



Field hockey: Greeley, Lakeland play to scoreless tie in classic

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The Journal News

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Zohran Mamdani reacts next to his parents Mahmood Mamdani and Mira Nair and wife Rama Duwaji during a watch party June 25 for his primary election, which includes his bid to become the Democratic candidate for New York City mayor in the upcoming November 2025 election, in New York City. PHOTOS BY DAVID DELGADO/REUTERS

Hochul’s endorsing of Mamdani makes waves

GOP doesn’t hesitate to pounce on her support

Chris McKenna
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kathy Hochul had held off for weeks on endorsing Zohran Mamdani, the 33-year-old Democrat who resoundingly won New York City’s mayoral primary but has taken stances far to the left of hers.

So when she finally did so on Sept. 14, with a news column about her shared ground and differences with Mamdani, it set off political waves well beyond the city’s five boroughs. With her own re-election race looming next year, Hochul’s Mamdani endorsement will likely be felt not only in November’s mayoral contest but also in the 2026 governor’s race.

In a New York Times opinion piece, Hochul based her decision largely on their shared interest in making New York more affordable. “Affordability” is her mantra, and it was also the campaign message that carried a two-term assemblyman to a stunning upset in June over former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who was expected to win the primary.

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Zohran Mamdani speaks during a watch party for his primary election, which includes his bid to become the Democratic candidate for New York City mayor.

“Kathy Hochul does not look or talk like a socialist. I think she played the politics right.”

Trip Yang
Democratic strategist

“It may help her in New York City, but it will doom her in the suburbs.”

Hank Sheinkopf
Veteran Democratic strategist

Disease cases increase in 2025

Legionnaires’ sickens 38 in Westchester

Nancy Cutler
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

WHITE PLAINS – Westchester County has documented 38 cases of Legionnaires’ disease this year, a more than 50% increase in cases reported last year, when 24 cases of the bacterial pneumonia were found in the county.

Two people have died from the disease, county officials reported last week; one was a New Rochelle resident and one was from White Plains.

“The new information was not a cause for undue alarm. But it is a reminder and does stress the importance of public awareness,” said Westchester Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler during a Sept. 15 press conference.

The two fatalities, reported by the county on Sept. 10, have not been found related, Amler said.

But five cases among the 38 were believed to part of a cluster in Yonkers. While Legionella can be spread by various water sources, in cities the culprit is often building cooling towers.

Amler said the state health department had identified a dozen cooling towers in a 2-mile area in Yonkers. Westchester health workers would be collecting samples from those towers for testing at the state’s lab.

“This testing of course takes time,” Amler said. She also said that it may not be possible to obtain viable samples from patients. “That means we may not find a viable answers.”

Enforcement is in place, Amler said, and any problems found with testing would mandate immediate action by building owners to disinfect cooling towers or other sources.

“Public health is a shared responsibility,” Amler said.

Meanwhile, Amler encouraged anyone showing symptoms of Legionnaire’s disease to seek immediate medical care, especially those who may be at high risk.

What is Legionnaires’ disease and how is it spread?

Legionnaires’ disease is a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria that can grow in building water systems, such as cooling towers. It thrives in heat and humidity.

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Fairview firefighter gets probation for assault

Jonathan Bandler
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Fairview firefighter will be on probation for three years for assaulting his live-in girlfriend during a fight at his Dobbs Ferry home last year that all but ended what had become a toxic relationship.

Joseph Apostoli apologized in Westchester County Court on Sept. 15, for “suffering” he caused the victim before state Supreme Court Justice James McCarty imposed the probationary sentence.

“I wish I could take back that night,” Apostoli told the judge as the victim sat in the gallery. “I hope the best for her.”

Apostoli was convicted of two misde-

meanor charges of third-degree assault but acquitted of a felony assault charge in June following a non-jury trial before McCarty.

The Fairview Fire Department is one of three that serve the town of Greenburgh. Apostoli, 46, was initially suspended without pay but is now back at work on probation, Chief Howard Reiss said.

What happened in Fairview firefighter trial?

The fight was early on April 11, 2024, after they had celebrated Apostoli’s birthday the night before. When he went to sleep she looked at his phone and saw sexually explicit texts between

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