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In the news

Cops: Man hid marijuana in underpants

A 22-year-old man was busted at a pizza parlor for allegedly stuffing 23 bags of pot down his pants, according to DNAInfo. Tyrel Henderson, of Brooklyn, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, resisting arrest and possession of marijuana. Cops say he dropped a bag of cocaine. During a search, they said they found a stash of marijuana. ● METRO/EAE

In the news

**Cops looking for man from ATM**

Cops are searching for a man they said used the ATM bank card information of a 40-year-old woman to make withdrawals at Manhattan and Brooklyn Chase Banks. He made four separate withdrawals in January. The suspect is described as in his 30s and 40s, with a black jacket and black hat. Anyone with info should call 800-577-TIPS.

**Christie blasts NYPD**

NEW JERSEY. Gov. Chris Christie did not have kind words Wednesday for the NYPD after reports that they tracked Muslim students throughout New Jersey. He said he doesn't recall being briefed about the surveillance and was "concerned" that he was kept in the dark. "I know they think their jurisdiction is the world," Christie said on Townsquare Media's "Ask the Governor" radio program. "Their jurisdiction is New York City."

● METRO/EAE

Report: Cops ordered to go to rehab

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS. Two NYPD detectives were ordered to rehab after they allegedly spent hours drinking at La Parilla restaurant when they were supposed to be on duty, according to DNAInfo. News of the order came after a waitress accused officers of sexually assaulting her. All four officers are on modified duty. ● METRO/EAE

One dead, two injured in West Side crash

UPPER WEST SIDE. A man was killed Thursday in a car crash on the West Side Highway, according to police. Officers said a 20-year-old man lost control of his vehicle, sending the car into the right guardrail at 96th Street. The car flipped over, flying into the left lane. One passenger, a 26-year-old man, died while the driver and another were injured. ● METRO/EAE

Cop towers bring mixed perspectives

► Watchtowers may cut down on confrontations between cops and citizens ► But some residents wonder if they deter crime ► One officer in a watchtower can replace five in the street, one security expert says



► Towers have been placed in Bed-Stuy and East Flatbush.

PEARL GABEL

NYPD officers keep an eye on city streets from 25 feet up, but Brooklyn residents say two nearby SkyWatch observation towers impact more than crime.

Residents say the tower's presence results in fewer foot patrols by local officers, which may reduce the number of confrontations between cops and citizens.

"Police brutality is real," Peter, who did not wish to give his last name, said near a watchtower at Myrtle and Throop avenues, "but it's the ones on foot that give us the trouble."

NYPD spokeswoman Cheryl Crispin said that although "there is no way to measure" whether the towers work, "the community loves them."

But some skeptics of SkyWatch towers believe they af-

fect where — not whether — crime occurs. "This can't stop crime," an officer on watchtower duty said. "It just gets displaced."

Added Fifi, who works at a bakery near one of the towers but did not want to give a last name, "They're just sitting up there with tinted windows looking down on us. C'mon, you think I don't see you too?"

Melissa Woods of FLIR Security Systems, which manufactures the towers, acknowledged the perception of the towers as intruders. "A lot of people feel like it's Big Brother, but that was never our intent," she says. "These were designed to protect people and prevent new problems."

BY MALIK SINGLETON

CITY LIMITS**Watchtowers: Do they work?**

NEW YORK. Woods said one tower is the same as five officers on the ground. The SkyWatch towers are "an incredible deterrent," she said. So far in 2012, major

felony crime in Bed-Stuy's 79th precinct is up 39 percent over last year because of a rise in robbery and assault.

In the 67th precinct, which includes East Flatbush, major felonies are up by 4 percent over the last year. CITY LIMITS

Cops: Men used missing man's credit cards in NY

Authorities released images Thursday showing two men allegedly using a missing Brooklyn man's credit cards just hours after his charred body was found in Pennsylvania.

Lehigh County police found the body of Whisk Café owner Josh Rubin, 30, in a remote area of South Whitehall Township Nov. 1.

Twelve hours after they found his remains, two unidentified men allegedly

used Rubin's credit cards to make multiple purchases at several stores at the Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets upstate, police said.

Rubin's death was ruled a homicide, and police are still actively searching for his killer or killers.

Police believe he was shot and then lit on fire. They are asking the public's assistance in identifying the two men. ● METRO/EAE



► Recognize these people?

Disappearance

Josh Rubin, a Kensington resident, disappeared Oct. 31.

- Rubin owned Whisk Bakery Cafe in Ditmas Park, where the community papered lampposts with signs and launched a "Find Josh Rubin" Facebook group.
- His body was found Nov. 1 in rural Pennsylvania by public employees.
- Rubin's body was badly burned and police identified him on Dec. 21.