

# THE PEOPLE'S PETE SEEGER

Folk singer was popular presence, 1D



USA TODAY SOME BUSINESSES GET EXTRA YEAR TO OFFER EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PAGE 1B

# Poughkeepsie Journal

A GANNETT COMPANY

HOSPITAL BANKRUPTCY CASE

# ST. FRANCIS: WE WANT WESTCHESTER MEDICAL

Health Quest bid insufficient, bankrupt rival says

By Craig Wolf  
Poughkeepsie Journal

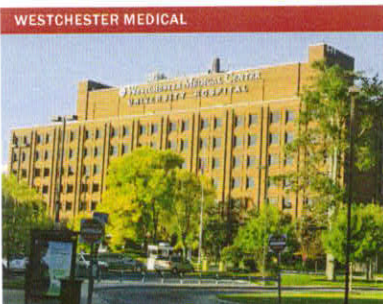
Bankrupt Saint Francis Hospital wants Westchester Medical Center to buy it.

Saint Francis told the Bankruptcy Court late Monday that it wants to cancel a planned auction of its assets set for Thursday, stating that it favors Westchester Medical Center's bid and that the other bidder, Health Quest, could not likely obtain regulatory approvals to become the buyer.

Westchester Medical Center now has its formal bid in, one it said was "substantially better than the existing bid," to buy Saint Francis. According to documents, it offered about \$27 million by using exchange bonds at a 5 percent interest rate. It also offered to cover the break-up fee and administrative costs of \$2.5 million, as well as greater coverage of certain other costs.

No word surfaced by press time of any other bidders in the Bankruptcy Court proceeding, which required anyone looking to buy Saint Francis to step forth by the 5 p.m.

See BID, Page 2A



WESTCHESTER MEDICAL

Westchester Medical Center is one of two bidders attempting to acquire Saint Francis Hospital. FILE PHOTO BY THE JOURNAL NEWS

**BID: ABOUT \$27 MILLION BY USING EXCHANGE BONDS AT A 5 PERCENT INTEREST RATE**

**Name:** Westchester Medical Center  
**Location:** Valhalla, Westchester County  
**Employees:** More than 5,000  
**Operating revenues, 2012:** \$893.4 million  
**Expenses:** \$874.6 million

**Statement of intentions for use of Saint Francis Hospital:** "To enhance and strengthen all of the fine services that exist, including the Level Two Trauma Center, emergency department, intensive care units and critical psychiatric services, while introducing additional advanced-care offerings locally to more patients in areas such as orthopedics, cancer, neurosciences, trauma and critical care and cardiovascular. Our belief is that we will not only retain the existing jobs, but even add jobs as we enhance and expand services and volume." — David Billig, spokesman



HEALTH QUEST

Health Quest's network includes Vassar Brothers Medical Center, where this operating room is located. FILE PHOTO BY POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

**BID: \$24.15 MILLION (PRE-FILED AS "STALKING HORSE" BIDDER)**

**Name:** Health Quest, owns Vassar Brothers Medical Center  
**Location:** Poughkeepsie  
**Employees:** (All Health Quest) 5,071  
**Operating revenues, 2012:** \$692.6 million  
**Expenses:** \$690.7 million

**Statement of intentions for use of Saint Francis Hospital:** "Our bid is designed to fulfill the commitment we made to St. Francis when its board asked us to take it over: maintain mental health, chemical dependency and detox, early childhood development, and trauma services. At the same time we would maintain medical surgical beds at Saint Francis, as well as its emergency room. It's vital that patients have access to these services in Dutchess County and aren't forced to travel great distances to receive them." — Luke McGuinness, CEO, Health Quest. They also stated plans to offer jobs to existing workforce.

## Finances, stability key factors in med center's bid

By John Ferro  
Poughkeepsie Journal

Financial stability will be a key factor in Westchester Medical Center's bid for Saint Francis Hospital.

On Monday, Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla submitted its official bid, joining Town of La-

Grange-based Health Quest. Given the importance of finances in the bidding, the Poughkeepsie Journal examined records for both medical institutions.

Westchester Medical Center is one of 45 state public authorities akin to the New York State Bridge Authority or the Thruway Authority. Formerly a county-owned facility, it was spun off

in 1998 as a public benefit corporation by an act of the state Legislature.

It employs 3,300 at its hospitals and medical practices under civil service rules with pensions that are funded through the state retirement system. Its buildings are owned by Westchester

See FINANCES, Page 2A

ONLINE

See audited annual financial reports at [www.poughkeepsiejournal.com](http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com)

## Regents panel supports revisions to Common Core requirements



John King, commissioner of the state Education Department. FILE PHOTO BY AP

By Gary Stern  
The Journal News

ALBANY — A state Board of Regents subcommittee on Monday adopted a slate of revisions to New York's Common Core rollout, including making this year's fourth-graders the first class to have to fully meet new state standards.

If approved by the full board Tuesday, students will not need to get higher scores on Common Core-based Regents tests in high school to graduate until 2022. Before then, students would still take the new tests, but will be able to pass with a 65.

Previously, this year's ninth-graders

were to be the first to have to hit new state targets — about 75 on English language arts and 80 on math.

Several Regents, including Chancellor Merryl Tisch, said the 19 changes represent a genuine attempt to address the many concerns expressed by parents and educators about the implementation of the state's reforms.

"This gives us an opportunity to start to answer some of the concerns," Tisch said.

The subcommittee did not freeze the use of state tests in grades 3-8 for

See CORE, Page 9A

**HERE'S THE DEAL.**

Nonstop flights to  
**TAMPA / ST. PETE**

**\$57**

Only at **allegiant.com**

NEW YORK'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER  
229th year, No. 149  
Printed in part on recycled and recyclable paper

INDEX  
Business 10C Obituaries 7A  
Comics 2D Opinion 10A  
Crossword 3D Sports 1C  
Lottery 2A Television 4D

WEATHER  
Today: Mostly sunny, cold 25° | 2°  
Wednesday: Sunny, cold  
5-DAY FORECAST ON 7A

BREAKING NEWS  
Text P/BREAKING to 44636  
(4INFO) to get news on your phone. Data rates may apply.

0 40901 06602 6  
\$1.00 RETAIL  
Home delivery pricing, 2A