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NFL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Rookie QB showdown

Page 15

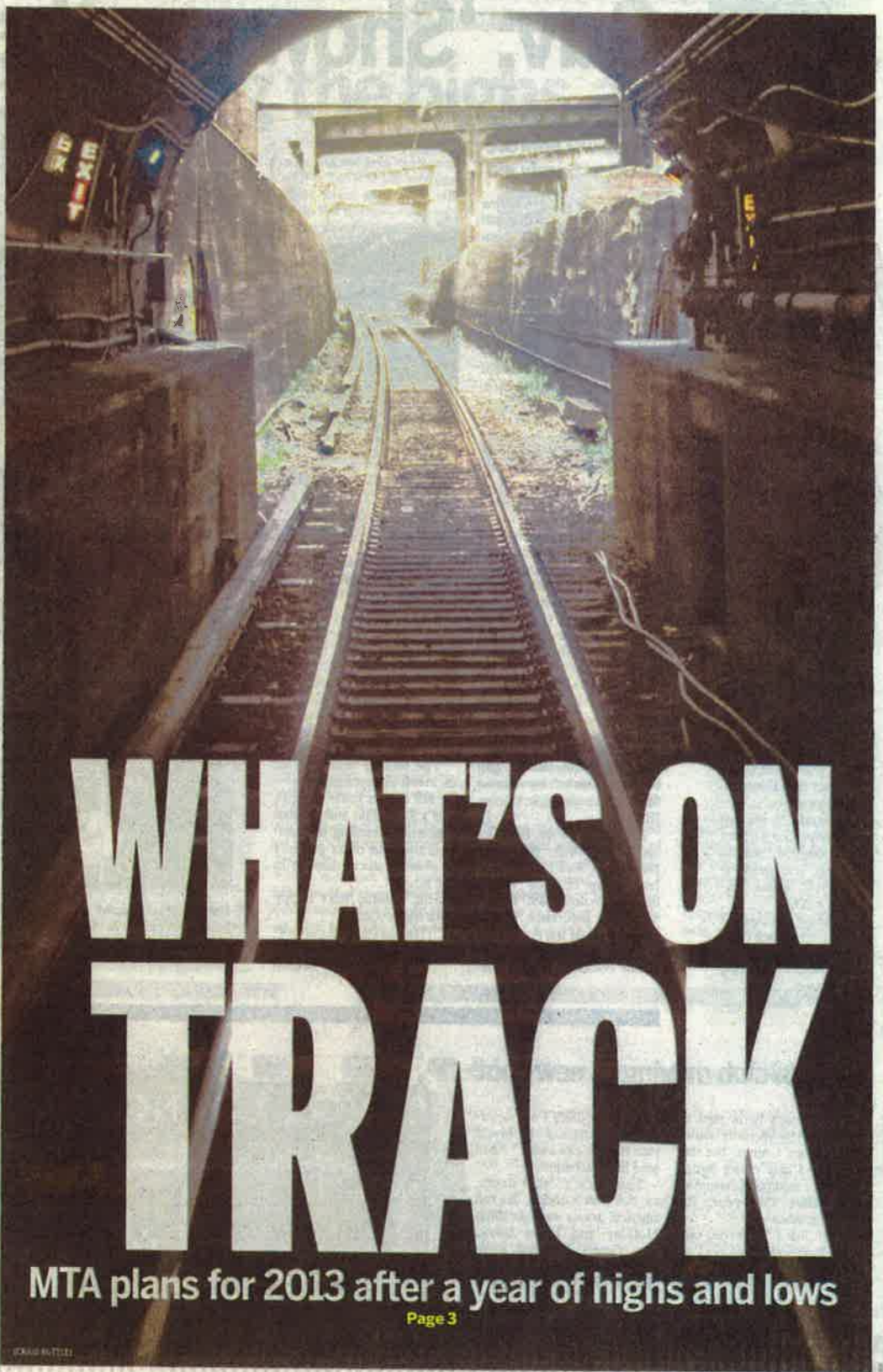


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WHAT'S ON TRACK

MTA plans for 2013 after a year of highs and lows

Page 3

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Straphangers were mostly back in business quickly despite the effects of Superstorm Sandy. (PHOTOS: GETTY)

Riding the highs and lows

BY TIM HERRERA
timherrera@am-ny.com

Between Superstorm Sandy, fare hikes and construction, 2012 was a turbulent year for the MTA, and 2013 may be even more wild.

The Straphangers Campaign released on Thursday its third annual ranking of the best and worst subway and bus events of the year, with superstorm Sandy coming in as the worst and the heroic cleanup effort in its wake as the best.

"It has been a tumultuous year for city subways and buses, with superstorms, fare hikes and MTA chairmen coming and going," said Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for the group.

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said the agency is "glad that Gene recognizes all of the positive steps we've taken to improve the system over the past year."

We looked at three of the events from both lists and how they may affect the agency this year.

BEST

● **Transit rebounds quickly in the wake of Sandy:** The MTA's massive cleanup efforts gave a spike of approval for the oft-derided agency, which some have suggested played a part in departing chief Joe Lhota's possible mayoral run this year.

● **MTA uses technology to make life easier for its customers:** The agency just

launched the beta version of an app that will tell you precisely when your train will get to the station — but only for numbered lines. Still, it's likely that the service will continue to grow in 2013. Likewise, two full waves of cellular and Wi-Fi service are expected to be completed this year, bringing service to major hubs including Columbus Circle and Times Square by March and to much of midtown and Queens by December.

● **Select Bus Service expands:** The plight of the city's pokey buses is largely resolved by SBS, which speeds up service through advance paying, special lanes and more. The MTA will continue to roll out more service in 2013, with new routes expected in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.

WORST

● **Superstorm Sandy hit:** In the defining moment for the MTA in 2012, the superstorm shut down the entire system. It is still recovering. Some \$5 billion in damage was racked up, some of which may trickle down to riders, the Straphangers Campaign reported. The Rockaways are still without subway service, and the agency has estimated it may take until spring to restore it.

● **Fare increase:** The fourth hike in five years will hit commuters March 1, driving up the monthly unlimited card to \$112 from \$104, and



Thousands wait to board city buses into Manhattan at Brooklyn's Barclays Center after Superstorm Sandy.

WORST

1 Superstorm Sandy hits

2 Sandy costs riders big, to the tune of tens of millions of dollars in interest on bonds

3 The revolving door keeps swinging as MTA's Joe Lhota resigns

4 Fares increase

5 Subway crime is up

6.6% for the first 11 months of 2012 compared to the same time period in 2011

6 The Second Ave. subway had an accidental explosion

7 Fare beating on buses is worse than thought, with the MTA losing about \$50 million annually

8 Assaults continue against bus workers and other transit employees

9 Plans to install Wi-Fi and cell service at 30 stations were delayed because of Sandy

10 The MTA payroll tax was held unconstitutional by a state court judge

the base fare up a quarter to \$2.50. Since 2010, the price of a monthly has gone up \$23, or a 25% increase.

● **Revolving door:** Lhota's departure to pursue a possible mayoral run this year makes him the sixth MTA chief to

depart in six years. Though all leaders have left for varying reasons, the Straphangers Campaign argues that the high turnover "has not helped the cause of winning safe, reliable and affordable transit."

Hillary's back to work next week

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is resting at home in New York after being treated for a blood clot and plans to return to her office next week, the State Department said on Thursday.

Clinton, 65, has suffered a series of ailments over the last month, including a stomach virus, a concussion and a blood clot in a vein behind her right ear. She was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital on Wednesday after a stay of several days. (AP/WIDE WORLD)

2 cops shot in Bx., B'klyn

Two cops were shot in separate incidents Thursday within the span of an hour, according to the NYPD and published reports.

The first cop was off-duty when he was wounded as he tried to stop three men from robbing a car dealership in Bronxdale at 6:30 p.m., according to published reports.

The NYPD confirmed he was shot (AP/WIDE WORLD)

and taken to Jacob I Medical Center.

Police arrested one suspect at the scene and apprehended two others, according to published reports.

The second officer was shot while on duty at the N train station at Fort Hamilton Parkway and 62nd Street in Brooklyn, according to the Daily News. Police didn't confirm the shooting. (AP/WIDE WORLD)



Adele's '21' reigns again in 2012

Adele's Grammy-winning "21" scored a rare feat in 2012 as it topped album sales for a second straight year, beating out Taylor Swift's "Red," Nielsen SoundScan said Thursday.

It was the first time the feat had been accomplished since Nielsen began tracking album sales in 1991, the organization said.

Album sales overall fell 4% in

2012 to 315.96 million albums, after 2011 saw a rare 3% bump in sales.

Adele's "21" sold 4.41 million units in 2012 to top Swift's "Red," which sold 3.11 million copies. In 2011, "21" sold 5.82 million units.

"It's a sort of a once-in-a-lifetime album," Keith Caulfield, associate director of charts at Billboard, said of "21."

"Only a few of these albums come along in history." (AP/WIDE WORLD)

The album sold 4.41 million units last year. (AP/WIDE WORLD)

DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

Editorial p22
 Weather, Horoscope p32
 NOW p33
 Comics, Crossword p38-39
 Movie Reviews p37
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 Sports p46
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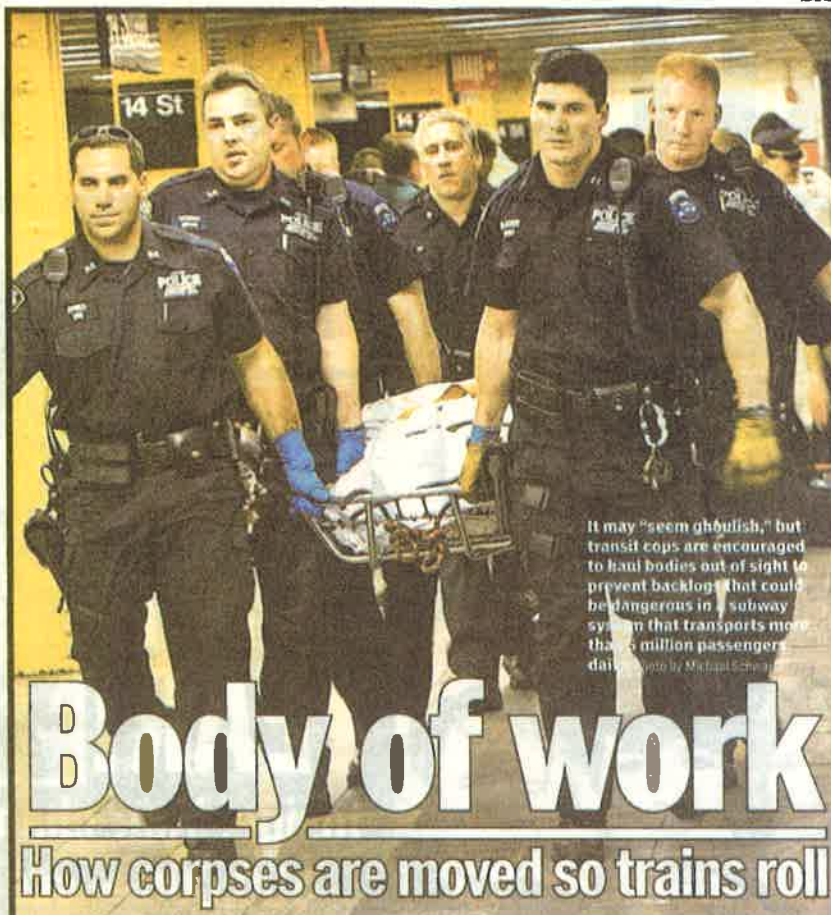
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WEDNESDAY HIGH: 42° / LOW: 33°	THURSDAY HIGH: 42° / LOW: 25°



It may "seem ghoulish," but transit cops are encouraged to haul bodies out of sight to prevent backlog that could be dangerous in a subway system that transports more than 6 million passengers daily. Photo by Michael Scherer

Body of work

How corpses are moved so trains roll

IN THE subway, the show must go on — even if it means stashing a body in the closet.

Roughly 140 people are hit by trains every year, yet millions of customers demand interruption-free service, so the police sometimes have to tuck a corpse into a nonpublic area of a station until the medical examiner shows up to take it away.

"If hauling a body to a side room seems ghoulish, remember that 5 1/2 million people ride the subway every day," a transit official said. "Every minute a train is stopped, a backlog builds — and it's not just measured by minutes, but by tens of thousands of people stuck."

The NYPD's patrol guide gives guidance to the unfortunate transit officer facing such circumstances.

"A body, offensive to public decency, may be removed from a public place. Unnecessary inter-



PETE DONOHUE
ON THE SUBWAYS

ruption of train service can inconvenience thousands of passengers and endanger public welfare. In addition, unnecessary interruption can increase temperatures significantly in trains and stations, and may cause panic on crowded trains stopped in tunnels. Service will be interrupted only when absolutely necessary."

About a third of the 140 people hit by trains yearly are killed. Some are murders — like the two high-profile cases in December — but the vast majority of man-meets-train encounters are deliberate suicides or accidents involving the extremely intoxicated.

But in all cases, the bodies need to be moved. Such was the case on Nov. 25,

a Sunday, at the Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall station.

A motorman notified the Rail Control Center at 4:17 p.m. that his southbound express hit someone as the train was entering the station. About 500 passengers were booted from the train; the platform was cleared and then roped off with yellow police tape. Officers interviewed witnesses and determined that no crime had been committed.

About an hour later, firefighters or a police Emergency Service Unit officer removed the deceased from the tracks, according to the police and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Minutes later, cops carried the body to a room on the mezzanine level, the agencies said. An officer was posted outside.

Service was restored even before the body had been removed from the station.

The show must go on
pdonohue

Obama will push boost for immigs

PRESIDENT Obama will press Congress to pass far-reaching reform of U.S. immigration law this year, including a means for undocumented immigrants to become citizens, it was reported Sunday.

Obama may detail his immigration wish list in his State of the Union speech next month. The New York Times reported, citing administration officials.

Obama and Senate Democrats want one, large legislative package, and will oppose any GOP attempt to deal with immigration issues piecemeal, the report noted. The President is expected to oppose any proposal that does not permit immigrants who gain legal status to become citizens.

He will argue that his plan is not amnesty, but would instead compel those who want to be citizens to pay fines and back taxes. Also expected is a plan for employers to verify the legal status of new workers. **Staff Report**

Colin rips GOP 'intolerance'

FORMER Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sunday called out senior Republican Party leaders for not opposing "a dark vein of intolerance" within the fold.

Some in the GOP "still sort of look down on minorities," Powell, a Republican, said on NBC's "Meet the Press." He referred to recent comments Republicans have made about President Obama, including Sarah Palin's use of the slavery-era term "shuckin' and jivin'."

He also took issue with the birther movement, which challenges the President's birth certificate. "Why can't

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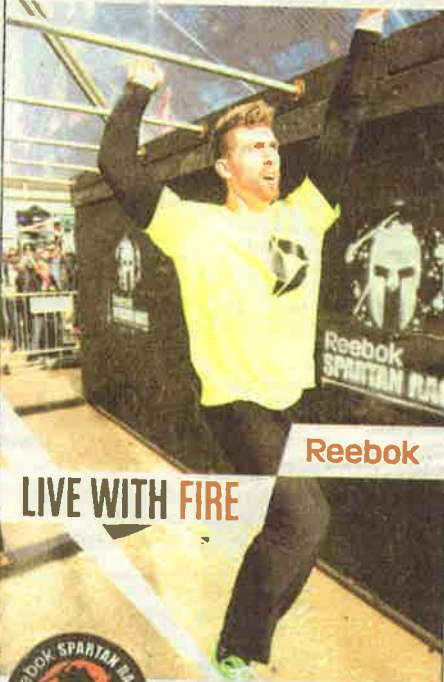
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News

Lhota's push to bring back commuter tax



Dan Janison

dan.janison@newsday.com

New York City's best-known Republican mayoral candidate, Joseph Lhota, says without hesitation that "there needs to be an open discussion" of bringing back a commuter tax on those who work in the city but live elsewhere.

"A lot of people who live outside the City of New York are protected every day by the police department and the fire department and all of our emergency services," says Lhota, the MTA chairman. "There needs to be a way to have that discussion."

Suburbanites would protest the move, which the State Legislature would need to approve.

Previous appeals to revive the tax have been blocked in Albany. Worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually, the tax was suddenly and controversially allowed to expire in the late 1990s.

On a national stage, ex-Mayor Rudy Giuliani, for whom Lhota was a top aide, drew fire in 2007 from then-rival GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney for having



Former MTA chief Joseph Lhota is running for mayor on the Republican ticket.

(CHARLES EDEBENT)

tried to keep the tax and even raise it.

But at City Hall, support for the tax is widespread.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, a Democratic mayoral hopeful, would support the tax's return.

Same goes for City Comptroller John Liu and Public Advocate Bill de Blasio.

Democratic former Comptroller Bill Thompson called for its restoration in 2002, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg did so in 2003.

In his pitch for the tax as a candidate, Lhota puts his

background and skills front and center.

His quick and blunt answer to an interviewer's spontaneous question characterizes his style.

Lhota also says he'd "absolutely" keep the city a bastion of strict gun-control laws. "The reduction in murders in this city is directly related to taking guns off the street," he says.

From the outset, his party affiliation in a city with a 6-1 Democratic-to-Republican edge makes him an underdog. But Lhota — who firmly

and accurately predicted years ago as he suffered from lymphoma that he would beat the disease — offers a general scenario for winning this race.

"New Yorkers have never voted party line," he says. "They always vote for the person they believe will do the best job. So as this campaign gets going, I will make it a point to show why I will be different as mayor than any of the other candidates. — It's going to be about issues. It's going to be about leadership skills."

On the mend, Koch may go home soon

How's he doing? Much better, thank you!

Former Mayor Ed Koch, 88, underwent evaluations and was expected to be released from the hospital by this weekend, according to his spokesman, George Arzt.

"He told me, 'I really look terrific,'" due to a substantial weight loss resulting from his hospital treatment, Arzt said.

Koch, who has been hospitalized three times in the last five months, was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Saturday night for swelling of his ankles and fluid in his lungs.

CORBIS OUTLINE PHOTO

Three new "Star Wars" movies are on the way, starting in 2015.



J.J. to master new 'Star Wars' flick

J.J. Abrams may be the chosen one that brings new life to the force.

The Wrap and Deadline reported Thursday that the "Lost" co-creator is the director for the next "Star Wars" movie, beating out other big name directors like Ben Affleck for the anticipated spot.

Abrams, 46, is no stranger to taking the helm of a blockbuster sci-fi franchise, as his 2009 take on "Star Trek" was a hit. He's currently finishing postproduction work on its sequel, "Star Trek Into Darkness," which hits theaters this summer. Abrams' representatives couldn't be reached for comment.

In October, "Star Wars" creator George Lucas sold his company to Disney, which will produce a new trilogy of films set after the originals. The first new movie is set to arrive in 2015.



J.J. Abrams

(MIAMI HERALD)

Alarm over track tragedies



Renewed call for platform barriers

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@nny.com

A rash of subway deaths this year — from people being pushed onto the tracks to suicides — is reigniting calls for the MTA to move toward installing safety barriers and take other steps to protect straphangers.

The agency is set to discuss platform safety at a board meeting today, as yet another person jumped in front of a train yesterday in an apparent suicide. And last week, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer was joined by politicians and an MTA board member in asking the agency's inspector general to investigate the cause of the spate and the feasibility of installing the barriers.

"Another attempted suicide cannot become a common-place occurrence in one of the largest transit systems in the world," Stringer said of yesterday's incident, in which a man jumped in front of an R train in Brooklyn. The unidentified man died last night.

"This is a troubling and dangerous trend with serious implications for the millions of commuters who ride the subway each day," Stringer said.

This year, seven people have died after being hit by subways, and Stringer's office projects a record-breaking 100 deaths in 2013 if the trend continues. In 2012, 55



Top: Police carry a body after an apparent suicide in a Times Square subway station on Jan. 22. (AP/WIDE WORLD)



Left: A rendering of possible safety barriers for subway stations. (CROWN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS)

people were killed after being struck by subways, out of 141 total who were hit. In 2011, 47 died out of 146 struck.

The agency has looked at installing platform barriers in the past. In 2007, Crown Infrastructure Solutions, an architectural and engineer-

ing firm, began talks with the agency to build out a full network of barriers with no charge to the MTA or straphangers, in return for being able to sell advertising on built-in screens. The barriers would have been see-through and extend from the platform to the ceiling, with

sliding doors that line up with the doors on the subway cars.

But after about four years of on-and-off talks and a full proposal from Crown, the project stalled, and the firm has since moved on to other transit systems, according to Michael Santora, president

of the company.

"The MTA really just never moved forward on their part. We got as far as we could," Santora told amNewYork. "We never got any negative feedback from them that it wasn't a good system, it's just that no one's ever made a real move for it," he said, estimating that the project would've cost about \$1.5 million to \$2 million per station.

Santora said that he hopes the increased focus on subway safety might reinvigorate interest in New York.

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz declined to say whether the barriers would be discussed at today's meeting, and he declined any com-

ment for this article.

John Samuelson, president of the MTA workers' union, said the union is "willing to explore any options to end the rash of rider deaths, including barriers," but that there are safety concerns that come with them.

"If something catastrophic happened, like a train entered the station while workers were on the tracks and it's a perfect storm of many redundancies failing, the only option is to jump up on the station platform," Samuelson said. "With the barriers, that avenue of escape wouldn't be possible."

Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for the Straphangers Campaign, said barriers should be given a serious look, but that there are many obstacles.

"Obviously their cost and how feasible is it to put them in 468 stations, many, many of which have different designs," Russianoff said.

He added: "My bottom line is that people being struck or killed on a subway platform is a serious problem that deserves a serious answer."

Some commuters said they supported building the barriers.

"People have the tendency to cross the yellow line here and it would stop them from falling," said Marjan Adarkwa, 26, a Baychester straphanger.

Lin Lee, 27, of Flushing, agreed.

"Absolutely," Lee said of building the barriers. "It's kind of scary to listen to that kind of news so it makes sense." (WITH ANNA SAMBERS)



WABC's Liz Cho with winner Carlos Betancourt.



Charlandra Gibson and Giants legend Carl Banks.



William Allen and News Editor-in-Chief Colin Myler.



Bruce Petry and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.



Marcia Seale and Brett Nias with News Chairman and Publisher Mortimer B. Zuckerman (center).

Justifiably proud
Hometown Heroes
in Transit pose
with awards.
Photos by Susan Watts
and Craig Wraga/
Daily News



ROAD TO

News honors 11 transit workers

BY VERA CHINESE AND BARRY PADDOCK
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE CITY EMBRACED a fresh crop of heroes Tuesday when the Daily News honored 11 transit workers in its first Hometown Heroes in Transit Awards.

The humble heroes sat at round tables in the elegant, high-ceilinged 583 Park Ave. ballroom, surrounded by loved ones.

One by one they were called to the stage, posing for photographers and television news crews. Each accepted a medal, a plaque and a \$1,000 check — courtesy of New York's Hometown Newspaper.

"Every day is an adventure working in transit," said Carlos Betancourt, an MTA revenue collection agent, after getting his award.

Betancourt saved a man in a wheelchair who, reaching for his fallen Bible, tumbled onto the tracks in front of an oncoming train in a Harlem station. Betancourt injured his own leg when he leaped to the tracks and — with the help of straphangers — hauled the 300-pound man to safety in December 2010.

Betancourt was thrilled at Tuesday's breakfast to rub shoulders with Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

"I look up to him," an awed Betancourt said. "I actually got to meet my hero today."

Kelly was on hand to present an award to Bruce Petry, who worked as an NYPD cop for 20 years.

More recently, as a subway motorman, Petry pulled to safety a cop who had been tussling with a man near the edge of a platform at the Utica Ave. station in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He prevented the cop from tumbling onto the platform and helped the officer subdue the suspect.

"He was and will always be one of New York's Finest," Kelly said of Petry, who attended with his beaming wife and son.

"Bruce fulfilled a lifetime ambition, a dream, by becoming a subway motorman in the MTA. Yet he never lost the instincts that made him such a valuable police officer."

