



Poughkeepsie Journal

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As Health Quest backs off, Westchester Medical Center looks to seal the deal for

SAVING SAINT FRANCIS

\$38.85
million

Westchester Medical Center's maximum bid for Saint Francis. (see breakdown in graphic on Page 8A)

SALE HEARING
11 A.M., Tuesday, U.S. Bankruptcy court, Poughkeepsie

INSIDE
2 pages of content, Pages 8-9A

ONLINE
poughkeepsiejournal.com/stories

By Craig Wolf
Poughkeepsie Journal

The race to rescue and take over struggling Saint Francis Hospital is all but over.

Westchester Medical Center's Monday bid was the only one moving forward Tuesday. The other bid, from Health Quest, ran into criticism from regulators concerned about loss of competition, leading Saint Francis to a deadline decision Monday to favor Westchester Medical.

Health Quest folded its campaign Tuesday afternoon, citing "intervention by state and federal regulatory authorities," though its executives disputed their reasoning. Officials said Health Quest's board of trustees decided "not to participate further in the bidding process."

If the deal closes and Westchester Medical takes over, Poughkeepsie will still have two hospitals and competition. It may well have more competition, given the replacement of a fiscally strapped operator with a healthier one whose stated intention is to expand services. Health Quest's Vassar Brothers Medical Center also remains on a track to boost offerings.

Both the state Attorney General's Office and the Federal Trade Commission expressed concerns about potential harm to competition if Health Quest owned both Poughkeepsie hospitals. Vassar Brothers is in the City of Poughkeepsie; Saint

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"If (Health Quest) failed to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals, (Saint Francis Hospital) would be forced to convert these cases to ones under chapter 7 and cease its operations under a plan of closure. This would be a catastrophe not only for (Saint Francis') creditors, but also for the entire Hudson Valley community which receives services from (Saint Francis)."

FROM A NOTICE FILED IN BANKRUPTCY COURT MONDAY FROM SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

Thursday commutes to be messy

Storm to bring another 8 to 12 inches of snow

By John W. Barry
Poughkeepsie Journal

A snowstorm could disrupt the morning and afternoon commutes Thursday and dump more than a foot of snow before tapering off early Friday morning.

According to Brian Edwards, a meteorologist with AccuWeather, a private weather forecasting company based in Pennsylvania, snow could begin falling prior to the morning commute Thursday, leaving drivers to contend with slick roads. The storm is likely to gain momentum through the morning.

Edwards and Joe Villani, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Albany, said the heaviest snow is likely to fall during the afternoon and evening Thursday.

Edwards forecast 8 to 12 inches in Poughkeepsie.

Villani said the storm, which tracked over the Gulf Coast states early Tuesday evening, could dump 6 to 15 inches.

But, Villani said, "This could change. There's a lot of uncertainty."

Temperatures today will likely be in the 20s, Villani said, but are expected to dip into the mid-teens tonight. On Thursday, the temperature could reach 32 degrees.

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ONLINE

For cancellations, the snowcam, videos, and the latest weather news, go to poughkeepsiejournal.com

MOBILE USERS

See closings, delays and dismissals at www.poj-news.com/closings

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share road conditions, snow accumulations and snow fun videos or photos on Instagram, Twitter and Vine. Tag posts with #pjsnow. See posts at <http://pojnews.com/pjsnow>

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WEATHER
Today: Sunny, cold
Thursday: Lots of snow
26°/16°
5-DAY FORECAST ON 11A

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