



144 YEARS OF SERVING THE GREATER GADSDEN AREA

# The Gadsden Times

GADSDENTIMES.COM | MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011 | 50 CENTS

## ECONOMY

## City revenues up for start of fiscal year

BY ANDY POWELL  
Times Staff Writer

Most of the city of Gadsden's revenue sources are up slightly for the first five months of fiscal year 2011, according to a report prepared by city Finance Director Lisa Rosser.

The report to Mayor Sherman Guyton and the city council indicates collections through February were \$22.35 million. That is an increase of 1.2 percent, or about \$270,000, over the same time frame last year.

Rosser said, "This is a positive sign that revenues are up from last year, but overall revenues are still down \$130,000 from fiscal year 2009."

Following two years of revenue increases, the city saw its revenues decline in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

Rosser said there is no way of knowing how collections in future months will be.

"When they're only up 1.2 percent, that's not a lot. It would only take one or two bad months for that to swing the other way," she said. "We're still not where we were or where we need to be. We still need to be on the cautious side of things."

Of the city's four major revenue sources — sales and use tax, occupational license fees (a 2 percent tax on wages), ad valorem taxes and business licenses — Rosser said only business license collections were down, by 0.1 percent or \$6,106.

Ad valorem taxes were up 3.1 percent, sales tax collections were up 1.7 percent and OLF was up 1 percent.

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— LISA ROSSER  
Gadsden's finance director

"This indicates that overall employment in the city of Gadsden has stayed consistent," Rosser said in the report.

She said the opening of Fehler Automotive and an expansion of Prince Metal Stamping also were positive signs.

On the expenditure side, the city is 4.4 percent under budget after five months, according to Rosser.

The city finished the 2010 fiscal year under budget in both expenditures and revenues, and added about \$330,000 to the city's undesignated fund balance.

Rosser said one of her main budget concerns this year is the rising price of gasoline. She said continued increases would have a "huge impact" on the city's general fund budget.

"We spend a lot of money on gas," she said.

Rosser said she also is concerned that higher gas prices would affect consumer spending, which would affect sales tax collections.

She said as prices go up, people will have less to spend.

## HONORING OUR EDUCATORS



SARAH DUDIK | GADSDEN TIMES

Jason Bozeman emphasizes the rules of grammar to his ninth-grade English class at Gadsden High School.

## 'No Time to Waste'

Bozeman focuses on being effective classroom communicator

BY KENDRA CARTER  
Times Staff Writer

Two weeks before he knew he'd be a teacher, Jason Bozeman brought every grammar book he could get his hands on.

Bozeman was approached by Gadsden High's principal about being an emergency teacher after the school's drama teacher quit mid-year.

"I worked with kids in the community theater," Bozeman said. "I was teaching at the (Hardin) Center at the time too, so I thought about it,

**Teacher**  
OF THE YEAR

prayed about it and decided it was an opportunity I was really interested in."

At the time, Bozeman was program manager for a radio station and had been an actor in the Birmingham Children's Theater. He didn't go to college thinking he'd be a teacher.

Turn out, he said, the on-

the-job teacher training was the best thing that could have happened to him.

Five years later, Bozeman, who teaches advanced ninth grade English, English advanced placement prep ninth grade and theater, is one of the student's favorite teachers and was named Gadsden City Schools' secondary teacher of the year.

Bozeman said having other job experience helped him understand practical things students would need to know for life.

"Writing and understand-

ing what you're reading — all those things work in the business world and they work in everyday life, so I understand the practical things they need," he said.

He said a student's ability to maximize their ability to read, not just reading for fun, but reading contracts and similar documents is important.

"When you're setting up bills, when you're buying a car, when you get the evil credit card — understanding the language is crucial," Bozeman said.

PLEASE SEE TIME | A6

## DISASTER IN JAPAN

## Masses flee as nuclear plant crisis intensifies

BY ERIC TALMADGE  
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

KORIYAMA, Japan — Japanese officials warned of a possible second explosion at a nuclear plant crippled by the earthquake and tsunami as they raced to stave off multiple reactor meltdowns, but they provided few details about whether they were making progress. More than 180,000 people have evacuated the area, and up to 160 may have been exposed to radiation.

Four nuclear plants in northeastern Japan have reported damage, but the danger today appeared to be greatest at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, where one explosion occurred Saturday and a second was feared. Operators have lost the ability to cool

## CRUNCHING NUMBERS

More than 1,400 people were killed and hundreds more were missing, according to officials, but police in one of the worst-hit areas estimated the toll there alone was more than 10,000.

three reactors at Dai-ichi and three more at another nearby complex using usual procedures, after the quake knocked out power and the tsunami swamped backup generators.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said Sunday that a hydrogen explosion could occur at Dai-ichi's Unit 3, the latest reactor to face a possible meltdown. That would follow a hydrogen blast Saturday in the plant's Unit 1.

"At the risk of raising further public concern, we cannot rule out the possibility of an explosion," Edano said. "If there is an explosion, however, there would be no significant impact on human health."

Operators have been dumping seawater into units 1 and 3 in a last-ditch measure to cool the reactors. They were getting water into the other four reactors with cooling problems without resorting to corrosive sea water, which likely makes the reactors unusable.

Edano said residents within about 12 miles of the Dai-ichi plant were ordered to evacuate as a precaution, and the radioactivity released into the environment so far was so small it didn't pose any health threats.

Such statements, though, did little to ease public worries.

"First I was worried about the quake," said Kenji Koshiba, a construction worker who lives near the plant. "Now I'm worried about radiation." He spoke at an emergency center in Koriyama, about 40 miles from the most troubled reactors and 125 miles north of Tokyo.

A higher than usual level of radiation was detected at the Dai-ichi plant today, after levels rose and dropped in previous days. Naoki Kumagai, an official at Japan's nuclear safety agency, told the Associated Press a person at the monitoring site for an hour would get as much radiation as a plant worker typically gets in six months, but added that the levels would be much higher of one of the reactors were on the verge of a meltdown.

PLEASE SEE CRISIS | A6



DAISUKE TOMITA | YOMIURI SHIMBUN | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy has his radiation level checked Sunday in the compound of Fukushima Gender Equality Centre in northeastern Japan.

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## COMING HOME

Alice Cooper guitarist, Geraldine's own Damon Johnson to perform local show this weekend. A2

## TODAY'S WEATHER



Rather cloudy with a couple of showers during the afternoon.  
High 73 Low 53  
For details, see A12

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