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General Stories

Tobacco Control Partners of Lo Hud Valley Honor Local Business People at 'No Thanks' Event

Honorees helped achieve goal of reducing tobacco exposure and promotion in their communities

POW'R Against Tobacco, a community partnership coalition made up of local organizations, advocacy groups and private citizens who live or work in Putnam, Orange, Westchester and Rockland counties, along with POW'R Cessation Center, Reality Check Youth Action Partners and Tobacco Free Schools, will be recognizing the efforts of six local business owners, notfor profit organizations, county government leaders and community advocates for helping the organization to reach its goal of reducing tobacco use and exposure in the Lower Hudson Valley.

The timing for this recognition event coincidentally ties in with the new NYS tobacco tax increase that will be going into effect June 3rd. The largest state cigarette tax increase ever enacted gives the Tobacco Control Partners of the Lower Hudson Valley an enormous opportunity to promote smoking cessation, if not only for health benefits, but for personal financial benefits, as well. In an already tight economy, having to pay significantly more for each pack of cigarettes may be the motivation smokers in the Lower Hudson Valley need to quit.

Rachel M. Iverson, MA, associate director of the Tobacco Control Program at the New York State Department of Health, will kick off the recognition event ceremony (she and Danielle Heller, regional director of prevention and early detection from the American Cancer Society, as well as Kevin O'Flaherty, director of the Northeastern region of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, will also be on hand to comment on the new tobacco tax increase and what they are doing to handle the expected influx of calls to the NYS Quitline).

The colorful, key note address will be given by Rene Hicks, comedian and lung cancer survivor.

2008 Honorees include:

-Sal Zuccaro, North Brewster Deli (Putnam) - eliminated the sale of tobacco products from his store despite the loss of revenue it would cause

-Orange Regional Medical Center (Orange) - entire campus went smoke-free

-Mamie Duncan-Gibbs, Youth Theatre Interactions (Westchester) - signed the No Thanks, Big Tobacco Policy and will not accept sponsorship or funding from tobacco companies

-Marion Breland Oswald, Reachout Haverstraw (Rockland) - helped POW'R Against Tobacco to reach its Point-of-Purchase (POP) initiative

2008 Trail Blazer Awards:

-Scott C. Vanderhoef, Rockland County Executive - signed legislation banning smoking in private cars with children under the age of 18

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COLD SPRING TRIATHLON
SPRINT DISTANCE
Saturday, June 14, 2008
RACE START: 9:00AM

KAYAK 1 Mile Paddle the historic Hudson River surrounded by stunning vistas of Storm King Mountain.	BIKE 12 Miles Cycle a challenging loop on country roads through the lush Hudson Highlands to the quaint village of Garrison and back to Cold Spring.	RUN 3 Miles Complete the circuit with a trail run through the cozy village of Cold Spring and the natural beauty of Little Stony Point Park.
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All proceeds go to The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and The Chief Michael Shortell Memorial Fund

The race starts and finishes at the Cold Spring waterfront amidst the astonishing natural beauty of the mountains, water and rugged shores that surround this "jewel" of the Hudson Valley. Race Day check-in begins at 7:00 AM. There will be a post-race party on the waterfront with music, food and beverages. The event will be held RAIN OR SHINE! There is ample free parking at Metro North Parking Lot.

If you need a kayak, Hudson Valley Outfitters in Cold Spring is available for kayak rental. Contact HVO, 845-268-0221 early, before they close out. Their website is: www.hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Teams or individuals can register online at active.com
Registration fees are \$30.00 for individuals and \$50 for teams.
For more info, go to: www.coldspringtriathlon.org or call 845-265-4185



Friends of Desmond Fish Library

BOOK SALE 2008

Friday, August 15 - Monday, August 25

OPENING NIGHT PARTY
Friday, August 15th, 7-9pm
(Members Only for Opening Night, but you can join at the door! New Members Welcomed!)

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-DeCicco Markets (Westchester/Rockland) - stopped selling tobacco products in six grocery stores

The event will take place on May 29, 2008, 12-2pm at the Thayer Hotel, West Point.

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MAJESTY GRACE
(Our Land of Majesty and Grace)

PEACE and blessing on this earth
this land of majesty and grace
forged with strength and spirit strong
the hour of peril we now face.

HOPE in that which must unite
a noble cause to keep us free
a call to defeat the common foe
to stay the course, a fervent plea.

STRENGTH of will and resolute mind
to fight against what man has wrought
our nation strong has heard the call
to heed what troubled past has taught.

