WEEK IN REVIEW; Sept. 7-13

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Body

Memorial Unveiled in Tears, Triumph Pentagon Site Unveiling Draws Thousands

The Pentagon Memorial to victims of the <u>Sept.</u> 11, 2001, attacks was dedicated Thursday. The two-acre site is the nation's first major permanent <u>Sept.</u> 11 memorial, its 184 benches honoring each of the victims. The site aims to tell the story of what happened <u>Sept.</u> 11 in symbolism, not words. Its benches are aligned along the path of Flight 77 and organized along a timeline.

They span from the youngest victim, 3-year-old Dana Falkenberg, to John D. Yamnicky Sr., 71, who was honored during the dedication, having survived two wars and five crashes as a Navy pilot, only to die as a passenger on Flight 77 when it hit the building where he worked.

Few Arrestees Found to Be Illegal Pr. William Chief Issues Report on Crackdown

Fewer than 2 percent of people charged with crimes in Prince William County since the well-publicized crackdown on illegal immigration began in March have turned out to be undocumented, Police Chief Charlie T. Deane told county supervisors.

In a status report on the first six months of the county's illegal immigration enforcement program, Deane told the supervisors that police questioned 626 illegal immigrants in all. Of those questioned, 341 were arrested, 196 were released with no charges and 89 were charged and released on summonses. Ten others were determined to be in the country legally.

Confusion Marks D.C. Vote Count In Council Primary, Carol Schwartz Loses

The D.C. government had its primary Tuesday, and the biggest loser appears to have been the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics. Confusion muted victory parties after candidates and their supporters took note of unusually high numbers of write-in votes in several races. It turned out that they were phantom votes -- eventually removed from the tallies.

The problem didn't change any outcomes. Five incumbents won the Democratic primary, and one, Carol Schwartz (R-At Large) was defeated in her race. D.C. officials initially blamed a defective computer cartridge for the vote

counting difficulties, but the company that supplied the equipment said its machinery was fine and raised the possibility of human error.

Fenty Outlines School Modernizations Critics Want Details on \$1.5 Billion Upgrades

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty presented the outlines of a \$1.5 billion modernization plan that he promises will place all D.C. schoolchildren in dramatically improved buildings by 2014.

The blueprint drew criticism almost immediately for its abbreviated timetable and shortage of details. It did not specify estimated costs for each school project.

Fenty (D), who has staked his political future on transforming the city's low-performing school system, wants at least some physical improvement to all the District's 120 schools -- 62 elementary, 12 middle, 18 high, 22 pre-K-8 and 6 special education -- between 2009 and 2014. High schools would have the most ambitious overhaul, officials said.

Police Disability Retirements Probed 'Questionable Practices' Cited in Montgomery

More than 60 percent of Montgomery County police officers who retired in the past four years are collecting disability payments, including one who was a top finisher in a fitness contest a year after retiring on disability, according to an interim report released Monday by the inspector general's office.

Inspector General Thomas J. Dagley cited "questionable practices" and patterns or behaviors that a "prudent person would consider abusive." And he called on county officials to tighten oversight of the \$32 million program.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) has acknowledged problems with the system, but he took issue with some of the report's findings. Retirees who qualify for service-related disability receive two-thirds of their salary tax-free for life. An officer who retires without disability after 25 years generally receives about 60 percent of his or her salary, and the benefit drops significantly when the retiree begins to collect Social Security.

Graphic

IMAGE; By Richard A. Lipski -- The Washington Post; A Day of Tears, Triumph Service members remove covers from the benches of the new Pentagon Memorial. The memorial was unveiled Thursday, drawing thousands.

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