

Deaths

Ray S. Ritzler, age 51, Henderson, KY, formerly of Ithaca, December 07, 2015

The list of area deaths that appears above is provided free of charge. The obituaries, in memoriams and cards of thanks elsewhere on this page are paid announcements. Obituary Department: 800-640-1722 Fax: 607-798-0261 cnyobits@gannett.com HOURS Weekday • 8:30am-5:00p Sunday • 2:00pm-5:00p Holidays - Call For Deadlines



Ritzler, Ray S.

Ray S. Ritzler, 51, died Monday Dec. 7, 2015 in Henderson, KY. He graduated Ithaca High School in 1982. Ray is survived by his wife, Deanna of California, his companion, Amy Ruta of Kentucky. Two children: Tim and Brittany Ritzler;

his parents Lee Ritzler of California and Ray Ritzler, Jr. of New Mexico. Siblings: Catherine and Allan Ritzler. He leaves behind many relatives and friends. Calling hours will be from 11am to 1pm on Tuesday, Dec. 15th at Allen-Manzer Funeral Home, 56 N. Main Street, Spencer. Graveside services will be on Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 1:00 p.m. at Evergreen Cemetery in Spencer.



**In Loving Memory of
James "Jamie" L. Compese, Jr.
6/8/53-12/15/14**

You were “born to be wild, heading out on the highway, looking for adventure. “(Steppenwolf). You were a “good old boy,” who often said, “Lady, what’ll you do about me?” (Randy Travis). “Could you ever love a man like me?” (Don Henley) You settled down, and we said, “Say you’ll share with me one love, one lifetime; Say you need me with you, here beside you. Anywhere you go, let me go too. Love me, that’s all I ask of you.” (The Phantom of the Opera). “Give to me your leather, take from me my lace.” (Stevie Nicks and Don Henley). Then your health changed...” Sometimes I’m a strong man, sometimes cold and scared. I knew with you, somehow I’d get by.” (Don Henley) Together... “We never walked away, when I needed you to stay, or made me feel I’m not the one.” (Martina McBride). “You came to me when I was feeling down, inspired me without a sound, and I found the strength to keep on going.” (Billy Joel) “Someone took you right out of my arms. I’ll see you in my dreams, hold you in my dreams.” (Joe Brown) “Wishing you were somehow here again, wishing you were somehow near. Sometimes it seems if we just dream, somehow you would be here.” (The Phantom of the Opera) “God Speed your love to me.” (Righteous Brothers) To hear your voice, to see you smile, to sit and talk to you a while. To be together in the same old way, would be our dearest wish today. To think we did not say goodbye, will always bring regret. But hearts that always loved, never will forget. Although we’re not together, we will never be apart, because you have that special place, right here within our hearts. Every day in some small way, we miss you more than words can say. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Your loving wife Nancy and daughter Tamra; the Bucher and Grantz families; Josephine Standish and family; your “first” cousins Anthony and Steve, and all your friends.

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**Joseph L. Hamilton
4/1/19-12/15/14
Beloved Husband of Margaret, Father & Grandfather**

Not a day goes by that we don’t think of you Pops. We love and miss you dearly. Your loving family.

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Bharara won’t disclose corruption investigations

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ALBANY - U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara on Monday said the convictions of the two former legislative leaders over a 13-day span should result in widespread reforms at the state Capitol. And he won’t say where his investigations will go next. Bharara used the guilty verdicts of former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, D-Manhattan, and Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, R-Nassau County, to rail against the troubles in Albany, saying lax laws and little oversight has fostered a culture of corruption.

“I think there is not doubt now, after two trials have concluded, on top of several trials before that, that there’s a deep problem of corruption in Albany,” Bharara said in an interview on WNYC radio in Manhattan.

Bharara wouldn’t say whether he is investigating the actions of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, saying he would not talk about any ongoing probes. Bharara again criticized the Democratic governor’s decision in 2014 to disband a corruption-busting panel. Cuomo’s office had also been accused of controlling the panel’s work.

“I’m not going to talk about any investigations that we have open. We have lots of investigations open,” Bharara said. “I think that people like to talk about what’s going to happen tomorrow.”

But he also stressed: “You shouldn’t read into anything I’m saying one way or the other. And I know people like to do that.”

Silver and Skelos were the legislative leaders as of January, and they made up two of the so-called “three men in a room” that controlled state government: the two legislative leaders and the governor.

Bharara said the concentration of power in New York can foster abuse — as the trials of Skelos and Silver showed. He has been on a crusade to root out corruption in New York.

Skelos was found guilty on Friday for using his influence to get his son, Adam, jobs and contracts; Adam Skelos, too, was convicted. Silver was convicted Nov. 30 for pocketing \$4 million for two law firms in exchange for his help in securing state grants and legislation for cli-



New York Sen. Dean Skelos, left, and his son Adam Skelos are seen walking into court on Nov. 17. A series of recordings have become both the key evidence in the trial and a window into a father’s unwavering devotion to his callow co-defendant, even at risk of destroying his political career.



