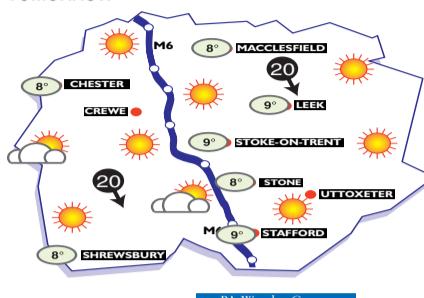


Info Desk

Weather

TOMORROW



TONIGHT: Plenty of cloud will persist during the night with just occasional clear spells. It will stay mostly dry up until midnight, but some showers will move in from the north during the early hours. Low 2-5C (36-41F).

TOMORROW: There will be some early cloud and this will bring a few showers, some heavy. The showers will clear by the afternoon to leave it drier, brighter and colder. Fresh north-westerly winds. High 5-8C (41-46F).

Air Pollution: Rural: 3; Towns and Cities: 3; Roadside: 3.

Low (1-3), Moderate (4-6), High (7-9), Very High (10).

Hours of Darkness: 5.45pm to 7am and 5.47pm to 6.58am. Data supplied by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Chemists

ALSAGER: Lloyds, Lawton Road, 11am-noon.

AUDLEY: Co-op, Church Street, 11.45am-12.45pm.

BIDDULPH: Co-op, New Street, noon-1pm.

BURSLEM: BHCP, Chapel Lane, noon-1pm.

CHESTERTON: Co-op, London Road, 2.30-3pm.

CONGLETON: Superdrug, High Street, noon-1pm.

CREWE: Williams, Nantwich Road, 11am-3pm.

ENDON: McMullen, Station Road, 10-11am.

GOLDENHILL: Goldenhill Pharmacy, Anne Street, 11am-noon.

LEEK: Lloyds, Fountain Street, noon-1pm.

MACCLESFIELD: Tesco Instore, Hibel Road, 10am-4pm.

NANTWICH: Williams, High Street, 6-7pm.

SANDBACH: Co-op, Ashfields Primary Care Centre, Middlewich Road, 6-7pm.

SHELTON: Lloyds, Stoke Road, 10am-10pm.

STAFFORD: Wildwood Pharmacy, Kwik Save, Wildwood, 10am-4pm.

STONE: Birchill & Watson, High Street, noon-1pm.

UTTOXETER: Uttoxeter Health Stores, Balance Street Health Centre, noon-1pm.

Helpline

Re-Solv (Freephone National Helpline): The line is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and offers information and support regarding solvent and volatile substance abuse issues. Tel: 0808 800 2345.

Domestic Violence Helpline (North Staffs): Offering information, advice and support to women who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence. Confidential Service. Tel: 01782 205500.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Meetings every night throughout North Staffordshire and South Cheshire. Telephone: Helpline 01782 266366.

North Staffs Repetitive Strain Injury Group: Details: 01782 837914. No time-wasters please.

British Cardiac Patients Association (Zipper Club): Support Group for heart patients and families. Helplines: 01782 320055 or 342116.

Gamblers Anonymous: Meet every Tuesday 8-9.30pm at St Saviour's Church Hall, Smalldorne. Just turn up to the meeting or telephone 0161 976 5000 for further details.

Victim Support: Offering practical and emotional support to victims of crime. Tel. 01782 717184.

National Lottery

Last night's Lotto Daily numbers were: 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 24

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Dentist banned from practising for a year

A DENTIST who overcharged and misled a female patient has been suspended for a year.

Andre Griesel invoiced Beverley Leese, aged 47, over £400 for crowns that only cost him £88 to supply and said she had to pay out of her own pocket instead of on the NHS.

The South African-born dentist had claimed the fittings contained gold but landed himself in trouble when tests revealed they contained no trace of the precious metal.

Griesel was cleared by a General Dental Council conduct committee last month of knowing the crowns did not contain gold after he blamed his supplier for providing the wrong items.

He was found guilty of excessively, dishonestly and inappropriately charging Mrs Leese for the crowns at his surgery in King Street, Newcastle, where he treats some 2,000 patients.

Griesel was prosecuted by Trading Standards for charging another patient, John Corden,

aged 56, for dental work he never carried out.

He was also found to have made string of other dental blunders involving the neglect of Mrs Leese and Mr Corden.

Griesel was yesterday found guilty of serious professional misconduct — a charge he denied — at the resumed hearing in London.

