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Dyster, Piccirillo Misspent Federal Funds On Isaiah 61; Still Call Program A Success



Before, during and after Isaiah 61 tackled the renovation of a home on Centre Ave. Failure to put proper support beams in the attic of this home caused it to collapse.

Mike Hudson

Results of an audit released this week by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development were sharply critical of the city's much vaunted and insanely expensive relationship with the Isaiah 61 organization, backing up much of the Niagara Falls Reporter's coverage of the situation during the past three years.

The audit, prepared by the office of HUD Inspector General David A. Montoya, is completely at odds with the rosy picture painted by city Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo.

It found that a lack of monitoring and oversight on the part of the city led to the spending of \$61,000 in federal money earmarked for building materials on salaries of Isaiah 61 instructors instead.

Just last week, Niagara Falls residents couldn't make up their minds as to whether

they were watching the 6 o'clock news or some new comedy program when a local television station ran a segment featuring the Isaiah 61 organization as explained by Piccirillo.

Isaiah 61 is a not-for-profit, faith-based community organization. Its stated mission is to give inner-city youth marketable job skills by having them participate in rehabilitation projects focused on condemned houses — of which there are many in Niagara Falls.

Piccirillo told the interviewer that the organization had "saved the city of Niagara Falls over 40 thousand dollars in demolition costs."

And jaws dropped from Whirlpool Street to Military Road.

That's because Isaiah 61 has received more than \$1 million in local and state aid since it was founded in 2012. In the four years since, it has completed rehab work on exactly one house. Another house collapsed after Isaiah 61 students removed load bearing walls from the interior of the structure and a third

house is currently being worked on.

Demolitions average around \$20,000 in the city, which is how Piccirillo arrived at the \$40,000 figure.

Work has yet to begin on the old fire hall at 3721 Highland Ave., which was handed over to Isaiah 61 — along with a half a million dollars in casino cash — to rehab back in September of 2014. Other than putting up plywood over the building's smashed-out windows, no progress whatsoever has been made on the project.

But rather than focus on the two houses that it's taken nearly four years to rehabilitate, Piccirillo turned his attention to the job skills learned by the program's participants.

According to Piccirillo, 146 students have enrolled in the program, and more than half of them have found employment after as a result.

"It literally helped 100 people get a job in a city with an unemployment rate higher than the county and state average," he told the television reporter.

The number was completely fabricated, the federal audit showed.

The federal audit found that the graduation rate from the Isaiah 61 program was a dismal 58 percent, and that just 54 percent of those actually found a job. The audit report concluded there was no "documentation showing that City officials" monitored the program's performance data.

The reality outside of Piccirillo's brain is that 85 students graduated the program and just 46 of them managed to find work.

Niagara Falls City Council Chairman Andy Touma said he was outraged that he had to find out about the audit on his own, and that the administration's lack of transparency on this and other matters is a growing concern.

"I did some of the research to find out about this audit," Touma said. "That was bothersome, the fact that it wasn't brought to our attention. We shouldn't have to find the information on our own. It should be shared with us immediately."

Piccirillo characterized the entire episode as some sort of bookkeeping mixup.



Seth Piccirillo, director of Community Development for the City of Niagara Falls, is the defacto head of the not for profit, Isaiah 61.

"Our policy beforehand was we can make contract amendments without going back to the funding agency. What they're saying is, if you're going to make a contract amendment, you need to notify us," he said. "That makes complete sense. It wasn't our policy beforehand. It is our policy now."

New Isaiah 61 Executive Director Kevin Wing has been running the program for the past year, taking over for the group's founder and executive director James Haid, who quit the organization in 2014 and moved to Utica for a position as director of the Utica Gospel Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter.

Also in 2014, city code enforcement officers condemned Isaiah 61's Hyde Park Blvd. headquarters, store and school for numerous code violations. City inspectors found that Isaiah 61 had electrical service provided to them by using household extension cords plugged into a building next door.

But Piccirillo thinks of Isaiah 61 as a success story. After all, it only cost taxpayers more than \$1 million to save \$40,000.

This newspaper has been covering the twisted relationship between the administration of Niagara falls Mayor Paul Dyster and the Isaiah 61 cult since it began in 2012. We will continue to do so.

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Dyster Throws Baby Out With Bathwater; Fires Maria Brown As Well As Donna Owens

Mike Hudson

Last week, the Niagara Falls Reporter predicted that City Administrator Donna Owens was going to be given the axe by Mayor Paul Dyster. This week, Dyster showed up at City Hall, axe in hand and let her have it.

He also announced that, if the council approves, he will fire City Controller Maria Brown, a 16-year veteran who served in the administrations of mayors James Galie, Irene Elia and Vince Anello prior to Dyster's election. Tough and independent, her loyalty has always been to the taxpayers of Niagara Falls.

Insecure, Dyster only wants people who are loyal to him.

"Ms. Brown's discharge is not a reflection of her performance in the oversight of city finances," Dyster said in a prepared statement. If the council approves her ouster, Brown will remain in the finance office as a senior auditor for the time being, he said.

Owens' firing makes sense. The only question is why it took so long. Since her appointment in 2008, she has been the target of harsh criticism by members of the business community, city council and the general public for her haughty attitude, poor preparedness and lack of attention to detail. Dyster said the rebukes and disparagement had no bearing on his decision to replace her.

"Her character, integrity and enthusiasm have been a shining example for all the employees of the city," he said in a prepared statement.

The departure of Brown would be effective May 31 — if the decision is approved by the Niagara Falls City Council. Owens, hired by Dyster at the start of his first term in 2008, will continue until July 8.

As of press time, it is unclear whether Dyster has the three council votes necessary



After two terms Mayor Paul Dyster wants to move in a different direction: More spending.



Maria Brown is a fiscal conservative. Paul Dyster is a socialist spendocrat. No wonder he wants to replace her.



Donna Owens will be mooching along....

to remove Brown.

As the Reporter detailed last week, Nick Melson, hired as Dyster's secretary in the run-up to last year's election will step into the role of acting city administrator in July. He is a seasoned political operative and was very active as what was in effect a taxpayer-funded campaign director for Dyster last year.

However, unlike the nearly invisible and largely incompetent Owens, Melson is energetic, highly engaged, a take-charge kind of guy who for the last several months has been the de facto city administrator anyway.

If a single hire can make a difference in the way a city runs, Melson may be the answer in getting the lard out of the Dyster administration's arse.

Melson first became involved in politics here when he was 18 with an unsuccessful run for city council. He later met then-state Rep. Francine Del Monte and went to work for her as a political aide. In 2009, he ran unsuccessfully against Vincent Sandonato for the La-Salle seat in the county legislature.

City hall insiders agree that Melson will do a far better job than Owens, who became

known as the "invisible administrator" due to her reticence about appearing or speaking in public.

Melson found himself in hot water shortly after being hired by Dyster when a series of social media posts he'd written between 2008 and 2014 were brought to light by this newspaper. Many interpreted the posts to be racist, sexist and homophobic in nature.

"You're talking to the guy who performed the first same-sex marriage in New York State," Dyster said when asked about the texts, although no one was quite sure what he meant.

While Dyster can have whoever he wants as city administrator, replacing Brown will require approval by the council. The council will consider the matter at its next meeting May 31.

Dyster has proposed Sandy Peplow to serve as acting city controller. Peplow was a long-time assistant to Brown, and the Dyster administration regularly approved tens of thousands of dollars in overtime for Peplow who became one of the highest-paid city hall employees hovering in and around the



Sandy Peplow will be tapped as acting city controller - reducing the controller's job to a part time position. This should be mighty convenient for Mayor Paul Dyster who loves to spend the taxpayers' money on a full time basis.

