

## YESTERDAY'S WEB VIEW

'Ministers released statistics showing exam results in academies rising faster than the national average, with the proportion of students getting five good GCSEs increasing by 5.1 per cent'

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## TOP WEB STORIES

1. Baby taken to hospital after smash
2. School: 97 per cent of views rejected
3. Teenager arrested over friend's death
4. Raids carried out in burglary blitz
5. Woman hurt on A45

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## TOMORROW

The *Apprentice's* Claire Young is off on her travels again, this time writing her Saturday column from The Big Apple, only in Saturday's *Chronicle & Echo*.



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# Council reveals cost cut plans

A RISE in council tax, job cuts and less money spent on CCTV cameras are among the budget plans to save Northampton Borough Council £4.3 million, authority leaders have revealed.

Low and falling Government funding was blamed by leader Brain Hoare (*Lib Dem, Abington*) for the deficit yesterday but the administration pledged not to cut public services to tax payers in order to plug it.

Instead it intends to save cash through a range of measures such as renegotiated electricity and gas contracts, which will alone save the authority more than £310,000 next year.

Unspecified job cuts were also inevitable and some vacant roles will not be filled, Councillor Hoare said, and taxpayers can expect an increase of about £5 a year.

Councillor Hoare said: "We saw in the Government's own pre-budget report that it intends to concentrate on the NHS, schools and police.

"If those services are given priority then local government will be the loser with a potential loss in Government grants," he said.

Other measures will include charging for replacement concessionary bus passes which would save the local authority £10,000 a year over the next three years.

And a possible revocation of the car parking discounts for town centre residents, season ticket holders and overnight parking could net the council £20,000 next year.

One of the most controversial aspects of the budget will be the reduction in the number of CCTV cameras being monitored at any one time.

Councillor David Perkins (*Lib Dem, Boughton Green*), finance chief at the council, said the control room resources will be switched to focus on crime hotspots after talks with Northamptonshire Police.

## Babies injured by collision at notoriously busy crossing



Police officers inspect the scene of yesterday's collision in Kettering Road in which twin babies were hurt

Pictures by KELLY COOPER

# Twin tots thrown in air by collision



**TWIN babies were taken to hospital after their buggy was in collision with a car at a pedestrian crossing, throwing them into the air as their mother watched in horror.**

The mother was wheeling her six-month-old son and daughter across the road near Morrisons, in Kettering Road, Northampton, at about 11.20am yesterday, when the double buggy was in collision with a red Vauxhall Astra car.

The pushchair landed 15ft away from the crossing and as a result both babies were taken to Northampton General Hospital. The baby girl was left with serious injuries and was expected to be transferred to a specialist hospital, while her brother escaped with minor injuries.

Insp Chris Hillery said: "Three pedestrians, one female and two children were crossing the pedestrian crossing; we do not know whether she has crossed on a green man or a red man at this stage.

"She crossed on the second pedestrian crossing where there was moving traffic and a vehicle hit the pushchair.

By Laura Corcoran  
Chronicle Reporter

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"The pushchair landed 15 feet from the crossing and the male driver remained at the scene to help police with their inquiries."

The crossing is on a notorious stretch of road which has for many years been a concern for local residents, with people claiming there had been several previous near misses.

Iris Paakkonen, aged 48, of Broadmead Avenue, Northampton, said: "This accident doesn't surprise me. It is tragic and it is horrible. When I cross over at this road you have to take care. "I think that it is really dangerous," she added.

The road was sealed off immediately after the incident to allow emergency services to clear the scene.

It eventually re-opened shortly before 2.30pm when officers had completed their initial investigations.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed this incident, witnesses can call the Drivewatch Hotline on 0800 174615.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### No arrests yet after cannabis factory found

A CANNABIS factory containing 46 plants was found at a house in Tintern Avenue, Spencer, in Northampton shortly before 10.30am on Wednesday, December 9. No arrests have been made.

A HANDBAG was snatched from a 53-year-old woman as she walked in Bishops Drive, in Kingsthorpe, Northampton. The robbery took place at about 6.30pm on Tuesday, December 8 when the woman was pushed from behind by two men, who ran off in opposite directions.

AN ELECTRICITY salesman was robbed of his wallet and work documents. The incident took place at about 5pm on Wednesday, December 9 in Tenyson Close, Towcester. The two robbers were both white and wearing dark clothing.

A CHARITY lunch featuring former England cricket star Alec Stewart has helped Northants Cricket raise £12,500. The money will be split between MND Association, British Heart Foundation, Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and Crazy Hats, along with Northamptonshire Cricket Youth Trust.

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