Senate bill protects Lyme doctors prescribing long course antibiotics

By John Ferro
Poughkeepsie Journal

A bill that seeks to protect doctors who treat Lyme disease with longer courses of antibiotics has made it through the state Assembly and is now before the Sen-ate.

Sponsored by state Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, D-Hudson, and state Sen. Terry Gipson, D-KRhinebeck, it would ensure doctors who choose to prescribe longer treatment regimens for Lyme disease would not be sub-ject to disciplinary action by the state.

It was passed unanimously in the Assembly on May 12.

“All we want to do is make sure the state cannot go,” Barrett said.

See BILL, Page 4A

Law curbs painkiller abuse, but sends users to heroin

By Mary Beth Pfleiffer
Poughkeepsie Journal

They started turning up in emergency rooms early last November. One after another and then another. By the time the torrent subsided in February, some 280 people had overdosed in Dutchess County from what many believed was heroin but was often street drugs laced with an exponentially stronger narcotic called fentanyl. This horrific episode, in an epidemic of addiction that is sweeping the area and nation, killed seven

See KILLERS, Page 8A

Visit PoughkeepsieJournal.com to view a special magazine-style presentation of this package, complete with video and a searchable database to help you learn more about overdose deaths in our community

A scanning electron micrograph shows the causative agent of Lyme disease. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP.
KILLERS AND PAIN: DEADLY TREND IN DUTCHESS

WHEN STATE LAW REINED IN PRESCRIPTIONS, MANY ADDICTS TURNED TO A DANGEROUS SUBSTITUTE

Continued from Page 4A

County, men, from 30 to 40 years old, from the town and city of Poughkeepsie, Warburg in Falls Village, Free born who are not one black, and one Hispanic, according to police.

The overdose deaths and arrests are parts of a longer-term resurgence of heroin, a street drug that has been prominent in cities and rural areas, in this case, tanned. But as the state set

“ADD the number of fatal drug overdoses in Dutchess County to 24 in 2012, an increase of 24% over 2011.”

[Image 64x1332 to 112x1400]

[Image 452x911 to 1261x1368]

Columnist Kim Kolodny stands in the health department’s conference room in Poughkeepsie. "People are dying from overdoses. We need to talk to the public about how to prevent heroin and prescription pains," Kolodny said.

Kolodny says the problem is not heroin users —...easy access to high-dose prescription painkillers and addicts who die over-prescribing. "It's a demon of drug abuse," Kolodny said.

Dutchess County death rate tops state trend

The rate of drug overdose deaths in Dutchess County than in Ulster and New York State. Dutchess officials say they have improved reporting since 2004 so figures may be unreliable.

Biggest change in death toll

Women had the highest rate of prescription drug deaths in New York State, the next largest increases were among young people, whites and non-New York City residents.

What they take

Deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Dutchess have risen dramatically since 2011.

In 2011, as a percent of total drug deaths:

Women 36%

Under 34, 40%

White 40%

NY State, all others 24%

Dutchess death rate tops state trend

The rate of drug overdose deaths Dutchess County than in Ulster and New York State. Dutchess officials say they have improved reporting since 2004 so figures may be unreliable.

Biggest change in death toll

Women had the highest rate of prescription drug deaths in New York State, the next largest increases were among young people, whites and non-New York City residents.

What they take

Deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Dutchess have risen dramatically since 2011.

In 2011, as a percent of total drug deaths:

Women 36%

Under 34, 40%

White 40%

NY State, all others 24%

Dutchess death rate tops state trend

The rate of drug overdose deaths Dutchess County than in Ulster and New York State. Dutchess officials say they have improved reporting since 2004 so figures may be unreliable.

Biggest change in death toll

Women had the highest rate of prescription drug deaths in New York State, the next largest increases were among young people, whites and non-New York City residents.

What they take

Deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Dutchess have risen dramatically since 2011.

In 2011, as a percent of total drug deaths:

Women 36%

Under 34, 40%

White 40%

NY State, all others 24%

Dutchess death rate tops state trend

The rate of drug overdose deaths Dutchess County than in Ulster and New York State. Dutchess officials say they have improved reporting since 2004 so figures may be unreliable.

Biggest change in death toll

Women had the highest rate of prescription drug deaths in New York State, the next largest increases were among young people, whites and non-New York City residents.

What they take

Deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Dutchess have risen dramatically since 2011.

In 2011, as a percent of total drug deaths:

Women 36%

Under 34, 40%

White 40%

NY State, all others 24%

Dutchess death rate tops state trend

The rate of drug overdose deaths Dutchess County than in Ulster and New York State. Dutchess officials say they have improved reporting since 2004 so figures may be unreliable.

Biggest change in death toll

Women had the highest rate of prescription drug deaths in New York State, the next largest increases were among young people, whites and non-New York City residents.

What they take

Deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Dutchess have risen dramatically since 2011.

In 2011, as a percent of total drug deaths:

Women 36%

Under 34, 40%

White 40%

NY State, all others 24%
PILLS APLENTY

Thousands get pain meds at center of overdose, addiction epidemic

By Mary Beth Pfeiffer
Poughkeepsie Journal

early 250,000 prescriptions for the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone were filled in Dutchess and Ulster counties last year — enough to give one prescription to more than half the adults in Dutchess and nearly three-quarters in Ulster, according to an exclusive Poughkeepsie Journal analysis of narcotic drug data provided by the New York State Department of Health. Per capita prescribing rates in both counties were above the state’s as a whole — 28 percent higher in Dutchess and 61 percent in Ulster — but in line with non-New York City

See PAINKILLERS, Page 6A

Fire destroys Rhinebeck Eveready

By Emily Stewart
Poughkeepsie Journal

RHINEBECK — The owners of the Eveready Diner, which was destroyed by a major fire Saturday afternoon, say unsure what their next step will be.

