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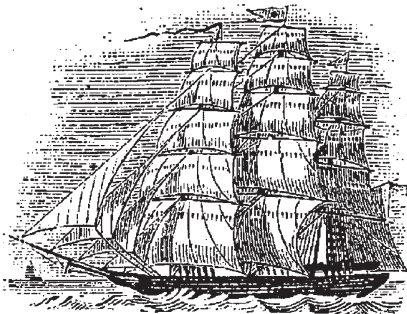
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The Observer

NORTHPORT'S COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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AED, CPR, teamwork save a life

By David Ambro

When a Smithtown man visiting Northport High School for a New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) concert Friday, November 17 fell on the floor in the hallway of the athletic wing not breathing and without a pulse, a team of responders went quickly to work to save his life, as they have been trained to do.

Working as a team, they deployed an automated external defibrillator (AED) while simultaneously exercising cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and together they were able to revive the victim as a team of police and paramedics quickly arrived to take over the lifesaving effort.

Northport High School social studies teacher and assistant basketball coach Michael Greenblatt was part of the team that initiated the rescue effort. During an interview Monday, November 20, he described what happened.

"It was kind of wild because as any of these situations would, it just came out of nowhere," Mr. Greenblatt said.

The NYSSMA concert was in the auditorium. Down the hall the Northport boys' basketball team was practicing in the late time slot in the gym with Mr. Greenblatt and head coach Andrew D'Eloia. The practice was winding down, Mr. Greenblatt puts it at about 6:40 p.m.

"We were in the main gym, the doors were closed, our guys were in the last part of practice and all of a sudden we heard bang, bang, bang on the door," he

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FAMILY AFFAIR: At Port of Beauty, located at 809 Fort Salonga Road in Northport Village, Nancy Weber (center) is joined by her children Phil Weber, Jr. and Sharon Lavoie to cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the launch of their new spa business. The official opening of Port of Beauty, which features the revolutionary Genesis One Laser system, will be November 30. Local elected officials were at the ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, November 15 to present Mrs. Weber and Ms. Lavoie with certificates of recognition for their new business venture.

-David Ambro photo

Port of Beauty set to launch

New Northport spa will feature state-of-the-art Genesis One Laser

By David Ambro

Billed as a new luxury spa nestled in the quaint Village of

Northport, a ribbon cutting was held November 15 at Port of Beauty at 809 Fort Salonga Road (Route 25A), which will officially open its doors to customers Thursday, November 30.

The business is a mother/daughter partnership of Nancy Weber and Sharon Lavoie. While it will offer as its core services a variety of facials, waxing and massage therapy, Port of Beauty will also feature the revolutionary Genesis One Laser skin treatment, technology designed, engineered and built by Oxford educated NASA contract engineer Dr. Antonio Casalini.

During an interview at the spa before the ribbon cutting, Ms. Lavoie and her brother, former NBA coach Phil Weber, Jr., talked about Port of Beauty generally and the Genesis system specifically.

Ms. Lavoie said the system will

be used for anti-aging and body contouring. She said her brother introduced her to Genesis One CEO Michael Keyes in Florida and they bought a system for their Northport home for pain management. She said it was such a success at their home that they wanted to introduce it to the Northport community. She said the Genesis One system will be an add-on to the other services provided at Port of Beauty.


Mr. Weber said Port of Beauty will be the first salon in this section of the country with the technology and that it is rejuvenating in many different ways. "The lasers here are state-of-the-art. There are only four places that have them and none north of St. Petersburg, Florida," he said.

According to Mr. Weber, the

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Teamwork results in latest save with AED

(Continued from page 1) said. "It was a loud slamming. We didn't know what it was." Mr. Greenblatt and Mr. D'Eloia saw people at the windows of the gym doors. "We saw hands in the windows frantically motioning to us to come over. We bolted over there."

They arrived in the hallway to find the man down near the nurse's office. Mr. Greenblatt said he and Mr. D'Eloia are lucky to be trained by a faculty colleague, Tracey Braun, in first aide, CPR and AED techniques. He said the training kicks in like muscle memory and they sprang into action as they have been trained to do.

According to Mr. Greenblatt, Mr. D'Eloia took charge of the scene with "a calm demeanor and firm decisiveness." He pointed to someone and told them to call 911, he directed Mr. Greenblatt to get the AED on the wall by the nurse's office and he went to the side of the victim.

Mr. Greenblatt said they confirmed the man was not breathing and had no pulse. He unpacked the AED and brought it to the victim's side. As they prepared to deploy the AED, Deidre Pettit, a nurse from the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Islip Career Center, at the school for the concert, announced she was a nurse and began to help them. "We became a three person team at that point," Mr. Greenblatt said.

Ms. Pettit started chest compressions and Mr. D'Eloia began placing the AED pads on the man's chest. Ms. Pettit asked Mr. Greenblatt to take over the chest compressions and she began working with Mr. D'Eloia to deploy the AED.

Mr. Greenblatt said the plug from the pads didn't initially

work and the AED did not administer a shock. As soon as he heard Ms. Pettit say the machine did not activate, he came up with a quick solution. He said two hours earlier athletic trainer Sean Scattergood had given him the AED the team carries with it. "It was right there in the ice room 20 feet away. So I just got up, sprinted over and got our AED. We plugged in the padding and right away it delivered the shock," he said.

Once the shock was administered, Mr. Greenblatt said Ms. Pettit said they had gotten a response. He said you could hear the victim start to make noise. They continued to administer CPR and the police and paramedics from the fire department arrived and took over.

"Basically on that cue, as the paramedics started to descend upon the scene, myself, Andrew and Diedre took about three steps back," Mr. Greenblatt said.

