Going for broke



Bob Henke thinks "Brokeback Mountain" is an example of political correctness gone too far.
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EDITORIAL

Hartford still being dumped on

Hartford residents never wanted the landfill in the first place.

But back in the early 1990s, the Hudson Falls trash plant was a new commodity, and Warren and Washington counties needed a place to dispose of ash and bypass waste from the incinerator. Some town in Washington County had to host a dump, so Hartford was chosen to step in front of the fastball and take one for the team.

Now here we are more than a decade later. The county landfill was never built. Yet it again is being targeted for a landfill. And it again is being forced to accept terms that it doesn't find acceptable.

OUR VIEW

Washington County should consider the impact on the town now that the property is going private.

However, the circumstances are completely different from what they were 14 years ago. There is no longer an underlying community need to have a big chunk of Hartford turned into a landfill. Under the county's plan to sell the landfill site, a private interest, not county taxpayers, would be the beneficiaries of Hartford's sacrifice.

A decision to create a landfill on the site will have ramifications on the town for decades. The county should be doing everything in its power to ensure that Hartford residents' long-term interests are protected. But given the tenor of some recent meetings, that doesn't appear to be happening.

For instance, the county finance committee voted to pay for a study of the property's value without fully considering its contents. Hartford Supervisor Harry Gallinari objected to the payment, saying the study contained multiple errors. Supervisors also don't seem to be listening to town arguments that the original state permit for the county landfill doesn't cover new uses for the property as a private dump, and therefore can't be transferred to the new owner.

Some county supervisors also had objected to Hartford having anything more than an observational role on an ad hoc committee to study the landfill property, saying its participation would be disruptive.

Further, the town in 1997 passed a law prohibiting private landfills on the site. The town would like to see a less environmentally damaging recycling facility constructed on the site instead. Yet, the county continues to pretend the town law doesn't exist.

Clearly there is some benefit to all county taxpayers to have the Hartford site used as a private landfill. The county could get top dollar from the sale of the land, and the property would go back on the tax rolls. So what's the problem?

The problem is that Hartford continues to be treated as a second-class citizen within its own county. Would those other county supervisors be so willing to concede their own input if the dump were planned for their town? Would they be willing to lie down while outsiders decided their town's fate?

Instead of fighting the town, county leaders should be working with its officials to ensure that Hartford residents are protected from unwanted uses of the land. County leaders should examine other uses for the property, including a recycling center and private housing developments, that might generate the revenue they seek. And they should consider what they as supervisors might be willing to accept as fair compensation for being forced to accept a fate they didn't choose. Selling the land is important. But so is what happens after the land is sold.

Hartford residents have done their part for the county. It's time for the county to step up and do its part for Hartford.

Q&A



DEREK PRUITT—DPRUITT@POSTSTAR.COM

Congressional candidate Kirsten Gillibrand greets supporters after announcing her candidacy last month at the Canfield Casino in Saratoga Springs.

A DIALOGUE WITH

Kirsten Gillibrand

By MARK MAHONEY
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Kirsten Gillibrand is no doubt aware of the political carnage left in Congressman John Sweeney's wake.

Doris Kelly. Frank Stoppenbach. Morris Guller. Margaret Lewis. Kenneth McCallion. Jean Bordewich.

Go back even further, to the long list of sacrificial lambs slaughtered at the Election Day altar of Sweeney's predecessor, the late Gerald Solomon, and it might be enough to scare off even the bravest of politicians.

But Gillibrand — a 39-year-old lawyer from Columbia County who has never held political office — seems to have no qualms about stepping into battle against the four-term incumbent, one who represents a district in which Republicans regularly take about 65 percent of the vote against their November challengers.

Already well-funded and off to an unusually strong start for a Democrat in this district, Gillibrand got the first big front-page headlines of her fledgling campaign by calling out the congressman for his ski weekend in Utah with a group of lobbyists.

