

WEATHER

HIGH 36° LOW 23° Winter esses his icy grip — just a bit. Details/A2

SUNDAY



UNWIND Hidden museum gems for the kids/12

REGION

C1 The Advocate chases a phantom loan C1 There's more in the cafeteria than pizza

BUSINESS Forget glamour. For New York, jobs are the answer/E1

NATION The nosediving economy takes a bloody toll/A6

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MORE NEWS

LOCAL POLITICS

Democrats pare field for 20th seat

Six people have emerged as potential candidates to be the Democratic standard-bearer in the upcoming 20th Congressional District race...

SPORTS



3-pointer late helps Saint Rose tip Pace

Jermaine Clark's three-pointer helps lift Saint Rose over Pace 86-80 in the Northeast-10 Conference...

WORLD

A mutual breakup in a faraway land

As Americans begin to exit their role in Iraq, many Iraqis are happy to see us go. Signs of mutual disengagement are everywhere...

PERSPECTIVE

Some lessons in school spending

Retired educator Caroline Mason writes about the lessons to be found in the call for reductions in state spending on education...

INSIDE

Need a super alternative? Try the 'Puppy Bowl'.



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SPECIAL REPORT: SCOUTS DISHONOR

Legacy sites sell for millions

Developers buy prime locations owned by Scouts

By LEWIS KAMB Hearst Newspapers

The last large stand of woods in a Seattle suburb. A unique desert canyon just outside of Los Angeles. Rangelands deep in the heart of Texas.

All are set to be felled, filled and dozed so stately homes, a sprawling reservoir and perhaps even a massive hydroelectric dam may one day rise in their place.

Aside from their ecologically sensitive settings, the lands share another common bond: The Boy Scouts of America made big money selling them for development.

From Arizona to Virginia, New York to Washington, local Boy Scouts administrations across America have reaped tens of millions of dollars over the past 20 years from selling campgrounds and other properties where boys once gathered amid nature to learn such values as being "thrifty" and "conservation-minded."

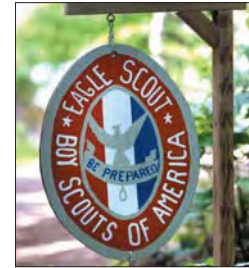
The organization that uses land to instill such values in boys has often sought cash exclusively from developers, not land trusts or conservation groups, when seeking to divest property, a Hearst Please see SCOUTS A8 >

On the Web

For stories, interactive map, video and photo galleries, go to http://timesunion.com.

Inside

A9 Land sales in New York. MONDAY Conflict of interest.



CINDY SCHULTZ/TIMES UNION CEDARLANDS SCOUT Reservation near Long Lake has been logged, upsetting some Scouts.

Your perfect Super Bowl

About 97.5 million people across the world watched the Super Bowl last year. Chances are, you were one of them.

We asked three of our most popular bloggers — Kristi Gustafson, Steve Barnes and Mark McGuire — to ask their loyal readers a few Super Bowl-related questions. Some of their answers are below. To read more answers, visit http://blogs.timesunion.com

If you could watch the Super Bowl with anyone — living or dead — who would it be and why?

My father. Dad was a diehard Steelers fan like me. Now he's got the best damn seat in the house up there in heaven. — Adesta

Tom Brady. He is pretty to look at and he could explain the plays to me. — Rae

Kristi says: Elisabeth Hasselbeck, co-host on ABC's "The View": While I don't always agree with her, the former Survivor contestant is interesting, strong-willed and confident. Plus, she has a great sense of style and understands football (her husband is a Giants' former backup quarterback). During commercials, we could talk about fashion, politics and "The View."

What's your ideal Super Bowl menu?

Spinach & Artichoke dip, guacamole, chips, Juniors' wings, barbecue pulled pork sandwich from Dinosaur's BBQ in Syracuse, Five Guys' french fries, a pint of Whiskey Porter from Brown's — KGB.

Two words: Bacon Explosion. — scot

Steve says: While I'd be tempted to make something with alligator (Sunday's game is being played in Florida, after all), I think I'd prefer a progression of finger foods: a platter of sashimi, cured meats and rilletes, olives and pickled vegetables, great bread and a few perfect fruits and cheeses.

Where/how is the best way to watch the Super Bowl?