Some honorees at the event, sponsored by the Municipal Credit Union, had a long list of impressive deeds.

"If you're lucky enough to get on the Q76, you're going to find that there is someone who has not just a story, but a miniseries of heroism," said presenter Michael Gargiulo, WNBC "Today in New York" anchor, as he handed an award to bus driver Glen Moyles.





Reuben Cornick and CBS 2 anchor Mary Calvi.



Jeffrick Dean and celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson.



Glen Moyles and WNBC co-anchor Michael Gargiulo.



John Perez and Daily News columnist Mike Lupica.



Steve St. Bernard and NY1 anchor Pat Kiernan.

HEROISM

Went above & beyond call of duty

Moyles' on-the-job feats over the years include pulling a suicidal man off the overpass he was dangling from. He also reunited with his family a mentally disabled boy who was lost and shivering in the cold. And Moyles adopted an abandoned puppy he nearly ran over during a blizzard.

"I just did what comes naturally," Moyles said after collecting his award. "If you don't get involved, anything can happen."

The contest was launched in July in conjunction with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Transport Workers Union Local 100. Nominations poured in from riders, relatives and co-workers of heroic transit workers, spurred on by posters in subways and bus depots and a series of News articles.

"The idea of the awards is to shine a light on the bravery, compassion and unselfish dedication of our transit workers," News Editor-in-Chief Colin Myler told the crowd Tuesday. "Without them, New York would not be New York."

Pat Kiernan, an NY1 morning anchor, emceed the event. He said there are countless heroes among transit workers.

"We know that we're going to have a full slate of nominees for next year's awards," he said.



The News picked 20 heroes as the cream of the crop and presented them to an all-star panel of judges, including former Mets pitcher R.A. Dickey, former New York Giants linebacker and Super Bowl champion Carl Banks, talk show host and author Wendy Williams and then-MTA Chairman Joe Lhota, who has since resigned to run for mayor.

Lhota attended the awards, and Banks presented a medal to bus driver Charlandra Gibson, a former nurse who saved a passenger choking on a piece of candy by leaping from behind the wheel to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

"The best part of it all was it made her day to save a person's life and to do something good," Banks said. "I think that's what it's all about."

Each of the winners was given a copy of a state Assembly resolution from Speaker Sheldon Silver, praising them for their service to the city.

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THE NEWS SAYS: We're proud to salute little-known transit heroes.

SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 24

NY1 anchor Pat Kiernan, the master of ceremonies.



Mideast on Kerry's mind

NEWLY CONFIRMED Secretary of State Kerry reached out to Israeli and Palestinian leaders this weekend, assuring them the Obama administration will continue to pursue a Mideast peace agreement while recognizing each side's concerns.

Kerry told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of his and President Obama's commitment to support Israel's security and to pursue a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. They discussed Iran and Syria, and pledged to work together closely. Kerry also commended the Israeli decision to release frozen tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority as an important step.

In his conversation Sunday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Kerry said Obama "is very interested in the peace process and aware of the economic hardships of the Palestinian people," Abbas spokesman Nabel Abu Rdeneh said. **AP**

Things looking up, says Iran

IRAN CONSIDERS an offer to negotiate directly with the U.S. a "step forward" and expects to resume long-stalled discussions with world powers this month, the nation's foreign minister said.

Talks aimed at ending the crisis over Iran's disputed nuclear program will be held in Kazakhstan on Feb. 25, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said Sunday at the Munich Security Conference.

The day before at the same conference, Vice President Biden said the U.S. will offer bilateral negotiations if Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is prepared for "serious" negotiations.

"The leader has said it over and over, that negotiation with the U.S. has meaning only when it comes on equal footing," Salehi said. **Bloomberg News**

It was police who beat me: Egyptian

CAIRO - An Egyptian man who was beaten and dragged naked during a violent protest changed his story Sunday, saying security forces harmed him - a day after he accused protesters of undressing and assaulting him.

The beating was broadcast live on TV late Friday. It showed police trying to bundle the naked man into a van after beating him.

The beating prompted a rare statement of regret from the Interior Ministry. The president's office called the assault "shocking."

Hamda Saber was being treated at a hospital when he initially blamed protesters. But family and friends pressured him to tell the truth, he said. **The Associated Press**

PETE DONOHUE
ON THE SUBWAYS

Abuse of conductors and cable theft are part of the lunacy that is making it difficult for NYC Transit to run the subway system with maximum efficiency.

By Pete Donohue

Why your train was late

There are many reasons subway trains are delayed or diverted from their regular routes.

Rails crack in arctic-like temperatures. Old signals malfunction. Trains must be slowed when transit workers are inspecting or fixing an adjacent track. All this makes sense.

There's the occasional opossum playing dead on the tracks. No, really.

And then there's the stupid and downright crazy stuff people do that leaves us straphangers pacing the platform, or staring at the Dr. Jonathan Zizmor dermatology ad for the umpteenth time as the train idles between stations.

Here are some of the reasons subway service was screwed up for hours at a time last week. These are just the highlights.

Monday. Cable theft.

It is not as prevalent as in the crack-crazed 1980s, but there are still are thieves bold enough or dumb enough to risk dying like a fly in a bug zapper to make a few bucks. They steal copper cable from live tracks and sell the valuable metal at scrap yards.

Missing sections of cable were discovered in two locations on Monday after trains lost power or had emergency brakes activated: On the L in Brooklyn, near the E. 105th St station, and on the No. 6 line in the Bronx, at Brook Ave.

The problems started in the morning, and service wasn't fully restored on both lines until the evening. Meanwhile, trains skipped several stations on each line because they were diverted to express or alternate tracks while repairs were being made.

Tuesday. Conductor abuse.

It is not as common as bus drivers being abused by the public, or as heinous as abuse of elderly straphangers, but conductor abuse occurs frequently. Most often, they get punched or spat upon by disgruntled and unhinged riders.

This time it was a conductor on the C line who was subjected to a rider's wrath.

The conductor was "verbally abused" and his clip-on tie was snatched during an altercation, according to a description of the incident. When this happens, delays are inevitable.

Wednesday. Cable theft (again).

The No. 6 line in the Bronx was hit for the second time during the week, as a bandit, most likely seeking money for drugs, lifted a section of cable near the 143rd St. station.

It was discovered missing when a train's emergency brakes were tripped amid the start of the morning rush. More thievery, more straphanger pain.

Thursday. Idiomatic behavior.

A first-rate moron decided to ride his bicycle on the J train platform at the Broadway Junction station in Brooklyn - but he wasn't a particularly well-balanced cyclist. He fell off his ride and landed on the tracks, suffering a head injury. Paramedics took him to the hospital.

Result: J train riders also got headaches. For more than 30 minutes, trains were diverted to the middle tracks and skipped the stations between Broadway Junction and Myrtle Ave.

Friday. Idiomatic behavior (again).

The crevice that exists beneath some subway platforms isn't an ideal place for a nap, but that's where an A-train crew spotted a man snoozing early in the morning at the 175th St station in northern Manhattan. Power was cut to the third rail. The police were called. And thanks to this knucklehead, there was no northbound A



train service above 168th St for about 40 minutes.

Surprisingly, no havoc was caused to subway schedules last week by a common culprit: people walking into the side of a train.

It happens - often. Of the 141 people hit by trains last year, 54 slammed into a car's exterior because they tripped while running or walking on the platform, according to MTA stats.

As one would expect, alcohol is usually a factor. I once saw a transit report in which a witness described seeing a stumblebum zigzag across a platform, do a header into the side of an idling train, then zigzag up the stairwell and up onto the street.

Some of this nonsense is funny in retrospect - but not if you are a straphanger inconvenienced at the time.

Stand clear of the closing doors, sure. But there should be a new subway announcement:

"Ladies and gentlemen, don't inconvenience your fellow riders. Stay on the platform - far from the edge - and refrain from being a jackass at all times."

pdonohue@nydailynews.com

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MTA criticized over deaths

Union's proposals shot down by transit authority

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com

With seven people killed by trains this year, Transport Workers Union Local 100 slammed the MTA on Thursday at a City Council hearing on safety, saying that the agency isn't doing everything it can to save the lives of straphangers.

"There's a crisis here that we believe has gone unrecognized and not given proper attention by the MTA," said TWU Local 100 president John Samuelson.

"The folks on the MTA board ... they're not riding the system every day," he said. "They need to get in touch with what it's like to be a worker in the City of New York [and] use the system," he said.

The hearing was called by City Council Transportation Committee chairman James Vacca to address the spate of subway deaths since December. Last year 55 people were killed on the tracks, the most since 2007.



A transit worker removes police tape after an apparent suicide at the Times Square subway station on Jan. 22. Seven people have been killed by trains this year.



City Councilman James Vacca called for Thursday's hearing.

Carmen Bianco.

"The negative effects of slowing trains as they enter stations renders this option infeasible," he said, adding that the average rider's commute would increase by 4½ minutes if the MTA adopted the strategy.

Bianco repeatedly said the agency is focusing on a public awareness campaign to get commuters not to stand near the edge of the platform. He also outlined the agency's plans for a pilot program to test barriers, as well as installing help point kiosks and testing an intrusion detection system.

The union pushed a three-point plan to prevent subway deaths: slow down trains as they enter stations, put MTA agents on crowded platforms and build emergency power shut-offs to tracks in station booths. Union

members on Thursday handed out faux MetroCards at three stations in the city with blood stains and the Grim Reaper to advertise its plan.

The MTA mostly shot down the plans, particularly slowing down trains, saying

it would create a major problem of overcrowding on platforms, as well as throw off schedules across the system. "Lines that are already crowded would be more crowded," said MTA senior vice president for subways

Gilty plea in plot to bomb Fed

A Bangladeshi man pleaded guilty on Thursday to attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in what authorities called a plot to blow up the New York Federal Reserve Bank. He faces up to life in prison under a plea agreement.

Quazi Mohammed Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, 21, Nafis was arrested on Oct. 17 after pulling up to the Federal Reserve near Wall Street and attempting to detonate what he believed to be a 1,000-pound bomb hidden in a van.

Sentencing was set for May 30.



Report: NYC job stats are misleading

The city's Independent Budget Office say the New York's high unemployment numbers may not exactly be an indicator of bad economic news.

The IBO analyzed employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and found that although the city's unemployment rate was 8.8% in December, the city's labor force grew.

Doug Turetsky, the IBO's chief of staff, said the data didn't include the people who stopped looking for a job but changed their mind once positions opened up.



Going Wilde for hair color

Olivia Wilde, second from left, poses with guests at the launch of the Revlon Luxurious ColorSilk Buttercream hair coloring system on Thursday. She hosted the event at the Royalton Hotel in Manhattan.

Killer of two cops can be executed, judge rules

A federal judge in Brooklyn ruled Thursday that cop killer Ronell Wilson is not mentally disabled and is eligible for the death penalty.

Wilson, 30, was convicted in 2006 of the murder of two NYPD cops during an undercover gun buy on Staten Island in 2003, but his death sentence was overturned on appeal.

A new penalty trial is planned this year, but his lawyers moved to block it under a Supreme Court decision banning execution of the retarded.

Earlier this week, police guard



Nancy Gonzalez is allegedly carrying Ronell Wilson's child.

Nancy Gonzalez with having sex with Wilson inside the federal jail in Brooklyn and said she was pregnant with his child.

A lawyer for Wilson declined to comment Thursday.



Wilson



.Info

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* Preliminary 2012 data.



NYC A HUB OF GRUB

Survey: City has most top eateries in U.S.
Page 2



BARBARA ALPER

HOT GLOBAL LOOKS

Rock worldly fashions without leaving the city
Page 14-15

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NO LOVE FOR MTA

31% of riders give cold shoulder to agency in poll
Page 3

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Photo by Jaime Thurman

Not so sweet on the MTA

31% of riders in poll say they have no love for agency

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
sheila.feeny@am-ny.com

Where is the love?

About 38% of respondents in an Internet poll by the Straphangers Campaign asking riders to choose what they loved most about subways and buses picked "convenience" — but another 31% said "I don't use the word 'love' in the same sentence with 'MTA.'"

Astonishingly, 0% of the 249 respondents selected "fare discounts."

This was disheartening to Gene Russianoff, spokesman for the Straphangers Campaign, a riders' advocacy group. The discounts "certainly head my list," Russianoff said.

And what does the

Straphangers' spokesman make of this blow to one of his group's top causes. "I'm still hurting," he said.

Russianoff insisted the poll was intended with love ("we were in a Valentine's Day mood") and that the MTA actually fared well.

"When you add up 'convenience,' (38%), 'my boss can't reach me' (4%) and 'my fellow riders' (5%), people loved them more than they hated them," Russianoff said.

But rider Kevin Walden, 52, of Kips Bay, complained that offering the option NOT to use the word 'love' in conjunction with the MTA was loading the question. He praised subways and buses as "convenient."

In response to the poll, the MTA said it "aim(s) to give our customers reasons to love us — and even if they don't, we'll keep trying."

(WITH ANNA SANDERS)



The Straphangers Campaign, a riders' advocacy group, conducted a poll asking riders to say what they loved most about the subways and buses. "I don't use the word 'love' in the same sentence with 'MTA'" earned nearly one-third of the vote. (GTM)



One respondent loves the No. 7's above-ground run. (GTM)

... but here's some of what the riders like

16% of respondents picked "other" when asked what they loved most about the MTA. Here's what they said they liked about their rides:

- 24/7 service
- Countdown clocks
- Free transfers
- Freedom
- No cellphones (underground)
- How quickly things were up and running after Sandy

- I can do my crossword puzzle in peace.
- I don't pollute as much as individual drivers pollute.
- It's the BEST system in the world!
- It's the most eco-friendly way to travel.
- Just riding the subways and buses is awesome
- Reading undisturbed
- Speed when street traffic is

- at a standstill
- The entertainment here as Select Bus Service
- The fact that the No. 7 is mostly above ground
- The fun/challenge of arranging and timing connections that work.
- The history and greatness of the best subway system on Earth. (AMNY)

City sets sights on \$70B in tourism by '15

BY IVAN PEREIRA
ivan.pereira@am-ny.com

More than 50 million people traveled for a taste of the Big Apple in 2012.

This year, the city wants to spread the tourist love to all five boroughs.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NYC & Company, the city's tourism wing, laid out plans to attract 55 million visitors and bring in \$70 billion by 2015 yesterday, during the company's annual meeting with tourism and leisure companies.

The mayor, who had a special introduction from one of



A rendering of the Ferris wheel slated for Staten Island that officials hope will draw tourists to the borough. (MAYOR'S OFFICE)

the city's celebrity tourism promoters, Miss Piggy, said the best way to meet the target would be to think outside the box, or more specifically, outside Manhattan.

Bloomberg touted his plan

to legalize and create for-profit hostels to attract younger international visitors who are on a budget, and to promote some of the outer borough's museums, parks and attractions.

Charged anchor quits WCBS/2

WCBS/2 news anchor Rob Morrison, facing charges in Connecticut for allegedly choking his wife, yesterday resigned from the station while continuing to assert his innocence.

"To those who prefer to believe the outright lies printed in the tabloids, I ain't mad at ya. Good luck," Morrison, 44, tweeted early yesterday morning before news of his resignation became public.

He confirmed his departure hours later in a statement released by WCBS. "My family is my first and only priority right now and I have informed CBS/2 management that I need to put all of my time and energy

into making sure that I do what's best for my wife and my son," the morning and noon news anchor said.

A spokeswoman said WCBS had no comment on his possible replacements.

Morrison faces charges of second-degree strangulation and second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct after he was arrested Sunday on suspicion of trying to choke his wife, Ashley, an anchor for "CBS MoneyWatch."

(GERRIT)



Ashley and Rob Morrison (GERRIT)



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JANET'S SECRET

Married for months!
Page 4

DOV: SORRY FOR COSTUME

Pol says garb not racist
Page 2

TRAGIC TREND

9 hit by subways in 6 days

Page 3



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CHARLES SCHNEIDER/PHOTO FRAZER OUTLINE/REA TRACK/GETTY IMAGES

2 more struck on subway tracks

29 people hit this year, including 9 in the past 6 days

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com

Two people survived apparent suicide jumps in front of subways yesterday, capping off a six-day spate of incidents during which nine people were killed or injured on the tracks.

An unidentified man jumped in front of a Manhattan-bound E train at the Northern Boulevard station in Woodside around 5:30 a.m., cops said. He was in serious condition at Elmhurst Hospital at press time.

Hours later, a woman leaped to the tracks before a downtown No. 1 train at the 157th Street station, and she was taken to Harlem Hospital in critical condition, officials said.

Subway deaths have come under heavy scrutiny this year, with 13 deaths in 29 incidents in 2013. In response, the MTA has increased an ad campaign imploring straphangers to stay away from platform edges, which some say is all that can be done in the short-term.

"The thing they can do in the very short run, they're doing, which is try to get the word out to the public," said



In response to a spate of incidents, the MTA has increased an ad campaign imploring straphangers to stay away from platform edges. The agency is also looking at other measures. (CHARLES EXERT/PHOTO TAKEN DURING TRACK TRAINING; inset: GETTY)

BY THE NUMBERS

Thirteen people have been killed by subway trains out of 29 incidents this year. Here are the total subway incidents and deaths during the past 12 years:

YEAR	INCIDENTS	DEATHS
2012	141	55
2011	146	47
2010	127	51
2009	136	49
2008	107	34
2007	110	55
2006	109	38
2005	151	44
2004	158	35
2003	188	37
2002	136	46
2001	110	31

(TIM HERRERA)

Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign. "That isn't enough, but it's pretty quick turn-around for them. It's not like the solutions here are easy or cheap."

Russianoff added: "In the past, people in transit would say it's very unfortunate, but it's a reality of life. Now they're saying, maybe there's something we can do to reduce the carnage."

In addition to an increased public awareness campaign, the MTA is looking at pilot

programs with glass barriers on platforms and an intrusion detection system, which would alert train operators of objects on the tracks. Neither program has a solid timetable.

Still, some think the MTA should be doing more.

"They believe the proper response is simply to make repeat announcements to stand away from the edge of the platform, but it's not

13 people have been killed on the tracks this year.

working," said Steve Downs, chair of the TWU Local 100's Train Operators Division.

"It's clear from this last week that that's not working," he said.

The union wants the MTA to force train operators to enter stations more slowly, which they say will help cut down on fatalities.

MTA spokesman Adam Lisberg said the agency has "proven through computer

modeling ... that slowing down trains pulling into station would create enormous overcrowding."

"The best advice for anybody in the city subway system is to stay away from the platform edge," Lisberg said.

"That is the best way to make that you don't get injured or killed in the subway system," he said, adding that "the statistics show that the number of subway injuries and deaths over the years has remained remarkably

constant even as ridership has grown."

In 2012, 38% of incidents were accidents; 23% were people who went on the tracks intentionally (to pick up items or for other reasons); 23% were alleged or attempted suicides; 6% were straphangers peering over the edge of the platform to watch for the train; 4% were pushed on to the tracks or into a train; 3% fell because of a medical condition; and 2% fell between cars.

City to Europeans: Come tour the Apple!

The city will hit the streets of Europe big time to lure visitors to check out diamonds hidden inside New York.

Members of NYC & Company, the city's tourism wing, will attend the ITB international trade fair in Berlin next week to pitch its new plan to promote the Big Apple's smaller attractions for visitors.

Kimberly Spell, a spokeswoman for NYC & Company, said Europeans are flocking to the city in greater numbers,

and also making return visits, so it was the perfect place to launch their promotion.

"If we don't show them the ever-changing New York, they will head to other destinations," she said.

During NYC & Company's annual meeting last week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he wanted to showcase spots such as Jackson Heights, Fort Greene, Washington Heights and Arthur Avenue in the Bronx.



You can't miss the Cloisters in Washington Heights. (IVAN PEREIRA) (NET MUSEUM)

Prosecutors lay out 'cannibal cop' case

Prosecutors lashed out at alleged "cannibal cop" Gilberto Valle for "desecrating" his badge as the conspiracy trial of the NYPD officer began yesterday afternoon in federal court in Manhattan.

Six-year NYPD veteran Valle, 28, of Queens, was charged last



Valle

year with plotting in Internet chats to kidnap, abuse and eat women, and with misusing a police database.

"It's pure fiction," defense lawyer Julia Gatto told jurors. "It's Gil's porn. It was his kinky little secret."

(WIREDATA)

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Joan joke on Nazis hits low

ONLY Joan Rivers could get in trouble with the Anti-Defamation League for making a crack about a German's backside.

The tart-tongued comedian sparked outrage for making a Holocaust joke in reference to the rear end of Teutonic temptress Heidi Klum in the booty-hugging gold dress she wore to the Oscars. "The last time a German looked this hot was when they were pushing Jews into the ovens," Rivers said on her dishy show Monday.

The ADL called Rivers' remark "vulgar and offensive to Jews and Holocaust survivors, and indeed to all Americans."

ADL honcho Abraham Foxman said: "Of all people, Joan Rivers should know better." E! could not be reached for comment, but Rivers refused to apologize.

"My husband lost the majority of his family at Auschwitz, and I can assure you that I have always made it a point to remind people of the Holocaust through humor," she said.

Don Kaplan and Corky Siemaszko

DON'T YA JUST HATE HER?
NOW p. 39



Joe: All's fare

TOUGH TIMES require tough decisions

That's what Republican mayoral candidate Joe Lhota will say when the fare and toll hikes he orchestrated as MTA chairman come up on the campaign trail.

Fares for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's two commuter railroads go up Friday, and the cost for subways, buses and the nine MTA bridges and tunnels goes up Sunday.

"Hard decisions had to be made," Lhota said in a statement, noting he heard "hundreds of people voice their concerns and frustration" last year over the then-proposed hikes.

Pete Donohue

EXCLUSIVE

BY EDGAR SANDOVAL and PETE DONOHUE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

TAKE THIS MEMO and flush it.

Transit workers and union officials are livid about a written MTA directive giving token booth clerks a maximum 10 minutes to go the bathroom — and get back to their work stations. "I don't even want to drink water or coffee because I know I will have to go to the bathroom soon," Tareque Ahmed, a Queens token booth clerk, said. "This policy is ridiculous. Some people take longer than others..."

The time limit is particularly impractical in stations where it takes several minutes to walk to the nearest employee bathroom, union officials contend. "Sometimes you're traveling just 20 feet; I'm not going to lie to you," said Paul Piazza, an executive board member with Transport Workers Union Local 100. "But sometimes it's two or three blocks away. That's why there can't be a time limit."

At the Court Square/23rd St. station in Long Island City, Queens, Ahmed, 38, demonstrated while off-duty the plight of a relief-seeking clerk.

Walking at a normal pace, it took Ahmed nine minutes to make the round-trip from the booth to the lavatory. He spent four minutes inside the restroom. At another station in Manhattan, it took Ahmed four minutes to walk to and from the bathroom.

A source said transit brass issued the memo because some workers had been leaving their booths to move their cars to avoid getting parking tickets.

An MTA spokesman said the Feb. 4 bulletin, issued by a vice president in the NYC Transit division, was more of a guideline than a set-in-stone rule. "We wouldn't penalize someone if they are just a couple of minutes late coming back from a legitimate comfort break," spokesman Charles Seaton said. "The main reason is the safety and security of the employee, plus frankly, not leaving the booth unattended, which doesn't do our customers any good."

The bulletin restates previously existing safety rules such as clerks must call and notify a supervisor when leaving and returning to the booth. That lets management know no harm has come to the clerk while outside the safety of the locked booth, Seaton said.

The union, however, has other reasons why it isn't taking the directive sitting down and has filed a grievance with a contract arbitrator. The contract says clerks "upon request will be granted necessary comfort relief during their tour of duty, without reduction in pay."

It doesn't require permission, and it doesn't say going to the bathroom is the only authorized reason to take such a break, Piazza said.

"To me, that says you can go the bathroom, go get some fresh air if it's hot or go get a soda at a bodega if you're thirsty," Piazza said. "We're not talking about going to Red Lobster for dinner or going to the movies."

The MTA isn't comfortable with that interpretation.