The fire was reported around noon Saturday.

Employees told firefighters the blaze started in a deep fryer in the kitchen, said Honev Campbell, public information officer for the Rhinebeck Fire Department.

“They thought they had it out. They hit it with an extinguisher,” he said. “Then it apparently flared up again. It was a huge ball of fire, they said, and it got up into the ducts... That was the beginning.

About 12 employees and some drops customers were

See EVERAEDY, Page 2A

TO OUR READERS

The weekend comics, Smart Life section and all other advertising inserts are being delivered in one package today.
Diazepam is an addictive painkiller that was the top controlled substance dispensed in Dutchess and Ulster counties in 2012.

Storing away the pain

The painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone were prescribed in 2013.

High rate of pain-pill use

Below, the rate at which the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone were prescribed in 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
<th>per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>36,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>31,416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Department of Health, United States Census Bureau, Poughkeepsie Journal analysis.

Pay for mandate

The Medical Society of the State of New York opposed the bill, saying the new law, known as the mandating law, is a mistake. An amendment to the STOP legislation passed by the New York State Senate on June 9, 2011, would have prohibited providers from billing patients for the mandate.

For more information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

For more consumer information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

Oxycodone is an addictive painkiller that was the top controlled substance dispensed in Dutchess and Ulster counties in 2012.

Source: New York State Department of Health, United States Census Bureau, Poughkeepsie Journal analysis.

Pay for mandate

The Medical Society of the State of New York opposed the bill, saying the new law, known as the mandating law, is a mistake. An amendment to the STOP legislation passed by the New York State Senate on June 9, 2011, would have prohibited providers from billing patients for the mandate.

For more information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

For more consumer information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

Oxycodone is an addictive painkiller that was the top controlled substance dispensed in Dutchess and Ulster counties in 2012.

Source: New York State Department of Health, United States Census Bureau, Poughkeepsie Journal analysis.

Pay for mandate

The Medical Society of the State of New York opposed the bill, saying the new law, known as the mandating law, is a mistake. An amendment to the STOP legislation passed by the New York State Senate on June 9, 2011, would have prohibited providers from billing patients for the mandate.

For more information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

For more consumer information, call the New York State Department of Health at 518-486-2000.

Oxycodone is an addictive painkiller that was the top controlled substance dispensed in Dutchess and Ulster counties in 2012.
Utilities, PSC claim feds made errors in imposing capacity zone

By Craig Wolf

Poughkeepsie Journal

Utility companies and New York’s Public Service Commission argue that legal errors were made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in its imposition of a costly “new capacity zone” on mid- and lower Hudson Valley electricity customers.

They have filed briefs in the U.S. Court of Appeals asking a review of FERC’s actions that they hope would result in overturning the zone, which is adding about $13 million a year to residential bills and about 10 percent to industrial bills.

The party challenging includes Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., New York State Electric & Gas Corp., Rochester Gas & Electric Corp., New York Power Au-

thority and the state Public Service Commission.

“We filed this appeal because the new capacity zone increases electrically costs to our customers without a corresponding benefit,” Central Hudson President James P. Laurito said in a news release.

“The new capacity zone was formed to address potential energy shortfalls in lower New York by sending a price signal to developers to encourage construction of new generation in the region. However, these high-erpric ebeneess came at the expense of our customers, and development of new generation will likely lag considerably, if at all,” the news release said.

Central Hudson and the PSC favor an alternative to

See APPEAL, Page 6A

THE DUTCHESS 63

Lives cut short by drug overdose

By Mary Beth Pfeiffer Poughkeepsie Journal

This is a story of a list, of thick with flawed heroes and tragedy, of 63 people, the lives they never got to finish and the reasons they died. They were mothers and fathers, the gainfully employed and not, sports and dog lovers, addicts. They all died in 2013 when they accidentally overdosed on drugs.

This is a story of Dutchess County, because that is where each one died. But it is also a story of a nation, where it is not being written or a place, where it is not being read. The outgrowth of pandemics dispersed, for years, in which governments, doctors and hospitals never knew was an uncontrolled and all too laissez-faire epidemic.

The youngest on this list of the Dutchess 63 was 19 years old— a “lifelong resident,” his obituary said, who died, records show, with the same type of overdose as his friend. Another was a man, 32, with “nepos and dreams,” his funeral notice said, unfulfilled by sudden death and, the official report said, a hidden heart problem.

There was a mailroom mechanic, a young mother who had worked with a church youth group, a medical student, a person who died in a fire, a woman who was pregnant, a man who had been a bus driver, a woman who had been a nurse.

See KILLERS, Page 6A

COMING MONDAY Faces of loss — Family members share the stories of seven people who died in 2013 from drug overdoses.

AN EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

KILLERS & PARTN 3: PORTRAIT OF AN EPIDEMIC

EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ONLINE

Visit PoughkeepsieJournal.com to view a special presentation of this package, complete with video, graphics, and photos to help you learn more about the epidemic in our community.

