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THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY SINCE 1912

Ding, dong bin Laden is dead . . .

By Adam Goldman and Chris Brummitt
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After nearly a decade of anger and fear, America rejoiced Monday at the demise of Osama bin Laden, the terrorist mastermind behind the horrific 9/11 attacks. Navy SEALs who killed the world's most-wanted terrorist seized a trove of al-Qaida documents to pore over, and President Barack Obama laid plans to visit



New York's ground zero. Bin Laden, killed in an intense fire-fight in a daring raid at his fortified hide-out in Pakistan, was hunted down based on information first gleaned years ago from detainees at secret CIA prison sites in Eastern Europe, officials disclosed.

His body was quickly taken away for burial at sea, but not before a DNA match was done to prove his identity. A U.S. official said there also were photos

Please see **Dead, A8**

A forum for you

TNValleyTalks.com has forums where you can report damage, post photos and video, see or post volunteer opportunities and request help.



WEATHER, A2
High: 61 Low: 39

Cooler with rain and a thunderstorm.

AREA DEATHS

Chase Adams, Mt. Hope
Pearl Aldridge, Decatur
Ruth Brooks, Falkville
Chris Dunn, Hackleburg
Theodore Hamilton, Decatur
William Hammon, Decatur
Herman Harwell, Hartselle
Paul Kurth, Mt. Hope
Georgia Leeth, Somerville
Mary Mayes, Langtown
Lyndon Mayes, Langtown
Carol McElyea, Athens
Frances Montgomery, Decatur
Delber Pierce, Decatur
Edward Ratliff, Daphne
Roger and Janice Riddle, Tanner
James Robinson, Somerville
Helen Smith, Mt. Hope
Horace Smith, Mt. Hope
Robert Swinea, Decatur
Opal Terry, Decatur
Danny Wills, Athens
Heinz Wunsch, Decatur
Death notices, obituaries, **B4**.

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Twisters idle area jobs

12,800 industrial employees affected by tornado disaster in Morgan County

By Sheryl Marsh

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About 12,800 industrial employees were affected by last week's devastating tornadoes, and most will be out of work until power is restored to Morgan County's 157 industries, of-

ficials said.

One business, Independence Tube at Mallard Fox Creek Industrial Park, was destroyed. Company officials said the facility will be rebuilt.

Businesses do not know when they will come back online.

"The Tennessee Valley Authority is focused mainly on getting power to residential areas right now," Morgan County Commission Chairman Ray Long said. "All of Decatur Utilities and Joe Wheeler Membership Cooperative customers have power."

Long said some plants may have maintenance crews and other employees at work.

Although Independence Tube, which manufactures steel tubing and pipes, is closed for rebuilding, its employees are not out of work, said Rick Werner,

president of the company. The company has 76 employees.

"We met with them last Friday and told them we'd give them as many hours as we can and we have not laid off anyone at this

Please see **Jobs, A3**

Mourning a young girl lost



Daily photos by Deangelo McDaniel

An emotional Noe Guzman says, "Thank you, God," during his daughter's funeral Aurelia Guzman, 12, died in Wednesday's storm.



Autumn Smith mourns Aurelia at Monday's funeral. The two played together on the L.C. Sliders 12-and-under softball team.

Parents, family, friends, community, church gather to mourn youngest Valley victim of killer tornado

By Nancy Glasscock

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CHALYBEATE — "Pray." That was 12-year-old Aurelia Guzman's post on Facebook around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, as she, her family and another family braced for a tornado that had struck Mount Hope and was headed for the Guzmans' community of Chalybeate.

Under the Facebook post, the signature Guzman had selected to appear underneath all her posts read: "taken by love."

Moments after her Facebook update, the tornado shredded the Guzmans' home to pieces, killing Aurelia.

Her funeral was Monday.



Courtesy photo

Aurelia Guzman

Because Aurelia was so deeply religious, her funeral at Calvary Tabernacle Pentecostal Church was as much a church service as a

funeral, said Kenneth Rogers, church pastor.

The hundreds in attendance often clapped and stood with arms raised during upbeat songs that Rogers said were Aurelia's favorites, such as "Shackles," also known as "Praise You," and "Freedom."

"We're celebrating a young saint who has made it," said Rogers' son, Assistant Pastor Kenny Rogers.

Aurelia played the flute in the Lawrence County High School junior high band, played piano, was a right fielder on the L.C. Sliders softball team and an active member of Calvary Tabernacle Pentecostal Church.

Please see **Aurelia, A3**

Valley twisters: Bad one was 1.25 miles wide, went 132 miles

By Eric Fleischauer

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The largest tornado in the Tennessee Valley on Wednesday had wind speeds of 210 mph, traveled 132 miles and crossed six counties, according to the preliminary results from a National Weather Service survey.

The NWS has not finished its survey of tornadoes that left more than 200 dead statewide, including 14 in Lawrence County and four in Limestone County.

Some of the results: ■ Morgan County: The only tornado to hit Morgan County crossed out of Cullman County, briefly entering Morgan County near Hulaco. The tornado had an EF4 rating while in Cullman, with peak winds of 175 mph. With a maximum path of a half-mile, the tornado traveled 28 miles.

■ The survey recorded significant damage between Hyatt Bottom Road and Blocker Road, just east of U.S.

The National Weather Service has not finished its survey of tornadoes that left more than 200 dead statewide, including 14 in Lawrence County and four in Limestone County.

67. ■ The results did not mention extensive damage in Northwest Decatur, where Independence Tube was destroyed. A NWS meteorologist said that while the damage on Red Hat Road was not included, it probably was caused by a tornado that went northeast through Lawrence County.

■ Lawrence County: The survey recorded an EF5 tornado that traveled 132 miles, through Marion,

Franklin, Lawrence, Limestone and Madison counties. This tornado also apparently hit Morgan County at Red Hat Road. It had peak winds of 210 mph and a maximum width of 1.25 miles.

■ The tornado touched ground in Marion County and passed through southern Franklin County, north of Hackleburg. It caused extensive damage at Phil Campbell in Franklin. It entered Lawrence County as an EF5, traveling northeast, near Mount Hope in Lawrence County. It destroyed homes, mobile homes and businesses, and snapped thousands of trees. The contents of one home, according to the survey, were strewn over a hundred yards.

The tornado lost some power as it traveled through Lawrence County, dropping to an EF4 or EF3. Near Alabama 24, it destroyed four chicken houses.

Please see **Twisters, A3**

INSIDE

Return to class

Local schools and colleges work on returning to class, **B1**.

Curfew lifted

Morgan County lifts curfew for all areas except for the tornado-ravaged communities of Ryan and Hulaco, **B1**.

Damage estimate

Storm damage in Limestone County estimated at between \$50 million and \$60 million, **B1**.

Garbage and debris

Regular garbage pickup to return to normal today in Decatur and Morgan County, **B1**.

Air to breathe

Volunteers from church help Capshaw couple, **D6**.