U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara in his office in Manhattan. Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, in his office in Manhattan.

ents.

Bharara said the cases were quite clear: If the “motivation for taking official action of any sort was the incentive of monetary gain from that very person for whom you are giving official action, then you are guilty of public corruption.”

Bharara also knocked the ability of Silver and Skelos to receive their taxpayer-funded pensions, even though they’ve been found guilty of public corruption. They are in line to receive pensions that could be close to \$100,000 a year.

He suggested that he would try to seek some pension forfeiture from them at their sentencing, which won’t be until March or later. But he will be limited by state law that protects public pensions from being revoked; the Legislature has yet to agree on a bill that would change the constitution to take away convicted lawmakers’ pensions.

“I think people understand that it doesn’t seem at all fair when someone has been convicted of using his office for private gain that they should get the full measure of their pension,” Bharara said. “We will be looking at all the ways in which we can make sure that justice is done.”

For his part, Cuomo on Sunday said that New York should step up its ethics laws — even though he said he and the Legislature have installed unprecedented reforms since he took office in 2011.

“My position is we must have zero tolerance for any violation of the public trust,” Cuomo told reporters Sunday in Manhattan. “I think the Legislature had a lot of work to do to restore the public trust. I think we need an ambitious reform agenda.”

The Democratic governor said closing a loophole that allows LLCs to donate through various sources, as well as greater disclosure of outside income should all be on the agenda for the Legislature when it returns to the Capitol next month.

A “Power in Money” series by the Ithaca Journal’s Albany Bureau found that New York has among the most porous campaign-finance laws in the nation and lobbying spending doubled to \$210 million a year over the last decade.

Bharara and Cuomo separately criticized the ability of lawmakers to have outside income, which has been at the heart of many of the corruption cases. Bharara has convicted nearly a dozen state lawmak-

ers over his six-year tenure, including Hudson Valley GOP Sens. Nick Spano and Vincent Leibell and Southern Tier Sen. Thomas Libous in July.

“Common sense would tell you it is much harder to disguise a bribe or a kickback as a referral, if you don’t have the ability to have the same kind of outside income,” Bharara said.

Cuomo, too, has suggested that a limit on outside income should be on the table, even though the Legislature has resisted it.

“The fundamental conflict for the Legislature is that they are a part-time Legislature, and they are allowed to have outside income,” Cuomo said. “And that clash just continues to bring conflict after conflict after conflict.”

Bharara said that the Moreland Commission was on the right track before Cuomo shut it down. Cuomo said he shuttered the panel because he was able to extract stronger ethics reforms from the Legislature.

Bharara’s office took over the cases that the panel was looking into, but he declined to say if he believes Cuomo knew about the dealings of Silver and Skelos.

“They were looking at things like outside income, and they were, and I said this publicly, specifically looking at issues related to the outside income of former Speaker Silver,” Bharara said. “And when we took over the files — we had been looking at that ourselves — but we merged that with information from our own information and got the ball over the finish line.”

Cuomo again Sunday defended his decision to shutter the panel, which was made up largely of county district attorneys and was believed to be reviewing at least a dozen cases of lawmakers’ misdeeds. Cuomo’s office has been accused of steering the Moreland Commission’s work away from his office and allies.

Cuomo has disputed those contentions, arguing that it was his panel to convene and guide, but also saying it had independence.

“I think it did its job, which was primarily to get legislative changes, which we did get,” Cuomo said. “We now have disclosure.”

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Summit

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don’t even know their story? They have to get with their crisis, and they’re not.”

This was pointed out by Brown, the final official to speak. Brown mentioned the improved high school graduation rate under his tenure, from 78 percent to 94 percent.

He mentioned the improvement in discipline in his school, going from five disciplinary referrals a day when he started to what he said was about the tally for this school year so far. The biggest thing, Brown said, was how the district achieved its results.

“We do this because we do it with love,” Brown said. “It’s because we



Ithaca mayor Svante Myrick addresses the crowd at the Community Summit on Youth at Southside Community Center on Thursday evening.

know our students; they know us. We have a contract with our students

and teachers that extends to the home. We have a loving approach to every-

thing we do.”

The goal of creating understanding was the cornerstone of the night.

One man in the crowd said he was upset at the presence of Cornellians and whites in the crowd, saying it made no sense when the problems being talked about were largely present in the black community.

Some of the whites in the crowd said they came to the summit to learn what they could do, and they could be heard stating their motivations.

“People asked who my target audience is,” organizer and Tompkins County Youth Services Department worker Jasmine Cubero said. “It’s everyone. This is why I didn’t just invite community leaders. I want these conversations to be had, and everyone needs to be involved.”