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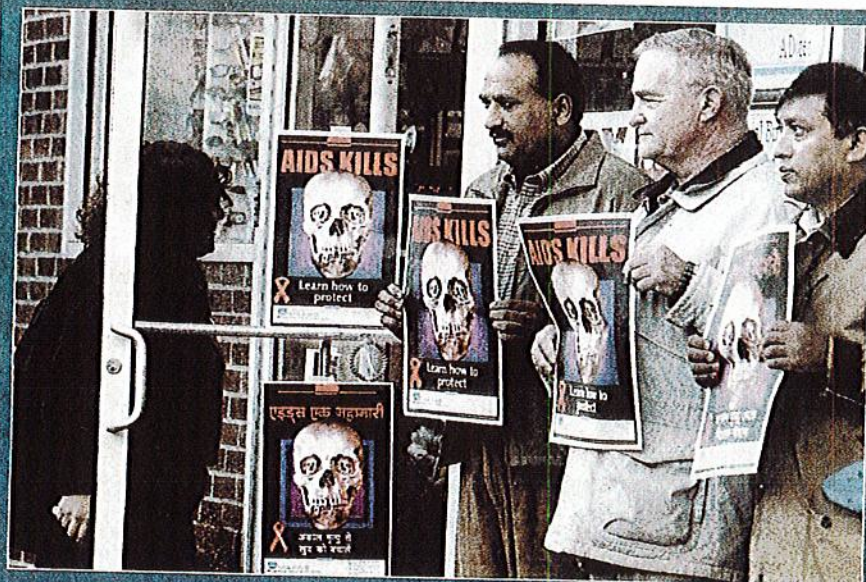
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ELLENVILLE

**Water cut off
to residents
of bungalow
colony**

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Rafiq Majeed, owner of the Dairy Plus Express on North Street in Newburgh, left, displays posters at his store yesterday for World AIDS Day, with help from former state Trooper Anthony Therrien, center, and businessman Golam Mawla, who created the project.

Times Herald-Record/JEFF GOULDING

NEWBURGH CRUSADER PROMOTES AIDS AWARENESS

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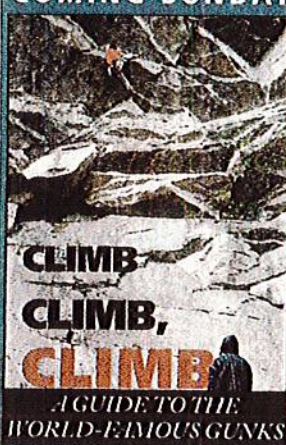
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Corrections & clarifications

In Nov. 29 obituaries for actress Jocelyn Brando, sister of Marlon Brando, The Associated Press reported erroneously that Pennnebaker, the surname she used in private life, was her married name. Pennnebaker was her mother's maiden name.

If you spot a factual error in the Times Herald-Record, please let us know by e-mailing accuracy@th-record.com.

COMING SUNDAY



Crusader fights AIDS on Newburgh streets

By Alexa James
Times Herald-Record
ajames@th-record.com

Newburgh — It was cold enough for customers to leave their cars running in the convenience store parking lot while they bought coffee and egg sandwiches — something warm for the commute to school, doctors' offices and the city.

Most customers at the Dairy Plus Express on North Street knew yesterday was the first of December — it finally felt like it — but few realized it was also World AIDS Day.

Until they met the skulls.

On the glass doors leading into the store, customers were greeted with a poster of a skull. Inside the skull's empty eye and nose sockets were more skeletons, and inside those, more and more.

"AIDS kills," read the red type over the bones. "Learn to protect."

There was one poster in English, one in Arabic and one in Spanish. There was also one in Bengali in the hands of a businessman named Golam Manik Mawla. "This is about awareness," he told bleary-eyed customers. "People still don't know how to save lives."

Mawla, 48, buys and sells commodities in Manhattan and overseas. Two years ago, he

started feeling guilty because he wasn't giving back, wasn't doing enough at home in Newburgh or abroad in his native Bangladesh.

His great-grandfather had been a farmer in Bangladesh who, late in life, launched a charity to fund primary schools there. Mawla has continued his work, running an international non-profit named in his honor. It's called the Munshi Atar Ali Welfare Society, and in 2003, it added AIDS awareness to its agenda.

Mawla said the next generation is facing a catastrophe, and the minimal response from international governments is a shame and a sham. "I realized I had to do something," he said. "I needed to get people's attention."

Last year, he campaigned in front of Planet Wings. This year, it's the Dairy Plus. The store's owner, Rafiq Majeed, met Mawla at the Islamic Learning Center of Orange County. "I thought he was crazy," Majeed said. "He had the scary posters."

Retired state police Trooper Anthony Therrien dropped by the store yesterday for his regular cup of coffee. "World AIDS Day was certainly a well-kept secret," he

said. "I didn't hear a thing."