INSIDE

Graphic report trends in deaths via demographics, age, addiction treatment resources, GA
### Killers: Addiction doesn’t discriminate

**Continued from Page 1d**

...that overdose deaths declined from a decade earlier, federal numbers show, and prescription drug deaths tripled. If that sounds like a substantial increase, consider that overdoses in Dutchess County, including a small but not insignificant number of suicides, rose merely 58 percent in nine years, from 2011 to 2015. Of 70 people, 30 were women, 40 were men; though not necessarily by statistic alone, a substantial number were of Hispanic background. Of the 60 men, 37 of them were white, 15 were black, and 8 were Latino.

**Silent in grief**

Behind each of these 63 people, in some form or another, is a circle of people who, in some way, are part silent in their grief. Jane DeMent of Clinton County became determined to fight the silence because she felt utterly alone after her husband entered rehabilitation for a drug addiction many years ago, as a teacher who learned of the death from her husband, but ignored, of a girl she had taught earlier in middle school and high school. The former student is one of 10 20-somethings on the Dutchess list of overdose deaths.

### Resources to Help Battle Addiction

**Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education in Dutchess County**: multifaceted approach to substance abuse that devises two grass-roots community outreach focused on the reduction of stigmas above, particularly among the young people. 788 Washington Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524.

**Dutchess County Awareness Prevention and Support**: provides support to every type of addiction, especially support groups every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Town of LaGrange, Room 200, 11 Cannon Ave., Poughkeepsie, 845-485-4670.

**Leesington Center for Recovery**: nonprofit agency that treats addiction. Provides treatment for adult and young adults. 3861 Route 209 North, Ulster Park, 845-489-3950.

**Parents Supporting Parents**: Support groups organized by the Southern Dutchess Community Coalition that includes treatment, education and networking for those in crisis and their families, to fight addiction. 28 Aug. 25 and Sept. 8, 2013 at Dutchess County Mental Health Department, LaGrange Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Contact CAPE at 845-471-3811.

**Corrections of the Hudson Regional Hospital**: Inpatient and outpatient detoxification and rehabilitation. 741 Main Street, Beacon. 845-840-1000. Ext. 204. 1280 North Street, Poughkeepsie. 845-431-7000.

**Mid-Hudson Addiction Center**: Medical Detoxification Center. 766 Mid-Hudson Ave., Poughkeepsie. 845-431-7000. 50 Cannons Street, Poughkeepsie. 845-485-3852.

**Dutchess County HELP**: Crisis intervention, telephone counseling and referral. 24-hour free: 877-446-0100. Test 855-366-74.

**State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services**: Prescription drug abuse. www.sas.ny.gov.


**Family Services**: Services and advocacy. 1811 Main St., Poughkeepsie. 845-431-7000.


---

**KILLERS AND PAIN**

**6A**

They agreed, in this declined seven acknowledged stigma nary obituary north. Fishkill people increase cians to any’ NY FDA they got of Arnie admitted this is an overview of this drug reveals here and nation- wide. **Women dying**

The cuisine was a woman, in her 50s, who lived in a very elegant residence as this wave of drug abuses move from men to women, from the young to the old, from citizens to the country. The woman died with the painkiller oxycodone in her blood, the gene- ralogy of OxyContin, where they said 650 million in fines for defrauding its potential for abuse and addiction. In Dutchess, about five to 10 of the 2013 overdose victims were women. They included described in her obituary as a “proud step-by-step mom.” Nation-wide, the number of women who died from painkiller overdoses not nearly twice as the rate of men from 1999 to 2010, federal numbers show, driven by the avail- ability and acceptability of opioids, which is on the rise. In Dutchess, they say about 400 percent of the first half of the 2000s to their numbers.

**Not ‘inner-city’**

With twice as many people in Dutchess dying from overdoses as vehicle accident, this list is a snapshot of a wide- spread 21st-century pub- lic health crisis.

Consider that the dead include suburban women in their 50s, who overdosed on prescription drugs that are at the heart of this epidemic of addiction. Or that whites who died from heroin — a drug the evidence says was in pledo get scarce. Or that the dead were from 21 municipalities, from Dover Plains and Wingdale in the east to Poughkeepsie and Pawling in the south and Tivoli in the north. “This is not an inner- city problem anymore,” said a Town of LaGrange man, Arnie Bendel, whose son, Adam, is one of four 20-years-olds on this orrfial list.

Indeed, this problem is not about low-rent enclaves and dilapidated deals, though there is a goodness of that. Instead, it begins, officially say, in the family medicine clinic and with the legal pain- killer — and before they get there, with an FDA-approved, a pharmaceutical company drug, over-the-counter, marketing, and many, many doctors that prescribe.

All that a city in which pharmacy is a call for all manner of infertility, is, well, normal.

In the U.S., 40,000 peo- ple died in 2016 from drug overdoses, including 22,000 from prescription drugs. Overdose deaths doubled from a decade earlier, federal numbers show, and prescription drug deaths tripled. If that sounds like a substantial increase, consider that overdoses in Dutchess County, including a small but not insignificant number of suicides, rose merely 58 percent in nine years, from 2011 to 2015. Of 70 people, 30 were women, 40 were men; though not necessarily by statistic alone, a substantial number were of Hispanic background. Of the 60 men, 37 of them were white, 15 were black, and 8 were Latino.

