

Metro In Brief

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Body

THE REGION

Board Calls for Faster Repairs by **Metro**

Metro officials, who have been fielding complaints from riders and D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) about the number of out-of-service escalators, said yesterday they want to speed up their five-year, \$ 120 million plan to overhaul escalators and elevators and cover the exterior escalators with canopies.

"We want you to move forward with all deliberate speed," board member Decatur W. "Bucky" Trotter (Prince George's) told **Metro** General Manager Richard A. White. The board asked White to study several possibilities, including having repair crews work 24 hours a day on the escalators.

Metro is overhauling 170 of its 557 escalators, erecting canopies over the 53 escalators exposed to the elements and rehabilitating seven troubled elevators. Work began in the past fiscal year and was planned to last until fiscal 2006. That schedule will mean another 20 escalators out of service each day, in addition to the 50 or so that routinely are out of commission on a typical day, **Metro** officials said.

VIRGINIA

Motorbike Riders in Train Crash Named

The two riders who leapt from a motorbike as a Virginia commuter train approached from behind Wednesday night mistakenly thought the train was on the same track they were riding on, Fairfax County police said yesterday.

The driver, identified yesterday as Virgil Woodson, 18, of the Springfield area, was killed when he leapt from the southbound two-wheeler and hit the engine of Virginia Railway Express train No. 311, which was traveling south on a parallel track, police said.

Woodson's passenger, Jason Smith, 16, of Beulah Street in the Newington area, jumped to safety between the lines of track, landed uninjured and ran for help, police said.

Police said yesterday that the vehicle the two were riding was a Honda motor scooter.

Fairfax Panel Delays Action on Soccer Deal

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The Fairfax County School Board agreed for the second time last night to delay action on an agreement that would allow Eckerd Corp. to develop a soccer field at Bailey's Elementary School.

The board agreed to delay until October action on a memorandum of agreement by Eckerd, the school district and the county's Department of Community and Recreation Services and Park Authority that would allow Eckerd to develop the field. The field would replace one that construction of a drugstore Eckerd plans in the Culmore area of the county would displace.

The Culmore field, near Glen Carlyn Drive and Leesburg Pike, is undeveloped and is used informally by the area's Latino community for soccer and other activities.

Representatives of the community and their advocates had asked the School Board to delay its decision while the group attempts to work out a deal with Eckerd and its parent company, J.C. Penney, to preserve the field.

THE DISTRICT

Delay in Summer Jobs Plan Scrutinized

The District's summer jobs program for more than 1,000 young people started two weeks late because of officials' delays in writing acceptable contracts and higher-than-expected prices on some services, city officials said at a D.C. Council hearing.

Gregory Irish, director of the D.C. Department of Employment Services, said the department needed to hire academic contractors to meet strict federal guidelines for launching an enriching employment program for 14- and 15-year-olds, but his office had not drafted contracts until mid-March. Elliot Branch, director of the Office of Contracting and Procurement, said drafts didn't meet federal standards. When appropriate contract proposals were advertised in June, vendors in one case offered prices four times higher than expected.

The teenage workers were supposed to be matched with jobs at the start of this month, but that is not expected to happen until tomorrow. Council member Kathy Patterson (D-Ward 3), chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, called Wednesday's hearing to examine the delay.

MARYLAND

Worker Hurt in Fire at Suitland Metro Site

An electrical worker suffered severe burns yesterday when a flash fire erupted in a switch room at the construction site for the Suitland Metro station, said Capt. Chauncey Bowers, of the Prince George's fire department.

David Woodky, 42, who worked for private contractor Impulse Inc., of North Carolina, was installing breakers in the switch room at the new Green Line station about 1:30 p.m. when flames suddenly erupted, Metro spokeswoman Cheryl Johnson said. The Suitland station, at Silver Hill Road and Suitland Parkway, is to open in January.

Woodky was reported in fair condition at Washington Hospital Center with second-degree burns on his face, hands and arms.

"Basically we don't exactly know what happened," said Ed Rowe, a supervisor at Impulse, who described Woodky as an experienced employee.

A worker standing behind Woodky when the flames erupted suffered minor injuries but did not seek hospital treatment, Bowers said.

Woman Killed by CSX Train Identified

A woman who was killed July 6 when she was struck by a train in Rockville was identified by Montgomery County police yesterday as Judy Lynn Bowles, 31, of Silver Spring.

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Investigators said Bowles, of the 3900 block of Lantern Lane, apparently stepped into the path of a westbound CSX freight train as it crossed Randolph Road about 6 a.m. She carried no identifying papers, police said. A relative filed a missing person report Tuesday, saying Bowles had not been seen since she suddenly left work early July 5.

Investigators confirmed Bowles's identity after comparing fingerprints with those found in her home and said yesterday that what drove her to step in front the train remained unclear. The investigation into her death continues.

Body of Man Found in Capitol Heights

The badly decomposed body of an unidentified man was found by a passerby yesterday in a wooded area in the 4400 block of Shell Street in Capitol Heights, Prince George's County police said.

The cause of death had not been determined, police said. An autopsy was scheduled.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"They ranged the whole social scale. You could find relatives of those who signed the Declaration of Independence or you could find sailors or doctors or servants."

--Orlando Ridout IV, an Annapolis historian, on three old skeletons found by workers laying water pipes next to St. Anne's Episcopal Church, which has been a spiritual center of Annapolis for more than 300 years.

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Company: HONDA MOTOR CO LTD (64%); ECKERD CORP (63%); HONDA MOTOR CO LTD (64%); ECKERD CORP (63%)

Ticker: HMC (NYSE) (64%); 7267 (TSE) (64%)

Industry: TRAINS (90%); MOTOR VEHICLES (89%); MOTORCYCLES (89%); EDUCATION SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (78%); URBAN RAIL SYSTEMS (73%); PRIMARY SCHOOLS (66%); RAIL TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS (66%)

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