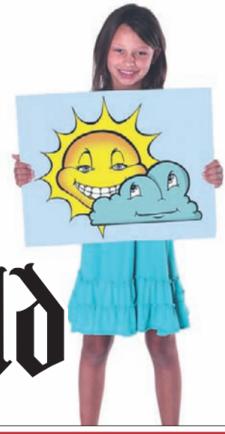


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U.S. chases down terror threat

Security is tightened after the government reveals a possible plot to detonate a vehicle-borne bomb in Washington or New York.

By **JERRY MARKON** and **GREG MILLER**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials searched travel databases, combed airline manifests and tightened security Friday in a search for what could be a handful of al-Qaida operatives

suspected of plotting a terrorist attack on Washington or New York. The day after the government revealed a possible plot to detonate a vehicle-borne bomb around Sunday's 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, investigators and the public reacted with caution and concern. New York

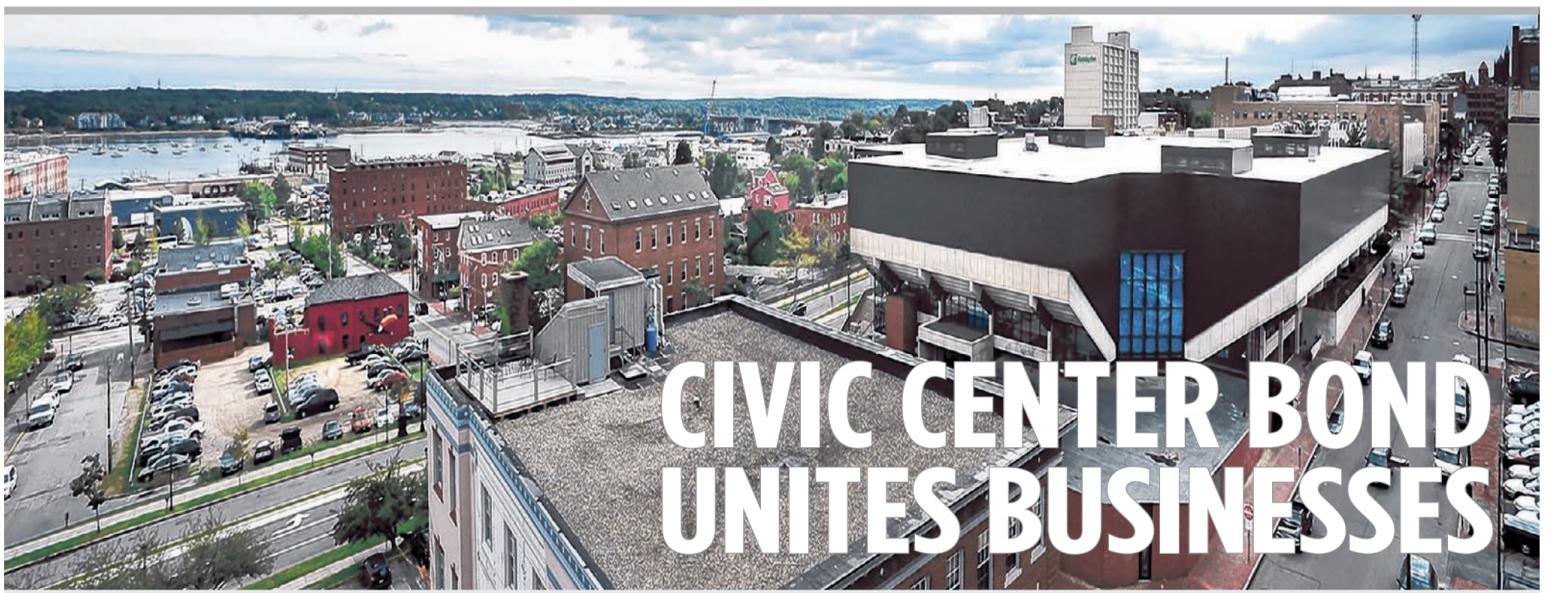
City police set up vehicle checkpoints and posted rifle-carrying officers at train stations, while in Washington, "suspicious activity" calls to authorities jumped about 25 percent. Two U.S. officials briefed on the threat said it is based on intelligence that the CIA collected from a source in Afghanistan who has previously provided reliable information. The source contended that a handful of individuals,

one of whom could be a U.S. citizen, may have entered the United States in recent days as part of the plot. That prompted a flurry of activity Friday, as officials from the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center and other agencies searched manifests and databases for any clues of who the suspected operatives are and where they

