

Amtrak victim was Coxsackie woman

Worker on track hit by train heading to NYC

By Keshia Clukey

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Germantown

An Amtrak worker killed Wednesday after being hit by a train was identified Thursday as Minwella Nicole Kline Hagen, Columbia County Coroner James Bertram said.

Minwella, also known as "Nikki," 41, of Coxsackie, was an Amtrak signal maintainer, wife and mother of two young daughters, according to Facebook and authorities.

She was working on a section of track between Germantown and the town of Clermont near the border of Columbia and Dutchess counties when she was struck by a southbound passenger train traveling to Penn Station in New York City from Niagara Falls.

The train, which consisted of one locomotive and five cars, was carrying 182 passengers and five crew members and no other injuries were reported, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Rail service between Albany and New York City was suspended for about three hours while Columbia County sheriff's investigators and technicians worked at the scene. Bertram and Amtrak police assisted.

W.C. Brady's Sons Funeral Home in Coxsackie will handle arraignments. No further information was available Thursday.

The federal agencies remained at the scene of the accident Thursday. It remains under investigation.

In 2013, 11 railroad roadway workers and four transit workers died in the U.S. while doing their jobs, the largest number in one year since 1995, when 12 died, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report.

Of the 15 deaths, six were from train strikes.

As a result of the report, NTSB suggested changes be made in regulations and safety procedures, and called for increased training.

Representatives from Amtrak were not available for comment Thursday.

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