During a meeting with *The Post-Star* editorial board last week — her first meeting with a newspaper board since she officially began her candidacy in January — Gillibrand continued to show she was up for a fight. Relaxed, confident and informed, her presence was a refreshing breath of air for Democrats following the well-intentioned, but disastrous, 2004 campaign waged by Mrs. Kelly.

In the hour-long interview, she spoke easily about the congressman's record, what she sees wrong with it, and why she thinks the voters of the 20th Congressional District will overcome their past tendencies and send a Democrat to Congress for the first time in nearly three decades.

Q. You've never held elected office. How would you know what to do to be an effective legislator without any hands-on experience?

A. Our government was founded on people being a voice for them regardless of their background or experience. And one of the most important things in a representative is someone who's honest, and someone who's accountable and someone who listens to the needs of the people and will fight very hard to get them. And the skills I do have are really ideal for this job.

I've been an advocate for 15 years. I have negotiated at the highest levels of corporations and government in this country. I know how to do my work, to do due diligence, to work very hard to understand the facts, and I know how to put together solutions. I think that's what we need in Congress. We need a fresh face, we need a fresh perspective and we need someone who is going to be able to listen and take the interests and the needs of the people of the district and then implement solutions to fix them. I don't think we have that right now, so I think I'm perfectly poised to be the advocate for the people of the 20th District.

Q. How would your style of governing differ from that of the incumbent?

A. I'm going to be accessible. I am going to host open forums every month that will be open to the public, open to the press, open to everyone who wants to talk to me. I will listen to the people of this district and make sure their priorities are being represented. Currently, the congressman's voting record is at odds with most of the major needs of the people of this district, because he's beholden to not only special interests, but to a Republican leadership that is giving him access that he wants and privileges. Frankly, he's been able to use his congressional office to really just benefit himself, and he hasn't used it to benefit the people of the district.

Q. When you have these monthly meetings, where are they going to be held?

A. Throughout the district. Our first one's going to be in Washington County. And we'll be having one every month. It will go through each of the 10 counties, so we get to every place at least once. And it will be publicized and open to the public so we can really talk about the issues that they care about.

Q. Can you give a couple of specifics about what you find objectionable to the congressman's record?

A. He has voted against increasing the minimum wage. I think that's a significant issue for all working families in this district.

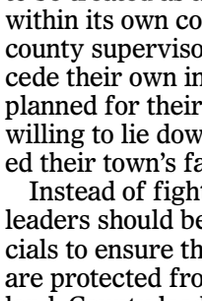
Please see **GILLIBRAND**, *Page E3*

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

(pronounced JILL-i-brand)

- **Age:** 39
- **Political affiliation:** Democrat
- **Hometown:** Albany
- **Occupation:** Attorney
- **Employer:** Boies, Schiller & Flexner, Albany office.
- **Related past experience:** Special counsel to the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; law clerk, Second Circuit Court of Appeals.
- **Past political offices held:** None.
- **Education:** Graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College. Received law degree from UCLA Law School.
- **Community:** Chairman of the Women's Leadership Forum Network, member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee, the Commission on Greenway Heritage Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley and the Advisory Board for the Brennan Center for Justice.
- **Personal:** Lives in Hudson (Columbia County) with her husband, Jonathan, and their 2-year-old son, Theodore.

DON COYOTE SAYS ...



"We wanted ski season. Who knew we'd get hurricane season?"

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Debatable

Here are some of the issues being talked about in area communities.
We want to know what you think are the answers, in 50-100 words. Responses may be unsigned.

◆ Do you see anything wrong with significantly improving a defendant's appearance to make him more presentable at his criminal trial? And if you were on a jury, would you be swayed by such a drastic change?

◆ Just a month and a half after instituting a $5 parking fee, Great Escape officials announced they will double the fee to $10. Will the increase discourage you from going to the amusement park at all, or make you visit the park less frequently?

◆ What do you think of the proposed development district in Lake Luzerne that would add 2,400 residential units down the face of West Mountain?

In 50-100 words, respond via e-mail to mahoney@poststar.com and look for responses in the coming days.