Behind each of these 63 people, in some form or another, is a circle of people who, in some way, are part silent in their grief. Jane DeMent of Clinton County became determined to fight the silence because she felt utterly alone after her husband entered rehabilitation for a drug addiction many years ago, as a teacher who learned of the death from her husband, but ignored, of a girl she had taught earlier in middle school and high school. The former student is one of 10 20-somethings on the Dutchess list of overdose deaths.

See PARK, Page 7A

**6C**

**Across all lines: Accidental overdoses**

Some 60 people died of accidental drug overdoses in Dutchess County in 2013 — up from seven in 2000. Of 20 people were under 35, and 20 were women. Experts say these are indicators that spread across socioeconomic-economic.

**Comparing causes of death**

These numbers suggest that the rate of non-fatal overdoses is increasing.

**8**

**14**

**Silent in grief**

**Jan 11**

Jane DeMent of Clinton County became determined to fight the silence because she felt utterly alone after her husband entered rehabilitation for a drug addiction many years ago, as a teacher who learned of the death from her husband, but ignored, of a girl she had taught earlier in middle school and high school. The former student is one of 10 20-somethings on the Dutchess list of overdose deaths.

Source: Dutchess County Medical Examiner

**This is not an inner-city problem anymore.**

**ARNE BENDEL,** a Town of LaGrange man whose son, Adam, died at 23
ABOUT THIS SERIES

In this series, the Poughkeepsie Journal explores the intersection of drug and heroin epidemic.

Today’s article gives a face to the 83 people who died in Dutchess County in 2015 from accidental drug overdoses, a novel,igmatized killer. The victims include people not normally associated with addiction and, in particular, heroin-deaths — women, suburbanites, working people and students. The Journal will publish profiles Monday on seven area residents who died from accidental drug overdoses.

In previous installments, the Journal:
- Revealed unreported consequences of a state law that curbed prescriptions of opioid painkillers and instead drove some users to cheap, plentiful and potent synthetic opioids.
- Demonstrated extensive prescribing of two popular painkillers, which, an analysis showed, supported the list of controlled substances dispensed in 65 of 62 New York counties in 2015.
- This epidemic is a major public health crisis. This series will seek to hold medical and public officials accountable; educate the public about the dangers of this silent killer; and tell a story that has been hidden too long.

To share your contact details, contact Beth Pfifer of the Poughkeepsie Journal. Her email is: bpiffer@poughkeepsiejournal.com

In this series, the Journal explores the intersection of drug and heroin epidemic and will publish a profile of each 83 people who died from accidental drug overdoses in Dutchess County in 2015.

Pills tear families apart

Continued from Page 1A

I was talking to,” said DeLorenzo, who has formed an advocacy group called Dutchess Addiction Awareness, Prevention and Support “It’s right here in our backyard and people just aren’t really noticing because we are all afraid to come forward.”

As the numbers that is starting to change, in particular as concerned parents confront the epide- demic. John and Sarah Mar- bomore of Carmel, who lost her son, Justin, 29, before he died in 2012. “This is an ad- diction. It’s a disease. It’s not a moral defect of character.”

At an April state Sen- ate forum in Carmel, a mother, youthful with long brown hair and brown-tinted glasses, told a familiar story to about 200 people. Her son was addicted. She trudged a fierce fight for treat- ment, against myriad roadblocks. Although she had insurance for 30 days of inpatient care a year in seven years her son re- ceved just six days in a hospital. He once even signed himself into a psychi- atrist facility, they were was and desperate for help.

“Her name was Sara, who did not identify her- self, she was 19, she committed suicide by overdosing in her pant.” It’s a fact that is that this is what I have been told. The case is closed, but deter- mined suicide.

“These are his ashes. He died six weeks ago today from a drug overdose.”

DeLorenzo, 41, and Jamie’s husband, known as a former addict and drug consumer, the physical needs of the disease and the fear of go- ing without. The shaking, writhing madness that he is hard-pressed to de- scribe. Like the mother’s lack of the protection of their child, “There isn’t an add- dict that wants to want to do this stuff. At the end of the end, he has been named the state’s top public education con- sultant — and nearly his 72-month-old. There are any number of ways to do this thing. I am not a beer. These are his ashes. He died six weeks ago today from a drug overdose.”

The Links at Union Vale offers competitively priced wedding packages — and just one wedding a day, couples enjoy all of our beautiful banquet facilities and our undivided attention. Winner of the prestigious WeddingWire Bride Choice Award for four years in a row (2011-2014). The Links is premier venue in the Hudson Valley specializing in weddings. We would love to host your event!

FIVE-STAR REVIEWS FROM A FEW OF OUR BRIDES

“Where do I even begin? First and foremost, my husband and I have said that having our wedding at the Links at Union Vale was the best decision of our lives. From the beautiful outdoor ceremo- ny with the gorgeous backdrop and views, to the amazing food served during cocktail hour, we are 100% satisfied with The Links.”

“The staff at The Links at Union Vale will make your day beyond perfect. The food service is one of the best I have ever eaten, not only does the food sound amazing but it is delicious. The entire staff was professional and made sure everything went smoothly. I highly recommend choosing The Links as your venue for your wedding.”

“With a wonderful reception at the Links. Our guests all commented about what a great venue we were there, how tasty the food was, and questioned how we could afford to put on a reception like this. Little did they know that the Links is one of the best values around. Their packages include so much more for your dollar.”

“The Links was friendly, helpful and accommodating. They were great for everything and anything that can happen. Thank you so much for making one of the best days of our lives an amazing one!”

