

Briefs

NY Amsterdam News publisher dead at 76

Tatum

Wilbert A. Tatum, retired publisher of the New York Amsterdam News, a newspaper that has covered the

city's black community for a century, died during a trip to Croatia, the newspaper said Thursday. He was 76. The cause of his death was unknown.

Larceny trial for Astor's son is delayed again

A Manhattan judge has again delayed the larceny trial of philanthropist Brooke Astor's son to give prosecutors more time to prepare. A March 23 trial date was set for Anthony Marshall, 84, and lawyer Francis Morrissey. They are accused of stealing millions of dollars from the late socialite's estate.

Ex-Giants player pleads not guilty in bail jump

Former Giants wide receiver Mark Ingram pleaded not guilty Thursday to a bail-jumping charge stemming from his failure to show on the day he was scheduled to begin serving a money laundering and bank fraud sentence. Ingram, a star on the Giants' 1991 Super Bowl championship team, went on the lam in December.

City honors victims of 1993 WTC bombing

New York City remembered the victims of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing on the attack's 16th anniversary. A Mass was held at St. Peter's Church in lower Manhattan, and victims' families walked over to the trade center site. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured in the truck bombing.

Mail carrier, 2 others nabbed in tax scam

A Brooklyn mail carrier is among three people arrested in a scam that sought tens of millions of dollars in bogus tax refunds, authorities said. The plot involved about 8,000 electronically filed federal tax returns, according to documents filed in federal court in Manhattan this week. Participants stole Social Security numbers to file fraudulent returns, authorities said. (AP)

Atlantic Yards project clears a legal hurdle

The \$4 billion Atlantic Yards project, slated to include a Nets arena, cleared a hurdle Thursday when a state appellate court dismissed a legal challenge by the development's opponents. The ruling upheld a lower court decision that the state acted properly in approving the Brooklyn project's environmental impact study. (JASON FINK)

Times Square



BEFORE



AFTER

The city proposes parts of Broadway, including blocks in Times Square, be limited to vehicles and open to walkers.

Step in the right direction



ELLIS HENICAN

Why stop with a few car-free blocks along Broadway? Is there anything else we can do to return New York City to the vast majority of us who actually walk around here?

You bet there is, and I'll lay it out for you.

But first a brief word of praise for Mayor Mike Bloomberg and his innovative transportation commissioner, Jannette Sadik-Kahn.

Their new plan to bump the cars, taxis and buses off busy stretches of Broadway will save lives, make Times Square and Herald Square more pleasant and — here's the unexpected part — actually speed up traffic in midtown. Those Broadway crisscrosses are a backup nightmare.

So say hello to the Great Walked Way again.

And make this the first of many pro-pedestrian moves. In a city as

densely packed as this one, drivers should bend to walkers, not the other way around.

So let's: Create new pedestrian malls on 34th, 14th and Fulton streets — and don't stop there.

Widen sidewalks everywhere. Close most roads in Central and Prospect parks.

Quit shrugging off car-on-pedestrian and car-on-cyclist accidents as unavoidable parts of modern life. Treat killer drivers like the killers they are.

Start charging drivers on the East River bridges. A few of them will begin to take mass transit.

Take another look at "congestion pricing," insisting that motorists pay for the selfish privilege of slowing down the city.

Spend all the extra money improving mass transit — and watch

New York City roar ahead.

"A city with less traffic will have more commerce, not less," said transportation expert Charles Komanoff, who's been working with civic legend Ted Kheel on innovative traffic-and-transit plans. "It'll have more people traveling, more people moving around and

doing things. It'll be a livelier city and a more prosperous one."

Some naysayers might complain that's too ambitious in such tough times.

"Actually, now's the perfect time," Komanoff said.

"It's a great way for New York City to transform itself into a place that

people want to travel to, want to move to, want to stay — and

can afford to."

Nice start, Mr. Mayor and Ms.

Commissioner.

What's next?



amNewYork looked into NYC's pedestrian-friendly future in January.

2nd person sought in hate bash

Police on Thursday were seeking one man in the beating death of an Ecuadorean immigrant while another suspect pleaded not guilty to a hate crime murder charge in the December attack in Brooklyn.

Police released a video of the second suspect, identified as 28-year-old Keith Phoenix, who is seen in the tape grinning as he pays a toll in an SUV at the

Robert F. Kennedy Bridge about 20 minutes after Jose Sucuzhanay and his brother were attacked in Bushwick.

Hakim Scott, 25, was being held Thursday after his arraignment on a charge of second-degree murder as a hate crime. His attorney was waiting to go through legal papers before deciding on a bail request.

Police and prosecutors

said Sucuzhanay, 31, was beaten with a bat and kicked by men shouting anti-Hispanic and anti-gay slurs as he and his brother, Rommel, walked arm in arm to keep warm after attending a church party and stopping at a bar.

The attack left Sucuzhanay in a coma. He died as his mother was coming from their native Ecuador to see him. (AP)

Cell phone leads officials to Brooklyn rape suspect

A Brooklyn man was charged Thursday with rape and robbery after police traced use of the victim's cell phone following the attack.

Jonathan Salva grabbed the 26-year-old woman as she walked home around Saturday on West 28th Street in Manhattan, prosecutors said.

He dragged her behind a trash bin and choked her unconscious, they said. Prosecutors say after the woman awoke to find the 20-year-old suspect raping her, she fought to stop him. They say he then fled with her purse and cell phone, but dropped his own phone at the scene. (AP)

Pedestrian plan takes Broadway

BY JASON FINK

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As part of the city's plan to ease congestion in Herald Square and Times Square, car traffic on Broadway will be limited all the way north to Columbus Circle.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled a proposal Thursday that would narrow Broadway to two driving lanes from 47th to 59th streets and create a left-turn lane and a parking lane.

This would be in addition to the mayor's plan to prohibit cars on Broadway in Times Square and Herald Square starting Memorial Day weekend.

The \$1.5 million pilot program calls for:

■ Cars between 42nd and 47th streets to be diverted to Seventh Avenue

The \$1.5 million plan would require altered MTA bus routes.

■ Vehicles between 33rd and 35th streets to be diverted to Sixth Avenue

■ Completion of landscaped pedestrian plazas in Times Square and Herald Square by the end of summer

The traffic changes would require the MTA to alter bus routes that carry about 75,000 daily passengers. Exact details have not been worked out.

"You always say there's nothing you can do about traffic," Bloomberg said. "Well, we're not just going to sit back — we're going to try to do something about it." (WITHAP)