

CBS RADIO, INC  
WINS RADIO, NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT  
**April 1st - June 30th 2014**

**Station WINS AM (WINS HD, WNEW HD3, NEW YORK) provides an all-news radio service to New York and the surrounding metropolitan area. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports, commentaries, and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.**

This report was prepared by Producer James Powers and placed in the station's public inspection file on July 1, 2014 by Ben Mevorach, News Director

## **BUSINESS**

4/1

NOW THAT NEW YORK CITY EMPLOYERS ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE WORKERS PAID SICK LEAVES, COUNCILMAN JUMAANE WILLIAMS IS PROPOSING THAT THEY ALSO PROVIDE PAID VACATION, A WEEK'S WORTH AFTER AN EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN ON THE JOB FOR SIX MONTHS. THIS WOULD EVENTUALLY RISE TO THREE WEEKS PER YEAR FOR BUSINESSES WITH 10 WORKERS OR MORE. THE PRO BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW YORK CITY SAYS WHILE THE SICK DAY RULES COULD BE JUSTIFIED AS PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE ON THE VACATION ISSUE. BUT WILLIAMS SAYS NEW YORKERS, LIKE MANY AMERICANS, ARE VACATION STARVED.

4/3

BUSINESSES AROUND THE PULASKI SKYWAY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE UPCOMING RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT. THE NORTHBOUND LANES WILL BE CLOSED APRIL 12, FOR THE 2-YEAR REHAB. KEARNY MAYOR AL SANTOS IS WORRIED THE TRAFFIC WILL BACK UP ON LOCAL STREETS, AND THAT MAY HURT MANY BUSINESSES. ONE OF THE BUSINESSES THAT COULD BE AFFECTED IS WILSON'S CARPET, WHOSE GIANT LUMBERJACK APPEARED IN THE OPENING CREDITS OF THE SOPRANOS.

4/9

UPS AND ITS WORKERS UNION ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY. THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 804 IS SEEKING THE RETURN OF 250 DRIVERS FIRED AT ITS QUEENS FACILITY AFTER A 90 MINUTE WALKOUT IN FEBRUARY. UPS CALLED IT ILLEGAL. THE UNION ACCUSED THE COMPANY OF VIOLATING GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

4/10

A NEW YORK CITY INSTITUTION, J AND R MUSIC AND COMPUTER WORLD, IS CLOSING TODAY! BUT IT WILL BE BACK. THE MISH-MASH OF A STORE ON PARK ROW BY CITY HALL WILL BE RE-IMAGINED, AS THE J AND R WEBSITE SAYS. OWNERS JOE AND RACHELLE FRIEDMAN ARE PROMISING AN UNPRECEDENTED RETAILING CONCEPT AND SOCIAL MECCA. THEY ARE HOPING TO REOPEN SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

4/11

A TENTATIVE CONTRACT TONIGHT, FOR THE UNION REPRESENTING DOORMEN AND OTHER NEW YORK CITY BUILDING WORKERS. 32-BJ ANNOUNCED THE DEAL BETWEEN THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION AND THE REALTY ADVISORY BOARD. IT'LL PROVIDE AN 11% RAISE TO EVERYBODY OVER FOUR YEARS. CURRENT PENSIONS AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS WILL STAY IN PLACE. THE CONTRACT COVERS ABOUT 30,000 DOORMEN, PORTERS, SUPERS AND HANDYMEN WHO TAKE CARE OF ABOUT 3300 BUILDINGS. MEMBERS STILL HAVE TO RATIFY THE DEAL. IF IT PASSES, IT'LL GO INTO EFFECT IN EARLY MAY.

4/14

CHANGES COMING IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES AT G-M, IN THE WAKE OF A SERIES OF EMBARRASSING RECALLS. THE COMPANY SAYS ITS COMMUNICATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES HEADS ARE LEAVING "TO PURSUE OTHER INTERESTS." THEY'VE ALREADY REPLACED HUMAN RESOURCES CHIEF MELISSA HOWE WITH JOHN QUATTRONE. SO FAR, THEY HAVEN'T PICKED ANYONE TO REPLACE COMMUNICATIONS HEAD SELIM BINGOL. THE WORD COMES AS THE COMPANY CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH THE RECALLS, INCLUDING 2.6 MILLION SMALL CARS TAKEN BACK FOR A POTENTIALLY DEADLY IGNITION SWITCH PROBLEM.

4/25

BANK OF AMERICA'S FORMER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER HAS REACHED A \$7.5-MILLION DEAL TO SETTLE ALLEGATIONS HE HELPED MISLEAD INVESTORS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF A 2008 MERGER WITH MERRILL LYNCH. THE SETTLEMENT, ANNOUNCED BY NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN, ALSO BARS JOE L. PRICE FROM SERVING AS AN OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF ANY PUBLIC COMPANY FOR 18 MONTHS. 'BANK OF AMERICA' BOUGHT MERRILL LYNCH IN SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE HEIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. BY THE TIME THE DEAL WAS FINALIZED MONTHS LATER, MERRILL'S BALANCE SHEET HAD DETERIORATED AND B-OF-A NEEDED GOVERNMENT HELP. PRICE ADMITS NO WRONGDOING IN THE SETTLEMENT.

5/2

THE JURY GIVETH, THE JURY TAKETH AWAY. A CALIFORNIA JURY DETERMINED THAT SAMSUNG INFRINGED ON APPLE SMARTPHONE PATENTS AND HAS AWARDED APPLE \$120-MILLION IN DAMAGES. BUT APPLE HAS TO TURN AROUND AND GIVE \$158,000 OF IT "RIGHT BACK"; THAT'S BECAUSE THE JURY ALSO FOUND THAT "APPLE" INFRINGED ON SOME OF SAMSUNG'S PATENTS AS WELL. THE VERDICT IS THE RESULT OF THE LATEST BATTLE OVER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TOP TWO SMARTPHONE MAKERS.

5/5

LOOKS LIKE AIRLINES ARE TAKING IN LESS MONEY FROM BAG FEES. MAYBE YOU'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO JUST MAKE DO WITH CARRY-ON. A NEW GOVERNMENT REPORT SAYS THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY MADE \$3.35 BILLION IN BAG FEES LAST YEAR AND THAT'S DOWN 4% FROM THE YEAR BEFORE. BUT YOU CAN HOLD OFF ON SENDING THOSE CARE PACKAGES. THE NUMBERS SHOW THEY'RE MAKING UP FOR THAT BY ADDING CHARGES FOR EXTRAS LIKE BEVERAGES OR SEAT LOCATIONS.

5/7

OFFICE DEPOT HAS REACHED A SETTLEMENT WITH THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL. ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN'S OFFICE SAYS THE OFFICE SUPPLY COMPANY WILL PAY \$475,000 TO RESOLVE ALLEGATIONS THAT IT OVERCHARGED MORE THAN 500 NEW YORK GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INCLUDING SCHOOLS, POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS. AS PART OF A 2008 DEAL OFFICE DEPOT HAD AGREED TO OFFER THOSE CUSTOMERS PRODUCTS AT THE SAME PRICE CHARGED TO THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. SCHNEIDERMAN SAYS THEY DID NOT HONOR THAT AGREEMENT. SO FAR THERE'S NO COMMENT FROM OFFICE DEPOT.

5/9

THE POST OFFICE IS DELIVERING MORE TROUBLING FINANCIAL NEWS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, DESPITE A MORE THAN 2% RAISE IN OPERATING REVENUE AND COST CUTTING. THE US POSTAL SERVICE SUFFERED A LOSS OF 1.9 BILLION FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THE POSTAL SERVICE GETS NO TAX DOLLARS BUT IS UNDER THE THUMB OF CONGRESS. THE AGENCY CALLED ON CONGRESS TO ALLOW THEM TO SUSPEND SATURDAY DELIVERY, A MOVE THEY SAY WOULD SAVE THEM TWO MILLION A YEAR. THEY ALSO WANT TO REDUCE A \$5.6 MILLION PAYMENT CONGRESS REQUIRES THEM TO MAKE FOR FUTURE RETIREES.

5/9

NETFLIX JUST GOT MORE EXPENSIVE. THE INTERNET VIDEO PROVIDER IS HIKING ITS MONTHLY RATE BY A DOLLAR FOR NEW CUSTOMERS. THAT MEANS EVERYONE WHO SIGNS UP STARTING TODAY WILL PAY \$9 A MONTH. THAT'S BECAUSE NETFLIX SAYS IT NEEDS MORE MONEY TO PAY FOR ITS ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING, LIKE "HOUSE OF CARDS". THE

CURRENT 36-MILLION CUSTOMERS WILL CONTINUE TO PAY \$8 A MONTH THROUGH MAY, 2016.

5/12

THOUSANDS OF WORKERS AT JFK, LAGUARDIA AND NEWARK CONTINUE A BIG PUSH TO UNIONIZE. CARDS SIGNED BY THOUSANDS OF BAGGAGE HANDLERS INDICATING THEIR DESIRE TO JOIN A UNION BEING COUNTED AT RIVERSIDE CHURCH HERE IN MANHATTAN. A FORMAL VOTE TO UNIONIZE IS THEN EXPECTED AT SOME POINT. FORMER MAYOR DAVID DINKINS WILL BE ON HAND TO OVERSEE THE CARD VOTING PROCESS. OFFICIALS AT UNION LOCAL 32BJ SAY THEY EXPECT SEVERAL THOUSAND OF THE NEARLY 10,000 BAGGAGE WORKERS TO COMMIT TO BEING IN UNION. WORKERS SAY THEY USUALLY MAKE ONLY AROUND \$8 AN HOUR.

5/13

J&R MUSIC AND COMPUTER WORLD CLOSED ITS DOORS LAST MONTH PROMISING A MAJOR RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING ON PARK ROW, NEAR CITY HALL. TODAY AND TOMORROW J & R'S INVENTORY IS BEING AUCTIONED OFF. ONLY CASH AND CERTIFIED CHECKS ARE ACCEPTED.

5/18

IT'S OFFICIAL NOW. AT&T SAYS IT'S BUYING DIREC-TV FOR \$49-BILLION OR \$95 PER SHARE. AT&T ALREADY OFFERS A HIGH-SPEED INTERNET PLAN BUNDLED WITH DIREC-TV TELEVISION SERVICE. NOW IT WILL HAVE A LARGER BASE OF VIDEO SUBSCRIBERS AND A BETTER CHANCE OF COMPETING WITH THE COMBINED COMCAST AND TIME WARNER CABLE, A DEAL ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY.

6/3

SBARRO, THE MELVILLE BASED PIZZA CHAIN THAT'S BEEN STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY, HAS EMERGED FROM BANKRUPTCY AND HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MOVE ITS HEADQUARTERS TO OHIO. FOUNDED NEARLY SIXTY YEARS AGO IN BROOKLYN, SBARRO HAD BECOME A STAPLE OF SHOPPING MALLS AND ROADSIDE REST AREAS. THE MOVE IS AN EFFORT TO CUT COSTS AND REINVENT THE COMPANY TO COMPETE WITH THE LIKES OF PANERA BREAD, CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL AND OTHERES. ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF SBARRO'S 40 MELVILLE BASED EMPLOYEES WILL BE LAID OFF BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

6/22

THE SLY FOX WILL BE NO MORE NEXT WEEKEND. THE QUEENS BAR ACROSS FROM ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN THE PREFERRED WATERING SPOT FOR GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AND SPORTS STARS INCLUDING COACH LOU CARNESECCA AND ANTHONY MASON JUNIOR. THE 61-YEAR-OLD OWNER, ED MOORE SAYS THE \$20,000 A MONTH RENT IS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE. THE SLY FOX CLOSES DOWN NEXT FRIDAY.

## ECONOMY

4/1

IT'S APRIL FIRST AND THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEW YORK STATE BUDGET HAS BEEN MET. THE STATE SENATE PASSED IT AROUND 10:30 LAST NITE; THE ASSEMBLY FOLLOWED 45 MINUTES LATER. IT'S THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE ON TIME BUDGET. WHILE IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE TAX ON THE WEALTHY MAYOR DI BLASIO WANTED, IT DOES INCLUDE FUNDING FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-K AND SOME TAX RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESSES.

4/4

RENTS IN BROOKLYN ARE NOW AS HIGH AS IN MANHATTAN. THE MEDIAN RENT FOR AN APARTMENT IN BROOKLYN IS MORE THAN \$2800. THAT WILL GET YOU EITHER A STUDIO APARTMENT IN WILLIAMSBURG, OR A THREE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN STYVESANT HEIGHTS WITH A DEBRIS-FILLED PLOT OF LAND AS YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE. THE PRESIDENT AND C-E-O OF DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE, DOTTIE HERMAN, SAYS IT'S THE HIGHEST PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT IN NEW YORK CITY THEY'VE SEEN IN THE LAST 25 YEARS. SHE SAYS NEW RECORDS WERE ALSO SET FOR THE SALE OF CONDOS AND COOPS IN THE CITY.