They put in an IV and had more sophisticated equipment, put the victim on a gurney to take him to a waiting ambulance and the road to recovery. As they were leaving, Mr. Greenblatt said the paramedics said the man was breathing and had a pulse.

Asked what he thought of the experience, Mr. Greenblatt paused to collect himself. "I don't know," he said. "You don't go looking for something like that. The situation just comes to you and you just have to react to it the best you can based on what training you have. Nothing can fully prepare you for it, but the training that Tracey Braun gave us was so important."

"Even though we have never experienced this live before, it

becomes like muscle memory because of what a great job she does teaching it," he said, adding that coaches take first aide, CPR, AED training every two years, and he and Mr. D'Eloia had done it in June.

Mr. Greenblatt said he has been coaching in the district since 1989 and has done the training over and over again. "You just never really think that one day you will be right in the midst of it and it just shows up without warning," he said.

Noteworthy about the rescue Friday is that the AED on the wall at the nurses office, and the other one in the ice room, are a result of Louis' Law, legislation enacted in New York State in 2002 in the wake of the March 25, 2000 death of Northport High School lacrosse goalie Louis Acompora on the lacrosse field. His life would have been saved had there been an AED accessible. Since their son's death, Karen and John Acompora have dedicated their lives to getting AEDs onto athletic fields and into public buildings.

Louis' Law requires AED's in all New York State schools and since being enacted, the rescue last week marks 117 lives saved in New York schools. Talking about Friday's rescue at the high school, Mrs. Acompora said the save number is only those reported and the true total is probably three times that amount. She travels the state talking to school groups and hears of case after case of saves that go unreported.

"We have goosebumps," Mrs. Acompora said about last week's save at the high school. "The response, and quick action, and the way that the school district has

put together their emergency response plan and team, makes me so incredibly proud."

Mr. Greenblatt said Monday that Louis was a player on his East Northport Middle School lacrosse team. He said that when Louis was in sixth grade he was the team manager when he was too young to play middle school sports. In seventh and eighth grade he was the middle school goalie.

"He was just an unbelievable kid," Mr. Greenblatt said. "I had a real connection with him and when he suddenly and shockingly passed away on the field, it was just devastating and I have maintained a close relationship with his parents ever since."

Mr. Greenblatt said the legislation that brought the AEDs to schools has made a difference in the world. "The Acomporas are incredible people and they have made it their life's mission to raise awareness and to get concrete accomplishments like Louis' Law," he said, adding that having the AEDs close at hand was the key to last week's rescue.

In summation, Mr. Greenblatt reverted to his coaching acumen—a 3-and-3 assessment of the rescue effort. He said the three keys on the immediate scene were: Andrew D'Eloia's calm demeanor yet decisive action in the immediate and initial part of the chain of survival was one crucial piece; a second critical piece was the work of Deidre Pettit to make them a three-person team; and, the third on-scene key was the professionalism and rapid response of the police and paramedics.

"Those three things together were so critical," he said.

The other three things were people who were not even there: Sean Scattergood the trainer who is so attentive to make sure the coaches having everything they need that two hours before the incident he handed him the team AED; secondly, Tracey Braun for the job she does in training the coaches; and third, the Acomporas for the tireless work they do going back to Louis' Law and stretching right up to today to constantly advocate for awareness, training and making sure AEDs are on site. "The AEDs were right there on site. That has to be tracked to the Acomporas and their work," Mr. Greenblatt said. "It was very much a massive team effort."

During an interview this week, Mr. D'Eloia offered commendation back to Mr. Greenblatt and all of the other people he mentioned.

"I heard Tracey Braun's voice in my head going through the steps to help an individual in distress," Mr. D'Eloia said.

Early in his career, Mr. D'Eloia was a coach in the Northport lacrosse camp and he knew Louis Acompora and is glad to be able to play a part in helping someone in distress. "I'm also proud of our community for spearheading this whole charge," he said. "Without Louis and the Acomporas, and Sean Scattergood and Tracey Braun, the school nurses all following through with this, we would not have been able to help someone like this. And to have someone like Deidre Pettit at an event like that, and to have an assistant coach like Mike Greenblatt who was well prepared is teamwork in every sense of the word."

Take to the ring for a worthy cause

(Continued from page 3) In advance of Monday's fight, Mr. Keavney said he was ready to step into the ring against Mr. Ettenger, an attorney in Melville. He said there was mandatory training in early June, two days a week under the supervision of a trainer. He said in September he and Mr. Ettenger began sparring in the gym two days a week.

"So in that regard, I'm ready. I've taken punches in sparring so I know what it feels like. You get use to it," he said. "I have also learned to defend myself better. I learned there is so much more to boxing than just offense."

He said the organizers try to match up boxers of

similar ability, which is how he was matched against Mr. Ettenger. They have been sparring for months and Mr. Keavney said they both know what to expect when they step into the ring.

Mr. Keavney, 46, was born in Queens. His parents moved to Huntington when he was five years old. He ran track at Huntington High School and graduated in 1995, earning a track scholarship to Fordham University. He then earned a master of business administration at Hofstra while he was working his way up in the banking industry. He has been with the Bank of America for 19 years.

Mr. Keavney and his wife Michelle moved to Northport

after they married and they have three children, Christina, Andrew and Julia, who attend local schools.

"It is a time of year to think about how fortunate we are and there are other people out there we don't necessarily see or touch every day, but it is good to be conscious that they need our help," Mr. Keavney said. "This was a great experience for me to do that."

"I know the world is in tumult right now, but by doing this so many people supported me that I didn't think would and I just put the word out. There is a lot of good in humanity out there," he said.

To donate go to lifightforcharity.org.



IN THIS CORNER: Long Island Fight for Charity boxer Vincent "Victory" Keavney with his family in advance of this week's fight.