

MSP backs road safety campaign

A NEW computer-based safety scheme has been praised. Road Safety Scotland has set up a new campaign called Go Safe With Ziggy, which helps children learn safety rules. Lib Dem transport spokeswoman and North-east MSP Alison McInnes, pictured, said she was glad the initiative was teaching youngsters about perils on the roads. "It is vital that children and young people learn about the risks of the road as early as possible, cutting down the risk of accidents," she added.

Man accused of flashing at home

A MAN has denied exposing himself to the public from the window of his home. Philip Robertson's solicitor Ian Woodward-Nutt pleaded not guilty on behalf of the 51-year-old for two charges of public indecency at Aberdeen Sheriff Court. Robertson, whose address was given in court papers as 2 Provost Davidson Drive, Ellon, is alleged to have stood naked in his living room in full view of other people between January 1, 2008, and June 30, 2008. He was further alleged to have committed the same offence and broken the peace between May 1 and June 30, 2008. He is set to face the charges again in March.

Village set to double in size ... to 16 houses!



PAGE 21

Move to promote fabric nappy use

AN ABERDEEN charity is to encourage the use of fabric nappies. Aberdeen Forward will work with newly-established charity North-east Scotland Support for Romania (NESSR). And Aberdeen Forward will donate nappies to NESSR at a coffee morning on Saturday at UDSN Station Hall. Project officer Vicky Brown said: "Most disposable nappies end up in landfill and many people using them are not aware of this. "We are keen to get this message out and if we can encourage other countries too, then that is fantastic."

'Help us boost fashion display'

FASHION fans are being urged to dig out their designer gems for a new costume display in Aberdeen. Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums bosses are looking for ladies' designer wear from any era to form the Aberdeen's Designer Wardrobe display at Provost Skene's House Costume Gallery next year. Organisers hope outfits by names such as Alexander McQueen, Armani, Balenciaga, Chanel, Dior, Dolce and Gabbana, Missoni, Moschino, Pucci, and Vivienne Westwood may be volunteered for the show, which begins on February 26, and will run until May 7, 2011.

MEET THE KIDS WHO CARE

Schools unite for massive fundraising project

CHALLENGE: Westhill Academy pupils Amanda Rattray, front left, Amy Ronald, Rebecca Inglis, Sarah Milne, Shannon Murray, Jenna Hendry and Rebecca Marnoch.



TWO years after losing her granny to cancer, Shannon Murray has pledged to help others cope with the devastating disease. The 17-year-old Westhill Academy pupil is aiming to raise hundreds of pounds for a charity that provides care and support for young sufferers. Westhill Academy is one of six North-east schools that have presented their fundraising ideas for worthy causes at a special event. Shannon, whose granny Margaret had lung cancer, said: "We chose CLIC Sargent because each one of us on the committee has known someone with cancer."

By David Ewen
chief reporter

"We're going to organise a Valentine's disco for the primary schools - so feeder schools to Westhill can mix. "I enjoy the fundraising and I like being part of a team." Other ideas to raise cash include duck and balloon races, as well as helping pack bags for shop customers. The six schools involved are Kincorth Academy (which is supporting The Vine Trust); St Machar Academy (CLAN, Cancer Link Aberdeen and North); Portlethen Academy (The Archie Foundation); Kemnay Academy (500 Miles) and the Gordon Schools (Grampian Children's Cancer Research Fund). Senior pupils have been invited to come up with a business plan as part of The Jasmine Charity Challenge - known as The Vault. Jasmine Holdings will give each academy a £100 budget and set them a target of £1,000 to raise for their chosen good cause, which Jasmine will then match. The youngsters gave presentations at the Marriott Hotel in Dyce to 15 judges, other pupils and 200 guests from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Kincorth pupil Alice Lennox, 17, and her colleagues Samantha Kirk, 16, and Danielle Povey, 17, are hoping to raise money for Peruvian children through The Vine Trust. They travelled to the country this summer to help boys abandoned in the streets and pitch in with the building of a primary school. She said: "To raise money we're planning some exotic fashion shows and Fairtrade sales. We may even be going sky-diving." Dean Douglas, of St Machar Academy said his group was dedicated to raising as much money as possible for CLAN. "In our time here we've lost two teachers to cancer as well as a



HELPING KIDS: From left, Alix Townson, Anneliese Ashby, Tim Capstick, Donald Morrison and Robyn Collie, of Portlethen Academy.



PENNIES: Kemnay Academy pupils, Sofiane Kouadria, front, with, from left, Lucy Watters, Emma Grant, Harriet Bertram, Melissa Duthie, Darryl Peers, Laura Sutherland and Alice Bertram.



