

SPORTS

AUBURN PREPARED TO FACE MISSOURI IN SEC TITLE GAME, B1



ENTERTAINMENT

'URBAN PLAYWRIGHT' MARC RABY'S 'WHAT DO THE LONELY DO AT CHRISTMAS?' STAGED TONIGHT, A3

147 YEARS OF SERVING THE GREATER GADSDEN AREA

# The Gadsden Times

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ECONOMY

## Hiring hints at stronger future

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The job market is showing signs of the consistent gains the nation has awaited in the 4½ years since the Great Recession.

Employers added 203,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate fell to 7 percent, a five-year low, the Labor Department reported Friday. Four straight months of robust hiring have raised hopes that 2014 will be the year the economy returns to normal.

The steady job growth could also hasten a move by the Federal Reserve to reduce its stimulus efforts.

Stock investors were heartened by the report. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 198 points.

A steadily improving job market could give consumers and business executives the confidence to keep spending and investing, even if a pullback by the Fed leads to higher interest rates. The Fed has been buying bonds each month to try to keep long-term borrowing rates low to spur spending and growth.

The celebration on Wall Street suggested that investors think a healthier job market, if it fuels more spending, would outweigh higher borrowing rates caused by a Fed pullback.

"It's hinting very, very strongly that the economy is starting to ramp up, that growth is getting better, that businesses are hiring," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

The economy has added a four-month average of 204,000 jobs from August through November, up sharply from 159,000 a month from April through July.

"The consistency (in hiring) is actually reassuring," said Doug Handler, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight.

"Slow and steady is something you can plan and build on."

The Fed could start slowing its bond purchases as soon as its Dec. 17-18 meeting. Some economists think the Fed may only telegraph a move at that meeting and wait until early next year to cut back.

Even if the Fed does start reining in its stimulus, most economists think growth will accelerate next year. Drew Matus, an economist at UBS, forecasts that growth will top 3 percent in 2014, from roughly 2 percent this year.

PLEASE SEE HIRING | A5

## Christmas Rocks!



Above: The Etowah Youth Orchestra and the Cross-Polar Composite perform Friday during the EYO's Rock-n-Roll Christmas concert at Wallace Hall in Gadsden. Left: Blake Williams plays bass during the concert. Below: Cory Shands plays "Little Wing." For a gallery of photos from the concert, log on to [www.gadsdentimes.com](http://www.gadsdentimes.com).

Times photos by Marc Golden



ENERGY

## Eagle deaths OK'd – to aid wind power

BY DINA CAPIELLO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under pressure from the wind-power industry, the Obama administration said Friday it will allow companies to kill or injure eagles without the fear of prosecution for up to three decades.

The new rule is designed to address environmental consequences that stand in the way of the nation's wind energy rush: the dozens of bald and golden eagles being killed each year by the giant, spinning blades of wind turbines.

An investigation by the

Associated Press earlier this year documented the illegal killing of eagles around wind farms, the Obama administration's reluctance to prosecute such cases and its willingness to help keep the scope of the eagle deaths secret. President Barack Obama has championed the pollution-free energy, nearly doubling America's wind power in his first term as a way to tackle global warming.

But all energy has costs, and the administration has been forced to accept the not-so-green sides of green energy as a means to an end.

PLEASE SEE EAGLE | A5

OUTPOURING

## Mandela mourned as inspiration

BY SARAH DILORENZO  
Associated Press

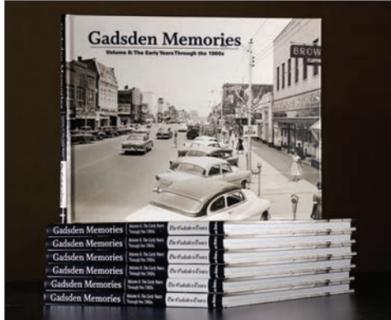
Nelson Mandela led black South Africans in their struggle to throw off the yoke of white rule and then helped the entire nation heal the wounds of racial division.

But his message of perseverance, respect and forgiveness didn't just heal South Africa. He also inspired people in countries far and wide in their fights against authori-

tarian rule. The measure of his influence was in the varied and immediate outpouring Friday from people around the globe in response to his death. In South Africa, people held his image in the streets, but they did so in the Palestinian territories as well. South Africans lowered their flags to half-staff, but so did Europeans and Americans.

PLEASE SEE MANDELA | A5

TIMES



"Gadsden Memories: Volume II," from The Gadsden Times, the Gadsden Public Library and the Etowah County Historical Society, is now available at The Gadsden Times.

ERIC T. WRIGHT | GADSDEN TIMES

## 'Gadsden Memories' ready to be picked up

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Customers who prepaid either in person or by mail for "Gadsden Memories: Volume II," a special hardbound book from The Gadsden Times, the Gadsden Public Library and

the Etowah County Historical Society, may pick up their books at The Gadsden Times.

Customers who placed their orders online will receive their copies by mail.

PLEASE SEE 'MEMORIES' | A5

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IN THE AIR

Church growing by offering services via satellite in multiple locations.

A9

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly cloudy and cooler with some rain at times.  
High 49 Low 40  
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