

# The Gadsden Times

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## DANA BEYERLE: Bentley seeks tornado recovery funds

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Gov. Robert Bentley was in Washington last week seeking money for recovery in Tuscaloosa.

Bentley said he met with Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The governor wrote President Barack Obama on Sept. 6 about the HUD formula that calculates disaster recovery funding.

Bentley said the formula excludes hundreds of Tuscaloosa houses that were damaged or destroyed in the April 27, 2011, tornado.

"HUD is promising to consider our position and we look forward to their response in the coming weeks," Bentley said.

The governor indicated he thought the HUD formula hurt Tuscaloosa because there were a lot of rental properties in severely damaged areas.

He said the formula only counted rental properties if they were in a census tract where more than half of the owner-occupied properties were severely damaged or destroyed.

Bentley said the census tract with a lot of rental properties including Alberta City was toured by President Obama nearly two weeks after the tornado.

The tract had 440 severely damaged rental homes but none counted toward the city's unmet housing needs.

### MENTAL HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Bentley made two appointments to the Alabama Department of Mental Health's board of trustees last week.

The governor appointed David Bennett of Tuscaloosa and Crenshaw County Probate Judge Jim Perdue and reappointed Mobile lawyer Wade Perry Jr.

Bennett will serve until April 2015. He retired as associate commissioner for the mental health department's administration division and had been facility director at Bryce Hospital.

He is pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Moundville.

Perdue's term will end in April 2014. He has served as probate judge since 2002.

Perry is a former federal prosecutor in Montgomery and has been with the Mobile law firm of Johnstone, Adams, Bailey, Gordon & Harris LLC, since 1975. His practice involves employment law litigation.

### HALE CHALLENGE ENDS

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State Democratic Party Executive Director Bradley Davidson said the Hale County probate judge challenge is over and incumbent Probate Judge Leland Avery is the nominee for the November general election ballot.

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Montgomery County Circuit Judge Charles Price ruled the April 24 Hale County primary runoff winner, Arthur Crawford, was ineligible.

The local party met and declared Avery the nominee to go on the ballot by the Sept. 6 deadline.

Price then altered his order and sent the case to the state Democratic Party in Montgomery.

However, he retained the portion of the ruling that disqualified Crawford.

Price said Crawford did not file campaign financial reports as required by a new law during the runoff.

Crawford's attorney, Collins Pettway, a judicial candidate, said the law requiring regular campaign finance reporting was a "silly" law.

Davidson said the party had no jurisdiction over the issue. "At this point it's out of the hands of the party," he said last week.