\$100,000 club of Dyster elites prior to retirement.

Now that she snagged high overtime amounts for several years under Dyster she retires at a pension estimated to be around \$70,000 per year.

The plan is, according to city hall sources, that Peplow will return as a part-time acting controller. And while keeping her \$70,000 pension, she will collect an additional \$30,000 per year for her part-time role, bringing her compensation to \$100,000 for part-time work.

While she served as an assistant to Brown for years, Peplow did once serve in the role of city controller for 15 months under the Falls' former mayor James Galie during the 1990s.

Critics and supporters of Dyster agree that removing Brown — who has been a full-time and very vocal fiscal watchdog — for the part-time Peplow will create a felicitous environment for Dyster to spend taxpayer money more freely than ever before and quite possibly without any oversight from his city controller.

"If we have it, let's spend it" has been Dyster's motto for the last eight years. It has driven the city into near bankruptcy.

Brown has for the last eight years challenged his spending decisions and often refused to sanction some spending that were not legal.

Time will tell whether Peplow will watch the mayor's extravagant spending carefully or be an accomplice to an extravagance never seen in the history of this city.



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Percy Leads Charge Against Taxpayers Renting Tourist Rooms In Private Homes

Mike Hudson

High-priced hotel rooms are what John Percy's all about.

The globe-trotting Percy, CEO of the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corp., typically spends your money — sent to him by Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster — on five-star accommodations when he visits London, Delhi, Mumbai, Prague, Berlin, Geneva, Milan and other exotic locales. He flies first-class only, and pays himself a whopping salary of \$140,000 a year — plus \$200,000 in travel and expenses — out of an NTCC budget, which benefits from \$2 million annually in taxpayer money.

He takes about 40 vacations a year on your dime.

But now he has a problem. It seems that some 300 homeowners in Niagara Falls

are renting rooms to visitors here through a website called Airbnb. And they're not paying bed taxes, which make up around half of his budget.

He can't come right out and say that, of course. So instead he says he wants to shut down the mom-and-pop operations out of a fundamentally decent human concern about the safety of tourists in Niagara Falls.

"It's part of our visitor realm so we need to look at it and make sure it's being done properly," he said on Friday. "We're not here to wipe them off the map or excuse them. It will be part of our future. What needs to be looked at is the proper fire codes and insurance regulations."

Percy is pressuring Dyster and the city council to pass some sort of law that would ensure the continued flow of tourist dollars to his bank account.

Last month, Percy attended a presentation by lobbyists from the state Hospitality & Tourism Association (NYSHTA), that was aimed at shutting down the ability of private property owners from renting rooms on a short-term basis to tourists.

A brochure from the event suggested the "short-term online rental market ... poses a threat to consumers, neighborhoods and businesses." The event was sponsored co-sponsored by the NTCC.

Hotel-industry lobbyist Jan Marie Chesterton told the hotel owners in attendance that people renting rooms in their homes pose a grave threat.

"What we take issue with is the uneven playing field that's created ... without the proper regulation and inspections," she said, adding a "legitimate hotel operator lives under great scrutiny."

Chesterton said her organization hopes to have a bill submitted in the state legislature that would fundamentally outlaw the practice by the end of its session in June.

Airbnb is a website for people to list, find, and rent lodging. Founded in August 2008 and headquartered in San Francisco, California, the company is privately owned and is in the business of matching vacationers and business travelers with locals who want to rent out a room, apartment or house.

It has over 1,500,000 listings in 34,000 cities and 190 countries. But typically, in Niagara Falls, this highly successful mom-and-pop business has become the center of controversy.

According to the Airbnb website, there are more than 300 people in Niagara Falls offering accommodations. It is a way to bring in a little extra cash here in the most heavily taxed municipality in the most heavily taxed state in the country. Nobody's getting rich, nobody's even making a living. But every little bit helps in the city's moribund economy.

Perhaps the best-known Airbnb host in Niagara Falls is city Councilwoman Kristen Grandinetti, who — according to the reviews given by lodgers in her Airbnb profile — does a bang up job of providing hospitality Niagara Falls style.

An online campaign directed against her in recent weeks finally forced her to apply for status as a legal bed and breakfast.

"Everybody can sleep tonight and look for something else to torment me about," she wrote. "I filled out the B and B paperwork with code enforcement ... and I will not be giving anyone the names of other airbnb hosts. Because of my position I am subject to SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT."



Artist conception: NTCC CEO John Percy rides high as he hopes to close down or tax the poor people of Niagara Falls who try to make a few bucks renting rooms to tourists in the highest taxed city in the highest taxed state in the USA.

But it's worth it to be allowed to serve this community as a council member," she wrote on her Facebook page.

The move will mean that Grandinetti will now have to pay the bed tax, just as Carl Paladino does at his swank Giacomo Hotel downtown.

"Ca-ching," John Percy thought to himself.

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Money Grab At Bridges Hurting WNY Says Grand Island Supervisor McMurray, Activist Thompson Toll Removal Effort Reignited, Regional Support Needed!

Joseph Kissel

Where's the money going?

That's the question newly elected Grand Island Supervisor Nate McMurray wants to know regarding the tolls that have been collected at the bridges since 1929.

"This is an old fight," McMurray said.

As such, the veteran warrior of the remove-the-tolls effort, Rus Thompson, was on hand once again to wage battle against the New York State Thruway Authority's control over the Grand Island Bridges — and consequently, an important swathe of Western New York.

"It needs to go away," Thompson said after Sunday's launch of the "Home Free" campaign to once again try to remove the Grand Island tolls and to complete the success of Carl Paladino's effort to eliminate the Breckenridge toll barrier in 2007.

"The Thruway Authority has turned into its own bloated bureaucracy with a huge amount of staff and highly paid executives," Thompson said. "It needs to go away."

Thompson's plan is to turn over control of the Grand Island bridge to the New York State Department of Transportation, which oversees most state-owned bridges and roads in New York.

"They do that one simple thing," he said. "It's gets passed in the Assembly; it gets passed in the Senate; and the governor signs it into law. These tolls are removed. It's that easy."

Since Thompson started his crusade to remove the tolls in 1995 during Governor George Pataki's administration, his nogitolls.com petition garnered roughly 10,000 signatures. Grand Island has a population of approximately 20,000.

What's different this time?

The leadership of Grand Island's elected



Grand Island Supervisor Nathan McMurray represents a sea change in the political will of the leadership of Grand Island. Unlike his predecessors, he wants the tolls removed. "Mr. Cuomo, tear down these tolls!" McMurray said at a rally attended by activist Rus Thompson.

government.

"For over 20 years I've been fighting this and we have not had a government that was in favor of eliminating the Grand Island tolls," Thompson said. "So I applaud the members of the town board and thank them for re-igniting this."

Supervisor McMurray stirred up the crowd with his research regarding the original law crafted to build the bridges.

"Under this legislation it says simply that the tolls should be kept as low as possible for two reason only: the building of the bridge and the maintenance of the bridges," McMurray said.

"But there's a big problem. Even though this original legislation says it, we have no accurate accounting of how that's been spent.

For 80 years we have no idea where the money's gone. We do know that it's been very profitable. These tolls are about \$20 million a year according to Thruway Authority's own estimates. That's three percent of their total revenue. Does that make sense? That means it's a profit source. That means instead of paying for the maintenance of the bridge like the original legislation states and the original construction cost, which was about \$2 million, we're paying for who knows what. All kinds of ill-conceived projects through the years from Robert Moses' effort to who knows what else."

