



# UNTHINKABLE

**27 DEAD AT SCHOOL**

Shooter kills himself after slaughtering 20 children, 6 adults

**OBAMA REACTS**

President shaken and tearful  
**Story, A4**

**SCENE OF TERROR**

Students were 10 and under; mother of shooter is among the victims

# Daily Record

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

\$1.00

COMING SUNDAY: WHY WE KEEP LOOKING AND BELIEVING



At a site of an old "proppage" near the Highlands Trail in the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Sasquatch investigator Matt Dick talks about geo-tracking the elusive creatures. KAREN MANCINELLI/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD

## Christie's prosecutor nominee sworn in

Knapp takes over in acting capacity as Bianchi departs

By Peggy Wright  
@peggywrightDR

Morris County Prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi, a holdover since his term expired in June, was abruptly replaced Friday by attorney Fredric M. Knapp, who was sworn in as acting county prosecutor by order of Gov. Chris Christie flexing his executive authority muscle.

Knapp, a Republican nominated by Christie on June 7 to succeed Bianchi, a Democrat, was sworn in as acting prosecutor of the county around 11 a.m. by state Superior Court Assignment Judge Thomas Weisenbeck in Morristown.

By Christie's order, the state attorney general "superseded" the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, or took control of it, and put Knapp, the nominee, in charge. Supersession is a dramatic, unusual move but does not mean Bianchi did anything wrong as chief law enforcement officer of the county — a position he has held since June 22, 2007. But typically, holdover prosecutors are kept in office until a successor is formally confirmed.

Knapp also has been designated an assistant attorney general because the Attorney General's Office has technically taken over the office.

Christie, speaking at a news conference in Sea Bright, said the uncertainty in the Prosecutor's Office was weighing on employee morale, and he ran out of patience with a state Senate that was playing politics with law enforcement.

He noted that acting prosecutors also have been appointed by the attorney general in Essex County and Atlantic County.

"I don't think there's any debate about the governor's ability to do it," Christie said. "We did it. But we waited for seven months for a hearing. The Senate cannot continue to be able, especially in sensitive law enforcement positions, to just sit in the corner and hold their breath because they lost the election in 2009. And so when I believe it's begun to really drastically affect law enforcement's abilities and capabilities, I will act and move."

Knapp's nomination to succeed

# THE HOT SPOTS FOR SIGHTINGS

Morris County high on the Sasquatch investigators' list



By Lorraine Ash  
@LorraineVAsh

Sasquatch investigators lead interesting lives. Those from the California-based Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO) are known as the toughest. No report anywhere, including New Jersey, goes into the group's worldwide online database until it passes muster with one of its investigators.

"Some reports won't be posted to the general public as a result of a confirmed misidentification or a presumed hoax or the request of the witness who submitted it," said BFRO Investigator Paul Kotch of Neptune.

"We also won't post it," he added, "if we are working the area and wish to keep it under wraps."

Here's how the process works: Say a person sees a Sasquatch or finds a footprint. Or say he hears wood knocks on trees or vocalizations, ways squatches are thought to communicate with each other.

Or he finds an unexplainable stick structure or sees rocks thrown in the woods — all activities associated with Sasquatches, also known as bigfoots in the Northeast.



Matt Dick shows his geo-tracking screen as he walks on the Highlands Trail in the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation in Morris County. KAREN MANCINELLI/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD

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