

# PRESS



**In-home puppy mill**  
 SPCA rescues 80 dogs, some of them sick, from a Middletown house.  
**LOCAL NEWS, B2**

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009

APP.COM

75 CENTS

**OCEAN COUNTY EDITION**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Once, he had this bizarre idea that he would ad-lib the newscast without a script. It was utter chaos. It lasted for two days."

— Sanford Socolow, who worked for many years as Walter Cronkite's producer, remembering "the most trusted man in America" during his funeral Thursday

STORY, A12

**IN THE NEWS**

**Investigation targets Jackson's doctor**

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's personal doctor is the target of the manslaughter investigation into the singer's death, according to court documents filed Thursday, the day after agents seized items from the physician's Houston clinic and a rented storage unit.

A search warrant approved by a Houston judge allowed authorities to seek "property or items constituting evidence of the offense of manslaughter that tend to show that Dr. Conrad Murray committed the said criminal offense."

Murray, 51, was with Jackson when he died.

The Associated Press

**GOING UP**

Fluke quotas set to increase in 2010.

**HOOK, LINE & SINKER, F1**

**SUPERCENTERS COMING**

Wal-Mart adding grocery departments to stores in Freehold Township, Neptune and Lacey.

**BUSINESS, A14**

**STABBING SENTENCE**

South Toms River man gets 12 years for his role in 2007 death.

**LOCAL NEWS, B1**

# FBI dragnet captures public officials, rabbis

## Extortion, money laundering charged

By JEAN MIKLE, MICHELLE SAHN and BILL BOWMAN  
 STAFF WRITERS



STAFF PHOTO: MICHAEL SYPNIEWSKI

Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra Jr. speaks to reporters in Newark about Thursday's corruption arrests.

An Ocean County assemblyman, two Monmouth County rabbis and a Lake wood housing official were among the 44 people charged Thursday in a sweeping federal probe into political corruption, international money laundering and the trafficking of human kidneys.

The raid that targeted Ocean, Monmouth and Hudson counties, as well as Brooklyn, N.Y., ensnared two distinct groups: public officials accused of extorting thousands of dollars in bribes, and rabbis accused of using Jewish charities they controlled to launder millions of dollars.

"The arrests underscore more than ever the pervasive nature of corruption in the state," acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra Jr. said. "Corruption was a way of life" for the public officials. "They existed in an ethics-free zone."

As for the accused religious leaders, Marra said the rabbis acted as "crime bosses." They typically charged a fee of 5 to 10 percent for each money-laundering transaction, Marra said.

"New Jersey's corruption problem is one of the worst, if not the worst, in the nation," said Ed Kahrer, who heads the FBI's white-collar and public corruption investigation division. "Corruption is a cancer that is destroying the core values of this state."

See Arrests, Page A3

# Bank fraud figure key to probe

## Dwek helps FBI charge 44 in massive investigation

By JEAN MIKLE  
 STAFF WRITER

Three years after the FBI charged him with bank fraud, Solomon Dwek has become the bureau's key witness in a massive corruption and international money-laundering probe.

Dwek, named in criminal complaints as "the co-operating witness," was the hub who helped gather evidence against two assemblymen, three mayors

**OCEAN COUNTY**

Assemblyman Daniel M. Van Pelt, 44, R-Ocean, is accused of accepting a \$10,000 bribe from the CW, who wanted to smooth the way for a development in Waretown. Van Pelt is a former Waretown mayor.  
**Jeffrey Williamson, 57, a**



**CENTER OF IT ALL**

Although not mentioned by name.

**HUDSON COUNTY**

Hoboken Mayor Peter Cammarano III, 32, a Democrat, and associate Michael Schaffer are accused of taking \$25,000 in bribes from the CW to sponsor zoning changes for a high-rise building.  
**Secaucus Mayor Dennis Ewell, 64, a Democrat,**



**OPERATION BID RIG**

**RESIGNATIONS REQUESTED:** Corzine and Legislative leaders ask arrested assemblymen to step down.  
 PAGE A2