McMurray said electronic toll-taking methods should be the minimum that's used

to combat the daily traffic summer jams and pollution that Thompson documented during the successful Breckenridge toll barrier removal effort.

"There's no reason for someone with their hand out grabbing a dollar bill in this day and age," McMurray said.

Thompson offered a rationale why efforts have failed in the past.

"The biggest problem that we run into is the liberals down in New York City that pay \$6, \$8, \$10, \$12 dollars to get over their bridges. So they say, 'You guys are getting off easy. Live with it. Deal with it. You're paying the toll.' The problem is we've been paying the toll since 1935. They've only been paying them maybe 30 years. We've been paying the toll for 81 years now. So really we funded the beginning and all the road construction."

McMurray stressed the tolls issue isn't just about Grand Island.

"Having that toll jams up traffic for all of Western New York," he said. "If a visitor goes to Niagara Falls, there's even more of a blockade for them to want to go visit Canalside and all the other attractions that are now growing in Buffalo because all summer long you have a traffic jam on the bridges. There's a reason why northtowns and southtowns are so separated, and part of the reason is that there isn't an effective conduit for traffic."

Assemblyman John Ceretto said he will be introducing legislation in the Assembly to remove the tolls.

Ceretto said. "We drafted a bill, so I guess I'm the next one that carries the torch."

Thompson said he's going to start reaching out to the Republicans in the Senate and urged citizens to contact their elected representatives and tell them to support the removal of the Grand Island Bridge tolls.

Arby's Loaded Italian?

Arby's has introduced a new sandwich dubbed The Loaded Italian. The subtle mafia implication aside, is this use of a peoplehood to describe food appropriate?

Or is it a misappropriation of a culture motivated by commercial gain? Sure, reasonable minds can disagree. But substitute the word Italian with Jew, Black, or Muslim and the civil rights brigade would storm the streets. Can you imagine ordering The Plush Jew, The Black Bandit, or The Explosive Muslim? Hardly.

The extent to which Italian Americans have experienced the brunt of negative stereotypes propagated by an elitist media has gone under appreciated in the scholarly and

social discourse. This history, too, should be recognized in the American narrative.



What's in a name? Arby's on Niagara Falls Boulevard in Niagara Falls advertises Arby's newest sandwich creation, the "Loaded Italian".

While it is no doubt a delicious and nourishing sandwich, if the nationality for the sandwich was a little different, the result might be a sh-t storm of boycott and protest not a line up of customers for this mouthwatering delight.



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Skaters, Neighbors Find Own Reasons For Thinking Skate Parks Just Uncool

Mike Hudson

HOLLYWOOD – How cool are skateparks?

With a population of 3.9 million, Los Angeles, the birthplace of skateboarding, has just 13 citywide. And complaints from the neighbors combined with apathy and rejection on the part of the skaters themselves make it unlikely that more will open anytime soon.

Meanwhile, in Niagara Falls, the city is getting ready to spend \$494,000 to build its own skate park. Officials say the project could be completed by fall, just in time for it to be covered in snow for the following six months.

Seth Piccirillo, the city's youthful director of community development, said he hopes skateboarders who have been using Old Falls Street in front of the Niagara Falls Conference & Event Center, resulting in damage to concrete benches and planters, will move to the new site.

"They are not wanted there," Piccirillo said. "They don't have a place that is safe and dedicated to their sport."

The new skate park would be along Hyde Park Boulevard, adjacent to the John Duke Senior Center parking lot. The \$494,000 skate park is funded by a federal grant as well as a \$10,000 Tony Hawk Foundation grant. Hawk



Computerized rendering of proposed city owned - taxpayer funded Tony Hawk skatepark at Hyde Park next to Sal Maglie Stadium.

is a American professional skateboarder.

City officials stressed the importance of the grant, failing to note that more than 900 communities across the country received the Tony Hawk grant prior to Niagara Falls.

Des Plaines, IL; West Bloomfield, MI; Monticello, MN; Harrisonburg, VA; Othello, WA; Glen Jean WV; Bellevue, PA; Bend, OR; South Jordan, UT; Gillette, WY; North Laurel, MD; Bemidji, MN; Fairfield, IA; Owensboro, KY; Houma, LA; Aurora, IL; Hornell, NY;



When he wants to look cool, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster wears a Hard Rock Café T shirt. His closet also includes a jersey that makes him look like a hockey player, one that depicts cartoon character Jiminy Cricket swooning in the arms of Harriet Tubman and now, one that makes his appear to be a hip skateboard dude!

Dublin, OH.

And even tiny Beaver Dam, WI, are among the bustling metropolises that previously received the grant.

Buffalo's LaSalle Skate Plaza opened in 2013 without the benefit of Tony Hawk's involvement.

Piccirillo said the Hawk grant excited the young people, but also gave them guidelines for engaging the community, especially skaters, in the process.

"We constantly hear there's not enough stuff for kids, especially older kids, to do, and this (skate park) is something we have wanted in the community for years," he said.

"We are proud of the grassroots push behind the skate park and thankful for the Tony Hawk Foundation's help," said Mayor Paul Dyster. "Our community is collaborating to create a special neighborhood space for our young people. Our partnership will complete a skate park project that has been discussed for decades."

Dyster is often given to hyperbole. Actually, the term "skate park" wasn't coined until 1998, just 18 years ago, and, even then, it was being used almost exclusively in Southern California where the sport began to take off. No mention of it is found in the archives of the Buffalo News, the Niagara Gazette or the Niagara Falls Reporter prior to the beginning of Dyster's second term in office, which began just four years ago.

Young California surfers looking for something to do when the waves were flat invented "sidewalk surfing" during the 1950s, using homemade boards with roller skate wheels attached. By the 1960s, a number of major surfboard manufacturers had entered the field, and interest in the sport by amateurs began to take off.

It wasn't until the 1980s, though, that skateboarding exploded into the American consciousness. The advent of highly

publicized and sponsored competitive events would eventually lead to more American kids riding skateboards than playing baseball.

In Los Angeles, some skaters say the parks themselves just aren't cool. They complain about the helmet requirement at municipal skate parks, the fact that BMX bikers, scooter enthusiasts and in-line skaters are also permitted to use the facilities as well as the presence at some parks of safety officers.

These things obviously detract from the rebellious nature that leads many to take up the sport in the first place.

In Atwater Village, a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood in what used to be known as East L.A., skaters congregate at the Chevy Chase Park and Recreation Center rather than going to the city-run Marsh Skate Park, which is a 15-minute bus ride.

"I was up over there one time and everybody freaked when they saw a cop drive by because apparently they fine you for not wearing a helmet," said one skater who's a fixture at Chevy Chase and goes by the name of Brainstorm. "I was like f**k that s**t. If I've got to worry about the cops, I should at least be skating a good street spot. It's all just too much of a hassle that I don't need."

Residents living near the facilities have their own complaints.

Noise levels from the parks are such that heavy metal singer Rob Zombie and his wife Sheri were the first to complain to the town of Woodbury, Connecticut, about excessive noise at a skate park near their home there, according to the Associated Press.

Sheri Zombie asked about the availability of funds to move the park at a town budget meeting, claiming the park "proved to be a significant noise pollutant" that lowered the quality of life for the surrounding area.

And in trendy West L.A., apartment dwellers across the street from the Stoner Skate Plaza at Stoner and Nebraska avenues say the slides and grinds of skateboarders who disregard posted hours have shredded their dreams of a good night's sleep.

