

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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PHOTO CLUB SHOOTS SUNSET, SUPER MOON

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Major League debut for Szczur

LCMR graduate enters as pinch-runner for Chicago Cubs

By CARRIE MUSKAT
MLB.com

NEW YORK—Matt Szczur's father was in Des Moines last weekend to help his son pack some of his belongings.

The Lower Township resident and 2007 Lower Cape May Regional High School graduate has spent the season at Triple-A Iowa, and with the year winding down, the plan was for his father to make a stop at the

Iowa State Fair on Saturday, then load up the car and drive to New Jersey. But plans changed.

"I called him and said, 'You might want to come back — we're packing up for a different reason now,'" Szczur said.

Szczur was called up from the minors Sunday and joined the Cubs at Citi Field, where he played once before in a workout for Major League scouts. He entered the game in the eighth inning as a pinch-runner

to become the seventh player to make his Major League debut with the Cubs this season.

He said he wasn't nervous.

"I feel if it was my first time up and I hadn't been in big league camp, I would've been a lot more nervous," Szczur said. "I remember the first time I was in big league camp, my legs were shaking. I felt very comfortable today. I wasn't nervous. It was good to hear the crowd go crazy — it brought me

back to my football days."

He had a cheering section from Lower Township, which is about 2.5 hours away from New York City. A lot of his former Villanova classmates and teammates were at Citi Field.

He stayed in the game in right field, and hit into a fielder's choice in his first at-bat in the ninth.

"To be honest, I didn't even

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Matt Szczur, right, stands with Lower Township Assistant Recreation Superintendent Jim Ridgeway in December.

State board OKs Lower's public works, MUA merger

Township Council approval still needed to move ahead

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The state Local Finance Board voted unanimously Aug. 13 to allow Lower Township to proceed with the merger of the Municipal Utilities Authority with the township's Public Works Department.

The Local Finance Board, which is part of the Division of Local Government Services, heard testimony from both township officials and MUA representatives regarding the plan to consolidate the water and sewer authority with township services at a July meeting, and unanimously approved the proposal last week.

Township Manager Mike Voll said the decision is a victory for the ratepayers, taxpayers and MUA employees. He said the decision noted that a state auditor agreed with the findings of Lower Township's independent auditor, Robert Schwartz, that more than \$1 million per year would be saved if the MUA merged with the township.

Mayor Michael Beck told the Star and Wave that the state was not mandating the township to consolidate the MUA with public works but has given approval to the process. He said the

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Lenape Nation signs Treaty of Renewed Friendship



Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Representatives of the Lenape Nation landed in North Cape May on Aug. 16 for ceremonies associated with the Treaty of Renewed Friendship and Culture Days. Todd Messer, left, and Tasunka-Pejuta participated in a pow-wow featuring Native American dancers and drummers Aug. 17 at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal. See more photos on page A8.

Shallow harbor threatens economy, but dredging on agenda

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — An increasingly shallow Cape May Harbor could threaten the fishing industry, the future of the U.S. Coast Guard base here and hinder recreational boaters, but help is on the way this fall.

The shallowness was driven home in two news releases last week.

A visit from the Galleon Andaluca, an 18th century replica pirate ship, to South Jersey Marina was canceled last week because of "inadequate water depth due to insufficient dredging."

The Galleon Andaluca was

seen in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies and John Malkovich's "Crossbones" television series, and had been scheduled to make Cape May a Port-O-Call. Cape May would have been the vessel's next stop after Ocean City, Md. Other stops include Baltimore and Annapolis, Md., during the ships voyage to St. Augustine, Fla.

According to a news release from South Jersey Marina, the county Department of Tourism and Southern Shore Destination Marketing Organization had offered initial support, recognizing the tremendous potential of hosting this "one-of-a-kind" tall ship event dur-

ing Cape May's fall shoulder season.

South Jersey Marina owner Rick Weber informed the tour organizers and ship owners that plans are in the works to dredge all of Schellenger's Creek later this year and assured them that Cape May County's rich history will make it an ideal host for future visits.

"If nothing else, this experience should clearly show state and local officials why functional waterways are critical to our area. Properly maintained waterways nourish tourism, recreational boating, commercial fishing, property values and so much more. If these are things we value, we must

make dredging a priority at all levels," he said.

On Aug. 1, Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous marked its official arrival at its new homeport at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Va., after permanently leaving Cape May.

Vigorous is the first of two Medium Endurance Cutters from Cape May to be relocated to Little Creek. The Coast Guard Cutter Dependable is scheduled to leave Cape May to be home-ported in Virginia in 2015. The decision to relocate Vigorous was prompted by the deteriorating pier conditions at

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Cutter Vigorous arrives at new homeport in Va.

Cape May Star and Wave

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous marked its official arrival at its new homeport at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Va., on Aug. 8. Vigorous is the first of two Medium Endurance Cutters from Cape May to be relocated to Little Creek.

The Coast Guard Cutter Dependable is scheduled to arrive in 2015.

"Cape May was a wonderful home for Vigorous over the past 21 years, and we thank the community for its steadfast support," said Cmdr. Terry Johns, Vigorous commanding officer.

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