OUR land of majesty and grace
the cause of freedom will not fail
forged with strength and spirit strong
peace and blessing will prevail.

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majestygrace@yahoo.com

This poem is dedicated to the volunteer American soldier, many of whom have given their lives to defend our freedom and to defeat our enemies. We have an obligation and duty to them all to support them and honor their sacrifice.
MEMORIAL DAY 2006

If you can send me in disseminating this poem to members of the U.S. Armed Forces overseas and at home in hospitals/etc, please contact me.



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NYACS: Cigarette Tax Will Boost Tax Evasion Epidemic

Posted on Tuesday, 3 of June , 2008 at 10:07 pm

ALBANY—Cigarettes went up another \$1.25 a pack in New York State Tuesday with the implementation of an additional excise tax which supporters claim will help smokers quit and prevent youth from starting. But opponents don't agree. Rather than compelling New Yorkers to quit smoking, the June 3 cigarette tax increase will cause millions of smokers to shift their purchases to unlicensed, unregulated, untaxed sources of supply.

"Sadly, it's just going to feed the cigarette tax evasion epidemic that the State of New York has allowed to run rampant for the past 10 years," said James Calvin, president of the New York Association of Convenience Stores.

"New York already loses \$1 billion annually due to 'tax free' sales by Internet vendors, Native American tribal stores, and black market entrepreneurs," he said. "Half the smokers in New York State admit buying from these outlets. The tax hike nearly doubles the incentive for the rest of them to follow suit."

NYACS predicts the intensified tax evasion stampede will be disastrous for state revenues, public health, and small businesses. They say:

–It will hinder, rather than help, anti-smoking efforts by driving more sales to outlets beyond the reach of tobacco regulation, such as monitoring by state or local health departments to detect and punish sales of cigarettes to children.

–It will annihilate what's left of the mom-and-pop convenience store trade, which already is experiencing a cash-flow crisis due to skyrocketing wholesale prices for the motor fuel they buy 10,000 gallons at a time. Their reward for getting a license to sell tobacco products, complying with all state regulations, collecting and remitting taxes, providing employment, risking capital, and working seven days a week is a state tax policy that chases their cigarette customers away.

The Schiavo Case Uncovered



Investigative journalist, June Maxam unravels the tangled web of the Terri Schiavo case.

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–It will ultimately generate less revenue, not more. Partly due to consumption declines, but primarily due to tax evasion, the state collects less cigarette excise tax today at \$1.50 per pack than it did in 2001 when the tax rate was 39 cents a pack lower.

NYACS says that as more smokers shift their purchases to tax-free outlets to avoid the tax hike, the state will lose not only the new \$1.25 but the original \$1.50 as well.

If the State of New York were collecting the cigarette taxes it's supposed to, there wouldn't be any need for a tax hike. By law, the Tax Department is required to collect the excise tax on the vast quantities of cigarettes and motor fuel sold by Native American tribal stores to non-Native American customers. But the department, shirking its constitutional responsibility, refuses to do so, promoting lawlessness and costing the state \$600 million per year in lost revenue, NYACS says.

To read economist Brian O'Connor's analysis of cigarette tax revenue loss due to tax evasion, visit www.nyacs.org/08Oconnorreport The American Lung Association's "State Of Tobacco Control Report Card" gave New York State only a "C" for the tax on cigarettes in January, when the excise tax on cigarettes in New York State was \$1.50. Before this raise, 15 states placed ahead of New York. Now, the current tax of \$2.75 is the highest of any state in the nation and would give New York an "A" for tobacco tax on the State of Tobacco Control Report Card."Making smoking expensive and inconvenient saves lives," said Maureen Kenney, director of POW'R Against Tobacco, a coalition made up of organizations and private citizens who live or work in Putnam, Orange, Westchester and Rockland counties. 6-03-08Comments or questions? Do you have a news tip? Email us at news@northcountrygazette.org Help keep NCG on the Web. Sign up today via PayPal for the NCG Daily News Digest for the special price of \$5.95 for 3 months. Offer expires on June 15, 2008. Or, patronize our affiliate advertisers to the right of this article. With every order placed through the NCG website, a commission is realized.

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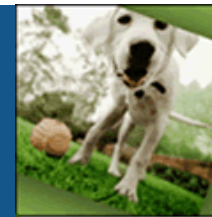
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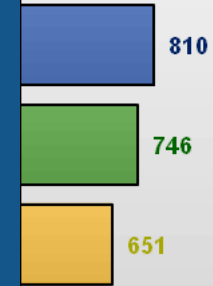


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