Mindy Glazer, a 15-year resident who lives across the street from the facility, told the Los Angeles Times that many people who use the park create "normal park noise," including a saxophonist and bagpiper, that doesn't compare to the noise of the skateboarders.

"It seems like something that just showed up," Glazer said. "This is eye opening to me. This is public land, and public money has disturbed the peace of a lot of people who have been here for a long time."

In Niagara Falls, numerous issues regarding skate-park operations have not been publicly discussed, including the annual cost of liability insurance and whether the skaters will be supervised by a safety officer or some other responsible adult.

Niagara Falls City Council Chairman Andrew Touma has been pushing for the skate park since he first ran for office in 2013.

"I'm thrilled that this is happening," he said.



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Niagara Falls Skatepark To Benefit Taxpayers Out West In California

Mike Hudson

HOLLYWOOD -- It's a nice little angle. And one that's pulled in the rubes from hundreds of small towns all across America. Most recently it snagged Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster and his Director of Community Development Seth Piccirillo.

Tony "The Birdman" Hawk made his bones as a professional skater during the 1980s and 1990s before getting into the video game business in 1999 and soon branched out into other lines of merchandise. He made millions, and set up a not-for-profit known as the Tony Hawk Foundation, an organization described as "philanthropic" by most sources. Its stated aim is awarding grants to build skate parks in economically challenged areas for use by underprivileged youth.

In Niagara Falls, it worked like this:

The foundation awarded the city with a \$10,000 grant. The city then turned around and awarded a \$9,000 contract to Spohn Ranch, a for-profit company owned by Aaron Spohn, a crony of Hawk's, who city hall sources say will also get the contract to actually build the park.

The city apparently got to keep \$1,000 as a sort of handling fee.

Spohn Ranch stands to make more than \$100,000 on the Niagara Falls deal. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. In a talk he gave last year, Spohn outlined the reasoning behind building skate parks in every hick town from Florida to Washington State. And the subject of underprivileged kids never crossed his lips.

"Once the park is open, we encourage



Here's a picture of skateboard millionaire Tony Hawk risking death for the edification of what looks to be a couple thousand people in the audience on a beach in Southern California. He likes Niagara Falls, because the yokels who run the city government here are even stupider than their counterparts in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin! They bought his skatepark pitch hook, line and sinker, and now he is considering introducing Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster to the wonders of the Hula Hoop.

brands and retailers to use our parks as event space to promote their businesses as well as the skateboarding industry as a whole," Spohn said.

Promotion in the social media is essential for proper marketing, Spohn added.

"When the world's best professional skateboarders film a YouTube video montage at one of our parks, we now have a great tool for educating municipalities on how skateparks are meant to function," he said.

And then the money just rolls right in.

"With brands and retailers using our parks as contest space or stops on cross-country tours, we can also entice cities by showing them that high-quality skate parks can have a positive economic impact in the community," Spohn said.

And Spohn, of course, has access to perhaps the biggest name in all of skateboarding, Tony Hawk.

There are Tony Hawk skateboards and Tony Hawk Playstation games, Tony Hawk

clothing, bicycles, amusement park rides and movies. And then there are the tours, events in which Tony Hawk himself — along with an assembled group of select acolytes that ride like the Magnificent Seven (or nine or however many there are) into your Spohn Ranch skatepark-equipped town, um, hawk their wares.

The stuff ain't cheap. One of the Tony Hawk Playstation games can set you back \$50; a hoodie from his clothing line goes for \$35; and even a humble plastic water bottle costs \$12.95. A signed Tony Hawk skateboard deck goes for \$450.

Sixty bucks will buy you a miniature digital video camera you can wear on your helmet as you skate and, for just a bit more, you can get bedroom window curtains with Tony Hawk's name emblazoned on them or a cool back-to-school notebook with cover art done by none other than Tony Hawk.

Hawk sells undershorts and smartphone cases, computer accessories and circuit boards, polo shirts and t-shirts and bumper stickers and helmets and backpacks and license plate frames.

The bulk of this money gets shipped back to Southern California, where Hawk and Spohn are based and pay their taxes. Multimillionaires and even billionaires aren't the rare birds in L.A. that they are along the Niagara Frontier.

According to the website RICHESTCELEBRITIES.org, Tony Hawk's net worth at the beginning of this year was estimated at \$140 million.

According to Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster and Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo, it was not-for-profit Tony Hawk's Foundation's incredibly generous \$10,000 grant that put the Niagara Falls skate park on the fast track.

How remarkably fortunate are the people of Niagara Falls.



The master social commentator/artist Gerald Skrlin [the Great Lamponer] presents his version of the local government inversion: where the "public servants" live comfy off the hard work of the taxpayers in Niagara Falls. In the Falls we have the ultimate inversion: The servants make far more than the people who foot the bill....



The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength...

--
Swami Vivekananda

LEGAL NOTICE

NIAGARA GORGE ENTERPRISES LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the NY State Secretary of State ("NYSSS") on May 6, 2016; the LLC is located in Niagara County; NYSSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it can be served; a copy of any process served upon NYSSS will be mailed to the LLC at 2578 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY 14304; the purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity.

5/19/16, 5/26/16, 6/2/16, 6/9/16, 6/16/16, 6/23/16

Dr. Gosal Was ‘Last Best Hope,’ Says Daniels

Tony Farina

Dr. [Eugene] Gosy was “the last best hope for patients suffering from chronic pain,” said Joel Daniels this week in describing the difficulties many patients have had finding help since the Williamsville pain treatment center operated by Dr. Gosy was shut down after the doctor’s federal indictment last month accusing him of illegally prescribing drugs.

“It has really been hard on him but he is more optimistic now,” said Daniels now that his center has been reopened and the many patients who have suffered since the office was shut down last month can once again go there for help.

Daniels, who represents Dr. Gosy in the federal case, called him the “go to guy” locally in pain treatment with over 10,000 patients because not many local physicians were willing to practice pain treatment which is under constant scrutiny by federal agents.

Dr. Gosy has kept his medical license but his federal DEA registration has been revoked pending the outcome of his case which is currently in the discovery process which, according to Daniels, could last between 30 and 60 days. He posted a \$250,000 bail



Attorney Joel Daniels

Dr. Eugene Gosy

bond with his Clarence home as collateral, said Daniels, and his Williamsville office reopened this week.

Dr. Gosy has gone public about what he calls “so much misinformation concerning chronic pain patients that has been circulated,” and has expressed concern and regret about the allegations against his practice and his personal integrity. But he said it is not the time to exculpate himself or respond “to the wild character assassination” that has been directed against not only him but the thousands of chronic pain patients in Western New York.

In a statement on WBEN Radio on Tuesday, Dr. Gosy said in part that “chronic

pain patients are not junkies. Their lives have been turned upside down by diseases like cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and many other diseases,” adding “they simply wish to be productive citizens and live life to the fullest with the available remedial options.”

Daniels says that Dr. Gosy’s priority since the charges were filed has been to find physicians so that the office could reopen, and now that the office has reopened, staff will contact patients to reschedule canceled appointments. While Dr. Gosy will not be able to treat pain patients, nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants in the group will be able to treat patients requiring pain

management. Three physicians have also agreed to be available to mid-level providers for consultations about patient care until a more permanent solution is found.

Dr. Gosy has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing in his practice and he and his attorney are hopeful that he will eventually be cleared of the charges against him and will be able to resume treating the patients that he has cared for all these years. The crisis that followed the shutdown of his practice is evidence that his legal problems have caused considerable additional pain to his thousands of patients.



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Dr. Scapegoat, I Presume?