4/8

MOST NASSAU COUNTY EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD THEIR WAGES FROZEN FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS - BUT THAT'S ABOUT TO END. THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE HAS OKAYED A DEAL WITH THE MAJOR COUNTY UNIONS TO UNFREEZE WAGES. THE VOTE WAS 19 TO NOTHING, BUT SIX OF THE EIGHT DEMOCRATS IN THE LEGISLATURE ABSTAINED DUE TO CONCERNS OVER HOW THE COST WILL BE COVERED. ONE THING THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP PAY FOR THIS, NEW SPEED CAMERAS IN 56 SCHOOL ZONES BUT THE STATE HAS YET TO APPROVE THOSE.

4/17

BROOKLYN SENATOR DANIEL SQUADRON HAS PROPOSED A BILL IMPOSING A SPECIAL MINIMUM WAGE FOR BIG BUSINESSES IN THE STATE. HE WANTS BIG CHAIN STORES, FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES WITH AT LEAST \$50 MILLION A YEAR IN REVENUE TO PAY THEIR WORKERS AT LEAST \$15 AN HOUR. SQUADRON SAYS THE LARGEST, MOST PROFITABLE COMPANIES ARE THE ONES THAT MOST SQUEEZE THEIR WORKERS.

4/23

CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER HAS A WARNING ABOUT THE CITY'S RISING RENTS AND SHRINKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING. HE SAYS

RESIDENTS' INCOMES ARE FALLING MAKING IT EVEN HARDER FOR THE POOREST NEW YORKERS TO PAY RENT AND STAY AFLOAT. STRINGER SAYS HE FAVORS PROGRAMS TO SPECIFICALLY HELP LOWER-INCOME RENTERS, PRESERVE RENT REGULATIONS AND INVEST IN THE CITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK.

4/24

MAYOR DEBLASIO, WHO HAS FOCUSED ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE CITY, HAS APPOINTED SETON HALL LAW PROFESSOR AND FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR RACHEL GODSIL TO HEAD THE NEW YORK CITY RENT GUIDELINES BOARD. THE MAYOR'S OFFICE SAID GODSIL SPECIALIZES IN HOUSING, LAND USE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES. SHE ALSO REPRESENTED THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES.

4/30

ALMOST HALF OF ALL NEW YORKERS ARE LIVING AT OR NEAR THE POVERTY LINE. THAT INFORMATION COMES FROM THE CITY'S CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY'S ANNUAL REPORT. IT SHOWS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AND WORKING FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY. 8 PERCENT OF WORKING ADULTS, WITH FULL TIME JOBS, FALL BELOW THE LINE, UP NEARLY TWO PERCENT FROM 2008. NATIONALLY, ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF PEOPLE LIVE NEAR THE POVERTY LINE. THOUGH THE CITY NUMBERS ARE CALCULATED UNDER A DIFFERENT FORMULA, WHICH FACTORS IN COST OF LIVING IN NEW YORK.

5/2

THE APRIL JOBS REPORT WAS AS USUAL OFF FROM ECONOMISTS PREDICTIONS, BUT MOSTLY IN A GOOD WAY. IT SHOWED 288,000 JOBS CREATED AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPING TO 6.3%, THE LOWEST NUMBER SINCE BARACK OBAMA BECAME PRESIDENT. HOWEVER MOST OF THAT DECREASE IS BECAUSE MORE PEOPLE STOPPED LOOKING FOR WORK AND PEOPLE WHO AREN'T LOOKING FOR WORK AREN'T COUNTED AS UNEMPLOYED.

5/3

A THREE YEAR WAGE FREEZE ON FOUR NASSAU COUNTY EMPLOYEE UNIONS HAS BEEN LIFTED. THE NASSAU INTERIM FINANCE AUTHORITY MADE THE MOVE AROUND 2AM. THE PANEL MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO CHEERS AT THE UNIONDALE MARRIOTT APPROVING CONTRACTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, DETECTIVES ASSOCIATION, THE PBA, AND SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION. CONTRACTS CALL FOR EMPLOYEES TO GET RAISES IN THREE YEARS RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1. PAY HIKES ADDING UP TO A 13% JUMP WILL BE PHASED IN TO 2017.

5/5

THE NEW YORK CITY RENT GUIDELINES BOARD WILL HOLD A PRELIMINARY VOTE TONIGHT ON RENT INCREASES FOR RENT-REGULATED APARTMENTS. LAST YEAR, IT APPROVED HIKES OF 4% ON ONE-YEAR LEASES AND 7.75% ON TWO-YEAR LEASES. SO FAR, THERE'S BEEN NO WORD ON PROPOSED RENT HIKES FOR THIS YEAR.

5/8

IT MAY BE HIS FIRST EXECUTIVE BUDGET, BUT MAYOR DE BLASIO IS USING IT TO LAY OUT HIS VIEW OF WHERE NEW YORK CITY SHOULD BE HEADED. INCLUDED IN THE \$73.9 BILLION PROPOSAL IS A TEN YEAR PLAN TO SPEND A TOTAL OF 41 BILLION TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING. DE BLASIO SAYS BUDGETS AREN'T JUST COLLECTIONS OF NUMBERS AND DOCUMENTS. AS HE PUTS IT, "THEY REFLECT A STATEMENT OF VALUES." THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND CITY COUNCIL MUST NOW FINALIZE THE BUDGET BEFORE JULY 1ST WHEN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS.

5/11

A KEY PLANK IN BILL DE BLASIO'S PLANS AS MAYOR IS BOOSTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING. BUT WHILE HE HAS CRITICIZED PREDECESSOR MIKE BLOOMBERG'S HOUSING PROPOSALS, DE BLASIO APPARENTLY BELIEVES AT LEAST ONE PART OF IT MAY HAVE MERIT. HE'S CONSIDERING THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING PUBLIC HOUSING LAND TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS, SUPERMARKETS AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES. THE MAYOR'S OFFICE SAYS IT'S PART OF THE EFFORT TO WORK WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. BLOOMBERG'S PLANS INCLUDED LEASING OUT PUBLIC HOUSING LAND AND ALLOWING DEVELOPERS TO BUILD MARKET RATE APARTMENT BUILDINGS. THAT CAME UP AGAINST PROTESTS BY LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS OF THE PROJECTS.

5/13

THEY'VE BEEN LOCKSTOP ON MOST ISSUES BUT PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES AND MAYOR DE BLASIO ARE BUTTING HEADS OVER THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL. JAMES SAYS IT'S DISAPPOINTING THE MAYOR REJECTED A BUDGET IDEA SHE ENDORSED TO HIRE 1,000 MORE POLICE OFFICERS AND HE DECIDED AGAINST FULLY SUBSIDIZING LUNCHES FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS. CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER MELISSA MARK VIVERITO SAYS SHE WILL PUSH FOR THE PROPOSALS DURING BUDGET HEARINGS.

5/15

NASSAU COUNTY NEEDS CASH AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ED MANGANO IS PROPOSING TO SCROUNGE SOME UP WITH HIGHER FEES FOR COUNTY GOLF COURSES, HOME RENOVATION PERMITS AND MUSEUM ADMISSION AMONG OTHER THINGS. THE INCREASES WOULD ADD UP TO \$15 MILLION A YEAR. THEY REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

DEMOCRATS SAY THEY WILL VOTE NO CALLING IT A BACKDOOR TAX INCREASE, BUT THE LEGISLATURE IS CONTROLLED BY THE GOP.

5/19

THEY'RE CALLING IT "INTERNET WEEK" IN NEW YORK CITY AND MAYOR DEBLASIO KICKED THINGS OFF BY UNVEILING HIS PLAN TO MAKE THE CITY A MORE ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR HIGH-TECH JOBS. IT INCLUDES A \$10-MILLION PROGRAM TO TRAIN NEW YORKERS FOR TECH SECTOR JOBS, WIRING EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD FOR BROADBAND AND TURNING THE CITY'S OLD PAY PHONES INTO INTERNET HOT SPOTS. DEBLASIO SAYS HE'S LAUNCHING A TASK FORCE TO HELP WITH THE PLAN THOUGH HE CONCEDES IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO SEE IT THROUGH.

6/4

CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER MELISSA MARK VIVERITO IS DETERMINED TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN THE CITY AND SHE SAYS SHE'S READY TO CONVENE HEARINGS. SHE SAYS SHE FAVORS A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE TO AS MUCH AS 15 DOLLARS AN HOUR, NEARLY DOUBLE THE CURRENT STATEWIDE MINIMUM OF \$8. GOVERNOR CUOMO HAS EMBRACED A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE, COMING OUT IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO SET A MINIMUM WAGE AS MUCH AS 30% ABOVE THE STATE MINIMUM. HOWEVER, THE MEASURE WOULD FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE IN THE STATE SENATE CONTROLLED BY REPUBLICANS AND FIVE BREAKAWAY DEMOCRATS.

6/5

THE NUMBER OF STAY-AT-HOME DADS HAS DOUBLED IN THE PAST 25 YEARS BUT A REPORT BY THE 'PEW RESEARCH CENTER' SAYS THE NUMBER IS DOWN SLIGHTLY SINCE 2010 WHEN THE RECESSION ENDED. THE PEW'S GRETCHEN LIVINGSTON SAYS THERE ARE ABOUT 2-MILLION STAY AT HOME DADS AND THEIR REASON FOR STAYIN HOME IS CHANGING. THE LARGEST SHARE OF STAY-AT-HOME DADS, ABOUT 35%, SAID THEY WERE HOME DUE TO ILLNESS OR DISABILITY.

6/6

THE MAY JOBS REPORT CAME OUT THIS MORNING AND IT FOUND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HELD STEADY AT 6.3%. THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SAYS HIRING CONTINUED FOR A FOURTH STRAIGHT MONTH WITH EMPLOYERS ADDING 217,000 JOBS. ECONOMISTS SAY THE JOB MARKET HAS REACHED A MILESTONE NEARLY FIVE YEARS AFTER THE RECESSION ENDED WITH THE U.S. REGAINING ALL THE JOBS LOST IN THE DOWNTURN.

6/18

EVEN AS MILLIONS OF BABY BOOMERS APPROACH RETIREMENT, THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CLOSING DOZENS OF FIELD OFFICES, FORCING MORE AND MORE SENIORS TO SEEK HELP ONLINE INSTEAD OF IN PERSON. THIS IS ACCORDING TO A



CONGRESSIONAL REPORT RELEASED TODAY WHICH SAYS THE AGENCY HAS CLOSED 64 FIELD OFFICES SINCE 2010 AND THAT HOURS HAVE BEEN REDUCED AT THE MORE THAN 1,200 OTHERS. IN RESPONSE SOCIAL SECURITY BLAMED BUDGET CUTS. THEY SAY THEY'VE RECEIVED THE REPORT AND ARE REVIEWING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

6/20

MAYOR DE BLASIO AND THE CITY COUNCIL HAVE COME TO TERMS ON A 75 BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET WHICH INCLUDES A NUMBER OF ITEMS FROM THE MAYOR'S WISH LIST. INCLUDED IS FREE LUNCHES FOR ALL PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, WHETHER THEY CAN AFFORD TO BUY THEIR OWN LUNCHES OR NOT. THE BUDGET DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE 1,000 NEW COPS.

6/25

A PROPOSED MILLIONAIRE'S TAX INCREASE IS MOVING AHEAD IN TRENTON. NEW JERSEY LAWMAKERS ADVANCED A PLAN TO RAISE THE TAX RATE ON EARNINGS OVER \$1-MILLION FROM JUST UNDER 9% TO 10 3/4%. THE TAX WOULD AFFECT ABOUT 16,000 FORTUNATE FILERS ACROSS THE GARDEN STATE, ACCORDING TO SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAUL SARLO. DEMOCRATS EXPECT THE TAX INCREASE TO GENERATE \$723-MILLION. REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE IS EXPECTED TO VETO THE PROPOSAL.

## EDUCATION

4/2

COMMON CORE MAY TEST STUDENTS, BUT MIGHT NOT TEST TEACHERS. GOVERNOR CUOMO SAYS HE IS CONSIDERING DELAYING THE USE OF THE NEW CURRICULUM TEST RESULTS WHEN EVALUATING TEACHERS. THE NEW STATE BUDGET ALREADY DELAYS PLACING THE TEST SCORES ON STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS OR USING THEM AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN GRADE PROMOTION. THE GOVERNOR SAYS HE STILL SUPPORTS THE TOUGHER STANDARDS THAT COMMON CORE TESTS REFLECT, BUT SAYS HE'S CRITICAL OF THE WAY THEY WERE IMPLEMENTED.

4/8

KINDERGARTEN KIDS IN HUNTINGTON, MILLER PLACE AND FLORAL PARK BELLEROSE WILL BE PUTTING IN FULL DAYS INSTEAD OF HALF DAYS IF THEIR DISTRICT'S BUDGETS PASS NEXT MONTH, AND IF THEY DO, THAT WOULD LEAVE ONLY 5 LONG ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN. NEW YORK IS BY THE WAY ONE OF JUST 5 STATES THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OFFER KINDERGARTEN AT ALL.

