

# COURIER-POST

“... the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible ...” **President Bush**

# Act of war



Smoke, flames and debris erupt from one of the World Trade Center towers as a plane strikes it Tuesday. The first tower was hit minutes before. CHAO SOI CHEONG/Associated Press

## Hijacked planes slam World Trade Center, Pentagon

By **DAVID CRARY** and **JERRY SCHWARTZ**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK

In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, knife-wielding hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers. The deadly calamity was witnessed on televisions across the world as another plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed in southwestern Pennsylvania.

“Today, our nation saw evil,” President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were “suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.”

Establishing the U.S. death toll could take weeks.

The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard, and there were no known survivors. At the Pentagon, about 100 people were believed dead.

In addition, a firefighters union official said he feared an estimated 200 firefighters had died in rescue efforts at the trade center — where 50,000 people worked — and dozens of police officers were believed missing.

“The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear,” a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., appearing on CNN, called the attack “an act of war.”

No one took responsibility for the attacks that rocked the seats of finance

See **TERROR**, Page 2A

## S. Jersey outraged by nameless enemy

West Deptford man, Marlton resident among the missing

By **LAWRENCE HAJNA**  
Courier-Post Staff

South Jerseyans wept, prayed and raged against faceless terrorists after Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A West Deptford man was among the thousands missing after the trade center's twin towers collapsed, and a Marlton man was believed to be on the crew of a hijacked airliner that crashed near Pittsburgh.

Throughout the tri-county area, residents responded by sending convoys of medical personnel to help the injured, donating blood and rallying around the flag in heartfelt demonstrations

of patriotism.

Air traffic halted in Philadelphia, Atlantic City and Newark. Students were sent home early. Shopping malls closed. Federal buildings shut down. And in offices, homes and stores, people huddled around TV sets, watching the unimaginable horror unfold.

And they cried, mourning what the nation had lost.

“The world will never be the same,” said Tony Taraschi, as he hovered around a small TV near a checkout counter at his Deptford grocery store.

Robert Pagliaroni, 38 who lives in New York and Cherry Hill, watched the nightmarish scene at the World Trade Center from blocks away.

“I saw people jumping out of the building, one after the other. The tower

See **OUTRAGE**, Page 2A

## Westmont man cheats death twice at World Trade Center

By **FRANK KUMMER**  
Courier-Post Staff

Louis Giaccardo of Westmont had a breathtaking view of the Hudson River from his office on the 87th floor of Tower 2 of the World Trade Center.

It was a view that nearly killed him. At about 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Giaccardo heard a noise he still finds hard to describe. He looked out to see fire erupting from Tower 1.

“I just saw an orange ball come across our windows,” Giaccardo said. “When I looked again, World 1 was smoking. I backed up and I could smell jet fuel ... through

the vents.” The tower, and many of its people, would soon be gone. And Giaccardo, a 35-year-old father of two, would cheat death twice in one long morning.

Within five minutes of the blast, Giaccardo had helped round up 80 to 100 colleagues at Corporation Service Co., a company that helps businesses incorporate. He and others from his team scrambled to an express elevator, but it was jammed with people, many starting to panic. So they took the stairs.

Hundreds were already

walking briskly down the stairwell. He, like others, figured a small plane had accidentally crashed into Tower 1; no need to panic.

The descent remained orderly — at least at first. Hundreds more flooded the stairway, walking two by two.

At the 40th floor, an announcement came over a loudspeaker: Everyone should stay where they are. One man, Giaccardo said, went back upstairs, saying he had work to finish.

Giaccardo does not know if that man made it out. But Giaccardo kept going. He thought of his son Shane's birthday today. He



**GIACCARDO**

See **GIACCARDO**, Page 2A



Two women hold each other as they watch the World Trade Center burn following a terrorist attack on the twin, 110-story skyscrapers Tuesday in New York. ERNESTO MORA/Associated Press

**ATTACK ON AMERICA**

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- S. Jersey sends help.
- Business world rocked by attack.
- Sports world halts.

**1-12A, 1B, 12B, 1C**

Visit our Web site today for updated coverage of the attack on America and video of South Jersey reaction.

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**Tomorrow**  
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