Gosy Indictment Signals Feds Expanding War on Drugs, Freedom

Jim Ostrowski

The war on human beings who use, sell or possess drugs (private property), is, from the perspective of reason or morality, dead. Yet, it survives in political backwaters such as Buffalo and in the intellectual backwater of progressivism. The drug war is the classic progressive policy failure. The progressives invented it. They defend it. They sustain it and they prosecute it, while often blaming Republicans for it.

Since it is a progressive program, progressives can never bring themselves to admit its failure. Any evidence of its failure is simply reinterpreted to justify even greater force, effort and expenditure. As I explain elsewhere, progressives have developed a sophisticated system of scapegoats to distract attention away from their policy failures. "Why Progressives Make Bad Journalists," LewRockwell.com, Dec. 30, 2015. With drugs plentiful and cheap and overdoses rising, the drug warriors have identified a new scapegoat, the medical doctor.

Accordingly, Dr. Eugene Gosy's office was subjected to a massive raid which allowed the feds to search through thousands of private and confidential patient records. The 4th Amendment was designed to limit such general searches but it is a dead letter in that regard as evidenced by this and other recent cases.

Keep in mind that in the progressives' system of scapegoating, the scapegoat is always someone or some institution outside the government. The government itself can never be blamed or that would undermine the premise of progressivism that government can solve all human problems. Gosy, a private citizen who operates a private business, is perfect. The government school, the institution that basically raises most American children these days, and the place where many young people are first exposed to drugs, can never be blamed although its causal role is obvious. Nor can we question the progressive state's role in destroying the family unit that used to raise kids. Kids are now raised primarily by day care, government schools and often a single working parent when she can. The progressive economy hasn't given working people a raise in decades. The intractable problems caused by the progressives have left many in a state of depression that often leads to self-medication through illegal drugs.

But never mind. It's all Doctor Gosy's fault!

I have read the Gosy indictment and have a few quick thoughts. Of course, I have no knowledge of whether the accusations are true or false. I expected that the indictment would rattle off instances where Gosy's alleged crimes resulted in tangible harm to people such as overdoses, suicides or diversion of drugs into the black market and into schools. There are no such allegations. There is only one brief and conclusory

reference to "abuse" of drugs but no evidence or details are provided. There are also no allegations that Dr. Gosy was acting as a de facto drug dealer and simply dispensing drugs to people who had no disease that was causing chronic pain.

There are 114 counts in the indictment. 96 of them involve the alleged improper prescription of one obscure drug called buprenorphine. This drug is used to wean people off of narcotics after they have become addicted. If I understand the indictment, the charge is in part based on the argument that Gosy was only allowed to treat 100 patients for this condition and to evade that arbitrary legal requirement, he prescribed the drug under the rationale of pain management instead of combating opiate addiction. As Matt Damon said in "Ocean's 11," "oohh."

What is striking about the charges is

that they involve people who are not medical doctors — the DEA, the FBI and federal prosecutors — sitting in judgment over doctors concerning the meaning of "proper medical practice." This absurd state of affairs is a necessary feature of the progressive's war on drugs as exemplified by the fact that many of those first charged with violations of the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 were medical doctors. So, with all the talk about liberalizing the drug laws, the Gosy case suggests that the drug war, far from going away as all barbaric and uncivilized ideas should, is intensifying and returning to its bad old days.

All of the charges against Dr. Gosy were approved by a grand jury deliberating in secret that likely heard nothing from the defendant or his lawyers. As I explained in my last column, the grand jury, as a check

on the power of the state, has been denuded over the years. The last thing you will learn in progressive government school is about the true history and purpose and powers of juries. That's because jurors are private citizens whose original function was to check and restrain the almighty government that progressives worship. A simple reform would be to allow the suspect's attorney to speak to the grand jury before indictment and present the case for a "no bill," a decision not to prosecute. Yet, the legal system in the progressive era is all about keeping jurors ignorant, passive and afraid.

Jim Ostrowski is a trial and appellate lawyer in Buffalo, NY. He is CEO of Libertymovement.org and author of several books including Progressivism: A Primer on the Idea Destroying America.

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Wheatfield Sewer Sludge Ban Upheld; Could Be Model For Rest Of The State

Joseph Kissel

It took 10 months, but Supreme Court Justice Frank Caruso's decision to uphold Wheatfield's ban on fertilizer made with sewer sludge could prompt other laws like it across the state.

"Many other municipalities would like to pass similar laws but they've been sitting on their hands," said Wheatfield Town Attorney Matt Brooks. "I have received contact from other municipalities looking to do a law similar to this, and they will look to this as a model."

The biosolids ban was originally written by former Wheatfield Town Attorney Roberta O'Toole, and Brooks said the law was "vindicated" by the ruling.

"The law also had a lot of popular support," Brooks said. "We did have a lot of public participation and heard many voices in opposition to spreading in Wheatfield."

Last June, Justice Caruso heard arguments in Niagara Falls to dismiss Quasar's lawsuit that says the town acted unlawfully by holding it to higher standards than what the state Department of Conservation mandates and the company was permitted for in 2012.

Caruso agreed with attorney Steven

Ricca, representing the Town of Wheatfield, that New York State's home rule law protected the biosolids ban as well as agreeing that municipalities could enact tougher requirements than the DEC.

Quasar Energy Group owns and operates facilities — called anaerobic digesters — in Wheatfield and West Seneca that convert sludge and waste from sewage treatment plants into methane. A byproduct of that process is marketed as "equate" and can be used as a fertilizer for crops.

Wheatfield resident and citizen activist Julie Otto spent countless hours researching the issue, bringing the matter before the town board and taking the matter to Albany with Monica Daigler.

"I am thrilled that the court ruled the way they did, but I am waiting for a reaction from Quasar," she said.

She mentioned — as did Brooks — the possibility that the NYS Agricultural & Markets Dept. could choose to side with Quasar.

"They can make an opinion if the town's law is unduly onerous and burdensome against farmers," said Brooks. "I have no idea if that is coming. They may not feel that way. There have been conferences with Ag & Markets on the issue. At this point they have

not issued a decision."

Brooks said they may not.

"I am glad that our officials succumbed to public pressure and pursued the issue," Otto said. "As we found out through the process, the DEC regulations are lax and they did not follow their own guidelines for granting permits in Wheatfield, and revoked the permit on the field next to the playground at Starpoint in Pendleton."

Quasar has 30 days from receipt of the ruling to file an appeal.

Although they did not file the suit, Milleville Brothers Farm in Sanborn, which owns several farms in Niagara County, was to be the recipient of the biosolids fertilizer. Calls to Milleville Brothers regarding any future plans to litigate were not returned.

One of the procedural reasons the suit was dismissed had to do with Quasar appealing to Ag & Markets law but not owning the farm itself, which it must to have standing with the court.

The attorney for Quasar, George Van Nest said: "We don't have any comment. We've not had a chance to review it internally."

"People were apprehensive since it's been 10 months since the oral arguments last June," said Brooks. "Everyone knew there would be far-reaching ramifications for many

communities, and this had to be well thought out to the credit of Judge Caruso."

Brooks issued one caveat for other communities looking to enact a biosolids ban.

"The soil conditions in Wheatfield are unique," he said, citing the area's thin topsoil over mostly clay.

Those in favor of maintaining the ban said this situation would allow the biosolids to easily pool and leech into Wheatfield's high water table.

"This certainly has to do with our unique situation and geology in Wheatfield, and it might not be applicable elsewhere," Brooks said.

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A Primer on Quasar's Equate

Frank Parlato

'Equate,' the brown, blackish, mulch-like product - with a piquant taste and curious smell - is made up of about 60 percent human excrement, mixed with other undissolved solids that once went happily down the drain after leaving someone's toilet.

