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Moments of remembrance



Gene J. Puskar/AP

A visitor stands Friday at the temporary memorial for United Flight 93, near where the plane crashed on 9/11, in Shanksville, Pa.

Liberty Elementary School students sing 'America the Beautiful' during a ceremony Friday at the Danville school to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Special guests at the event included Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhauer, as well as police, fire, military and hospital officials.



Rick Danzl/The News-Gazette

Coming Sunday

Local teachers wrestle with helping students understand significance of what happened.



SEPT. 11: 10 YEARS LATER

N.Y. takes new threat in stride



Jin Lee/AP

A New York police officer examines the rear section of a truck at a vehicle checkpoint Friday in New York. The city is deploying additional resources and taking other security steps in response to a potential terror threat.

Security presence increased there, in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Undaunted by talk of a new terror threat, New Yorkers and Washingtonians wove among police armed with assault rifles and waited with varying degrees of patience at security checkpoints Friday while intelligence officials scrambled to nail down information on a possible al-Qaida strike timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Counterterrorism officials have been working around the clock to determine whether the threat is accurate, and extra security was put in

place to protect the people in the two cities that took the brunt of the jetliner attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon a decade ago. It was the worst terror assault in the nation's history, and al-Qaida has long dreamed of striking again to mark the anniversary. But it could be weeks before the intelligence community can say whether this particular threat is real.

Security worker Eric Martinez wore a pin depicting the twin towers on his lapel as he headed to work Friday in lower Manhattan, where he also worked 10 years ago when the towers came down. "If you're going to be afraid, you're just going to stay home," he said.

Please see THREAT, A-8

SEPT. 11: 10 YEARS LATER

Parkland professor eager to see Phoenix Park become reality

By PAUL WOOD
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Eight years after his team came up with the design, Kaizad Irani is ready to see the fruition of Phoenix Park, marking the rebirth of New York after Sept. 11, 2001, and his own love for his adopted land. The head of the horticulture program at Parkland, and also a sometime University of Illinois teacher, Irani (with a team of five) won a lightning-fast design competition in 2003.

competition, and how excited the department was when his team won.

The team was unpaid but full of enthusiasm in coming up with the design.

"Irani has a lot of artsy skills, and many interests that make him unique in the department," Henrikson said.

But, to Irani's mild disappointment, Phoenix Park will not quite be ready Sunday.

Irani said that had been the expected date, but forces out of his control have delayed the park's opening.

"It has been a long process. Not to point a finger at any one organization ... there



Robin Scholz/The News-Gazette

Parkland College Professor Kaizad Irani earlier this month holds up his team's design for Phoenix Park, which is being built at ground zero in New York.

were just many, many agencies involved with different interests," he said.

One fence recently had to be reworked to meet new safety standards, he said.

"There's a lot of logistics

when you have the New York Arts Commission, the park district and other interests trying to make things work. But it's working," Irani said.

Please see PARK, A-8

PRESIDENT'S JOBS PLAN

Obama's ideas merit fast review, GOP says

However, it could still be weeks or months before any debate begins

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans unexpectedly pledged an immediate review of President Barack Obama's jobs proposals on Friday as he launched a public campaign for urgent passage of his day-old \$447 billion program of tax cuts and new spending. "The time for gridlock and games is over," the president declared.

"Nothing radical in this bill," Obama told a large crowd at the University of Richmond on the afternoon after his dramatic speech to Congress. "Everything in it will put more people back to work and more money back in the pockets of those who are working. Everything in it will be paid for."

Obama's contentions are unlikely to go unchallenged by Republicans, who have worked without letup for months to cut spending rather than increase it. But he had barely completed his remarks when Speaker John Boehner and other top House GOP leaders released their letter to him declaring "our desire to work with you to find common ground."

With unemployment at 9.1 percent, they wrote that while their own proposals may differ from Obama's, "we believe your ideas merit consideration by the Congress and believe the American people expect them to be given such consideration."

The letter was far different in

tone from remarks earlier in the day by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Announcing plans to begin work on the legislation as soon as possible, the Nevada Democrat offered no timetable, and urged "reasonable Republicans to resist the voices of those who would oppose this legislation — and root for our economy to fail."

They must not "continue to bow to tea party Republicans willing to do anything to hurt the president." That is hurting our economy instead, he said.

Taken together, the day's events underscored the primacy of the issue of joblessness in a country where millions have been out of work for months, true unemployment exceeds the government's measurement of 9.1 percent and the economy is barely growing.

"This has been a terrible recession," Obama said in Richmond, although by traditional guidelines the downturn ended more than two years ago.

Public opinion surveys show Obama's approval sinking, but Congress' own marks are exceedingly low, and one of the major unknowns when lawmakers returned from their August vacation was whether political leaders would reach for compromise, or at least disagree more politely than they had this summer.

The president emphasized repeatedly in his speech to a joint session of Congress on Thursday night that his recommendations had been embraced in the past — and in some cases authored — by Republicans.

Please see JOBS, A-8

URBANA CITY COUNCIL

Roundabout idea going nowhere for now, mayor says

Cost estimates came in higher than Prussing says she expected

By PATRICK WADE
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URBANA — Despite a consultant's claims that roundabouts at two intersections would make the crossings safer, Mayor Laurel Prussing said on Friday that the city is unlikely to build the circular intersections in the near future.

She remains convinced, however, that roundabouts are "proven techniques" for reducing injurious and fatal accidents and said that she will continue investigating the special intersections. But for two intersections — at Florida Avenue and Philo Road and at Race Street and Windsor Road — where a consultant has already studied the effects roundabouts would have, "maybe those aren't the two best places to start," Prussing said.

The city paid Madison, Wis.-based Ourston Round-

about Engineering \$15,000 to study the two intersections and determine whether roundabouts would be practical replacements. Those two crossings were due for improvements anyway, so city officials decided to examine them more closely before they went ahead with traditional upgrades.

Mark Lenters, Ourston's president, reported his findings to the city council last month, when he said there is no question that roundabouts at those two intersections would make them safer. However, he added that it would not be the right financial choice for the Windsor-Race intersection.

Re-engineering the Florida-Philo intersection to develop a roundabout would cost about \$550,000 more than simply replacing the traffic signals, which are nearing the end of their life span. A roundabout would require a larger footprint at Windsor and Race, where it would cost \$851,000 more to construct a roundabout than it would to simply replace the four-way stop signs with traffic lights.

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