



Business Matters

Tourism in the spotlight

Caring side:

Tayside woman's blog a worldwide hit. Page 10



On fire: The numbers attending the popular DragonQuest show have far exceeded expectations, with organisers already planning to bring the event back next year after more than 5,000 people explored the magical woods at Monikie Country Park in search of a dragon this month. Full story on page 14. Picture: Alan Richardson.

A90 death family targeted by trolls

ACCIDENT: Monifieth woman abuses tragic Kairon's mother online

STEFAN MORKIS

A Monifieth woman targeted the family of a nine-year-old fatal accident victim with sick online taunts.

The "broken" family of Kairon McKay, killed on Friday night near Dundee, has

begged internet trolls to let them grieve in peace.

The youngster died after being struck by a car while out with friends.

His mother Laura has since received abusive messages online from people blaming her for the tragedy.

One woman from Monifieth sent a message to Laura stating: "You should never have let your son be out at that time of night in the dark."

Kairon's grandmother Moira McKay has called on the trolls to respect the family's grief.

Full story on page 8

Jobs will go to save money, admits council

MARK MACKAY

Staff will bear the brunt of budget cuts, Dundee City Council's chief executive David Martin has confirmed.

Addressing councillors last night, he described the £28 million reductions required over the next two years as "unprecedented" and said the savings could not be accomplished without shedding staff.

"As so much of the council's cost base is employees, making the savings required cannot be accomplished without job losses," he said.

He told the meeting it was "far too early" to say just how many employees will have to go.

Full coverage on pages 4&5



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SIBLING RIVALRY

The day Jamie snapped

Judy Murray has revealed the childhood 'blood' feud that drove Andy Murray to the top in tennis.

The world No 2 player was left badly bleeding after he had beaten his elder brother Jamie in a national Under-12s tournament.

In frustration for losing in the final the senior Murray – by one year – punched his sibling's hand, cutting it badly, on the coach back home.

Andy – now 28 – had to be taken to a hospital to have the wound dressed and a tetanus shot.

Judy said both brothers had learned from the encounter.

They have forged a successful doubles partnership on court – and will carry British hopes in next month's Davis Cup final against Belgium, starting on November 27.

Yesterday Judy said



Andy Murray: left bleeding after fallout with brother.

on US TV: "It didn't matter what it was; cards, dominoes, monopoly, golf or football, they were always competing with each other."

The drama happened on the minibus back to Dunblane, driven by Judy. Jamie lashed out after being teased by his victorious younger brother.

"It's a reminder about being humble and never bragging about beating anyone, especially your brother!" said Judy

MEDICINE

Glasgow to host centre

A Scottish centre for excellence in precision medicine is to be established in Glasgow.

The centre will be led by Glasgow University and the Scottish Government.

Health Secretary Shona Robison said it was "great news", adding it showed how the Scottish Government's £124 million innovation investment has attracted further funding.

ENVIRONMENT

Time running out for green prize entries

Individuals or groups hoping to win the lucrative St Andrews Prize for the Environment only have until Saturday to get their entries in.

The annual prize, which aims to find innovative solutions to environmental challenges, is worth \$100,000 to the winner and \$25,000 to two other finalists.

Since it was launched in 1998, the prize has attracted more than 4,000 entries from around

the world on a range of diverse topics including biodiversity, sustainable development, urban regeneration, recycling, health, water and waste issues and renewable energy.

Last year's recipient was a chimpanzee conservation project in Guinea, west Africa.

Anyone wishing to enter the 2016 prize should complete an online entry form at www.thestandrewsprize.com before Saturday.



A youngster enjoys the DragonQuest experience. Picture: Alan Richardson.

5,000 captivated by dragon hunt in Angus woods

ATTRACTION: Organisers hope to bring back bigger and better show next year

ROB MCLAREN

More than 5,000 people have explored the magical woods at Monikie Country Park in search of a dragon this month.

The number of people attending DragonQuest has far exceeded expectations – and organisers are already planning to bring the event back next year.

The final show takes place on Sunday, but Vision Mechanics, the Edinburgh-based theatre company behind the event, are promising that it will return due to its "overwhelming success".

Artistic director Symon Macintyre said: "As we enter the final week, we are absolutely delighted that 5,000 people have joined us on our DragonQuest so far.

"We have not only achieved our targets but exceeded them...

"We have reached out to audiences in Dundee, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Fife and Perthshire, opening their eyes to an entirely new style of theatre, and early indications show that ticket sales remain very healthy for the final few days."

He said the group was now looking to develop the concept further.

"The challenge ahead is to take it to the next level and meet our audiences' growing expectations," he said.

"We are hugely grateful to our funders but, to make DragonQuest even bigger and better...we are looking to secure a major sponsor to fund new creatures, installations and more lighting."

The park has been filled with 3D fairies, trolls, goblins, hovering flies and, of course, the dragon itself, since the event began on October 7.

DragonQuest has been supported by Creative Scotland, EventScotland, part of the VisitScotland Events Directorate, and Angus Council.

Meanwhile, arts workshops with children and young people to produce dragon scarers for Monikie Country Park and local schools were funded by the Gannochy Trust, the CashBack for Creativity Open Arts Fund and Creative Scotland.

Paul Bush, director of events at VisitScotland, said: "We are delighted to support DragonQuest, attracting impressive crowds to Angus to experience this fantastical evening show.

"The stunning setting of Monikie Woods combined with the event's immersive storytelling and state-of-the-art technology, demonstrates just why Scotland is the perfect stage for events."

Councillor Jeanette Gaul, vice-convenor of communities Angus Council, said the council were delighted "that people have come in their thousands" to see the show.

"If you haven't already seen this mystical, magical show I would urge you to come along and enjoy its wonders."

Tickets remain available for certain performances this week, and are available from the Webster Memorial Theatre in Arbroath on 01241 435800.

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