Brought to you by Quasar, a Cleveland, Ohio-based company, and adored by the New York State DEC, Equate is what happens to toilet waste after it goes through a process called anaerobic digestion.

Equate, of course, does not go directly from someone's toilet to your neighbor's farm. The stuff in toilets goes first to municipal treatment plants where it is put it through a clarifier to dissolve solid particles and screened. It is then put through further treatments before it is separated from the water -- the latter is treated with chemicals and discharged into lakes or streams.

What is leftover, the solids, is called sludge. This sludge, a watery cake which normally goes to landfills, is what Equate is made from.

Quasar takes the sludge, cooks out the gas to make electricity and sells what is left, the "Equate," to farmers as cheap fertilizer. While farmers who use Equate cannot grow food fit for human consumption for years, they can grow crops for ethanol or animal consumption.

DEC officials are delighted with Equate, as they are with anything that can be conceived as "compost," something that will degrade naturally instead of being placed in a landfill.

Equate is profitable, too. Before it is delivered to a farm downwind from you, Equate is taken by Quasar from sewer plants, where they first extract bio gas and sell it to make electricity. Quasar then sells Equate to farmers.

The problem Quasar is facing, and why you are hearing so much about them, is they can get so much Equate they cannot possibly store it or spread it all.

Quasar's storage facilities in West Seneca and Wheatfield are already overloaded with Equate, and they had to stop taking it from the Town of Amherst since they have no more room.

Unfortunately, when the folks in Wheatfield and West Seneca approved Quasar storage facilities, few understood that Equate was just a fancy name for treated human waste. They bought into the notion that they were being asked to store fertilizer to be sold to farmers at discount prices.

Otherwise, who would have been stupid enough to approve this shit Equate.

Quasar officials were perhaps not forthcoming in making it clear to the towns that what they were really building was a lagoon for storing millions of gallons of



An Equate lagoon. Anyone care for a swim?



An Equate plant with a pile of shit Equate in the foreground.



Equate is made from human manure.



Equate melts in your farm fields not in your hands.



Quasar does not use the word 'sewage', instead, they use the word 'fertilizer' when speaking of the product they call "Equate".

human waste. You have heard of the blue lagoon. Quasar wants to build a land of lakes, of brown lagoons.

When the truth came out, there was a big stink.

Quasar is trying to get approval to build enclosed storage tanks to hold Equate until they can sell some of their shit Equate to a farmer near you.

Naturally, people are afraid. Quasar folks call this "ridiculous."

They say those who oppose it are just talking shit Equate.

Will it smell? Quasar says it doesn't. Buy a bag of it and find out for yourself.

While tests are made to ensure against certain poisons, one should be worried about what they didn't test for, like heavy metals, pesticides, hormones and drugs.

DEC permits are fast-tracked for Equate. The DEC has not conducted any real research on it. Scientists don't know what it will do in the long run.

One should also be concerned about

storage tank ruptures. If this shit Equate ever leaks out, it will do more than smell.

The Niagara Falls Reporter feels that, rather than feed it to the citizens of Niagara County, Quasar should send Equate to Albany and spread it around the capital.

There's so much Equate going on there already, a heavy, thick application of it will hardly be noticed.

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4/28/16, 5/5/16, 5/12/16, 5/19/16, 5/26/16, 6/2/16

Politics Behind Rus Thompson's Voter-Fraud Charge, Says Wife Julianne

Joseph Kissel

Rus Thompson says he can't talk about it, but as he said during his Sunday "remove the tolls" address at Fisherman's Park in Grand Island, anybody else can.

Thompson was recently charged with five felony counts of voter fraud when he filed an affidavit ballot to vote on Nov. 3, 2015. Two of the felony charges were for votes he cast for races on Grand Island; two were for the general election, and one for the affidavit ballot itself, according to his wife Julianne.

At the center of the charges against Rus is whether he lived at the address he put on the affidavit ballot for 30 days before the election.

Complicating matters, or at least providing a murky backstory, is that Julianne said she and her family were "evicted illegally" from their home on Bedell Road in Grand Island earlier that year, an eviction she says was tied to the political motivation of getting the family off the Island.

She believes the same political force behind the eviction is responsible for targeting Rus with the voter fraud charge.

At the root of this politics is evidently Rus Thompson's participation in the 2015 supervisor's race on the Island, which saw him support Democrat Nate McMurray who ultimately [helped by Rus' vote] won in a narrow 14-vote plurality over incumbent Republican Supervisor Mary Cooke.

Still, it was Julianne Thompson who sent the Board of Elections a note saying: "We are moving. Please remove us from the voter rolls."

"But it didn't specify Rus Thompson on there or our children," she said. "It didn't have any of that information on there. Essentially all they could have taken from the voter rolls was myself as it turns out."

Rus Thompson never changed his voter registration, she said.

"We intended it to be just a temporary



Are politics behind the prosecution of Rus Thompson for five felonies for voter fraud? He only voted once in Grand Island but was allegedly living in Niagara Falls at the time.

move and move back. In fact, we might be moving back in the next couple of months."

In the meantime, Thompson recently rejected a plea deal that his wife said wasn't any different from the initial charges. Thompson's case is going to a grand jury.

Julianne Thompson said Rus never changed his voter registration.

"But when he went to his old polling place they found out his name wasn't on there. He filled out an affidavit using his old address because it was his polling address at which he was registered. There was no intent to defraud or anything like that. But that's what they're charging that he intended to defraud. But he told them right off."

Julianne Thompson said the judge, State Supreme Court Justice Christopher J. Burns, expressed surprise when Acting Erie County District Attorney Michael J. Flaherty Jr. said the charges would be felonies.

Julianne Thompson said Flaherty responded: "He needs to be held responsible.

He needs to take responsibility for this."

"And he has taken responsibility for this," Julianne Thompson said. "As soon as he was approached by the DA. He said, 'Yeah, I'm guilty but this is why.' Because we essentially were illegally put out, evicted from our home. And when I went to go to my polling place, without having changed my registration, he was purged from the voter rolls."

Previously, before leaving Grand Island for Niagara Falls, Rus Thompson lived there for 20 years and ran a business on Bedell Road, which was one source of friction that Julianne Thompson believes led the district attorney to investigate Thompson's affidavit ballot.

But, as Rus Thompson said at the "Remove the Tolls" rally: "I'm convinced right now that I will not be bullied or intimidated into being silent. There are way too many issues out in the forefront that I've been working on for years and many other things that we have to focus on."

Julianne Thompson summed up her husband's felony voting charges as such: "All they are saying is he wrote down on his affidavit his old address that was his last known address on the Island. He never changed his registration to Niagara Falls. So it wasn't like he was voting in two places. He was just using the address of record that had Grand Island as his place of voter registration."

In response to a request for comment, the Erie County District Attorney's office had this to say about the ongoing matter: "We investigate all credible allegations of corruption brought to our attention and follow where the evidence leads without fear or favor. If the evidence proves you have broken the law, whether elected official, public servant or everyday citizen, we will prosecute you."

