

# OCEAN COUNTY EDITION

EAGLES' RALLY CAN'T KEEP SAINTS DOWN. D1

JETS HANG ONTO LEAD, TOP DOLPHINS. D5

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ASBURY PARK

# PRESS

SINCE 1879

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

BLITZ  
GIANTS'  
COMEBACK  
FOILS  
FALCONS.  
D1

SPORTS  
METS  
EVEN IT  
UP WITH  
CARDS.  
D8

MONDAY, OCT. 16, 2006

50 CENTS

## Five join lawsuit against Brick church

By KATHLEEN HOPKINS  
TOMS RIVER BUREAU

### St. Thomas' school now among defendants in molestation case

TOMS RIVER — Five more plaintiffs have come forward to accuse a one-time pastor of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Brick of molesting them when they were boys during the 1970s and 1980s.

That brings to 11 the number of men who are suing the church on

Salmon Street and its officials over alleged sexual abuse.

Meanwhile, the clergyman at the center of the multimillion-dollar lawsuit, the Rev. Robert L. Slegel, who resigned as pastor of the church amid scandal in 1993, died Sept.

1 at age 77. He had been living in Southern Shores, N.C., near Kitty Hawk, according to an obituary prepared by Twiford Colony Chapel in Manteo, N.C.

Dover Township attorney Robert R. Fuggi Jr. filed the \$30 million law-

suit against the church last year on behalf of six men who said they were molested by Slegel when they were boys in the 1970s. The suit named as defendants the church; two of its former pastors, identified in court papers only by their initials; the

New Jersey Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Fuggi now has amended the complaint to include five more men who have come forward with molestation allegations against

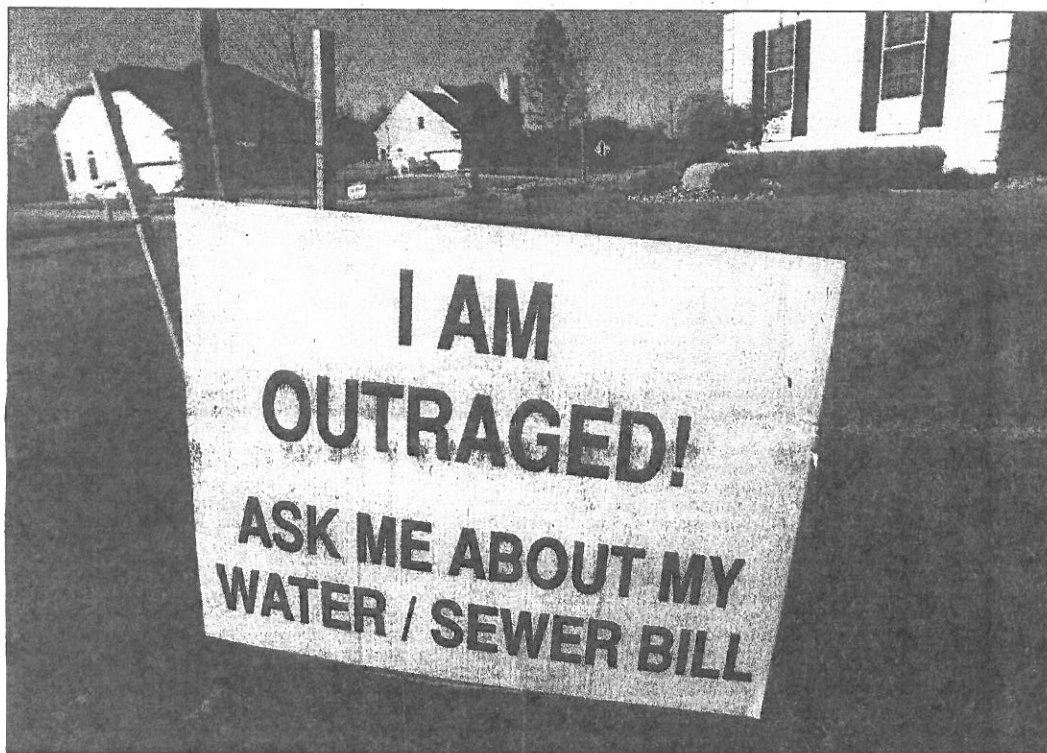
Slegel after reading about the original lawsuit in the Asbury Park Press earlier this year.

Two of the new plaintiffs now reside in Brick, two in Dover Township and one in Lakewood. They range in age from 34 to 39. Two allege they

were molested from ages 7 to 9 — one from 1974 to 1976, and the other from 1978 to 1980. A third alleges he was molested from 1980 to 1981, when he was 12 and 13. A fourth alleges he was molested between 1978 and 1981, when he was 6 to 9 years old. The fifth alleges he was

See Church, Page A5

### IN HOWELL: New homeowners seek fix for 'outrageous' water and sewer bills



A sign on the front lawn of a homeowner at The Reserve at Manasquan protests quarterly water and sewer bills from New Jersey-American Water Co. that are costing some residents up to \$1,800. (STAFF PHOTO: BOB BIELK)

## Corrections nominee faces hard questions

### Senate hearings to begin for high court hopefuls as well

By TOM BALDWIN  
GANNETT STATE BUREAU

TRENTON — Gov. Corzine's nominee to head the troubled Department of Corrections — an agency scarred by misuse of inmate labor, misspent money and allegations of forced sex — goes before the Senate Judiciary Committee today.

Acting Commissioner George W. Hayman is scheduled to testify before the Senate body, which will vote on whether to recommend Hayman's nomination be considered by the full Senate.

The committee also will

interview Corzine's two nominees for the state Supreme Court. Associate Justice James Zazzali of Rumson is in line to become chief justice, and Appellate Judge Helen Hoens of Basking Ridge is a candidate to join the high court.

Hayman, who took charge of the Corrections Department in January, oversees more than 9,500 employees, 14 institutions, and 27,000 inmates in prisons, jails and halfway houses.

Hayman's 22 years in

See Nominees, Page A2



GEORGE W. HAYMAN: Acting head of the Department of Corrections



JAMES ZAZZALI: The Rumson resident has been nominated to become

# PATIENCE RUNS DRY