He looked shocked as he was suspended from working as a dentist for a year.

Chairman John Scott said: "A dentist should not demand or

receive fees for which there is no entitlement nor persuade a patient to accept private treatment by giving incorrect information.

"As a member of a caring profession the dentist has a responsibility to put the interests of patients first."

Jonathan Holl-Allen, defending, said: "This is a man who has already suffered substantially."

"This is a competent general dental practitioner who has provided many years of service."

Firm denies offence, saying it wasn't its product

Dog lead snapped - blinding 11-year-old

BY SENTINEL REPORTER

A SCHOOLBOY holidaying in west Wales was left blinded in one eye when a dog lead snapped and flew back into his face, a court heard yesterday.

The anguished mother of 11-year-old Joe Downes told Cardigan magistrates how her son screamed: "I can't see, I can't see," moments after the accident during a family holiday at Llanrhystud, near Aberystwyth in July 2003.

A month later the Newcastle youngster was the victim of another freak accident when his right arm was severed in a speedboat accident off Llanrhystud.

Joe's mum and dad, Mike and Julie Downes, were both in court to see Essex-based PMS International deny two counts of supplying a dangerous product.

The Basildon firm maintains that the lead which injured Joe was not made by the company and that two PMS leads purchased by Mr Downes following the accident to assist in the investigation were not dangerous.

Philippa Ashworth, prosecuting on behalf of Ceredigion County Council, said Joe's aunt Suzie Young had bought two retractable dog leads, costing £1 each, from a Newquay shop on July 26, 2003.

"She gave them to her sister Julie and the next day her 11-year-old son Joe took his pet terrier for a walk," said Miss Ashworth.

"Within a short space of time the metal clip hooked on to the dog collar had snapped off,

flicking the lead back into Joe's eye. He suffered a detached retina and unfortunately lost 90 per cent of the vision in his eye."

Mrs Downes, of Cambridge Drive, Newcastle, said it was the end of their holiday and she and Joe decided to take their terriers Rex and Bonnie for a final walk before the three-hour journey home.

"We had only gone a few metres and the dogs were excited and pulling a bit," she said. "I was in front of Joe and heard him scream."

"I looked behind and he was holding his eye. I did not know what had happened but I saw that Bonnie was loose."

"Joe was saying: 'I can't see, I can't see.'

"When we got back to the caravan I noticed a hole in his eyeball and all the gel in his eye was coming out."

The lead's original packaging had been thrown away the previous day.

Metallurgist Dr Rodney Tanswell, who examined a similar lead, said the zinc casting was very soft.

"It is dangerous because the combination of the softness of the metal and looseness of the bolt could cause the lead to slip off the dog collar," he said.

PMS quality control manager Mike Barrett said the company had sold 21,300 retractable dog leads in 2003 and not received a single complaint. Denying that the lead which injured Joe was distributed by PMS, he said: "A number of Chinese factories turn out identical products."

The case will be concluded on March 2.



JOE DOWNES: he screamed: "I can't see, I can't see," his mother told Cardigan magistrates

Short-time working at Wedgwood factory

From Page 1

One creditor, who declined to be identified for fear of further delays in payment, said Wedgwood had put a hold on payment of invoices because "directors were prioritising payments".

She stressed Wedgwood staff had assured her that it was a "temporary position".

Another company also declined to be named but confirmed that payments for goods had been delayed.

Waterford Wedgwood is preparing to begin the integration of the Royal Doulton business into Wedgwood.

The debt-laden luxury goods group has raised £70 million through the issue of new shares, of which £32 million goes towards paying for the shares it does not own in Royal Doulton. The remainder will be spent on promoting the brands now manufactured in Stoke-on-Trent.

Wedgwood has also premiered one of its biggest collections of

new ranges at the Spring Fair in Birmingham, which closed on Thursday.

Richard Platt, senior divisional director of the Hanley office of stockbroker Brewin Dolphin, said: "Effectively Wedgwood are saying they're in a big deal where they've raised money, but also spending money at the same time. Although the balance is a net positive, there could be a short-term issue on cashflow. If that is the case, it is fair enough. The issue is whether it continues. That is

when creditors will start to question what is going on."

Geoff Bagnall, general secretary of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union, said: "It's in line with the agreement made sometime ago which is regarded as groundbreaking as it helps the company to manage stocks, while upholding payment standards."

"I am aware that money is tight but my main concern is to ensure the payment of wages to workers are made. All those obligations have been met so far."