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Buffets

Choice of two meats (Roasted Chicken, Chicken Marsala, Meatballs and sauce, Italian Sausage with peppers and onions, Roast Beef, or Baked Ham)
Choice of two side options (Pasta and Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Mashed potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
Salad and Rolls with Butter - \$12.95
Choice of Three Meats from above - \$14.95
Mixed Veggie Tray - \$35 per 40 people
Cheese and Cracker Tray - \$50 per 40 people

Bar Packages

Cash Bar - \$50 for bartender
3 Hour Open Bar including beer (choice of three bottled beers) well liquor and wine - \$14/head
3 Hour Open Bar including beer, Premier Liquor and wine - \$19/head

**8% tax and 18% gratuity added to all bills except where tax exempt
\$100 non-refundable deposit needed to hold date

10% off for Parties booked on Sundays



One Step Forward in Washington – One Step Back in Albany

In mid-April the US Senate passed The Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 with a bipartisan vote (85-12). The bill streamlines the process for construction of pipelines on federal land and the natural gas export permit application process, which will help position the United States to lead globally as a clean energy super power, bring affordable energy to U.S. consumers, and create good jobs. It will also increase investment in renewable energies such as wind, solar, and hydropower and amend the Federal Power Act to encourage hydropower development by extending the total period for preliminary permits. The bill has important provisions to incentivize energy efficiency for new state and commercial building construction; including a requirement that the Department of Energy work closely with manufacturers to invest in the research, development and commercialization of updated energy efficient technologies.

However, just one week later, the New York State DEC denied the permit for construction of the Constitution Pipeline in NY. The project was shovel-ready and would have been built under a Project Labor Agreement; ensuring that thousands of highly-skilled and trained construction workers would have job opportunities with family-supporting wages and benefits. The unusual decision to deny a federally-approved project sacrifices the best interests of New Yorkers. Despite the hysteria surrounding pipeline construction, pipelines are the safest way to transport natural gas. The facts that have been completely disregarded are that expansion of natural gas is the best hope for affordable energy in a region with some of the highest energy costs in the nation. Without it, New York cannot meet future energy demands or clean power goals. The scheduled closure of the FitzPatrick nuclear power plant and the proposed closure of the state's three remaining coal plants will take enough energy offline to power more than a million homes. The closures combined with anticipated increases in demand and EPA goals to reduce emissions by 10 percent will create a shortfall of 29 million megawatt hours by 2030. Fully two thirds of New York's clean energy requirements could be met by using natural gas: without it and projects like the Constitution Pipeline, there is not a realistic scenario for meeting these goals or keeping the lights on. Instead of considering what is in the best interest of the people of the great state of New York, the decision by the NYSDEC undermines the economy, progress on clean power, and access to affordable energy.



JUDGE FRANK R. BAYGER

Are billboard lawyers fishing for big injuries with big insurance coverage only?

Dear Judge Bayger;

I want to thank you for providing a forum where people who have concerns can get their questions answered.

My car was recently hit by a car driven by a college student from the University of Buffalo and I suffered an injury; [not life threatening injury but serious enough].

The student who was driving was totally at fault.

I talked to a certain attorney and he seemed really interested but when he learned that there was only \$25,000 insurance he lost interest.

My question is this: Suppose two separate accidents occur with similar injuries and in accident A the at-fault driver has \$1 million in insurance and in accident B the at-fault driver has \$25,000 in insurance.

Does the victim who was "lucky" enough to have been hit by the driver with \$1 million insurance coverage get to collect one million dollars and the other victim who was unlucky enough to be hit by the driver with only \$25,000 only get \$25,000?

If I had a serious injury worth one million dollars the fact that the other driver had only \$25,000 coverage limits me to collecting only \$25,000? Do these billboard lawyers [with their smiley faces] ONLY seek people with serious injuries who get hit by drivers with A LOT of insurance?

When they have these big billboards with the word "injured?" don't they really mean "Injured by someone with a lot of insurance?"

Sorry for the long questions, Your Honor, but you seem to be the only one who is really willing to tell it like it is.

*Thanks;
Melissa*

Dear Melissa:

Thank you for a very intriguing question. You make a number of interesting points, but I would like to put it all in perspective. Choosing a lawyer off of a billboard is generally a mistake; it is too important of a decision to make without doing a little research into the qualifications, education and experience of the attorney. If someone is in a serious auto accident, I'm sure they wouldn't select a doctor from a billboard or TV commercial, they would want the best medical treatment they could get. Why should getting an attorney be any different?

A one-million-dollar award is not like winning the lottery. There is a great deal of pain and suffering that goes into acquiring that sum. We have monetary awards for serious injuries because it is the only remedy that we can offer to compensate for the loss. But



Judge Frank R. Bayger

in reality, the vast majority of those injured would much rather get their normal life back than live a pained, dulled existence with a few bucks in their pocket.

When you look at it from the perspective of your hypothetical Accident A and Accident B, it shouldn't matter to you who has how much insurance; what counts is the kind of life you had after the accident. Insurance is about protecting the person paying the premiums, not benefiting the victim. Just because someone has one-million-dollars in coverage does not mean the injured party will receive one-million-dollars

Under the New York Insurance Law, a plaintiff must prove basic economic loss exceeding \$50,000 arising from the negligent operation of a motor vehicle, or have sustained a serious injury. According to the New York Insurance Law Section 5102 (d), "Serious injury" means a personal injury which results in death; dismemberment; significant disfigurement; a fracture; loss of a fetus; permanent loss of use of a body organ, member, function or system; . . . or a medically determined injury or impairment of a non-permanent nature which prevents the injured person from performing substantially all of the material acts which constitute such person's usual and customary daily activities for not less than ninety days during the one hundred eighty days immediately following the occurrence of the injury or impairment.

Juries award multi-million dollar verdicts to compensate for losses sustained to one's life after the accident. The money is meant to address lost wages, continuing medical expenses, and future pain and suffering. If you get a verdict that exceeds the insurance policy limit, you would have a judgment against the insured person for the remainder. Unfortunately, if that person has no assets, that judgment may never be satisfied.

For the attorneys involved, proving the value of a serious injury can be a costly affair as well. Independent medical examinations, MRIs, expert witnesses and hours of research all factor into establishing the existence and the value of the injury. Million dollar verdicts don't just happen; they are earned. While the attorney may put in a great deal of sweat equity into the case, it pales in comparison to the pain and suffering that put the injured party there in the first place. As strange as it may seem, do not envy the million-dollar verdict. It truly symbolizes more tragedy than triumph.

Remember I Wrote Recently; “Obama – Be Alert For Outrageous Executive Orders!”?



J. Gary DiLaura
The Right Side

Well here we go... He “Directed” (not an Executive Order yet, but close!) schools to allow transgenders to use whatever bathroom they feel comfortable using! North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed NC House Bill 2 requiring citizens to use facilities that correspond to their biological sex then Obama’s DOJ sued North Carolina and is going to waste our tax dollars with a lawsuit

over which toilet to pee in! You people who voted for this MORON should be very, very proud! Global Warming and toilet choice are more important issues to him than our economy, jobs and defending us from Radical Islam!

Every State in the Union has laws requiring men to use men’s bathrooms and woman to use lady’s bathrooms! Laws run from lewd and lascivious behavior to exposing one’s self in public to disorderly conduct. This moron, occupying the Office of the President, is again going to make law by Executive Orders, a job that is VERY specifically reserved for Congress but it isn’t even a law that a normal person, a majority of our citizens, a majority of ANY political party nor anyone but a few perverts and sex offenders would endorse! It is Barry’s way to divert attention from a very important Presidential Race that he fears... he knows his party WILL LOSE...and lose they will. Any Republican who wins will come after him for the Acts Of Treason he has committed! That is also why he is looking for a house where he

will be safe from extradition! He is, literally, fighting for his life! Treason is a Capital crime!

I’m calling for the Police Departments across America to join together to fight any Executive Order of this nature by this MORON! Police Officers should ARREST any man or woman caught in, entering or exiting the wrong restroom no matter what this MORON says before another innocent child is “hurt”! The toughest cases for lawmen to work are those involving the abuse of a young child. I didn’t work many, thank God, but the few I did work were enough!