“My wish is that I could give them 10 stars! Our wedding was amazing, our guests were glowing and couldn’t even comment how professional and smooth working with them was. I wouldn’t have done a single thing differently.”

Read more of our reviews on Wedding Wire.
KILLING

“...a seven-part, 14-hour documentary made by filmmaker Ken Burns, will air on PBS beginning tonight. The opening episode, “Get Action,” spans 1850-1890. Young Theodore Roose-

vll transforms himself into a vigorous champion of the strenuous life and later becomes the youngest presi-

dent in American history at 42. Visit http://jesenets.com/online for stories, videos and photo galleries.

NIGHT 1: ‘THE ROOSEVELTS’

An ambulance driver in her 40s suffered a back injury. A medical assistant, 40, had hyper-
tension. A young mother had problem feet that school after wailing.

Each had pain. Each saw a local doctor. Each became addicted to painkillers in the same

chemical family as heroin.

“If it wasn’t so easy for me... to get Percoc-
cet, I probably never would’ve used Percocet, or heroin,” the young mother said of the pills she took for three years and the illicit drug it led to. The ambulance driver, who was on legal pills for six years, said, “I never ever said, ‘Isn’t there another way’?”

These women, who asked not to be named because of the stigma of addiction and the

challenge it presents to recovery, pass a sim-

ple question. How did they — and thousands like them — become drug-addicted under the care of licensed physicians?

The state office that oversees physicians

See POTENT PALLS, Page B8

ONLINE
To read other stories in this series on the epidemic of addiction, go to poughkeepsiejournal.com.

KILLING PAIN

Thousands die in painkiller epidemic, but state office disciplines few doctors

By Mary Beth Pfleiffer

Poughkeepsie Journal

A brother of one of Kendall Francois’ victims said news of the serial killer’s death in prison this week was still sinking in, and that he hopes the other victims’ fam-

ilies come to terms with it as well.

Francois, 43, died Thursday of natural causes at Wende Correctional Facility’s Regional Medical Unit in Erie County. The state Department of Corrections and Commu-

nication said Friday. Francois killed eight women between 1996 and 1998 and kept their re-

mains at his Township of Poughkeepsie home on Palom-Ave-

nue. He admitted to the crime June 21, 2000, and avoid-

ed the death penalty, according to Journal archives.

James Delavalo, 91, of Fishkill said his sister, Kathy Hartley, a city dweller, vanished in 1997. Her body was found with the others Sept. 2, 1998. “My brother called me last evening around 4 p.m.,” Delavalo said Saturday. “It was a bit of a surprise. I think about my sister every day but we didn’t expect him to suddenly go like that.”

Delavalo said his sister loved to read. “She was a no-

Winner or Loser

Francois: raccoon reader, very intelligent. She turned me on to Richard Brautigan, a lot of the beat writers (Jack Kerouac, some [Allen] Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs),” he said.

There was a feeling of justice when Francois was sentenced, now it’s more of a numbness, he said.

Margarette Marsh, the mother of victim Catherine Anne Marsh, told the Journal she hoped to hear an apol-

ogy when she visited Francois in prison in 2008. She never got one, but forgave him, nonetheless.

Francois’ six other victims were Gena Barone, Sandie French, Cau-

tina Newmaster, Wendy Meyers, Mary Giacomo and Audrey Pugliese.

Emily Stewart: 845-437-4802, estewart@poughkeepsie-

journal.com; Twitter: @EmilyStewart

Killer’s death surprises victim’s brother

By Emily Stewart

Poughkeepsie Journal

The Roosevelt...
POTENTIAL PILLS OVERPRESCRIBED, EXPERTS SAY, BUT FEW STATE DISCIPLINARY CASES RESULT

Continued From Page 1A

hase a more potent potential for abuse than the public by investigating professional discipline issues," among doctors and their assistants. But an exclusive Poughkeepsie Journal review of cases brought to the state's professional disciplinary authorities shows that the state board has only recorded a handful of cases in which the state has taken disciplinary action at the state’s height to curb the overprescribing or the caseload count it brought. Since 2007, the state board has filed about 1,000 complaints against doctors and has paid doctors from 2010 alone — in what is considered the nation's worst recorded drug epidemic. In 2012, the state board paid out more than $1.8 million in attorneys fees to doctors. For every 2 new York State doctors, rates were higher in Dutchess County, where 5,000 people died from accidental drug overdose last year, up from 2,000 in 2002. Currently, there are cases being filed against doctors who had no way to check whether patients had received doses and were being charged. Much of this information has been obtained from drug-related deaths. But what has been part of the problem, legislature, health officials and treatment experts agree, is the state's lack of effective drug rehabilitation programs. Dutchess County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Leland, for example, has said that the state is cited most frequently by the state for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified. Physicians have been cited for prescribing patients inappropriately, for a lack of treatment options that may have been specified.
Physician misconduct: State responds

By Mary Beth Plouffier

Below are responses from the New York state Department of Health to the Poughkeepsie Journal questions on the issue of oversight of physicians for noncompliance related to opioid pill-pumping prescribing. The state data and statement addresses activities of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, which monitors non-physician practitioners and 10,000 physicians whose licenses are currently in the state.

Editorial comment sought by the Journal: On a Journal story stating that 32 physicians were sanctioned for prescribing problems in five years at the height of the epidemic is. Whether OPMD is doing enough, relies too much on the data and measures prescribing data to investigate, issues over-prescribing to physicians, and is limited in its ability to pursue cases.