4/10

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES WILL PLAY A SMALLER ROLE NOW IN DECIDING WHICH NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS GET LEFT BACK A YEAR - CHANCELLOR CARMEN FARINA SAYS SUCH DECISIONS WILL NOW BE MADE ON A RANGE OF FACTORS INCLUDING WORK IN THE CLASSROOM. FARINA SAYS THE POLICY WILL TAKE THE TEMPERATURE DOWN AROUND TESTING WHILE STILL KEEPING RIGOROUS STANDARDS IN PLACE. THE TEACHERS UNION IS ALL FOR IT - PRESIDENT MICHAEL MULGREW CALLING IT JUST COMMON SENSE.

4/11

PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HAVE PROTESTED. NOW PRINCIPALS FROM SOME 3 DOZEN NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE JOINING THE CHORUS AGAINST NEW YORK STATE ENGLISH TESTS GIVEN THIRD THROUGH EIGHTH GRADERS LAST WEEK. THE ADMINISTRATORS CALL THEM POORLY DESIGNED AND CONFUSING. ABOUT 200 PEOPLE RALLIED AGAINST THE TESTS TODAY AT P.S. 11 IN CHELSEA. STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TOM DUNN SAYS FOLKS WANTING TO SEE SOME OF THE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS WILL GET THEIR CHANCE THIS SUMMER WHEN THE SCORES COME OUT.

4/16

IF YOU JUST CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE NEW S.A.T. WILL LOOK LIKE, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. SAMPLE QUESTIONS OF THE TEST WERE RELEASED TODAY BY THE COLLEGE BOARD. ONE ASKS TEST TAKERS TO CALCULATE WHAT IT WOULD COST AN AMERICAN TRAVELING IN INDIA TO CONVERT DOLLARS TO RUPEES. ANOTHER REQUIRES STUDENTS TO USE THE FINDINGS OF A POLITICAL SURVEY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THE COLLEGE BOARD WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW S.A.T. IS STILL IN DRAFT FORM AND COULD CHANGE BEFORE ITS ROLL OUT, WHICH IS EXPECTED IN 2016.

4/18

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO HAS DECIDED TO ADD TWO MUSLIM HOLIDAYS, PLUS THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, AS OFFICIAL DAYS OFF FROM SCHOOL ON THE CITY'S CALENDAR. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SAYS THOSE CHANGES WON'T TAKE EFFECT FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR. SPOKESWOMAN DEVORA KAYE SAYS "WE ARE COMMITTED TO HAVING A SCHOOL CALENDAR THAT REFLECTS AND HONORS THE EXTRAORDINARY DIVERSITY OF OUR STUDENTS."

4/23

TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY FOR PARENTS IN THE CITY TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOR THE FALL. YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE THROUGH MIDNIGHT, BUT IN-PERSON APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN BY 3PM. \$1.5 BILLION IN STATE FUNDING OVER THE NEXT 5-YEARS IS MAKING FULL-DAY PRE-K POSSIBLE FOR MORE THAN 53,000 CHILDREN IN NEW

YORK CITY. THE KIDS MUST BE 4-YEARS OLD, OR TURNING FOUR THIS YEAR. ADMISSION DECISIONS WILL BE SENT OUT IN JUNE.

4/25

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED A NEW NATIONWIDE EDUCATION INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE TEACHER TRAINING. OFFICIALS WILL TRACK SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL TEACHERS BACK TO THEIR PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS POSSIBLE TRAINING PROBLEMS. IN A CONFERENCE CALL, EDUCATION SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN SAYS THE U.S. TRAILS OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION. A ROUGH DRAFT OF THE PLAN IS EXPECTED THIS SUMMER, WHEN LEADERS WILL HOLD A FORUM ON THE MATTER. A FINAL PLAN IS EXPECTED IN ABOUT A YEAR.

5/1

THEY'RE SAYING 'NO' TO STANDARDIZED TESTING IN BROOKLYN. TEACHERS AT INTERNATIONAL' HIGH SCHOOL IN PROSPECT HEIGHTS HAVE REFUSED TO ADMINISTER AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST BECAUSE, THEY SAY, IT'S USELESS TO THEIR NON-NATIVE-ENGLISH-SPEAKING STUDENTS. MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN TEACHERS HAVE JOINED THE OPPOSITION SENDING A LETTER TO SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR CARMEN FARINA URGING HER TO DROP THE EXAM FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS STILL LEARNING ENGLISH. OFFICIALS SAY THE TEST DOES NOT FACTOR INTO STUDENT GRADES AND IT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE TEACHERS.

5/3

ONE DOWN AND MORE THAN 150 TO GO. MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO SAYS THE CONTRACT WITH THE CITY TEACHERS UNION SHOULD SET THE TONE FOR LABOR TALKS WITH THE CITY'S MORE THAN 150 OTHER UNIONS. THE TEACHERS GOT SOME RETROACTIVE PAY BACK TO 2009 AND THEN A TEN PERCENT SALARY INCREASE THROUGH 2018. THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO COST \$5.5 BILLION. SOME PEOPLE HAVE QUESTIONED IF THE CITY CAN AFFORD SIMILAR AGREEMENTS AND SOME OTHER MAJOR UNIONS SAY THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SIMILAR DEALS.

5/7

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE JUST WEEKS AWAY. BUT ARE THE NATION'S 12TH GRADERS READY FOR THE NEXT STEP? NOT ACCORDING TO THE LATEST ASSESSMENT KNOWN AS "THE NATION'S REPORT CARD". 92,000 STUDENTS WERE SAMPLED FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND IT SHOWED THE GRADS LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL STILL HAVING TROUBLE WITH READING AND MATH. ANOTHER STUDY, DONE BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, ESTIMATES MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS, AND MORE THAN ONE-HALF IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES, NEED SOME REMEDIAL HELP.

5/12

SO MANY STUDENTS END UP BURDENED FOR DECADES IN SOME CASES BY STUDENT LOANS SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER HAS A PLAN HE SAYS CAN HELP. SCHUMER AND HOFSTRA'S PRESIDENT STU RABINOWITZ ARE UNVEILING A PLAN TO REDUCE STUDENT LOAN DEBT. SCHUMER'S IDEA IS TO LOCK IN STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES AT 3.86%. A STUDY BY THE FED SAYS STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS STILL HIGHER THAN CREDIT CARD AND AUTO LOAN DEBT AND IS SECOND ONLY TO MORTGAGE LOANS. ANOTHER SHOCKING NUMBER, STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS NOW A TRILLION DOLLARS AND THAT HAS DOUBLED IN JUST THE LAST SEVEN YEARS.

5/15

DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL'S ABOUT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT. THE BOARD VOTED TO END THE SCHEUDLE OF MID-YEAR AND FINALS. EDUCATORS SAID TESTING TAKES TOO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM THE CLASSROOM AND STUDENTS TAKE MANY MORE TESTS THAN THEY USED TO. DANBURY TEACHERS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO USE OTHER THINGS TO ASSESS A STUDENT'S KNOWLEDGE DURING THE YEAR, SUCH AS PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS. THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY GETTING OFF THE HOOK. THE STUDENTS ALREADY HAVE END OF UNIT TESTS, BENCHMARK TESTS, COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS AND 'ADVANCED PLACEMENT' EXAMS.

5/17

CONNECTICUT LAWMAKERS MAY HAVE APPROVED A BAN ON CHOCOLATE MILK IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS, BUT THEY SHOULDN'T EXPECT THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN IT. DANIEL MALLOY SAYS HE RECOGNIZES NUTRITIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT SODIUM IN KIDS' DRINKS. BUT HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE KIDS GET THE CALCIUM AND OTHER NUTRIENTS THAT CHOCOLATE MILK CAN PROVIDE. LEGISLATORS OKAYED THE MEASURE AS PART OF A BIGGER EDUCATION BILL. THEY'RE NOW CONSIDERING A REVISION TO CORRECT THE INADVERTENT BAN.

5/28

LEADERS OF THE NEWARK STUDENT UNION MET WITH SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT CAMI ANDERSON AND STATE EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DAVID HESPE TO VOICE OPPOSITION TO THE CONTROVERSIAL 'ONE NEWARK' PLAN. AFTER THE SESSION, STUDENT UNION MEMBER TANAISSA BROWN SAID SHE FELT THE GROUP WAS BRUSHED ASIDE. THE STUDENTS WANT THE DISTRICT TO DROP THE PLAN TO CLOSE SOME SCHOOL BUILDINGS, TURN HIGH SCHOOLS INTO SMALLER ACADEMIES AND USE DISTRICT PROPERTIES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS. LAST WEEK, SOME STUDENT ACTIVISTS STAGED AN OVERNIGHT SIT-IN AT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES.

5/30

NEW YORK CITY HAS SET ASIDE \$5.4 MILLION A YEAR FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO PAY THE RENT FOR THE THREE 'SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS' BOOTED BY MAYOR DEBLASIO FROM PUBLIC SPACE BACK IN FEBRUARY. THE STATE LEGISLATURE HAD MANDATED THE CITY FIND NEW CLASSROOM SPACE AND AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH THE NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE AND THE BROOKLYN DIOCESE TO HOUSE THE SCHOOLS IN BUILDINGS IN MANHATTAN AND QUEENS. THE CITY WILL PAY \$11,000 IN RENT FOR EACH STUDENT FOR THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR, NEARLY DOUBLE THE AMOUNT THE CITY PAYS FOR A TYPICAL CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT'S ENTIRE ANNUAL EDUCATION. CITY OFFICIALS DEFENDED THE SPENDING SAYING IT IS IN LINE WITH TYPICAL COSTS FOR RENTING SIMILAR SPACES FOR DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

6/2

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS WILL TESTIFY IN TRENTON BEFORE THE SENATE'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE. THEY'RE OPPOSED TO A MEASURE THAT WOULD EXPAND THE UNIVERSITY'S GOVERNING BOARD FROM 15 TO 19 MEMBERS AND ALLOW THE GOVERNOR AND LAWMAKERS TO SELECT MORE MEMBERS. CURRENTLY, THE GOVERNOR CHOOSES 8-BEARD MEMBERS AND THE TRUSTEES PICK SEVEN. THE TRUSTEES CHAIRWOMAN CALLED THE PROPOSAL A "POWER GRAB."

6/5

HEY MOM AND DAD, LISTEN UP IF YOU'VE GOT KIDS YOU WANT TO GET INTO CITY PRE-K PROGRAMS. TODAY'S THE DAY PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-K PLACEMENTS ARE BEING ANNOUNCED. BUT, MAYOR DE BLASIO SAYS IF YOU DIDN'T GET ONE OF THOSE, YOU AREN'T OUT OF THE RUNNING. THERE ARE 25,000 PRE-K SLOTS AVAILABLE IN CENTERS ACROSS THE 5 BORO'S AND THE CITY IS LAUNCHING AN APPLICATION PROCESS TODAY FOR THEM, EITHER ONLINE OR IN PERSON, AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS. AND, MAYOR DE BLASIO SAYS EVEN MORE PROGRAMS AND SEATS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

6/11

DESPITE MAYOR DI BLASIO'S OPPOSITION TO CHARTER SCHOOLS THE SUCCESS ACADEMY IS OPENING 10 MORE THIS FALL AND IS APPLYING NOW FOR ANOTHER 14. THAT WOULD MAKE FOR A TOTAL OF 46 AROUND THE CITY BUT ACADEMY FOUNDER EVA MOSCOWITZ SAYS THAT WON'T EVEN MAKE A DENT IN THE DEMAND FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS. MORE THAN 14,000 FAMILIES APPLIED FOR FEWER THAN 3,000 SEATS AVAILABLE AT SUCCESS ACADEMIES IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.

6/18

REPORTS SAY THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS INVESTIGATING SYSTEMIC INFLATION OF STUDENTS' SCORES ON ENGLISH REGENTS EXAMS. IT SAYS THE GRADE INFLATION WAS DISCOVERED AFTER

PASSING RATES FELL AFTER NEW GUIDELINES BARRED TEACHERS FROM GRADING REGENTS ADMINISTERED AT THEIR OWN SCHOOL.

6/27

HOFTSRA JOINS THE LIST OF SCHOOLS MAKING SAT AND ACT SCORES OPTIONAL FOR STUDENTS APPLYING TO THE UNIVERSITY. THE NEW POLICY TAKES EFFECT FOR UNDERGRADS SEEKING TO ENTER HOFSTRA IN FALL 2015. INTERNATIONAL AND HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS WILL STILL HAVE TO TAKE THE TESTS. THE COLLEGE IN HEMSPTEAD IS THE LARGEST ON LONG ISLAND TO MAKE THE CHANGE.

## HEALTH

4/1

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP FOR OBAMA CARE HAS PAST, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE EXTENSIONS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO TRIED TO SIGN UP BUT COULDN'T QUITE GET IT DONE. THE WEB-SITE HEALTHCARE.GOV, ACTUALLY WENT DOWN FOR A TIME YESTERDAY. THE WHITE HOUSE IS CLAIMING SUCCESS THOUGH WITH MORE THAN 6 MILLION SIGN UP, BUT WHATS NOT CLEAR IS HOW MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T HAVE INSURANCE BEFORE OR HOW MANY HAVE ACTUALLY PAID THEIR PREMIUMS. HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER JOHN BOEHNER SAYS REPUBLICANS REMAIN COMMITTED TO REPEALING THE LAW.