My opinion: I personally don’t care what an adult does behind closed doors but I do care what an adult does to a child under the guise or even real desires to be someone THEY ARE NOT... Yet! You want to be a woman, then have your male genitalia removed, THEN you can be a girl and go into a lady’s restroom/locker or be something you are NOT! If it has a penis, it’s a man!

I understand why, during the past 7 1/2 years, Obama committed ACTS that

we NORMAL CITIZENS call Treason, Sabotage, Espionage, Stupid, Nuts, and a multitude of other adjectives that refer to his attempts to destroy our Nation!

In my opinion OBAMA WAS, IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE A RADICAL ISLAMIC MUSLIM!!! He has said it many times but only a few of us were listening, back then, HOPEFULLY, almost ALL of us are listening NOW!

Regarding this latest pre-Executive Order, remember this has NOTHING to do with looking out for the poor transgender or the sexually confused. It has to do with diverting attention away from a very important election, an election that HIS LIFE DEPENDS UPON... LITERALLY! It is self preservation! He cares ONLY about I “thing”... Islam! If you come to this realization then everything he has said and done, makes sense!

In my opinion, why else would he make a deal with the devil...Hillary?



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Half tray of One Topping Pizza and 20 Chicken Wings. \$25.99

Junction Style Pizza

Choose your own pizza... You tell us what you like & we'll make it your way!

	Small	Medium	Large	Half Tray	Whole Tray
Whole topping	\$2.20	\$1.50	\$4.50	\$6.50	\$10.00
Half topping	50¢	75¢	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$3.00
Choice of Light Red Sauce, Regular Red Sauce, Extra Red Sauce, BBQ Sauce					

Toppings: Peppermis, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Green Olives, Hot Peppers, Sweet Peppers, Onions, Sausage, Crispy Bacon, Ham, Sausage, Pineapple & Anchovies

Specialty Pizza

	Small	Large
Steak & Cheese Pizza	\$21.50	\$26.95
Chicken Finger Pizza	\$21.50	\$26.95
White Pizza	\$18.95	\$23.95
Thin Crust Pizza	\$14.95	\$19.95
Hawaiian	\$20.95	\$25.95

Wings & Fingers

Chicken Wings
Double wings deep fried & served with celery & bleu cheese. Your choice of hot, medium, mild, dry extra hot or plain.

Single (10)	\$10.50
Double (20)	\$16.50
Triple (30)	\$21.50
Bucktail (30)	\$29.50

Chicken Fingers
Large chicken fingers deep fried & served with celery & bleu cheese. Your choice of hot, medium, mild, dry extra hot, or plain.

Chicken (5 fingers & side of fries)	\$9.00
Single (5)	\$7.50
Double (10)	\$15.00

By one of our other names: Sweet & Spicy, Honey Mustard, Honey Garlic, or Teriyaki \$11.00

Appetizers

Potato Skins	\$8.50
Stuffed Banana Pepper	\$9.95
Onion Rings	\$4.00
Pizza Log	\$7.00
Blackboard Combo Plate (2 fingers, 2 pizza logs, 2 mozzarella sticks, onion rings)	\$11.00
Nachos Grande	\$9.95
Nachos with Cheese	\$7.50
Mozzarella Cheese Sticks	\$6.00
Garlic Bread	\$3.00
Garlic Bread with Cheese	\$3.50
French Fries	\$3.50

Soups

French Onion Soup \$2.50
Soup of the Day: A new soup daily. Ask for today's selection. Cup or Bowl.

Salads

Cesar Salad	\$6.00	Grilled Chicken Caesar	\$7.00
Antipasto	\$14.95	Chef Salad	Small \$4.00, Large \$5.00

Dressings: Italian, French, Light, Island, Bleu Cheese, Ranch, Lite Italian, Caesar, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Wraps

Chicken Finger Wrap	\$8.50	Chicken Ranch Wrap	\$9.00
BBQ Chicken-Bacon Wrap	\$9.50	Chicken-Cesar Wrap	\$9.00

Black Angus Burgers

Ricky's Burger with cheese	\$7.95
Black & Bleu Burger	\$9.95
Mushroom Swiss Burger	\$9.95
Buffalo Burger	\$9.95

Sandwiches

Club Sandwich	\$6.50
Ham & Swiss on Rye	\$8.50
Grilled Cheese Sandwich with Aem	\$5.50
Ricky's BLT	\$7.50
Rueter	\$9.50
Pulled Pork Sandwich	\$11.95
Beef on Weck	\$8.50
Chicken Parmesan Sandwich	\$9.25
Grilled Chicken	\$9.50

Submarines

Cold Subs	Whole	Half	Hot Subs	Whole	Half
Assorted	\$9.90	\$6.90	Chicken Finger	\$9.95	\$7.50
Ham & Cheese	\$8.95	\$6.25	Italian Sausage	\$8.50	\$6.50
Ham & Swiss	\$8.95	\$6.25	Junction Deluxe	\$10.95	\$7.95
Roast Beef	\$8.95	\$6.25	Heartball	\$6.50	\$5.95
Turkey	\$9.50	\$6.50	Pizza (cheese)	\$6.25	\$4.95

Extra Ingredients: Double cheese, hot peppers, sweet peppers, peppermis, black olives, green olives, mushrooms or sausage.

Royal	\$9.95	\$7.25
Steak	\$8.45	\$5.90
Steak & Cheese	\$10.95	\$7.50
Stinger	\$10.95	\$7.95
Turkey Club	\$9.95	\$6.95

Seafood

Fresh Haddock Fish Dinner	\$10.95
Broiled Haddock	\$10.95
Breaded Haddock	\$10.95

Choice of Potato: Fries, Macaroni salad, Potato salad & Baked Potato

Specialty Dinners

Italian Chicken Parmesan	\$12.95
Cheese Ravioli	\$10.95
Spaghetti & Meatball	\$8.95

Choice of pasta: Fries, Spaghetti or Fettuccine

All meals include your choice of soup, salad or colander

Side Orders

Bleu Cheese Dressing	\$1.50	Onion	\$1.50
Dressing	\$1.75	Celery	\$2.00
French Fries	\$2.75	Vegetable	\$3.50
Coleslaw	\$1.50	Pasta	\$3.50
Meatballs	\$3.00	Sauce	\$1.75



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- + AUTOMOBILE CRASH AT INTERSECTION - \$2.9 MILLION RECOVERY (BEFORE TRIAL)
- + EXPLOSION - IMPROPER MAINTENANCE OF MACHINE - \$3 MILLION RECOVERY (BEFORE TRIAL)
- + CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT - \$3.5 MILLION RECOVERY (DURING TRIAL)
- + CAR CRASH - DEATH AND SEVERE FACIAL SCARRING - \$3.9 MILLION (VERDICT)
- + CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT - \$7 MILLION (VERDICT)
- + CAR AND TRUCK CRASH - \$7.5 MILLION RECOVERY (DURING TRIAL)
- + PRODUCT LIABILITY - \$7.5 MILLION RECOVERY (DURING TRIAL)
- + FALLING TREE ON AUTOMOBILE - \$8 MILLION RECOVERY
- + AIRPLANE CRASH - UNSAFE LOAD OF STEEL COILS - \$10.5 MILLION RECOVERY (BEFORE TRIAL)
- + LIBEL - \$18.5 MILLION (VERDICT)
- + MEDICAL MALPRACTICE - \$35 MILLION RECOVERY (DURING TRIAL)

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