New York’s efforts to curb over-prescribing, including the use of the upstate New York Monitoring Program, has garnered the attention of many, including Frederick University’s Heller School of Professional Management, which runs the Center for Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

All, at the request of Dr. Tom Frieden, the Department of Health recently included an OPMCD meeting New York City in which Dr. Frieden’s presentation was discussed. The multi-faceted discussion included 32 physicians and over-prescribing, specialties of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, OCPM, and the Department of Health.

Comment sought by the Journal: On the Journal story stating that 32 physicians were sanctioned for prescribing problems in five years at the height of the epidemic is. Whether OPMD is doing enough, relies too much on the data and measures prescribing data to investigate, issues over-prescribing to physicians, and is limited in its ability to pursue cases.

Poughkeepsie Journal’s response: The OPMD conducts thorough and comprehensive investigations. The time required to complete an investigation varies depending on the circumstances of the case.

From 2013 to 2013, the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, part of the state Department of Health, brought prescribing-related misconduct charges against 32 of some 90,000 licensed physicians, a study showed. Of those, just four lost their licenses.
John Jay Patriots win, head to regional

SEAN T. MCMAHAN Poughkeepsie Journal

MARSHALL — The Patriots will continue their historic ride. Saturday’s 13-3 victory in the Section 1 Class AA championship game earned John Jay High School’s football team Dutchess County’s first-ever state sectional crown, sending the Poughkeepsie Journal to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association tournament.

“It’s amazing: it’s one of the best feelings ever,” junior quarterback Ryan Schumacher said after throwing two touchdowns at Mahopac High School. “This is something we worked for; for months now, and I’m proud of all the guys.”

The victory was one of several by local Hudson Valley athletic teams on Saturday, as the Mahopac football team earned a Section 1 Class B championship, Arlington runner Kyle Harris won the state girls cross-country title, and the Arlington girls cross-country team placed third.

“I feel blessed to be given the opportunity to play in this game with my family,” said senior Joe Lazzaro, who caught John Jay’s second scoring pass. “We’ve been playing together since we were 3 years old. So to come out and win a sectional title, it means the world to me.”

VIDEO, PHOTOS ONLINE
Visit www.poughkeepsiejournal.com for video and a photo gallery of John Jay’s victory and other Saturday events.

INSIDE SPORTS
Arlington’s Bella Bunda wins state cross country title, Mahopac earns football crown, and more.

John Jay High School football’s Shawn Casey salutes the crowd after winning the Section 1 Class AA title by defeating Arlington on Saturday in Mahopac.
Prescription sale a lesser crime than illegally selling drugs

Doctors who deal

Below is a sampling of 26 cases concluded since 2009 of doctors in New York who diverted addictive painkillers to illicit market.

Michael Brizer, 60, Nyack (Rockland County), psychiatrist
Sentence: Probation, $42,712 assessment for unpaid taxes, $5,000 fine
Case: In 2011 and 2012, “Brizer charged his customers up to $300 each time he sold them prescriptions in the name of fake patients, ultimately selling prescriptions for several million dollars worth of pills.” Admitted to underreporting his income by it lost $490,000.

William Conway, 70, Baldwin (Nassau County), internist
Case: From 2009 to 2011, Conway issued more than 5,500 prescriptions for oxycodone to patients “who the doctor knew were addicts and without performing any meaningful medical examinations...” Two patients died of oxycodone overdoses in 2011 within 6 weeks of getting prescriptions.

Richard Morgan, 35, Massapequa (Nassau County), family medicine
Sentence: 14 years in prison, drug treatment
Case: Morgan wrote more than 2,000 prescriptions for oxycodone and other narcotic-controlled substances in 2006 and 2007 for individuals who were not actual patients. “One man paid about $6,000 per month for the same” for years.

Martin Roginsky, 82, Rockville Centre (Nassau County), internist
Sentence: 3 years probation, $93,000 fine
Case: Roginsky was permitted to plead guilty in 2012 to misdemeanor diversion of prescription medications and prescriptions, on which he made $231,000 in profits. (Died in November 2012, seven months after sentencing.)

*Excerpts are from government charges and statements of the case. Other information from court and government documents. Age is when charged. Sources: Law-enforcement agencies, U.S. Attorney's offices, Nassau County district attorney.

Punishing the pushers

About a third of doctors charged criminally in painkiller distribution cases got no time behind bars. The pie chart shows the range of sentences in 26 cases in New York of doctors convicted of illegal diversion of controlled substances.

License

Continued from Page 1A

Dr. Shai Plusman "has been dispensed up to 700 oxycodone pills per month to a single individual. This criminal activity is believed to have spanned a number of years," the announcement said.

Robert Rachlis, Hampton's attorney, said the physician, a native of Flan- ders practicing in New York since 1983, was "not well educated in any such prescribing practice" and "was using prescriptions to supply oxycodone pills to an individual." The criminal activity is believed to have spanned a number of years, the announcement said.

The doctor received "mandatory imprisonment," according to the announcement.

Sentence: Hampton pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to a term of ten years to life in prison. He "is alleged to have been a vendor of oxycodone pills in numerous transactions to Diverted legitimate prescriptions to patient clients." The announcement said.

