



Senior Durkin determined to lead Ketcham to glory

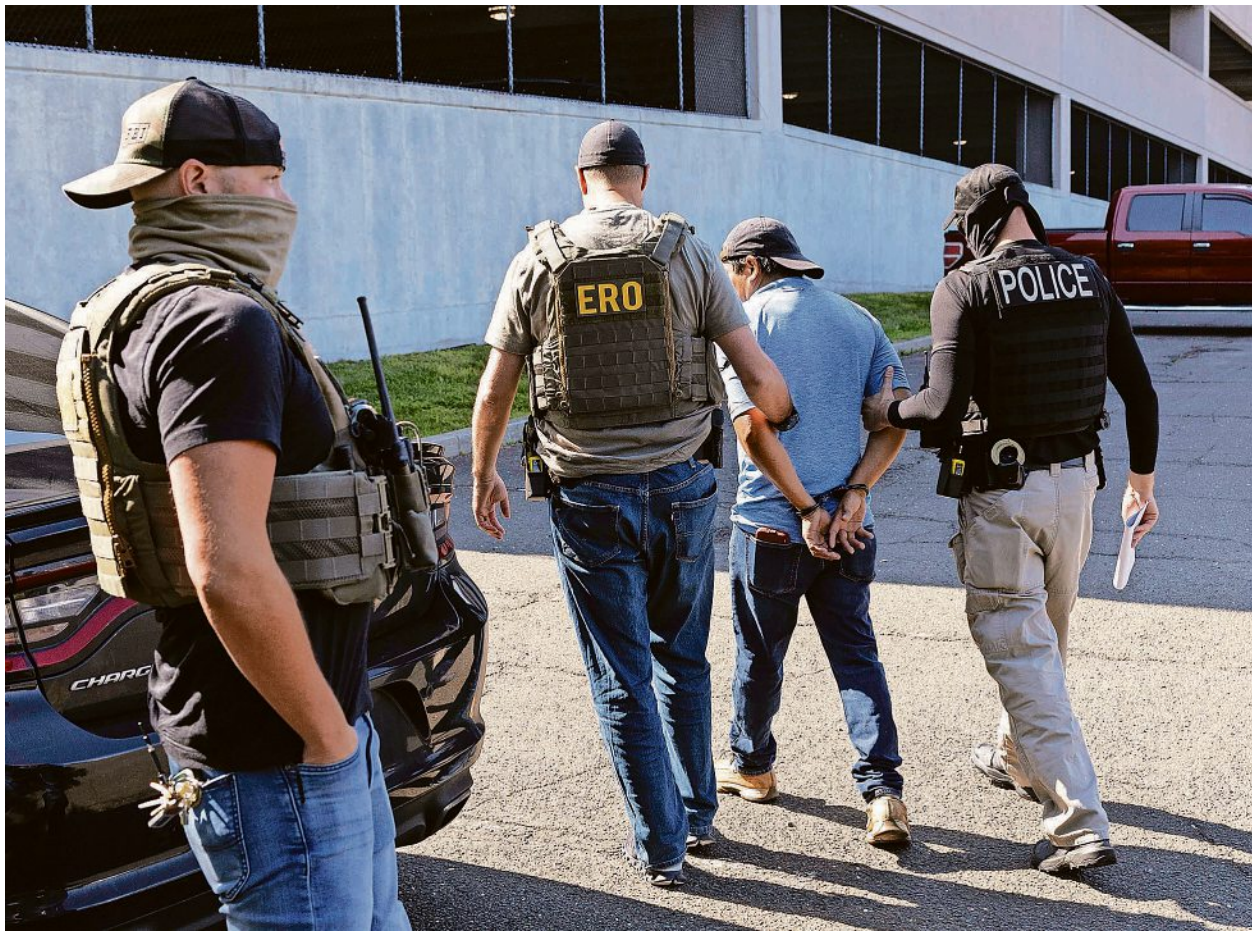
SPORTS, 5B

Poughkeepsie Journal

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 | POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Hochul moves to curb ties with ICE



Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detain an immigrant after a court hearing at the Connecticut Superior Court on July 3, 2025, in Stamford, Connecticut. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Governor backs mask ban, limits on police help

Chris McKenna

New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kathy Hochul is proposing to curb police involvement in federal immigration enforcement across New York in response to pressure for stronger steps than she offered earlier this year.