All the kids downstairs, grownups upstairs, laughing at the great commercials, chili and Tositos, cold drinks and a cell phone to text my son at college. — TSmith

Game comes on here at 2 a.m. in Balad, Iraq. I am a contractor watching my eighth Super Bowl on American Forces Network without seeing the commercials with no beer. Good thing is they replay the game in the afternoon just in case I fall asleep. — Peter

Mark says: Surrounded by family and friends at home, a pot of chili nearby, and enough beer on hand to make even the biggest blowout tolerable.

On TV

9 a.m.-11 a.m.: "Today," NBC. The weekday crew goes behind the scenes. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: "NFL Countdown," ESPN. The real fan's pregame guide. 1 p.m.-6 p.m.: Super Bowl pregame, NBC. Includes a live interview with Obama. 6-8:28 p.m.: A little more pregame, NBC. Jennifer Hudson performs the anthem. 6:28 p.m.: Official kickoff time, NBC. Steelers wearing white, Cardinals in red. 8:15 p.m.-\* Halftime, NBC. Bruce Springsteen makes his Super Bowl debut. 10 p.m.-\* Postgame, NBC. Bob Costas presides over the celebration. 10:30-11:30 p.m.-\* "The Office," NBC. One final attempt to grab ratings. 11 p.m.-12:30 a.m.-\* "SportsCenter," ESPN. For sports fans who haven't had enough.

\* Time approximate

Inside

Sports: Mark McGuire looks at Kurt Warner and the question of whether the quarterback's Hall of Fame candidacy rides on Sunday's outcome. Plus, all the stats and story lines to get you ready for Super Bowl XLIII. Unwind: Jennifer Gish offers tips to help you sound like a real football fan.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF BOYER TIMES UNION

ANALYSIS

Truth issue rises at Capitol

Is it just Albany politics, or is Gov. David Paterson letting his power slip away to the Legislature because of his mixed messages?

By IRENE JAY LIU Capitol bureau

In politics, where half-truths and equivocation are common or even expected, Gov. David Paterson faces a credibility problem that undermines his ability to lead the state out of fiscal crisis.

The perception that Paterson fudges the truth, whether deliberately or out of a desire to please, has until this past week only had small-bore political implications — isolated incidents that have frustrated Capitol operatives and bewildered reporters.

In the nine months since he became governor, Paterson may or may not have called New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg a tantrum-prone liar. He may or may not have offered North Country Democratic Sen. Darrel Aubertine a position with the New York Power Authority to help the Senate GOP retain its majority. And he did or did not make a promise to Senate Republicans to stay off the campaign trail during their fight to keep their majority.

But the credibility blips turned into a pattern during the governor's handling of the Senate appointment process, and reached critical mass with Paterson's continued denial of involvement in his staff's whisper campaign against Caroline Kennedy.

The governor maintains that he did not sign off on the trash-talking after Kennedy withdrew from consideration for Hillary Rodham Clinton's run. But reporters in the Capitol, constrained by their obligation to protect anonymous

Please see PATERSON A7 >



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# PATERSON: Truthfulness is issue as clout dips

▼ CONTINUED FROM A1

sources, are convinced that's not the case.

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According to a Siena Research Institute poll released Thursday, Paterson now has his highest disapproval ratings since becoming governor in March 2006: 54 percent favor him; 30 percent have an unfavorable opinion.

Things were not always this way: "I think when the governor first started, there was a lot of good will. Everyone wanted to help him out, give him the benefit of the doubt," said a top Senate GOP staffer, referring to Paterson's early successes in producing an on-time budget in April and mid-year cuts in August.

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"It's tough to take him seriously given the whole series of events last week, and the problems he's had with staff leading up to last week," the lawmaker said. "You want a strong leader to say, 'The buck stops with me and I'm in charge here.' And it doesn't appear that he's in charge."

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GOV. DAVID PATERSON, right, is losing power to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, left, as the Democrats conduct crucial budget talks amid the state's economic crisis, Albany insiders say.

World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, after the media criticized the trip. That evening, he attempted to return focus to the budget by hastily scheduling a leaders' meeting with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith for Tuesday morning.

The purpose of the meeting was never made clear, even after it was scheduled, according to Assembly and Senate sources.

In a news conference after the leaders' meeting, the visibly subdued governor was uncharacteristically vague in his comments to reporters. He said the leaders would close this year's budget gap as "soon as we possibly can" and would reconvene the leaders "as soon as possible." Filling in the details, Silver and Smith said they expected to act on a proposal by the end of this week.

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Political logic holds that lawmakers should wait to see what comes to New York in the federal stimulus package that passed the House last week and is expected to move through the Senate in the days ahead.

