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THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 2007 A GANNETT NEWSPAPER 50 CENTS

Congressmen, DOD brass square off

Fort backers heartened after hearing

By KEITH BROWN and BILL BOVIANO
STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON — Shore area congressmen on Wednesday expressed guarded optimism following a House Armed Services subcommittee hearing that probed the skyrocketing costs of the

Pentagon's 2005 military base shake-up. The lawmakers called for continued inquiries.

There was some reason to believe the subcommittee on readiness hearing would not be the last session in an investigation of the 2003 Base Realignment and Closure process that

recommended the closure of Fort Monmouth and the transfer of much of its mission to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

The panel's chairman, Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, called the meeting the "first" session on the Pentagon's two-year-old process that consolidated



military installations in a nationwide effort to streamline the military and save money. Later in the hearing, Ortiz implied he was amicable to an

other hearing. "We'll try to see if we can solve a little of this mystery," he said. Reps. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., and Frank J. Pallone Jr. and Rush D. Holt, both D-N.J., all said following the hearing that they were pleased by the day's events, but that one hearing will not be enough to rein in the skyrocketing cost overruns in



the latest BRAC, including the decision to close Fort Monmouth. "I think it was very of-

fective in bringing out what the Pentagon did wrong, and in laying bare what their intentions are," Pallone said. "They obviously felt they were being heard." See Hearing, Page A5

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY AT HEARINGS

SEX BRIBES & AUDIOTAPES

Inside the FBI investigation of official corruption in Marlboro



Matthew Scannapieco, Marlboro mayor from 1992 to 2003, was questioned by FBI agents about his lavish spending.

'You could see he knew the jig was up'

FBI probes press ex-mayor

Political corruption was once entrenched in Marlboro. In the fifth part of an eight-day series, the FBI pressures the ex-mayor to come clean.

By BOB CULLINANE
STAFF WRITER

Matt Scannapieco is going to be late for work today.

Instead of driving to his job as a commissioner on the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Board in Trenton, Scannapieco is pulling his state-issued Pontiac to the shoulder of Route 18 in Old Bridge.

He's following an unmarked police cruiser escorted by FBI agents Jim DiDorio and Bob Cooke as it exits Route 18 for Route 9 north.

It is Monday morning, March 29, 2004, and Scannapieco has agreed to speak with the agents about their investigation of public officials in Marlboro.

Scannapieco, the former mayor of Marlboro, has been out of office only three months after serving as mayor for 12 years.

He is also one of the targets of the FBI investigation.

Agents probing Scannapieco's background have

See FBI, Page A4

Cause of fire not ascertained

POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS COMMENDED

'HEROIC,' 'VALIANT': Authorities hail those who tried to rescue two victims in the Belmar tragedy, putting themselves at risk



Three people were left homeless when fire gutted this house at 1403 C St. in Belmar on Tuesday evening. Two others died of smoke inhalation — Kenyon 'Ny Gee' Stevens, 7 (shown in a family photo above) and his grandmother, Barbara Carter. (Inset photo: Kenyon Stevens)

By MICHELLE SAHN and MARGARET F. BONAFIDE
STAFF WRITERS

BELMAR — When police and firefighters arrived at a C Street home Tuesday night, it was engulfed in flames, and Genise Carter was outside screaming because her 7-year-old son and 52-year-old mother were trapped upstairs.

Officers Darrin Vitiello and Cliff Aker tried to force and break open windows to reach Kenyon 'Ny Gee' Stevens and his grandmother, Barbara Carter. Meanwhile, Sgt. Harry Harsin went to the back of the house, climbed a tree and made his way to the deck, then

kicked in the door. He entered the house — without any protective gear — but the heat forced him back outside.

The first volunteer firefighters to arrive at the scene — who came from their homes without air packs — tried to make their way up the front staircase, the police chief said.

Soon, firefighters arrived on engines packed with gear, and the volunteers reached the little boy and his grandmother. The victims were rushed to the hospital, where they were pronounced dead from

See Fire, Page A4

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WHO TO CALL: To donate money or services toward a burial for Kenyon 'Ny Gee' Stevens and his grandmother, Barbara Carter, call the borough of Belmar asks that the public call (732) 681-5706 and press 0 to reach an operator during regular business hours.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE

HELP NEEDED: A Borough Council member mounts an effort to help fire survivors. PAGE A4

ON THE WEB

CARE TO COMMENT? Visit our Web site, www.app.com, and click on this story for the latest developments and to join in the online conversation about this topic in Story Chat.

Supreme Court overturns kidnapping conviction

By CHARLES WEBSTER IV
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks after she was released from parole, the 2003 kidnapping conviction of a former Brick woman who aided her husband in taking his children out of state was overturned by the state Supreme Court.

This decision draws a



Stacey Froidland-Kindt's organization, Redeem-Her, helps women newly released from prison.

the culmination of the case against Stacey Froidland-Kindt, now of Point Pleasant Beach, who was convicted of kidnapping her husband's children by a previous marriage after he traveled to North Carolina with them on Dec. 27, 2000.

The 5-to-1 decision from the high court is

See Overturn, Page A7

AN UNPARALLELED OVERVIEW



A vintage clothing store helps give Atlantic Highlands' business district its own character. (Inset photo: Brian Ferraro)

Despite similarities, towns enjoy rivalry

By TERRY GAUTHIER MUESIG
STAFF WRITER

They're not identical twins, but Atlantic Highlands and Highlands share enough similarities that non-locals often get the two towns mixed up.

The neighboring towns are lapped by water at the southern tip of Sandy Hook Bay, yet reach up toward Mount Mitchell, a county park that at 366 feet is the highest natural spot on the entire East Coast south of Maine. They're not great views of Sandy Hook, the Atlantic Ocean and the New York skyline. Their downtowns are home to beloved restaurants.

Both towns are small — popula-

See 2 towns, Page A7



Gravelly Point Road in Highlands is evolving as summer buildings are converted into year-round, sometimes sumptuous, homes.

MORE ON LIFE IN 2 TOWNS IN JERSEY LIFE/D3

Big school-aid boosts due 21 Shore districts

Corzine unveils new formula

By JONATHAN TAMARI
GANNETT STATE BUREAU

TRENTON — About half of the state's 616 school districts — including 17 in Monmouth County and four in Ocean County — can expect state aid increases of 10 percent or more under Gov. Corzine's new education funding formula.

Meanwhile, 267 other districts will get bumps of 5 percent or smaller, according to administra-

tion figures unveiled Wednesday.

In all, schools will share a \$30 million increase in state support, the largest boost in years, under a plan Corzine said will largely help hard-pressed middle-class districts that have had to rely on local property taxes to deal with

See School aid, Page A2

TOWN BY TOWN: School aid figures. PAGE A2

APP.com
HOT TOPICS Find out what's hot among readers and what's not in the new APP.com forum category under Your Voices and Forums.

LOTS MORE ON THE WEB
NEED TO KNOW Editorial writer Claire McLaughlin is talking about communication and the Manalapan school district's responsibility to keep parents informed in her Mom on the Move blog on JerseyShore Moms.com.

APP.com
SHAKE HOT SPOTS Find out who's playing at your favorite area clubs in the Bars & Clubs section of our online events calendar.

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Rain with mix of snow
WEATHER: A2
TEMPERATURES
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER
32° 37° 36°

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OBITUARIES B4
SPORTS E1
TELEVISION D6