"Going to get a soda, fresh air or something to eat would be handled by a lunch break" when another clerk is scheduled to temporarily take over, Seaton said.

DELAY ON THE P LINE



Tareque Ahmed shows News (inset) the hustle and flow routine as MTA bathroom memo has booth clerks steaming mad.
Photo by Andrew Saville/Daily News



MTA to workers: Potty-train yourself for a 10-min. break

Oops, TSA guy goes spray-zy!

A bumbling TSA agent "playing around" with a pepper-spray container at Kennedy Airport fired the caustic liquid at five fellow screeners yesterday, sending all six to the hospital, a source told The Post.

The agent, Chris Yves Dabel, discovered the device at the Terminal 2 security checkpoint and tried to determine if it was real, a source told The Post.

He told Port Authority cops that he "found the canister on the floor and thought it was a laser pointer."

"They were playing around with it," said one Kennedy Airport official.

The screener sprayed five other TSA agents around him, sending all six to Jamaica Hospital and halting security checks at Kennedy for at least 15 minutes, police said.

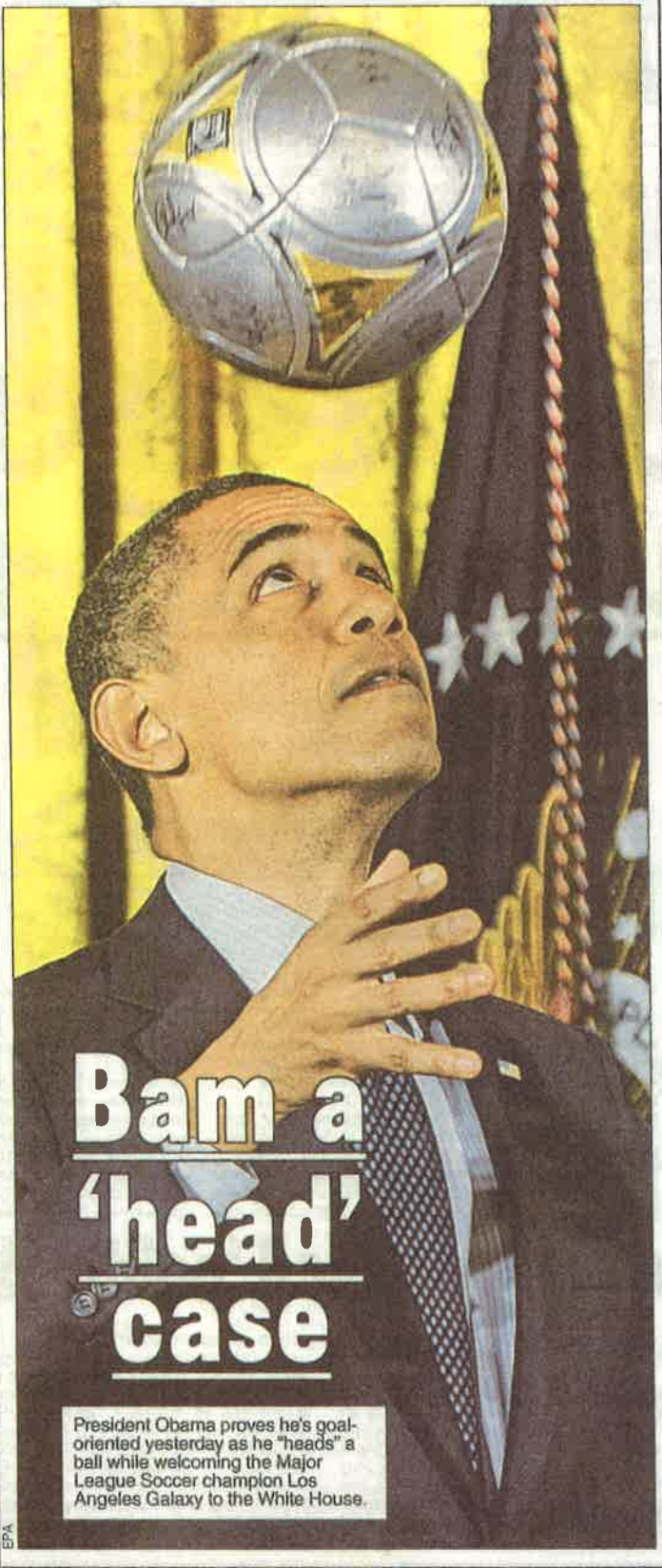
No passengers reported injuries. Dabel refused medical attention.

TSA officials scrambled to keep the embarrassing incident under wraps yesterday — until The Post began inquiring about it, a source said.

The agency has been plagued with a rash of humiliating incidents at area airports — including the failure of Newark screeners in February to catch an undercover fed with a fake explosive stuffed in his pants at either of two checkpoints.

Authorities have called for a top-to-bottom review of that airport's procedures.

Josh Margolin



Bam a 'head' case

President Obama proves he's goal-oriented yesterday as he "heads" a ball while welcoming the Major League Soccer champion Los Angeles Galaxy to the White House.

Grand slam at NYC Denny's

Denny's wants to open its first New York City restaurant in a 23-story luxury condo building downtown — and some tenants are incensed.

The discount diner chain, known for its "Grand Slam" breakfast, is angling to take up space at landmarked 150 Nassau St., across from City Hall.

Apartment owners are furious that the chain, known for its cheap menu and round-the-clock service, wants to share their posh address.

"Residents are really concerned that the value of their investments will go down," said a building employee.

The closest Denny's is in Englewood, NJ. *Beth DeFalco*

TRAIN KILLS TEEN

Upper W. Side dare

By LARRY CELONA,
JENNIFER BAIN
and KATE SHEEHY



LIAM ARMSTRONG
Celebrating 18th birthday.

A Long Island teen celebrating his 18th birthday with pals in Manhattan yesterday tried to run across busy subway tracks on the Upper West Side on a dare — and was killed by a train, police sources said.

Liam Armstrong, a popular student at Smithtown HS East on Long Island, had crossed one of four tracks at the 79th Street station when he was hit by a northbound No. 2 express train.

"I can't believe this happened," said a tearful friend, Kerin Grisanti, one of many pals who called Armstrong a likable athlete.

"He has three little siblings and he loves them — he's a great big brother."

Armstrong and two pals had mistakenly entered the station on the northbound platform. But rather than crossing above ground to reach the southbound platform, they dared one another to dart across the active rush-hour tracks, police sources said.

At least one friend succeeded in reaching the opposite platform and another was still on the northbound side when the train struck Armstrong just before 6:30 p.m., according to police.

Police sources said a bottle of rum was found in a backpack on Armstrong.

Later, one of two pals who was with him when he died took to Twitter to express his grief.

"Your [sic] my brother, I'm sorry I didn't protect you," Dakota Walsh tweeted. Friends said Armstrong

was set to graduate this year and was considering following his father — a Nassau County detective sergeant — into the police force.

"He was a very nice kid, always making everybody laugh," said Ali Grimaldi, a senior at Smithtown HS West.

"It was his 18th birthday today, and I think they just wanted to have a little bit of fun," she added.

A man at the family home in Nesconset, LI, declined to comment.

Friends took to Twitter and Facebook to mourn Armstrong, whose private Twitter account bears the tagline "yolo" — short for "You Only Live Once."

Passengers on the express train that hit the teen said they initially had no idea why it suddenly screeched to a halt — particularly at a local station.

"When it first stopped we just thought someone pulled the brake, but then people on the local side started saying someone was under the train," said Jake Moore, 25, of Harlem.

"As we were leaving the train, I actually saw a foot between two cars."

Additional reporting by Yoav Gonen, Kaylee Osowski, Kate Kowsh, Joe Tacopino
larry.celona@nypost.com

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\$40M bonus for the MTA

Budget surprise stirs rider hopes

EXCLUSIVE

BY PETE DONOHUE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE MTA this year will get up to \$40 million more in state funds than expected — dough that should be used to improve bus and subway service, advocates say.

The boosted coffers — partly the result of transit-dedicated taxes coming in higher than the MTA predicted in its 2013 fiscal plan — is included in the tentative budget deal Gov. Cuomo reached with legislative leaders in Albany.

“They should increase bus and subway service where they can,” suggested Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign. “That should be their top priority.”

Subway ridership rose last year to the highest level in 62 years — 1.65 billion trips. Weekend ridership matched an all-time high set in 1946, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Overall, the state budget plan would provide the MTA with nearly \$4.25 billion — an increase of \$358 million, or ap-

proximately 9%, officials said. The MTA’s latest financial plans projected receiving all but \$40 million of that.

“Gov. Cuomo is investing even more in the MTA so it can continue to serve as the circulatory system of the region’s economy and the keystone of the daily lives of millions,” Cuomo spokesman Matthew Wing said.

The MTA slashed \$93 million in subway, bus and commuter train service in 2010 to help close a deficit brought on in part by the weak economy and unstable real estate market, which reduced the authority’s critical revenue stream from transit-dedicated taxes. Last year, as the economy improved, the authority agreed to boost service on more than three dozen subway, bus and commuter rail lines. The package — which included five new bus routes — cost \$29 million.

In addition to increasing service, the MTA conceivably could use the additional funds to install security cameras in more stations. Only 111 of the 468 stations have cameras. Outfitting a typical neighborhood station would cost between \$300,000 and \$800,000, the authority said.

pdonohue@nydailynews.com

Kalikow kid eyes ‘addict’ tactic

ALLEGED RICH GIRL heroin peddler Kathryn Kalikow says she’s an addict, not a criminal — a claim that could land her in rehab instead of behind bars under the state’s revised Rockefeller drug laws, lawyers told the Daily News.

Kalikow — the Vassar-educated daughter of millionaire former New York Post owner Peter Kalikow — is following a well-trodden legal route taken by many drug offenders since the laws were updated in 2009.

Kalikow, 27, and her college boyfriend Brian Whalen, 28, were busted selling \$400 of heroin in the Bronx Sunday night. Both immediately blurted to cops they are addicts, according to court papers.

At their arraignment Monday, Whalen’s lawyer Marvin Raskin underscored his client’s addiction and told the judge if his client got out, he would go into rehab immediately. Both were released without bail.

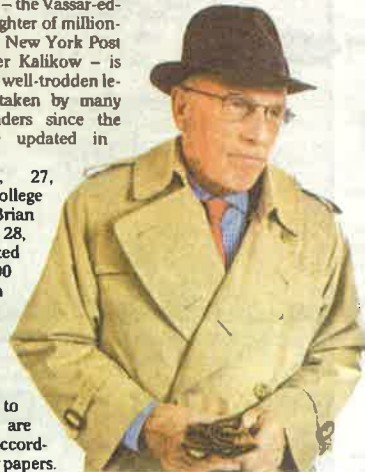
“If they’re smart, and well advised,” Raskin told The News the defendants will admit a drug problem early.

Kalikow’s lawyer declined to comment, but her real estate mogul father Peter somberly told reporters he’s hoping for the best.

“It’s difficult but if you love your daughter, you love your son, you have to do it,” Kalikow said Tuesday, exiting a black sedan in front of his Fifth Ave. co-op, where the couple is staying.

The Rockefeller-era laws, enacted in 1973, imposed harsh mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders. But as of 2009, judges can opt to send low-level offenders to rehab instead. **Barbara Ross and Ginger Adams Otis**

Peter Kalikow speaks to reporters Tuesday about the arrest of his daughter Kathryn Kalikow and her boyfriend on drug charges. Photo by Barry Williams



Could be doom for DOMA

Justices voice concerns over law

The Supreme Court seemed to lean yesterday toward striking down a law that denies federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples in a move that would reflect a shift in Americans' attitudes about gay marriage.

In a second day of oral arguments on same-sex marriage, a majority of the court raised serious concerns with the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, enacted in 1996 under President Bill Clinton.

Arguments over the last two days on the DOMA case and a separate one challenging California's ban on gay marriage marked the high court's

first foray into a delicate and divisive political, religious and social issue in the United States as polls indicate growing public support for same-sex marriage.

In theory, the cases have the potential for the court to take a significant step toward endorsing gay marriage as it gains support in some parts of the country.

Based on the arguments, however, a partial victory for gay rights activists seems more likely than the sweeping declaration of same-sex marriage rights they had hoped for.

But the nine justices seemed willing to address the substantive issue in the DOMA case. The court is not expected to rule on the two cases until the end of June.



Same-sex marriage supporters demonstrate outside the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday.

Supporters cheer 'Edie' who sued Uncle Sam



Edith Windsor yesterday

Gay marriage supporters in front of the U.S. Supreme Court only wanted to see one celebrity yesterday.

As Edith Windsor walked out of the court after arguments in her case challenging the 2006 Defense of Marriage Act, a huge roar erupted from hundreds of protesters gathered on the steps.

"Edith! Edith!" they chanted as the diminutive 83-year-old laughed and blew kisses to the crowd.

Windsor, a New York resident, sued the federal government after she was forced to pay additional estate taxes because it did not recognize her marriage to a woman, Thea Spyer, under

the law known as DOMA.

She has since become the face of the legal challenge and a heroic figure to supporters who hope the high court will strike down the law and confer access to federal benefits on an estimated 130,000 legally married gay couples nationwide.

Latest subway death brings 2013 toll to 16

Keeping people off train tracks is a constant challenge for the MTA, which saw 55 people killed by subway trains last year, officials said.

In total, there were 141 incidents of a subway train striking a person in 2012, according to MTA figures. This year, there have been 44 subway train strikes — 16 of them fatal.

The latest was Long Island teen Liam Armstrong, who was killed Tuesday while trying to cross from an uptown platform to a downtown platform at the 79th Street station, police said.



Armstrong

The dangers of the tracks aren't isolated to the subway system. In 2012, 16 people were killed in track trespassing incidents on the Long Island Rail Road, according to

the Federal Railroad Administration.

Despite the obvious dangers of venturing onto tracks, some people continue to do it, said Joyce Rose, president of Operation Lifesaver — a national organization dedicated to promoting train safety. Sometimes they are in a rush and choose to dart across tracks rather



A teen was struck and killed at the 79th Street station.

than go around them.

MTA employees and others who need to access tracks — including construction contractors and film crews — are required to take a track safety course to learn how to look out for trains, and where and how to stand to stay clear of a train once on the tracks. They are also trained to avoid making con-

tact with the third rail, which is powered by 625 volts of electricity.

The MTA also promotes track safety through posters at stations and on trains, warning riders to stay behind the yellow line at platforms and to call a police officer or MTA worker if they drop something onto the tracks.

New bigwig at the NYPD

The NYPD named a new chief of the department yesterday after former chief Joseph Esposito retired following more than 44 years of service.



Banks

Philip Banks III, a 26-year veteran of the force and currently chief of community affairs, will be promoted as the highest-ranking uniformed officer at a ceremony at police headquarters today.

"Phil Banks has proven him-

self time and again to be as outstanding a field commander, adept in managing police personnel and operations, as he has a consummate builder of commu-

nity relations whose robust School Safety and Juvenile Justice Divisions, as well as New-Immigrant Outreach and Crime Prevention programs, flourished under

his command," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

DNainfo.com
New York
neighborhood news

The commanding officer of the Central Park Precinct was misidentified in the March 27 issue. Her correct name is Capt. Jessica Corey.



**TWU
Local 100
IN THE NEWS**

Delancey Street

**Operator, 55, becomes hero
Keeps F train from hitting 3**

SUBWAY SAVIOR

BY EDGAR SANDOVAL
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

AN MTA TRAIN operator was lauded as a hero Sunday morning for preventing a speeding F train from hitting two good Samaritans and a man who had fallen into the tracks after suffering a seizure.

The dramatic rescue took place in the Delancey St. station at 8:30 a.m., when Danny Hay, 55 was on his way to work. The quick-thinking dad from the lower East Side heard a loud thud and knew something wasn't right.

"It was a loud slam. I looked down and saw a young man in his 20s," Hay said. "He looked unconscious."

The man lay in between the rails, convulsing, said Hay, a four-year MTA operator who got on his radio calling for help.

"Nobody heard me," he said.

A crowd had gathered on the platform. People around him were yelling "Help! Help! He fell to the tracks!" he said.

Hay knew he needed to act quickly, he said.

He ran up to the train booth and told an attendant in charge to cut the power.

Noticing the power still on, Hay realized he needed to take matters into his own hands to get the train to stop, he said.

"I ran, 55-year-old me," he quipped. "I knew I only had a few seconds."

By the time Hay made it back to the platform, there were three people on the tracks — the original victim, plus two more who were trying to push him to safety, he said.

But the Coney Island-bound F train just kept coming. "I'm flashing lights," he said. "I ran to the end of the station."

The train operator, a colleague he simply knows as Ms. John, noticed his flashlight and stopped in the nick of time.

"If the train had not stopped when it did, the good Samaritans could have easily gotten hurt," he said. "It wasn't just me. Ms. John was alert. When you flash the lights across the tracks, they know it's a sign to stop."

A few minutes later, EMTs were caring for the unidentified victim.

"He looked like he was in shock," Hay said.

In the end, the good Samaritans disappeared and Hay went on with his day.

"I got to do something good," he said. "I didn't talk to him or the good Samaritans. We all did our part and got a happy ending."



Invader in ADA's apt.

A Brooklyn prosecutor got a rude awakening over the weekend when a creepy vagrant climbed through a window of her Lower East Side apartment to rob her, police sources told The Post yesterday.

Jennifer Karnes, 25 — a rookie ADA who handles felony and misdemeanor cases from Brooklyn South precincts — told cops she was awakened by a noise at about 5:30 a.m. Saturday in her Stanton Street apartment.

She jumped out of bed, ran out of the room and was stunned to find a scruffy, bearded man standing near her bathroom. Karnes screamed — and the burglar pleaded with her to keep quiet.

"Calm down. I am homeless. I just need money to feed my kids. I am sorry I scared you," the man said, according to sources.

The intruder even handed Karnes a driver's license.

She then offered her wallet and said, "Take whatever you need and get out of here." The perp took cash and fled.

Police later ran a computer check on the driver's license. It belonged to a Manhattan man with a lengthy criminal record — but Karnes was unable to ID him.

Jamie Schram, Elisabeth Hagen

Teacher busted for 'kid sex'

A public-school teacher was arrested in Queens yesterday for having sex with a 14-year-old former student, cops said.

Daniel Reilly, 36, was busted at IS 237 in Flushing and later charged with multiple counts of rape and endangering the welfare of a child.

The middle-school English teacher lured the young girl back to his Forest Hills home, where he had sex with her, according to police. The affair had allegedly been going on since last November.

The victim's sister discovered sexual messages from the teacher on the teen's phone, cops said. She then told her parents, who alerted the school.

Natasha Velez

DREAM DASHED



NIGHTMARE: Emergency workers (above) remove the body of theater student Emily Singleton (right) from the tracks at the Canal Street station Sunday.

NYU co-ed identified as track victim



By KIRSTAN CONLEY and KATE SHEEHY

The young woman who tumbled onto subway tracks and died in lower Manhattan over the weekend has been identified as a 22-year-old NYU theater student who came from Pennsylvania with dreams of making it on Broadway.

Emily Singleton — a minister's daughter who had just graduated from Bucknell University — "was finally doing what she really wanted to do in life," her grieving grandmother, Janet Singleton, 85, told The Post last night.

"New York was her dream," said the grandma of the "beauti-

ful" budding actress from Downingtown, Pa.

"She just thought it was the more wonderful place to live.

"I talk to her every Thursday, and she was telling me . . . she was enjoying herself going to plays and different activities in the city.

"She realized the beginning of her dream. Now, she'll do it in heaven, I guess."

A straphanger spotted Singleton's body on the tracks in the Canal Street station Sunday afternoon.

Singleton — who lived a well-kept brownstone on Berkeley Place near Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, Brooklyn — was found dead covered in soot and

lying in a trough between the tracks.

Police believe that she had been bar-hopping earlier in the night and got drunk and stumbled off the platform, fatally hitting her head, sources said.

She was dressed in stylish high-heel boots and black leather pants at the time.

"Let me hope she didn't suffer," Janet Singleton said, adding that Emily's social-worker mother is "not [doing] great" and her dad, Janet's son, was "taking it as you would expect."

Emily did not return home for Easter, her grandmother said, deciding instead to work at her job at a city dress shop to pay for acting classes at NYU.

"She decided to stay and work for the weekend, and I regret that," Janet Singleton said.

The grandmother said Emily "had a few boyfriends on a string.

"She was a beautiful girl, with beautiful, long brown hair and big brown eyes," she said.

"It's horrible, horrible, horrible.

"She was the most outgoing, beautiful girl. She was so talented, she sang, she danced.

"She had the lead in her high-school play, 'Beauty and the Beast,'" the grandmother said proudly.

"She was fulfilling her dream, but hadn't quite made it yet."

kirstan.conley@nypost.com



PETER BAGLEY
Pleads guilty to iPads grab.

'Liar' actor changes story, admits to theft

Actor Parker Bagley — best known for his role as the original Jason DiLaurentis in ABC's "Pretty Little Liars" — pleaded guilty in Manhattan yesterday to misdemeanor petit larceny for lifting \$7,000 in jewelry

and electronics from a gal pal's Murray Hill apartment.

Bagley, 23, hammed it up for news photographers at a courthouse hot-dog stand before taking the plea, and couldn't help joking about his criminal woes afterward.

"I'm just glad they didn't find the bodies," he quipped after his court session.

The plea saves him from a felony record on the original top charge, grand larceny. He had been busted in January after swiping the

small stash of pricey gadgets and baubles.

"Well, you see," he started explaining to reporters. Then he stopped. "I'm just thinking the more I explain the worse it will look on your Web site," he said.

Bagley had initially confessed that he took the goods — two iPads, a BlackBerry, an iPod, three necklaces and a bracelet — then denied the thefts, blaming them on a "shady" acquaintance.

Laura Italiano

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Emily Singleton was last seen on Sunday morning entering the subway at 14th Street. — Metro Photo

Police ID body of woman found on subway tracks

Underground. Emily Singleton might have died when she fell off the subway platform.

Police have identified the woman whose body was found on the tracks at the Canal Street station over the weekend as a 22-year-old NYU theater student. Emily Singleton, a Pennsylvania native who was living in Park Slope,

appeared to have died from a fall onto the tracks and was not hit by a train, the New York Post reports.

The young woman was spotted at McKenna's Pub in Chelsea early Sunday morning. She was later seen entering a subway station at 14th Street and Seventh Avenue. She was found Sunday afternoon covered in soot in between the tracks on the south-bound side of the Canal Street station. Police believe she had been drinking and fell off the subway platform, fatally hitting her head. Singleton was a

graduate of Bucknell University who moved to New York to pursue a theater career, the Post reports.

LAURA SHIN
letters@metro.us

Body discovered

She was found Sunday afternoon covered in soot in between the tracks at the Canal Street subway station.

Electrical cord

DOC officer arrested for whipping daughter

A Department of Corrections officer was arrested on Monday, police reported.

Lateisha Johnson, 36, was arrested in Coney Island, according to the Daily News. Johnson's 14-year-old daughter called 911 after Johnson used an electrical cord to whip the girl.

DARIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Busted. Times Square 'Cookie Monster' is arrested for shoving

A man who dresses up as Cookie Monster in Times Square was charged on Sunday after he allegedly pushed a 2-year-old boy to the ground because the boy's mom did not have money to give him a up.

Oswaldo Quiroz-Lopez, 33, was charged with reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child.

LAURA SHIN



Cookie Monster in Times Square

amny.com
WEDNESDAY
April 10, 2013

10th Anniversary
am NEW YORK

MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER

**WHERE THE
RIDERS
ARE**

The city's busiest
subway stations

PAGES 6-7

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WEATHER

TODAY
HI 79° LO 58°
Scattered t-storms

TOMORROW
HI 57° LO 51°
Cloudy

FRIDAY
HI 54° LO 46°
Rain

HOT LIST

Drita
D'Avanzo, of VH1's "Mob Wives," will host a Spring/Summer Beauty seminar on makeup looks and trends tomorrow at 1674 Broadway, Suite 800 from 7 to 9 p.m. Tix at makeupbydrita.com



D'Avanzo



In honor of its Centennial, many of Grand Central Terminal's retail tenants will offer special giveaways for the first 100 customers today. Visit grandcentraltminal.com/100 for more details.



The Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary will host its 2013 Spring gala tonight at 6 at Frames Bowling Lounge, 560 Ninth Ave., to raise funds for a state-of-the-art cancer center. Tix are \$200 each, at the door or at nyc.gov/mhc/donate.

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Quinn campaign threatens suit over TV ad

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn's mayoral campaign is threatening to sue TV stations, including NY1, for airing a negative ad that blasts her record — prompting charges of pettiness from her rivals.

Quinn's campaign lawyers sent a letter to NY1 and other stations, telling them to stop running the ad from New York City is Not for Sale, a new Political Action Committee launched this week with a singular mission: to make sure anyone but Quinn is elected mayor.

The 30-second spot, heavy with smoke and ominous music, paints Quinn as a backroom dealer who has misled the public about her motives and will do anything to get ahead.

"When Christine Quinn



The ad alarms Christine Quinn's mayoral bid.

DNAinfo.com
New York
neighborhood news

doesn't support our values, how can you support her for mayor?" it asks. Quinn's lawyers allege the ad is inaccurate.

"Your station need not air the subject ad. If you choose to do so, however your station bears responsibility for its content," Quinn's lawyer wrote to NY1 executives, the channel reported.

She told reporters that the ad was out of line and said her rivals should be up in arms over an independent group spending money on the race.

Quinn's rivals were quick to pan her for the legal threat.

"I think it's [a] bit much and it's very over-the-top," said former Comptroller Bill Thompson yesterday.

"I think it is an attempt to intimidate the press, attempt to intimidate the stations, and I think it's wrong."

Webby nods include Bieber, Obama, other bigs

The teams behind President Barack Obama's 2012 social media election campaign and Bieber



Justin Bieber's fragrance launch were among the nominees on yesterday for the annual Webby Awards, which honor excellence on the Internet.

Tom Hanks, Lady Gaga, Tiger Woods, Alec Baldwin and Charlize Theron were among many other celebrities whose highly-



Obama

ing careers provided fodder for innovative Internet campaigns.

The annual Webby Awards honor websites, online video and social media as well as apps and interactive Internet advertising.

"Every year we are constantly amazed by the innovations Webby nominees push forward and this year is no exception," David-Michel Davies, the awards' executive director,

said in a statement.

Last year's "Obama for America: For All" campaign received two nods in the social media campaign and interactive advertising and media categories. "Girls" TV writer and director Lena Dunham also picked up an individual nomination for her tongue-in-cheek 2012 video "Lena Dunham for Obama for America, First Time."

The 2012 campaign for Bieber's Girlfriend fragrance, in which teens sent in their own video versions of his hit single, won a nod in the interactive advertising field.

Fireworks at Central Park spring kickoff tonight

Central Park will celebrate the start of warmer weather with a free party at dusk tonight.

In addition to starting the Bethesda Fountain for the season, the Central Park Conservancy will feature a 15-minute fireworks show near Bethesda Terrace at 72nd Street, mid park.

The hourlong show, which starts at 7 p.m., will also include music and refreshments from The City Bakery. The show will happen rain or shine.

The Empire State Building will also take part in the



Bethesda Fountain to open for spring season.

"Central to Spring" celebration by lighting the top of the building green in honor of the conservancy.

Visit centralparknyc.org for more information on tonight's celebration.

Top

Despite Sandy, subway hit 1.6B trips in 2012, the most since 1950

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com

The crossroads of the world is still the busiest subway hub in the city, but a Queens station hit the jackpot last year when it comes to increased traffic thanks to a new casino.

Times Square unsurprisingly was the most heavily trafficked station in New York last year, with more than 62 million trips, up about a million and half from 2011, according to ridership data the MTA released yesterday.

Ten train lines plus a shuttle run through the tourist epicenter, and it had about 20 million more rides than the second-busiest in the city, which was Grand Central. Herald Square followed in third place, and Union Square and Penn Station rounded out the top five.

But it was the Aqueduct-North Conduit Ave stop that had the biggest increase of a single station, up more than 87.5% (1,000 riders per day) after the Resorts World Casino at Aqueduct opened in October 2011.

Times Square unsurprisingly was the most heavily trafficked station in New York last year, with more than 62 million trips.

The MTA said it uses the data as a guide for scheduling subways.

"We constantly analyze ridership trends several times a year and adjust service accordingly," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said.

Despite a catastrophic battering from Superstorm Sandy that shut down the entire system for days, the MTA had a banner year for ridership, hitting its highest point since 1950 at more than 1.6 billion trips.

The mild early winter and a slowly improving economy helped to offset Sandy, the agency said, and weekend service even matched its all-time high set in 1946.

Other tidbits from yesterday's report include:

• The G train saw the biggest percentage weekday hike of any line, jumping up 4.2%, or about 2,000 riders every day, mostly thanks to more housing development along the line and more activity in downtown Brooklyn, the MTA said.

• The Barclays Center helped make Atlantic Ave Brooklyn's busiest station in total ridership, despite Jay Street-MetroTech and Court Street/Borough Hall serving more weekday riders.

The data came as the agency wrapped up "major blasting" under Grand Central for the East Side Access megaproject, which will eventually be an LIRR station serving the east side of Manhattan.

The long-delayed and severely over-budget project is set to finish by 2019. The MTA's other megaproject, the Second Ave. subway, is set to open its first phase by 2016 after its own budget and schedule issues.

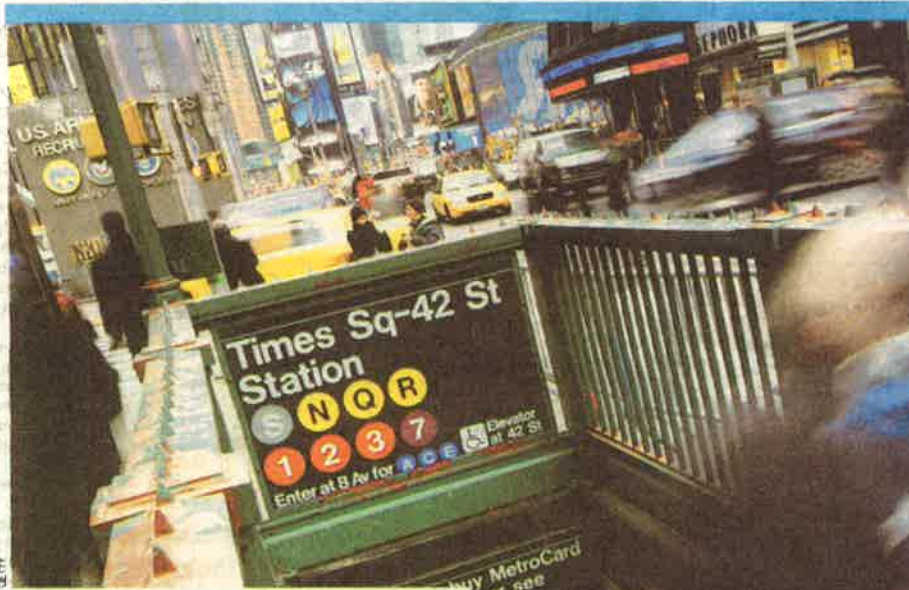
stops for riders

HIGH & LOW

STATION WITH THE BIGGEST YEARLY INCREASE
87.5% Aqueduct-North Conduit Ave

STATION WITH THE BIGGEST YEARLY DECREASE
-20.3% City Hall

NOTE: RANKINGS DO NOT INCLUDE STATIONS THAT HAD CLOSURES OR OPENINGS



10 BUSIEST SUBWAY STATIONS IN 2012

- 1 Times Square
- 2 Grand Central
- 3 Herald Square
- 4 Union Square
- 5 Penn Station (1/2/3)
- 6 Penn Station (A/C/E)
- 7 59th St - Columbus Circle
- 8 Lexington Ave./59th St.
- 9 86th St. (4/5/6)
- 10 Lexington Ave.-53 St./51st St.



3 BUSIEST STATIONS IN BROOKLYN

- 1 Atlantic Ave-Barclays Center (25th overall)
- 2 Jay Street-Metrotech (26th overall)
- 3 Court Street/Borough Hall (28th overall)



3 BUSIEST IN QUEENS

- 1 Flushing-Main St. (11th overall)
- 2 74-Broadway/Jackson Heights Roosevelt Ave. (14th overall)
- 3 Jamaica Center-Parsons-Archer (22nd overall)



3 BUSIEST IN THE BRONX

- 1 161 Street - Yankee Stadium (34th overall)
- 2 3 Ave-149 St. (48th overall)
- 3 Parkchester (94th overall)





Shutdown of subway station hurts eateries and other businesses, including barber (below). Photos by Debbie Egan-Chin/News

MTA gets earful on its surplus

BY SIMONE WEICHELBAUM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A SURPRISE MTA \$40 million surplus should pay for service improvements to relieve riders of sardine-can commutes, a coalition of activists said Sunday.

The eight-figure windfall was revealed last month during state budget negotiations — and elected officials and transit advocacy groups have a lengthy wish list.

“The MTA has abandoned south Brooklyn,” said City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who is demanding a return of the B37 bus on Brooklyn’s Third Ave., which was one of 31 lines, plus the W and V subways, cut in 2010 to save \$93 million.

“The trains are more crowded. The buses don’t come often enough,” said Riders Alliance Executive Director John Raskin. “(So) the first priority should be restoring and expanding service.”



Vincent Gentile

But others are jockeying for the cash.

John Samuelson, president of Transport Workers Union Local 100, says it should go toward a new contract for workers.

Meanwhile, the MTA hasn’t decided anything.

“We’re scheduled to update our budget in July... so it’s too soon to say what will happen,” said Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokeswoman Deirdre Parker.

simone@nydailynews.com

Deadly brawl at halfway house

A 45-YEAR-OLD man was found dead in a Brooklyn halfway house early Sunday after getting into a fight with another man, police said.

The victim was attacked inside the Stepping Stone group home for people with mental health problems on Nevins St. in Boerum Hill just before 6:30 a.m., officials said. The residence is run by the Institute for Community Living.

The victim, suffering head trauma, was taken to Long Island College Hospital, where he died.

Cops said they are waiting for the autopsy to determine whether the death was a homicide.

The resident suspected in the attack, a man in his 30s, was taken into custody, police said. Charges are pending.

Simone Weichselbaum and Barry Paddock

UNKIND CUT

Slow-going MTA project slams barber

Business is so bad at Smith and Ninth Sts. in Brooklyn the corner barber can’t afford to wait for customers to come to him.

“You want a haircut?” the barber said one recent afternoon, walking across the gritty intersection to a young man on the opposite sidewalk. “Come. I give you a trim. Get you ready for summer.”

Steve the barber, who didn’t want to give his last name, has a two-stool shop less than a half a block from the Smith-Ninth Sts. subway station.

More than 4,000 riders a day used to catch F and G trains in this neighborhood on the edge of Red Hook and Carroll Gardens. About two dozen people a day would drop in for a cut.

Now, the Russian immigrant is lucky to get seven or eight customers from the time he flips on the lights in the morning to when he locks the door and goes home at night.

That’s because the MTA closed the F and G train stop nearly two years ago for a much-needed reconstruction.

It was supposed to take nine



PETE DONOHUE
ON THE SUBWAYS

months and cost \$32 million. The work is still not finished, and the projected price tag has ballooned to \$41 million, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

“It’s bad, very bad,” Steve, the father of a newborn son, said of his business, his first after working for years for others.

The adjacent restaurant went belly up and the store is vacant.

The Ninth St. Deli and Grocery, steps

from the station, has survived only because the landlord has accepted a third of the normal rent for the past 16 months, storeowner Salah Hussan, said. It will take a long time to dig out of that hole, Hussan said.

The subway station reconstruction site hasn’t exactly been a beehive of activity, Hussan said.

“Sometimes there’d be just five or six workers over there,” he said.

“They are, as you say, milking it!”

The Smith-Ninth St. rehab project was given to F & S Contracting.

It is based in College Point, Queens, and is owned by Charles and

Jared Warshaw.

They appear to be doing much better than the corner barber and neighborhood grocer.

Charles lives in Melville, L.I., in a six-bedroom mansion, complete with outdoor tennis court, a pool — and an indoor basketball court.

An MTA consultant threw the contractor under the bus in a report to the board in January.

“Project completion continued to be delayed due to contractor’s poor management, insufficient manpower and quality control, and other design issues.”

But the MTA picked the contractor and kept it on the job. Charles Warshaw didn’t return phone messages left at his office and his Suffolk County spread.

The MTA dodged most questions, including how and why F & S was picked for the reconstruction project. Despite repeated requests, the MTA couldn’t — or wouldn’t — produce the contract summary that would have had to have been approved by the MTA board.

Subway riders, business owners and the residents at Smith and Ninth deserve better, and they deserve some answers.



BIG TOWN GOING GREEN

City's clean fleet



BY HOLLY REICH
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Most likely you've been on one of the hybrid-electric buses in New York City and never given them a second thought. Truth is, New York City's Transit Department of Buses and the MTA have been going green for decades.

Here are the facts: every city bus takes 40 cars off the road, and each of the 5,600 buses in the fleet is a green vehicle. The fuel-diversified fleet of buses includes clean diesel, compressed natural gas and hybrid electric power.

The program was instituted in 1993, when NYC Transit started buying natural gas buses. By the year 2000, NYC Transit began using clean fuel in its entire fleet and retrofitting diesel filters and exhaust treatment devices to capture soot. That was years ahead of the EPA requirement.

"New York City is among the top

cities in the nation for clean buses," explained Henry Sullivan, chief maintenance officer. "NYC Transit has been a leader in the introduction and development of this technology. Currently, 1,677 hybrid buses are operating on New York City streets. The exhaust profile of these buses is, on average, 30 percent cleaner than their older conventional diesel counterparts, and hybrids have also proven to be more fuel efficient with a clear advantage in the stop-and-go driving that typifies New York City Transit bus operations."

"The philosophy of buying a clean diesel articulated bus [a 60-foot bus that bends in the middle] is that you move a lot more people with one engine," Sullivan says. "You save operating dollars and a

lot more fuel."

To address that issue, NYC Transit has also extended the 40-foot express buses to 45 feet.

"We try to use hybrid buses where they are most effective, that is, on our slow-speed routes that have frequent stops, such as in Manhattan," Sullivan said. "This is where the most energy can be recaptured from regenerative braking instead of being wasted as heat, resulting in fuel economy that's about 30 percent better than a standard diesel bus on the same route."

The green initiatives haven't stopped with the buses. NYC Transit is making improvements in areas like repurposing usable parts from retired buses. For example, an item as simple as a bus window costs upwards of \$900;

reusing one costs nothing.

Since 1993, the Department of Buses has partnered with the New York Power Authority on a series of projects to improve the energy efficiency of its operations. The bus depot facilities have made upgrades to energy-efficient lighting, boilers, compressors and fan motors and have installed rapid roll-up doors.

"With most of the easy changes having been made, we have begun looking at other segments of our operation to make improvements in areas that, while out of the public eye, are no less beneficial than earlier changes," said Sullivan. "As a result, a major program is underway to design efficiencies into new facilities, reduce the use of metered water and increase the recycling effort, focusing on everything from paper to, well, retired buses."

For more information about the MTA's sustainability efforts, visit: <http://www.mta.info/sustainability/holly@hollywrite.com>



STALLED JUSTICE

'07 death suit against MTA drags on

Long after subway signalman Louis Moore is buried, one thing will likely be true: The tragedy will continue to be played out in a slow-motion chess game involving lawyers, bureaucrats and, sadly, family members.

Moore, 58, the latest transit worker to be killed on the job, died Wednesday. He had just completed an assignment in a Queens tunnel and was walking back to the nearest station, 46th St. in Woodside. He was walking on a narrow, elevated walkway called a benchwall that's parallel to the tracks.

For some reason, as he reached the platform edge, he fell onto the tracks, and into the path of a Jamaica-bound E train.

Authorities are now trying to determine exactly what happened, including whether safety protocols by workers and managers were followed.

Exactly six years before Moore's untimely death, trackman Danny Boggs was also killed on the job. And all these years later, the Boggs family's tragedy continues to unfold in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Boggs, 41, was hit by a train while setting up perimeter lighting for a construction job on an express track at the Columbus Circle/59th St. station. That track was scheduled to be closed at 11 p.m. for workers to replace rails and ties while trains continued to run on parallel tracks.

But train controllers, who were contending with a stalled train, decided to keep the express track active a little longer. They rerouted a local train to the express track. Nobody told Boggs of the change of plans. He was hit



PETE DONOHUE
ON THE SUBWAYS

stepping into a work zone he apparently believed was safe.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed on behalf of Boggs' wife, Bernadette, and their children, moves at a glacial pace towards trial, settlement or, conceivably, dismissal. Both sides blame each other for repeated delays.

The MTA agreed to let the Boggses' lawyer, Michael Levine, and his experts inspect the tracks where the accident happened last August. It was canceled because one expert, former transit union president Roger Toussaint, no longer was track-certified, according to court papers. He would have to take a safety refresher course to be allowed off

the platform.

The MTA lawyer claimed it had taken many months for certain documents and records to be produced in part because he only had one paralegal who was doing the grunt work on many complex high-stakes cases.

Levine not only wants to inspect Columbus Circle, he wants to recreate the scene as it was when Boggs was killed so his experts can evaluate conditions like lighting. The MTA seems willing — but at a price: \$268,000.

The MTA wouldn't discuss the case. "This is part of ongoing litigation and we will not discuss it through the media," a spokesman said.

Levine said he'd lodge a complaint with the judge overseeing the slow-motion match.

"The price is offensive," Levine said. "We are seeking judicial intervention to try and address this issue."

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Louis Moore (L) died exactly six years after Danny Boggs.



The Bronx hair salon gunman.

2 in hair-raising heist

POLICE ARE searching for two goons who held up a Bronx beauty salon at gunpoint.

The robbers entered El Truco Hair Salon on Ogden Ave. in Highbridge about 6 p.m. on April 21, police said Sunday.

One drew a black semiautomatic gun and ordered everyone into the rear of the salon. His accomplice collected \$50 in cash, three credit cards, a debit card and a driver's license from the seven people in the salon, cops said.

The gunman is described as 6-foot-2, 180 pounds. His accomplice is described as 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds.

Garry Padgett



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MTA tests giant plug in subway

BY PETE DONOHUE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE Super Subway Plug is here. Transit workers on Wednesday inflated a 30-foot-long, 14-foot-diameter plug in an unused subway tunnel for evaluation as a possible defense against flooding such as the inundation of Hurricane Sandy, the Daily News has learned.

The device (photo) was placed in a tube just north of a No. 1 train platform at the South Ferry station, which was largely destroyed when it filled with water during the disastrous storm.



A transit official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the inflation of the plug as a "demonstration project" to give transit engineers a closeup look at an emerging technology - and its possible use in the 100-plus-year-old subway system.

"The hope is that maybe someday, when you see the Big One coming, you blow this thing up and it protects the tube from flooding," the transit official said. "Maybe it

won't work. But maybe it can prevent the kind of flooding that we're still recovering from from Sandy."

Eight Metropolitan Transportation Authority underwater tunnels flooded in the October deluge, which destroyed or damaged signals, switches and electrical relays.

Replacing or fixing equipment in the MTA's subway and commuter train network, and the Midtown and Battery automobile tunnels, will cost billions of dollars, officials have said.

"Preventing that kind of damage again is a top priority for everyone," the official said.

The Department of Homeland Security has been funding research, development and testing of inflatable plugs, or bladders, to protect subway tunnels against terrorist attacks. Engineers at West Virginia University successfully tested a prototype last year.

The MTA won't do a full test with pressurized water at South Ferry, but may do further experimentation elsewhere, *pdonohue@nydailynews.com*

Token booth 'inside job'

TWO ARRESTS were made in a weekend token booth robbery in Queens after a fingerprint lifted from the scene allowed detectives to grill a suspect, who confessed the clerk who had been tied up was actually in on the scheme.

Clerk Tracy King, 48, was arrested Wednesday morning, a day after police caught up with her friend and accomplice Anthony Brown.

Both were waiting to face a judge Wednesday evening and face charges that could put them in prison for up to seven years.

King, of Jamaica, Queens, initially said she was the victim of a gunpoint robbery by two men posing as subway contractors at the No. 7 train station at 111th St. about 11 a.m. Saturday. Signal

maintainers found King in a break room at the station, tied up with rope and bound with tape. They also found a plastic container in the room; on it was Brown's print. Missing was \$4,000 from the token booth.

After Brown, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, gave her up, King admitted the heist was timed to make it easier to pull off.

"She admitted planning the robbery with him to happen on Saturday because it's quiet and the safe would be full of money," a police source said.

Investigators searched Brown's girlfriend's pad and found \$2,334 in cash, a reflective contractor's vest and the roll of tape, authorities said. **Joe Kemp, Thomas Tracy and Pete Donohue**

ANGELINA'S STORY

FEAR FOR

BY HEIDI EVANS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

FOR SUSAN Glucksman and her family, Angelina Jolie's medical bombshell hit home. Times three.

The Connecticut mom, 50, and her two younger sisters all carry the BRCA gene mutation, which leads to a very high risk of breast cancer.

She and her sister Lisa have had cancer in one breast already. Susan decided to remove her healthy breast along with the cancerous one. Lisa opted to keep her cancer-free breast, vigilant for any signs of cancer for the past 12 years.

The youngest, Pam, had preventive surgery in 2009 when she was 37 to remove both breasts and ovaries.

"Having the BRCA gene puts fear in your family, you just wish you didn't have to deal with it," said Susan, "but you are not going to die from it."

What weighs on them most now is the six young children they have among them - five girls and one boy who all have a 50% chance of having the mutation.

Susan Glucksman's daughter, Morgan, is the eldest of the cousins. She just turned 18 and will start college in the fall.

"I have wrestled with whether to have her tested now, or even at 21," said Glucksman, who has been cancer free since 2005. "There is no reason to have that information weighing on their heads. They are well aware of our family history as are our family doctors. All our kids will be watched closely."

And there is hope that Glucksman's girls and Jolie's kids may luck out. Researchers are feverishly working on how to switch off the BRCA gene mutation and may find that elusive answer by



Parents must tell them

the time these kids are in their 30s when BRCA-gene breast cancer typically hits.

Such a medical advance would save them and thousands of others with the BRCA mutation from surgically removing their breasts and ovaries.

Either way, Morgan and her sister Alyssa, 13, say they are not

afraid of the future. The teens said they will deal with the tough choices when and if the time comes.

"I thought it was kinda cool that Angelina Jolie could tell the world," said Morgan. "It always worried me seeing my mom go through all the cancer treatments, but knowing that I can

Next in Jolie's medical drama:

BY NANCY DILLON
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

ANGELINA JOLIE'S preemptive war on cancer isn't over.

The stunning "Salt" actress - who single-handedly sparked a national dialogue Tuesday with the announcement of her double mastectomy - is planning another surgery, this one to remove her ovaries. People magazine reported.

Her mother died of ovarian

cancer at 56, and Jolie carries the "faulty" BRCA gene that gives her a 50% chance of also contracting the disease.

Experts say such carriers generally should get their ovaries removed as soon as they finish having kids or by age 40.

It's not clear when Jolie, 37, plans to have the procedure, but there's no obvious medical reason she has to wait following her April 27 breast reconstruction,



FAMILYNET PICTURES

DA: Subway rob inside job

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com



police a man dressed in MTA garb asked if he could use her microwave, officials said. She added that King told police he threatened her with a black revolver and a stun gun, then bound her with duct tape and stole the cash.

According to officials, Anthony Brown has copped to the staged crime, telling police that King asked him if he "wanted to make money," then detailing how they would carry out the crime, the Queens DA said, adding that it was King's idea to be bound, otherwise police "would not believe that she had been robbed." Police said Anthony Brown never had any weapons.

Both King and Brown face up to seven years behind bars. The MTA workers union declined to comment.

\$4,000 in cash from the subway station booth, the Queens District Attorney's office said.

