

Woman cut from her car

● FIREFIGHTERS cut the roof off a car to rescue a woman after a crash in Billericay.

The woman, in her mid-thirties, had to be cut out of her red Ford Fiesta after colliding with a purple Ford Ka in Barleylands Road on Friday morning.

The road was closed for an hour and a half.

She was taken to Basildon hospital by ambulance, but was not seriously injured.

Man slashed by robbers

● A DELIVERY driver was slashed in the face with a blade during a robbery.

The 36-year-old man was walking along Bann Close, South Ockendon, when he was approached by two white men in their twenties who forced him to hand over £60.

One was 5ft 10ins tall, of medium build. His accomplice was 5ft 8ins tall, stocky and had a tan Staffie dog with him.

Street has power cut

● HOUSEHOLDERS were left without power while engineers carried out repair work to an underground cable.

In total 29 homes in Butneys, Basildon, had no electricity at about 11.15am on Thursday, as EDF energy worked on a high voltage underground cable.

Power was restored 45 minutes later.

EDF apologised for the inconvenience caused.

£3,000 raid on a house

● RAIDERS stole £3,000 of items from a home in Billericay. Burglars forced a front door in Highfield Road, Billericay, and took a mobile phone, a watch, cash, a games console, laptop and two digital cameras.

The burglary took place between 2am and 7am on Thursday. Anyone with information can call police on 0300 3334444 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

● A RAIDER stole a stereo worth £100 and caused £500 damage to a Ford car in Thackeray Row, Wickford.

● THE Caterpillar Club for toddlers is meeting for outdoor activities at the Langdon Visitor Centre in Lower Dunton Road, Basildon, tomorrow from 10am.

County council looks at mystery of damaged posts



■ Accident waiting to happen – Tariq Musaji is concerned about damaged signs

Picture: LUAN MARSHALL BA36492_007

Driving instructor's road sign safety fear

A DRIVING instructor fears signposts that have been sawn in half are an accident waiting to happen.

Tariq Musaji, 42, of London Road, Billericay, has noticed numerous road signs around Billericay, Basildon and Wickford, where he conducts his lessons, have had their tops sawn off.

Tape has been put on to cover the cut off point of the signs, but their sharp ends have been left sticking out.

Mr Musaji first noticed one outside his house in London Road where the speed limit was being changed from 40 to 30mph.

By GEORGE THORPE
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Mr Musaji said: "They have taken the top off the old sign and then just put some strippy sticky tape on top of it and then put a brand new sign next to it.

"I have noticed more signs like this while I have been doing lessons as well.

"I am worried because some of the cut signs are just over half a metre high, and if there is an accident involving a motorist or cyclist it could be fatal.

"A lot of cars are made out of more lightweight metals nowadays, and at the moment I feel as

if it is an accident just waiting to happen."

Mr Musaji has noticed posts in a similar condition on a roundabout in Ashlyns, Basildon, and another outside the Burnt Mills Industrial estate, also in Basildon as well as others in Wickford.

The driving instructor thinks the posts should have some sort of plastic cap put over the top or be removed altogether.

Mr Musaji has raised the issue with Essex County Council, which look after roads in the district, and is planning to bring the matter up with his local MP John Baron.

A county council spokesman said: "The council has been made aware of the unwanted posts still in place at a small number of sites in the Basildon area.

"Highways officers are now investigating the situation and will work to get these removed."

“ I am worried if there is an accident involving a motorist or a cyclist it could be fatal

Boozy kids targeted

BOOZE and cigarettes were seized from underage kids during a crackdown.

Police and Thurrock Council teamed up to catch any youngsters drinking illegally. They also targeted adults breaking the law by buying booze on behalf of children.

During the crackdown in Grays, police carried out 20 stop-checks on youngsters and seized beer and cigarettes.

During the evening operation, council officers also dished out fines for littering.

Sgt Danny Torrance, of Grays town neighbourhood policing

team, said: "Antisocial behaviour in Thurrock is often highlighted by our residents as something that concerns them, especially when it involves young people.

"By taking this kind of action, the message is clear to both underage drinkers and shopkeepers that we will not tolerate this in our area."

As part of the crackdown, aimed at cutting underage drinking and boozing in the street, shopkeepers were given advice by council officers on the law regarding the sale of alcohol and other age-restricted goods.

Theatre opportunities

PEOPLE interested in a career backstage are encouraged to apply for work placements with a prestigious theatre company.

The placements at the Royal Opera House Production Park, Purfleet, will be an opportunity to work with creative professionals.

Successful applicants will be involved in preparations for the opening ceremony of the Royal Opera House's Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop in December, as well as get to help with Ludd and Isis, the Purfleet Opera which has been developed through workshops with local people.

All of the positions will offer on-site training at the High House Production Park, training at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and work experience at a busy live event.

A spokesman said: "Successful applicants will help with props, coordinate the production, undertake administration and work on the performances."

Stagehands, technical and front of house staff will also be needed, and placements will begin in November.

Visit <http://www.roh.org.uk/workhere> or phone Lowri Jones on 0207 212 9632.