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7-20-23-27-28-30-37-
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KEY LOTTERY:
03 Pays \$205.50
4 Pairs: \$20.50
503 Pays \$2,357
Cash 5: 3-8-11-13-26
RY HOTLINE:
0-448-4000
Results from NY, NJ, CT, PA, FL

ng rules are in effect
Tuesday.

TOMORROW

Bunch time



JOE MARINO/DAILY NEWS

At least one MTA positive — tech to improve bus spacing

Just for the hell of it, let's put a positive spin on the fare and toll hikes hitting commuters Monday. You might get better bus service for the additional shekels you're spending.

The MTA finally has a promising new weapon against "bus bunching," the top source of frustration for millions of above-ground straphangers.

With the click of a mouse, dispatchers using BusTrek technology in satellite command centers can quickly identify buses traveling too close to each other.

Dispatchers can then radio individual drivers and direct them to take corrective action.

Sure, it's geeky. It's a behind-the-scenes transit management tool, a computer software program that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority developed in conjunction with City College.

It builds off the MTA's successful BusTime, a digital, GPS-based system that enables riders to get real-time bus information on the Internet, a smartphone or via text message. BusTrek could go a long way towards improving bus service and curbside quality of life.

"I would say bus bunching is New Yorkers' No. 1 complaint," said Gene Russianoff, transit guru with the Straphangers Campaign.

"Is there anything worse than waiting for a half-hour for a bus only to have three arrive in a pack?" Computer tracking should greatly reduce it, he says.

BusTrek is up and running in Staten Island and the Bronx. It will go online in the other boroughs by the end of the year, MTA Bus President Darryl Irick, a former driver and dispatcher, said.

Bus bunching often results from traffic, construction or some event that slows down a bus and causes others behind it to catch up. It's more prevalent in Manhattan but

happens everywhere and always has.

"When I was a dispatcher, up until now, you couldn't be too strategic," Irick said. "You stood on a corner with a tally book and the information you have is very limited. You basically are trying to manage service based on what you see — the bus that is front of you and the bus that just passed. BusTrek allows supervisors to see the entire universe in terms of our buses and their location."

Individual routes stretch and bend for miles. Some only have one on-the-street dispatcher between the end points. Some don't have any.

At the West Farms bus depot in the Bronx, BusTrek dispatchers monitor more than 900 buses. The



PETE DONOHUE
ON THE SUBWAYS

Just a reminder...

New MetroCard	\$1
Base fare	\$2.50
Single-ride	\$2.75
30-day card	\$112
7-day card	\$30
Most bridges and tunnels	\$7.50

icons on digital maps are color-coded: blue denotes a bus that's on schedule; red means a bus is far from the bus up ahead; black means it's bunched.

At a dispatcher's fingertips is a trove of useful information: the bus number; how many minutes it is off schedule; how many minutes' cushion time is built into the schedule; how much of that extra time has been used up by delays; the driver's identification number, and when the driver is scheduled to take a break or go home.

So, you're paying more to ride today, but as the MTA expands and gets more experienced with BusTrek, there may well be fewer instances of buses moving about the city like lumbering herds of elephants.

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Mitt: Too bad for you I lost

MITT ROMNEY admits he bungled his bid for the White House — but he hasn't stopped tossing campaign-style mud at President Obama.

In his first TV interview since his defeat, Romney copped to numerous campaign failures. Those included his inability to effectively appeal to Latinos and blacks, and shooting himself in the foot by calling "47%" of America moochers.

Romney criticized Obama for playing for political gain in the fight over \$85 billion in automatic budget cuts. "Nero is fiddling," he said on "Fox News Sunday," comparing Obama to the Roman emperor who legendarily fiddled as Rome burned.

John Lauinger

Lend hand for storm: Chuck

THOUSANDS OF Hurricane Sandy victims could face foreclosure because the grace period banks gave them on their mortgages is running out, Sen. Chuck Schumer warned Sunday.

Schumer called on banks to extend the three- to six-month mortgage holidays they issued after Sandy, allowing homeowners to postpone payments without late fees.

"These victims of the storms were spending all of their resources on repairing their homes. . . . They simply had nothing left in the bank for mortgage payments," Schumer said.

Erin Durkin

Trooper knifed

A STATE TROOPER was stabbed in the face and neck by a homeless man inside the state Capitol complex in Albany Sunday, cops said.

Trooper Rodney Smith was attacked with a kitchen knife in the Empire State Plaza, a concourse linking state Capitol buildings.

The assailant stole Smith's police radio and fled, said cops. He was still at large Sunday night. Smith was expected to survive.

Kenneth Lovett

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Monday, March 4, 2013 Vol. 94 — No. 252.

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Daily News

(712) 210-2100