

Johnston Press up for sale

The company which owns The Scotsman and the i Paper as well as The Edinburgh Evening News is on the market for sale.

There is said to be a pension fund deficit as well as operating losses and the company says it has explored all options to repay the monies due.

THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018
www.scotsman.com

£1.68
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE £132

THE SCOTSMAN

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1817

Israel v Scotland: Alan Pattullo in Haifa previews tonight's Uefa Nations League clash

New BBC Scotland channel line-up revealed

Family's pain as Scottish crash victim misidentified

By DAVID FERGUSON

An identity mix-up led to the wrong parents being called to identify the body of a Borders university student killed in a collision.

George Crawford, 20, died after being hit by a VW Golf on Sunday morning. He had a tennis racket, leading to the misidentification.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Two Britons among ten dead as torrential rainstorms hit Majorca

At least ten people, including two Britons, were killed after torrential rain caused flash flooding on the Spanish island of Majorca. Another 12 people have been reported missing in the wake of the downpours, which hit the town of Sant Llorenç in the popular holiday destination.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

SNP's flagship childcare plans set to 'implode' say nurseries

By SCOTT MACNAB

Flagship plans to provide a system of effective universal childcare in Scotland may be about to "implode", private nurseries have warned ministers.

Childcare providers have written to the Scottish Government setting out widespread concerns that an expansion to 1140 hours, which would mirror the primary school week, is not being properly funded and will drive agencies out of business.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has hailed the scheme for three and four-year-olds, as well as some two-year-olds, as "transformative", with hopes it would allow a generation of mothers to return to the workplace. But more than 90 pages of documents have been obtained by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information, warning of a looming crisis.

Private nurseries are widely viewed as key partners in the delivery of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

New high-speed train... late by 30 minutes

By ALISON CAMPBELL

The inaugural voyage of Scotland's first high-speed train hit a speed bump after it broke down to 15mph and arrived 30 minutes late into Edinburgh.

ScotRail's InterCity was forced to stop north of Ladybank yesterday to fix an air leak.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

Real Homes

+ 20 pages of property in Real Homes

SHAAP and Eurocare present

8th European Alcohol Policy Conference (8EAPC)

20-21 Nov 2018, The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Scotland

www.8EAPC.eu

The debt which the company has on its balance sheet is around £220million, and it is now finding it difficult to refinance the loans which are repayable on 1 June 2019.

The Takeover Panel has agreed that a 'formal sale process' may now be undertaken by the company. This means that the company can talk with any parties interested in buying Johnston Press, although it says that it is not yet in conversation with any such parties. There will be no naming of any parties involved in such discussions, as the Takeover Panel has waived the rule in this regard.

In August the group announced interim financial results with a statutory operating profit of £7.4m compared to £4.9m in the same period last year.

The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday and Edinburgh Evening News moved from their premises on Holyrood Road to the office they currently occupy at Orchard Brae, in a bid to reduce the rent bill. It was said the rent of Holyrood Road was in the region of £1 million a year.

Photographers and staff have been made redundant in the past few years, while Ashley Highfield the CEO left in May and was replaced by David King.