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Unspeakable

America mourns as rescues continue in aftermath of devastating, terrorist attacks; thousands are feared dead; shaken U.S. vowing justice

The Attack

AT A GLANCE

- Last or missing**
 - ▶ 266 on hijacked planes
 - ▶ 259 NY police & firefighters
 - ▶ 100+ Pentagon workers
 - ▶ Unknown thousands trade center workers
- Washington**
 - ▶ Bush vows revenge
 - ▶ Congress resumes
 - ▶ Pentagon reopens
- The Nation**
 - ▶ Airports closed to noon
 - ▶ AMTRAK trains restart
 - ▶ Wall St. closed
 - ▶ Airmail postal delays
- Local**
 - ▶ Schools reopen
 - ▶ Stores/business open
 - ▶ Government offices open
- What you can do**
 - ▶ Give blood
 - ▶ 1-800-GIVE-BLOOD
 - ▶ Donate to Red Cross, 430 W. Orange St.
 - ▶ Talk with your children

For complete coverage, please see stories throughout sections A and B.



Firefighters raise a flag at the World Trade Center in New York Tuesday after the twin towers collapsed.

by Beth J. Harpaz
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Even as hospitals began the grim accounting of the dead and injured from the airborne onslaught that toppled the World Trade Center, investigators today sought answers in Florida and elsewhere to an unspeakable question: Who could have done this?

The financial capital remained closed after the attack on the twin towers and the Pentagon. The federal government said the ban on air travel would not be lifted at noon as planned. Federal Aviation Administration officials prepared to allow flights to resume sometime today, but did not know when they would give the green light.

Thousands were feared dead. This morning, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said there were 41 known deaths — clearly, a tiny fraction of the dead — and 1,700 known injuries. He said 235 uniformed officers, including police and firefighters, remained unaccounted for.

The mayor said rescuers were still in contact with one person buried in the rubble.

"It is unimaginable, devastating, unspeakable carnage," New York firefighter Scott O'Grady said at the scene of the devastation on Tuesday. "To say it looks like a war zone and to tell you about bodies lying in the street and blood and steel beams blocking roads would not begin to describe what it's like. It's horrible."

The search for answers was unflagging. The focus was on Islamic terrorist Osama bin Laden, who denied involvement, though he "thanked Almighty Allah and bowed before him when he heard this news" of the attacks, according to a Palestinian journalist.

In Washington, President Bush labeled the attacks as "acts of war" and said he will ask Congress for emergency funding to help rescue efforts in New York City and to bolster national security protection.

Bush, in the Oval Office shortly after sunrise, invited senior lawmakers to the White House for a national display of unity.

Secretary of State Colin Powell vowed that America will fight back "like we are at war." Congress returned to the Capitol and federal agencies reopened their doors as the Bush administration sought to reassure a nation struggling to recover.

His spokesman, Ari Fleischer, spoke words meant to soothe. "We believe the perpetrators have executed their plan and therefore the risks are significantly reduced," he said.

A mile or so from where he spoke, search and rescue teams worked in the remains of the portion of the Pentagon that collapsed on Tuesday, hit by a hi-

More AMERICA on A-2

Blood, prayer and tears: Stunned countians give, cope and grieve

by Cindy Stauffer
New Era Staff Writer
cstauffer@lnpnews.com

Lancaster County residents rolled up their sleeves to give blood, prayed together, hugged their kids and then returned to work and to school today, trying to find normalcy after a rampage of terrorist attacks that stunned the county, the nation and the world.

"Flags are flying at half-mast but we're still continuing with the work of governing," said Lancaster County Commissioner Paul Thibault at the Lancaster County Courthouse, which reopened today after closing early on Tuesday.

"In church last night, the message was we are a nation set apart. You can't allow this barbarism to swerve us off what we need to do."

