

Republican senators grill inspector general

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY | Republican senators accused the state inspector general of failing to do her job so she could protect Gov. Eliot Spitzer when she was supposed to investigate the scandal that has snared two of Spitzer's top aides.

Republican senators, accused by their Democratic colleagues of keeping the

scandal alive to hurt Spitzer, spent almost two hours pressing state Inspector General Kristine Hamann, an appointee of the Democratic governor. She told them she had sought to join forces with Democratic Attorney General Andrew Cuomo "from the beginning" several times in their separate investigations of an apparent political plot by two Spitzer aides against Senate Republican leader

Joseph Bruno. According to Cuomo's investigation, Spitzer Communications Director Darren Dopp and Spitzer aide William Howard tracked how Bruno used state aircraft and a state police driver. Dopp and Howard planned to release the records to a reporter, the report concluded. They were not accused of violating the law, but the report found policies

designed to protect public officials' safety were broken for political gain.

While Cuomo didn't have subpoena power in the case, Hamann did and could have used it to compel testimony of top Spitzer aides in a joint investigation. She defended that decision, however, saying that if she subpoenaed a potential target of the investigation she would have to provide immunity from prosecution.

That contention was disputed by Republican senators.

"The answer is obvious," Senate Investigations Committee George Winner, an Elmira Republican, told reporters after. "The answer is she didn't interview anyone in the executive chamber, she merely reviewed the testimony (from Cuomo) ... she really didn't undertake any investigation."

ACCIDENT

Continued from 1A

Burglund, who was thrown from the Blazer, suffered multiple trauma injuries.

Wood was partially ejected from the vehicle, troopers said. He was treated for severe lacerations and released from Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira.

Alcohol is not suspected to be a contributing factor, according to police.

The New York State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit has been called in to investigate.

D-R

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company is willing to budge. They are going to try and starve us."

Coates spoke to *The Leader* soon after the meeting but was not available for comment after D-R announced later in the day its plans to hire the permanent replacement workers.

The union requested Thursday's meeting to clarify questions it has over the company's proposed health insurance and contract language proposals.

He said the union is looking for more information in order to come up with a proposal the company might accept. He said the company

supplied information concerning health insurance and more is expected. The contract language issues, which govern procedures, were not addressed, he said.

However, D-R officials said, "the union repeated earlier requests for information, discovered it had previously received much of the information and made new requests."

Since the strike began nearly five weeks ago, union members have been getting about \$200 a week from their IUE-CWA benefits.

However, on Aug. 31, union members received news that they were eligible for unemployment benefits sooner than expected. On

Aug. 15, Gov. Eliot Spitzer signed legislation that gives union members unemployment benefits if companies hire temporary or permanent replacement workers, Coates said.

Unemployment benefits usually do not kick in until the seventh week of a work stoppage.

Coates said members should get around \$400 a week on top of their IUE-CWA benefits.

D-R has been advertising in local papers and on Careerbuilder.com for replacement workers.

Company officials said they received more than 500 applications for replacement jobs.

TRIAL

Continued from 1A

concerns," he said.

The press release identifies the defendants as members of Finger Lakes for Peace in Iraq.

Thursday, Kuhl said he supports the protesters' right to assemble and air their grievances, but that support ends when laws are broken.

"I understand there are hired political operatives behind this effort who do not live in the district and who are trying to make a point,"

Kuhl said. "They are attempting to do that in a number of ways. As long as it's legal and legitimate I appreciate their efforts."

Kuhl said any subpoena received by a member of Congress would first go to Congress' general council's office.

"There are certain limitations on what people can do relative to requiring appearances," Kuhl said. "I'd refer to council and they'd direct me as to what the appropriate

procedure would be."

Incidents with protesters at his offices in Bath and Fairport prompted the congressman to add additional security at the Bath office.

"We are in the process of trying to create a system where people don't have an unlimited ability to walk in and be disruptive," Kuhl said. "We had a study done to determine what our needs are and what could be done, considering the facility we have."

BUST

Continued from 1A

whom have been linked to recent shootings in the city. Drake said three or four people allegedly associated with the shootings were arrested during Thunder and Lightning. Two or three people linked to shootings were apprehended as part of Crack Hammer.

"A lot of bad guys have been taken off the street," Drake said.

The sweep Thursday netted approximately six ounces of cocaine but little else. During Crack Hammer, authorities seized eight ounces of cocaine, marijuana and morphine, six vehicles, two rifles, two shotguns and \$17,794.

Thursday's arrests were the result of an 18-month investigation into tax-free alcohol at the Soft Tail Saloon and

Gush's Thirsty Bear, both on East Washington Avenue. During that investigation, an undercover tax investigator was propositioned with an alcohol-for-cocaine exchange sometime last year, authorities said.

The Organized Crime Task Force initiated a wiretap at the Soft Tail that resulted in the indictments of 17 people for allegedly trafficking cocaine. Two other people were charged later for their alleged role in the ring.

Undercover tax investigators often become privy to drug and weapons information during the course of their work, the attorney general's office said.

Along with making the drug arrests, authorities seized \$133,000 and business records from Gush's.

In addition to the Elmira

Police Department and the attorney general's office, the New York State Department of Finance and Taxation, the Chemung County District Attorney's Office the New York State Police, the Chemung County Sheriff's Office, and the Corning, Bath and Horseheads police departments assisted with the investigation.