"Instead of being the alleged victim of a gunpoint robbery at her job, the MTA employee charged in this case is accused of staging the purported robbery and splitting the proceeds of the crime with an accomplice,"

said Queens DA Richard Brown.

King faces charges of grand larceny, defrauding the government and conspiracy. Brown faces charges of burglary, robbery, kidnapping, criminal impersonation and others.

The alleged fake hold-up was first reported over the weekend, after King had told

Arrest in \$500 theft from kid

Cops arrested a 44-year-old man Tuesday night for allegedly stealing money from a toddler in a liquor store.

Warren Hayes, of the Bronx, eyed a 3-year-old removing \$500 from his mother's coat pocket inside the store on May 3, police said.



Hayes

He allegedly snatched the cash from the boy's hand and fled.

Detectives put out surveillance footage of the suspect running away and identified him as Hayes.

Hayes turned himself in and was charged by cops with grand larceny.

(NAN FERRERA)

The new service will cost \$9.99 a month.

Google now in the music biz

Google is making a play for your music.

The search giant yesterday unveiled a music service that allows users to listen to unlimited songs for \$9.99 a month, challenging companies like Pandora and Spotify in the market for streaming music.

With its new service, announced at its annual developers' conference in San Francisco, Google has adopted the streaming music business model ahead of Apple, which is rumored to have a similar service in the works.

At the conference, Google also unveiled new innovations such as a voice-activated search. (JANIS HARRIS)

IRS chief out in wake of scandal

Washington's top tax official was fired yesterday as President Barack Obama sought to stem a rising tide of criticism over the IRS' targeting of conservative groups for special scrutiny.

Seeking to confront a series of controversies that have threatened his second-term agenda, Obama said new leadership was needed to restore public confidence in the IRS.

The president said Treasury Secretary Jack Lew had asked for and accepted acting director Steven Miller's resignation in hopes of restoring confidence in the agency going forward, and he promised to work with Congress to institute new safeguards.

"The misconduct that happened is inexcusable," he said.

Obama's news conference capped a long day of work for his administration that had to answer for numerous scandals.

The White House released

100 pages of emails detailing discussion inside the administration over last year's deadly attacks on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya.

Obama has faced GOP criticism that his administration covered up details of the assault, especially after a news report last week said memos on the incident were edited to omit a CIA warning of an al-Qaida threat.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Eric Holder was on the hot seat in for the Justice Department's secret acquisition of phone records from The Associated Press.

Holder, testifying before a House of Representatives panel, provided limited responses on the issue.

(JANIS HARRIS)



GETTY

President Obama called for new IRS leadership.

Judges tosses cop's slay rap

An indictment against an NYPD officer for the killing of an unarmed Bronx man was thrown out yesterday because a judge ruled that warnings from the cop's partners that the victim may have had a gun were kept from a grand jury.

Officer Richard Haste told the grand jury he believed Ramarley Graham, 18, was armed when he chased him into the bathroom of his home on Feb. 2, 2012, and opened fire. Police said no gun was ever found.

Graham's family vowed to protest the ruling. (NEWSBY)



Graham

Prosecutor drops Vito sex-harass case

A special prosecutor investigating sexual harassment complaints by staffers against Brooklyn Assemb. Vito Lopez concluded on Tuesday that Lopez did not commit a crime in Brooklyn and that the Assembly's secret payment of \$103,000 to settle charges against him was not a violation of criminal laws.

"The manner in which the settlement was reached and the payment that was made did not implicate any criminal conduct ..." said special prosecutor Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan. But Donovan also concluded complaints against Lopez should have been referred to the Assembly's ethics committee and that the

proper procedure might have prevented additional incidents of harassment by Lopez.

The handling of the allegations "fell short of what the public had a right to expect," Donovan said. (NEWSBY)



Lopez



Wendy Writer Williams

TV host and author Wendy Williams with a copy of her new book "Ask Wendy," yesterday.

GETTY

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WILLIAMSBRIDGE

Councilman Andy King (D-Wakefield) and the Bronx Youth Empowerment Program will host the annual Youth Speaks public forum Thursday at 4 p.m. at Evander Childs High School.

The discussion will center on the impact of rap lyrics and hip hop culture on today's youth.

Special guests slated to appear include Melle Mel, Rodney C and Doug E. Fresh.

Evander Childs High School, 800 E. Gun Hill Rd., (718) 515-0822.

Dennis Stetson

CONCOURSE

Celebrate all aspects of Puerto Rican culture at the Bronx Museum of the Arts Friday night.

The museum will honor the Young Lords, the influential Puerto Rican activist group, with a night of free music, art, poetry and food.

Poet Flaco Navaja and the Bronx-based hip-hop group Rebel Diaz will entertain the crowds and author Ernesto Quiñonez will read from his book, "Bodega Dreams."

The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, (718) 681-6000.

Dennis Stetson

FORDHAM

The 17-year cicadas will emerge this summer... and the New York Botanical Garden will welcome them with open arms this weekend.

The six-legged creatures — as well as their mating habits — will be exposed on Saturday when the Garden presents a concert and lecture, "Cicada Serenades: Music, Mating, and Meaning."

The program will deconstruct the dramatic sling, mate and die cycle that the cicadas go through every 17 years.

Tickets to the 4:30 p.m. show at the Garden's Ross Hall run \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids, but the admission comes with a day pass that grants entry to a science lecture and behind-the-scenes tours of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium and the Pfizer Plant Research Lab, part of the Garden's annual Science Open House weekend.

Visit the www.nybg.org.
Dennis Stetson

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BRONX NEWS

MTA headache

Residents demand more buses, restored service

BY JENNIFER H. CUNNINGHAM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE bus service in Co-op City is so bad, it's really pissing people off.

Angry residents of the sprawling apartment complex in the northeast Bronx demanded more buses from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority — and one elected official told of a staffer's elderly aunt who waited so long for a bus that she urinated on herself.

"When I personally hear the stories of seniors and working families who struggle with the bus cuts, it pains me," said City Councilman Andy King (D-Co-op City). "When you consider that this community is the largest naturally occurring retirement community in the country, you must take the transportation needs very seriously."

In 2010, the MTA reduced

service on two Co-op City bus routes, Bx26 and Bx28, and eliminated the entire QBx1 as part of transportation cuts across the city to plug an \$800 million budget gap.

As a result, buses are more crowded and stops are further apart. Ridership on the combined Bx25/26 route increased nearly 1% to 2,397,577 riders in 2012, according to MTA. And ridership on the merged Bx28/39 line increased 2.5% to 5,045,558.

"This is a service we're entitled to," said Helen Atkins, president of the River Bay Board of Directors for Co-op City.

"No more standing in the rain, snow, wind — which we are

known for."

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said the agency would consider restoring service now that the state gave it more money.

"The MTA continues to try to reduce its costs and study opportunities to better serve its customers," he said. "In July, we will be able to take into account this additional funding in order to consider where to invest any additional resources."

But Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, who attended the Wednesday rally, saw something more sinister than mere money.

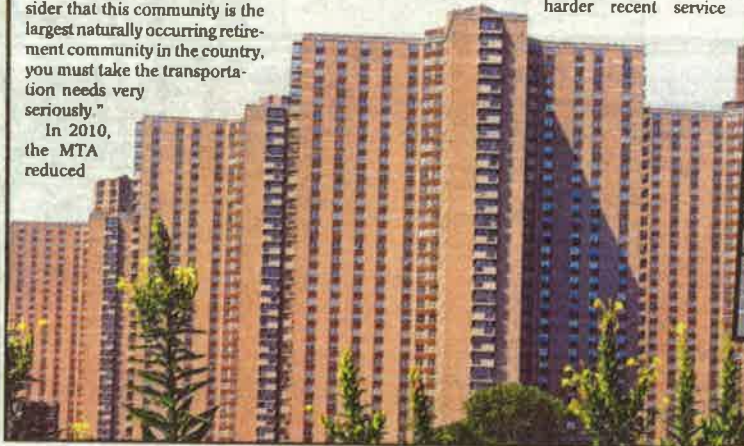
"The further you get from Manhattan, the thinner public transit becomes and the harder recent service

cuts have hit," de Blasio said. "There's no question that as service gets restored, outer-borough communities like Co-op City should be at the top of the list."

The cuts also eliminated service that brought students directly to Harry S. Truman High School on Baychester Ave. Now, students must walk across the compound and then idle as they wait for a bus.

"It should arrive five minutes before dismissal," said Brandon Bennett, a senior. "That would avoid large numbers of students waiting around for long periods of time."

jcunningham@nydailynews.com



Co-op City residents say more buses and restored lines should be MTA priority. Photos by Joe Marino, Richard Harbus/News

Bx. smartphone bandit collared

BY JOE KEMP and JENNIFER H. CUNNINGHAM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE TEEN smartphone bandit who took his own mugshot has been arrested, cops said.

Cops collared Albert Wilson, 19, after he allegedly swiped a Samsung Galaxy smartphone from a 16-year-old boy in the Bronx and then snapped a picture of himself that ended up in the victim's email inbox, thanks to the Google Plus app on the phone. The app automatically sends pictures taken on the phone to the user's inbox via an "auto upload" feature.

Wilson was with about four other youths when he approached the teen at Southern Blvd. and E 175th St. near Crotona Park shortly before 10 p.m. on May 25, cops said. The bandits ordered the teen to empty his pockets and hand over his cell phone, and the victim complied. The muggers then ran off. A short time later, a bespectacled Wilson took a picture of himself — but the phone sent the por-



Smartphone theft suspect Albert Wilson took this photo of himself with the stolen phone, cops said.

trait to the victim's email account. In the photo, the suspect can be seen wearing a backwards Yankees cap, a black Polo hooded sweatshirt and black glasses.

To add to the idiocy, the thug photographed himself under a sign promoting the NYPD's "Operation Clean Halls," a building security program.

Cops used the picture to identify Wilson and nabbed him Tuesday.

He's facing charges that include robbery and criminal possession of stolen property. It's not the first time dimwitted Bronx crooks have implicated themselves in smartphone thefts. In January, cops nabbed Felicia Cooks, 17, after she robbed a Bronx teen, and took pictures making kissy faces with the phone — which automatically downloaded onto her victim's Facebook page.

And in March, a man who stole a woman's iPhone accidentally posted photos of himself smoking pot on the victim's Facebook page.

jcunningham@nydailynews.com

ON1

WEATHER



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TOMORROW
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Partly
cloudy



SATURDAY
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Partly
cloudy

HOT LIST



Bottlerocket and Seamless today will host "Order In: Take-Out Food and Wine Pairing." Attendees will pair sushi and Mexican food with six different wines, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Bottlerocket, 5 W. 19th St. Visit bottlerocket.com for tx.

Stage 72, at 158 W. 72nd St., is hosting *Speakeasy Moderne*, a party featuring a blend of jazz, cabaret and burlesque, at 9 p.m. tonight.



The NYC-based Louisiana blues/grunge rock band *Gravyard Lovers* is playing Friday night at *The Bowery Electric*, 327 Bowery. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit theboweryelectric.com for tx.

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SERVICE IS BACK

Rockaways regain subway line with A train set to return today

BY DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

Seven months after Superstorm Sandy robbed Rockaways residents of their main transit route to the rest of the city, the A train is set to return to the area at noon today.

The above-ground A line in the Rockaways was among the most damaged parts of the transit system after Sandy, and the MTA estimates it cost about \$650 million to repair the line's mangled infrastructure, remove debris (which included Jet Skis) and fix corroded cables.

Celeste Kirkland, a power cable maintainer, said she was used to working under the pressure of getting train service back up when she started repairing the wrecked line.

"We're like the Con Ed of New York City Transit," Kirkland said. "We're used to emergencies, but Sandy was something totally different."

Kirkland, a vice chair of the power section for the Transport Workers Union Local 100, said she had never seen sand get inside a cable until she started working on the Rockaways peninsula in January. She and her crew — responsible for communications, electrical and power lines — were tasked with pulling out and

replacing thousands of feet of cables.

"Cables that were ripped down from their location, green corrosion [was] showing — That's what we were looking at," Kirkland said. "It just showed us how high the water came up."

In March, the MTA got about \$18 million in federal funds for initial repairs to the Rockaways line. Meanwhile, the 30,000 Rockaways residents who depend on the A line have been taking crowded shuttle buses or a ferry to lower Manhattan to commute.

To ensure that the A train can withstand a future storm as powerful as Sandy, the MTA constructed a two-mile seawall on the eastern shore of Broad Channel, a low-lying area that brings the A train across Jamaica Bay. The corrugated marine steel wall is anchored in 30 feet of soil and can resist saltwater corrosion.

Councilman Donovan Richards, who represents part of the Rockaways, said he was initially unsure ser-

vice could be back in time for the summer. "They pulled a rabbit out of the hat with this one," Richards said.

Struggling business owners will also benefit from more potential customers now that there is reliable train service for Rockaways beachgoers.

"Every little bit does help, especially right now," said Andrew Field, co-owner of Rockaway Taco.

Robert Kaskel said he expects more business for his Jet Ski rental service, located two blocks from the Beach 90th Street station.

"There's a significant segment of business that I'm not able to get without that train running," Kaskel said.

"I think the more the public sees that the Rockaways as a vital, beautiful beach community, the more they'll realize that it's a place of recreation and to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city," Kaskel added.

For residents of the Rockaways, the return of the A train means the return of a normal commute to and from Manhattan.

Kirkland, the power cable maintainer and TWU member, said she would see residents walking home from work or riding on shuttle buses.

"I felt bad for them," she said. "I knew that I was involved in a process that would enable them to get home sooner."

They pulled a rabbit out of a hat with this one.

— Councilman
Donovan Richards

Service to the Rockaways had been suspended since Superstorm Sandy. MTA officials earlier this week rode a test train in advance of the restoration of A train and shuttle service today.



\$650 million

to restore the A line

\$15.7 million

for a seawall to protect the eastern side of Broad Channel

3.6 miles

of the A line damaged by superstorm Sandy

Source: MTA



Poll: Kelly could be mayoral front-runner

NYPD commissioner Ray Kelly could be a top contender if he is persuaded by behind-the-scenes nudging to run for mayor, according to a poll commissioned by an anonymous businessman and released yesterday.

The poll of 600

likely voters suggested Kelly's entry would "catalyze" his instant front-runner status" in both the Republican primary and general election, said Kellyanne Conway, a GOP strategist who heads The Polling Co., based in Washington.

Kelly's spokesman Paul J. Browne said yesterday his boss is "focused on" his job and "has no plans

to run for mayor."

Browne did not respond directly when asked if Kelly had flatly ruled it out.

Speculation about Kelly has resurged in recent days. A tweet by Rupert Murdoch said "Ray Kelly great public servant. Only hope of averting disaster for NY."

The poll, pitting Kelly against two Democrats, said he would beat City Council Speaker Christine Quinn 41%-38% and former city Comptroller Bill Thompson 40%-39%. His leads were within the margin of error. (NEWSDAY)

CHRIS KURTZ



Investors OK plan to make ESB a public entity

Investors of the company that owns the Empire State Building have approved a plan to take the iconic tower public, clearing the last major hurdle to real estate mogul Peter Malkin's attempt to retain control over a property that has been in his family for more than five decades, while allowing investors to cash out.

Malkin Holdings LLC first filed its intention in November 2011 to fold the 102-story office tower into a newly created real estate investment trust known as the Empire State Realty Trust Inc.

But it faced stiff opposition

from a small group of investors who objected, in part, to how their stake was valued, and sued.

In a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing yesterday, Malkin said investors representing at least 80% of the ownership units voted in favor of the plan, and the ballot was still open.

Crossing that threshold would allow the Malkin family to force any holdouts to acquiesce to its plan. The REIT has estimated it will raise \$1 billion in proceeds from an initial public offering, for which a date has yet to be set. (NEWS)



The Empire State Building

Google view app upgraded to include more NY

BY IVAN PEREIRA
ivan.pereira@am-ny.com

Google's Street View feature received a major update yesterday that gives users a better look at the Big Apple.

The tech giant's popular street imaging function now includes updated photos from the 9/11 Memorial, Central Park and Sandy-affected neighborhoods.

"We want people to see

the damage but also show that we're resilient. The street view images show what we've been through," Google spokesman William Floyd said.

In addition to the Street View updates, Google teamed up with the non-profit group Historypin to create a website where New Yorkers can share their photos of Sandy neighborhoods and their recovery.

"It allows users to put pictures of their communities and their homes in a personal way," Floyd said.



The 9/11 memorial is now on Google Street View.

Bloody weekend on the tracks

BY DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

A man pushed onto subway tracks on Saturday was able to leave the station with his life during a grisly weekend that saw four unrelated train deaths.

The victim was shoved onto the tracks during a struggle with a mugger that started on an E train and spilled out onto the Lexington Avenue-53rd Street station platform at 10:30 p.m., police said. The mugger fled with the man's iPhone as bystanders helped the victim off the tracks before another train could roll through the station.

He was taken to Weill Cornell Medical Center with a broken leg and rup-



4
People killed by trains this weekend, at least one in an apparent suicide

In addition to the deaths, a man was shoved to the tracks during a struggle with a mugger.

tured ear drum, the NYPD said. Police said the suspect is a man between 20 and 25 years old, and was wearing a black shirt, track pants and a black baseball cap. Meanwhile, others were

killed on the tracks this weekend.

In the Bronx, 22-year-old Francisco Diego was fatally run over by a No. 2 train early Saturday morning around 1 a.m. at the Wake-

field-241st Street station. Diego was reportedly on the tracks to get his dropped iPhone.

An apparently suicidal 45-year-old man was decapitated by an M train Friday

evening at 9:20 p.m. near the elevated Seneca Avenue station. The man was lying on the track bed when the Queens-bound train hit him, according to the NYPD. The motorman told police that he pulled the emergency break in a failed attempt to avoid him.

On Friday, a man died when he was run over by a southbound E train at the West 23rd Street station shortly around 5:30 a.m., according to an FDNY spokesman.

Hours earlier in the Bronx around 2 a.m., a 50-year-old man who jumped in front of a northbound No. 2 train got pinned between a subway car and the platform. He was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, the FDNY spokesman said.

Chuck: Bill 'vital' for U.S.

Sen Chuck Schumer yesterday said he thinks a comprehensive immigration overhaul could pass the Senate by July 4, though House Republicans have already said they wouldn't



Schumer

vote for it and are working on their own version.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Schumer said the bill would have overwhelming support in the Senate, with as many as 70 senators backing it.

"We are moving forward because we believe in a bipartisan way this is so vital for America, and we'll have a good bill," Schumer said.

Four Republicans and four Democrats are working on the bill, which would bring new border controls and create a path to citizenship for the approximately 11 million immigrants illegally living in the U.S. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

Angelina steps out, feels 'great'

Angelina Jolie yesterday stepped out in public for the first time since announcing her double mastectomy, and she said she's been overwhelmed by the support for her decision to have the procedure.

Walking the red carpet at the premiere of partner Brad Pitt's new film "World War Z" in London, Jolie told reporters she felt "great" and "wonderful" and that she is "very, very grateful for all the support."

"It's meant a lot to me," Jolie said. "I've been very happy just to see the discussion about women's health expanded, and that means the world to me."

'When she's faced with a problem ... she takes it by the horns.'

— Brad Pitt

Jolie, 37, announced she had the surgery in a New York Times op-ed last month, saying she had an 87% chance of developing breast cancer as well as a 50% chance of developing ovar-

ian cancer.

Her mother, Marcheline Bertrand, died in 2007 of ovarian cancer.

Pitt yesterday said he was proud of Jolie for her decision to have a mastectomy for the sake of their family.

"When she's faced with a problem — and we have known this was coming for some time — she takes it by the horns," Pitt, 49, told reporters.

"I'm super proud of her. She's a bad ass."

(AP/WIDEWORLD)



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt in London yesterday

Three men shot on B'klyn street

Three men were shot outside a busy commercial strip in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens yesterday.

The victims, who range from 25 to 40 years old, were taken to Kings County hospital after the 3:25 p.m. incident, the NYPD said. Two of the unidentified victims suffered non-life threatening injuries, and one was in serious condition last night.

Shots were fired at responding police officers, but they did not fire back, officials said.

The shooting took place near Lenox Road and Bedford Avenue and cops searched for blocks for the unidentified suspects. There were no arrests as of press time. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

Citi Bike has solid first week, open to public

BY IVAN PEREIRA
ivan.pereira@am-ny.com

The training wheels came off the city's bike share program yesterday.

While Citi Bike was available only for members last week, the program is now open to any New Yorker who wants to ride any of the

6,000 bicycles.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who worked for years with the city's transportation department to get the program up and running, touted its growing popularity during his weekly radio show.

"Only a week since its launch, over 20,000 New

Yorkers have already signed up to become annual subscribers," he said.

Non-annual members who have a credit or debit card can purchase day or week passes for \$9.95 and \$25, respectively. Those passes allow 30 minutes for each trip with fees charged for extra time. Annual mem-

bers, who pay \$95 a year and can use their bikes for 45 minutes per trip plus charges for additional time, were able to use the service last week. DOT officials said they would use that soft launch week to work out any kinks and make sure the program runs smoothly.

The station at 35th Street and Eighth Avenue, one of the 300 bike stations city-

wide, was relocated two blocks south over the weekend for technical reasons, said a DOT spokesman.

Some community residents have opposed the stands because they cause traffic headaches among other reasons.



By the numbers

Trips over the past 24 hours (5 p.m. Saturday to 5 p.m. yesterday):
14,933

Cumulative trips (since launch):
65,803

Miles traveled to date:
166,507

Total annual members since launch:
27,678

24-hour subscriptions:
2,765

7-day subscriptions:
182

(NYC DOT)



SEE THE VIDEO



No bones about it, MTA pulls out steps to warn in rap (top L.) that death stalks the subway. YouTube

Rail thrill on journey into past

BY EDGAR SANDOVAL
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

TRAVELERS went back in time Sunday, riding in two railroad cars restored to recreate the most luxurious accommodations of the famed 20th Century Limited.

History buffs — some dressed in stylish sports jackets — rejoiced as they walked into the Hickory Creek car, which debuted in 1948 and was reserved for A-listers. The iconic car with sleeping compartments, immaculate furniture and large windows embodied a golden age of luxury rail travel.

There was also a restored bar car.

"It was a period of elegance that we lost in this country," said Raymond Claus, president of Star Trak, which spearheaded the restorations. "(Riders) had more respect for the environment they lived in. They dressed and acted differently. Today, everyone's in a rush."

The train cars, favored by celebrities and the wealthy, ran from Grand Central Terminal to Chicago until 1967.

The 2013 version was smoke-free, departed from Penn Station as part of an Amtrak train bound for Albany and cost \$150 per ticket, roughly triple the normal New York-to-Albany fare. The cars are also available for private parties.

Standing in the restored bar car connected to the Hickory Creek, train cook Fran Phillips, 62, felt echoes of the past.

"Marilyn Monroe would have been in the other car, first class! It's gorgeous," Phillips said.

Decorators spent roughly five years and \$1 million to restore each car.

They relied on old photographs to recreate every detail, making the rail cars look like they belong in "North by Northwest."

"This is the way haves — not the have-nots — traveled," said Michael Toole, webmaster for the United Railroad Historical Society of New Jersey.



The Grim Reaper rides the subway.

The skeletal figure can be seen standing on the platform edge as a 400-ton train races into the station, the rush of air blasts and billows his black hood and cape.

He walks silently through a subway car.

He glides up a station escalator, looking right into your eyes.

These are three scenes from a public service message by Transport Workers Union Local 100. The subject is death, or, rather, how to avoid death



PETE DONOHUE

by train.

The public service message comes in the form of a rap music video. I know, that sounds lame. Public service message-rap music video sounds like a recipe for disaster — three minutes of your life you won't get back.

But this is a surprisingly good and impressive bit of work. The video takes on a serious subject, but manages at times to have fun with the catchy refrain "stand back," as in stand back from the yellow line. With no solution to the carnage in sight, the production won't be outdated anytime soon.

Trains and riders collided 657 times between 2008 and 2012, according to MTA data. I say "collided" because it's not uncommon for people to walk into the sides of trains that are entering, departing or idling in stations. These stumblers usually have had more than a few cocktails.

