



The News Leader



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Saturday, September 10, 2011



Mike Tripp/The News Leader

ABOVE LEFT: A section of local artist Mark Cline's creation is hoisted Friday by ropes up the side of an abandoned eight-story apple storage warehouse, referred to as the "Ice House."
TOP RIGHT: Cline looks up the side of the building and checks the rope before hoisting upward a section of his creation.

ABOVE RIGHT: Volunteers and employees of Eddie Edwards Signs work on the installation. One of the 93-foot sections was caught by the wind, billowed outward and sent a metal cable into the power cables. The incident led to a power outage in the area. Visit www.newsleader.com for a photo gallery.

Wind damages 9/11 tribute



Mike Tripp/The News Leader

A Dominion employee works on the power lines near the "Ice House."

Cable from banner hits transformer, causes Waynesboro outage

By Spencer Dennis
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WAYNESBORO — A gust of wind blew a 93-foot-long banner from an art installation into the air, carrying with it a steel cable that crashed into and then fused with an electric transformer, leaving 670 residents and several businesses without power for about an hour.

"Thankfully no one was hurt," said Anne Seaton, chair of the Waynesboro 9/11 tribute commission, which is overseeing the project to convert the old ice-house building into a twin towers replica and memorial.

Workers had been holding the cable moments before it was snagged by the billowing banner and whipped into the air, onlookers said.

The incident could be a major blow to Waynesboro's 9/11 tribute, which had been planned for months to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of the event.

"We are going to try to get it back up tomorrow," Seaton said. "But it could be delayed until next week. We just don't know."

Please see **TRIBUTE**, back page this section

City teachers will have to repay raises

Staunton schools' computer glitch caused increase

Staff Reports

STAUNTON — Investigating further after an initial inquiry into a "hiccup" in the Staunton city schools' computer payroll system, it turns out that amount of accidental pay raises given some teachers amounted to \$6,000 more than originally thought, Superintendent Steve Nichols said Friday.

In mid-August, The News Leader requested an explanation about why during a time of a pay freeze a number of employees received salary increases. Nichols said earlier this month that 13 teachers had mistakenly received salary bumps, totaling \$9,738. As the situation was examined further, Nichols said Friday, it turns out that 31 teachers, all from the former Dixon Elementary School, received increases. Letters from the school system

to the affected teachers went out Thursday and Friday, informing them that they needed to repay the additional funds. Originally, Nichols said the teachers would keep the money but not receive salary increases when the pay freeze is over.

The school system has not given pay increases for three years, but employees' statuses change accordingly, so that when the pay freeze is released, they will be on track for appropriate salary changes. The salary increases ranged from \$140 to \$800 or \$900, Nichols said.

He said that the teachers are invited to meet with Charles Phibbs, who oversees the finance department, with any questions.

The payroll changes can be repaid over two years and taken out of paychecks, Nichols said.

The teachers who were affected all were employees at Dixon Elementary School that was closed two years ago, and they were reassigned to different schools. The computer glitch was connected to the changeover required by the transfers, Nichols said.

Area veterans find help

First Wounded Warriors program in area softens homecoming for returning troops

By Spencer Dennis
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STAUNTON — Of the 2.3 million U.S. soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 45,000 have been wounded in action, according to the Department of Defense.

More than 1,300 have had hands, feet, arms and legs amputated.

Many more bear scars that are never seen.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, a form of psychological trauma, is as debilitating to military veterans as physical wounds. More than 60 people — veterans, family of veterans and mental health professionals — attended the Virginia Wounded Warriors program Friday at Augusta Health, which aims to help veterans cope with civilian life.

Please see **VETS**, back page this section

WEEKLONG SERIES

As the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks approaches, The News Leader talks to people about their memories and thoughts.

- » **Sunday** — Coming to terms
- » **Monday** — Commemoration
- » **Tuesday** — A feeling of security
- » **Wednesday** — Opening to the world
- » **Thursday** — A test of faith
- » **Friday** — A new generation
- » **Today** — The front lines
- » **Sunday** — What it meant, what it will mean

WEB EXTRA

» Visit www.newsleader.com/sepember11 for complete coverage.

NEED HELP?

To get in touch with the Wounded Warriors program contact Brian Shaw at 434-972-1887 or bshaw@regionten.org.



New York, Washington aware of terror threat, not afraid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — 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 in lower Manhattan on Friday 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.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, too, made a point of taking the subway to City Hall.

Briefed on the threat Friday morning, President Barack Obama instructed his security team to take "all necessary precautions," the White House said. Obama still plans to travel to New York on Sunday to mark the

Please see **THREAT**, back page this section



Here's what's inside your paper, outside your window and on newsleader.com.

We pledge **ACCURACY**
We try to be perfect, but we're human. When we make a mistake, we correct it.

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On Monday, The News Leader along with other Gannett websites will exclusively offer streaming audio of Seger's music before its Tuesday release on iTunes. The digital launch will include classic live albums "Live Bullet" and "Nine Tonight," neither of which was previously available for download. A six-song EP of previously unreleased live tracks will be available for free download. Get it Monday on www.newsleader.com

Music legend Bob Seger and Capitol Records/EMI are partnering with Gannett for a one-day exclusive premiere of Seger's new live EP.



optimized website. Get headlines, weather, scores, traffic alerts and photo galleries at m.newsleader.com

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See The Community **CALENDAR** on Page **A4**

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