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- No.1 DEBATE**
East Lancs on brink of savage regeneration cuts

Street drugs dealer jailed

A DRUG dealer who supplied amphetamine on the streets of Darwen has been jailed for more than three years.

James Andrew Thornton, 51, of Beech Avenue, must also pay back £11,000 of his ill-gotten gains in 28 days or face a further seven months in prison.

Thornton was arrested after officers seized half a kilo of amphetamine and more than £10,000 from an address in Elenshaw Close, Darwen, last September. A confiscation order after the sentencing gave him a month to pay



PERSISTENT
James Thornton

back his illegal profits.

He faced trial at Preston Crown Court on Wednesday and was found guilty of supplying the Class B drug between February and September 2009.

Speaking after sentencing Inspector Mark Thackeray Scott said: "Thornton persistently dealt drugs throughout the area over a long period of time and I am satisfied with the sentence."

Rethink on jobs

THE government has defended the decision to scrap a scheme that aims to create 700 local jobs.

The Future Jobs Fund gives grants to public sector and voluntary groups to take on 16 to 24-year-olds.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson said: "While we will honour bids that have already had funding allocated, the remaining £290m which has yet to be allocated will be better spent reinvested in the economy to help business grow and create permanent jobs for young people."

REGULARS ROLL OUT THE BARREL FOR HEROES FUND



A CHARITY barrel roll saw pub regulars raise cash for Help for Heroes in pouring rain on Saturday.

The event was organised by Alyson Shakespeare and Mark Jenkinson, who run the Brown Cow in Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn, and the Royal Arms in Tockholes, respectively.

Both said they hoped the event would become an annual tradition between the two pubs, in honour of regulars who are serving or have served in Afghanistan.

Starting from the

Brown Cow, 20 volunteers pushed a beer barrel three-and-a-half miles to the Royal Arms, a feat which took 90 minutes and raised more than £1,500 for the charity.

Regulars decided to take part in honour of Lance Corporal Stephen Buntine, 24, who was shot by an Afghan sniper recently, and serving soldiers Nick Wise and Luke Fox.

Alyson said: "We wanted to do something to show our support. When we showed up the rain was pouring down, but no matter."



TOUGH TASK: Top, Emma McNeil shows the lads how it's done in the charity barrel roll from Livesey Branch Road to Tockholes. Above, Mark Jenkinson, Wayne Edmondson and Andrew Griffiths take their turn at the start of the roll

Heart care crusade

A DAD is to spearhead a new health campaign after he was diagnosed with heart failure aged 39.

Nick Hartshorne-Evans was shocked when doctors broke the news after he suffered a viral infection last Christmas.

However, with support from NHS East Lancashire's heart failure team, he found the condition could be managed through medication and lifestyle changes.

The businessman from Hapton said: "I thought I was in good health. I hadn't been admitted to hospital since I was a child and I wasn't even registered with a GP."

The most common cause is coronary heart disease or high blood pressure, but sometimes failure may be caused by a leaking heart

By NEIL DOCKING
Health Reporter

valve, anaemia, by drinking excessive alcohol or drug use.

Nick's heart failure stemmed from a rare viral attack, confirmed through an MRI scan at Royal Blackburn Hospital. He spent three weeks in the coronary care unit, where he met Angela Graves, the heart failure team's nurse manager.

"The care I received was fantastic, the attentiveness of the team was second to none," he said. Angela talked through my condition.

"This gave me the opportunity to ask all the questions I wanted and get practical information about how to live with heart failure."

Once he was discharged,

Angela visited Nick at home to check on progress.

He added: "Fortunately, my symptoms are now stable. But too many people don't know enough about the condition, or they see it as something that just affects older people."

The heart failure team have set up a patient and carers forum and plan to start a patient-led support group.

Angela said: "All too often, people don't know they have heart failure until the condition is well developed.

"This can then make the chance of recovery slim, so part of our role is to make people aware of what to look out for and raise awareness of this through GP surgeries."



VIRAL ATTACK
Nick Hartshorne-Evans

neil.docking@northwest.newsquest.co.uk

news in brief

Ban driver's eighth offence

CLITHEROE: A man was warned he may face a custodial sentence after his eighth offence of driving while banned.

Allan Warburton, 57, of Black Lane Croft, pleaded guilty to driving while disqualified and without insurance. He was bailed for reports.

Sister beaten

BLACKBURN: A teenager who beat up his sister was sent to a Young Offender Institution. Shoaby Patel, 18, of Zion Road, admitted assault and Hyndburn magistrates gave him 120 days detention because of the seriousness of the domestic violence offence, and his previous record.

Council praise

HYNDBURN: The borough council has been praised by the Audit Commission with the highest rating so far for their housing benefits service. Cabinet member for finance, Coun Marlene Howarth (above) said it was fantastic the service had been rated 'good with promising prospects' by the watchdog.



Play area pests

WILPSHIRE: Residents at a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting alerted officers to juvenile nuisance in play areas at Bushburn Drive and Durham Road late in the evenings.

The issue has been listed as a priority by the police.

Handling denial

BLACKBURN: Lucy Grundy, 20, of Pemberton Street, was bailed by magistrates after pleading not guilty to three charges of handling stolen power tools.

Booze worry

LOWER DARWEN: Police say youths drinking on the cricket pitch behind Sandy Lane, Lower Darwen is causing anti-social problems.