

Bridport news

40p

Friday, July 7, 2006

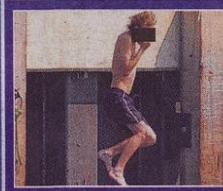
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Your guide to local services

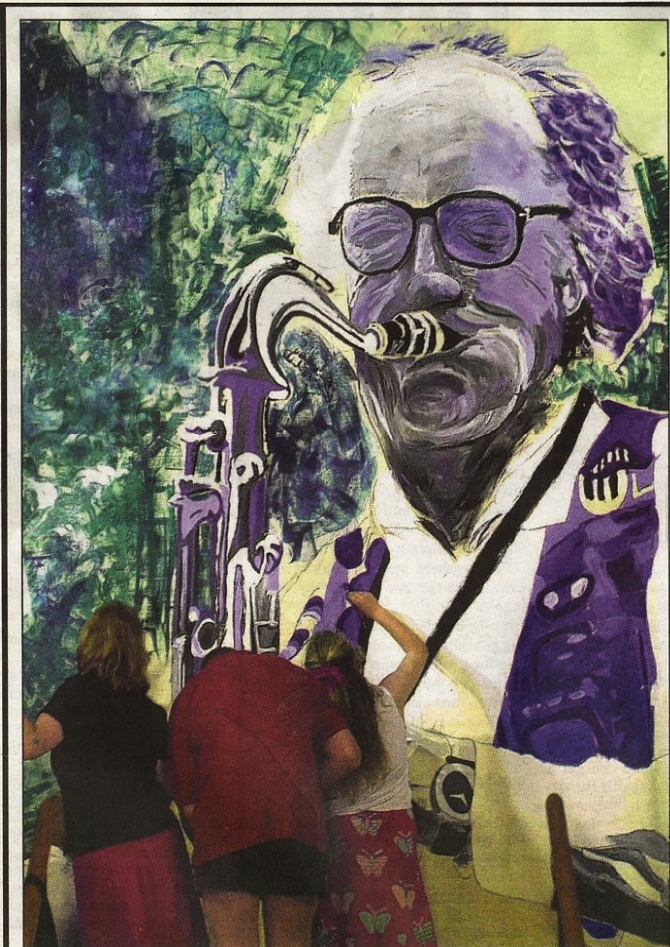


Pier-jumping daredevils are putting their lives at risk
PAGE 11



Bees boss quits and walks into fundraiser to boost sports facilities
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SINGER'S PLEA FOR LIFE GUARDS



FITTING TRIBUTE: The Rex Trevett mural at the arts centre provided the backdrop to a Charter Fair Benefit Gig where seven local bands helped to raise £261 for the fair's funds.

● Full story on Page 3 and picture special on Pages 20-21

By **HOLLY ROBINSON**

SINGER Billy Bragg is calling for lifeguards at Burton Bradstock and West Bay to stop to children playing chicken in dangerous waves.

He warns that many beach visitors do not realise they are in danger of being dragged into the sea even if they are not in the water.

His concerns follow the death at West Bay in May of Marcus Welfare, 19, of Surrey.

Mr Bragg, of Burton Bradstock, said signs that have gone up in the last couple of years warn of the tide and shelves but do not explain that people can be swept off the beach.

He said children play chicken with the waves breaking exactly where the beach shelves, sometimes with a drop of two metres.

"It has got to the stage where I have gone down to the beach and spoken to people," said Mr Bragg. "My fear is seeing a toddler knocked over and dragged into the waves. I saw it once happen to a terrier. The dog didn't come out again."

"We all hope the Jurassic Coast is going to bring more people to the area, but I would like to see lifeguards at West Bay and Burton Bradstock or, at least, some specific signage about the special circumstance along Chesil Beach to explain that you do not need to be in the water to drown."

Bridport town councillor Karl Wallace said there had been several deaths over the years at Burton Bradstock and West Bexington and people do not always read signs.

He said West Dorset District Council should provide its own lifeguard service or work with the RNLI and he has been told



SAFETY FIRST: Billy Bragg, inset, is calling for lifeguards or at least better warning signs at Burton Bradstock and West Bay to stop children playing chicken in the waves

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Call for better warning signs on beach

● FROM FRONT PAGE

the lifeguards Exmouth beach cost around £30,000 a year. Coun Martin Ray said the RNLI visits schools in areas where victims come from and a visit has also been planned for the Sir John Colfox School, Bridport.

He added: "The signs do not explain about the undertow, the tumble drier effect that not even

strong swimmers can get out of. They are trying to standardise signs along the coastline but the signs they need in Weymouth are not the same as those along Chesil Beach."

West Dorset District Council's technical services manager Steve Woollard said the council has a scrutiny group that looks at coastal issues and safety.

He said: "Over the last two

years the council has worked with organisations to improve safety signs along the West Dorset coast. This has seen the district council fund 35 new RNLI standard design signs at key access points along the West Dorset coast. Signs at each location give specific warnings and the signs at West Bay and Burton Bradstock warn about the steeply shelving beach and undertow."