

Inside Towers

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Investments Keep Climbing



Edgewater Growth Capital Partners announced their recent investment in Vertical Bridge Holdings, owner and manager of wireless communications infrastructure. Vertical Bridge is following in the footsteps of their founding partners' predecessor, Global Tower Partners who was acquired by American Tower in 2013 for \$4.8 billion. The company is acquiring cell towers and rooftop cell sites to build out their mobile communications network. Edgewater Growth Capital Partners has made an undisclosed investment in Vertical Bridge so no financial terms were disclosed. Vertical Bridge was founded by former COO of GTP,

Alex Gellman while being managed and backed by critical members of the team that grew GTP from its inception as a start-up in 2002 to its successful exit as a market leader in October 2013. Most recently, on October 1, 2014, Vertical Bridge announced the acquisition of six additional tower portfolio assets in the Great Lakes region, through the Eastern US, Puerto Rico, and a number of Southern markets. "VB continues to grow at an accelerated pace, taking advantage of a very healthy M&A pipeline. We are closing deals with known partners who successfully worked with us before and also many new partners who like our approach to the M&A process. We also are excited to be back in Puerto Rico, which we view as an attractive region", said Gellman.

An advertisement for the Miller AirCore Tower Climbing Harness. The image shows a worker in a harness on a tower, a close-up of the harness, and the Miller logo. Text includes "NEW!", "COMFORT IN THE AIR", "Miller AirCore™ Tower Climbing Harness", and "Miller by Honeywell".

NEW! COMFORT IN THE AIR
Miller AirCore™
Tower Climbing Harness
MILLER
by Honeywell
Honeywell

Worker Falls from Delaware Water Tower

A worker was seriously injured when he fell about 70-feet from a water tower in Mill Creek, Delaware, on October 8. No information was available about who employed the worker or why he was coming down the tower after dark. However, the family of the injured worker reached out industry professional, Wade Sarver, who clarified that the man was working on the Sprint Spark deployment when he fell onto an ice bridge and was seriously injured. According to The News Journal in Delaware, the man suffered serious leg injuries from the fall, but was conscious and alert when paramedics arrived on the scene.

Man Shocked and Burned While Working on Tower

In the Polkton Township of Michigan, rescue crews responded to a call after a man was shocked and burned Friday, October 17, while working on a commercial tower. According to WZZM-TV, "The

Ottawa County Sheriff's Office says the 22-year-old Lansing-area man was part of a crew working on the tower, measuring a section of it. Wind blew his measuring tape into a high-tension wire. The measuring tape became energized and burned the man's arms. The man was working more than 100-feet above the ground, and his coworkers helped him down. An ambulance treated him at the scene and then took him to Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids for further treatment."

FairPoint Strike Could Affect Thousands of People in Maine



Last Thursday, October 16, employees at FairPoint Communications went on strike, which could potentially affect the thousands of people in the area if the strike continues for more than a few months. FairPoint Communications owns and operates a large part of Maine's telecommunications infrastructure, including nearly 300,000 telephone poles that the company leases to carriers. The Press Herald reported, "FairPoint's network provides an essential backbone infrastructure to many other telecom providers in the state, so anything that could affect the performance of that network could have implications for those other providers," Tim Schneider, Maine's public ad-

ocate, said Friday. The strike could also affect the state's new 911 system, but Schneider explained they are going to meet with FairPoint representatives to learn more about how the company is going to deal with storms and other situations that could threaten the viability of the network. "We think it's unlikely we'll see immediate service quality issues, but what typically happens in situations like this is that over time, because the company is working with fewer workers and a replacement workforce, you may see lags in service," Schneider said. (Press Herald)

Sarah Palin to Deliver Keynote Address at NATE UNITE 2015

NATE announced that Sarah Palin will deliver the keynote address at NATE UNITE 2015 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. NATE UNITE 2015 will take place February 23 – February 26, 2015 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and will mark the Association's 20th anniversary celebration. "We are excited to have Sarah Palin join us in February to help us celebrate NATE's 20th anniversary," said NATE Chairwoman Pat Cipov of Cipov Enterprises, Inc. in Sumter, South Carolina. "Sarah Palin is a dynamic speaker and we are confident that NATE members will relate to her personal narrative of possessing a positive attitude, a relentless determination, an adventurous spirit and love of the outdoors," remarked Cipov. Registration for NATE UNITE 2015 is now open and accessible through the NATE website.

Suspect Arrested After Wisconsin Radio Tower Wire Stolen

Cell tower theft has been a huge problem lately, but the good news is that suspects are being arrested, with the latest occurring in Monroe, Wisconsin. The radio station had wire and components taken from the tower last week. According to Madison.com, "Paul Rose, 29, Carencro, Louisiana, was tentatively charged with felony theft, the Green County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. The theft was reported on October 9 from the WEKZ radio tower site on Franklin Road." An area salvage dealer identified Rose along with his vehicle information, which provided authorities with an address leading to an arrest.

Storms Take Out Tower in Louisiana

Early last week, severe storms swept through Northeast Louisiana causing damages to houses, power lines, and even communications towers. The storms knocked down the tower at KMCT in

West Monroe along with doing much damage to West Monroe High School. The school had pieces of the roof on one of the buildings ripped off. The debris ended up scattered across the street and neighborhood in power lines and front lawns. If you know of any other damage to towers in the area, or have any pictures, let us know!

