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'IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MOVIE. YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT'S REAL, BUT IT IS.'

COLORADO HORROR

The victims » 12 dead, dozens injured in worst mass shooting in the state since Columbine

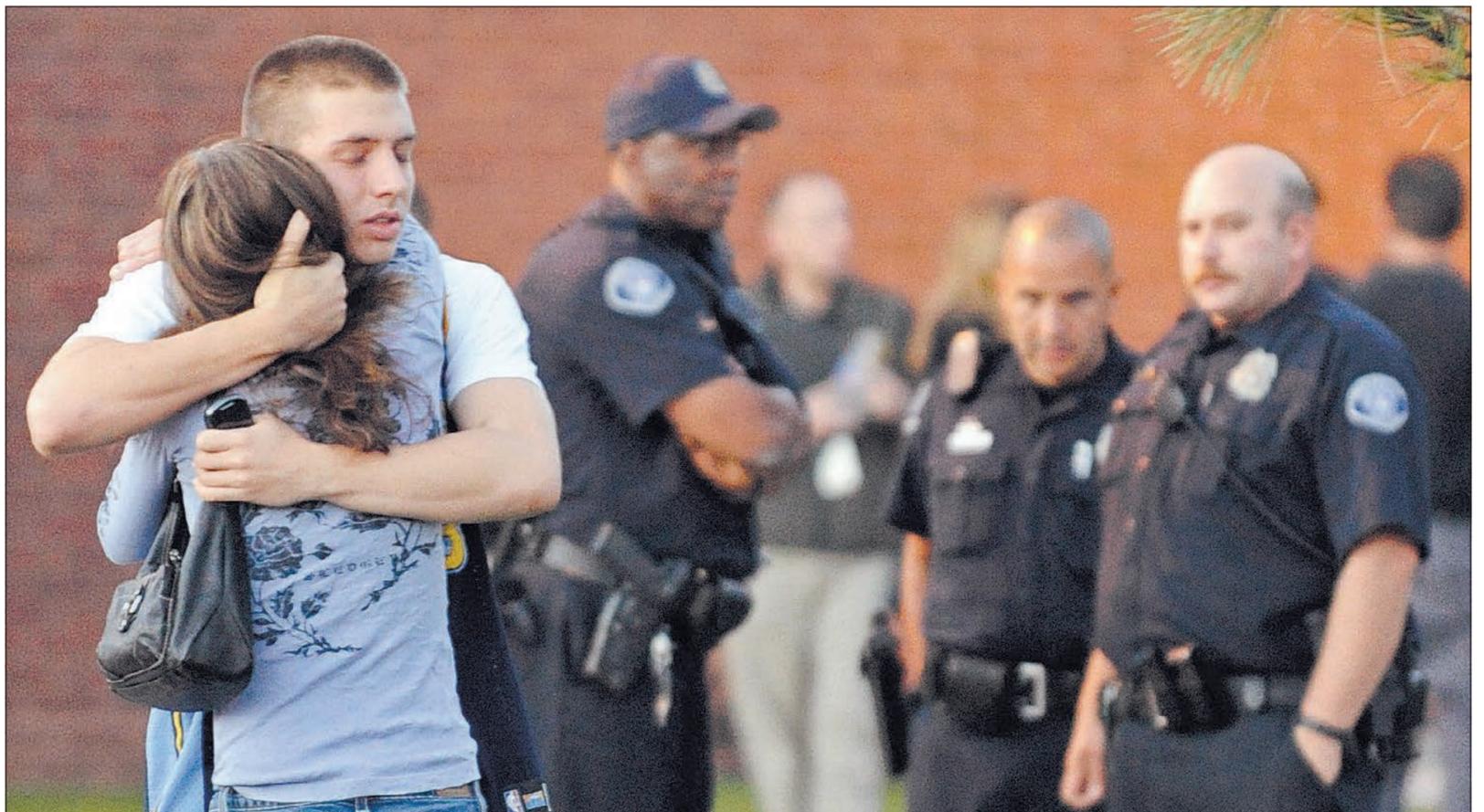
STORY » PAGE A9

The suspect » Man said to have called himself 'The Joker' remains jailed after his arrest

