

'PHANTOM' VOICES

THREE STAGE STARS JOIN FORCES IN YORKTOWN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY | **LOHUD WEEKEND**



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LATE SPORTS

- **BOY, 12, SAYS MT. VERNON POLICE BEAT HIM** | 3A
- **COMPANY ACCUSES AIRPORT OF UNFAIR PRACTICES** | 1B
- **OPENING DAY FOR GOLF** | 1C

The Journal News

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March 19, 2009

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BREAKING NEWS 24/7 AT LOHUD.COM

SERVING THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY SINCE 1850

Schmidt, Phillips ousted

Voters back change; Croton, Cold Spring mayors, trustees lose

Robert Marchant
The Journal News

Residents in four villages yesterday showed that change was in-

deed on their minds.

In Croton-on-Hudson, Democrats swept back into power by a thin margin on a theme of economic redevelopment. Longtime Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips was ousted by a trustee, Seth Gallagher.

A former trustee won back a seat in Buchanan. In Nelsonville and Briarcliff Manor, the races were uncontested.

Croton-on-Hudson

Mayor Greg Schmidt lost his bid for a third term in office by 20 votes to Democratic challenger Leo Wiegman, 1,078 to 1,058, and his Republican running mates, incumbents Thomas Brennan and Susan Konig, also went down to defeat by close margins.

Wiegman, a former trustee running for the mayor's office, carried

the night with Democratic running mates Demetra Restuccia and Ian Murtaugh, who won with 1,108 and 1,095 ballots, respectively. Brennan and Konig picked up 1,025 and 1,037 votes, according to unofficial results from Village Clerk Paula DiSanto.

Wiegman said his running mates attracted a strong cross-section

Please see **ELECTION, 8A**



On the Web

To get complete local election results in the Lower Hudson Valley, go to LoHud.com.

Madoff auditor accused of fraud

New City accountant accused of falsely certifying company

Steve Lieberman
The Journal News

The New City-based auditor for Bernard Madoff surrendered yesterday on federal charges of helping conceal the swindler's Ponzi scheme that fleeced investors for billions of dollars.

David G. Friehling, 49, of 4 High Tor Road is accused of falsely certifying from 1991 to 2008 that he had audited the financial statements for Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC.

Friehling, the sole practitioner of Friehling & Horowitz, was not accused of knowing about Madoff's scheme.

But federal and Rockland prosecutors, along with the Securities and Exchange Commission, said Friehling enabled Madoff's scheme to avoid scrutiny by filing certification statements since 1991 that Madoff's company had "a clean audit record."

Madoff's company paid Friehling \$12,000 to \$14,500 monthly between 2004 and 2007, government documents state.

Madoff pleaded guilty last week in U.S. District Court in Manhattan to charges of running a \$65 billion scheme. He admitted pocketing money from clients and not making investments, sending his investors fictitious financial statements and audit reports.

Please see **AUDITOR, 10A**



David G. Friehling

NATURE | BIRD'S PLIGHT ENDS WITH RELEASE AT TEATOWN



Photos by Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News

Erin Smithies, an educator at Teatown Lake Reservation in Yorktown, releases the young red-shouldered hawk yesterday at the nature preserve. The bird spent more than two weeks stuck inside the Cortlandt Home Depot. Twenty people, including the store's operations manager, came to see her off.

Hawk liberated from inside store

Michael Risinit
The Journal News

YORKTOWN — Maybe her nesting instinct was kicking in, but a red-shouldered hawk who spent more than two weeks inside The Home Depot in Cortlandt favored the store's building-materials section.

A bit of sanctuary was found among the wall board, insulation and roofing shingles.

"It would fly around with the noise and machines," said Jose Torres of Peekskill, a 9-year store employee. "That corner of the building is the quietest. It would spend hours at a time there."

So, paint sprayers are in aisle 5, toilet seats in aisle 26 and leaf blowers in aisle 43. The hawk, a denizen of open forests and swamps, was over in aisle 10, then 18, maybe 25, back



over in 9. As Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh sang, "It's hard to leave when you can't find the door."

Rescuers tried to make that happen, leading to the hawk's release yesterday at Teatown Lake Reservation — a serene corner of Yorktown instead of the sprawl-heavy Route 6 in Cortlandt. The mission began with a call one January evening from Phil Donnelly, a Putnam Valley resident and White Plains police sergeant, to his wife, Becci, a Teatown raptor volunteer who was, at the time, volunteering.

"We saw the bird up in the rafters," said Phil Donnelly, who was buying PVC pipe and other materials for his daughter's science project. "I thought it was a fake owl."

Online

For a gallery of photos, go to LoHud.com.



Please see **HAWK, 10A**



The Donnelly family of Putnam Valley gets a close look at the red-shouldered hawk just before it was released.

Richardson dies of head injuries after skiing fall

Actress, 45, part of famed film family, lauded for versatile roles

Adam Bernstein
The Washington Post

Natasha Richardson, a member of a British acting dynasty and wife of actor Liam Neeson, died yesterday from head injuries suffered while she was skiing in Canada.

Richardson, who with her husband was on the board of the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville and lived with their two sons in Millbrook, Dutchess County, was 45.

Richardson fell on a beginners slope near Montreal during a ski lesson on Monday and initially appeared coherent, but an hour later she complained of a headache. As her condition worsened dramatically, she was flown to a hospital in New York City, where her family gathered.

She was the daughter of Academy Award-winning actress and human rights activist Vanessa Redgrave and the Oscar-winning director and producer Tony Richardson ("Tom Jones"). Her maternal grandparents were the actors Michael Redgrave and Rachel



Natasha Richardson

Please see **RICHARDSON, 8A**

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Today: Rain, 53
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For live weather updates, send a text message with **W** and **ZIP** code (e.g. 10604) to **44636** (4INFO).

PN



Tomorrow in Life&Style

An updated version of "West Side Story" opens on Broadway. Read a review of the production.



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Winery owner taped Yorktown supervisor

Secretly recorded talk about lawsuit contains allegations

Brian J. Howard
The Journal News

YORKTOWN — After weeks spent pleading with officials and their legal counsel to discuss settling his \$30 million federal lawsuit against the town, winery owner Tom DeChiaro surreptitiously

recorded just such a conversation with Supervisor Don Peters over drinks at a chamber of commerce holiday party.

The 15-minute, 27-second recording was made Dec. 15 at Colonial Terrace caterers in Cortlandt. It touches on key aspects of DeChiaro's suit, filed in June and alleging corruption by some officials in obstructing his bid to open a winery at the former St. George's Church in Mohegan Lake.

Please see **WINERY, 8A**



Tom DeChiaro



Online

To hear the tape, go to LoHud.com.

Fed to buy \$300B of long-term bonds to bolster economy

The Federal Reserve announced yesterday that it will buy up to \$300 billion of long-term bonds, a move that should boost Treasury prices and drive down their rates. The Fed hopes to inject about \$1 trillion into the economy in an effort to lift the country out of recession. **Details, 7C**

REISMAN: AIG leaves stain on economy, **1B**

SOME AIG BONUSES RETURNED: Under pressure from the Obama administration and Congress, the head of bailed-out insurance giant AIG said some of the firm's executives have begun returning all or part of the disputed bonuses, **3B**

ANALYSIS: The AIG bonuses have Democrats and the administration backpedaling, **6B**

GOLD RUSH: People, looking for ways to raise cash, are selling old, gold jewelry at parties, **7C**

