

Grieving Marine gets help from friends, strangers



Dominant pitching leads Cubs past Childersburg

Hundreds arrested in army raids in Syria

The Anniston Star

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Honda Lincoln plant adding vehicle

BY PATRICK MCCRELESS
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Lincoln's Honda plant will add another vehicle to its assembly line in 2013.

According to a press release, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama told its employees Monday morning that the popular Acura MDX luxury sport utility vehicle would be produced at the Lincoln

plant in another two years.

Honda Manufacturing spokesman Mark Morrison said the Acura MDX would be produced at the Lincoln plant in addition to the Odyssey minivan, the Pilot sports utility vehicle and the Ridgeline pickup truck.

The \$1.5 billion plant is the sole North American producer of those three models.

But while the addition of a new

vehicle to the production line will ensure steady work for employees at the plant, it will not mean new jobs as well.

"Our employment will stay at 4,000," Morrison said.

The change in production will also not require changes to the plant itself.

"The overall project will include new equipment to enhance Honda's existing production opera-

tions," Morrison said.

The Acura MDX is currently produced at a plant in Canada. The shift in production to Lincoln will allow the Canadian plant to make the Honda CR-V SUV.

While the Honda CR-V is currently made in an Ohio plant, the Canadian facility will be able to produce more of them.

"We're bringing the Acura MDX to Alabama as we continue

to plan for our long-term future," Morrison said. "We must continue to plan for the future needs of our customers and take steps to adopt the most efficient means to meet those needs."

Morrison said the move had nothing to do with the March Japan tsunami, which has slowed

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A TEACHABLE MOMENT

A school, bent by the storm

Students at Alexandria Elementary feel the loss of beloved custodian

BY TIM LOCKETTE
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ALEXANDRIA — Second-grade teacher Angela Smith used to stop by and see Bill Lipscomb at the end of every school day.

"What do you know that's good?" she'd ask.

"Well," the school janitor would reply, "I know you."

On Monday, the first day of school after the big tornado outbreak of 2011, Smith just stopped by. And cried.

Bill Lipscomb won't be coming back.

Welcome to the new, post-storm Alexandria Elementary School, a school that is bent and cracked like a thousand trees in Calhoun County — but a school that's still alive.

Lipscomb, who started as a custodian here before most students were born, was killed in the storm. So was Spencer Motes, a parent of one of the students. And a thousand little things here are now broken. Bones. Hearts. A pencil sharpener that Lipscomb, were he here, would come to repair.

The governor ordered flags flown at half staff after the storm outbreak, which killed more than 240 people in Alabama. At Alexandria, the flags seemed to hang a little lower than that, the tattered corners of the state banner flopping around at shoulder-height. The action on the playground was eerily slow and quiet, like an anthill kicked in the middle of winter.

Over lunch at the big polished table in Principal Sarah McClure's office, teachers wept as they recalled "Mr. Bill," the janitor who, like so many men of a certain age, seemed to know how to repair anything, how to do anything.

"He teased me because I planted green beans for my class in August," said second-grade teacher Shannon Finley. "He said it's not really time to plant those."

Lipscomb, a former steelworker, came to work at Alexandria after Gulf States Steel shut down. Along the banks of the Coosa, friends and co-workers said, he had a formidable reputation as a fisherman. At heart, he was a woodworker, making most of his living as a cabinetmaker. He worked four hours a day at Alexandria so he could get

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THE DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

'It's a glorious day'



Matt Rourke/Associated Press

A newspaper with the headline 'BIN LADEN DEAD' is placed at the Garden of Reflection memorial to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in Yardley, Pa., on Monday.

Local women who lost loved ones to 9/11, war on terror react

BY CAMERON STEELE
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Brooke Comfort was standing alone in her Jacksonville living room when she got the call.

Turn on the news, a friend urged her. It has to do with Osama bin Laden.

Comfort's first thought was of her husband — Capt. Kyle Comfort, an Army ranger from Saks who died in Afghanistan last year.

She turned on the television. She saw the news on television: U.S. forces had shot to death Bin Laden, the man her husband had gone to fight when he was killed in action last May.

Brooke Comfort cried. "I was by myself ... and it was just very — I was choked up with emotion," Comfort said. "Tears filled my eyes. I was glad about it."

So was Jacksonville resident Pearl

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Alex Brandon/Associated Press

A man sits on a bench at the Pentagon Memorial early Monday in Washington after President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden.

Unwary phone call led U.S. to doorstep of world's most wanted

BY ADAM GOLDMAN AND MATT APUZZO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When one of Osama bin Laden's most trusted aides picked up the phone last year, he unknowingly led U.S. pursuers to the doorstep of his boss, the world's most wanted terrorist.

That phone call, recounted Monday by a U.S. official, ended a years-long search for bin Laden's personal courier, the key break in a worldwide manhunt. The courier, in turn, led U.S. intelligence to a walled compound in northeast Pakistan, where a team of Navy SEALs shot bin Laden to death.

The violent final minutes were the culmination of years of intelligence work. Inside the CIA team hunting bin Laden, it always was clear that bin Laden's vulnerability was his couriers. He was too smart to let al-Qaida foot soldiers, or even his

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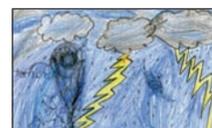
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Jackson Dodson,
Sacred Heart of Jesus