For much of Tuesday, local residents

huddled around television sets, watching and listening as the World Trade Center crumbled to the ground, firefighters swarmed around a blackened gash in the Pentagon and Pennsylvania residents described a 747 plunging to the earth in Somerset County.

Today, life resumed its everyday rhythm here, with an added somberness. Across the county:

- Schools, businesses and government offices operated on normal schedules.

- The American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley braced for another onslaught of calls from area residents, directing them to blood drives and financial donation efforts.

- Churches prepared another round of services designed to bring people together for prayers and healing.

- Trains and buses ran on normal schedules but airports remained closed until at

least midday.

On Tuesday, local residents struggled to find ways to respond to the worst attack of terrorism on this country.

"It's a small thing you can do," said Janice Carpenter, 72, of Lancaster, as she waited patiently to give blood at the Lancaster Regional Medical Center, which transformed its auditorium into a makeshift blood bank.

Carpenter was among hundreds of local residents who showed up to donate blood at centers across the county. Some people stood in line for up to five hours.

By the end of Tuesday, almost 350 people had given blood at four local blood banks. One bank stayed open until 1 a.m. today.

Some said giving was the best way to help others — and to heal their own hearts.

"It helps everybody's pain," said David Thistle, 44, of Lancaster.

Residents also deluged the area Ameri-

can Red Cross with 2,000 calls Tuesday, nearly five times the normal call volume at the Lancaster-based relief agency.

"It's wonderful to see how the community comes together to try to help one another during this time," said spokeswoman Janelle Myers. "Our phones are ringing off the hook, but that's such a great, great thing."

The best thing for people to do is to donate blood and money, Myers said.

Red Cross blood drives will be held at the Hershey Convention Center on Friday, in Millersburg on Wednesday and in Harrisburg on Monday, Oct. 1. Call Maureen Flowers at 299-5561, extension 220, for appointments.

"There's going to be a need for blood for several weeks to come," Myers said, noting that the Red Cross shipped 50,000 units of

More COUNTIANS on A-4

COVER 48 OF 52

9/11 ATTACKS

At 9 a.m. on a sunny, fall Tuesday nearly two decades ago, the United States was brought to a standstill.

Four airplanes were commandeered by 19 hijackers from the terrorist group al-Qaeda, with three hitting their intended targets of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001, mostly because of the two planes that struck the World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan. Less than a day later, the citizens of Lancaster were coming together to assist in a meaningful way.

The Sept. 12 issue of the Lancaster New Era detailed, among the tragedy and turmoil, Lancastrians donating time, energy and anything they had to contribute.

"Flags are still flying at half-mast but we're still continuing the work of the government," said

Lancaster County Commissioner Paul Thibault. Before the sun had fully set Tuesday, more than 250 county residents had donated blood at blood banks, with one bank reportedly staying open until 1 a.m. The Lancaster Red Cross received 2,000 calls between Tuesday and Wednesday, nearly five times the usual volume. In addition, the Red Cross set up blood drives, which sent tens of thousands of units of blood to Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Local reactions to the 9/11 attacks ranged from sorrowful to angry, confused to hopeless. Dozens of area churches opened doors late to allow parishioners of every denomination a chance to pray.

"One thing we know is that our lives have been changed — they've been permanently changed. None of us thought we'd be here tonight," pastor Ken Keim said to a group

gathered at Covenant Community Church. A handful of others contacted armed forces recruiters to find out how to enlist or to re-enlist. Among the dozen inquiries, one was allegedly from a 51-year-old man who had served in the military two decades prior.

Even the sports section, usually the area of the newspaper most separate from current events, couldn't ignore the magnitude of the attacks. "Attacks bring sports world to standstill: Games become trivial in the face of Tuesday's terrorism" reads the headline. Although the NFL, MLB and nearly every other national sports organization postponed and canceled games, an assortment of games at Franklin & Marshall College went on as planned. Behind all of Lancaster County's different walks, the prevailing opinion was one of shock — both that something like this could happen, and the fact that it did.