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Crews search for survivors, bodies

Five confirmed dead, 170-plus hurt in Texas plant blast

By Jason Fields
Digital First Media



Above, firefighters conduct a search and rescue of an apartment destroyed by a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas Thursday. The blast killed at least 5 people and injured more than 170, officials said overnight. At right, an elderly person is assisted at a staging area at a local school stadium following the explosion.

Searchers from across Texas combed through chunks of wood and brick Thursday that once had comprised homes in the small community of West. They were hoping to find people still alive, or at least count the dead.

The West Fertilizer Company's plant exploded at 9 p.m. ET Wednesday, despite the best efforts of firefighters who had arrived on the scene 20 minutes before, following reports of a blaze at the site.

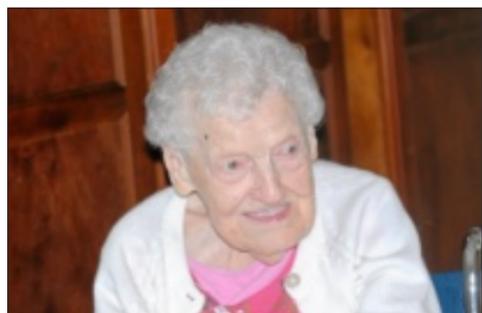
As many as 170 people were injured in the blast, and at least five are dead in a town of 2,700, authorities say. The explosion was so powerful that it registered as a 2.1 earthquake, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Please see **BLAST** on A3



AP Photos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



John Strickler/The Mercury
Sophie Voynar will celebrate her 108th birthday at Manatawny Manor today.

108-year-old's secret: Doing nothing wrong

By Caroline Sweeney
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NORTH COVENTRY — Sophie Voynar's secret to a long life is simple — she was a good girl and never did anything wrong.

A soft-spoken woman with a kind smile and a dry wit, Voynar will celebrate her 108th birthday today with a big party at Manatawny Manor.

When Voynar was born in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt was in his second term, the Rotary Club International was founded, Las Vegas became a city and the Wright brother's third plane stayed in flight for 39 minutes.

She had help from her nurse when answering questions about her life, but Voynar's personality showed through.

Please see **BIRTHDAY** on A4

BOSTON MARATHON TRAGEDY



AP Photo
This image released by the FBI Thursday shows in a image from video who the FBI are calling suspect number 1, front, in black cap, and suspect number 2, in white cap, back right, walking near each other through the crowd in Boston Monday before the explosions at the Boston Marathon.

FBI releases images of 2 suspects

By Denise Lavoie and Adam Geller
Associated Press

BOSTON — The FBI released photos and video Thursday of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, zeroing in on the two men on surveillance-camera footage less than three days after the deadly attack.

FBI agent Richard DesLauriers said the photos of the two men came from surveillance cameras near the explosion sites. One man is seen wearing a dark baseball cap, the other a white cap worn backwards.

The man in the white cap is seen setting down a backpack at the site of one of the blasts, DesLauriers said.

Within moments of the announcement, the FBI website crashed, perhaps because of a crush of visitors.

The images were released hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at-

tended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral in Boston to remember the three people killed and more than 180 wounded in the twin blasts Monday at the marathon finish line.

The break in the investigation came just days after the attack that tore off limbs, shattered windows and raised the specter of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

The suspects are considered armed and extremely dangerous, DesLauriers said, and people who see them should not approach them.

"Do not take any action on your own," he warned.

Generally, law enforcement agencies release photos of suspects only as a last resort, when they need the public's help in identifying or capturing someone.

Please see **FBI** on A9

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| twitter.com/MercuryX | | Classified D1 | Lottery Numbers A2 | Sports C1 | Variable clouds | with spotty showers; High of 76 | |
| | | Comics D5 | Obituaries B4, B5 | Stocks B2 | PAGE D6 | | |
| | | Dear Abby C9 | Opinion A8 | TV C9 | | | |
| | | Horoscope C8 | | Weather D6 | | | |