*Defendants were sentenced from 2009 to 2014. In three cases, sentences were reported in ranges; the maximum was used. In one, 18 months was served a maximum of four years; in another, two years eight months was served a maximum of three years. Source: Poughkeepsie Journal

Dr. Mikhail Ostaf in Management, Suffolk County, pleaded guilty to 2009 in a case in which law-enforcement officials said he used "large quantities of oxycodone and dangerous narcotics worth millions of dollars on the black market." Now AIA, he sentenced to three years in prison and paid $944,980.

Avoiding a PR and Financial Nightmare: Employee Class Action Lawsuits

Breakfast briefing brought to you by Bond Schoenfeld & King and the Council of Industrial Relations

November 20, 2014
Dutchess Golf Club
Poughkeepsie

B: 8:30 – 9:00 Registration – Breakfast Continental – 9:00 – 10:00 – Breakout Sessions – 10:00 – 11:00 – Breakout Sessions – 11:00 – 11:15 – Wrap-up & Networking

Visit www.bsk.com for additional information and to register.
SEE LOCAL GRADS

Did you miss a high school graduation over the weekend? Want to see how other schools celebrated their graduates? The Poughkeepsie Journal was at 18 local public high school graduations Thursday through Saturday. See articles, photos, videos and more at http://pjunews.co/pjgrad2014. And use #pjunad14

SEE LOCAL GRADS

Astorino tosses, and takes, barbs

By Joseph Spoor
Albany Times-Union

ALBANY — Republican gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino has labeled Gov. Andrew Cuomo a tax cheat and charged that Cuomo is aligned with New York City “radicals.”

He does almost daily online videos blasting Cuomo on a variety of issues and has constantly been a candidate soon after he was re-elected to a second term last November as Westchester County executive.

But two-thirds of New York voters don’t know who Astorino is, including 70 percent in his own party. At June 8 Nassau College poll found 23 percent of the political season still as a major underdog against Cuomo.
A young mom on a ‘bad path’ was ‘looking to do the best she could do’

By Phil Strum

of the Poughkeepsie Journal

Christina Spinnny liked volunteering in a church youth group in her teens and helping in her community — the reason her mother wants her to help too.

The school-board houses up, paint people’s houses, paint their porches,” Spinnny recalled of her daughter’s life in the struggle.

Christina Spinnny of the City of Poughkeepsie, 23, who is a recovering addict, said her daughter, Bendel, is such a strong woman that she just went for it and did what she had to do.

Bendel Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Bendel Spinnny, who lives in Putnam, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.

Spinnny, who lives in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County, at the age of 16, was the first of her children, and her mother’s daughter, 12 and 15. “She was a strong-willed woman who just did what she had to do for her family,” Spinnny said.
By Nina Schutzmanschutzmanjournal.com

Fishkill teen killed; ‘unsafe speed’ a factor

FISHKILL—She’ll be remembered as happy and energetic, a popular student and someone who liked to laugh.

A one-car accident claimed the life of 18-year-old Staci Dolfini, a Fishkill resident, on Saturday afternoon, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office announced.

Another passenger in the vehicle, Spencer Eisenhardt, 21, of Wappingers Falls, “sustained life-threatening injuries” and was in critical condition at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

“Unsafe speed is thought to be a significant factor,” said Staci’s father, who was not identified, “and alcohol involvement,” the sheriff’s office said.

See CRASH, Page 6A

Flowers are placed near B asterburn Road in memory of Staci Dolfini, 18, who was killed in a fatal accident on Saturday. (Photo)

$20 COSTS MAN HIS LIFE

By Mary Beth Pfeiffer

Four days after getting out of drug rehab late last year, a 38-year-old man from Poughkeepsie made a fatal error. With $20 from his mother — to go to the movies, he told her — he bought a drug that would lead to his death.

The man, whom authorities asked to remain anonymous, was found dead of a drug overdose on Monday in the City of Poughkeepsie in the bathroom of an apartment where a teenager was living.

A packet of Fentanyl Transdermal was confiscated by the Dutchess County Drug Task Force and photographed at the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, SP 100.

See FENTANYL, Page 2A

Teachout sees ‘opening’ vs. Cuomo

Fordham professor hopes to capitalize on unease among the left

By Jon Campbell

ALBANY — The way Zephyr Teachout sees it, there’s an opening this year for a race for governor.

Since Gov. Andrew Cuomo took office in 2011, New York has legalized same-sex marriage, passed one of the toughest gun-control laws in the country and increased the minimum wage.

But he’s also pushed to decrease taxes on banks and corporations, started tax-free zones for certain businesses and failed to implement changes to the state’s public campaign-finance laws.

In a recent interview, Teachout — 42-year-old Fordham law professor and former assistant district attorney in New York City — said she hopes to be the opening he seeks.

Teachout on Thursday submitted what she said is the first petition signatures.

More than 125,000 must be gathered in time to appear on the primary ballot in March.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Petitions can be challenged for errors and validity questions by both the governor and a, when the state primary ballot is certified. The state-level primary election is set for Sept. 9, with a general election scheduled for Nov. 8. Candidates for state and local office face a July 15 deadline to file updated campaign finance figures, which will show how much they raised and spent over the last six months.

The 45,000 petition signatures from New York Democrats, three times the number necessary to force a primary against Cuomo. With the help of volunteer lawyers, Teachout said her campaign is prepared to defend the petitions from potential legal challenges.

“We’re quite ready,” Teachout said in a telephone in-
ed drugs that officials now report claimed 10 lives last fall, roughly in line with a high, according to new figures provided to the Poughkeepsie Journal. The previous count had put the total at 12.