"The only reason to do a deficit reduction proposal right now is to keep the governor on life support — but not strong," the lobbyist said.

Staff writer Irene Jay Liu can be reached at (518) 454-5081 or [iliu@timesunion.com](mailto:iliu@timesunion.com).

# Gillibrand visits western New York

New senator emphasizes her familiarity with upstate's challenges

By CAROLYN THOMPSON  
Associated Press

BUFFALO — U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's get-acquainted tour brought her Saturday to the western reaches of New York, where she worked to counter a lack of name recognition with a familiarity for the region's challenges.

The former Albany-area congresswoman who was sworn in to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday held a series of closed-door meetings with elected and community officials in Buffalo before heading to Rochester with a similar agenda.

"This is the kind of meeting I used to have in my home district, where I meet with all the local elected leaders on the issues that matter to them," Gillibrand said after wrapping up the Buffalo session.

Mayor Byron Brown called her a quick study who understands upstate's issues, "because she is from the upstate community."

The tour comes just a week after Gov. David Paterson surprised many by naming Gillibrand to succeed Clinton, who became U.S. Secretary of State. Caroline Kennedy was the apparent favorite for the Senate seat from the first day she expressed interest in the job, but her bid collapsed late last week when she abruptly withdrew her name from consideration.

Already, the new senator is taking a page out of her predecessor's book: In 1999, when then-First Lady Clinton launched her Senate bid, she embarked on a much-publicized "listening tour" in every corner of the state.

Gillibrand impressed Erie County Executive Chris Collins by talking her own notes.

"It wasn't her staffer taking

notes... That said something to me because as you write something down, it's registering simultaneously," the Republican said.

During a press conference afterward, Gillibrand occasionally referred to notes as she outlined her commitment to infrastructure, energy and education, scoring points with the local officials by promising to focus on Buffalo's underutilized waterfront and a high-speed rail corridor to connect the state's major cities and Canada.

Criticized by liberals for her position on gun control and by New York City Democrats for her vote against the Wall Street bailout last year, Gillibrand has little time to win over a much bigger constituency than the moderate-right leaning Hudson Valley counties that make up her old 20th Congressional District. She's up for election in 2010 to finish the two years left on Clinton's term and will have to run again in 2012 for a full, six-year term.

Already, New York City Democratic Rep. Carolyn McCarthy has threatened a primary because of Gillibrand's positions on gun ownership. McCarthy's husband was killed by a gunman on Long Island in 1993.

So far, Gillibrand has risen to electoral challenges. She beat incumbent Republican congressman John Sweaney in 2006 in the district that had been Republican hands for decades. Two years later, she defeated a well-funded millionaire in the nation's most expensive House race.

"It shows you that practicality wins the day," Gillibrand's former House colleague, Buffalo Democrat Brian Higgins, said of her success. "Most of the problems that plague this state and this nation are not partisan. They require practical solutions from hardworking innovative people and Kirsten Gillibrand certainly fits that mold very well."

# Republican leads as Commerce choice

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG  
New York Times

WASHINGTON — Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is the top contender to be President Barack Obama's nominee for commerce secretary, the White House said Saturday, a move that could bolster the Democratic majority in Congress.

Gregg's name has been circulated for several days as Obama tries to replace his previous nominee for commerce secretary, Gov. Bill

Richardson of New Mexico, who withdrew amid revelations that a grand jury is investigating how he awarded state government contracts. Gregg himself said Friday that he was under consideration.

If the senator accepts and is confirmed, he will be the third Republican appointee in the Obama Cabinet. The others are Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

A senior Obama administration official, speaking on condition of

anonymity because a formal announcement had not been made, said that Gregg was "now the leading candidate" for the commerce post and that a selection "could come as early as Monday."

The selection of Gregg, who is in his third term as a senator, could open the door to a significant shift in the congressional balance of power.

At present, the Democrats' Senate majority is 58, which includes two independents; that number will rise to 59 if Al Franken is se-

ated after the legal challenge to the Minnesota Senate race results is completed.

If Gov. John Lynch of New Hampshire, a Democrat, replaced Gregg with a member of his own party, that would put the Democratic majority at 60 — a magic number in the Senate because it is how many votes are needed to control the legislative agenda and to block a filibuster.

But there are no guarantees that Lynch would pick a Democrat: the governor is a moderate.



BUFFALO MAYOR BYRON BROWN begins a news conference with Congressman Brian Higgins and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand on Saturday.

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**Click byline for more stories by writer.**

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