

THE DECATUR DAILY

"Our country . . . may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong." - COMMODORE STEPHEN DECATUR

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50 CENTS — DECATUR, ALABAMA — 58 PAGES

What now?



RIVERFRONT People in Valley gather to pray

Citizens gathered to pray and sing "God Bless America." Many couldn't hold back their tears. C1

Fear and worry: Will it be war?

Valley residents wrestled with their emotions as they tried to deal with the terrorist attacks. "I'm scared right now. I think there's going to be a war," said Heather King, 18, of Falkville, a Wal-Mart cashier. C1



Panic buying of gasoline here

Gasoline lines formed Tuesday as news of terrorist attacks sent motorists scrambling in anticipation of price increases. "People are buying as much gas as they can hold," said a gas-station cashier. C1



NATION Phone calls from hell

People aboard the doomed hijacked airliners manage to make last contacts with loved ones and others, using cell phones. A12

SPORTS SEC considers putting off games

Tuesday's terrorist attacks caused the Southeastern Conference to consider postponing this weekend's football games, including Alabama vs. Southern Mississippi and Auburn vs. LSU. Security for everyone in the stadiums is an issue. B1



AP Photo by Ricky Flores

Firefighters raise a flag from the rubble of the World Trade Center after Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

Thousands feared dead as N.Y., D.C. dig in rubble

By Beth J. Harpaz
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — As hospitals began the grim accounting of the dead and injured from the airborne onslaught that toppled the World Trade Center, investigators looked to Florida, Canada and beyond for answers to a single question: Who could have done this?

The financial capital remained closed after the attack on the twin towers and the Pentagon. Federal officials said they were not certain when a ban on air travel, originally slated to be lifted about noon, would be ended.

Thousands were feared dead. This morning, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said there were 41 known deaths so far — clearly, a tiny fraction of the dead — and 1,700 known injuries. He said 259 uniformed officers, including police and firefighters, remained unaccounted for.

The mayor said rescuers were still in contact with one person buried in the rubble. Several police officers were taken from the wreckage, alive.

Authorities gave reporters their first close-up look at the site, and this is what they saw: Only about seven stories of the north tower remained, its girders bent outward. The south tower was a two-story-high heap of rubble.

The focus of the investigation 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.

FBI raids Boston hotel

FBI agents raided the Westin Hotel in Boston's Back Bay, and searched a room believed to have been rented by some of the suspected hijackers.

Federal officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they were investigating whether one group of hijackers crossed the Canadian border at a checkpoint and eventually went to Boston's airport, where the two airliners that brought down the Trade Center were hijacked.

Law enforcement officials were said to be looking at possible bin Laden supporters in Florida. They were aided by an intercept of communications between his Florida supporters, and harrowing cell phone calls from victims aboard the plane.

Please see Rubble, page A8

Suspicious surround bin Laden

By John Solomon
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are investigating whether suspected hijackers of one jetliner used in Tuesday's devastating attacks entered the United States from Canada and may be linked to Osama bin Laden, law enforcement officials said today.

The officials cautioned the information, including raw intelligence, was still developing.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they were investigating whether one group of hijackers crossed the Canadian border at a checkpoint and eventually went to Boston's airport, where an American Airlines flight was hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center in New York.

Who is bin Laden and what does he want? A5

Please see Probe, page A8



AP Photo by Lawrence Jackson

Workers look for survivors today at the World Trade Center site.

Bush calls the attacks acts of war

By David Espo
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush condemned terrorist attacks in New York and Washington as "acts of war" today and said he would ask Congress for funding to help in the recovery and to protect the nation's security.

"This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil. But good will prevail," the president said. He said the nation was prepared to spend "whatever it takes."

Lawmakers returned to the Capitol for the first time since Tuesday's parallel attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon across the Potomac River from the nation's capital. Lawmakers hastened to approve legislation declaring the United States was "entitled to respond under international law."



President Bush "Good will prevail"

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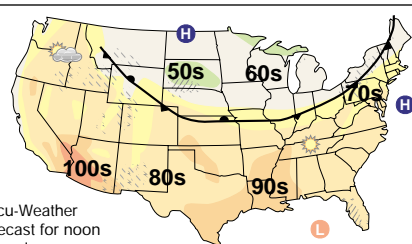
AREA DEATHS

Ruth Daniel, Elkmont
Ann Haller, Hartselle
Virginia Hough, Oklahoma
Timothy Knowlton III, Hartselle
Bill Lee Jr., Town Creek

Eleanor McCulloch, Decatur
Mary Stinnett, Athens
Sally Stricklin, Moulton
Complete obituaries, A2.

THE WEATHER

Tuesday's high was 86.
Overnight low was 63.
Forecast: Mostly clear tonight. Lows 60 to 65. Partly cloudy Thursday.
Highs in the middle 80s.
For details, see A2.



Accu-Weather
forecast for noon
Thursday

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