May said.

Holder lived in the home with Toni and Maurice Johnson Jr. on Forrest Avenue in a **PLEASE SEE TORTURE | A5**

## Marshall body identified as Gadsden man

TIMES STAFF REPORTS

A Gadsden man has been identified as the person whose body was found this week in Guntersville.

The Marshall County Sheriff's Department on Friday received confirmation the body is that of Jeffery James Burns, 53, Sheriff Scott Walls said.

Burns' body was discovered Monday by a man walking through the woods along U.S. Highway 431 between **PLEASE SEE BODY | A5**

REMEMBERING SEPT. 11



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

## Help Sent from Home

Local officers recall trip to New York City in 2001

BY LISA ROGERS  
Times Staff Writer

Like many Americans, Brantley Bishop watched as the events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfolded on national television. He was at home, watching with his wife, as planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City.

A few days later, he and other officers with the Etowah County Sheriff's Office, and a few from other departments, found themselves in New York City, answering a call for help from the New York Police Department.

**'We were glad to be able to do whatever they wanted us to, because we would have wanted to be at ground zero if that had been our officers.'**

— WOODY JOHNSON  
Etowah County officer who helped at ground zero

"When we got there, ground zero was still smoldering," Bishop said this week as he recalled the events 10 years ago. "It was an eerie feeling to walk around near that rubble and know that thousands of people were dead there. The smell was disturbing, and it wasn't just there. It was throughout that part of the city."

The group of officers were led by Sheriff Todd Entrekin, who was chief deputy at the time. After the plea from the NYPD, Entrekin contacted a captain on the force who had

INSIDE

In days after attacks, man held in Etowah County on terrorist charge against United States.

**ALSO:** Two area memorial services set on the 10-year anniversary of Sept. 11 **SEE A12**

been his roommate at the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Va.

Once the officers got to New York, they had to obtain special clearance to get into the area. One of the first places NYPD officers took them was ground zero, Entrekin said.

"They wanted us to see it firsthand, to see the destruction," Entrekin said.

Rescue crews still were searching for survivors, and many officers had not been home since the attacks, Entrekin said.

"They were still scared it was going to happen again," he said. "They were doing the bucket brigades. It was like something from a science fiction movie."

"The police officers hadn't changed clothes, and many of them had their clothes half ripped off of them. They were still thinking they were going to find victims trapped."

The rubble still was so hot the firefighters' and police officers' boots melted on their feet, and fresh supplies of boots were brought in by the trailer loads.

One of the first assignments was security at the United Nations. **PLEASE SEE HELP | A12**



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Etowah County sheriff's deputies work security in New York City after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Above, the rubble still can be seen smoldering when Etowah County sheriff's deputies first arrived in New York City.

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## KEEPING FAITH

Paratriathlete Brian Hicks of Pike Road keeps God first in life's race.

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## TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny, comfortable as weather stays nice.  
High **82** Low **51**  
For details, see **A12**

