

## Calvert fair-goers enjoy great fall weather

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**Barstow, MD** - After a drenching Wednesday night rain and a gloomy Thursday, great weather made a comeback for the last three days of the 2018 Calvert County Fair. Well into its third century, the fair is primarily a fair exposition. However, many of the added attractions made the four-and-a-half-day event memorable.

On Saturday, Sept. 29, with the warm daytime temperatures and attendees' consumption of sugary drinks, it seemed at times like the stinging flying insects outnumbered the people. While the fair-goers dodged the wasps, the dancers demonstrated graceful moves. On the pavilion stage the Calvert School of Dance, the BADD Company Dance Team, Diane Herbert Dancers, "Julie's Jewels" from Julie Rogers Studio of Dance and the Southern Maryland Boot Scooters gave crowd-pleasing performances. There was also a "Dancing Bear" on the grounds. Retired Washington Redskins' defensive end Ron McDole was one of five Redskins alumni signing autographs and memorabilia at the Mark's Electronics booth. The other ex-players on hand were defensive back Pat Fischer, placekicker Mark Mosley, linebacker Monte Coleman and return specialist Mike Nelms.

Wearing a blindfold that covered his entire head, Alexander Murcia of Victoria Circus amazed fair-goers as he walked the tightrope carrying a long metal pole. He also rode a bicycle on the high wire.

The traditional 4-H livestock auction drew another huge crowd to the southeast area of the grounds. The 4-H members who raised the animals that were auctioned off received cash and ribbons as a reward.

The first Calvert County Fair was held in 1886 in Smithville—now Dunkirk. In an effort to allow more county farmers to participate, the fair was moved to Prince Frederick, in the center of the county. In the 1940s, several members of the local Farm Bureau purchased land in Prince Frederick, establishing a permanent home for the county fair. After outgrowing that location in the 1980s the tract off Route 231 in Barstow was purchased and remains the event's permanent location.

Contact Marty Madden at [marty.madden@thebaynet.com](mailto:marty.madden@thebaynet.com)

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