



# CRIME SNAPSHOT

NO HOMICIDES HAVE BEEN RECORDED ON STATEN ISLAND IN EIGHT MONTHS, MARKING A HISTORIC CRIME MILESTONE EVEN AS SHOOTINGS AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFENSES TREND UPWARD THIS YEAR. **A3**

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NEW YORK

## World Cup ushers in a new era of security measures



FBI Special Agent in Charge Amit Kachhia-Patel, Mission Services Division, speaks with press in the agency's Joint Operations Center in New York on Thursday ahead of the World Cup soccer tournament. *Richard Drew, Associated Press*

Federal agencies are deploying AI cameras, drone-hunting nets and robot dogs across 16 host cities.

Jake Offenhartz, Michael R. Sisak and Rebecca Santana *Associated Press*

The World Cup, a 48-team, 104-match behemoth kicking off next week across 16 cities in the United States, Mexico and Canada, presents an unprecedented security challenge, with more countries, games and a larger footprint than ever before.

It also comes against the backdrop of the U.S. and Israel's war with Iran, mounting political violence in President Donald Trump's orbit and growing fears of artificial intelligence-fueled disruptions, creating a complex threat environment for authorities.

Overseeing the sprawling security apparatus is a legion of federal agencies, state and local police departments and private entities. Their responsibilities range from securing stadiums and fan zones to escorting teams and protecting dignitaries.

Their tools include hunter drones that can shoot nets over objects in restricted airspace, bag-inspecting robot dogs, giant X-ray trucks and thousands of AI-powered cameras trained on public spaces soon to be thronged by fans.



AT&T Stadium, where World Cup soccer matches are scheduled to be played in Arlington, Texas. *Tony Gutierrez, AP*

In the U.S., it's "78 Super Bowls over 39 days," said Andrew Giuliani, executive director of Trump's World Cup task force, which is overseeing the multiagency effort.

"There's never been a summer like this in American history from a security angle," said Giuliani, son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. "We're as prepared as we can be."

The tournament has the same high-level federal security designation as the Super

Bowl, just below a presidential inauguration or a national political convention, ensuring federal, state and local coordination. It coincides with other major events linked to the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

So far, Giuliani said, there are no credible threats.

The Department of Homeland Security, focused on Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown and hit by a funding lapse only recently resolved, estimates up to 7 million people will visit the U.S. for the World Cup.

The U.S. Secret Service, under scrutiny after security breaches and attempts on Trump's life, is in charge of protecting world leaders who show up to cheer on their countries. Trump has expressed interest in attending a match.

"I feel very comfortable where we're at, and we feel like we have a zero-fail mission," Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told Congress this week, noting that the Secret Service was understaffed by about 860 agents. "But it's going to be complicated."

Officials have indicated they are confident they can keep Trump safe because they will be integrating his usual security into the robust World Cup plan on days he may watch a match.

The FBI has spent two years developing its security plan, incorporating lessons from other major events such as the **SEE WORLD CUP SECURITY, A10**

STATEN ISLAND

## East Shore seawall work paused

Contractor issues have halted work on a key phase of Staten Island's \$2.3 billion storm protection project.

Paul Liotta *pliotta@siadvance.com*

Work has paused on a massive \$2.3 billion coastal storm resilience project meant to protect Staten Island from future storms like Hurricane Sandy.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers paused the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project due to construction contractor issues, according to a Corps update for the project posted in May.

A Corps spokesperson said they're working to resolve the contractor issues before moving forward with the relevant section of the project, more commonly known as the East Shore Seawall, and that design on other sections remains ongoing.

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis' office said issues with the contractor, Triumph Construction, date to September when a drill rig tipped over in a safety incident. Though the Bronx-based company was allowed to resume work, issues remained leading to the Corps' termination of the contract.

But Brian Gardner, an attorney for Triumph, disputed the Army Corps' **SEE SEAWALL, A3**

STATEN ISLAND

## Teacher's legacy lives on through student awards

The FAB for Life Foundation honors resilient students in memory of educator Frances Amalfi-Bennett.

Susan Lunny Keag *For the Staten Island Advance*

When Natalie Taub, a special education teacher, works with students in the classroom, she tries to recognize their efforts, hard work, and achievements—big and small. She understands the impact that recognition can have on a student.

Even though she's in her fifth year as a teacher, the Huguenot resident clearly remembers a moment when she was acknowledged for her hard work and determination. In 2015, while a student at New Dorp High School, Taub received the FAB for Life Foundation Award, which honors **SEE TEACHER'S LEGACY, A2**

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