Crime rate slam-dunked

Crime in Mount Magnet has dropped 3.8 per cent since the Monday night basketball competition started six weeks ago. Alcohol laddies have also tapered off since the games started.

Sergeant Trevor Douglas of Mount Magnet Police Station welcomed the competition and said it was a great initiative for the town. “It’s had a positive impact on families and kids,” he said.

It’s helped increase the interaction between the police and the local youths in a positive way,” Midwest Men’s Health (MMH) first organised a basketball game in Mount Magnet six weeks ago, which sparked the regular Monday night competition. MMH organises sporting matches and holds seminars throughout the region to try to combat depression and anxiety. The competition had more than 60 players on Monday night, across men’s, women’s and children’s divisions. Organiser Cecelia Kelly said the skill level had been fantastic and the competition meant a lot to the community. “It means a fair bit,” she said. “We’ve got some magic up here. Whenever I go to the shop everyone asks me if it’s on next week, everyone’s really keen.” Organiser Cecelia Kelly

IN BRIEF

SAFETY ALERT
DIY can be deadly

Weekend DIY projects at home or around the farm are popular, but they can also be deadly.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is calling for a safety focus when completing DIY projects.

Hardware, tools and equipment are popular gifts for dads but it’s important to remember that many injuries and deaths occur during maintenance and DIY activities around the home,” ACCC deputy chair Delia Rickard said.

For example, home car mechanic work can be fatal if you get under a car that is only supported by a jack. We have seen an average of 16 injuries per year associated with home car jacks, as well as tragically numerous deaths by crushing.

WELFARE
Pensioners to rise

Pensioners will receive an increase to their payments from September 20.

Single age pensioners will receive an increase of up to $11.50 a fortnight, while age pensioner couples will receive up to $17.40 extra a fortnight.

Parenting Payment Single recipients will receive an increase of extra $7.20 a fortnight to $72.30.

Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Partner, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance and School Allowance recipients will receive an increase by $5.20 a fortnight for singles and $4.70 each for couples (indexation).

Federal member for Durack, Melissa Price, said the increases would help pensioners keep up with rises in cost living.

ROYALTIES PLEDGE
ALP to back in

The Labor Party’s state executive meeting today cleared the way for the weekend pledged ongoing support of Royalties for Regions. Leader Mark McGowan introduced the resolution of support, which included an assurance that funding would be spent on priorities for people living in regional WA.

The resolution listed priorities as investing in hospitals and schools, repairing dangerous country roads and creating local job opportunities across a range of industries.

YOUTH AWARDS

Nominations open

Nominations have opened for your West Australians who are inspiring others to be honoured at the 16th annual WA Youth Awards.

The six categories of the awards recognise outstanding achievements of young people aged between 12 and 25. Nominations are open until October 3 and winners will be announced on November 26.

For more information, visit www.wacywa.org.au or wayouthawards/.

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Feathers fly at festival

Ian Cutler

Yalgoo Shire promises “a free, rip-roaring and rollicking day and evening” at its 2014 Emu Cup and Goo Fest on Saturday October 11.

The family fun event will feature an array of novelty emu costume races for all ages, a small sculpture competition, a “gooey Goo Fest goo day and evening” at its highlight of the Yalgoo 2014 events calendar.

“We had a great year last year with the Emu Cup, with smiles all round and plenty of winners,” he said.

“This year we have attracted EventsCorp funding and we are offering an even bigger day of fun for all ages. It would be great to see a good turnout from other areas. It’ll be their best bet of the year to come to the Yalgoo Emu Cup. People from the age of three to adults being urged to come in their own emu costume or use one of the pre-made costumes available.

More than 800 in cash prizes will be provided for the best emu costume, the best small sculpture and the winners of the all-ages emu races. Entertainment includes DJ BIV as master of ceremonies, the funk of Junkadelic, the Radimia band, Jonny Ford and the Balda Boys, all from Perth, while local favourite Mata Te Hini will add his classic personal touch to the program.

The colourful Circus Challenge will also visit from Perth, testing all comers in circus skills and madcap fun throughout the day.

Workshops start at 8am and the entertainment continues at 9pm. The show has limited accommodation available, so people should book early or bring along their swag. For more information, contact Pip Parson on 9662 8174 or email community@yalgoo.wa.gov.au.

Rain brings smiles at annual show

Lewis Freer

The annual Chapman Valley Agricultural Show was held on Saturday and attracted about 4000 visitors.

Show society president Marshall Gould said he was pleased with the turnout, despite early rain driving crowds away.

“The show was very good, the rain put a slight dampener on it but because the rain had cleared,” he said.

It’s been a dry type of year so I think a lot of people were smiling and enjoying the rain.”

“The show continues to get bigger and better. It opened up the whole area.

“The vegies were a bit down, all the cooking was excellent, the shearing was very good.

“One again the chickens and ducks were a highlight. The crowd returned when the sunshine returned and it went on to be quite a successful show — it is such a great atmosphere.”

Federal Shadow Minister for Agriculture Joel Fitzgibbon joined Labor MPs Mark McGowan, Alannah MacTiernan, Darren West as special guests at the show.

“I’m very impressed with the agricultural show despite the weather,” he said.

“I have learnt immediately people of this valley are very resilient.”

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