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Teacher, victim in sex case, suspended

By Amanda Oglesby
@OglesbyAPP

TOMS RIVER — A Toms River Intermediate East teacher has been suspended with pay after authorities said she was the victim of an aggravated sexual contact by a retired marine police officer inside the school.

Bruce A. Figular, 50, of Toms River was indicted by an Ocean County grand jury this month after the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office said he entered the school on

WHAT'S NEXT

The Toms River Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Toms River High School East, 1225 Raider Way. The school board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in a closed session to discuss the investigation.

Jan. 14, impersonated a police officer, and committed "aggravated sexual contact" against the teacher. "In the interest of the teacher,

students and staff, and pending a thorough investigation, the teacher in question has been put on suspension with pay," Superintendent Frank J. Roselli said in a letter to parents.

Figular is charged with third-degree aggravated criminal sexual contact, third-degree burglary and fourth-degree impersonating a law enforcement officer, after using his retired State Police ID to gain access to the school, officials said.

See **SUSPEND**, Page A10

'Star Trek Into Darkness' opens

EXPANDING AN

Shore-area Trekkies show up in costume for movie's arrival

By Erik Larsen :: @Erik_Larsen

TOMS RIVER — There are Trekkies, and then there are Trekkies.

Meet the crew of the starship USS Challenger — for 25 years, the local Jersey Shore chapter of an international Star Trek fan club, called Starfleet, which boasts hundreds of similar branches around the world.

While there are only about 25 members in Challenger, these are not your run-of-the-mill fans of Gene Roddenberry's utopian vision of the future. In



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Buyouts offered for homes that flood \$300M available in first round

By Sergio Bichao
@sbichao

Some 350 homeowners in two central New Jersey towns whose properties have flooded repeatedly will be eligible to sell their homes in the first phase of a new federally funded buyback program that will eventually extend to hard-hit Shore communities, Gov. Chris Christie announced Thursday.

Christie returned to the community of Sayreville, which was heavily flooded during superstorm Sandy, to announce the \$300 million buyback. The money will be enough to purchase nearly 1,000 homes in targeted communities along the Raritan River, Passaic River basin and the Jersey Shore.

The homes that the government buys will be razed and the property maintained as wetlands to help protect against future floods. The program is voluntary. Homes in Sayreville and South River will be the first purchased in the program, the governor said.

One catch, though: Christie said he doesn't want to "waste money" on buyouts for single homes. The state wants to buy entire clusters of homes or neighborhoods.

Christie said the voices of residents who asked him for help when he visited Sayreville not long after