

Your hometown newspaper for Talladega and St. Clair counties

# The Daily Home

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## Irene churns up coast, weaker but still ferocious

By MITCH WEISS and  
SAMANTHA GROSS  
Associated Press

NACS HEAD, N.C. — Weaker but still menacing Hurricane Irene knocked out power and plied in North Carolina, cloberbed Virginia with wind and churned up the coast Saturday to confound cities

more accustomed to snowstorms than tropical storms. New York City emptied its streets and subways and waited with an eerie quiet.

With most of its transportation machinery shut down, the Eastern Seaboard spent the day nervously watching the storm's march across a swath of the nation inhabited by 65 million

people. The hurricane had an enormous wingspan — 500 miles, its outer reaches stretching from the Carolinas to Cape Cod — and packed wind gusts of 115 mph.

Almost a million homes and businesses were without power. While it was too early to assess the full threat, Irene was blamed for five deaths.

The hurricane stirred up 7-foot waves, and forecasters warned of storm surge danger on the coasts of Virginia and Delaware, along the Jersey Shore and in New York Harbor and Long Island Sound. In the Northeast, drenched by rain this summer, the ground is already saturated.

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## Not too hot for Chili Cookoff

By DAVID ATCHISON  
Home staff writer

RIVERSIDE — The temperatures hovered above 90-degrees, but things really heated up behind the Town Hall Saturday afternoon as the aroma of chili began to fill the parking garage.

"It's here to taste all the chili," said Paula Mabe of Riverside.

Some of the best chili cookers from the across the Southeast gathered in Riverside Saturday for a chili cook-off that could propel the best of the best to the World Chili Cook-off Championship.

Keith Mayhale of Childersburg, along with his wife Donna, were cooking up a batch of their best spicy, well not too spicy, chili for a chance to qualify for the World Championship Chili Cook-off competition in New

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Lynn Ellis stirs up a pot of chili as cooking partner Veni Miller looks on. The couple, who are from Acworth, Ga., won the best booth award at the state chili cook-off contest in Riverside Saturday.

Erin Schoenhals/The Daily Home

## Comet Grove needs your help

By LINDSEY HOLLAND  
Home staff writer

OAK GROVE — It's been nearly two years since former mayor Blois Zeigler contacted current Mayor Charles Merkl about leasing his land to the town to better the community. Zeigler, mayor of the town for 20 years, wanted to see his land he could no longer use be put to use.

He envisioned a community garden on his 20-acre former Christmas tree farm. He saw a garden where the produce would benefit the needy — those individuals and families in the town with low to moderate incomes. The labor, including the planting, watering, cultivating and picking, would be left up to the town and its residents.

Zeigler's vision became reality when the two-year

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## TFD to participate in 9/11 commemoration

TALLADEGA — The Fire Department has announced plans to participate in a nationwide commemoration of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved a moment of tribute to mark the anniversary of the day, starting on the tenth anniversary of the event at 1 p.m. Eastern time, 2 p.m. Central time.

Rather than involving a more typical nationwide moment of silence, the 10-year commemoration will involve firefighters and police officers sounding sirens, bells and horns, in honor of the first responders to the attacks and particularly those who gave their lives.

—Chris Norwood

## Water Supply District hires company to run treatment facility

By DAVID ATCHISON  
Home staff writer

PELL CITY — The Coosa Valley Water Supply District officially entered into a contract with Clearwater Solutions of Opelika to run the day-to-day operations of the new \$33

million surface water treatment facility in Ragland.

"I think we're all in agreement," said CVWSD board member Greg Gossert, who represents Pell City. "I think everything is in place to go forward with this contract."

The board unanimously

approved the three-year contract with Clearwater Solutions Thursday.

"Clearwater is the best choice and lowest price for this project," said CVWSD board member Jeremy Bailey.

Bailey made a motion to approve the contract with

Clearwater Solutions and Gossert seconded the motion.

"We appreciate it," said Rick Ailiff, president of Clearwater Solutions, which is a subsidiary of Goodwyn, Mills and Coward, Inc., which oversaw the construction of the surface water treatment plant. "We're

very excited about getting this up and started."

Ailiff told the board there will be a kick-off meeting scheduled with all the member systems involved.

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## Cardboard and duct tape make for a fun day on the lake

By DAVID ATCHISON  
Home staff writer

PELL CITY — They were big and small, colorful and dark, and some of the entries — and contestants — were just downright imaginative in this year's Hou Yer Boat Regatta.

"At least it will look good going down," said one woman as she admired the Curtis White Company of Leeds Pine Ship. "It's a first time entry. We'll see what happens."

Little faith the woman had as the Curtis White Company "The White Pearl," took to the water waters of Logan Martin Lake Saturday.

Joe White said the construction of

The White Pearl was for his 79-year-old mother.

He said they worked on the boat one full day and then every afternoon for two weeks.

"My mom has been coming to these races every year," he said. "She said I had to have a boat this year, so we've done this for her."

And what a magnificent boat, it was. "I've been trying to get them to cut: for the past five years," said Betty White. "I even collected cardboard one year."

She said it was a lot more to building a cardboard boat than she thought.

Betty was also a little worried about

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Brian Schoenhals/The Daily Home

Boats of every size and color participated in the Float Yer Boat Regatta again this year at Lakeside Park. The flaming orange and yellow Daily Home Coosa Kayak captured first place in the business single-boater category.