Mawla talked Therrien into standing outside with the skull posters for nearly an hour, greeting friends and neighbors. He gave one to a nurse at Mount Saint Mary College, another to a Bronx commuter and a few to teenager Patrick Fay.

'THIS IS NOT AN AFRICAN PROBLEM OR A U.S. PROBLEM OR A BENGALI PROBLEM.'

— Golam Manik Mawla

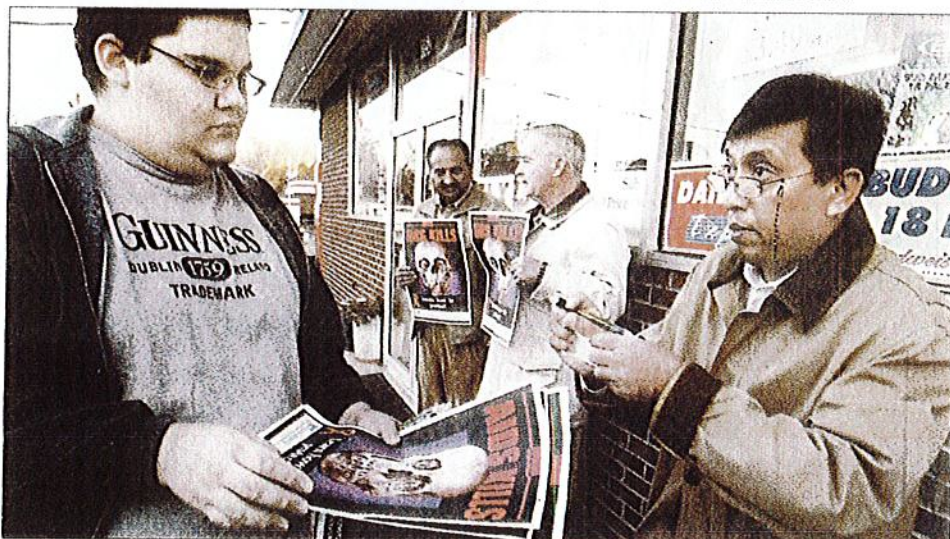
Fay took the posters into Newburgh Free Academy and displayed them at a bake sale run by Prism, a student club that promotes racial and sexual tolerance among teens.

Students bought 25-cent chocolate chip cookies and pinned red ribbons, the international AIDS symbol, to their shirts. Displayed next to the brownies and the muffins were AIDS awareness brochures

and Mawla's skull posters for NFA's 2,600 students. Mawla's son is one of them.

That's how it works, his father explained to the crowd at the convenience store. One infected person passes it to the next, and that infected person passes it to another, and so on. "Forty million," he told them. "Forty million now infected."

"This is not an African problem or a U.S. problem or a Bengali problem," Mawla said. "This will take a team."



Times Herald-Record/JEFF GOULDING

Newburgh Free Academy student Patrick Fay, left, and poster creator Golam Mawla talk about promoting more AIDS awareness in Newburgh yesterday.

Sullivan cases among most in N.Y.

By Barry Lewis
Times Herald-Record
blewis@th-record.com

Monticello — The bad news about AIDS in Sullivan County just got worse.

Gerard Ilaria, director of the HIV program at Catskill Regional Medical Center, says that not only did Sullivan County retain the undesired top spot of having the highest number of AIDS cases per capita in the state outside New York City, for the first time it had a higher rate of AIDS than one of the five boroughs.

"We got eclipsed by Staten Island — and we're working our way up the ladder," said Ilaria before opening a noon program yesterday in the lobby of the County Government Center in Monticello to mark World AIDS Day.

There are 470 AIDS cases in Sullivan County, not including the prison population, according to the New York state Department of Health.

Ilaria said the HIV program at the hospital has treated 250 people in Sullivan and the surrounding region this year.

The rate of AIDS cases in Sullivan is more than double the rate in Orange County and nearly double in Ulster County.

"I'm hoping that Sullivan County owns up to these numbers. That the county allocates more dollars for treatment, that people are kinder to their neighbors who are HIV positive and that parents watch what they say to their kids when talking about AIDS," Ilaria said.

GLOBAL FACTS ON HIV/AIDS

- ▶ The number of people living with HIV worldwide is nearly 40 million — the highest level yet.
 - ▶ Last year alone, the AIDS epidemic killed more than 3 million people.
 - ▶ Close to 5 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2004; more than 3 million in Sub-Saharan Africa and 1.2 million in Asia. Statistics show 240,000 new patients in Latin America and at least 64,000 in North America and Europe.
 - ▶ In Caribbean countries, AIDS has become the leading cause of death among adults aged 15-44 years old.
 - ▶ At this stage of the epidemic, there are more new HIV infections every year than AIDS-related deaths.
 - ▶ Of people living with HIV, only one in 10 has been tested and knows he or she is infected.
- Information compiled by UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) and the World Health Organization. Visit www.unaids.org for more information.