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LeGrand pulls out close one vs. Livingston.

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'Contagion' keeps its calm amid all the loud action films.
ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE C7

Scientists block rain to test drought-resistant plants.
BUSINESS, PAGE B4

Credible threat of attack received

Sept. 11: Ten Years Later

TRAGEDY REMEMBERED

Flight 93 memorial remains underfunded

U.S. looking for 3 men traveling here, planning to detonate bombs.

By BRIAN BENNETT
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials scrambled Friday to identify and find three men who supposedly planned to travel to the United States from Afghanistan to detonate car bombs in bridges or tunnels this weekend in New York and Washington, D.C.

Officials said they obtained specific but uncorroborated intelligence earlier this week that two or three individuals with close ties to al-Qaida leaders in Pakistan had entered the United States in a plot to disrupt events planned to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Vice President Joe Biden told morning TV shows that the intelligence came from a "credible source."

"We cannot confirm it. We are doing everything in our power. All hands are on deck," Biden told NBC's "Today."

The men, possibly including a U.S. citizen, were said to have crossed by land from Pakistan to Afghanistan, and then boarded a series of flights bound for America, possibly connecting through Dubai International Airport, according to a source who has read the intelligence and who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information.

Al-Qaida's new leader and Osama bin Laden's former top aide, Ayman Zawahiri, is believed to have personally signed off on the plans, the source said.

If true, several senior U.S. counter-terrorism officials may have erred in recent weeks when they claimed that Zawahiri's influence was in doubt and that the direct threat from al-Qaida's central leadership in Pakistan was largely eliminated. The latest intelligence suggests the core group remains a force.

SEE THREAT, PAGE A7



SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG

Cal Fire Capt. Jeremy Rahn, left, and firefighters Hunter Comstock and Brent Painter place 343 flags in the ground on the side of their station on Gurr Road to honor the men and women in uniform and other victims that died in the terrorist attacks 10 years ago.

BY CURTIS TATE • Sun-Star Washington Bureau

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. — Of the three memorials that commemorate the lives lost on Sept. 11, the Flight 93 National Memorial stands out.

It's the only rural site, a world away from the urban bustle of ground zero and the Pentagon. It's the only one Congress has designated as a national park.

And it's the only one that isn't fully funded.

Ten years after United Airlines Flight 93 slammed into a reclaimed strip mine in

southwest Pennsylvania, the Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign is about \$10 million short of its \$62 million goal.

"It's a small price to pay to memorialize 40 people who prevented a greater terrorist attack," said King Laughlin, the memorial's

SEE SEPT. 11, BACK PAGE

INSIDE TODAY

• Fourteen pages recount that horrifying day 10 years ago. Special section

• THARP: We should take better care of our defenders. See page B1

• Merced's retired fire chief says it's important to never forget. See page C1



Despite war-on-terrorism gains, Pakistan still haven for al-Qaida

By SAEED SHAH
McClatchy Newspapers

ISLAMABAD — A decade after the Sept. 11 attacks, most international terrorist plots against the West have links to Pakistan, the country that became al-Qaida's most important sanctuary after

the United States chased the terrorist group from Afghanistan.

Pakistan wasn't considered an international terrorist haven before December 2001, when Osama bin Laden crossed the White Mountains from Tora Bora, his last redoubt in Afghanistan,

into Pakistan's tribal area.

In the nearly 10 years since, however, the country has become al-Qaida's global headquarters, infecting Pakistan's Islamic extremist groups with a new nihilistic ideology and transforming the country's tribal area near the border

with Afghanistan into the epicenter of global jihad, a violent sanctuary where the traditional population is terrorized and al-Qaida and other terrorists plot attacks not just against the West and U.S.-led

SEE PAKISTAN, PAGE A7

HEALTH

County keeps up with overall vaccination rates

By YESENIA AMARO
yamaro@mercedsunstar.com

Merced County is keeping up with overall children's vaccination rates, public health officials said.

"At the local level based on data reflected from the state health department,

we appear to be faring OK for most of vaccination coverage measures," said Richard Rios, public health program manager for the Merced County Department of Public Health.

The vaccination rates for children in the county are

high, and the number of vaccination exemptions is minimal, compared with other schools across the state, officials said.

Merced County had a 92 percent rate of kinder-

SEE VACCINATION, PAGE A6

QuickTake

News outside Merced County

SIMPLE TRIGGER: The blackout in a large swath of Southern California, Arizona and Mexico shows just how vulnerable the power grid is. See page A2

STILL BATTLING: Opposition fighters in Libya take on remaining Moammar Gadhafi troops in some of the last holdout cities. See page A5

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: A judge's ruling forces the federal government to consider protection for hundreds of plant and animal species. See page A5

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'OFF THE 99' PODCAST: The Sun-Star wraps up a series of interviews with candidates for Merced City Council and mayor. www.mercedsunstar.com/offthe99

WEATHER

Some clouds today, warm; clouds, cool tonight. High of 95; low of 62.

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COMING MONDAY

The Business Profile shows how Kevin McCarthy has flourished in the bicycle business for 25 years.

