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# Economy 'sound' but a 'mess'

Obama administration gives upbeat assessment despite campaign rhetoric



**CHRISTINA ROMER**

By **PHILIP ELLIOTT**  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The economy is fundamentally sound despite the temporary "mess" it's in, the White House said Sunday in the kind of upbeat assessment

that Barack Obama had mocked as a presidential candidate.

Obama's Democratic allies pleaded for patience with an administration hitting the two-month mark this week, while Republicans said the White House's plans ignore small busi-

ness and the immediate need to fix what ails the economy. After weeks projecting a dismal outlook on the economy, administration officials — led by the president himself in recent days — swung their rhetoric toward optimism in what became Wall

Street's best stretch since November.

During the fall campaign, Obama relentlessly criticized his Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain, for declaring, "The fundamentals of our economy are strong." Obama's team painted

the veteran senator as out of touch and failing to grasp the challenges facing the country.

But on Sunday, that optimistic message came from economic adviser Christina Romer.

See **ECONOMY**, page 8A

■ **TWO GENERATIONS**

## Recession nothing like Depression, residents say

By **JENNIFER COLTON**  
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Unemployment rates continue to rise, banks are failing. Stretching a paycheck to cover the bills is becoming harder and harder for the average family.

The comparison between today's recession and the Great

Depression of the 1930s is hard to ignore, but for those Greenwood residents who remember the days before World War II, there is little comparison.



**LYDIA GNUTTI**

In 1927, two years before the stock market crash signaled the beginning of the Great Depression, bread was 9 cents a loaf, you could buy

a car for \$375 and gas was 21 cents a gallon. Between 1929 and 1932, the average annual family income would fall from \$2,300 to \$1,300, according to some sources, while the unemployment rate would climb to 25 percent in 1933, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics Web site.

"I remember how rough my mother had it. She had a baby 2 or 3 years old when my father was put to bed with a spot on his lung and was out of work," Lydia Gnutti said. Gnutti is a resident at Wesley Commons in Greenwood. "I don't think we're deep enough into a depression now to even compare. It's going to get worse before it gets better."

Although the Great Depression did end, the length of time it lasted is one big difference between those days and the current recession, Wesley Commons resident Thad Herbert said.

"The depression lasted so much longer. It really began in 1929 and didn't end until we got into World War II," he said. "Roosevelt tried all sorts of gimmicks to shorten it, and I don't think it helped much. It looks like we're trying to do the same thing again, trying to spend ourselves into prosperity, and that doesn't work very well. I consider it a privilege to have lived through the Great Depression and World War II because it taught us how to live with everything later."

See **RECESSION**, page 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS TRAINOR

Emerald High School student Reggie Roper helps collect recyclable material last week as part of the "Help Us Create a Greener Greenwood" program spearheaded by senior student Ben Saul. Saul hopes the program will grow and be implemented at other schools.

# TRASHING WASTE AT EHS

## Student-led program promotes recycling across campus

By **CHRIS TRAINOR**  
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As one might imagine, a great amount of recyclable material gets thrown away with the rest of the garbage on any given week at a high school.

Students and teachers discard large quantities of bottles and other plastics, as well as mounds of paper.

Many schools offer a few bins here and there to capture whatever recyclables students or faculty members might happen to deposit in them. However, one Emerald High School student recently devised a simple way to collect and dispose of recyclable materials that

has, thus far, proven to be wildly successful.

Emerald senior Ben Saul is spearheading the "Help Us Create a Greener Greenwood" campaign at Emerald. As part of the program, recycling cans have been placed in every classroom at the school, with students from Fran Brown's class gathering the recyclables each Tuesday and Thursday. Greenwood County then collects the load at the end of the week and takes it to the county



**BEN SAUL**

recycling center.

Saul talked about the program during an interview late last week.

"The way it started was, this summer, I attended a program at Furman University called Emerging Public Leaders," Saul said. "You go there and learn leadership qualities, then you are supposed to come back to your community and set up a community-led service project. As such, I decided to establish a recycling program at the high school."

To set the plan into motion, Saul said he met last summer with Greenwood County officials, who assured him the county could pick up recycling loads from Emerald

each week.

Following that, Saul said he applied for a Department of Health and Environmental Control grant, receiving the maximum of \$2,500.

That money was used to help purchase the many recycling cans and larger bins needed for the program.

He said educational material about recycling will soon be purchased and implemented at the school.

Saul said the first semester of this school year was spent planning for the implementation of the "Help Us Create a Greener Greenwood" program.

See **RECYCLING**, page 8A



STAFF PHOTO BY T.M. JAMES

Making downtown Ninety Six more vibrant is a goal of revitalization plans enacted last year.

■ **NINETY SIX**

## Revitalization under way

Plans include more dining locations, shopping for town

By **GRAHAM LOVE**  
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**NINETY SIX** — A revitalized town is no longer a plan, a set of good ideas, posted on a wall.

A little more than a year ago, a team from Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development

(CIECD) was in Ninety Six, hosting a charrette for town and county officials, business owners and residents to look for ways to revitalize and promote the small town.

CIECD designed a detailed plan for revitalizing the downtown, making it

See **NINETY SIX**, page 8A



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