Prosecutors arrested two men last month on charges that they sold crack and heroin, and at least three deaths, including two in Dutchess County. How- ever, the new tally does not include at least one death cited in the arrests — that of a 20-year-old Poughkeepsie man living in a homeless shelter who was found dead in a village park near a fire hydrant. So while his death was not included in the figures released to the Journal, it does fit the department’s definition of drug deaths. As of Monday, the actual Dutchess toll from fentanyl may be 15.

The other fentanyl death in the case — involving so- called “fentanyl overdoses” — occurred when a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy began breathing normally after an overdose, police said. The man died the day after his overdose from the drug.

A Doctor's Warning

The Journal is one of the few media organizations that tracks actual drug and drug death statistics. It is an effort to bring the epidemic to public awareness.

May 23, 2023

The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.

The Journal tracks fentanyl deaths, which are a subset of drug overdose deaths, to bring attention to the ongoing crisis. The Journal’s fentanyl death toll has risen to 17, including one related to the fentanyl overdose that took the life of a 29-year-old man who was a regular customer of a local pharmacy. The death was related to a fentanyl overdose, with the victim being found unresponsive and breathing normally after being given naloxone.
IBM’s ‘Roadmap’ assailed

CRAIG WOLF
POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

A workers’ group says IBM Corp.’s ‘Roadmap’ to $20 billion in earnings per share of stock did plenty of damage.

Executives on Monday formally dropped the goal of housing annual operating earnings in $20 billion per share by 2025 as they laid out a host of troubles and pledged to do more to shift strategies, work faster and cut costs—including more employees.

The company formally admitted Roadmap 2015, or as employees called, ‘Roadkill 2013,’ ‘is a failure,’ said the

DRUG DEATHS FLOW IN WAVES

34 confirmed: ‘We will lose too many more kids if this continues’

MARY BETH PFUEFER
POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

When Matthew Robert Byer, 26, was laid to rest last week after a church service in Hopewell Junction, his family joined dozens of others in 2014 that share a tragic legacy. They are the parents, grandparents and siblings of people who died in Dutchess County of drug overdoses.

‘I miss him so much,’ said Byrne’s mother, Barbara. ‘He was frightened to die…. He couldn’t turn away from it.’

Byer’s sudden ascent started when he broke up with crushed oxycodone pills. Dutchtel said, and added, pending an autopsy report, with heroin she said he obtained the day he died.

See DRUGS, Page 2A

Court rules Vassar College’s permit for deer culling in 2012 was valid

JOHN FERRO
POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

A state appellate panel has affirmed a lower court decision that allowed Vassar College to go ahead with its plan to cull deer on its farm and ecological preserve in 2012.

The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by a Town of Poughkeepsie woman and a California-based animal rights group. The lawsuit claimed the state Department of Environmental Conservation was required to do a more extensive environmental review prior to issuing a permit to Vassar to kill as many as 62 deer on the property.

On Dec. 21, 2012, state Supreme Court Justice James Reynolds Jr. ruled Vassar was not required to do an environmental review but did have to consider the risk to the deer. On Wednesday, the state Appellate Division, Second

See DEER, Page 4A
Drugs

Continued from Page 1A

just as it did in 2013, an epidemic of heroin addiction has swept through the town, according to interviews with physicians, law-enforcement officers, and city leaders. The latest data, which covers the first two months of 2016, show that heroin deaths have increased by 50 percent from the same period last year.

In recent years, Poughkeepsie has been an idyllic place to live, with a low crime rate and a reputation for being a safe place to raise children. But the drug epidemic has changed that perception, said Dr. Craig Rothfeld, a psychiatrist and addiction specialist at the Hudson Valley Hospital Center.

"Poughkeepsie has been a place where people could live their lives without worrying about drug addiction," Rothfeld said. "But now, it's a different story."

The increase in heroin deaths is just one of the many challenges facing the city. In recent years, Poughkeepsie has seen a rise in unemployment, a decline in the number of young people, and a decrease in the number of businesses.

But despite these challenges, there are signs of hope. The city has implemented a number of programs to address the drug epidemic, including a drug court program and a community-based treatment program.

"We're making progress," Rothfeld said. "But there's still a long way to go."
Common Core forum planned in Wappingers

NINA SCHUTZMAN
POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

WAPPINGERS FALLS — A long-awaited Wappingers Central School District Common Core forum is set for Wednesday night.

Educational experts and community members will “discuss potential advantages and concerns” about the standards, according to event information. The forum is open to the public and attendees from outside the district can attend. It has taken more than a year after a previous controversy over Common Core to get to this point. Some parents started vying for a 20-minute presentation on the educational standards in September-

but citing a number of reasons — and following a Poughkeepsie Forum attended by state Education Department Commissioner John King, in

If you go
What: Common Core forum
Where: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12
Where: Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls

For all Wappingers school district news and live updates visit:
https://www.facebook.com/
ninaschutzman

See CORE, Page 2A

"Friend" or follow reporter
Nina Schutzman

"Zero Down, Zero Hassle!"

No need to suit up, we're Friendly!

2015 Accord LX+ 4 DR Auto
$19,995

×

Friendly Honda

401 E. Main St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Friendly Honda

5.99% Financing Available 24/7 on all 2015 Vehicles!

1-888-FRIENDLY

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

758-7-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

236-26-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

758-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

236-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

758-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

236-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

758-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

236-33-33

Friendly Honda

1-888-FRIENDLY

758-33-33

Friendly Honda