

The Advertiser

FINAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

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2013 AFL FIXTURE

WALL POSTER - PAGE 35



NAT BASS RIDES HIGH

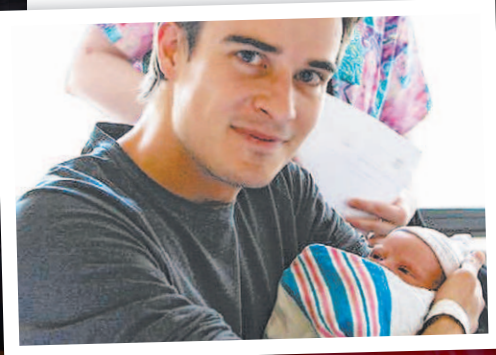
Hit. LIFTOUT INSIDE

Hope amid Sandy's mayhem

AFTER the superstorm came the heroes of New York.

Combing neighbourhoods strewn with debris and scarred by floods and fire, rescuers saved little Haley Rombi on Staten Island, while Sophie Bertouch, daughter of Australians James and Sally, made a dramatic entry to the world after a 30-hour adventure.

PAGES 6-9: Reports, pictures



SAFE: Police rescue Haley Rombi, 3, from New York's floodwaters, while James Bertouch holds daughter Sophie after her harrowing arrival.

Main picture: MICHAEL KIRBY SMITH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARENTS

Police call for school sex case alerts

LAUREN NOVAK
SHERADYN HOLDERHEAD

POLICE have joined community groups and child abuse experts in demanding parents be told about any incidents of sex abuse in schools.

The calls increase pressure on the Education Department, which allegedly gagged a western suburbs school council from telling parents about a staff member who was convicted of the sexual assault of a student in 2010.

Department policy does not require disclosure of sexual abuse in schools.

Continued Page 4

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Adelaide the most car reliant city in nation

ALICE HIGGINS
URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTER

AFFORDABLE all-day car parking in the CBD is turning commuters away from catching public transport as new figures show Adelaide is Australia's most car-reliant city.

The RAA says employers should reduce the number of salary packages involving cars which are part of a workplace fleet, to help stem the number of vehicles entering the CBD.

Latest Census figures show nearly two-thirds, or 64 per cent, of Adelaideans drive to

FINE HOT SPOTS

See an interactive map of Adelaide parking fines and browse the data by fine location

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work - the most of any capital city. RAA public affairs senior manager Matthew Hanton said the cheaper cost of all-day carparking in the CBD,

which ranges mostly between \$12 and \$15, compared to other capital cities did nothing to dissuade commuters from driving to work. "There is a lot of parking space in the city," Mr Hanton said.

"There is an appetite there for people to use public transport but the current system is just not meeting their needs."

Mr Hanton said the cost of all-day parking should be increased after public transport services became more reliable and efficient.

He suggested a mix of other measures to boost public

transport patronage, including decreasing the cost of public transport fares and providing more cross-suburb services for commuters to travel from one side of town to another, rather than being forced to travel into the city and board another service.

Figures obtained by *The Advertiser* in August showed public transport patronage had slumped by 2.44 million boardings in the past year.

The relatively cheap early-bird rates across CBD carparks, which would cost a Monday to Friday worker as

little as \$57.50 a week, compare with an adult 10-trip multi-trip ticket cost of \$31.90.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarrowood said Adelaide City Council, which owns nine UParks, had no plans to increase the cost of all-day parking to deter commuters from driving.

A spokeswoman for Transport Services Minister Chloe Fox said the Government was working to provide commuters with a more modern, efficient and reliable public transport system.

PAGE 22: Editorial

Murray approval closer

MARK KENNY

THE 450 billion litres of extra water promised for the Murray-Darling Basin moved closer yesterday with cross-party approval for an amendment to raise the environmental target.

The House of Representatives passed the Bill and sent it to the Senate where its success now seems assured.

The change will give the water minister of the day, limited discretion to vary up or down, the quantity of water reserved for purely environmental purposes.

This means the 2750 gegalitres proposed in the yet-to-tabled Murray-Darling Basin Agreement can be adjusted upwards by as much as 450 gegalitres - in line with Prime Minister Julia Gillard's commitment.

Wine tax report release

SUE DUNLEVY

THE price of a four-litre cask of wine would double to almost \$27 under a government agency's plan to overhaul alcohol taxation.

But wine that costs more than \$20 a bottle could become cheaper under the plan, which could raise the Government about \$900 million.

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency today will reject calls for a floor price on alcohol and instead call for a volumetric tax to be imposed on wine, in a major report.

The change is part of a drive to wipe out cheap wine that currently costs less than bottled water and is blamed for alcohol-fuelled violence and problems estimated to cost the community \$15 billion a year.

Parents must know

From Page 1

Education Minister Grace Portolesi said yesterday she was not aware if the department had pressured the school into keeping details of the abuse secret but would appoint "within days" someone to head an independent investigation into the incident.

"I am committed to getting to the bottom of what has transpired," she said.

The State Ombudsman has also been investigating the matter since March.

Mark Christopher Harvey of Largs North was convicted in February this year of unlawful sexual intercourse with a young girl in 2010 while she was attending his out-of-hours school care program.

Child protection expert UniSA Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs said parents on the school's governing council approached her about a year ago because they were unhappy parents had not been informed.

"They were concerned because they claimed that an administrator from the department had banned them from telling other parents what had happened," she said.

"They were concerned because they thought there could be other victims."

Ms Portolesi said she had no knowledge of other cases where

parents were kept in the dark. Prof Briggs said it was not the first time she had been told that claims of sexual abuse were being kept secret.

Ms Portolesi has been under fire this week after she told Parliament on Tuesday her department had kept details of Harvey's misdemeanours secret on the advice of police.

SA Police later released a statement rejecting that and yesterday a police spokesperson told *The Advertiser* parents had a right to know if allegations or

Parents not told of child sex assault

The Advertiser yesterday.

charges had been levelled against a teacher or staff member.

"SAPOL believes that guardians and parents of children placed in a position of potential harm should be made aware of incidents such as these," the spokesperson said.

"This is so they have the appropriate information to assess whether their child may have been a victim of abuse.

"It also gives parents an avenue to voice or share concerns and

information with the school. While there may be times where SAPOL requests some evidentiary information is withheld, as it may impact the ongoing investigation or judicial process, that would certainly not preclude generic details being given."

SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said he had been flooded with calls expressing outrage that such information was withheld.

"If the current policy does not require parents to immediately be informed when their child has been at risk, it should be changed," he said.

SA Association of School Parent Clubs president Jenice Zerna said schools must be "open and transparent" with parents.

The State Ombudsman has also been investigating since March.

Departmental policy is to deal with schools and police to decide on action following incidents, Ms Portolesi said, but it depended on "the circumstances surrounding the individual case" as to whether parents were notified.

A spokeswoman for Premier Jay Weatherill, who was education minister when the 2010 incident occurred, said he found out about the case on Tuesday.

In Parliament he said the Government did need to explain to parents why it kept the information secret.



FACING HEAT: Education Minister Grace Portolesi.

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