

NEW YORK NEWS

We're chipping away at sources of pollution. This is one. Nitrogen is another — DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis

Car Lurches Into Crowd At Bus Stop, Injuring At Least Three

BY HAMODIA STAFF

LAKESWOOD — Nine *heimishe* people were taken to hospitals on Motzoei Shabbos when a car accidentally plowed into a crowd in front of the Capitol Hotel.

B'chasdei Hashem, no life-threatening injuries occurred. Some of those in the crowd, including a 4-year-old girl, were not harmed but were taken to a hospital for evaluation and released.

Three people underwent surgery, the Hatzolah member, who responded to the scene, told *Hamodia*.

A *talmid* from Yeshiva Torah Temimah in Brooklyn, who had been pinned between the car and the bus, had an operation on both femur bones, which were broken in the incident.

An elderly man had surgery for an ankle fracture. Information on the third case requiring surgery was not available.

At about 10:15 p.m., as people were boarding and loading a parked, Brooklyn-bound charter

bus at the stop in front of the Capitol Hotel at Madison Avenue and Seventh Street, the driver attempted to back out of the area.

People yelled for the driver to stop, but the car accidentally plowed into the group, Sgt. Charles Smith of the Lakewood police department said.

The account from the Hatzolah source, who spoke with witnesses, matched the police version.

The car struck 11 people, Sgt. Smith said. No charges were filed.

Approximately a dozen emergency vehicles from Hatzolah and municipal EMS arrived quickly, a witness told *Hamodia*.

Five patients were taken to Kimball Hospital in Lakewood. Four patients were taken to Jersey Shore hospital in Neptune.

The driver and two passengers were not among the injured.

The little girl, who was found to be okay, was pulled from underneath the car.

The location was closed off for two hours while police investigated.

The Gaavad Visits America



Harav Yitzchak Tuvia Weiss, Gaavad of the *Eida Chareidis* of Yerushalayim, in Swan Lake, New York, yesterday.

No-Fault Divorce Now Law in N.Y.

ALBANY (AP) — New York couples who want to get divorced fast will no longer have to persuade a court that they have been mistreated or abandoned to be released from their bonds.

Gov. David Paterson announced yesterday that he has signed a bill making New York the last state to enact some version of no-fault divorce, meaning that people trying to leave a marriage will be spared the painful task of disparaging their estranged spouse in court.

Previously, under a system the governor called "outdated," New York judges could only grant a divorce quickly on grounds of cruelty or abandonment. In other words, somebody had to be blamed for the situation.

An alternative was to legally separate for a year and get a divorce later by consent, but critics derided the system as expensive and time-consuming.

Because of the rule, some New York judges would occasionally refuse to grant divorces, forcing couples to stick together against their wishes.

The new measure requires only that one spouse state under oath that a relationship has broken down for at least six months.

Orthodox Jewish groups had mixed reactions to the new law. A *Hamodia* article had examined its pros and cons in the context of *halachah*.

The New York Catholic Conference opposed the measure, saying it makes marriage disposable. The state chapter of the National Organization of Women expressed worry it could make it easier for wealthy men to hide assets during a divorce proceeding.

The bill passed the Assembly with a substantial margin of support, then squeaked by the Senate by just three votes.

(With reporting by *Hamodia*.)

Ban Lowers Phosphorous In Water Supply

ALBANY (AP) — A new law to improve water quality makes it illegal for stores in New York to stock fresh supplies of household dishwasher detergents that contain phosphorus.

Stores have 60 days to sell old inventories. Sales for commercial use are to end July 1, 2013.

Starting in 2012, a similar ban will apply to lawn fertilizers.

Environmental officials say phosphorus drains into New York lakes and rivers, which turn green with algae, degrading drinking water and reducing oxygen that fish need. More than 100 bodies of water in the state are considered impaired, including Cayuga Lake and Lake Champlain.

With similar measures now effective in 16 other states, including neighboring Vermont and Pennsylvania, many detergent makers produce low-phosphate formulas. Consumer tests show some are cleaning better than even earlier detergents considered environmentally friendly.

"The impact of phosphorus is particularly significant in lakes and reservoirs. Over half of all the lake acres in the state have water quality impacts for which phosphorus is a contributing cause," according to a Department of Environmental Conservation analysis.

As a cleaning agent, dishwasher detergents may contain up to 9 percent phosphorus by weight, and as a plant nutrient, lawn fertilizer contains up to 3 percent. The New York

law, signed last month by Gov. Paterson, lowers permissible levels to 0.5 percent for household dishwasher detergent and 0.67 percent for lawn fertilizer.