Her new proposal would bar local police officers from helping federal agents unless they're seeking someone with a criminal conviction or

See ICE, Page 6A

"ICE is a very well-funded agency, I think upward of \$85 billion more now, so ICE has the resources. So local law enforcement should not be doing ICE's job and not being weaponized against their own communities, not targeting law-abiding families who are working and contributing and playing by the rules."

Kathy Hochul, governor of New York state

Weekend ridership a bright spot for Metro-North

Comptroller's report says weekday commuting still lagging

Thomas C. Zambito

New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Leisure and tourism travel has boosted weekend ridership on Metro-North Railroad to near pre-pandemic levels while weekday commuting totals continue to lag as workers continue working from home, according to a report issued April 16 by state Comptroller Thomas Di Napoli.

DiNapoli said the commuter rail and its Metropolitan Transportation Authority partners should do more to tap into the popularity of weekend travel to offset financial losses from weekday ridership dips since the pandemic.

"The MTA should continue to focus on increasing the reliability and frequency of service on weekends to meet the ongoing rise in demand," DiNapoli said. "The authority can also work with its partners in government to address fare evasion's impact on fare revenue, and focus on improvements in those areas where ridership recovery continues to fall short."

In 2025, Metro-North's weekend ridership totaled 229,614, roughly 92% of the 250,228 tallied in 2019, before the pandemic hit. The Long Island Rail Road has fared even better. Its 2025 weekend ridership of 267,567 is 27% above 2019's total of 210,313.

Metro-North's recovery tracks with weekend totals on city subways, where 2025's ridership of 4.8 million was around 90% of 2019 totals.

Manhattan remains a tourist hub

Among the five boroughs, Manhattan has the lowest unemployment rate and remains a popular spot for tourists, the report notes, adding it "is likely benefiting from a near-return in overall tourists, including leisure visitors locally who tour the city."

DiNapoli suggests the commuter rails continue offering Saturday discounts that allow monthly ticket holders to ride anywhere on the railroad at no extra cost, regardless of the station on the ticket. And for an additional \$1 each way, monthly ticket holders can bring along up to two additional passengers.

See METRO-NORTH, Page 3A

NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S RACE THIS WEEK

Blakeman receives Trump's praise, blasts NYC tax plan

Emily Barnes

New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

New York Governor's Race This Week is a weekly column by USA TODAY Network-New York reporters highlighting aspects of the 2026 campaign to lead the Empire State.

Nassau County Executive and Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman blasted Gov. Kathy Hochul's New York City pied-à-terre tax proposal, calling it a "war on homeownership and the American Dream," as the governor's campaign pounced on Blakeman's growing links to Trump administration policies harming New Yorkers.

Hochul announced on Wednesday, April 15, a yearly tax surcharge on second homes in New York City valued at \$5 million or more and are owned by people who have a separate primary residence outside of the Big Apple.

The tax is expected to help close the city's budget gap by bringing in at least \$500 million per year in recurring payments, according to Hochul's office. The governor pledged an additional \$1.5 billion in state funding for New York City in February after Mayor Zohran Mamdani pushed for an additional city income

tax of 2% on anyone earning more than \$1 million a year and an increase of the state's top corporate tax rate to 11.5% to assist in filling the deficit.

What Hochul, Blakeman say about pied-à-terre tax

"New York City is the greatest city in the world, and the people who call it home should not be left carrying the burden alone," Hochul said. "As governor, I understand the importance of stabilizing the city's finances without compromising on essential services New Yorkers count on."

"If you can afford a \$5 million second home that sits empty most of the year, you can afford to contribute like every other New Yorker."

Blakeman criticized the measure, saying Hochul's promise not to increase taxes "expired faster than the families fleeing New York's affordability crisis."

"Whether you're affluent or middle class, Hochul and Mamdani are looking to hike your property taxes and take half your house through a new inheritance tax," Blakeman said in a written statement on April 15.

"Unlike Hochul, I'll actually keep my word when I'm governor: I'll cut your taxes, slash your utility bills in



U.S. President Donald Trump walks with Bruce Blakeman, who is now running for governor of New York state, after arriving at the Republic Airport on Air Force One on Sept. 26, 2025, in Farmingdale, New York. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

half, and protect the American dream," Blakeman added.

Blakeman has said he has never raised taxes, but

See GOVERNOR'S RACE, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to poughkeepsiejournal.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



241st year, No. 183
Subscribe 877-424-4341
©2026 \$3.49