4/2

WE ALL KNOW RUNNERS TEND TO BE IN GREAT SHAPE, AT LEAST WHILE THEY'RE STILL AROUND. NEW RESEARCH INDICATES THAT TOO MUCH RUNNING CAN RESULT IN A SHORTER LIFE. THE RESEARCHERS SAY THEY'RE NOT SURE WHY THIS IS BUT SAY THE SWEET SPOT SEEMS TO BE RUNNING FOR ABOUT 2.5 HOURS A WEEK AT A SLOW TO MODERATE PACE.

4/6

NEW RESEARCH FINDS MEAT EATERS BEAT VEGETARIANS WHEN IT COMES TO OVERALL HEALTH. SCIENTISTS COMPARED 330 VEGETARIANS TO 990 OMNIVORES AND FOUND THE VEGGIE EATERS HAVE A HIGHER RISK OF ASTHMA, CANCER, ALLERGIES AND POOR MENTAL HEALTH. THE STUDY ALSO SHOWED SOME VEGETARIAN DIETS MAY RISK VITAMIN DEFICIENCIES THAT CAN GO UNNOTICED FOR YEARS. THE LOWEST CANCER RISK OCCURRED FOR THOSE WHO ATE SOME MEAT WITH LOTS OF VEGETABLES. HIGH MEAT CONSUMPTION WAS LINKED TO HIGHER MORTALITY RATES.

4/14

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE SIGNED LEGISLATION TODAY TO RAISE THE AGE AT WHICH SOMEONE MAY LEGALLY PURCHASE

TOBACCO PRODUCTS. STARTING NEXT YEAR THE MINIMUM AGE WILL BE 21. NEW YORK CITY ALREADY HAS SUCH A LAW. A STORE CAUGHT SELLING TOBACCO TO SOMEONE YOUNGER COULD BE FINED \$1000 FOR A FIRST OFFENSE AND \$1500 FOR A SECOND. THE LAW ALSO COVERS ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES.

4/15

A DNA ALTERNATIVE TO THE PAP SMEAR HAS SPARKED A MEDICAL DEBATE. MAKERS OF THE GENETIC VERSION OF THE TEST ARE CALLING ON THE FDA TO APPROVE IT AS A FIRST-CHOICE OPTION FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING. BUT MORE THAN A DOZEN PATIENT GROUPS ARE WARNING THAT SWITCHING TO NEWER TECHNOLOGY COULD LEAD TO CONFUSION, HIGHER COSTS AND OVERTREATMENT IN SOME WOMEN. THEY CALL THE PAP SMEAR A SIMPLER AND CHEAPER MAINSTAY OF WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE.

4/17

WORD THAT DOCTORS SHOULD STOP USING A PROCEDURE TO TREAT GROWTHS IN THE UTERUS BECAUSE IT COULD INADVERTENTLY SPREAD CANCER TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY. THE 'FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION' IS DISCOURAGING THE PROCEDURE, WHICH USES AN ELECTRONICALLY POWERED DEVICE TO GRIND UP UTERINE TISSUE SO IT CAN BE REMOVED THROUGH A SMALL INCISION. THE FDA SAYS THE TECHNIQUE COULD ACTUALLY SPREAD UTERINE CANCER AND THEY ESTIMATE THAT 1 IN 350 WOMEN WHO UNDERGO FIBROID PROCEDURE MAY HAVE AN UNDETECTED CANCER KNOWN AS UTERINE SARCOMA.

4/18

WE'VE HAD MORE THAN DOZEN CASES OF MUMPS REPORTED IN THE CITY RECENTLY - AND NOW WE HAVE 8 CONFIRMED CASES AMONG STUDENTS AT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN HOBOKEN. ALL 8 WERE CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES OFF CAMPUS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW CASES REPORTED. INTERESTING ALL 8 OF THOSE STUDENTS HAD BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST MUMPS.

4/20

KRAFT FOODS IS RECALLING 96,000 POUNDS OF ITS OSCAR MEYER HOT DOGS BECAUSE THEY MAY MISTAKENLY CONTAIN CHEESE. SOME PACKAGES LABELED OSCAR MEYER CLASSIC WEINERS MAY ACTUALLY BE 'CLASSIC CHEESE DOGS.' THOSE PRODUCTS WERE MADE WITH MILK, A KNOWN ALLEGEN WHICH IS NOT ON THE LABEL.

4/24

THE NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WAS BADLY INJURED BY SUPERSTORM SANDY. THE HOSPITAL HAD TO BE EVACUATED DURING THE HURRICANE WHEN IT BECAME FLOODED, AND

BOTH POWER SYSTEMS FAILED. TODAY, IT REOPENS AFTER REPAIRS. THE NEW 22,000 SQUARE FOOT "PERELMAN EMERGENCY CENTER" IS TRIPLE THE SIZE OF THE OLD E-R AND BOASTS STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY.

4/25

THERE'S CONCERN AT THE NATION'S HOSPITALS OVER A SHORTAGE OF I-V DRUGS. DR. ANDREW KLINEMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY, SAYS HOSPITALS HERE IN NEW YORK CITY ARE IMPACTED BY THE SHORTAGE. THE FDA SAYS THE SHORTAGES ARE THE RESULT OF PRODUCTION DELAYS AND INCREASED USE OF I-V DRUGS FOR THE SEVERE FLU SEASON. OFFICIALS SAY THEY SHORTAGES ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED UNTIL MAY OR JUNE.

5/1

A FIRST OF ITS KIND IMPLANT HAS BEEN APPROVED TO TREAT SLEEP APNEA. AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO WEAR A "C-PAP," THE MASK THAT MANY PATIENTS CURRENTLY WEAR TO KEEP THEIR AIRWAYS OPEN. THE FDA HAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO A PACEMAKER-LIKE DEVICE THAT KEEPS AIRWAYS OPEN BY ZAPPING THEM WITH AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT. IT'S MADE BY 'INSPIRE MEDICAL SYSTEMS' AND IT TREATS THE PROBLEM BY STIMULATING A NERVE THAT CONTROLS KEY AIRWAY MUSCLES SO THAT THEY STAY IN PLACE AND DON'T BLOCK BREATHING.

5/3

THE 17TH ANNUAL E.I.F. REVLON RUN-WALK FOR WOMEN IS TODAY IN CENTRAL PARK. THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION AND REVLON COSMETICS. IT IS BEING HOSTED BY BRAVO CHANNEL PERSONALITY ANDY COHEN AND ACTRESS EMMA STONE. PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO CANCER RESEARCH.

5/4

A CONTROVERSIAL CHEMICAL IS COMING OUT OF POWERADE. COCA COLA, WHICH MAKES THE SPORTS DRINK, SAYS IT'LL BE REMOVING BROMINATED VEGETABLE OIL FROM POWERADE. PEPSI-CO HAS ALSO PROMISED TO DROP THE INGREDIENT FROM GATORADE. BROMINATED VEGETABLE OIL IS A SYNTHETIC CHEMICAL DERIVED FROM CORN OR SOY AND IT'S USED AS AN EMULSIFIER TO KEEP OTHER INGREDIENTS FROM SEPARATING. BUT IT'S ALSO A FLAME RETARDANT SUSPECTED IN VARIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS AND IT'S NOT ALLOWED IN DRINKS IN EUROPE OR JAPAN. NO COMMENT FROM THE COMPANIES ON REASONS FOR THE CHANGE. BUT A MISSISSIPPI TEENAGER RECENTLY STARTED A PETITION ON CHANGE.ORG ASKING THEM TO REMOVE IT.

5/5

IT MAY NOT BE MARKED ON YOUR CALENDAR BUT THIS IS MELANOMA MONDAY, THE NATIONAL SKIN SELF EXAMINATION DAY, ON WHICH YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE YOURSELF FOR SIGNS OF SKIN CANCER.



YOU CAN GO TO GOOGLE AND BRING UP SOME PICTURES OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. THE GOOD NEWS IS IF IT'S CAUGHT EARLY ENOUGH THE CURE RATE FOR MELANOMA IS ALMOST 100%. BUT IF YOU CATCH IT TOO LATE, IT CAN KILL YOU PRETTY FAST.

5/6

A LOW DOSE OF ASPIRIN IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD FOR YOU IF YOU'VE HAD A HEART ATTACK. IT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP PREVENT ANOTHER ONE. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN SOME DEBATE ABOUT WHO SHOULD TAKE IT AND NOW THE F-D-A IS GETTING MORE SPECIFIC, AND SAYING THE RISKS MAY OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. THIS WEEK IT'S SAYING ASPIRIN SHOULD NOT BE MARKETED FOR PREVENTION OF A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE IN PEOPLE WITH NO HISTORY OF CARDIOVASCULAR PROBLEMS. LAST WEEK IT REJECTED BAYER'S PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A PRIMARY PREVENTION INDICATION.

5/7

WE'VE HEARD A LOT OF PROS AND CONS ABOUT DRINKING COFFEE BUT A NEW STUDY SAYS IT COULD HELP PREVENT DETERIORATING EYESIGHT. ACCORDING TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY, RAW COFFEE CONTAINS ENOUGH OF THE ANTIOXIDANT "CHLORO-GENIC ACID" TO PREVENT RETINAL DEGENERATION IN MICE. MORE TESTING NEEDS TO BE DONE, TO CONFIRM THE BENEFIT TO HUMANS. PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN COFFEE CUTS THE RISK OF OTHER CHRONIC DISEASES INCLUDING PARKINSON'S, PROSTATE CANCER, DIABETES AND ALZHEIMER'S. THIS NEW RESEARCH IS PUBLISHED IN "THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY".

5/8

CONSUMER REPORTS HAS ISSUED RANKINGS ON HOSPITALS CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF CESAREAN DELIVERIES AND IT SHOWS THE NUMBER REMAINS VERY HIGH IN THE U.S. AND THAT MANY OF THEM ARE UNNECESSARY. IN NEW YORK: BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER, FLUSHING HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER, GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER IN WEST ISLIP, HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL HUNTINGTON AND JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST. IN NEW JERSEY: THERE WERE 25 HOSPITALS WITH THE WORST RATINGS INCLUDING JERSEY CITY MEDICAL CENTER, HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER IN TEANECK AND VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD.

5/12

A REPORT TODAY OUT OF THE JOURNAL "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES" SAYS CERTAIN CHEMICALS USED IN EVERYDAY LIFE, HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO CAUSE BREAST CANCER IN LAB RATS AND ARE LIKELY TO DO THE SAME IN WOMEN. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE GAS, DIESEL AND OTHER VEHICLE EXHAUST FLAME -RETARDANTS

AND PAINT REMOVERS. THE STUDY SAYS EVEN DISINFECTION "BY-PRODUCTS" FOUND IN DRINKING WATER, COULD BE SUSPECT.

5/13

WE'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF RED WINE AND CHOCOLATE, BUT A NEW STUDY SAYS THOSE FOODS DO NOT HELP PREVENT EITHER HEART DISEASE OR CANCER. PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE SUGGESTED AN ANTIOXIDANT IN RED WINE AND CHOCOLATE COULD HAVE ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS, PREVENT CANCER, AND DECREASE STIFFNESS IN THE BLOOD VESSELS. THIS NEW RESEARCH TRACKED 783 PEOPLE IN ITALY OVER 9-YEARS.

5/15

FOLKS IN NEW YORK WILL BE SEEING RED TODAY, AND THAT'S A GOOD THING. THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING AND SEVEN OTHER SKYSCRAPERS WILL BE LIT RED TONIGHT AS PART OF THE "LIGHT UP NEW YORK" INITIATIVE THAT RAISES AWARENESS FOR AIDS. THIS SUNDAY IS THE ANNUAL AIDS WALK NEW YORK IN CENTRAL PARK. MEANWHILE, FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS RECOMMEND THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AT RISK FOR AIDS TAKE A DAILY PILL THAT HAS SHOWN TO PREVENT INFECTION WITH THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES IT. CURRENTLY, FEWER THAN 10,000 TAKE THE PILL, COSTING \$13,000 A YEAR.

5/16

THE IDEA THAT SMOKING A HOOKAH MAY BE SAFE MAY HAVE JUST GONE UP IN SMOKE. RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINED THE URINE OF 55 HOOKAH SMOKERS ONE DAY BEFORE AND THEN ONE DAY AFTER SMOKING TOBACCO IN A WATER PIPE. THEY FOUND SIGNIFICANTLY RAISED NICOTINE AND OTHER CANCER-LINKED CHEMICALS.