SEE GRAPHIC ON WEAPONS USED » PAGE A8

The latest news » Go online to read updates on the many victims and the investigation

WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM/COLORADO-SHOOTING



RJ SANGOSTI/DENVER POST

Jacob Stevens, 18, hugs his mother, Tammi Stevens, after he escaped from the Aurora, Colo., movie theater where a gunman went on a rampage, killing 12 people.

JAMES EAGAN HOLMES

24-year-old held in massacre was an honor student whose apartment was booby-trapped

By Sara Burnett and Jessica Fender
Denver Post

AURORA, Colo. — The 24-year-old accused of shooting dozens of people early Friday morning was a former honor student and recent graduate school dropout who apparently booby-trapped his apartment and left the stereo blaring techno music before he headed to the movie theater where police say he killed 12 people.

James Eagan Holmes surrendered to police in the parking lot outside the theater "without any significant incident," Aurora police Chief Dan Oates said.

Oates said Holmes made a statement to officers about possible explosives in the apartment. That prompted police to evacuate five nearby buildings and begin searching the third-floor apartment using

See **SUSPECT**, Page 5

THE BLOODY SCENE



Chaos at cinema: Within minutes of the deadly attack, frantic 911 calls brought 200 police and first responders to the grim scene, where victims were rushed to hospitals.

THE QUICK ARREST



In custody: Police arrested James Eagan Holmes, the 24-year-old suspect, just minutes after arriving at the theater. He didn't resist arrest and is expected in court Monday.

MORE COVERAGE INSIDE AND ONLINE

Bay Area » Local police beef up theater patrols. **PAGE B1**
California » How do gun laws compare by state? **PAGE B6**

Online extra » Scan this code on a smartphone to see a photo gallery of the massacre's aftermath.
WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM/COLORADO-SHOOTING

'LIKE TARGET PRACTICE'

Armor-wearing gunman opens fire at 'Dark Knight' premiere in suburban Denver

By Ryan Parker, Kurtis Lee, John Ingold, Jordan Steffen and Jennifer Brown
Denver Post

AURORA, Colo. — The suspect in the theater shooting had a ticket to the newest Batman movie and entered with the crowd. As the movie played early Friday, he walked out the side door unnoticed and propped it open. He returned minutes later in black and wearing a helmet, body armor and a gas mask, witnesses said.

Then, he threw gas canisters that filled the suburban Denver theater with smoke and opened fire, authorities said. In addition to the 12 people fatally shot, 58 were injured, but not all were shot. Eleven people were in critical condition, authorities said Friday night at a news conference.

See **SHOOTING**, Page 4

Tech hiring spurs June jobs surge across Bay Area

By George Avalos
gavalos@bayareanews.com

The Bay Area job market roared to life in June, reversing a recent slowdown in growth by creating nearly 17,000 jobs.

A strong technology sector combined with robust job gains in the East Bay to produce the best one-

month job growth performance since September for the nine-county region.

"What really leaps off the page is the big gain in the East Bay," said Michael Bernick, a research fellow with the Milken Institute. "The other big factor is technology. Tech, social media companies, Internet commerce

firms — they are leading this."

The East Bay added 7,400 jobs, the South Bay gained 4,000 and the San Francisco-San Mateo-Marín metro region produced 6,100 new jobs, according to seasonally adjusted numbers from the state's Employment Development Department.

Overall, the Bay Area added

16,900 payroll jobs in June.

High tech accounted for at least one-quarter of the gains, this newspaper's analysis of results supplied by Beacon Economics shows.

"We continue to see tech companies that are growing," said Mark

See **JOBS**, Page 7

HIRING HOTBED

16,900

The Bay Area's three urban centers added new jobs in June, with high tech creating a fourth of the gains.

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