



# Carroll County Times

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## Bin Laden's death brings 'closure'



### Residents, experts reflect on news

By PETER PANEPINTO  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Westminster resident Jason Officer was still in high school when the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occurred. Since

then, the now 26-year-old has lost a classmate in the war and currently has a friend serving in Iraq.

"I never thought we would ever see the day that we would either capture or know that

Osama bin Laden was dead," Officer said Monday. "To finally have closure to one of the worst days in American history, I feel a sense of relief."

Osama bin Laden, the man behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks that killed thousands of Americans, was killed in an operation led by the United States,

President Barack Obama announced Sunday night.

A small team of Americans killed bin Laden in a firefight Sunday at a compound in Pakistan.

"Justice has been done," Obama said.

Please see **Bin Laden, A9**

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## Educators honored

Pair chosen by Arc for work with special needs students

By MEGAN MCKEEVER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Organizing hockey, bowling and softball teams for students with special needs has been an extraordinary experience for Liberty High School teacher Geoffrey Hoffman.

"Winning and losing doesn't matter to the kids. They're just really enjoying being there and being on a team," Hoffman said. "They get to do some of the things that other students take for granted."

Hoffman was one of two educators selected by The Arc of Carroll County as Special Education Professionals of the Year. Linda Purcell, of West Middle School, was also selected.

PURCELL



KEN KOONS/STAFF PHOTO

Geoffrey Hoffman, left, coaches indoor softball during Liberty High School's game with Manchester Valley High School.

### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### Mavs pound Lions

With a victory over Liberty, Manchester Valley must defeat Westminster in two consecutive games to win its first county baseball title. **B1**



### Taneytown election

## Council remains the same

Incumbents sweep seats as 5 percent of residents vote

By ALISHA GEORGE  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

TANEYTOWN — Councilmembers Carl Ebaugh and Richard Hess Jr. reclaimed their seats in Taneytown's city election Monday. Mayor James McCarron Jr. ran unopposed for his seat and will serve another term.

Taneytown residents voted Monday to fill two full-term council seats and the mayor's position. Candidates for the council positions were incumbents Ebaugh and Hess, as well as Judith Archie.

About 5 percent of registered voters, or 183 Taneytown residents, voted, and six of the votes were cast through absentee ballots, according to city attorney Jay Gullo. About 8 percent of residents voted in the last municipal election in 2009.

Hess received the highest number of votes for a council seat at 122, followed by Ebaugh at 120.

Ebaugh said he is pleased he will be able to continue to work on city projects and will get to see the completion of the city's streetscape project as a councilman.

He said the current council gets along very well and understands each other's goals.

"We've got a good working relationship," he said. "We pretty much know as a body where we're going."



EBAUGH



HESS



MCCARRON

Please see **Taneytown, A9**

### Westminster election

## Water supply discussed

Conservation, new options considered

By BRETT LAKE  
LANDMARK NEWS SERVICE

In 2007, Westminster officials signed a consent agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment that limits the city's growth until its water supply is sufficient to address a drought.

In response, the city is in the midst of the Gesell Well project, for which the city has allocated \$1.2 mil-

#### WESTMINSTER ELECTION COVERAGE

Westminster's election will take place May 9.

- **Sunday:** Property taxes
- **Monday:** Downtown revitalization
- **Today:** Water supply

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lion in its water fund.

Currently in the design phase, the project is expected to be completed in 2012 and will have the capacity to yield 350,000 gallons of new water each day. The city's water supply

utilizes the Cranberry and Wakefield Valley systems. The two are run separately but have the ability to be integrated.

On May 9, Westminster

Please see **Water, A9**

### New Windsor election

## Council hopefuls weigh possibility of raising taxes

Town trying to offset higher costs

By CARRIE ANN KNAUER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

It's been four years since New Windsor has raised its tax rate, but town officials wonder how long they can keep it there with the continuous rising costs to the town.

New Windsor has maintained a tax rate of 20 cents per \$100 of assessed value of property since raising it from 16 cents for fiscal year

2008, said Town Clerk Donna Alban.

Mayor Neal Roop said the New Windsor Town Council has seen fairly steady revenues the past few years, with the exception of the state cuts of highway user funds, but many costs have been increasing, such as fuel, electricity, snow removal and others.

"Somewhere along the road we're going to have to

look at raising taxes a little bit to be able to put some money away for future capital projects," Roop said.

Some of those capital projects include a public works building and a new town hall or town offices. The town has been renting a garage to store its public works vehicles and equipment, and the Town Council had considered purchasing or constructing its own building a few years

Please see **Taxes, A9**



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Westminster, Maryland