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Poughkeepsie Journ



MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 | POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Hochul wants to ban menthols

Snuffing the cigarettes, primarily marketed to Black smokers, could shrink the habit



Chris McKenna
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

They're the minty-tasting cigarettes, sold in green packs from brands like Newport and Marlboro. They're easier to smoke, as the typical cigarette harshness is masked - and they've long been marketed to Black Americans.

Gov. Kathy Hochul wants New York to become the third U.S. state, after Massachusetts and California, to prohibit the sale of menthol cigarettes, the latest front in the long battle by governments and advocacy groups to curb smoking and the disease and deaths it causes.

The Democratic governor's budget includes a ban on sales of all flavored tobacco products, a cause supported by the NAACP. But fellow Democrats who lead the Senate and Assembly stripped it from their own spending plans, making the menthol ban one plank in a pile of conflicts as Hochul and legislative leaders try to hash out a final budget by April 1.

Supporters argue a ban could shrink the next generation of smokers, who often start with menthol or other flavors.

Hochul, speaking at a forum in New York City last month, lamented that "so many people are dying from menthol cigarettes," which she said were more addictive and "targeted to Black and Brown communities from the very beginning."

See **MENTHOLS**, Page 5A



ABOVE: Gov. Kathy Hochul answers questions after speaking at a Business Council of Westchester event in Rye Brook on March 15.
TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

TOP: Packs of menthol cigarettes are pictured in New York City.
DREW ANGERER, GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
LUIS SOLANO ORTEGA/USA TODAY NETWORK

DA asks for new parole hearing on Britton

County continues to oppose release of convicted killer

Mike Randall
Poughkeepsie Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office is calling on the state Board of Parole to reopen its hearing for Brian Britton.



Britton

The board recently voted to grant parole to Britton, who has served 33 years in state prison for shooting and killing his parents and brother and injuring his sister in the town of Poughkeepsie.

Britton is scheduled to be released on or after April 10.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Matthew A. Weishaupt announced Friday he had written a letter to Darryl C. Towns, chairman of the parole board, asking to reopen the hearing.

See **BRITTON**, Page 2A

College sports confront pervasive abuse by coaches

Melanie Anzidei, Thomas C. Zambito and Noah Ram
New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

In late January of this year, long-time Harvard University women's ice hockey coach Katey Stone was under fire. Sixteen players in a Boston Globe report alleged that Stone was insensitive to mental health concerns, and guilty of body shaming and making a racially insensitive comment.

A locker room tirade recently led to a university review. News that Stone would be kept on as head coach elicited swift backlash from ex-players. A new report from The Athletic outlined a hazing culture within the program that included a "naked skate" ritual. A player described the program as "mental-health Hunger Games."

And, just last month, 27 former players for Indiana State University's women's soccer team publicly accused their former head coach Julie

See **COLLEGE SPORTS**, Page 2A

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