

Ready, set, hike!



Matt Button | AEGIS STAFF
Mickey Glendon, left, holds the ball as his son, Eli, practices his kicking skills during Saturday's in the pArc event at Cedar Lane Regional Park in Creswell.



Matt Button | AEGIS STAFF
Derek Petee, of Bel Air, focuses on his throw as he participates in the Saturday in the pArc event at Cedar Lane Regional Park in Creswell. The Punt, Pass and Kick football festival was a benefit for the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.

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Contractor drilling hole hits gas line

Route 40 closed for more than nine hours Friday

BY RACHEL KONOPACKI
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A gas leak on Route 40 forced the closing of the lanes for eastbound traffic for nearly 10 hours on Friday.

The affected lanes of Route 40 between Routes 7 and 715 were closed from about 1:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday because a gas leak caused by a contractor obtaining soil samples.

The Aberdeen Fire Department received a call about the leak around 1 p.m. on Friday, according to Chief Eric Reith.

A contractor who was completing preparation work for construction caused the gas leak.

As the contractor was drilling a hole to take a soil sample for geological information, he hit a high-pressure gas main that runs parallel to Route 40, causing the gas leak, according to Reith.

"It wasn't anything spectacular," Reith said. "It was a gas leak that was significant and we couldn't risk people traveling through area."

Crews from BGE were on the scene from 1:30 to 11 p.m. repairing the gas line, according to Linda Foy, spokesperson for BGE.

"We did respond to reports of a leak in the area," Foy said.

The Maryland State Highway Administration, SHA, arrived on the scene around 3 p.m. and remained there until 11 p.m. to help with the lane closure.

Traffic was detoured onto Route 7 and Route 715, then back onto Route 40, according to Kellie Boulware, spokesperson for the SHA.

Reith said fire department personnel remained on the scene until about 6 p.m.

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