5/17

WHAT'S BETTER FOR A TYPE 2 DIABETIC? GETTING THE SAME NUMBER OF CALORIES IN SIX SMALL MEALS THROUGHOUT THE DAY OR EATING TWO LARGE MEALS. THERE ARE DIABETES EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE AND THERE'S A NEW STUDY FROM CZECH RESEARCHERS ON IT. IN THE STUDY 54 ADULTS BETWEEN 30 AND 70 WERE GIVEN A 12 WEEK DIET OF EITHER SIX OR 2 MEALS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GROUPS WEREN'T EARTH SHATTERING BUT THE FOLKS WHO ATE TWO BIG MEALS, BREAKFAST AND LUNCH, INSTEAD OF SIX SMALL ONES, ACTUALLY LOST WEIGHT AND THAT, SAYS MEDICAL EDITOR DR. RICHARD BESSER IS REALLY THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT THE DISEASE. THE STUDY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ONLINE ON DIABETOLOGIA.

5/18

A NEW STUDY SAYS E-CIGS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO WEAKEN A PERSONS RESISTANCE TO MRSA AND OTHER LIFE THREATENING BACTERIA. DR.

LAURA CROTTY- ALEXANDER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO IS THE LEAD AUTHOR OF THE STUDY. SHE SAYS A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK E-CIGS ARE SAFER, ADDING IT'S UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT IF THAT'S THE CASE. THE STUDY WAS PRESENTED AT THE AMERICAN THOR-ASSICK SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

5/19

A HEADS UP FOR DOG OWNERS: ACCORDING TO THE FDA, MORE THAN 1,000 DOG DEATHS MAY BE LINKED TO TOXIC JERKY TREATS EITHER MADE IN CHINA, OR CONTAINING INGREDIENTS FROM CHINA. IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL EVEN BY READING THE LABEL OF PRODUCT BECAUSE THE ORIGIN OF CERTAIN INGREDIENTS MAY NOT BE LISTED. MOST DOGS SUFFERED GASTRO PROBLEMS OR LIVER DISEASE. SOME SUFFERED KIDNEY AND URINARY DISEASE. FDA OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN AGRRESSIVELY RESEARCHING THIS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT THERE ARE STILL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND AT THIS POINT ALL THEY CAN DO IS GIVE PET OWNERS A GENERAL HEADS UP ABOUT JERKY TREATS.

5/20

A BAN ON SMOKING IN NEW JERSEY PUBLIC PARKS AND BEACHES HAS PASSED ONE OF ITS FINAL LEGISLATIVE HURDLES, NEEDING NOW ONLY A FULL SENATE APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE FROM GOVERNOR CHRISTIE. IN ALL, 27 MUNICIPALITIES IN BERGEN COUNTY AND ALL BUT ONE IN PASSAIC COUNTY HAVE PROHIBITED SMOKING IN THEIR PARKS.

5/22

IS HANDSHAKING DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH? A REPORT IN JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION URGES DOCTORS TO STOP SHAKING PATIENTS' HANDS BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF SPREADING GERMS. DR. MARK SKLANSKY OF UCLA SAYS SHAKING PATIENTS' HANDS MAY BE JUST AS DANGEROUS AS SMOKING IN PUBLIC. HE SUGGESTS HOSPITALS INSTITUTE SHAKE-FREE ZONES TO PROTECT VULNERABLE PATIENTS. DR. LEN HOROVITZ OF LENOX HILL HOSPITAL SAYS THERE ARE SAFER GERM FREE WAYS OF GREETING PEOPLE SUCH AS AN OPEN PALM OR BOWING.

5/23

THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS DEFENDING 'FITNESSGRAMS' AS A WAY TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP PERSONAL GOALS FOR LIFELONG HEALTH. MANY PARENTS AND STUDENTS AREN'T SO SURE. THE CITY IS SENDING HOME THE REPORTS IN ENVELOPES TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE WEIGHED AND MEASURED BACK IN NOVEMBER. 9 YEAR OLD GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS OF PS 29 ON STATEN ISLAND SAYS. SHE WAS UPSET TO LEARN THE RESULTS OF HER FITNESSGRAM. IT SAID THE 4 FOOT 1 THIRD GRADER WEIGHING 66 POUNDS HAS A HIGH BODY MASS INDEX AS OVERWEIGHT. HER MOM SAYS HER DAUGHTER WAS

HEARTBROKEN. OTHER PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON THEIR KIDS SELF-ESTEEM.

5/29

THERE ARE NEW RULES FOR THAT FAKE GLOW. TANNING BEDS AND SUN LAMPS WILL CARRY NEW WARNINGS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE USED BY ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18. THE MOVE BY THE F-D-A IS AIMED AT REDUCING THE RISING RATE OF SKIN CANCER. THE AGENCY HAS REGULATED THE TANNING MACHINES FOR DECADES BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE F.D.A. IS REQUIRING MANUFACTURERS TO WARN CONSUMERS ABOUT CANCER RISKS OF INDOOR TANNING.

5/30

A RECENT STUDY FOUND ABOUT A THIRD OF THE PEOPLE ON THE PLANET ARE .0OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE WITH THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF OBESITY IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. AND NOW RESEARCHERS IN SPAIN THINK THEY MAY HAVE PINPOINTED A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, WHITE BREAD. THEY FOUND THAT EATING SIX SLICES OR MORE PER DAY IS STRONGLY LINKED TO INCIDENCE OF OBESITY. THEY SAY BECAUSE WHITE BREAD IS LACKING THE FIBRE THAT SLOWS THE ABSORPTION OF SUGARS ITS ALMOST LIKE A BOMB OF SUGAR.

6/1

DOCTORS ARE TAKING A NEW LOOK AT OLD CANCER MEDICINES NOW THAT AN OLD CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT HAS TURNED OUT TO EXTEND THE LIVES OF MEN WITH SPREADING PROSTATE CANCER. DOCE-TAXEL ADDED TO STANDARD HORMONE THERAPY ADDED NEARLY 14 MONTHS TO PATIENTS' LIVES. AND BECAUSE THE DRUG IS NOW GENERIC, IT'S LESS EXPENSIVE THAN NEWER TREATMENTS. THE DRUG STILL COSTS \$1500 A TREATMENT, BUT THAT'S FAR LESS THAN OTHERS DEVELOPED MORE RECENTLY. THE PROBLEM THOUGH IS CONVINCING PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER TO GET EARLY CHEMO.

6/2

ON THE HEALTH FRONT, HOW OLD IS TOO OLD FOR A COLONOSCOPY? A SURPRISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE, OLDER THAN 75, HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER, AND RESEARCHERS PUT OUT THE WORD TODAY, THAT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET CAUGHT UP. IT SAYS "SOME MAY EVEN CONSIDER SCREENING INTO THEIR 80's". THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SAYS THE SCREENINGS ARE PRETTY POWERFUL, AND CREDITED WITH SAVING LIVES "AND MORE". NATIONAL GUIDELINES RECOMMEND REGULAR CHECKUPS STARTING AT AGE 50 ON UP TO 75.

6/3

NEW YORK STATE WILL HOLD CLINICAL TRIALS FOR A MARIJUANA-BASED MEDICATION USED TO TREAT SEIZURES IN CHILDREN. GOVERNOR

CUOMO'S OFFICE IS PARTNERING WITH A BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM TO DEVELOP THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE TESTS. THE MEDICATION IS USED TO TREAT CHILDREN WITH RARE FORMS OF EPILEPSY. THOUGH IT USES A MARIJUANA EXTRACT, USERS DO NOT GET HIGH AFTER TAKING IT.

6/4

REMEMBER FORMER MAYOR BLOOMBERG'S INITIATIVE TO BAN LARGE SUGARY DRINKS IN A BID TO FIGHT OBESITY? THE ISSUE GOES BEFORE NEW YORK STATE'S HIGHEST COURT TODAY. JUDGES COULD DECIDE WHETHER THE INITIATIVE COULD BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. LOWER COURTS HAD BLOCKED THE EFFORT TO RESTRICT SALES OF SUGARY DRINKS LARGER THAN 16 OUNCES RULING THE CITY BOARD OF HEALTH OVERSTEPPED ITS AUTHORITY. MAYOR DEBLASIO HAS SAID IN THE PAST HE WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BAN.

6/5

IN 2012, A COURT RULING BANNED THE SALE OF BIG SODAS IN THE CITY, THOSE SUGARY DRINKS LARGER THAN 16 OUNCES. LESS THAN A MONTH LATER, THE BAN WAS OVERTURNED. NOW, CITY OFFICIALS ARE URGING THE STATE'S TOP COURT TO REINSTATE THE BAN AND ALLOW THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH TO DETERMINE RESTRICTIONS. THE WAR AGAINST BIG GULPS WAS FIRST WAGED BY MAYOR BLOOMBERG AND MAYOR DE BLASIO HAS SINCE BACKED IT AS WELL.

6/12

'FRUITLAND AMERICAN MEAT,' BASED IN MISSOURI, HAS RECALLED ABOUT 4,000 POUNDS OF BEEF, BECAUSE OF CONCERNS OVER MAD COW DISEASE. THE COMPANY SAYS THE MEAT COULD CONTAIN THE PARTS OF THE ANIMAL THAT CAN CARRY PROPERTIES RELATED TO MAD COW, BUT THE USDA SAID THERE'S NO INDICATION THE SLAUGHTERED CATTLE SHOWED SIGNS OF THE DISEASE. THE FEDERAL AGENCY SAYS THE PRODUCTS WERE PRODUCED BETWEEN LAST SEPTEMBER AND THIS PAST APRIL AND WERE DISTRIBUTED TO TWO RESTAURANTS; ONE IN NEW YORK CITY AND TO A 'WHOLE FOODS' DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN CONNECTICUT. THEY DID NOT MENTION THE NAME OF THE RESTAURANTS. AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS SAY THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ADVERSE REACTIONS TO EATING THE PRODUCTS.

6/18

A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT NEW YORKERS FACE LOTS OF SKIN DAMAGE AND WRINKLES DUE TO LONG COMMUTE TIMES, HIGH STRESS AND POLLUTION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, NEW YORK RANKS SECOND IN A LIST OF 50 U.S. CITIES. ONLY RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA TOPPED GOTHAM. AND, THE BIGGEST ISSUE FOR "THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS?" SLEEP. NEW YORKERS HAVE THE THIRD HIGHEST NUMBER OF SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

6/19

RESEARCHERS ARE REPORTING A POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH IN PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM HEART ATTACKS. REPORTS SAY TWO MAJOR STUDIES IDENTIFIED MUTATIONS IN A SINGLE GENE THAT PROTECT AGAINST THEM BY KEEPING LEVELS OF FAT IN THE BLOOD, TRIGLYCERIDES, AT A VERY LOW FOR A LIFETIME. THE FINDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO A PUSH TO DEVELOP DRUGS THAT MIMIC THE EFFECT OF THE MUTATIONS. BUT RESEARCHERS CAUTION DRUG DEVELOPMENT WILL LIKELY TAKE YEARS. HEART DISEASE IS THE LEADING KILLER IN THE U.S. WITH ABOUT 720,000 PEOPLE SUFFERING HEART ATTACKS EACH YEAR.

6/19

ALBANY LAWMAKERS HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO LEGALIZE MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN NEW YORK. GOVERNOR CUOMO SAYS THE DRUG WILL BE FOR SEVERELY ILL PATIENTS, AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGES. THE 'COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT' NEGOTIATED BY CUOMO AND LAWMAKERS DOESN'T ALLOW IT TO BE SOLD IN PLANT FORM OR SMOKED, ONE OF CUOMO'S KEY DEMANDS. IT CAN BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH AN OIL-BASE OR VAPORIZER.

6/20

YOU'VE HEARD FOR YEARS THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SAFE TAN AND SUNBURNS GREATLY INCREASE THE RISK OF DEVELOPING SKIN CANCER. BUT SOME PEOPLE PERSIST IN BAKING BENEATH THE SUN BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD. NEW RESEARCH AT HARVARD CONCLUDES THAT SUNSHINE ACTS LIKE AN ADDICTIVE DRUG ON OUR BODIES; STIMULATING THE SAME BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS AS OPIOIDS.

6/25

A NEW STUDY SAYS 3-D MAMMOGRAPHY MAY IMPROVE THE RATE OF BREAST CANCER DETECTION. THE TOMO-SYNTHESIS TEST MAY ALSO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF FALSE ALARMS THAT COME UP IN TRADITIONAL MAMMOGRAMS. MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT DR. JENNIFER ASHTON SAYS THE RESULTS ARE PROMISING, BUT NOT DEFINITIVE. THE TOMO-SYNTHESIS STUDY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

6/26

NEW YORK STATE'S HIGHEST COURT REFUSED TO REINSTATE THE BAN ON SUPERSIZED SODAS RULING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OVERSTEPPED ITS BOUNDS WHEN IT RESTRICTED THE SIZE OF SUGARY DRINKS TO NO MORE THAN 16-OUNCES. THE JUSTICES AGREED WITH A LOWER COURT RULING THAT OVERTURNED THE 2012 INITIATIVE AFTER RESTAURANTS, THEATER

OWNERS AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES SUED. MAYOR DEBLASIO HAS SAID HE SUPPORTED THE BAN. THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER SAYS THIS "RULING DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT SUGARY DRINK CONSUMPTION IS A KEY DRIVER OF THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC."