The detergent restocking ban took effect on Saturday.

"We're chipping away at sources of pollution. This is one. Nitrogen is another," said DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis. Pesticides are a third, and the agency backed legislation enacted earlier this year that will ban the use of pesticides on schoolyards and playing fields.

The agency says that while dishwasher detergent and lawn fertilizer are only two sources of phosphorus, they are relatively easy and inexpensive to control. Steps were taken in the early 1970s to eliminate phosphorus from hand soap and laundry detergents, but exempting dishwasher detergent.

Of the phosphorus found in municipal wastewater, dishwashing detergent accounts for 9 percent to 34 percent. Lawn fertilizer can account for about 50 percent of phosphorus found in storm runoff.

The provision on lawn fertilizers prohibits applying the compounds between Dec. 1 and April 1 or near surface water. It contains exceptions for new lawns or when a test shows an existing lawn has too little phosphorus. It does not affect fertilizer for agriculture or gardens.

The provision was modeled after Minnesota's law. Maine, Florida and Wisconsin also have fertilizer controls.

N.J. NCSY Helps Communities in Need

NEW JERSEY — From hurricane-ravaged New Orleans and Galveston, Texas to flood-devastated Atlanta, all the way up north to Buffalo, N.Y., the New Jersey chapter of National Council of Synagogue Youth is responding to disasters with action and compassion.

Rabbi Ethan Katz, assistant regional director of New Jersey NCSY, based in Teaneck, has traveled across the country repairing housing stock with small but tenacious teams of leadership students from both public and yeshiva high schools.

More than 130 Jewish teenagers have participated over the last few years. Rabbi Katz has led six missions in 2010, with four more missions in development for the upcoming school year.

Many of these trips have been coordinated with NECHAMA: Jewish Response to Disaster, an organization that provides direct support to communities recovering from natural disasters.

Rabbi Katz and his crews often return to areas needing on-going assistance, such as New Orleans and Galveston, in addition to preparing for potential national disasters. Like first responders who train to be ready at early notice, they are poised to go on the road when calamity strikes.

In addition to addressing the material needs of disaster victims, the New Jersey NCSY team also seeks to lend moral support, spending time with the local Jewish community for Shabbos, or in Jewish schools to *m'chazek* the students.

FBI: Rabbi Kahane Killer's First Target Was Sharon

Continued from page 1

The documented prison interview, dated Dec. 27, 2005, was discovered by a journalist doing research for an investigative report. In it, Nosair also disclosed that the cell's original target was Ariel Sharon. The future prime minister, who was then Israel's minister of housing and construction, spearheaded the burgeoning network of settlements across the territories captured in 1967.

"Nosair further stated that Ariel Sharon was his original target and that he went to a hotel prior to Sharon's coming to visit, but decided against it," the document read.

Nosair added that on the night of the murder he was accompanied to the Marriott Hotel in Manhattan where Rabbi Kahane was speaking by two co-conspirators, one of whom was also armed.

The two men, Bilal al-Kaisi of Jordan and Mohammed Salameh, a Palestinian illegal immigrant who was later involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, have never been charged for their part in the slaying. Salameh was jailed for the 1993 bombing, while al-Kaisi's whereabouts are unknown.

"Nosair possessed two guns and gave one of the guns to al-Kaisi," read the report. "He further stated that on the night of the murder, Kahane had just finished speaking to the crowd and Nosair said to Alkaisi that 'this is the moment,' (meaning they were going to kill him). Al-Kaisi told Nosair to 'be patient, let's take our time.'"

Nosair shot Rabbi Kahane while

he was surrounded by supporters after his speech. He escaped and shot and killed a postal worker two blocks from the hotel.

Nosair was acquitted by the jury for the murder, but convicted on weapon possession charges. An incredulous federal judge then gave him the maximum 22-year prison term.

At the time, Nosair was declared by U.S. intelligence agencies to be a lone gunman. After the WTC bombing in 1993, though, when his involvement in the emergent al-Qaida movement came to light, he was retried for "seditious conspiracy" and given a life sentence in a Supermax prison in Colorado.

Nosair later confessed to carrying out the killing in a letter written to someone making a documentary on Rabbi Kahane's life.

Freelance journalist Peter Lance came across the official FBI memos during research for an investigative article into alleged counter-terrorism blunders.