OVERSEAS AID: Kincorth girls Danielle Povey, left, Samantha Kirk and Alice Lennox.

support worker," the 17-year-old said. Neil Mitchell, 16, of The Gordon Schools, Huntly, said personal connections influenced his team to support the Children's Cancer Research Fund. The sixth year pupil added the group had already raised more than £600 from bag packing a Tesco, and more than £700 from a sponsored walk from Aviemore to Buckie. The Archie Foundation was the

"Pupils will pick up good habits"

charity Portlethen Academy opted to support. Robyn Collie, 16, said: "We chose the Archie Foundation, because all our events are held within school, so we wanted to appeal something that children could relate to such as a children's charity. "Our three big events are Portlethen's Got Talent, a winter dance and a race night." Kemnay Academy will try to raise money for 500 miles, which helps amputees. Pupil Sofiane Kouadria, 16, said: "One of our ideas is to create a mile of 5p coins, which could raise in excess of £4,000." Jasmine chairman Danny Cowie said: "The Jasmine Charity Challenge will help the pupils pick up good business habits - planning, budgeting, organising, achieving targets and meeting deadlines. "The challenge will give them an incentive to fundraise and provide a valuable platform to raise awareness and distribute the funds." David Leng, Aberdeen's head of

schools and education establishments, said: "This will give senior students the opportunity to work closely with local charities to make a difference in their community." The aim next year is to open up the initiative to all schools within the Energetica Corridor - Bucksburn, Dyce, Oldmachar, Bridge of Don, Ellon, Peterhead, Oldmeldrum, Mintlaw and Fraserburgh.



GOOD CAUSE: Barry Black, left, and Dean Douglas are in the St Machar Academy team.

Teen fined over assault on schoolboy

A NORTH-EAST teen has been ordered to pay a £200 fine after admitting attacking a schoolboy. Austen Grant, 17, pleaded guilty to assaulting the 13-year-old on Aberdeen's Springfield Road, on November 6 last year. Grant, who appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, seized hold of the boy, pushed him on the body and repeatedly struck him on the head to his injury.

Defence solicitor Alex Burn said Grant thought the youngster had been with a group of people that had thrown a stone at the car he was travelling in. Sheriff Kieran McLernan said Grant, whose address was given in court papers as 73 Inchbrae Drive, Aberdeen, should not have taken the law into his own hands. He said: "This behaviour was quite inappropriate for a variety of different reasons.

"First you got the wrong person and secondly you decided to take vengeance yourself. Courts exist to apply the law, to determine who is responsible and to determine what is appropriate. "You do not take the law in to your own hands. I understand your feeling over what happened but that does not entitle you to take revenge." He ordered Grant to pay a fine of £200.

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Fire boss issues smoke alarm plea

A WARNING was issued today after it was revealed hundreds of North-east blaze-hit homes didn't have working fire alarms. The new statistics, released by the Scottish Government, showed that of 666 house fires in the Grampian area, 179 were in

properties which did not have smoke alarms installed. And a further 86 homes didn't have a working alarm. A fire chief today blasted people who did not have an alarm fitted as "irresponsible".

Fire board convener Mike Raeburn said: "To not have a working smoke alarm fitted is really the height of irresponsibility. "Smoke alarms do not cost much and neither do batteries. There is no excuse not to have one." He added that most coun-

Pilot plan for charity deliveries

Housebound scheme

MORE than 100 housebound people in the North-east could have their shopping delivered to their front door. The pilot scheme could start running in Aberdeenshire this year for people cared for by Cornerstone, the Aberdeen-based disability charity. Cornerstone chief executive Edel Harris today confirmed the charity was working with a major supermarket chain and Aberdeenshire Council. She added: "This is a very exciting partnership - we are confident we are the only care provider in Scotland currently developing such a service." Cornerstone supports 116 older and disabled people in Aberdeenshire, 163 in Aberdeen and 1,000 across Scotland. A home delivery service would cut costs and

By Jennifer McKiernan
political reporter

allow support workers to spend more time caring for clients, Mrs Harris said. If the pilot proves successful, the scheme would be rolled out across Scotland. Cllr Sam Coull, a member of Aberdeenshire Council's social work and housing committee, has successfully pushed for the idea to be adopted by the authority for all 2,300 housebound people in the area. "I'm very impressed with the speed this project is moving forward," he said. "We have obviously got something here that's going to make a difference to our most vulnerable people who are housebound out in the sticks."

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CHARITY: Emma Taylor, left, and Lisette Knight who work for Cornerstone, which is looking at the pilot delivery scheme.

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