6/27

TODAY IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW YORK CITY ENCOURAGING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO TAKE THE TEST. EXPERTS NOTE THAT EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF HIV IS SAVING MANY LIVES DUE TO ADVANCES IN DRUG THERAPY. IN FACT, THEY SAY SOMEONE DIAGNOSED EARLY ENOUGH CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A CLOSE TO NORMAL LIFE EXPECTANCY, WITH THE PROPER TREATMENT. THE CDC RECOMMENDS HIV TESTING AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR FOR PEOPLE AT A HIGHER RISK OF INFECTION.

6/29

GOVERNOR CUOMO IS UNVEILING A SWEEPING PLAN TO REDUCE HIV INFECTIONS AND AIDS RATES BELOW EPIDEMIC LEVELS IN THE STATE. CUOMO HAS TIMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH TODAY'S GAY PRIDE PARADE. THE GOVERNOR WANTS TO INCREASE TESTING FOR HIV, WHILE BOOSTING TRACKING AND TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE VIRUS. PART OF THE TREATMENT PLAN INCLUDES GETTING BULK DISCOUNTS ON HIV DRUGS.

6/29

SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER IS CALLING FOR SAFER PACKAGING OF E-CIGARETTE LIQUID CONTAINERS. HE SAYS HE'LL ASK THE FDA TO REQUIRE CHILD-PROOF SAFETY CAPS AND CLEAR WARNING LABELS TO ADDRESS WHAT HE SAYS IS AN ALARMING INCREASE IN RELATED POISONINGS ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. HE SAYS E-CIG FLAVORS LIKE BUBBLE GUM AND GUMMY BEAR ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO CHILDREN AND THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DO MORE TO PREVENT ABUSE.

## **TAXES**

APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>, IS OF COURSE TAX DAY IN THE UNITED STATES. SEVERAL STORIES ON 1010 OFFERED TIPS, HELP AND ADVICE TO LISTENERS TO ASSIST IN THE ANNUAL TAX FILING TIME.

4/10

THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND BEFORE TAX DAY, APRIL 15TH. FOR SOME, TAXES ARE A STRUGGLE, BUT A NEW AP POLL FINDS THAT MOST OF AMERICANS SAY COMPLETING A FEDERAL TAX RETURN IS EASY. POLITICIANS ARE SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS OVER THIS ONE, WHERE SOME IN WASHINGTON HAVE MADE CAREERS OUT OF PROMISING A

SIMPLER TAX SYSTEM. WHEN IT COMES TO CHEATING THOSE ASKED BELIEVE ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL FILERS CHEAT ON THEIR TAXES.

4/12

THERE IS A LOT OF TALK THESE DAYS ABOUT HOW HIGH-FREQUENCY TRADERS MAY BE GETTING AN UNFAIR EDGE ON WALL STREET PUTTING WHAT SOME SAY AMOUNTS TO AN ADDITIONAL TAX ON AVERAGE STOCK MARKET INVESTORS. NOW A NEW STUDY SAYS THOSE WHO ARE NOT EVEN TRADING JUST PUTTING MONEY INTO THEIR 401K'S ARE BEING FLEECEED BY HIGH FEES. IT SAYS THE TYPICAL 401K FEES OF ONE PERCENT A YEAR ERASES \$70,000 FROM THE AVERAGE WORKERS ACCOUNT OVER A FOUR DECADE CAREER. THAT'S LIKE WORKING AN EXTRA THREE YEARS JUST TO PAY FEES. THE LIBERAL THINK TANK SAYS THE ANALYSIS IN THEIR STUDY IS BACKED UP BY INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT DATA.

4/13

TWO DAYS BEFORE THE TAX DEADLINE, THIS MIGHT LIFT YOUR SPIRITS. BUDGET CUTS AND NEW RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TAXING THE I-R-S AND LIMITING THE NUMBER OF AUDITS. FEWER AGENTS ARE ASSIGNED TO AUDIT RETURNS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE AT LEAST THE 1980'S. THE TIGHT TIMES THOUGH ALSO MEAN THAT TAXPAYERS MAY NOT GET I-R-S HELP AS EASILY. MILLIONS OF PHONE CALLS TO THE AGENCY HAVE BEEN GOING UNANSWERED.

4/14

THIS REMINDER FROM 1010WINS THAT TOMORROW IS TAX DAY. YOU'LL HAVE TILL MIDNIGHT, APRIL 15TH, TO GET YOUR TAX RETURN IN THE MAIL. BUT IT TURNS OUT YOUR CHANCE OF GETTING AUDITED IS LOWER THAN IT'S BEEN IN YEARS. BUDGET CUTS AND NEW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AGENCY WORKERS ARE SAID TO BE STRAINING THE ABILITY OF THE I-R-S TO POLICE TAX RETURNS AND THIS YEAR, THE AGENCY HAS FEWER AGENTS AUDITING RETURNS THAN AT ANYTIME SINCE THE 1980s. AT THE SAME TIME, THAT'S ALSO SAID TO BE CAUSING \*PROBLEMS\* FOR TAXPAYERS, BECAUSE THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FILING.

4/23

MAYOR DEBLASIO IS PROPOSING NEW TAX LEGISLATION AIMED AT HELPING HOMEOWNERS WHOSE PROPERTY WAS DAMAGED IN HURRICANE SANDY. THE BILL, WHICH NEEDS APPROVAL IN ALBANY, WOULD PROVIDE RELIEF TO CITY RESIDENTS WHO REBUILT OR REPAIRED THEIR HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORM BY LOWERING THEIR 2015 PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY.

4/23

OFFICIALS SAY NEW YORK CITY PROPERTY TAXPAYERS CAN OFTEN PAY MUCH DIFFERENT BILLS FOR PROPERTIES THAT ARE WORTH ABOUT THE



SAME MONEY. TODAY THE CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER WILL PROPOSE A COMMISSION TO OVERHAUL THE SYSTEM TO MAKE IT MORE EQUITABLE. THOUGH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE HAS BEEN STABLE, ASSESSMENTS HAVE SURGED, PUSHING THE SIZE OF THE TAX BILLS HIGHER. THE MAY RISE ANOTHER 8 PERCENT THIS YEAR. THE TAX COMMISSION WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND SPEAKER.

5/4

HAPPY TAX FREEDOM DAY, AT LEAST IN NEW YORK. A WATCHDOG GROUP SAYS THIS IS THE DAY NEW YORKERS HAVE EARNED ENOUGH TO PAY OFF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL TAXES FOR THE YEAR. THE D.C. BASED TAX FOUNDATION MARKED APRIL 21ST AS NATIONAL TAX FREEDOM DAY SAYING NEW YORK IS THE 48TH STATE TO GET THERE. NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT WILL REACH THE MILESTONE MAY 9TH.

5/14

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ASKING THE STATE LEGISLATURE IN ALBANY TO STRIP MADISON SQUARE GARDEN OF ITS TAX EXEMPTION. THE GARDEN IS SPARED MORE THAN \$17 MILLION A YEAR IN PROPERTY TAXES. THE EXEMPTION WAS APPROVED IN 1982. MSG ARGUES THE EXEMPTION IS SIMILAR TO SUBSIDIES FOR YANKEE STADIUM, AND CITI-FIELD.

5/20

THERE'S A VICTORY FOR SOME SANDY VICTIMS IN THE CITY. IN ALBANY THE STATE SENATE HAS FOLLOWED THE ASSEMBLY IN PASSING A BILL THAT WOULD PREVENT HIGHER PROPERTY TAX BILLS FOR THOSE IN THE CITY WHO REBUILT OR REPAIRED THEIR HOMES DAMAGED BY SANDY. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS IN BOTH CHAMBERS AND NOW GOES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS SIGNATURE.

5/22

JERSEY CITY IS SUING THE PORT AUTHORITY. MAYOR STEVEN FULOP SAYS THE CITY IS SEEKING \$400-MILLION IN UNPAID TAXES, PENALTIES AND FEES. THE SUIT CLAIMS THE P-A HAS USED OUTDATED OR NON-EXISTENT AGREEMENTS TO AVOID PAYMENTS ON 40 PROPERTIES IT OWNS IN THE CITY. THE PORT AUTHORITY HAD NO COMMENT.

5/23

NEW YORK CITY'S 'INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE' RELEASED A REPORT TODAY ON MAYOR DE BLASIO'S FIRST EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND PROJECTED THE CITY WILL END THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WITH A \$1.8-BILLION SURPLUS. THAT'S ABOUT 131-MILLION MORE THAN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE PROJECTS. THE I.B.O. SAYS THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2015 WILL ALSO END WITH A SURPLUS. DE BLASIO HAS URGED CAUTION IN PROJECTING

INCREASES IN THE CITY'S TAX REVENUE SAYING THEY ARE, QUOTE- 'BY DEFINITION ALWAYS UNCERTAIN.'

5/29

GOVERNOR CUOMO IS ON STATEN ISLAND TO SIGN A BILL PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY, WHO HAVE REPAIRED THEIR HOMES. NORMALLY, REPAIRS WOULD BE ASSESSED AT FULL MARKET VALUE AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE STATE'S PROPERTY TAX CAP. THAT MEANS PEOPLE WHO REDO THEIR HOMES CAN BE HIT WITH A WHOPPING INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAX BILL. THIS NEW BILL REDUCES A HOMEOWNERS' TAX LIABILITY TO ITS PRE-STORM LEVEL.

6/13

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN HAS ORDERED BISHOPS TO TAKE A MESSAGE TO THE PULPIT ON SUNDAY, TELLING PARISHIONERS TO CALL ON GOVERNOR CUOMO AND STATE LAWMAKERS TO APPROVE EDUCATION TAX CREDITS TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. DOLAN HOPES THE CREDITS WILL SPUR DONATIONS TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER FINANCIAL PRESSURE IN RECENT YEARS.

6/19

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S PLAN FOR BALANCING NEW JERSEY'S BUDGET INVOLVES CUTTING FUNDING FOR STATE EMPLOYEE PENSIONS, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE SENATE SAYS DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE GOING ALONG WITH THAT. INSTEAD OF STEVEN SWEENEY SAYS THEY WILL ROLL OUT A COMPETING PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD RAISE TAXES ON BUSINESSES AND THE WEALTHY TO FILL IN THE GAP, AND IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES THE TAX INCREASES SWEENEY DEMOCRATS WOULD CONSIDER PUTTING THEM BEFORE VOTERS IN A REFERENDUM.

6/26

GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE AND THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE ARE HEADED FOR A SHOWDOWN OVER PENSIONS AND TAXES TODAY. CHRISTIE WON A KEY COURT VICTORY YESTERDAY WHEN A JUDGE RULED HE CAN CUT PENSION PAYMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORKERS BY \$900 MILLION TO COVER AN UNEXPECTED REVENUE SHORTFALL. DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL SEEK TO ADVANCE THEIR BUDGET PROPOSAL TODAY THAT WOULD CLOSE THE SPENDING GAP WITH A MILLIONAIRES TAX INCREASE AND OTHER REVENUE GENERATING PROPOSALS. CHRISTIE HAS VOWED TO OPPOSE ANY TAX HIKE.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION STORIES THIS QUARTER WERE THE PLANNED SHUT DOWN OF THE 'PULASKI SKYWAY' AND TALKS OF A POTENTIAL STRIKE ON THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD. THE SKYWAY IS A MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROADWAY CONNECTING JERSEY CITY AND SOME TUNNELS TO NEW YORK CITY. THE ROADWAY IS SLATED TO BE CLOSED WHILE UNDER REPAIR FOR TWO YEARS. THE RAILROAD IS A MAJOR VEIN CONNECTING COMMUTERS LIVING ON LONG ISLAND TO NEW YORK CITY.

4/1

BIG PLANS FOR THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL, A \$400 MILLION ADDITION TO SPEED UP TRAVEL FOR THE 30,000 COMMUTERS THAT TRAVEL THROUGH EACH DAY. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE PORT AUTHORITY WANTS TO BUILD A BUS ANNEX TO HOLD 100 BUSES ON A PIECE OF LAND AT 39TH AND 10TH. IT WOULD ALLOW THE BUSES TO HAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE TERMINAL AND THE LINCOLN TUNNEL WITHOUT DRIVING ON TO OTHER STREETS IN AREA. RIGHT NOW MANY BUSES THAT DROP COMMUTERS OFF AT THE TERMINAL ARE FORCED TO RETURN TO JERSEY JUST SO THEY CAN PARK. THE P-A HAS APPLIED FOR FEDERAL MONEY THAT WOULD COVER A GOOD CHUNK OF THE COST.

4/8

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT IS TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT ITS SAFETY PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES. THE AGENCY HAS APPROVED A PLAN TO SPEND HALF A MILLION DOLLARS ON AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT WHO WILL CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW. OFFICIALS SAY THEY DECIDED TO MAKE THE MOVE FOLLOWING THE DEADLY METRONORTH DERAILMENT IN DECEMBER. A FEDERAL REVIEW AFTER THE CRASH SAID METRONORTH CREATED A CULTURE THAT SACRIFICED SAFETY FOR ON-TIME PERFORMANCE. NJT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAYS SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE HER AGENCY HAS DONE THAT, BUT WANTS TO MAKE SURE.