Nearly 230 riders, about 35%, were struck after they fainted, tripped or descended to the roadbed intentionally, sometimes to retrieve property dropped to the tracks, according to the MTA data. This group also includes the rare instances in which a lunatic pushes another person from a platform.

About 26% — 175 poor souls — killed themselves or attempted to commit suicide by train. A very small group — nine riders —

fell between subway cars.

As of Sunday, the latest to die was a deejay who went to the tracks at about 1 a.m. Saturday at the Wakefield/241st St. station in the Bronx to retrieve an iPhone that he dropped, officials said. Francisco Diego Jr., of the Bronx, was just 22.

Motorman Noah Rodriguez, now assigned to the union hall, raps about such incidents in the video, using the transit code 12-9 for body on the tracks: "Every time I hear about a 12-9 that means somebody didn't stay behind the yellow line.

Or they dropped something on the tracks/and just had to get it back.

But they ain't make it back up

It's grim rapper!

MTA's safety vid is a shocking hit

Nearly all aboard

More than 45 elected officials or candidates for office — but not former MTA Chairman Joe Lhota — have signed a petition demanding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority use a \$40 million windfall to restore and bolster service.

"The trains and buses are packed," said John Raskin, executive director of the Riders Alliance. "The first priority ... should be more trains and more buses."

Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, Controller John Liu, former controller Bill Thompson and former Rep. Anthony Weiner all signed. Lhota, who is running for the GOP nomination, declined.

in time

Now there are rules you should follow if you drop something of yours, call a transit worker or a cop.

STOP if you think you can outrun, you're insane/that's more than 400 tons of a train."

Trust me. It works when Rodriguez, straight outta the subway, raps it.

Local 100 has a three-point plan to reduce subway deaths: slow trains entering the stations, put more transit workers on platforms and give token booth clerks the ability to cut track power from their posts.

The MTA has rejected or been silent on all three, opting instead for pilot programs testing longer-term strategies

that may or may not be feasible, like a network of sensors. The sensors, conceivably would detect when someone is on the tracks that triggers an alert to any approaching trains.

In the meantime, stand back.

6/3/2013



TWU LOCAL 100 IN THE NEWS

DAILY NEWS
NYDailyNews.com



Pete Donohue

The Grim Reaper rides the subway.

The skeletal figure can be seen standing on the platform edge as a 400-ton train races into the station, the rush of air blasts and billows his black hood and cape.

He walks silently through a subway car.

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(Continued opposite side)

Superman

The Man of Steel's Big Apple ties *in the city*

BY IVAN PERERA
Ivan.perera@am-ny.com

Clark Kent may never have to deal with subway crowds during rush hour, but that hasn't stopped him from leaving his mark on New York City.

Through various incarnations over his 75-year existence, Superman has been spotted in various locations throughout Manhattan, which is often a stand-in for Metropolis in the comics, TV shows and movies.

Dan DiDio, the co-publisher of DC Comics, said the city was a natural fit given the hero's journey.

"New York was the original multination city," he said. "Here we have the ultimate immigrant story with Superman and it's natural that he comes here to feel one with humanity."

Alex Zalben, a producer for the blog MTV Geek, said the biggest New York

influence on the character can be felt in the Christopher Reeve films of the 1970s and '80s, which filmed in Manhattan.

"For a majority of people, their first experience of Superman was Christopher Reeve in that movie. It made you think about Superman being a New Yorker," he said.

Here are some of the top New York locations from comics and film:



220 East 42nd Street
The skyscraper that was home to the Daily News and is currently home to

PIXIL, served as the backdrop for the Daily Planet in the Reeve films. While shooting the iconic scene where Superman makes his caped appearance on location, the crew had to deal with a real-life crisis: the 1977 blackout.



Grand Central Terminal
Gene Hackman's Lex Luthor, and his wacky sidekicks, made their home 200 feet below Park Avenue in "Superman: The Movie." The fictional lair, accessible

through a hidden door on a Grand Central track, contains a huge pool, lion den and a lead case with Kryptonite. Don't ask about the maintenance fee.

The Empire State Building

The geek community went nuts when, for the first time ever, the Man of Steel and Spider-Man faced off in a giant-size comic for the city's bragging rights in 1976.

The cover featured the two rival heroes squaring off in midair above the building.



In "Superman II," Superman also knocked the Kryptonian criminal Non into the building's spire and used it to cage him during a massive fight.



Chem weapons in Syria: Officials

The United States concluded that Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces used chemical weapons against rebel fighters in Syria and President Barack Obama has decided to supply direct military assistance to the Syrian opposition, the White House said on Thursday.

The new intelligence assessment could put pressure on Washington for an aggressive response.

Obama's deputy national security adviser would not specify whether the military assistance will include lethal aid.

Cops hunt mugger of 92-year-old man

Police are searching for a man accused of robbing a 92-year-old man in Chelsea on Monday.

A man in his 30s is suspected of following the elderly man on West 18th Street around 11:30 p.m., knocking him down and stealing his bag, which contained only a Bible and glasses. The man was treated for a broken hip. There is a \$22,000 reward for information leading to the suspect's arrest and conviction.

Transit advocates: Fast-track MTA chief's confirmation

BY DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

With the MTA lacking a permanent chief since Joe Lhota stepped down in December, some transit advocates want lawmakers to confirm interim executive director Tom Prendergast to lead the agency.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo in April picked Prendergast to

lead the MTA, but the long-time agency official has yet to secure a hearing with the state Senate, which must approve the nomination. Lawmakers are set to break for the summer on June 20.

"For the fourth time in four years, the MTA has uncertain leadership," said Richard Ravitch, who ran the MTA from 1979 to 1983. "Whatever the motives are

for the delay, there's no possible good reason."

A spokesman for the Senate Republicans, who control the transportation committee, said Prendergast met Wednesday with GOP senators to discuss several transit issues, according to *Newday*.

"This is part of the process," Senate Republican spokesman Scott Reif told

Newday.

Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign said a confirmed leader for the MTA would have an easier time making critical decisions, citing the closure of two tunnels damaged by Superstorm Sandy that will disrupt R and G train service.

"The decision would have been made on a speedier basis if you had someone

who was in the driver's seat," Russianoff said.

Meanwhile, the next MTA chair must hash out a contract with members of the Transport Workers Union Local 100.

"The chairman of the MTA is the closer," union spokesman Jim Gannon said. "Without him ... it's a definite impediment."

Wendy Pollack, spokes-



Lhota

Prendergast

woman for the Regional Plan Association, said Prendergast will "hit the ground running" as the MTA's permanent chair, given his decades-long career with the agency.

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The Citi Bike share program is one of several popular Bloomberg initiatives, a Quinnipiac poll said.

Poll: NYers like Mike, bikes

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's time in City Hall is winding down, but his final moves in office are grabbing big public support, according to a Quinnipiac poll released Thursday.

Half of the city's voters support the newly launched Citi Bike share program, the poll said. More than half, 52%, of voters would support a plan to make it mandatory to recycle food waste and scraps, the poll said. And most impressively for the mayor, 74% of voters support his \$19 billion proposal to set up protections for the city against future flooding and wind damage.

"Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been furiously gen-

erating ideas and this new bunch are winners," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "The biggest idea, the \$19 billion flood control program, is the biggest hit with voters."

Fifty-one percent of voters approved of Bloomberg's overall performance as mayor. The poll comes as the DOT released new Citi Bike stats, saying that nearly 530,000 trips on the rental bikes have been taken since the program launched in late May, amounting to more than 1.28 million miles traveled, according to DOT stats.

More than 113,000 combined annual, weekly and daily subscriptions have been purchased, and each bike has seen an average of 88 rides so far.

NYers weigh in

Citi Bike

50% support
20% against
27% undecided

Mandatory recycling food scraps

52% support
42% against
6% undecided

Storm plan

74% support
17% against
9% undecided

Bloomberg's overall performance

51% approve
41% disapprove
8% undecided

According to a Quinnipiac University poll that surveyed 1,238 city voters, margin of error +/- 2.8 percentage points

Hernandez eyed in double homicide

A murder investigation into former NFL player Aaron Hernandez broadened on Thursday with the arrest of a second man, and a probe into the possible involvement of the onetime star tight end in a double homicide in Boston last year. Police were in-

vestigating links between Hernandez and an unsolved shooting in July 2012, the Boston Globe reported. Hernandez, 23, was cut by the Patriots after his arrest Wednesday on charges of the murder of semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd. (AP)

Mayor: I'll fight bills

Promises to nix council's plan for NYPD watchdog

BY EMILY NGO
emily.ngo@newsday.com

Mayor Michael Bloomberg vowed yesterday to stop two bills aimed at reining in police "stop and frisks" from becoming law, and the controversial's place as a wedge issue when the election season heats up.

Bloomberg's plan to veto the bills passed overnight by the City Council — and the council's subsequent override attempt — could drag on for two months. The Sept. 10 primary for the candidates hoping to succeed Bloomberg would be just around the corner.

The bills passed by veto-proof margins, but Bloomberg held out hope of changing enough votes on the "dangerous" legislation.

"There's people who may vote for a bill and then be willing to maintain the mayor's veto," he said. "This is a fight to defend your life and your kids' lives. ... I will not give up."



A police simulation of the controversial "stop and frisk" practice.



Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Association, said: "It will strip officers from the street while they are forced to justify every action in court as not being 'bias-based.'"

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn voted for the inspector general bill but not the profiling bill. She said her job is to do "what's right for New York" and if others criticize her for it, "then that's their problem."

The other Democratic candidates are split on the bills. Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio said, "I'm the only candidate who would sign both of those into law."

Republicans Joe Lhota and John Catsimatidis oppose the bills.

By 40 to 11, the council voted to install an inspector general to oversee the police department. The second bill, passed 34 to 17, adds categories such as age, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation to the definition of bias-based profiling and enables individuals to sue

the NYPD for alleged violations in state court. A veto override needs 34 votes.

Supporters said the bills, called the Community Safety Act, will curb discrimination in "stop and frisk" practices.

Pat Lynch, president of the Parolmen's Benevolent

Group seeks R, G solution

By DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

With the MTA set to disrupt service on the R and G trains this summer, transit advocates are calling on the agency to come up with better commuting alternatives.

The Riders Alliance joined elected officials outside Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday to push for more trains, bus service restorations and other options to help riders whose commute will be bungled from the unprecedented closure of the Montague tunnel on the R line and the Greenpoint tunnel to Queens on the G line, to repair equipment damaged from Superstorm Sandy.

"We need a plan to accommodate riders," Riders Alliance Executive Director John Raskin said. Starting in August, the R



Riders Alliance is pushing for more trains and buses.

train in Brooklyn will stop heading into lower Manhattan for 14 months, and the G train will stop service between Greenpoint Avenue in Brooklyn and 21st Street and Court Square in Long Island City for 12 weekends throughout the year. A shuttle bus will serve G-train riders at those stations.

"We're going to consider every one of the ideas," said Adam Lisberg, an MTA spokesman.

A new 'stream' of NYC jobs

Spotify, the music streaming service, announced Thursday that it will move from the Google building to a few blocks down on Sixth Avenue. The larger space will be available for 130 engineers and programmers who will join the staff of 70 sometime in 2014. (AP)

The mayor's office has joined Spotify and created its own Gotham focused playlist.

1. "New York Groove" by Ace Frehley
2. "Under The Boardwalk" by The Drifters
3. "No Sleep till Brooklyn" by the Beastie Boys
4. "The Rising" by Bruce Springsteen
5. "I and Love and You" by the Avett Brothers

(WWW.NY.gov)



Bill supporters John McCain, Chuck Schumer

Immigration bill passes in Senate

The U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a comprehensive reform of immigration laws in a 68-32 vote.

The bill offers undocumented residents a path to citizenship, increases the number of visas for low- and high-skilled immigrants, and bolsters security along the U.S.-Mexican border. Now, the bill heads to the Republican-led House of Representatives, where the chamber's conservative members oppose the legislation. (AP)

DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

- Editorial p22-24
- Weather, Horoscope p30
- NOW p31
- Comics, Crossword p34-35
- Obituaries p28
- Sports p40
- BlzNews & Your Money p26-27



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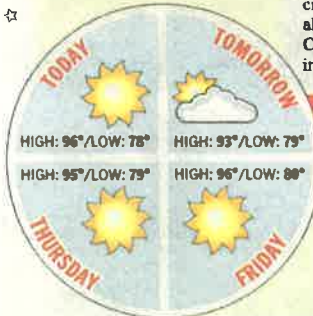
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Route to big-time bus fix

EXCLUSIVE

THE MTA WILL SOON unveil about \$14 million in bus and subway improvements, including restorations of some bus routes cut during the 2010 fiscal crisis, sources said.

A transit official cautioned the final list of "service investments" has not been finalized. But sources said it now includes restoring or increasing service on the M8 and M100 in Manhattan, the B37 and B70 in Brooklyn, the Bx24 in the Bronx, and the Q58 and Q37 in Queens. Many of the restorations involve bringing back week-

end service, one source said. New MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast "is getting off to a good start with the riding public," Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign said.

Transport Workers Union Local 100 President John Samuelson said union and community organizing proved effective. The union, civic groups and elected officials like Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez (D-Brooklyn) formed a vocal coalition calling for a return of the B37 between Bay

Ridge and downtown Brooklyn.

"When the community groups fight for service restorations alone, they fall short, and when the TWU fights alone, it falls short. When we fight together, we win," Samuelson said.

Gov. Cuomo's budget earlier this year included increased transit subsidies. The MTA will unveil its own preliminary 2014 budget next week. It also is expected to include funding to run more G subway trains.

Pete Donohue



City has new frisk gambit

BY DAREH GREGORIAN
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE CITY IS HOPING the likelihood of an inspector general for the NYPD can help stave off a possible court-appointed federal monitor for its controversial stop-and-frisk program.

In papers filed in Manhattan Federal Court, city lawyers say the probable addition of an inspector general for the NYPD means the appointment of a monitor would lead to "confusion, redundancy and unwieldiness."

A "monitor imposed by the court will result in at least duplicative oversight and potentially inconsistent directives to the NYPD," the city said in a letter to Judge Shira Scheindlin on Friday.

Scheindlin could appoint a federal monitor to oversee the NYPD's stop-and-frisk program after a contentious trial in which opponents charged that city cops were routinely violating people's civil rights. After the nine-week trial came to an end in May, the City Council passed legislation appointing an inspector general to oversee



Top cop Raymond Kelly says NYPD already has several layers of oversight at it awaits Judge Shira Scheindlin's ruling on a monitor.

the entire department, including the stop-and-frisk program.

Mayor Bloomberg has vowed to veto the bill, but its sponsors maintain they have enough votes to override any veto.

Scheindlin asked both sides in the federal case for their opinions on how the addition of an inspector general — the idea backed by City Council — should affect her decision. The city said it's all the more reason for the judge to shoot down the request for a federal monitor.

"Subjecting [the] NYPD to multiple overseers may well compromise public safety," the letter said.

The "NYPD should not be placed in a position where it will have to respond to potentially con-

flicting investigations, findings or recommendations among a monitor and any other overseeing entities," the letter said.

Lawyers for the frisk opponents said that while an inspector general could help with the problems, that office wouldn't be able to stop them on its own. The IG would only be able to recommend changes, while a monitor has the power to enforce them, the plaintiffs' lawyers said.

Scheindlin is expected to issue her ruling as early as this month.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has said the NYPD already has several layers of oversight.

NEWS SAYS: Your turn, Quinn.

An Editorial: See page 22

Senate faceoff over filibusters

THE U.S. SENATE steamed toward a showdown over its filibuster rules, as the chamber's top Democrat upped demands on Republicans Monday.

Senators met in a rare bipartisan sitdown Monday night in search of a compromise over the GOP's refusal to confirm a host of White House appointees Tuesday will see the first test vote.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) demanded that Republicans allow up-or-down votes on seven of President Obama's executive nominations.

If the GOP blocks any of them, Reid said he will seek to change Senate rules so that executive branch nominees can be confirmed by a majority. Currently, opponents can block nominations that cannot garner 60 of 100 Senate votes. Dan Friedman

An empty Shel

ALBANY — Scandal has eaten up Shelly's campaign kitty.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver used \$115,000 in campaign funds during the past six months to pay legal bills stemming from his involvement in the Vito Lopez sexual harassment scandal.

The embattled Democratic power broker, who came under fire for approving a secret \$103,000 taxpayer-funded settlement in the case, paid the money to the law firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. The firm represented him during a state ethics commission probe of the scandal involving ex-Brooklyn Assemblyman Lopez, campaign records show. The firm also received \$35,000 from Silver in December. Glenn Blain and Kenneth Lovett

Petraeus' \$1 salary

FORMER CIA director David Petraeus has taken a pay cut — instead of earning \$150,000 to lecture three hours a week at CUNY, he'll receive \$1.

Petraeus' lawyer, Robert Barnett, and CUNY officials confirmed the salary cut on Monday.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," Barnett told the New York Times.

The move came just days after the six-figure salary was blasted on the Daily News' editorial page and called "obscene" by CUNY's faculty union.

Bill Hutchinson

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Good service? Golly G! MTA to fix lousy line

By REBECCA HARSHBARGER

Say goodbye to the G train shuffle!

Long-suffering riders in Brooklyn and Queens will get some relief from running along subway platforms to get into the line's short four-car trains.

The MTA yesterday announced a series of improvements to the often-neglected line, including a plan to have the train stop at a fixed place on the platform and service increases.

The changes are a result of recommendations from a study the MTA just finished on the line.

"The G train sprint is going to end," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron, who had asked the MTA to review the subway line.

The MTA will put up signs by the end of this year that will show strap-hangers where the G train will arrive — and they'll rearrange benches so that they line up with its cars.

Lawyer Alexis Saba, 29, of Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, was relieved — and said she almost lost a shoe running to catch a train.



Improvements on track

- The short, four-car G train will stop consistently at a fixed place at each station so commuters won't have to guess.
- Signs will be installed showing commuters where the train is going to stop.
- There will be 25 percent more trains in the afternoon and evening as of mid-2014.
- Trains will run at more even intervals.
- Twelve more stations will have public announcements about service changes so commuters won't be in the dark.

"It will make it a lot easier to plan," said Saba, who is a member of the Riders Alliance, a commuters-advocacy group, and lives off of the Clinton-Washington Avenue stop. "You hear the train coming, and you run as fast as you can. You get exhausted and hot."

The MTA also believes that better communication with passengers about where the train will stop will prevent people from

crowding the rear cars.

"Right now, the train stops in different places at different times, and sometimes at inconvenient places," said John Raskin, executive director of the Riders Alliance. "People don't know where it's going to stop. These changes will fix all that."

The line's 125,000 commuters — who live in rapidly growing neighborhoods like Greenpoint and

Williamsburg — will also see service increased by 25 percent in afternoons and evenings by mid-2014 if the MTA can secure the funding.

There will be an average of 7.5 cars an hour, versus the current six.

Wait times are expected to drop from an average of 10 minutes to eight minutes.

There will also be public announcements about ser-

vice changes at 12 G train stations that don't have them now.

"I'll be able to rely on it to visit friends and family," said Brian Zumba, 16, who lives in Corona, Queens, but often uses the Court Square stop to travel to Brooklyn. "I have a lot of friends in Williamsburg and Greenpoint. I can get home on time."

The MTA is also revising the subway's timetables to make the G run more evenly — rather than having trains bunched together, creating long waits.

Tolani Abedoye, a 36-year-old data manager for the Department of Education and also a member of the Rider's Alliance, was thrilled that there would be more trains at night and greater service overall.

"It's been incredibly frustrating," said Abedoye. "I take the G train every-day to work."

An MTA spokesman said it would cost \$700,000 to increase the number of G trains, and the agency is seeking more funding to boost service.

rharshbarger@nypost.com

Airline bare-li for flie

It was Erin go "aaag" a Brooklyn woman suing Irish airline Aer Lingus, saying its flight attendants forced her to pull down a jumbo-jet aisle no pants on after she scalded with boiling-

In the Brooklyn suit, Christine Rivera she and a pal hopped flight in March for was supposed to be joyable jaunt to Dublin.

But the pre-teacher's vacation was doused when a hot tea that had handed over by a flight attendant slid off of her tray and splashed high.

Rivera quickly reher pants to get the off her scalded skin, a ing to the suit.

Started by the cc tion, flight attendant her to move to another — but failed to provide cover for her as she forced to strut down aisle in front of other sengers in her skivvi cording to court paper.

Staffers then told remove her wet under the suit claims, and over a blanket for the the trip without whether she needed tance with the burn.

Rivera rushed to a hospital after to agnosed in Dublin and agnosed with second degree burns, the suit s

Aer Lingus denies era's claims in a court this week. Selin

DA: Jail Brown

LOS ANGELES — Chris Brown's arrest last month on charges of hit-and-run and driving without a valid license may wind up costing the pop singer his freedom, as prosecutors yesterday requested that his probation be revoked.

Brown, who was sentenced to five years' felony probation in 2009 for beating up then-girlfriend Rihanna, allegedly rear-ended a car in the San Fernando Valley on May 12 and refused to give the other driver his insurance information until two days later.

AP

40G for phone-y court bust

By SEUM ALGAR

That's one expensive phone call.

A federal jury awarded a Brooklyn man a cool \$40,000 after he was slammed against a wall and arrested for answering his cellphone in a courthouse security line. The Post has learned.

Getro Milfort, a Haitian doctor, was waiting to go through a metal detector at the state civil courthouse on Livingston Street on June 18, 2010, when his phone started ringing, according to his Brooklyn federal court suit.

Milfort saw that the call was coming from a pal who

had just touched down at a local airport and needed a ride, so he answered it, according to court papers.

An annoyed court officer told him to leave the courthouse if he wanted to keep talking, so Milfort began to gather his wallet and keys from a basket on the metal-detector conveyor belt so he could step outside, according to his suit.

But the court officer had heard enough of the conversation and snatched Milfort's phone from his hand, hung up on the airport buddy, and told him to beat it, according to Milfort's attorney, Paul Hale.

When Milfort, 54, pointed

out that he couldn't depart without getting his wallet and keys from the security belt, a fracas ensued.

"At this point, Officer Felix Prevete grabbed plaintiff around the neck and smashed his face into a wall of the lobby," the suit states.

The commotion attracted four other officers who wrenched Milfort's arm behind his back and handcuffed him before taking him to an office to write up an appearance ticket.

The suit noted that Milfort stands 5-foot-9 and weighs only about 150 pounds, while the officer he tussled with towered over him at 6-foot-3 and 300 pounds.

With his shoulder wrecked, Milfort was finally let go after a half-hour in custody, according to the suit. He went to Long Island College Hospital for treatment.

All disorderly-conduct charges were eventually dropped against Milfort, and he sued the officers.

"Law enforcement needs to understand, just because you have a badge and a gun doesn't mean you can make the rules up as you go along," said Hale.

The lawyer, who had sought a seven-figure payout, said that he was just happy that the jury sided with his client.

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\$1B Calif. s over lead p

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A trial that began yesterday in California's attorney general and 10 cities and ties are seeking \$1 billion from paint manufacturer to remove lead paint from millions of older homes, arguing that they scold paint despite being at its potential health risk.

The industry argues it never deliberately harmful product on the old paint no poses a significant health risk.

DAILY NEWS
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Editorial p28-30
 Weather, Horoscope p45
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TODAY
HIGH: 96°/LOW: 78°

TOMORROW
HIGH: 95°/LOW: 77°

SATURDAY
HIGH: 92°/LOW: 72°

SUNDAY
HIGH: 86°/LOW: 68°

MTA: We'll clean up our act

EXCLUSIVE

BY MATTHEW J. PERLMAN and PETE DONOHUE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE MTA is planning a war on litter, grime, rodents and human gridlock in subway stations, the Daily News has learned.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will hire more cleaners to pick up trash on station platforms and on tracks, where debris can catch fire and cause extensive train delays, sources said.

The authority will also ramp

up extermination efforts aimed at curbing the rodent population in the 468-station network, sources said.

