

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW



MARK THE CALENDAR Steelers will have to enjoy Thanksgiving in Baltimore **C10**

SPLASH OF COLOR Brighten up soggy days with eye-catching rain gear **D1**

Hunt on for Texas survivors



PHOTOS: AP

Firefighters conduct a search and rescue on Thursday at an apartment complex that was leveled in an explosion Wednesday night at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. There was no indication the blast was anything other than an industrial accident, said Waco police Sgt. William Swanton.



Two men wanted for questioning

Public asked to help ID suspects

FBI focuses on pair carrying backpacks at site of Boston blasts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Plucking a couple of blurry faces in baseball caps out of a swarming crowd, the FBI zeroed in on two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and shared surveillance camera images of them with the world on Thursday in hopes the public will help hunt them down.

The photos and video depict one young man in a dark cap and another in a white cap worn backward, both carrying backpacks and one walking behind the other on the sidewalk near the finish line as marathoners run by.

The man in the white hat was seen setting down a backpack at the site of the second explosion, said Richard DesLauriers, FBI agent in charge in Boston.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members of the suspects," he said. "Though it may be difficult, the nation is counting on those with information to come forward and provide it to us."

They looked much like typical college students, but DesLauriers described them as armed and extremely dangerous, and urged anyone who sees or knows them to tell law enforcement and "do not take any action on your own."

The break in the investigation occurred three days after the attack that killed three people, tore off limbs and raised the specter of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil. FBI photo-analysis specialists have been analyzing a mountain of surveillance footage and amateur pictures and videos

Inside

» Anger is directed at some Muslims in Boston. **A6**

Death toll from fertilizer plant explosion uncertain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST, Texas — Rescuers searched the smoking remnants of a Texas farm town on Thursday for survivors of a thunderous fertilizer plant explosion, gingerly checking smashed houses and apartments for anyone trapped in debris while the community awaited word on the number of dead.

Initial reports put the fatalities as high as 15, but later in the day, authorities backed away from any estimate and refused to elaborate. More than 160 people were hurt.

A breathtaking band of destruction extended for blocks around West Fertilizer Co. in the small community of West. The blast shook the ground with the strength of a small earthquake and crumpled dozens of homes, an apartment complex, a school and a nursing home. Its dull boom could be heard dozens of miles away from the town about 20 miles north of Waco.

Waco police Sgt. William Swanton described ongoing search-and-rescue efforts as "tedious and time-consuming," noting that crews had to shore up much of the wreckage before going in.

There was no indication the blast, which sent up a mushroom-shaped plume of smoke and left behind a crater, was anything other than an industrial accident, he said.



A person looks on as emergency workers battle a house fire that ignited from the nearby fertilizer plant explosion.

The explosion was apparently touched off by a fire, but there was no indication what sparked the blaze. The company had been cited by regulators for what appeared to be minor safety and permitting violations during the past decade.

The Wednesday night explosion rained burning embers and

debris down on terrified residents. The landscape on Thursday was wrapped in acrid smoke and strewn with the shattered remains of buildings, furniture and personal belongings.

Firefighter Darryl Hall choked up as he described the search.

"You're strong through it because

that's your job. That's what you've been trained to do. But you're reminded of the tragedy and your family — and that it could be you," Hall said. "Then it's a completely different story."

While the community tended to its deep wounds, investigators awaited clearance to enter the blast zone for clues to what set off the plant's huge stockpile of volatile chemicals.

"It's still too hot to get in there," said Francesca Perot, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, later adding that she wasn't sure when her team would be able to start its investigation.

The precise death toll was uncertain. Three to five volunteer firefighters initially were believed to be among the dead, which authorities said could number as many as 15. But the state Department of Public Safety later said the number of fatalities couldn't be confirmed.

The Dallas Fire-Rescue Department said one of its off-duty firefighters, Capt. Kenny Harris, was among those killed. Harris — a 52-year-old married father of three grown sons — lived in West and had decided to lend a hand to the volunteers battling the blaze.

The many injuries included

EXPLOSION · A6

BOSTON · A6

Gap of understanding widens for health giants

UPMC, Highmark CEOs can't agree on substance of phone call; no word yet on deal

BY ALEX NIXON

Icy relations between Pittsburgh health care titans UPMC and Highmark show no sign of thawing.

How bad is it? The two sides can't even agree on the substance of a phone call between Highmark CEO William Winkenwerder and UPMC CEO Jeffrey Romoff.

Winkenwerder on Thursday said he and Romoff spoke by phone in December and agreed to "get together" to

Inside

» Senators ask Corbett to protect small hospitals if Highmark deal passes. **B8**

talk about their stalemate over a new contract giving Highmark members access to UPMC hospitals once an agreement ends Dec. 31, 2014.

A meeting with Romoff could take place in the "coming weeks to months," he said, although no date had been set.

But UPMC spokesman Paul Wood called Winkenwerder's characterization of the call "complete and utter fabrication." He described the

HIGHMARK · A6

Harper interviewed by FBI twice

Former police chief likely will plead guilty to federal charges this summer, his attorney says

BY BRIAN BOWLING

FBI agents investigating Pittsburgh police finances have twice interviewed former Chief Nate Harper since a grand jury indicted him on charges of failing to file federal income tax returns and skimming public money for personal use, his lawyers said on Thursday.

Attorneys Robert Del Greco and Robert Leight would not talk about what Harper discussed with investigators since his March 22 indictment but said he is cooperating with the government as the U.S. Attorney's Office continues looking at city matters.

"He's cooperated from the outset," Del Greco said after a hearing in Harper's case in the federal courthouse,



"(Harper's) cooperated from the outset. When the police asked him questions, he answered them."

ROBERT DEL GRECO
EX-POLICE CHIEF'S ATTORNEY

Downtown. "When the police asked him questions, he answered them." Leight told U.S. District Judge Cathy Bissoon that Harper likely will plead

Inside

» A councilman says he won't give up on a plan for off-duty officers to patrol the South Side. **A7**

guilty to federal charges sometime this summer. Harper did not attend the status conference.

The attorneys declined to say whether the FBI has questioned Harper about Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, who earlier said he had met with FBI agents and was told that he was not a target of the investigation.

Del Greco said it would be irresponsible for them to talk about the discussions and they have not seen all the evidence investigators have gathered.

"They have information that we're not privy to," he said. Ravenstahl asked for Harper's resignation Feb. 20.

HARPER · A7