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SPECIAL REPORT

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward and freedom will be defended."
 — President George W. Bush, speaking from an airbase in Louisiana

TERROR, NOW ANGER

Terrorists hijack planes, destroy World Trade Center, attack Pentagon



Contributed

Michael and Madeline Amy Sweeney. Madeline was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 that crashed into the World Trade Center.

Local man's daughter killed on hijacked jet

By BRIAN SCHEID
 Norwich Bulletin

NORWICH — A Norwich man choked back tears Tuesday night as he spoke about his daughter, one of the nine crewmembers on a hijacked American Airlines flight that crashed into the north tower of World Trade Center.

"Everything she did was just ... she was just a sweetheart," said William A. Todd, the father of Madeline Amy Sweeney. "It was a tragedy, completely unbelievable."

Sweeney, 35, grew up in Nashua, N.H., and lived in Acton, Mass., with her husband, Michael, and their children, 6 and 4. She had been an American flight attendant for 12 years.

Friends and relatives gathered at Todd's Corning Road home, solemnly watching the latest news updates on television. Behind the home, Todd stood quietly on the porch with his wife and Sweeney's stepmother, Doris, and looked at pictures of their daughter.

"She was such a beautiful person, inside and out," Doris said.

Sweeney usually worked only on the weekends so she could spend more time with her family, Doris said.

"She just happened to pick up an extra day, and today happened to be the day," Doris said.

Flight 11, a Boeing 767 flying from Boston to Los Angeles, had 81 passengers, nine crewmembers and two pilots aboard.



Smoke billows from one of the towers of the World Trade Center and flames and debris explode from the second tower Tuesday as a plane slams into the building.

Simmons sees Pentagon attack



A helicopter hovers over the wreckage at the Pentagon Tuesday.

Don't give in to terrorism, says the congressman.

By BRIAN SCHEID
 Norwich Bulletin

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, watched smoke billow into the sky from his office window in the nation's capital after a hijacked American Airline flight crashed into the Pentagon, just two miles from his office.

"I turned and looked out the window and I saw a column of black smoke," the Stonington resident said.

Simmons spent much of Tuesday trying to reach his daughter, Jane, who lives in an apartment only a few blocks from the World Trade Center.

"I called her repeatedly to find out if she was OK," Simmons said. "She eventually called my wife in New London and said everything was all right."

Tuesday's shocking sequence of terrorist attacks are acts of war, but the country must persevere, Simmons said.

Simmons said businesses, schools and governments should not close in response.

"My philosophy is that when you are the victim of an attack by a terrorist, you accommodate that terrorist when you don't go about business as usual," Simmons, R-2nd District, said.

"This is not political speech, this is murder," Simmons said. "This is not political activity, this is war."

U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., also claimed

Special report

t Witnesses describe chaos, **A3**.

t Friends, neighbors, officials respond, **A3**.

t Norwich stands by to help, **A3**.

t Schools decide to keep students in classroom, **A4**.

t Terrorist has deep historical roots, **A4**.

t Counselors say honesty with kids is best course, **A4**.

t Leaders call for prayer, **A4**.

t U.S. Muslim groups shocked, **A4**.

t New York braces for grisly job of searching debris, **A6**.

t Local hospitals on alert, **A6**.

t Hundreds offer help to Red Cross, **A6**.

t Residents gather for Norwich prayer vigil, **B1**.

t Sports take back seat to tragedy, **D1**.

t The nation rallies in the aftermath of the deadliest attack since Pearl Harbor.

By JON FRANSDEN
 Gannett News Service

Terrorist attacks of stunning savagery and precision struck at the heart of America's government and financial capitals Tuesday as hijacked commercial jets plowed into the twin 110-story World Trade Center Towers in New York and the Pentagon — attacks that President Bush said killed thousands. The nation scrambled to a war footing as emergency teams dealt with incalculable carnage.

Bush proclaimed the nation shocked and saddened — but not weakened — by the deadliest attack since Pearl Harbor.

"These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong. ... Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America," Bush said in his second nationally televised address of the day.

"Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger," said Bush, the first government official to use even a vague figure such as "thousands" to describe the bloodshed. State and federal governments focused on rescuing the living rather than counting the dead.

Attorney General John Ashcroft laid out the events like this:

Four commercial jets said to carry 266 passengers were hijacked in the morning by terrorists — at least some armed with knives. Two were crashed into the Trade Center Tower buildings just minutes apart, and the 110-story buildings eventually collapsed in plumes of fire and smoke so great that astronauts orbiting aboard the international space station reported seeing the plume. A third jet smashed into the Pentagon and a fourth crashed 80 miles outside of Pittsburgh.

See **ATTACK, A2**

NEWS YOU MAY NEED

Victims information

t The Justice Department has established a number — 1-800-331-0075 — for victims' families and friends. Callers will be asked to leave contact information and give details about possible victims. If a person is known to be dead or hurt, the caller will be told; otherwise they will be called back later. Victims and their families also can learn about their rights and services available.

Giving blood

t To donate blood for the victims of the attacks, call the American Red Cross to schedule an appointment at 1-800-448-3543.

Victims aid

t To help victims of the disaster, contributions can be made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 1-800-257-7575.

Schools open

t Most eastern Connecticut

schools are open today. School counselors will be available to talk with children about the attacks.

Airports reopening

t Air traffic is expected to resume at noon today. For news on flights, contact airlines or regional airports: Groton-New London Airport, 445-8549 (www.grotonnewlondonairport.com); Bradley International Airport, 292-2000 (bradleyairport.com); or T.F. Green International Airport, 1-888-268-7222 (pvd-ri.com).

GOODMORNING

t Norma Gileau of Jewett City. Happy 71st birthday.

t Rosario Maiorano of Norwich. Happy belated 80th birthday.

FAIR AGAIN

Mostly sunny and warm; high in the mid-70s



Complete forecast on back of section

INDEX

Bulletin Board	C2
Classified	E1-E2, E4-E6
Comics	E3
Editorials	A7
Lotteries	A2
Obituaries	B2
Television	C3



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Investigators link attacks to bin Laden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials began piecing together a case linking Osama bin Laden to the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history, aided by an intercept of communications between his supporters and harrowing cell phone calls from victims aboard the jetliners before they crashed Tuesday.

U.S. intelligence intercepted communications between bin Laden supporters discussing the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, according to Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"They have an intercept of some information that included people associated with bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit,"

See **BIN LADEN, A2**

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