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9/11 10 YEARS LATER

- Video interviews, photo slideshows, archived front pages and more at pressherald.com
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Supporters of renovations see the facility as a vital cultural and economic asset

By **J. HEMMERDINGER**
Staff Writer

PORTLAND — Food and drink sales at the Brian Boru pub can increase 25 to 30 percent on nights when there's a major event at the nearby Cumberland County Civic Center. "It's the type of added income that can make the difference between surviving and not surviving," said Daniel Steele, the pub's part-owner. Steele is among a group of business people supporting a \$33 million proposal to renovate the Civic Center, a complex the business community

says helps sustain the downtown and boosts the regional economy. "If (there is) a 7 o'clock show, I have a line out my door waiting for tables," said Peter Burke, general manager at Binga's Stadium Smokehouse & Sports Bar, across Free Street from the arena. "Pretty much anytime they open their doors, it impacts our business in a positive way." In August, county commissioners voted to put a proposal on the Nov. 8

PORTLAND CRITICIZED FOR NOT PROMOTING PROJECT
PAGE A4

ballot for a \$33 million bond to renovate the Civic Center. If approved by voters countywide, the bond will fund improvements that include updates to the facade, bathrooms, concourses, locker and dressing rooms and the lobby. There also will be 62 percent more concession space, 500 new club seats, additional handicapped-accessible seats and improvements to the loading dock. Opened in 1977, the 6,726-seat Civic Center is home to the Portland Pi-

“ If (there is) a 7 o'clock show, I have a line out my door waiting for tables. Pretty much anytime they open their doors, it impacts our business in a positive way.

PETER BURKE
Binga's Stadium Smokehouse & Sports Bar

The Cumberland County Civic Center dominates a city block between Spring and Free streets in this photo taken from atop the Monument Square Parking Garage.

Gordon Chibroski/Staff Photographer

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Report reconstructs deadly Amtrak crash

But it does not indicate how fast the driver of a tractor-trailer was going when he hit the brakes.

By **DAVID HENCH**
Staff Writer

A police report on the fatal crash July 11 in North Berwick between an Amtrak train and a trash-hauling truck says the force of the collision exploded the truck cab and spun the trailer into the second train car, causing it to derail. The report, prepared by North Berwick police, does not include conclusions of several other agencies that are involved in the investigation, including Maine State Police, railroad police, Amtrak, and Springfield Terminal Railway, which maintains the track.

The investigation remains open and there is no time frame for when it will be complete, said North Berwick police Lt. James Moulton. The report does not indicate how fast Peter Barnum, 35, of Farmington, N.H., was driving the tractor-trailer when he hit the brakes. It does describe what happened afterward. Barnum was driving north on Elm Street, also called Route 4, approaching the railroad crossing at Buffum Road when the approach of Amtrak's Downeaster activated the crossing lights and the barricades lowered. Barnum "braked hard, skidded and crossed over the double yellow center lines," said the report, prepared by Officer Timothy Niehoff. The

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Fallen firefighters memorial sparks a mix of emotions

By **DAVID HENCH**
Staff Writer

PORTLAND — Mary Lou Eaton and her two sisters sat in the front row Friday, facing the west lawn at the Portland Fire Department's Central Station, where the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial will be erected. Central Station was where their father worked early in his career, before moving to Engine Co. 8 at Woodfords Corner. On Feb. 25, 1945, Thomas L. Walsh was crushed when an explosion toppled a brick wall as he fought a three-alarm fire at the Stevens Avenue Armory. He left behind two young daughters and a wife who was seven months pregnant. The black granite memorial that will be installed this winter will



Shawn Patrick Ouellette/Staff Photographer
Deputy Fire Chief David Jackson, chairman of the committee that helped make the memorial a reality, salutes the colors at the start of Friday's groundbreaking ceremony.

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