Verizon Outages in New York This Weekend

Verizon experienced some equipment failure on Friday, October 17, which affected their 1x and 3G voice and data service in parts of Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. Their 4G LTE data service remained fully operational. Reuters reported that the company received over 700 reports of outages in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Manhattan. The outage follows a series of disruptions to Verizon's phone, Internet and 911 services in the Washington D.C. region in the last two weeks.



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Tower Ticker

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE	CHG & % CHG	DAY'S LOW & HIGH	VOLUME
★ AMT	04:02pm EDT 94.09	+0.92 +0.99%	92.83 94.13	1,285,124
★ CCI	04:02pm EDT 82.46	+1.62 +2.00%	80.45 82.51	1,769,408
★ CIGW	03:02pm EDT 0.30	-0.04 -11.76%	0.28 0.30	40,300
★ SBAC	04:00pm EDT 108.99	+0.69 +0.64%	108.11 110.15	1,277,966
★ TMUS	04:01pm EDT 26.96	+0.85 +3.26%	26.42 27.06	3,318,658
★ VZ	04:00pm EDT 48.48	+0.41 +0.85%	47.81 48.54	11,914,712
★ S	04:00pm EDT 6.10	+0.07 +1.16%	5.98 6.15	10,298,408
★ T	04:01pm EDT 34.28	+0.20 +0.59%	33.84 34.29	14,197,655

American Tower Corp Given BBB Credit Rating

American Tower has earned a “BBB” credit rating from analysts at Morningstar. The research firm’s “BBB” rating indicates that the company is a moderate default risk. They also gave their stock a four star rating. According to John Miller at Sleek money, “A number of other analysts have also recently weighed in on AMT. Analysts at Zacks reiterated a ‘neutral’ rating on shares of American Tower Corp in a research note on Friday, September 5. They now have a \$104.00 price target on the stock. Separately, analysts at Morgan Stanley downgraded shares of American Tower Corp from an ‘overweight’ rating to an ‘equal weight’ rating in a research note on Wednesday, September 3. They now have a \$98.00 price target on the stock, down previously from \$101.00. They noted that the move was a valuation call. Finally, analysts at Goldman Sachs initiated coverage on shares of American Tower Corp in a research note on Tuesday, September 2. They set a ‘buy’ rating on the stock.”

Resident Unable to Reach 911 Due to Lack of Cell Service

Local resident of Deerfield, Virginia, Michelle Harris recently experienced how scary not having cell service can be. Harris recently slipped and fell, and due to a lack of cell phone coverage, couldn't contact anyone for over an hour and a half. "Very scary! You don't know when an emergency like that is going to happen," said Harris. "I wouldn't have wished that on my worst enemy, it was horrible." She thinks that the situation could've gone much better if Deerfield's cell coverage were improved. Chief Tom Peters thinks it could mean the difference between life and death. "It can help speed up progress in the rescue calls," said Peters. "Once in a while, we'll be on a call and ECC wants us to contact them and we have no way of contacting them." The town already has a cell tower, but Harris says it's not being used to provide service to the area yet. She hopes that changes soon. "One day there's going to be an emergency and somebody's going to really need to call for help and they're not going to be able to do it," she explained. Harris says she plans to submit a petition to Verizon to provide full service to the area.

Ohio School District Won't Move Forward with Tower Plan

Unless Verizon can change the minds of concerned parents in Columbus, Ohio, their plan to build a tower at Asbury Elementary school will not likely move forward. District Treasurer Tony Swartz said at the October 8 school board meeting that after discussions with the Madison Township trustees and the Franklin County Zoning Commission, it was up to either the school district or Verizon Wireless to reach out to community members to decide whether the plan for the tower should be sent for zoning review. Swartz told school board members that the county zoning commission is unwilling to hold what it would consider to be a special public hearing at the school. He also spoke with the district's lawyer about the matter and was told it is common for districts to place cell towers on school grounds, but any liability related to the tower would be placed on Verizon Wireless, not the district. "If we can't get someone out to speak with the community, because we haven't had anyone other than Verizon say they want the tower, I would rather table this unless it's something the board feels strongly about," Superintendent Bruce Hoover said. School board members said unless Verizon Wireless takes the lead to reach out to the community and build support for the project, they consider the project over. "I don't see Verizon moving forward," board President Bryan Shoemaker said. "They haven't done the outreach I thought they said they were going to do after the last time we met with them." This is not officially an action item for us, but this seems like it's a dead issue from the start."

Cell Tower Decision Delayed Again in Massachusetts

A decision on a controversial cell tower has once again been put on hold. The Methuen, Massachusetts, Community Development Board postponed the decision because not enough members were in attendance at their last meeting to get an accurate vote. The 90-foot tower that Verizon has proposed has been unable to get a vote for a variety of reasons ranging from absent board members to Verizon failing to advertise the public hearing. Meanwhile, there is a core group of about 50 residents who have been fighting the proposed tower, calling it unnecessary and not aesthetically pleasing. Community Development Director William Buckley said he expects five members at their next meeting, enough that a vote could be taken on whether to grant Verizon a special permit to build the tower in the rural residential neighborhood. But Verizon asked for a delay because that permit requires approval from at least five of the board's seven members. "They like to have cushion of one or two members," Buckley explained.