

## Bomb threat: Angst in N.Y., D.C.

Alert out for two men who may be prepared to carry out terror attack planned by al-Qaida

By **SCOTT SHANE** and **CHARLIE SAVAGE**  
New York Times News Service

**Washington** — Bomb-sniffing dogs were deployed in the Washington subway and the police searched vehicles at New York's Brooklyn Bridge on Friday as counterterrorism officials working with frustratingly imprecise clues hunted for at least two men reportedly dispatched

by al-Qaida to set off a car or truck bomb in New York or Washington.

Two senior U.S. law enforcement officials said the tip came from an informant in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region who passed word of the purported plot, intended to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, to U.S. intelligence officers Wednesday. The informant said two U.S. citizens of

Arab ancestry had left Afghanistan, traveled through other countries and reached the United States as recently as last week.

The officials said they had only a vague physical description of the two men — one described as 5 feet tall, the other 5-foot-8 — and a first name for one of them that is common in the Middle East. The tipster also described a third conspirator, but he appeared to have traveled to Europe.

"All this information is very, very sketchy," one of the law enforce-

ment officials said.

The informant was not specific about targets, but officials stepped up scrutiny of bridges and tunnels, long considered potential targets for vehicle bombs.

In a notebook found in the compound of Osama bin Laden after he was killed in May, bin Laden mused about the possibility of mounting an attack on the Sept. 11 anniversary, and the police in New York and Washington were already on alert for trouble. Officials briefed on the

threat offered varying views of how serious it was: Some said such a specific tip from a trustworthy source came along only every few months; others suggested such tips were not unusual and the strong reaction reflected heightened wariness around the anniversary.

The stepped-up security in New York and Washington came as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden publicly discussed the threat.

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## FOR GRIEVING SISTER, THERE JUST HAD TO BE A REASON

**Above right, Erika Piver, whose brother, Josh, died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, speaks about her experiences since that fateful day during a visit to Stonington High School on Friday.**

**Right, Stonington High students listen as Piver tells her story 10 years after she received the news that her brother had been killed.**

SEAN D. ELLIOT  
THE DAY



Pawcatuck woman who lost a brother at World Trade Center on 9/11 needed to understand why

By **JOE WOJTAS**  
Day Staff Writer

**Stonington**  
When her brother was killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center 10 years ago, Erika Piver needed to understand why it happened. Why Josh Piver died.

"I needed to find out why my brother was sitting at his desk on a Tuesday morning and was blown away," Piver, 36, said last week. "I had to find out the reason."

She recalled that in the hours after getting word of the attack, one of Josh's friends told her the Taliban were responsible.

"I had no idea who that was,"

Piver said while sitting at the dining room table in her Pawcatuck home. "I was raised Catholic. I had no concept of the Muslim religion. I was a single mother of two kids working a day job and bartending at night so I could afford to buy this house."

"I didn't have time to read newspapers. I was living in a bubble."

On Sept. 11, 2001, that bubble burst.

A short time after the terror attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, she decided to go back to Eastern Connecticut State University to finish work on her bachelor's degree in history. Over a seven-year period that ended

last year, she not only earned her degree, but became a certified teacher as well.

During that time Piver also took courses on the Muslim religion and Middle Eastern history to try to understand the motivation behind the attacks. "I don't excuse what they did, but now I understand it," she said. "There's always a reason why people act the way they do."

As a teacher, she said, she would like to one day pass that lesson on to her students.

"I hope to teach kids not to just jump to conclusions. You have to find out why. There's always a reason," said Piver, who currently works with special-education

students as an instructional specialist for LEARN. "And there's always a bad apple in every bunch. You can't just blame an entire society for the bad things a few people do."

A week after the attacks, Piver said, a nearby home in Pawcatuck owned by a Middle Eastern family was spray-painted with racist graffiti. That angered her.

"No one knew where these people were from or what they believed," she said. "I don't tolerate racism or sexism. It really bothered me."

In 1996, Josh Piver graduated from Stonington High School,

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## NL voter list up 5 percent amid race for mayor's seat

Candidates Buscetto, Finizio each see added Democrats as boost for their campaigns

By **KATHLEEN EDGEComb**  
Day Staff Writer

**New London** — The number of registered voters in the city has grown by nearly 5 percent since the last election, and about 700 those who signed up are Democrats. It's a sign that both candidates running for mayor in Tuesday's primary say is good for their campaigns.

As of Friday, there are 6,017 registered Democrats, 722 more than the 5,295 who were registered in 2010.

Whoever wins Tuesday's primary will be the Democratic candidate for the seat to be occupied by the city's first elected mayor in nearly nine decades. He will be on the Nov. 8 ballot with Republican Rob Pero and petitioning candidates Martin Olsen, Lori Hopkins-Cavanagh and Andrew Lockwood.

"People are participating in the election," said City Councilor Michael Buscetto III, the Democratic-endorsed mayoral

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## City police chief criticized in open letter from union

Ad placed in Day says Ackley has been negative influence

By **KARIN CROMPTON**  
Day Staff Writer

**New London** — The city's police union published an "open letter" via a paid ad in today's Day, lashing out at police Chief Margaret Ackley for what the union describes as "a managerial crisis."

The union's nine-member executive board voted unanimously to place the ad, according to union President Darrin O'Mara and Vice President Todd Lynch.

In the letter, the union states that the police department "has been in a managerial crisis since Margaret Ackley assumed command ..."

"Ackley's actions and lack of executive level management skills and judgment have

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### WEATHER

Today, partly cloudy, chance of a t-storm. High 77. Sunday, cloudy, showers possible. High 72. **B6**

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### COMING SUNDAY

Our coverage of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks continues.

**News:** Local emergency officials say they are prepared for any foreseeable attack on such potential terrorist targets as bridges, shopping centers, manufacturing plants and the region's water supply.

**Daybreak:** "Remembering 9/11" — a display of photographs, paintings and sculpture inspired by that day — is on view at the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven. The display includes Judith Shea's "Shock and Awe."

**Online video:** The attacks affected people near and far. Whether you were in Manhattan on your way to work or at home hundreds of miles away, it was hard not to feel the ripples of that day's events. We asked people in the New London area, **a sampling at right**, to share their thoughts and memories on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.



### 9/11 MARKED BY ICONIC SONG

**New York** — Joel Grey, Kara DioGuardi, Bebe Neuwirth, Ben Vereen and Brian Stokes Mitchell — along with sailors, nuns, drag queens, ballerinas and a Spider-Man — helped mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks with a full-throated reprise of the song "New York, New York."

The stars and cast members from several musicals gathered in Times Square on Friday to belt out the John Kander and Fred Ebb song made famous by Frank Sinatra.

### 5 questions with...



We asked author Jonathan Safran Foer five questions about his book "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," the subject of this year's One Book One Region event.  
See **DAYBREAK**