And it will reconfigure the placement of MetroCard vending machines in hubs where long lines slow down riders heading to and from trains, sources said.

"This is no small-time effort," a source familiar with the authority's plans said.

One source said the cleanliness effort would target the busi-

est stations. Several riders last night welcomed news of the campaign.

"It's hard to keep the subways clean," David Adelman, 52, of Manhattan, said at a midtown station. "People are eating, they're dropping things. And that stuff's going to stay there until someone picks it up." Yeong Wey, 62, of Queens, said there's no shortage of garbage and rats in stations.

"I see that all the time!" Wey said. "They need to spend some money."



Go ahead & stair - Mike

BY ANNIE KARNI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

IN HIS FIGHT against obesity, Mayor Bloomberg has gone after large, sugary sodas and calorie-packed menus. Now he thinks your building is making you fat.

In his latest public health crusade, Bloomberg rolled out an executive order, guidelines and two proposed laws on Wednesday to encourage New Yorkers to skip elevators and climb stairs.

"Buildings are often designed in ways that minimize physical activity," Bloomberg explained at a press conference at the New School.

On this issue, the billionaire mayor said he's leading by example. He rarely uses the elevator in his townhouse on the upper East Side, he said.

"I have five floors," Bloomberg said. "I take the stairs."

Bloomberg proposed a law that would require new and renovated buildings to provide visible access to stairwells and to post signs encouraging people to use stairs instead of standing in an elevator.

A second proposed law would



change city building codes to allow stairwells to remain open at all times - as long as they are outfitted with special mechanisms to close the doors in case of fire.

Both proposals would need City Council approval to take effect.

The mayor also signed an executive order requiring all city agencies to incorporate "active design" strategies in new construction.

And he launched a public-private partnership called the Center for Active Design, which will promote new designs for buildings and public spaces to encourage more walking and more-active lifestyles.

"We've been lulled into a sedentary lifestyle," said David Burney, commissioner of the city's Department of Design and Construction, who will head the new nonprofit center.

Health Commissioner Thomas Farley added that "stair-climbing is an important, valuable, and under-recognized physical activity." The city has already distributed 30,000 "Burn Calories, Not Electricity" signs in more than 1,000 buildings, he said.

Developers said Bloomberg's take-the-stairs initiative was fine - but that some of them are already on it. At 1 Bryant Park, for example, employee IDs are used to open the doors to stairs, and nice touches have been added to make stairwells more inviting.

"Almost everyone in our company uses the stairs between floors," said Jordan Barowitz, a spokesman for developer Douglas Durst.

Lefties: You stink, Andy!

ALBANY - A left-leaning watchdog group has listed Gov. Cuomo among the nation's worst governors, knocking him for a lack of transparency.

Cuomo was just one of two Democrats to make the list of 18 governors criticized by the Washington-based Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics.

"The only thing transparent about Gov. Cuomo's administration is his obvious attempt to avoid disclosure," CREW wrote.

The group cited several Daily News stories, including one detailing how Cuomo packed judicial screening panels with donors.

Cuomo aides did not comment, but Rodney Capel, head of the state Democratic Party, ripped CREW as "not a credible organization." **Kenneth Lovett**

Lawmen dial up anti-theft effort

ALBANY - State and federal security experts Thursday will begin testing new technology designed to make it more difficult for crooks who steal smart phones to re-sell them on the black market.

The experts - being brought together in San Francisco by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon - will attempt to circumvent Apple and Samsung's latest anti-theft features, a source said.

Schneiderman has said the theft of smart phones - known as Appelpicking - is the fastest growing street crime in the city.

Kenneth Lovett

It's an N.Y. pro-Mo

ALBANY - Gov. Cuomo has tapped Yankee great Mariano Rivera to pitch New York tourism.

The 15-second spots, which will be unveiled Thursday, will air on the YES Network and SportsNet NY this month and next. The ads will also be shown at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field.

Each ad will feature a different player - Rivera, reliever David Robertson and manager Joe Girardi of the Yanks and Matt Harvey, David Wright and Daniel Murphy of the Mets - touting tourism opportunities throughout the state.

Kenneth Lovett

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WEATHER

TODAY
HI 76° LO 54°
Sunny

TOMORROW
HI 80° LO 62°
Sunny

FRIDAY
HI 81° LO 62°
Sunny

HOT LIST

Whiskey
Park, at 100 Central Park S., will host an ice cream cocktail social today from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. Each cocktail sundae will cost \$12 and include one topping.



Ahead of National Rum Day on Friday, Fatty Cue West Village, 50 Carmine St., and Fatty Cue Williamsburg, 91 S. 6th St., will offer Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum Floats today from 6 to 8 p.m.



French Roast Uptown at 2340 Broadway tonight is having chocolate night with a full menu of chocolate appetizers, entrees, desserts and cocktails from 6 to 11 p.m.; frenchroastnyc.com.



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Reports: Burglar left a book for Famke

"X-Men" star Famke Janssen could've used some super powers last weekend, as a prowler broke into her apartment and left a bizarre keepsake, according to published reports yesterday. Janssen, 47, returned to her King Street apartment around 8 p.m. Saturday night and found the chil-

dren's book "The Lonely Doll" in her bedroom — a book she says she doesn't own, according to TMZ.com. Nothing appeared to be missing from her home, reports said, and no one but Janssen has access to it.

After seeing the book Janssen filed a police report. Officials are reportedly poring over surveillance footage and investigating the case as a burglary. There were no signs of forced entry, reports said.

"The Lonely Doll," written and illus-

trated by Dare Wright and first published in 1957, tells the story of a doll and her two bear playmates.

Janssen's rep didn't respond to a request for comment. (TMZ PERISMA)

THE LONELY DOLL



"The Lonely Doll" was allegedly left by an intruder in Famke Janssen's apartment.



GETTY

Bitter End asks for help honoring late doorman

The owners of The Bitter End are calling on their loyal patrons to honor the man who was the first person they saw when they got to the club and the last when they left.

Kenneth Kelly, the music club's doorman for 26 years, died last week after falling down the stairs while closing up at the Bleeker Street venue.

Paul Rizzo, one of The Bitter End's co-owners who knew Kelly, 56, since 1988, said his friend's presence was felt by everyone because he helped to keep the atmosphere fun.

"We never had a lot of inci-



The Bitter End doorman Kenneth Kelly died at 56.

dents and never had a lot of problems, and it was all him," he said.

Rizzo said Kelly had a real connection with the venue not only because he loved

hearing the various bands but also because it was where he met his wife, Barbara. He is also survived by two teenage children.

Rizzo said he and his fellow owners are planning a memorial and they'd like to create a photo collage to give to the Kelly family. Feedback for the project was already strong among The Bitter End's Facebook followers, many of whom attended his wake and funeral services last week.

"Everyone knew him as Kelly. A lot of people didn't know his first name was Kerry," Rizzo said. (TMZ PERISMA)

Knicks guard assists with first lady's album



GETTY

Iman Shumpert

Knicks guard Iman Shumpert will trade a basketball for a beat to help kids be more active.

The 23-year-old will be on an album produced by first lady Michelle Obama that includes songs from various hip-hop artists.

Shumpert will perform the song "Pass the Rock"

with artist Arite Green.

The album was announced Monday as part of the first lady's efforts to fight obesity across the U.S.

In addition to the album, which includes songs from artists Ashanti and Jordin Sparks, the initiative includes curriculum ideas for

schools. The album will be available on Sept. 30. (TMZ PERISMA)



Michelle Obama

RIDERS:

Data: More and more commuters working in the outerboroughs

BY DAN RIVOLI
daruivoll@am-ny.com

The 9-to-5, Monday-through-Friday commuting pattern is on the wane and a new kind of commuter has been on the rise, according to data the Partnership for New York City released yesterday.

As weekend ridership reaches post-World War II levels, commuters today are increasingly riding during off-peak times and working in the outerboroughs.

Over the past decade, Brooklyn has seen a 24% increase in the number of workers that both live and work there, while the Bronx saw a 28% jump in the number of people who work there. Meanwhile, there are 150,000 daily commuters between Queens and Brooklyn, half of whom drive to work. The city's public transit users face an average 48-minute commute.

"If these commuter patterns continue to grow, the next administration really needs to take a look at what services are needed to promote that growth and get people to where they want to work and live," said Merrill Pond, senior vice president of research and policy at the Partnership for New York City.

A 2011 study from the Center for an Urban Future showed that the growth of outerborough New Yorkers who travel within their county or to an adjacent one between 1990 and 2008 far outpaced the growth of people who commuted to Manhattan.

David Giles, the director of research at the Center for



The transit system needs

an Urban Future, said fast-growing sectors in the city are education, health care, and retail — fields evenly spread across the city. Meanwhile, Manhattan-centric jobs in finance and administration are on the wane.

That is creating new job centers outside of Manhattan. But commuters still have to rely on a century-old system engineered with Manhat-

NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE



to be updated to meet the changing commuting patterns in the city, according to a report by the Partnership for New York City.

WORKING NUMBERS

Some of the most interesting findings released yesterday by the Partnership for New York City, which compiled new data on city workers:

48 minutes

Average commute time of city residents on public transit, one of the longest in the nation.

250,000+

Jobs amassed by Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx since 2000, steeper growth than that seen in Manhattan's main business districts.

28%

Increase in the Bronx workforce over the past decade.

24%

More people live and work in Brooklyn compared with a decade ago.

150,000

Commuters between Queens and Brooklyn each day.

78%

of people who work on Staten Island live there.

tan as its center.

"New York City's economic geography is changing," Giles said. "It is a big deal and it really is wrecking havoc on the city's transportation system."

The MTA is planning for the new demand the system faces in the coming decades. Last month, William Wheeler, an MTA planning director, explained to the

agency's board that the millennials are the first post-war generation that embraces public transit because they are unaccustomed to a dirty system plagued by graffiti and breakdowns. "What times people are on our system and where they want to go is very different than it was 20 years ago," Wheeler said.

The MTA can add capacity

with better train signals and run more trains to meet demand at different times of the day. But given that building a new subway line is complicated and expensive, increasing Select Bus Service can help move commuters between the boroughs without having to travel through Manhattan.

The MTA is planning Phase II of the bus rapid

transit system. With five SBS routes in place and several more on the way, the MTA has identified nearly two dozen corridors in the outerboroughs.

Meanwhile, Councilman Brad Lander of Brooklyn last month sponsored a bill to create a citywide SBS plan over the next 10 years. "We need to treat it as a system and we need a real com-

prehensive plan," he said.

Giles, of the Center for an Urban Future, said buses are the most efficient way to move people to neighborhoods outside Manhattan, but that the system needs to be beefed up. "We need a lot more SBS corridors in the city," he said. "They need to work like a network and not just be sort of one-off isolated SBS routes."

amny.com
TUESDAY
October 29, 2013

10th Anniversary

am NEWYORK

HI 55° LO 46°
Partly sunny

MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER

SANDY: ONE YEAR LATER

SHIELDING THE SUBWAY

Long road ahead
to protect underground
from future storms

PAGES 6-7



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SANDY - ONE YEAR

Stormproofing

WEATHER

TODAY
HI 55° LO 48°
Partly sunny

TOMORROW
HI 59° LO 46°
Chance of showers

THURSDAY
HI 66° LO 61°
Chance of showers

HOT LIST



Houston Hall, 222 W. Houston St., is hosting a **Zombie Prom Halloween Party** on Thursday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring the original "Carrie," a DJ and prizes: \$10.

Aeropostale, at 1515 Broadway, and the **Olympics** are hosting a **100 Day Out Event** today with an Olympian meet-and-greet and exclusive merchandise from 2 to 8 p.m.



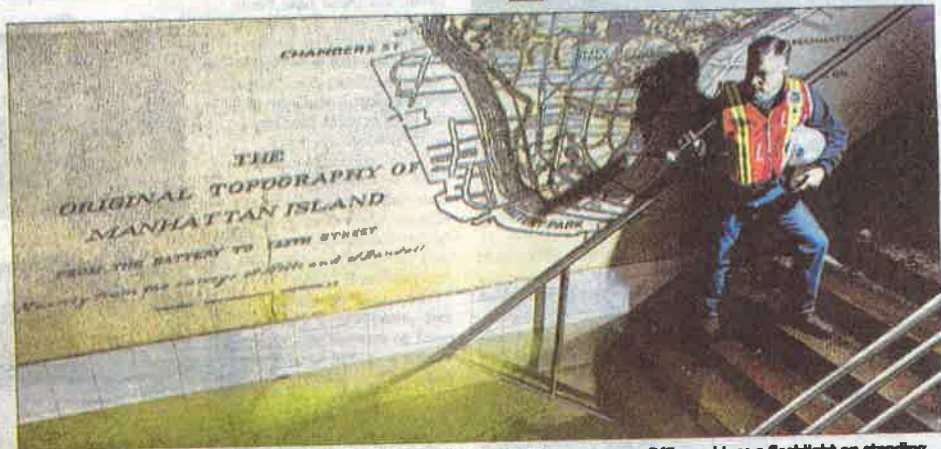
All **Rosa Mexicano** locations are offering a special menu of autumn-inspired dishes through Sunday in honor of **Día de los Muertos**; rosamexicano.com.

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8PNY.com



LAST YEAR Joseph Leader, MTA Vice President and Chief Maintenance Officer, shines a flashlight on standing water inside the South Ferry station just after Superstorm Sandy hit.



TODAY The South Ferry station is still shut for repairs. But as seen in this April 23rd photo, it has come a long way since October, 2012 when it was flooded.

MTA works to protect rails from future storms

BY DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

A year after Superstorm Sandy tore through New York City, the full extent of its damage on the subway system is still being assessed by the MTA, with efforts to safeguard the system against future storms to potentially last beyond 2016.

"This is a multiyear, multiphase process in order to really start preparing for these types of storms moving forward," said Veronica Vantepool, executive director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

The carnage Sandy wrought knocked the A train out of service in the Rockaways, washing out 1,500 feet of tracks and littering them with debris including jet skis and boats. It flooded a new South Ferry station two years after it opened and flooded nine underwater train tunnels, causing a 24/7 shutdown of the R train Montague tunnel for 14 months and a dozen weekend closures between July and December for the G train Greenpoint tunnel.

The MTA continues to assess damage to the system, making fixes on equipment that was brought back in operation soon after the storm with temporary band-aids, and restoring underwater tunnels that took in corrosive salt water.

The subway system suffered \$4.8 billion of damage during Sandy and the MTA figures \$5 billion will be needed to gird it against future

LATER subways

ANNIVERSARY GIFT

Rockaways and Bay Ridge residents who went without train service after Superstorm Sandy today in honor of the storm's anniversary.



Damage on the Rockaway Line

Gov. Andrew Cuomo offered free fare all day for the 30,000 daily A-train riders who enter between Howard Beach and the Rockaway Peninsula and the 65,000 daily R train

riders in Brooklyn. Gene Russianoff, a transit advocate at the Straphangers Campaign, said Friday that Gov. Andrew Cuomo's gift to riders was a "sincere gesture" but added that "a better action would be for state leaders to pledge to fully fund the MTA's upcoming five-year rebuilding program."

©AP/WIDEWORLD

storms by waterproofing stations and tunnels, and moving sensitive equipment out of harm's way.

"When it's men and women versus Mother Nature, Mother Nature wins," Gov. Andrew Cuomo told reporters last week. "But we are in better shape than we were last time and we'll be in even better shape."

Designing a better system
Cuomo today will join MTA officials to unveil designs for waterproofing the stations and tunnels as part of a \$3.5 billion package of federal Sandy aid.

Fred Smith, the MTA's chief engineer and a capital program executive, said there are more than 600 points in lower Manhattan where water can seep into the system.

"No. 1 thing we've learned is locations of our vulnerable entry points," Smith said. "A half inch or one-inch gap in an emergency exit can bring in a million gallons in less than an hour. The numbers are staggering."

During the storm, sandbags and wood barriers used in some lower Manhattan sta-

tions were no match for floodwaters that shattered them into debris.

Smith said the MTA is looking at barriers for station entrances where at least three sides can withstand 11 feet of water. "Then, we would look for something that could be quickly deployed over the front of the entrance," Smith said.

Another kind of barrier the MTA is considering are logs that would fit into grooves at a station entrance, according to Smith.

"We're looking at ways that we can build into the entrance [and] the ability to close them quickly," he said.

He also said there are nine fan plants — facilities that house fans that pull out smoke or push fresh air into the subway — that would be redesigned and fitted with reinforced concrete walls to withstand the pressure of flood water.

TOMORROW
• Updates on aid for Sandy victims

John O'Grady, an MTA engineer, told The New York Times Magazine that the agency is also considering "tiger dams" that are bladders filled with water to plug up an opening.

Fixing the damage
While contractors are designing a storm-resistant transit system, crews are making permanent repairs on signals, cables and the electromechanical equipment housed deep in stations, away from riders' eyes.

"People don't see where we're doing all the repairs," Smith said. "They're in rooms at track level, they're in between stations."

The MTA is taking advantages of service disruptions in the two most heavily damaged underwater tubes — the Montague and Greenpoint tunnels — to make Sandy-related repairs and relocate equipment.

Even as the MTA shuts No. 7 train service on several weekends to install a new signal system, a contract was issued for Sandy-related repairs to damaged pump rooms and power feeds.

"We're piggybacking those outages that had already been planned for," Smith said. "We're trying to minimize our [impact] to the community and disruption to normal train service and normal life."

Smith said that equipment that shut down completely after the storm was quickly repaired so it could be put back in operation, but the extensive damage made these fixes temporary.

Repairing the nine damaged underwater tubes will last into 2016, with more resiliency projects beyond that, Smith said. "The problem . . . is there's just too much work to be done," Smith said. "We're still moving 5 trillion people a day."

Hero, above & beyond

BY SHEILA ANNE FEDNEY
sheila.fedney@am-ny.com

Kievon Harper, 32, who received the FDNY's Vincent J. Kane Medal for his valor in saving 15 people during Superstorm Sandy, is eager to share the glory for the rescues he performed in the Rockaways with a small skill and MacGyver-like ingenuity.

"I didn't do it single-handedly!" exclaimed Harper, who is assigned to Skiff 3 in the summer and Bushwick's Ladder 176 in the winter.

He would like everyone to know that fellow firefighter Keith Calabrese captained the boat as he and Paul Patras swam in the pitch dark through filthy, wind-whipped waters bobbing with all manner of booby traps to bring stranded residents, including a disabled woman, a pregnant woman, three infants and an elderly couple, to safety.

The four days beginning Oct. 29, 2012 "is what I'd been training for," said Harper, as had his colleagues.

"Everybody was working" throughout Sandy, recalled Harper.

"I don't know of a single firefighter who didn't go above and beyond," during those hectic days.

The FDNY wasn't the only

agency to turn in a bravura performance, Harper added generously. In the face of the epic disaster, intra-agency rivalries and turf tiffs were set aside as the NYPD, FDNY, sanitation department and other entities labored with remarkable goodwill. During Sandy, "there was just so much coordination and cooperation among all the agencies," Harper said.

Firefighters, who like to joke they are the least-paid professional athletes in the world, endure long stretches of boredom punctuated with abrupt physical demands of dizzying intensity that are often life-threatening. But "the department really, really sets us up for game day," with training, drills, dry runs

and equipment, Harper said. Harper doesn't see any irony in a firefighter being commended for water rescues. The FDNY is "our first line of defense," for urban rescues of all types, from possible drowning to carbon monoxide poisoning, he noted.

The Snug Harbor, Staten Island, home where Harper lives with his wife, Mercedes, and their children Kievon Jr., 8, and Kirsten, 3, "just lost some siding" during Sandy. But many other firefighters finished fighting fires and rescuing people to find their own homes burned to the ground or water-damaged beyond repair.

The gratification Harper feels about the Department's performance is tempered by the knowledge that many of his colleagues — and other New Yorkers — have yet to rebound from the storm's devastating toll.

Harper isn't much for discussing heroism. But he is plainly touched by his son's exuberant reaction to his medal.

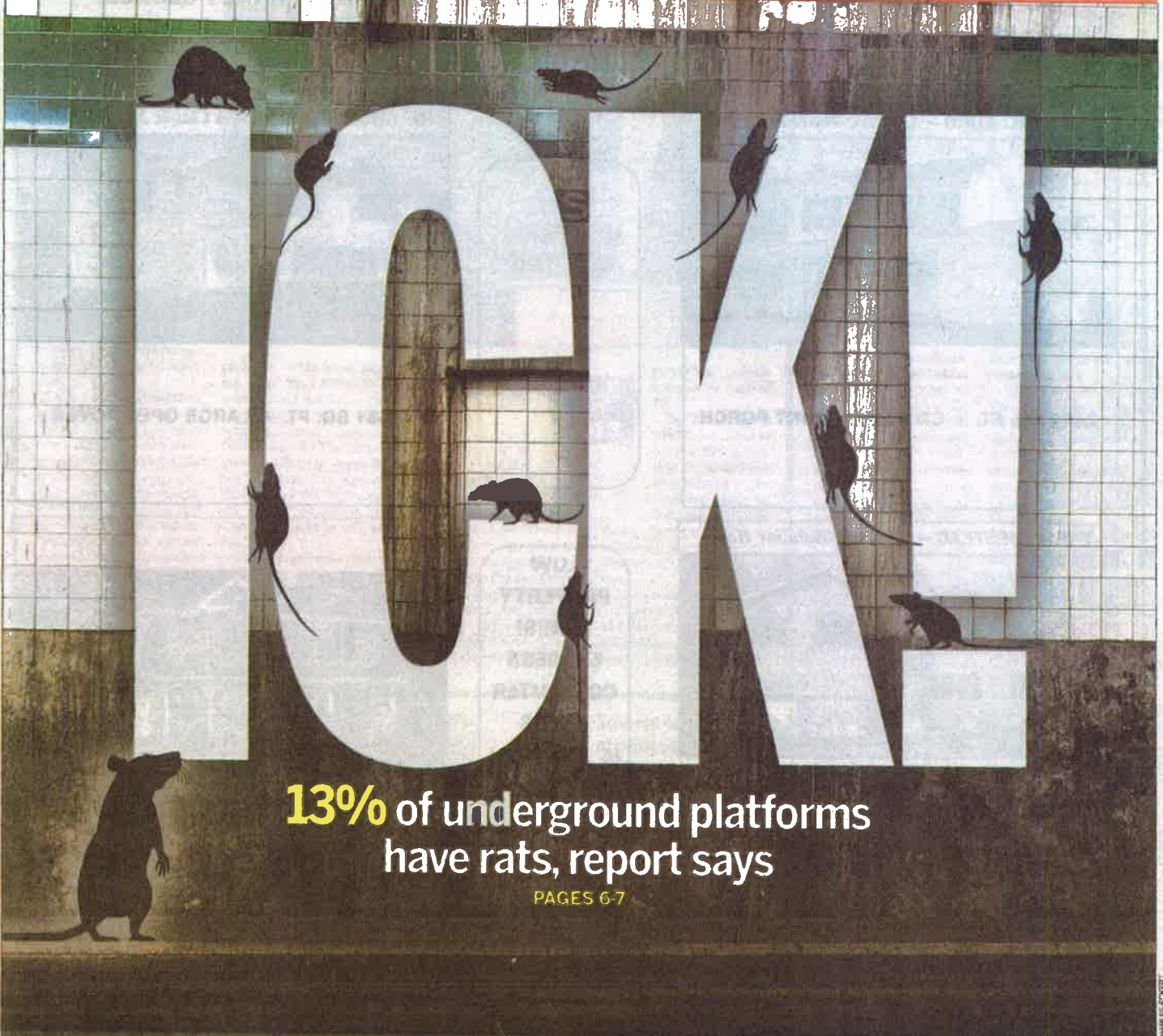
"He was just ecstatic. He's all over anything having to do with the fire department anyway," Harper said. When he was awarded the Vincent J. Kane medal, Kievon Jr., he said, "was telling everyone, 'That's my dad!'"



