

Caravan store plan opposed

PROPOSALS to allow a piece of land to be used as a secure storage area for caravans and small motor homes have been opposed.

Plans have been submitted to East Northamptonshire Council for permission to allow owners to keep their caravans, motor homes and trailers at Ravensoake in Bedford Road, Rushden. Concerns have been raised about the proposals by members of Rushden Town Council's planning committee. They are worried about caravans and motor homes entering and leaving the site because it is on a busy road.

Cllr Barbara Jenney said: "I have concerns about this on highways grounds, as there's a very sharp bend near there."

The scheme is being considered by East Northamptonshire Council's planning department.

Design tasks for students

TEAMS of Year 12 pupils from six county schools will compete in an "Airport Challenge" at Oundle School tomorrow.

The teams of six pupils will compete in the school's new science facility, SciTec, to design facilities for the disabled at an airport. Pupils will use knowledge and skills from business, communications, maths and design technology to put together a presentation for the judges.

Headteacher Charles Bush said: "I am delighted that our new state-of-the-art SciTec is being used to host a prestigious event that will inspire budding engineers of the future."

Valentine's ball

A MAYOR is hosting a Valentine's charity ball at Wicksteed Park, Kettering, on Friday, February 15. Tickets for Wellingborough mayor Tom Partridge-Underwood's Civic Valentine's Ball cost £25, including a two-course meal. Music will be provided by New Vintage Plus and there will be also a tombola and a raffle.

Proceeds will go to the mayor's charity fund.



■ **SURPRISE** – friends and family of cancer patient Andi Bull, 22, have refurbished his old Land Rover. From left, Jade Balderson, 10, Kevin James, Andi's dad Bob Bull, Andi's brother Chris Bull, Tom Swannell, Ben Haynes, James Balderson, three, and Darren Balderson. Inset, Andi admires his new look Land Rover through his lounge window

ET pictures by Alison Bagley: 020208-10-32 & 55

Andi's friends make him a mean machine

New look Land Rover delights cancer patient

■ **By Catherine Collins**

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A GROUP of friends has transformed an old Land Rover into a 21st century super driving machine for a Scout who has just had intensive treatment for cancer.

Earlier this month, friends of Andi Bull, 22, of Vicarage Farm Road, Wellingborough, launched an appeal in the Evening Telegraph for help to restore his beloved 39-year-old car as a surprise for him after they were inspired by MTV's hit show, Pimp My Ride.

On Saturday, after nearly three weeks of intense work the group

presented the facelifted Land Rover to Mr Bull – the day after he came out of Leicester Royal Infirmary.

He said: "It was a big shock but I think it's absolutely amazing. I cried when I first saw it being driven up.

"I've always loved Land Rovers. I was never able to afford one but I decided to get one last year because I figured you only live once.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has had any involvement in helping to get it to this stage – they've done it just the way I would have liked to have had it done."

Mr Bull, who was given a top Scouting award last year, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lym-

phoma in September 2006 after a tumour was discovered in his chest.

He has had intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

Mr Bull bought the car as a project to work on but his friends decided to transform the car while he was in hospital.

The group has completely overhauled the old blue Land Rover, re-sprayed it black, modernised it and added a "pimped" badge to the back of it.

Among those who have worked on the project was Andi's older brother Chris who shares his passion for Land Rovers.

He said: "We wanted to get the vehicle sorted out for him because we knew it would mean

so much to him.

"Even I can't believe how different it looks – you wouldn't recognise it as the same thing.

"I'd like to thank Andi's friends Tom Swannell and Ben Haynes and everyone else who has worked on it or supported us in any way."

The project was supported by G B Auto Care, Premier Galvanising, Homotech UK Limited, R D H Fabrications, Derek Jones Bodywork, Rockingham Land Rovers, East Midlands Fastenings, R J Contracting, Nene Valley 4x4, C T Autoparts and HB Humphries.

The appeal also generated several offers of donations including £100 from a woman in the Rushden area.

MP pulls out of question time

A QUESTION time with East Northamptonshire and Corby MP Phil Hope has been postponed.

Mr Hope was due to take part in the event during a voluntary and community sector forum meeting at Rushden & Diamonds Centre in Irthlingborough, on Wednesday.

He will be unable to attend because of commitments at the House of Commons.

A spokesman for Nene Valley Community Action, which organised the event, said:

"We're working with Mr Hope's office to try to rearrange this event.

"We hope to be able to announce a new date in the near future."

Treat your mum

A MOTHER'S Day Sunday lunch will be held in the restaurant at West Lodge Rural Centre in Desborough on March 2.

For more information call 01536 760552 or visit www.westlodgeruralcentre.co.uk.

Offers on the table

A CAR boot and table top sale will be held on Saturday at All Saints Church, William Street, Kettering. The sale will run from 9am to midday.

Tables cost £5. For more information call 01536 791414.

Vote on the issue of the day - click Voting on the Home Page.



Youth club meets

A YOUTH group meets on Sundays in Broughton. The Four Spires Youth Group meets from 7pm to 9pm in St Andrew's Church. Young people in school Year 6 and above are welcome. For more information call Charlotte on 01536 790554.

Call to the crease

THRAPSTON Cricket Club is looking for new players. The club can offer junior cricket from the age of five upwards and has three adult teams playing league cricket on Saturdays and Sundays. Anyone interested can call Les Thurbon on 01832 731922.

Football training

HAZELWOOD Neighbourhood Centre in Corby holds weekly football sessions for youngsters. They take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7.30pm and 8.30pm for children from the ages of nine to 13-years-old. For more details call Kevin Williams on 01536 464188.

Obese woman too heavy to go home in an ambulance

AN OBESE woman has criticised staff at Northampton General Hospital for their reluctance to use an ambulance to take her home. Margaret Brayley, 57, is wheelchair-bound and was admitted to hospital more than two weeks ago to be treated for a bladder infection and cellulitis.

Doctors assessed her and decided she was fit to be discharged a week ago, but since then she has been locked in an argument with hospital staff over whether or not she could be taken home by ambulance.

Mrs Brayley, of Fullern Court, Lumbertubs, said: "I went to hospital last year and they took me

home by ambulance but they wouldn't do it this year because they said I was a risk. They said they didn't have the proper facilities for someone big to go in an ambulance. I thought they would arrange transport. The last time I was in hospital they got a special ambulance to take me home in a stretcher and they took me upstairs and put me to bed." Mrs Brayley, who weighs 25 stone, added: "This time I've had nothing but problems all the way along. I didn't know what to do. They said I should move into a bungalow." After a week's wrangling, a crew of paramedic staff took Mrs Brayley home in an ambulance.

She said: "I had to go in with a walking frame and then sit in my chair in the ambulance. I've been told if I go to hospital again they won't take me home in an ambulance."

A spokesman for East Midlands Ambulance Service said: "We hope that Margaret understands that the delay in getting her home from hospital has arisen because we needed to make sure we had the right equipment, the right vehicle and the right staff available to move and transport her safely. "This is not only for the patient's safety but also for the safety of all of our staff involved in the transfer."



■ **ARGUMENT** – Margaret Brayley who weighs 25 stone