4/10

A ONE BILLION DOLLAR MAKEOVER OF THE AGING PULASKI SKYWAY IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS SATURDAY. THIS AFTERNOON NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER JAMES SIMPSON AND JERSEY CITY MAYOR STEVEN FULOP MET TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING TWO-YEAR CLOSURE OF THE NORTHBOUND LANES. OFFICIALS ARE WARNING THAT THE ESTIMATED 40,000 MOTORISTS WHO TAKE THE SKYWAY TOWARD JERSEY CITY AND MANHATTAN EVERY DAY WILL NEED TO FIND AN ALTERNATE ROUTE. AND THEY'RE URGING DRIVERS TO CARPOOL OR TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. NEW JERSEY TRANSIT AND PATH ARE ADDING CAPACITY ON SOME OF THEIR TRAINS.

4/11

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY YOU CAN DRIVE THE NORTHBOUND LANES OF THE PULASKI SKYWAY. THEY ARE CLOSING FOR TWO YEARS FOR A

BILLION DOLLAR REPAIR JOB. JERSEY CITY IS PLANNING TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE INTIAL WEEKS OF THE SHUTDOWN. MOTORISTS ARE PLANNING TO HAVE NIGHTMARES. CONSIDER US YOUR TRAVEL BUDDY, WITH EXPANDED TRAFFIC REPORTS ON 1010 WINS AND YOUR TRAVEL SURVIVAL GUIDE AT 1010 WINS DOT COM SLASH PULASKI.

4/12

A PLANNED SERVICE SHUTDOWN ON THE 7 TRAIN IN QUEENS NEXT MONTH IS BEING RESCHEDULED TO ACCOMMODATE TWO MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENTS IN LONG ISLAND CITY. THE M-T-A SAYS WORK WAS SET FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 17TH AND 18TH. IT'S BEEN PUT OFF TO A LATER DATE, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SCHEDULED. THE LONG ISLAND CITY ARTS FESTIVAL IS THAT WEEKEND, AS WELL AS LONG ISLAND CITY SPRINGS, WHICH IS A GIANT BLOCK PARTY.

4/13

A \$3.6 BILLION MAKEOVER IS BEING PLANNED FOR LAGUARDIA AIRPORT. THE NEW TERMINAL WOULD BE ABOUT ONE-THIRD LARGER WITH ADDITIONAL SHOPS AND PARKING. THE NUMBER OF GATES WOULD NOT INCREASE BUT THEY'D BE SPREAD OUT TO ALLOW FOR BIGGER PLANES. CONSTRUCTION IS SET TO BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. THE 50 YEAR OLD FACILITY IS IN NEED OF SOME SPRUCING UP. IN FEBRUARY, VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SAID LAGUARDIA "FEELS LIKE IT'S IN SOME THIRD WORLD" COUNTRY.

4/14

IT WASN'T THE "CAR-MAGGEDDON" EVERYONE FEARED WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE INBOUND PULASKI SKYWAY THIS MORNING. BUT DON'T BE FOOLED - TODAY'S "LIGHT LOAD" ON THE ALTERNATE ROADWAYS COULD BE DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR PASSOVER AND EASTER. TO BE SURE, THE ALTERNATE ROADWAYS WERE BUSIER THAN USUAL. THE 82-YEAR-OLD PULASKI HIGHWAY IS UNDERGOING A 2-BILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION OF THE BRIDGE DECK AND IT WILL TAKE 2 YEARS. WE'VE ALSO GOT A SURVIVAL GUIDE AT 1010WINS.COM/PULASKI AND YOU CAN SHARE THE SAGA OF YOUR COMMUTE AT 1010WINS.COM.

4/17

YELLOW CABS MEET THE DINOSAUR. A NEW STUDY FINDS MANY NEW YORKERS ARE DITCHING THE TAXI RIDE TO WORK AND CHOOSING THE SUBWAY, FERRIES, EVEN BICYCLES. AN ANALYSIS OF CENSUS DATA BY THE 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION' FINDS CAB TRIP COMMUTES DROPPED MORE THAN 26% BETWEEN 2006 AND 2012. THAT'S MORE THAN 37,000 RIDERS FINDING ANOTHER WAY TO GET TO WORK.

4/18

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE PULASKI SKYWAY IN JERSEY CITY. BUT OFFICIALS SAY THERE WERE NO MAJOR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS THIS WEEK AS A RESULT. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT WAS THE EXCEPTION NOT THE NORM. THEY SAY TRAFFIC WAS LIGHTER WITH PEOPLE TAKING TIME OFF FOR EASTER AND PASSOVER. BUT COME MONDAY, THINGS COULD BE A LOT DIFFERENT WITH NORMAL TRAFFIC VOLUME. THE INBOUND LANES LEADING TO THE HOLLAND TUNNEL ARE CLOSED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. LOCK IT IN TO 1010 WINS MONDAY MORNING FOR TRAFFIC AND TRANSIT REPORTS ON THE ONES.

4/23

IF YOU TAKE THE Q TRAIN, THE MTA SAYS COME DECEMBER, THE TRAIN WILL MAKE ALL LOCAL STOPS IN MANHATTAN DURING OVERNIGHT HOURS. THE AGENCY SAYS YOU SHOULD SEE THE WAIT TIME CUT IN HALF, FROM 10-TO-5-MINUTES.

4/24

NEGOTIATORS FOR THE M-T-A AND UNIONS REPRESENTING LONG ISLAND RAILROAD WORKERS WILL BE BACK AT IT FOR A FOURTH DAY. THEY ARE WORKING WITH A PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD TO AVOID A STRIKE IN JULY. TALKS INTENSIFIED IN MANHATTAN WEDNESDAY. AN EARLIER BOARD RECOMMENDED 17% RAISES, BUT SUBWAY AND BUS WORKERS AGREED TO AN 11% PAY HIKE LAST WEEK.

4/25

THE PORT AUTHORITY SHOULD TURN OVER THE MONEY-LOSING PATH TRAIN SYSTEM TO NEW JERSEY TRANSIT. THAT'S THE RECOMMENDATION, TODAY FROM THE CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION. THEY CALL THE PATH TRAIN A MAJOR DRAIN AND SAY IT'S HURTING THE PORT AUTHORITY'S ABILITY TO FUND MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. THE COMMISSION SAYS TURNING IT OVER TO N-J-T COULD YIELD MORE THAN \$300 MILLION ANNUALLY. THAT'S MONEY THAT COULD BE SPENT ON THE AIRPORTS AND MARINE PORTS. THEY ALSO SUGGEST FIXING THE PATH TRAIN'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BY RAISING THE FARE.

4/30

THE PORT AUTHORITY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AIR TRAIN SERVICE CONNECTING AMTRAK AND NEW JERSEY TRANSIT TO NEWARK LIBERTY AIRPORT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR TWO AND A HALF MONTHS FOR REPAIRS. SHUTTLE BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE. OFFICIALS SAY TRAVELERS USING THE SERVICE NEED TO ALLOW EXTRA TIME TO REACH THEIR FLIGHTS. THE LINE IS SCHEDULED TO REOPEN JULY 15TH.

5/1

CAB RIDERS IN THE CITY WILL BE DIGGING DEEPER TO PAY A 30 CENT SURCHARGE BEGINNING NEXT JANUARY. THE TLC APPROVED THE EXTRA

FEE TO MAKE HALF OF THE CITY'S TAXIS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE BY 2020. THE NEW RULES AFFECT YELLOW AND GREEN TAXI TRIPS, AS WELL AS LIVERY CAR RIDES.

5/2

THE COMPANY THAT RUNS CITIBIKES IS REPORTEDLY IN TALKS WITH AN INVESTMENT FIRM ABOUT EXPANDING THE PROGRAM INTO MORE NEIGHBORHOODS. A SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE INVESTMENT WOULD BE USED IN PART TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOFTWARE THAT RUNS THE PROGRAM. CITIBIKE HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL STRAINS AND IS ASKING THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PERMISSION TO RAISE THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE FROM \$95 TO \$140.

5/3

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO TAKE THE 6 TRAIN. THE 'CASTLE HILL AVENUE' & 'MIDDLETOWN ROAD STATIONS' WILL RE-OPEN TOMORROW AFTERNOON AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR REHAB FOR 7 MONTHS.

5/7

THERE IS TALK, OF ADDING TOLLS TO THE STATEN ISLAND EXPRESSWAY. NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED YET, BUT THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED LOOSENING REGULATIONS WHICH COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO TOLLS ON FEDERAL HIGHWAY UNDER MORE SCENARIOS. A NUMBER OF LOCAL POLITICIANS HAVE REJECTED THE IDEA OF TOLLS ON THAT HIGHWAY. NO COMMENT FROM THE STATE D.O.T.

5/8

MORE AMERICANS ARE PEDDLING THEIR WAY TO WORK. THE CENSUS BUREAU SAYS 786,000 BIKE RIDERS USED THEIR FAVORITE MODE OF TRANSPORT TO MAKE THEIR DAILY COMMUTES BETWEEN 2008 AND 2012. THAT'S UP 61% FROM THE 488,000 WHO SAID THEY BIKED TO WORK IN THE YEAR 2000. IT'S STILL ONLY A DROP IN THE BUCKET HOWEVER, .6% VERSUS THE MORE THAN 86% WHO DRIVE ALONE OR CARPOOL TO WORK.

5/9

LONG ISLAND ROADS ARE GETTING A MAKEOVER. THANKS TO \$100-MILLION IN STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING. GOVERNOR CUOMO SAYS THE MONEY WILL PAY FOR RESURFACING PROJECTS TO REPAIR 300 LANE MILES OF WINTER-RAVAGED ROADWAYS IN NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES. OFFICIALS SAY THE 11 PROJECTS WILL INCLUDE THE REPAVING OF THE 'LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY' IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BETWEEN EXITS 37 AND 46.

5/12

IF YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO CATCH A METRO NORTH TRAIN THIS MORNING, BETTER CHECK THE SCHEDULE. A NEW SCHEDULE WENT INTO EFFECT YESTERDAY. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT 96% OF INBOUND PEAK MORNING RIDERS SHOULD HAVE A SHORTER COMMUTE NOT WITH THE ELIMINATION OF BOTTLE NECKS IN THE BRONX AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY.  
5/14

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS COMING TO TOWN AND THIS ISN'T THE USUAL FLY IN FOR A FEW HOURS, HIT SOME FUND RAISERS AND FLY OUT AFFAIR. HE'LL BE AROUND THROUGH TOMORROW. HE'S HEADING UP TO WESTCHESTER TODAY USING THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE NEW TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE AS A BACK DROP AS HE CALLS ON CONGRESS TO INCREASE SPENDING ON INFRASTRUCTURE. TOMORROW THE PRESIDENT WILL SPEAK AT A DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM. HE'LL ALSO HIT A COUPLE OF FUNDRAISERS WHILE HE'S IN TOWN.

5/15

SWEEPING SAFETY CHANGES FOR METRO-NORTH, ONE OF THE LARGEST COMMUTER RAILROADS IN THE COUNTRY. THEY'RE IN RESPONSE TO A VERY CRITICAL REPORT DONE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDS STARTED INVESTIGATING AFTER TWO MAJOR DERAILMENTS - A DEATH, AND SEVERAL INJURIES. THE CHANGES INCLUDE BETTER TRAINING FOR WORKERS, MORE TRACK INSPECTIONS, NEW SPEED RESTRICTIONS, AND NEW SAFETY EQUIPMENT. THE FEDS FOUND THAT METRO NORTH LET SAFETY SLIP IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THE TRAINS RUNNING ON TIME. THIS SATURDAY IS THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DERAILMENT IN BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT THAT INJURED 76 PEOPLE.

5/16

TURNS OUT THERE WILL ONLY BE A SLIGHT DELAY IN THE EXPANSION OF THOSE GREEN TAXIS THAT CAN PICK UP STREET HAILS IN ANY BORO. MORE THAN 5,000 OF THESE NEON GREEN MACHINES ROAM THE CITY. SOME 6,000 MORE PERMITS WERE TO BE ISSUED NEXT MONTH. BUT THE T-L-C COMMISSIONER, MEERA JOSHI, TOLD A HEARING THAT MORE STUDY WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE THOSE PERMITS WOULD GO OUT. FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM THE TAXI AND LIVERY COMMISSION; THE DELAY SHOULD BE SLIGHT AND THOSE 6,000 PERMITS ISSUED BY SUMMER'S END.

5/19

SUBWAY AND BUS WORKERS, REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 100 OF THE TWU HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED A CONTRACT WITH THE MTA. THE DEAL CALLS FOR TWO YEARS OF RETROACTIVE RAISES OF 1% A YEAR, A 2% INCREASE GOING BACK TO JANUARY, AND 2% RAISES IN EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE MTA BOARD WILL VOTE ON WEDNESDAY.