FDNY's Kievon Harper



MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER



13% of underground platforms
have rats, report says

PAGES 6-7

ROUND 3

De Blasio and Lhota face off
in final mayoral debate

PAGE
3

CHRISTOPHER EGGERT

WEATHER

TODAY
HI 67° LO 60°
Chance of showers

TOMORROW
HI 72° LO 55°
Showers

SATURDAY
HI 67° LO 47°
Partly sunny

HOT LIST



Lexington Brass, 517 Lexington Ave., is offering a Nightly Wine Down from 9-11 p.m. Thurs.-Sun with 50% off wine bottles of \$40 or more and a buy-one, get-one-free cocktail.



Toby's Estate Coffee officially opens a new espresso bar at 160 Fifth Ave. today at 7 a.m.; tobysestate.com.



The J&R Music and Computer World warehouse at 1 Park Row is having a clearance sale through Nov. 5; 212-238-9000, jr.com.

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Fire Dept. tours new stormproof tools

BY IVAN PERERA
ivan.perera@am-ny.com

The FDNY yesterday showed off the new, superstorm-ready equipment it has invested in over the past year.

Fire Commissioner Sal Cassano unveiled state-of-the-art trucks, rescue boats and trailers designed to help New York's bravest weather major storms and save people.

During superstorm Sandy, firefighters handled 94 serious structural fires — including the blaze that destroyed 130 houses at Breezy Point — and rescued more than 500 New Yorkers.

"This new specialized equipment, and this group of newly promoted fire officers, demonstrates the department's unwavering commitment to al-



These vehicles can drive through 53 inches of water.

ways improving our preparedness and the lifesaving services we provide," the fire commissioner said in a statement.

The biggest additions to the FDNY's fleet are six \$175,000 high-axle vehicles that can work in 53-inch-deep waters.

Cassano also demonstrated a 13-foot-long Swift Water Rescue Pod, and said 80 FDNY members have thus far learned

Equipment shows FDNY's 'unwavering commitment.'

— Commissioner Sal Cassano

new training procedures for extreme weather conditions. More training is ahead in 2014.

President blames insurers for lost coverage

President Barack Obama said yesterday that "bad apple" insurance companies, not his signature health care law, are to blame for hundreds of thousands of people losing their coverage in the past few weeks.

As officials scrambled to fix technical problems on an online insurance marketplace that is central to the success of the Affordable Care Act, Obama blamed private insurers for a separate problem that has critics questioning



President Barack Obama

his honesty.

The president has repeatedly promised that people who are happy with their

health plans would not have to change coverage. But the termination of individual policies has given his Republican opponents scope to criticize the program they have tried to stop since its inception in Obama's first term.

Technical woes have prevented millions of Americans from exploring the government's HealthCare.gov portal since it was unveiled.

On Capitol Hill, Obama's top health official called the debate a "debacle."

Report: NSA tapped data links

The National Security Agency has tapped directly into communications links used by Google and Yahoo to move huge amounts of email and other user information among overseas data centers, The Washington Post reported yesterday. It was unclear how the NSA accessed the links.

The report, based on secret NSA documents leaked by former contractor Edward Snowden, appears to show that the agency has used weak re-

strictions on its overseas activities to exploit even major companies' data to a far greater extent than previously realized.



Snowden

Google said: "We're troubled by allegations of the government intercepting traffic between our data centers, and we are not aware of this activity."

NSA Director General Keith Alexander said that he had not read the latest report but that the agency did not have unfettered access to the companies' servers.

Social Security benefits rising

Benefits paid to nearly 63 million Social Security recipients will rise by 1.5% in 2014, the Social Security Administration said yesterday.

That will add \$19 to the average monthly Social Security benefit next year, putting it at \$1,294, the administration said.

The cost-of-living increase will take effect in January for the 57 million seniors receiving benefits. The increase is based on the rate of inflation.

BY TIM HERRERA
tim.herrera@am-ny.com

Here's one creepy finding to give you the willies on Halloween.

A new quality-of-life survey spotted rats on 13% of underground subway platforms — and on 21% of platforms in the Bronx, more than in any other borough — according to the Straphangers Campaign, which conducted the survey.

The other boroughs had their share of the pests too, as rats were found on 15% of platforms in Brooklyn, 13% in Queens and 10% in Manhattan.

For some New Yorkers, one rat is too many.

"I've been living in New York since college and I think it's worse now than when I first moved here," said Abbie Akande, who lives in Washington Heights.

"I see rats in the subways on a daily basis; all the subway stations are infested," Akande said. "It's becoming more frequent now," she said, adding that Columbus Circle and West Fourth Street are two stations where she sees them often.

Will McKinley, 43, who lives in Battery Park City, said he hasn't noticed an overall increase in rat sightings, but that he's seen them in different spots of the city.

"I've been seeing way more rats downtown than uptown recently. Perhaps it's migratory patterns? Or maybe we just drop better snacks on the platforms downtown," McKinley said.

The MTA said there is "no empirical data showing any type of increase in the rodent population" in the subway, and that the agency has "expanded efforts to seal trash rooms and take exclusionary measures to disrupt rodent access to the trash rooms." It has also commissioned research to better determine how

to tackle rodents.

The Straphangers Campaign survey was conducted over the summer by 20 staffers and volunteers who visited all 862 platforms in the subway system, and discovered that 32% have "substantial" graffiti, 26% have "substantial" areas of missing tile, and 39% have "substantial" floor cracks, among other findings.

In evaluating only the system's underground platforms — all 525 of them — the survey found that 82% have "substantial" water damage, 74% have "substantial" peeling paint and 20% have broken lighting fixtures.

"We found what many riders know from bitter daily experience: Many subway platforms are grim and dreary," said Jason Chin-Fatt, the Straphangers Campaign field organizer who oversaw the survey.

The MTA argued that the survey's findings were mostly cosmetic, and that the "items in the Straphangers report highlight elements that would be extremely costly to keep in perfect condition and would do little, if anything, to either improve service or make stations safer."

"Our operating and maintenance forces have identified and repaired more station defects each of the last few years than ever before," said MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz. He added that last year, 39,000 defects were repaired, and that the agency is on track to complete more than 53,000 this year, a 36% increase.

Still, the Straphangers Campaign said it hopes the agency will listen to the findings.

"The environment's important to riders," said Cate Contino of the Straphangers Campaign. "We understand that [MTA officials] have other pressing issues and priorities, but maybe they can look at some of these concerns and set some goals for future improvements."

PLATFORM PESTS ABOUND: STUDY

The Straphangers Campaign spotted rats on **13%** of all underground subway platforms. Here's the borough breakdown:



OTHER FINDINGS

Four aspects of subway platforms systemwide got "substantially worse" from 2012 to 2013:

	2012	2013
Exposed wiring	8%	24%
Areas of missing tile	16	26
Substantial graffiti	27	32
Floor cracks	20	39



A rat crawls along the platform of the R train at the 53rd Street station in Brooklyn.



Above: Missing tile at the Fordham Road stop of the B/D trains. Below: Floor cracks at the Pelham Parkway stop on the 5 train.



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WEEKEND
November 15-17, 2013

10th Anniversary
am **NEWYORK**



HI 57° LO 44°
Mostly sunny

MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER

PIZZA FIGHT!
Jon Stewart stirs up NYC-Chicago rift **PAGE 4**

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Hey, you never know.

5 COOL IDEAS TO IMPROVE SUBWAYS **PAGE 3**

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SATURDAY
HI 58° LO 48°
Partly sunny

SUNDAY
HI 59° LO 45°
Mostly cloudy

HOT LIST



Rusty Mackerel, 209 Pinehurst Ave., has a new weekend brunch featuring a variety of seasonal New American specialties with a global twist every Saturday and Sunday, 12-3 p.m.



Bring a gently worn sweater to Calypso St. Barth, 654 Hudson St., to be donated to Covenant House, and receive 20% off all sweaters, Friday-Sunday.



Comedian **Kelly Kinnella's** one-woman play "When Thoughts Attack" is showing at the cell theatre, 338 W. 23rd St., on Sundays at 7 p.m. through Dec. 22; tickets are \$20 at brownpapertickets.com.

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Pop-up stores like the Uniqlo outlet in Union Square Station, left, and bike storage are among the ideas that some say will help the MTA meet the needs of today's commuters.



5 WAYS TO A BETTER RIDE

Music, shopping may make your commute easier

BY DAN RIVOLI
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

As the MTA aims to bring subway service into the 21st century with wireless service in stations and countdown clocks, ideas abound from transit experts and regular New Yorkers about improving the riding experience. While the ideas can range from the fantastic to common sense, amNY picked five of the most intriguing ideas for changing the riding experience.

1 Music turnstiles
Forget buskers — musician and former LCD Soundsystem frontman James Murphy wants subway riders to make their own music with turnstiles. In an interview with Sound Opinions this month, Murphy said he has been pushing for 14 years to have turn-

stiles that would "make a beep of a certain note" so "during rush hour in the bigger stations, it hopefully would make a beautiful piece of music." An MTA spokesman said the agency had reached out to Murphy but never heard back.

2 Pop-up shops
The MTA is helping retailers open pop-up shops with month-to-month leases to get vacant space filled while the agency seeks long-term tenants. Trendy Uniqlo became the first official pop-up store to

open in a subway station in October, following a summer run of The Newsstand, which sold indie magazines at the Metropolitan Avenue station on the L and G lines. Jeffrey Rosen, the MTA's real estate director, said last month that hip retailers can use subway pop-up shops to reach savvy young riders.

3 Bike storage
As transit use grows among younger New Yorkers, so is bicycling. That increase in bicycling "is likely to bring with it greater de-

mands for accessibility to and use of MTA facilities." In the MTA's 20-year needs report, the agency says it needs to consider better accommodations for bicyclists, such as bike storage on buses and at rail and subway stations.

4 Vignelli maps
The iconic Vignelli subway map from the 1970s fell out of favor over the decades, but the design is making a comeback. Kickmap is an iPhone app that blends the current MTA subway map's geography with the

easy-to-read linear design of Massimo Vignelli's creation. For Men's Vogue in 2008, Vignelli updated his 1972 map for the newer subway system. Meanwhile, the MTA brought back the Vignelli design in 2011 for its Weekender website.

Eddie Jabbar, creative director for Kick Design, the company behind Kickmap, acknowledged the Vignelli influence. "It's a hybrid map that combines the best attributes of a diagram map and a topographic map," Jabbar said.

5 Showtime!
The dancers who flip and spin through train cars give riders a show — but also a risk of getting kicked in the head. Randy Gregory proposed, in his "100 Improvements to the New York Subway" blog, the creation of special Showtime! Cars to give dancers their own space to entertain riders for an evening. "The MTA could even charge for this kind of event," Gregory wrote on his site.

ONE MAN'S MASS TRANSIT PLAN

Everyone has an idea to improve the subway riding experience. Designer and self-described "innovation strategist" Randy Gregory has 100.

Gregory, a 29-year-old Sunnyside resident and Phoenix native, started a blog on Tumblr called "100 Ideas for the New York Subway" that imagines what the subway could be, if things like bud-

gets and politics were of no importance.

"I looked at something that would happen in the subway — for example, people swiping their cards wrong — and then I would either think about, through my own knowledge of how that can be improved or looking at the rest of the world, and see if someone solved the prob-

lem," he said.

Some ideas are obvious to courteous riders (keep feet off train car seats), while others would make the subway more user friendly (painting some stations with the colors of a train line), safer (security cameras in cars), and cleaner (HEPA air filters and hand sanitizers).

(DAN RIVOLI)

12-18-13

am 10th Anniversary **NEWYORK**

Transit union hints at a strike

Wants raises for 35,000 workers

By **DAN RIVOLI**
dan.rivoli@am-ny.com

The MTA and the public transit union Wednesday stuck to their opposing goals for a new workers contract, with the head of the labor organization hinting at a strike.

TWU Local 100 president John Samuelson demanded wage increases for his 35,000 members without offering concessions the MTA wants in exchange.

TWU members, who went on strike for three days in 2005, have been working without a contract for two years.

"We're certainly not looking for the stars. We're looking for raises that keep up with the cost of living," Samuelson said.

Samuelson said members were ready to "take whatever actions are necessary at this point to prevent the imposition" of a contract that will either keep wages flat or increase pay with concessions.

Later, when asked if that language includes a strike, a union



official said "that would include job action."

Joshua Freeman, a labor expert at CUNY, said transit riders need not worry about a strike because of a vague statement, though he noted the TWU's aggressive history and practice of slowdowns and "work-to-rule."

"They need to try to exert some pressure," Freeman said. "I think they're looking for whatever leverage they can."

MTA CEO Tom Prendergast said every wage increase of 1% would cost \$50 million. "Collective bargaining is best done at a table where both parties sit across the table and hammer out all the issues," he said.



NEW YORK POST

MTA passes \$13.5 billion budget

by Rebecca Harshbarger

December 18, 2013 | 6:09 pm

The MTA board passed a \$13.5 billion budget for the coming year Wednesday, as members proposed more service and workers protested outside for raises.

Allen Cappelli and Mitchell Pally, two members on the board, proposed creating a \$25 million fund for more subway and bus service, but the motion was tabled until next April for more study.

"There are significant places where this fund can be used," said Pally. "We have people who wait 60 and 90 minutes [on Long Island], and if you miss the train you wait 90 minutes more. That's unacceptable in today's world."



Outside, transit workers called for the MTA to give them a raise after their work building the system after Sandy.

Although TWU Local 100 president John Samuelson did not threaten a strike, he said a resolution had been passed by members on Saturday to take whatever action necessary to avoid a contract without wage increases and more out-of-pocket costs for healthcare.

"After their heroic response to Hurricane Sandy, and their remarkable efforts in rebuilding the transit system, I believe they should receive a raise that keeps up with the cost of living," he said. "[Workers] have shown great patience throughout this process, but their patience is beginning to wear thin."

As a Christmas present to the board, he gave a petition with 30,000 signatures from straphangers supporting a fair contract for workers.



TWU
Local 100
IN THE NEWS

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Blind luck

**Man, guide dog
run over by
subway train ...**

**and they
both live!**

**MIRACLE ON 125th ST.
SEE PAGES 4-5**

Cecil Williams and his Labrador retriever, Orlando, were saved by an MTA worker telling them both to lie down between the tracks to avoid oncoming subway train.



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'Tragic' but no crime: ACS duo

BY JOHN MARZULLI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

TWO FORMER city child welfare workers expressed relief Tuesday after homicide charges against them were dismissed in connection with the horrific death of a 4-year-old Brooklyn girl who was beaten and starved by her mother.

"I still believe it was a tragedy," Damon Bell said in Brooklyn Supreme Court after pleading guilty to three misdemeanors and a violation, which will eventually be dismissed if he stays out of trouble.

Bell's lawyer, Anthony Grandinette, insisted that the ex-case-worker did not play a role in the death of little Marchella Brett-Pierce, who weighed only 18 pounds when she died in September 2010.

After a special grand jury recently found systemic failures in the city Administration of Children's Services, prosecutors and defense lawyers huddled to reach a plea deal that would bring the unprecedented

ed indictment of caseworkers to a face-saving end for both sides.

The district attorney maintains that while one's workplace may make it easier to commit a crime, it's still an individual's responsibility when they commit the crime," said Assistant District Attorney Jacqueline Kagan.

Cherece Adams, Bell's supervisor at ACS, would not answer reporters' questions, but her lawyer, Joshua Horowitz, said she was looking forward to moving on her with her life.

After Bell completes 500 hours of community service and Adams 350 hours, the charges will be dismissed and neither will have a criminal record.

Their indictment in 2011 for criminally negligent homicide was announced with fanfare by Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes. The pair were accused of failing to determine the child was in danger.

THE NEWS SAYS: Brooklyn DA failed to bring workers to justice.

SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 36



BLIND LUCK



Cecil Williams and his beloved guide dog Orlando are in hospital Tuesday after MTA worker's shout to lie down in subway track bed spared them from being hit at 125th St. A-line station.

Screeching 9/11 monster twice gets Gitmo heave-ho

FORT MEADE, Md. — The biggest loudmouth at the Sept. 11 war crimes tribunal at Guantanamo Bay outdid himself Tuesday, getting tossed from the courtroom not once but twice.

Ramzi Binalshibh refused repeated warnings to stop trying to address the judge about his allegations that guards keep him awake at night with banging sounds inside his cell.

Army judge Col. James Pohl ordered him removed to a holding cell in the morning when Binalshibh shouted about a "secret CIA prison" that "nobody investigates."

The defendant was booted from the courtroom again in the afternoon when he yelled, "It's torture! Torture!"

Investigators say Binalshibh, 41, was a potential 9/11 hijacker until he was denied entry to the U.S. before the attack. He ended up wiring money to the 19 attackers inside the U.S. instead.

Binalshibh, plot mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and three others are charged with conspiracy and other counts in the deaths of 2,976 people on 9/11.

Tuesday's outbursts — in a courtroom at the U.S. naval base in Cuba — added drama to an otherwise dry pretrial hearing.

The proceedings were transmitted stateside via closed-circuit television for viewing by the press, public, survivors and relatives at four military installations.

The trial is not expected to start for at least another year.

Joseph Sirano

Merkel scores hat trick with a 3rd term

GERMANY'S parliament elected Angela Merkel on Tuesday to a third term as chancellor, paving the way for her new "grand coalition" government to formally take power.

The left-right government has a bevy of challenges, including carrying out Merkel's costly switch from nuclear to renewable energy.

A total of 462 lawmakers backed Merkel, with 150 voting against. Later, members of her cabinet, six of whom are Social Democrats were sworn in.

The biggest cabinet surprise was Merkel's choice of conservative Ursula von der Leyen as defense minister, fueling speculation she could succeed the chancellor.

Reuters

Sightless man & dog fall

BY PETE DONOHUE, ERIK BADIA
and ROCCO PARASCANDOLA
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

IT WAS THE miracle under 125th St.

A blind man and his loyal service dog fell from a subway platform in Harlem Tuesday morning and together ducked beneath an arriving train without a second to spare — suffering little more than a laceration between them.

Orlando, a black Lab, stood by Cecil Williams in the railbed after the 60-year-old Brooklynite fainted and tumbled off of a northbound A train platform at the 125th St. station.

Williams was dazed. The train was quickly rounding the corner into the station and transit flagman Larmont Smith was screaming for him to lie down in the trough between the rails.

"I only had seconds," Smith told the Daily News. "I yelled, 'Put your head down! Put your head down!' I don't think he heard me the first two times, but after the third time, he put his head down."

Then, and only then, did Orlando do the same — just in time to dip under the lead car, Smith said.

"One more second, he would have been dead," Smith said, still amazed by Orlando's instincts and devotion.

Orlando had tried to prevent Williams from falling when the blind man grew faint while waiting on the plat-

form at about 9:30 a.m. He was en route to the dentist.

When Williams fell, Orlando went with him onto the tracks. Williams was laying in the railbed with his head up. Straphangers screamed and yelled and summoned help. The train was coming — fast. Orlando wouldn't leave Williams' side.

"The dog was sitting right in front of him, kind of like he was guarding him," said Smith, a 15-year Metropolitan Transportation Authority veteran who happened to be working at the station on Tuesday morning and was alerted to Williams' plight by a straphanger.

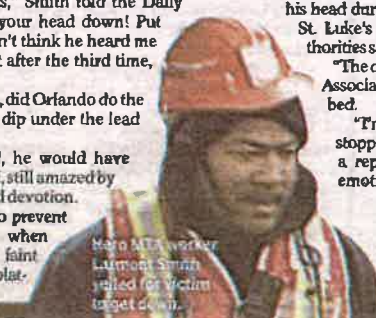
"I give that dog a lot of credit," added Smith, 54. "It was incredible. Normally an animal, or another human being, would run. That dog stayed right there."

Williams suffered mere bruises and a cut to his head during the fall and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital for treatment, authorities said.

"The dog saved my life," he told The Associated Press from his hospital bed.

"I'm feeling amazed," he said, stopping at times as he spoke with a reporter, clearly overcome by emotion.

"I feel that God, the powers that be, have something in store for me. They didn't take me away this time. I'm here for a reason."



MTA worker Larmont Smith yelled for Williams to get down.

'ONE MORE SECOND AND HE'D BE DEAD'



PHOTO BY DAVID TORRES

SAVED BY VOICE OF A RAIL ANGEL

'Head down!' yells MTA hero, and both survive

Orlando was unhurt and still by his master's side at the hospital.

"It's a miracle!" Williams' girlfriend, Cynthia, told The News as she took Orlando for a walk outside St. Luke's late Tuesday afternoon.

"He's doing great. He's feeling fine," Cynthia, who would only give her first name, said of Williams. "He's resting. He's under observation right now."

Williams said the Labrador retriever, who will turn 11 on Jan. 5, will have to be put up for adoption soon because his insurance will no longer cover the cost of caring for the dog. Williams said that if he could afford it, "I would definitely keep him."

Williams remembers little about the remarkable drama that unfolded after he fell from the platform, but told the AP he does remember Orlando trying to pull him back from the platform edge.

"He just remembers falling and somebody calling him and that's basically it; he doesn't remember much else," Cynthia said.

Williams said he does not know why he lost consciousness, but added that he takes insulin and other medications.

Witness Danya Gutierrez, 19, who was on the opposite platform, told The News: "I heard him say, 'Oh, no' and I saw him fall into the train tracks with his dog. . . Everyone was screaming and running around to find an MTA employee."

As the train bore down on Williams and Orlando, some straphangers turned their heads,

unable to bear what seemed like a tragedy in the making. "I was in horror," Gutierrez said. "I screamed. Everyone in the station screamed."

But after a few moments, someone yelled in amazement.

"He's fine! He's alive," the person cried out, said Gutierrez.

Straphangers signaled to the motorman with their hands as the train rounded the corner, and the motorman pulled the emergency brake, but it was not enough to stop the train before it reached Williams and Orlando.

Williams said that his first memory after the fall is of emergency responders reaching him underneath the train, after cutting off power to the third rail.

FDNY Capt. Danny O'Sullivan, a 17-year department veteran who was among the rescuers, said that when emergency officials arrived, Orlando was already back on the platform.

"We checked out under the train and found that he was not trapped; he was just in between the rails," said O'Sullivan, who is assigned to Engine Co. 37. "It must have been a lucky day for him. This definitely is a miracle."

Williams was placed on a backboard and in a neck brace. "We lifted him up onto the platform, we treated him for a lac-

eration to his head, and we turned him over to EMS," O'Sullivan said, amazed.

Orlando's feat showed the pooch is the Wesley Autrey of the canine world. Six years ago, Autrey made international headlines by jumping down onto the railbed and lying on top of ten Cameron Holloper as a No. 1 train passed over them in Manhattan. Holloper had had a seizure and fell onto the tracks at the 137th St./City College station.

So far this year, 144 riders have been hit by subway trains, and 52 have died, according to the MTA. Since 2001, an average of 134 people a year have been hit by subway trains, and 49 people on average have died, records show.

The News reported exclusively on Thursday that the MTA is about to start testing "intrusion detection" systems which would alert train operators when someone is on the tracks. The four technologies being tested involve motion-detection sensors, radio frequencies, thermal-image cameras and an "intelligent video" computer program designed to recognize when someone has left the platform.

Transport Workers Union Local 100 contends the MTA could save lives immediately by telling motormen to reduce speeds when entering stations.

"The ability to stop is an important factor in saving people's lives, and that should be a priority for the MTA," said Local 100 Vice President

with Simone Weichsolbaum

Pro: Pooch acted as he was taught

HE'S A GUIDE dog that did exactly what he was trained to do, a veteran trainer told the Daily News.

Orlando, a black Lab, is being hailed a hero for sticking by Cecil Williams' side when the 60-year-old Brooklyn man fainted Tuesday and tumbled on the subway tracks in Harlem.

"It sounds like it was an attempt on the dog's part to help him in any way he could. That's what they're trained to do, to protect the owner from what the dog perceives as a danger," said Beth Hollier, who trains guide dogs for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Guide dogs go through up to three years of training, starting as pups, before being put to work. "They learn to cross streets, not walking off the edge of anything, negotiate sidewalks," said Hollier.

Bill Hutchinson



FDNY rescuer Danny O'Sullivan called it a miracle.