

Narcan training to prevent OD deaths

Part of class at Stony Brook as problem spirals

BY JOHN ASBURY

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After her brother's fatal overdose six years ago, Stony Brook resident Allison Van Cott-McEntee vowed to do whatever possible to prevent others from meeting the same fate.

As part of that effort, Van Cott-McEntee, took a class five years ago while enrolled at Stony Brook University on the sociology of alcohol and drug abuse. Van Cott-McEntee said her brother's death devastated her but, along with the Stony Brook class, spurred her to do more.

On Wednesday, Van Cott-McEntee, who now runs a non-profit to raise awareness of opioid addiction and treatment, returned to the class, taught by Stony Brook University Professor Catherine Marrone. Van Cott-McEntee helped lead a training session on how to use naloxone — known by its brand name, Narcan — to revive overdose victims, and discuss the plight of her brother, Steven Van Cott,

whose life had been saved multiple times by the drug before his fatal overdose.

As part of the training, students as well as faculty and campus police officers taking part were given two 4 mg Narcan nasal spray cartridges that can be administered to instantly reverse the brain's receptors to opioids.

"Losing my brother was the hardest thing in my life. It was like losing a son. We tried to help so many times and my family will never be the same," Van Cott-McEntee said. "I know he's with me and rooting for this cause and I feel I'm on a mountain top screaming this out to people."

The Narcan training Wednesday was delivered by Steve Chassman, executive director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

He said Narcan kits saved 1,500 lives on Long Island last year. Similar training has been completed by Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead. Last month the U.S. Food and Drug Administration made Narcan available over the counter at participating pharmacies.

Narcan is otherwise harmless and ineffective for any treatment other than opioids, including fentanyl, Chassman said. Anyone



Steve Chassman, of the LI Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, speaks to a Stony Brook class.

who suspects an overdose should first dial 911. A New York State law shields callers from an arrest when reporting a drug overdose.

Symptoms of a narcotics overdose include loss of consciousness as well as blue lips and fingernails due being deprived of oxygen. Chassman said It can sometimes take up to three hours before an overdose leads to death.

Between 2021 to 2022, there were 107,000 overdose deaths nationally, primarily due to fentanyl mixed with recreational

drugs like cocaine, which have been advanced by cartels into pressed pills like oxycodone or ecstasy. He said fentanyl is 50,000 times more potent than morphine.

"Last year was the most tragic year in substance or opioid fatalities," he said. "Fentanyl has penetrated the national drug supply."

Chassman called many fentanyl deaths poisonings, not overdoses. He said the milligrams of fentanyl that can be fatal have led to deaths of unsuspecting users such as six traced to fentanyl-laced cocaine on the East

End in 2021.

"Fentanyl is in everything," Chassman said. "These drugs work in the short term, but we've got to find a healthier coping strategy."

Kurtis Hall, 31, of East Setauket, said he has been sober for nearly seven years, but said he was saved by Narcan after nine overdoses in a four-month period.

"I am somebody who's been revived by Narcan," he said. "I think knowing it's out there and easily available and having these events to train people is huge."

clear that Rallis not have access to a smartphone. During the investigation, Scotti said, law enforcement discovered photographs Rallis had taken at stores around his community of the "backsides of females."

"Including females that appeared to be children," Scotti said.

Rallis held a variety of roles in the Southold Town building department. A 2017 candidate for town assessor, he resigned from his role with the town's Democratic committee in 2019 after receiving criticism for calling on town residents to boycott businesses that openly supported Republican candidates for office.

Ex-Scout leader pleads guilty to child porn

BY GRANT PARPAN

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A former longtime Southold Town employee and Greenport Boy Scout leader pleaded guilty Wednesday in Central Islip federal court to child pornography charges.

Damon Rallis, 48, a one-time vice chair of the town Democratic committee and its 2015 candidate for town supervisor, admitted distributing child pornography, telling United States District Court Judge Joan Azrack that on two occasions in April 2020 he "possessed and distributed images and videos containing child pornography,"

in a chat with another person.

Rallis became a target in the federal investigation after he unknowingly exchanged explicit images of children with an undercover FBI agent, court records show.

He was arrested following an FBI raid of his Southold home in February 2021. The raid turned up multiple "disturbing" images of male youths in "explicit" poses, according to documents. At Wednesday's hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul G. Scotti said those images involved children between 4 and 8 years old.

During the search, FBI agents seized a camera located in a bathroom of Rallis' home and an-

gled so a viewer could watch someone using the toilet, prosecutors said at his 2021 arraignment. Rallis admitted to investigators during the search of his home that he had deleted child pornography from his computer, prosecutors said at the time.

Following Rallis' plea, Azrack agreed to end the strict home detention he had been confined to since his arrest, despite Scotti's objection.

"The house arrest was in place because unlike some other child pornography defendants that commit these crimes in their basement, and they're reclusive, this defendant was not a recluse, he was out in the

community," Scotti argued. "This is someone who purposely put himself in a position to be around young children, who were also people that we now know from this that he was sexually attracted to."

Azrack said Rallis faces a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 20 years in prison. Scotti said the estimated sentencing guidelines are for him to serve between 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 13 $\frac{2}{3}$ years behind bars.

Rallis will be monitored by GPS under the new conditions, which allow him to leave his house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, the judge said.

Scotti asked Azrack to make it



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