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SEPTEMBER

CAREY Park residents were alarmed that repeat rapist Darren Morton Hart was released to live in their suburb after being declared a dangerous sexual offender and spending 13 years in jail.

PLANS to retain 20 per cent of the ailing Bunbury Timber Jetty went out to tender after Bunbury City Council agreed to save part of the historic structure and at least \$3.5 million to keep 210sqm of the jetty.

NATIONALS leader Brendon Grylls failed to make a commitment to block forced council amalgamations in the South West, after a parliamentary steering committee report recommended forced mergers and named Bunbury as a critical area needing reform.

LOCAL police who died in the line of duty were remembered in a moving ceremony for Police Remembrance Day in Bunbury with families of 91 police officers and aides remembered around the nation.

OCTOBER

THE Yarragadee aquifer was under mounting pressure to alleviate the State's dire lack of water, with grave fears that tapping the resource could lead to drying out South West rivers.

THE State Government released a framework to improve strategic planning in local government, as more than 150 disgruntled developers petitioned Bunbury City Council to overhaul its planning department.

CHALLENGE Dairy would not disclose to South West farmers when they would be paid for September's produce.

UP to 1500 construction jobs were revealed to be created in the South West after Perdaman Chemicals got State environmental approval for its \$3.5 billion Collie urea project.

BUSSELTON chief executive officer Mike Archer denied that a claim the shire's population would surpass Bunbury's in five years was a push to become the State's "second city".

REGIONAL Development Minister Brendon Grylls challenged South West residents to invite him to Bunbury for a public meeting over Royalties for Regions funding.

A MAJOR outbreak of parvovirus in the South West came with a warning 80 per cent of dogs infected could die.

DENSELY populated areas of the Greater Bunbury region surrounded by bushland were labelled tinder boxes as the South West braced itself for a savage fire season.

POLICE in the South West were on high alert after a series of burglaries in which the base drug used to manufacture methyl amphetamines was stolen.

BUNBURY Mayor David Smith refuted a claim that Busselton shire's population would outgrow Bunbury's by 2016.

THE Shire of Harvey refused to support a request by Cristal Global to conduct a feasibility study into installing traffic lights at the access road at the company's Australind plant.

A SERIES of deaths on Coalfields Highway failed to improve driver habits, according to frustrated police.

THE WA Local Government Association ratified its stance against forced amalgamations in the South West during a meeting in Bunbury.

SOUTH West farmers feared being



Ebony Cassady wins Myles Junior Sports Star Of The Year Award in November.



Matthew Daly looks at dad Sgt Paul Daly at a Remembrance service in September.



Police Sgt Ashley Bean near one of several fatal accident scenes near Collie.

forced out of the industry as depleted rainfall over winter and poor hay yields ravaged profit margins.

THE South West disability sector was optimistic that an enquiry by the Production Commission would prompt an overhaul of the Federal Government's provision of funding.

THE Fire and Emergency Services Authority unveiled plans to build a state-of-the-art facility in Bunbury to be shared by the city's State emergency and fire services.

NOVEMBER

CITY of Bunbury research claimed residents of the Greater Bunbury region would be helpless and unable to fend for themselves in the event of a major disaster.

A SOUTH West delegation returned from China, declaring it made valuable inroads on conducting business with companies over there that they said could strengthen investment ties between the two regions.

THE Department of Education clai-

med no jobs would be lost in carrying out changes to the district schools network.

THE Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union suspected problems with the builder of the \$500 million Worsley Alumina refinery in October when a company cancelled its agreements with the contractor at a Pilbara mine.

BUNBURY City was on the cusp of getting a \$30 million regional art gallery, proposed by developer Geoff Prosser.

THE City of Bunbury Volunteer Bushfire brigade celebrated its 25th birthday by recognising the efforts of volunteers.

WESTERN Power announced \$95 million in capital works spending, but the South West missed out.

MARINE and Civil went into administration leaving the fate of the Busselton Jetty in doubt.

BUNBURY City Council announced it would lease the Koombana kiosk to the Little Cornish Restaurant

in a five-year deal worth \$26,000.

A REVIEW into a fatal crash that claimed the lives of two children on Coalfields Highway in July found the road was not to blame.

ADMINISTRATORS for Challenge Dairy confirmed talks with a potential investor interested in the collapsed processor, but warned against optimism.

THE South West community got behind our Little Telethon Star Lachlan Ross to help raise more than \$9 million.

A DRAMATIC spike in the number of people ignoring sprinkler regulations in the region resulted in 49 fines and 14 warnings from the Water Corporation in November.

COLLIE-Preston MLA Mick Murray called on the Transport Minister to expedite road upgrades to Coalfields Highway as the South West mourned the latest fatality on the notorious highway.

COUNCILLOR Michele Steck lost a radical bid to overhaul Bunbury City

Council's operating system at a council meeting.

THE South West economy was dealt another blow after two companies that make up Finesse Foods went into administration.

AMBULANCE services were boosted in the South West with a new Boyanup centre expected to reduce waiting periods and pressure on other branches.

BUNBURY City Council refuted claims its planning department was inefficient as figures revealed it was one of the most efficient to process development applications.

SOUTH West dairy farmers were hopeful of retrieving more than \$4 million owed to them by Challenge Australian Dairy after the processor called in administrators.

DECEMBER

THE Department of Transport again permitted water-skiers to use the eastern part of Koombana Bay, but speed restrictions west of the channel remained.

THERE were renewed calls for a fast train between Perth and Bunbury as former Treasurer Troy Buswell returned to the front bench with the Transport portfolio.

SOUTH West police added artillery in their fight against crime with the extension of an encrypted, secure communications network.

THE fate of the South West Development Commission remained in limbo after an eight-month review of Regional Development Commissions recommended changes to its current structure.

ONE of India's biggest private power traders agreed to buy Rick Stowe's failed Griffin Coal Mining for an undisclosed sum.

THE Koombana Bay Ski Beach had its skiing status revoked after ongoing safety concerns by the Department of Transport.

HARVEY shire councillors were refusing to reduce their numbers despite Local Government Minister John Castrilli recommending council should operate with between six and nine councillors.

CITY of Bunbury deputy mayo Brendan Kelly lambasted the council's performance this year, likening it to the current Australian cricket team.

DALYELLUP swelled to more than 15,000 residents but is still serviced by just one small deli, 10 years after the estate was established.

COLLIE-Preston MLA Mick Murray suggested the old St John of God Hospital site be turned into a residential complex to ease the region's waiting list for public housing.

SOUTH West apple growers were fearful a World Trade Organisation decision to reject Australia's appeal against apple imports from New Zealand would compromise the future of the industry.

THE proposed \$30 million centre near the Leschenault Inlet emerged as a campaign platform in next State election after Bunbury City Council voted in favour of the plan



Athene Hain, Saunders of Newton

Collie MLA Mick Murray is a