"Today's operation in Elmira, in which some known drug dealers were arrested in connection with an investigation commenced months ago by the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, illustrates the success and effectiveness of multi-jurisdictional investigations," Chemung County District Attorney John Trice said. "The city of Elmira has today reaped the benefit of this collaborative effort."

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

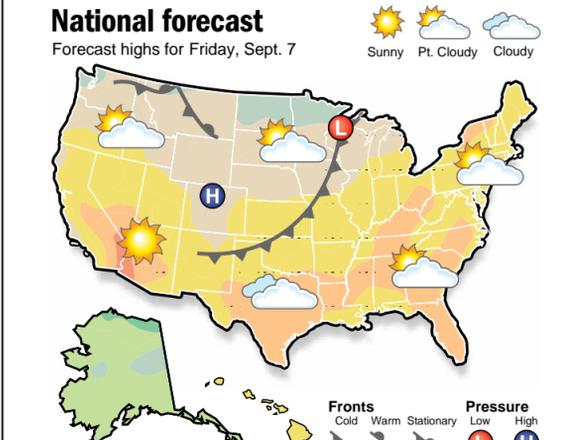
WETM 18 Storm Team
Chief Meteorologist Scott Mayer
Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli
Meteorologist Matthew Swzbejka



Day	Forecast	High	Low
Today	P. cloudy, hot, breezy	91	59
Saturday	P. sunny, t-storms developing	85	61
Sunday	M. cloudy, occ. showers, few t-storms	78	58
Monday	P. sunny	82	56
Tuesday	P. cloudy, p.m. showers, t-storms	80	59
Wednesday	P. cloudy, cooler	72	54
Thursday	P. sunny	73	50

National forecast

Forecast highs for Friday, Sept. 7



Fronts: Cold, Warm, Stationary
Pressure: Low, High

NEW YORK

Today will be mostly sunny and very warm with highs in the upper 80s. Tonight will be partly cloudy with lows in the mid-60s. Saturday will be partly to mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Chance of rain is 40 percent. Saturday night will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening with lows in the mid-50s.

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1970, a lightning bolt struck a group of football players at Gibbs High School in Saint Petersburg, Fla., killing two and injuring 22 others. All the 38 players and four coaches were knocked off their feet.

MOON PHASES

First: SEPT. 19, Full: SEPT. 26, Last: OCT. 3, New: TUESDAY

SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	6:40
Sunset today	7:32
Sunrise Saturday	6:41
Sunset Saturday	7:31

SUICIDE

Continued from 1A

The report, based on the latest numbers available, was released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and suggests a troubling reversal in recent trends. Suicide rates had fallen by 28.5 percent since 1990 among young people.

The biggest increase - about 76 percent - was in the suicide rate for 10- to 14-year-old girls. There were 94 suicides in that age group in 2004, compared to 56 in 2003. The rate is still low - fewer than one per 100,000 population.

Suicide rates among older teen girls, those aged 15-19 shot up 32 percent; rates for males in that age group rose 9 percent.

"In surveillance speak, this is a dramatic and huge increase," Dr. Ileana Arias said of the overall picture. She is director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

More research is needed to determine whether this is a trend or just a blip, said one child psychiatrist, Dr. Thomas Cummins of Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. "We all need to keep our eye on this over time to see if this is a continuing trend."

Overall, there were 4,599 suicides among young people in 2004, making it the third-leading cause of death, surpassed only by car crashes

and homicide, Arias said. Males committed suicide far more often than females, accounting for about three-quarters of suicides in this age group.

The study also documented a change in suicide method. In 1990, guns accounted for more than half of all suicides among young females. By 2004, though, death by hanging and suffocation became the most common suicide method. It accounted for about 71 percent of all suicides in girls aged 10-14; about half of those aged 15-19; and 34 percent between 20-24.

"While we can't say (hanging) is a trend yet, we are confident that's an unusually high number in 2004," said Dr. Kerri Lubell, a CDC behavioral scientist who was one of the study authors.

Scientists speculated that hanging may have become the most accessible method.

"It is possible that hanging and suffocation is more easily available than other methods, especially for these other groups," Arias said.

The CDC is advising health officials to consider focusing suicide prevention programs on girls ages 10-19 and boys between 15-19 to reverse the trends. It also said the suicide methods suggest that prevention focused solely on restricting access to pills, weapons or other lethal means may be of limited success.

As for why rates are up,

Richard Lieberman, who coordinates the suicide prevention program for Los Angeles public schools, said one cause could be a rise in depression during tumultuous adolescent years.

"There's a lot of pressure in and around middle school kids. They're kind of all transition kids. They're turbulent times to begin with," he said. "The hotline's been ringing off the hook with middle school kids experimenting with a wide variety of self-injurious behavior, exploring different ways to hurt themselves."

Arias said the declining use of antidepressants in those age groups might play a role. But it's "not the only factor" that health officials will be studying.

Four years ago, federal regulators warned that antidepressants seemed to raise the risk of suicidal behavior among young people, so black box warnings were put on the drugs' packaging.

When partial teen suicide data was published earlier this year, experts noted at the time that the drop in sales of the drugs corresponded with a rise in the suicide rate. Now there is concern that some children who need the medication aren't getting it.

"Suicide is a multidimensional and complex problem," Arias said. "As much as we'd like to attribute suicide to a single source so we can fix it, unfortunately we can't do that."

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