5/21

WHEN YOU BOOK A FLIGHT THE COST OF THE TICKET IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. THERE CAN BE FEES FOR CHECKED BAGS; ASSIGNED SEATS, CARRY ONS AND WHATEVER ELSE THE AIRLINES CAN GET AWAY WITH. THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE FEES. BUT IT'S PROPOSING THE AIRLINES BE REQUIRED TO SPELL THEM ALL OUT. RIGHT NOW THEY ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE BAGGAGE FEES. AND EVEN THEN, THEY DON'T HAVE TO PROVIDE AN EXACT PRICE. THE REGULATION WOULD COVER FEES FOR BASIC SERVICES, NOT THINGS LIKE PRIORITY BOARDING OR CURBSIDE CHECK-IN.

5/22

3 SEPARATE SAFETY PROBLEMS HAVE TOYOTA NOW RECALLING 430,000 VEHICLES. IT'S RECALLING 370,000 SIENNA MINIVANS IN COLD WEATHER STATES BECAUSE ROAD SALT CAN CORRODE THE SPARE TIRE CARRIER UNDER THE VEHICLE AND THE TIRE CAN FALL OFF. TOYOTA IS ALSO RECALLING 50-THOUSAND HIGHLANDER AND HIGHLANDER HYBRID SUVS BECAUSE THE CAR MAY NOT PROPERLY CALCULATE THE SIZE OF THE FRONT PASSENGER WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO FIRE THE AIR BAG. AND IT'S RECALLING 10,000 500 LEXUS GS 350 SEDANS BECAUSE THE BRAKES COULD ACTIVATE WITHOUT WARNING.

5/23

YOU GET HIT WITH A SPEEDING TICKET THIS WEEK? THE NYPD HAS BEEN CRACKING DOWN, NOT THAT IT HELPS TO TELL YOU NOW. POLICE SAID THEY WROTE MORE THAN 4,800 SPEEDING TICKETS CITYWIDE ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY. BROOKLYN LED THE WAY WITH NEARLY 1,250 ALLEGED LEADFOOTS WRITTEN UP. QUEENS AND MANHATTAN ALSO SAW ABOUT 1,200 TICKETS ISSUED. THE NYPD ADVISES THE CITY SPEED LIMIT IS 30 UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED ON LOCAL STREETS.

5/27

THE BICYCLE SHARING SERVICE, CITIBIKE, IS CELEBRATING ITS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY TODAY. AND TO MARK THE OCCASION IT'S SELLING DAY PASSES FOR JUST ONE DOLLAR. CITI BIKE SAYS USERS HAVE PEDALLED MORE THAN 14 MILLION MILES SO FAR BUT THE SERVICE IS STILL STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY. THEY HOPE TODAY'S DISCOUNT MIGHT GET MORE PEOPLE TO GIVE CITI BIKE A TRY. A YEARLY PASS COSTS \$95. AN INCREASE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

5/28

THE CITY IS CONSIDERING GIVING DRIVERS A WARNING ABOUT SPEED CAMERAS, POSSIBLY POSTING SIGNS IN SOME SCHOOL ZONES AND OTHERS SPOTS THAT ARE CAMERA EQUIPPED. TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER POLLY TROTTENBERG SAYS THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TALKS WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES THAT USE WARNING SIGNS. THE



PILOT SPEED CAMERA PROGRAM NOW IN PLACE, HAS RACKED UP MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS IN FINES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

5/29

A DEAL COULD BE IN THE WORKS TO AVOID A POTENTIAL THREATENED LONG ISLAND RAILROAD STRIKE UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMER. THE CURRENT DEADLINE IS JULY 19TH. A UNION PROPOSAL WOULD EXTEND THE DEADLINE BY 60 DAYS UNTIL MID SEPTEMBER, SPARE LONG ISLAND'S SUMMER TOURISM SEASON A POTENTIALLY CRIPPLING STRIKE BUYING MORE TIME TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT. THE MTA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE OFFER, BUT A SOURCE SAYS THE AGENCY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN AGREEMENT TO STAVE OFF A POTENTIAL WALKOUT.

6/1

METRO NORTH RAILROAD REPORTEDLY PAID A \$2,000 FINE IN THE DEATH OF A WORKER WHO WAS STRUCK BY A TRAIN BACK IN 2009. HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA SAYS REGULATORS FINED THE RAILROAD FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW PROPER RADIO PROCEDURES AFTER 49-YEAR OLD KENNETH MCGRATH WAS STRUCK AND KILLED. SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL SAID THE RELATIVELY SMALL FINE RAISES SEVERE AND SERIOUS CONCERNS. HE SAID HE'LL RAISE THE ISSUE AT A HEARING ON CAPITOL HILL THIS WEEK.

6/2

JERSEY CITY IS WORKING ON PLANS FOR A PEDESTRIAN PLAZA. CITY COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING A PLAN TO BAN MOTOR VEHICLES ON NEWARK AVENUE FROM GROVE TO BARROW STREETS MOST OF THE TIME -- FOR OPEN-AIR EVENTS -- AND OUTDOOR RESTAURANT SEATING. THE ORDINANCE WOULD BAN LOUD SOUND OR MUSIC AND REGULATE DELIVERIES AND GARBAGE PICKUP. OFFICIALS SAY IT'S A ONE-YEAR PILOT PLAN TO SEE IF IT WOULD BRING IN MORE BUSINESS WITHOUT HURTING RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

6/3

RIDERS ON THE NUMBER 7 LINE MAY FACE SOME DELAYS THIS MORNING. SERVICE IS BACK BUT WAS DISRUPTED FOR HOURS OVERNIGHT AFTER A FIRE BROKE OUT ON THE QUEENS BOUND TRACKS NEAR GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL, FILLING A TRAIN WITH SMOKE. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. THE FIRST CALL ABOUT THE TROUBLE CAME IN SHORTLY BEFORE 11 LAST EVENING. PEOPLE ON BOARD WERE TWEETING OUT PICTURES. SERVICE IN MANHATTAN WAS COMPLETELY STOPPED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR WITH ALL TRAINS TERMINATING AT THE HUNTERS POINT AVENUE STOP IN LONG ISLAND CITY.

6/4

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS BEEN ORDERED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE PANEL INVESTIGATING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE SCANDAL. KEVIN O'DOWD IS EXPECTED TO APPEAR ON MONDAY. LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO ASK HIM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ABOUT A STAFF MEETING WHERE O'DOWD IS SAID TO HAVE HAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LANE CLOSURES WITH CHRISTIE ABOUT THE LANE CLOSURES.

6/5

THE TLC IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GREEN OUTER BORO TAXIS THAT ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE FROM 20% TO 50% BUT APPARENTLY THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DONE RIGHT NOW. THE PLAN'S TARGET DATE FOR HITTING THE 50 PERCENT MARK IS 10 YEARS FROM NOW, SO WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU THAT ON ONE.

6/6

THE PORT AUTHORITY WAS SLOW TO PERFORM DOZENS OF INSPECTIONS ON BRIDGES THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED TO BE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS. THAT IS THE FINDING OF A NEW YORK STATE AUDIT RELEASED TODAY BY STATE COMPTROLLER THOMAS DINAPOLI. IT FOUND THAT THE AGENCY WAITED MORE THAN A YEAR TO CONDUCT 47 INSPECTIONS ON BRIDGES PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IF IGNORED. AND MOST OF THOSE PROBLEMS WERE ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE. THE AUTHORITY DISPUTED THE FINDINGS, SAYING IT SPENDS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON BRIDGE UPKEEP AND PERFORMED REPAIRS AND INSPECTIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

6/11

THE TAXI OF TOMORROW IS THE SUBJECT OF A COURT CASE. A NEW YORK STATE APPEALS COURT RULED AGAINST THE GREATER NEW YORK TAXI ASSOCIATION, WHICH REPRESENTS A GROUP OF TAXI FLEET OWNERS, WHICH SUED TO STOP A MANDATE THAT WOULD REQUIRE TAXI OWNERS TO PURCHASE A SPECIFIC VEHICLE. THE PLAN CALLS FOR OWNERS TO BEGIN REPLACING THEIR VEHICLES WITH THE NISSAN NV-200, NICKNAMED THE TAXI OF TOMORROW. THE TAXI-FLEET ASSOCIATION SAYS IT'S CONSIDERING CONTINUING ITS LEGAL CHALLENGE.

6/12

METRO NORTH HAS ANNOUNCED IT'S COMPLETED MOST OF THE PRIORITIES SET TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOLLOWING A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR. ITS 100-DAY ACTION PLAN ADDS AN INVESTIGATION UNIT, IMPROVED EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND A GENERAL OVERHAUL OF ITS SYSTEM SAFETY PLAN. STILL TO COME: ALERTER DEVICES DESIGNED TO ENSURE ENGINEERS REMAIN RESPONSIVE. A DERAILMENT NEAR THE SPUYTEN DUYVIL STATION LAST DECEMBER KILLED FOUR PEOPLE. IN A REPORT TO CONGRESS IN MARCH, THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION SAID METRO-NORTH ALLOWED SAFETY TO ERODE

WHILE PUSHING TO KEEP ITS TRAINS ON TIME AND ORDERED THE RAILROAD TO PRIORITIZE SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE.

6/19

THE LIRR IS MAILING OUT JULY MONTHLY TICKETS TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO GUARANTEE AT THIS POINT THAT THEY WILL GET A FULL MONTHS USE OUT OF THEM. UNION WORKERS ARE STILL THREATENING TO STRIKE ON JULY 19TH. THE LIRR SAYS IF THERE IS STRIKE MONTHLY MAIL AND RIDE CUSTOMERS WOULD PROBABLY GET PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OR CREDIT.

6/20

THE MTA IS MAKING PREPARATIONS IN THE EVENT OF A LONG ISLAND RAILROAD STRIKE JULY 19TH. A CONTINGENCY PLAN CALLS FOR CARPOOLING INCENTIVES AND SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FROM SIX STATIONS, RONKONKOMA, DEER PARK, SEAFORD, BELLMORE, FREEPORT AND HICKSVILLE AND FROM NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN GARDEN CITY. CONTRACT TALKS REMAIN DEADLOCKED.

6/20

IF THE DELAYS ON THE GWB AREN'T ENOUGH, DRIVERS ARE BEING WARNED ABOUT THE FULL AND PARTIAL CLOSURES OF THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE DURING OVERNIGHT HOURS ALL NEXT WEEK, BEGINNING MONDAY NIGHT AND RUNNING THROUGH SATURDAY. THE CLOSURES ARE NEEDED FOR THE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION OF NEW STEEL SIGN STRUCTURES AS PART OF A 3 YEAR, \$235-MILLION UPPER DECK REPLACEMENT PROJECT. DRIVERS WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE LOWER LEVEL WHILE THIS WORK IS DONE.

6/25

GOVERNOR CUOMO WAS IN BETHPAGE THIS MORNING SIGNING LEGISLATION TO PUT UP MORE THAN 200 NEW SPEED CAMS IN SCHOOL ZONES. 125 GO TO NASSAU AND SUFFOLK AND AS MANY AS 120 WILL BE ADDED TO THE 20-SPEED CAMERAS NEW YORK CITY ALREADY HAS IN PLACE. SPEEDERS CAUGHT BY THE EQUIPMENT ARE MAILED A \$50 TICKET BUT THE INFRACTION DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR INSURANCE RATES.

6/26

A STATE BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP A PROPOSAL TODAY REGARDING FINANCING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE. GOVERNOR CUOMO WANTS TO USE MORE THAN HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN LOANS FROM A CLEAN WATER FUND. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY THAT'S NOT RIGHT. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CALLS THE PLAN UNCONVENTIONAL. CUOMO SAYS THE LOANS WILL FUND MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BRIDGE TO PROTECT THE HUDSON RIVER AND MARINE LIFE.

6/27

UNION OFFICIALS ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE LIRR, BUT THEY SAY A DEAL IS LESS LIKELY BECAUSE OF THE RAILROAD'S LATEST TACTICS. A COALITION OF LIRR WORKERS HAS THREATENED TO WALK OFF THE JOB JULY 20TH IF THEY DON'T GET RAISES AND BENEFITS. UNION OFFICIALS BLASTED THE MTA WEDNESDAY FOR RELEASING DETAILS OF THEIR LATEST OFFER TO THE MEDIA, RATHER THAN NEGOTIATING WITH THEM. THEY CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR TO STEP IN AND SETTLE THE DISPUTE.

6/28

FREE WI FI IS READY TO LAND AT JFK, LAGUARDIA AND. THE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD MET TO APPROVE A NEW DEAL WITH INTERNET PROVIDER BOINGO WIRELESS. TRAVELERS WOULD GET UP TO 30 MINUTES OF FREE WI-FI. THE CHANGE COULD TAKE PLACE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. GOVERNOR CUOMO HAD PUSHED THE IDEA. HE SAYS EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO UPGRADE THE AIRPORTS AND ACCESS TO FREE WI-FI IS ONE AREA WHERE WE CAN MAKE QUICK PROGRESS.

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