

Brakpan

Nosipho Ntuli, from Thokoza, believes she is the next South African Idol. Visit www. brakpanherald. co.za for more photos. Thousands of Idols hopefuls from all over Gauteng converged on Carnival City over the weekend, to audition for South Africa's biggest reality television show.

The local auditions, which took place in the Big Top Arena on Saturday, were a historic event for the show, as it was the first time auditions have been held on the East Rand.

This is the show's 10th season. Hordes of aspiring singers braved the heat and stood in long queues that snaked around most of the casino's premises, for their moment in the spotlight. With television cameras aimed at them, the wannabe Idols sang and cheered, and the air was filled with excitement. The show's strictest judge, Randall Abrahams, couldn't wait to kick off the new season. "There is no doubt that the standard keeps improving in leaps and bounds every year," he said. "This year's aspiring superstars had better bring their A-game."

The results of this preliminary round are not known, but it can be assumed that many were unsuccessful in their pursuit of fame and fortune.

Only a few are expected to have received the coveted Golden Ticket -- a pass into the next phase of the competition.

Auditions are still to take place in Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria, before the call-back for ticket holders will be held. The series is a co-production between pay-television channels M-Net and Mzansi Magic, which will simulcast all the episodes. The broadcast dates have not yet been

announced.

Alberton resident Carol Visagie, seen filling in a registration form, was among the thousands who arrived at Carnival City to audition for Idols.

SPECIAL SPECIAL			r beat any val	IC QUOTATION & CONDITIONS APPLY	PANELS 3mx500R303.00 3mx1mR376.00	LIP/CHANNEL 6m 9m 75x50x20x2 R217.00 R330.75	WINDOW SECTIONS (6m) RT6R 63.00 RT13R 76.00
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Cnr.Grootvlei and Partridge Streets, Strubenvale 2011/815-4700/1/2/3 - Fax: 011/815-308	10mm R44.00 12mm R63.00	38x25 R143.00 R161.00 50x25 R152.00 R206.00 50x38 R198.00 R250.00	16x16R 78.00 20x20R 72.00 25x25R 85.00 . R143.00 32x32R134.00 . R185.00	1.6mm 2.0mm 20mm.R 64.00 25mm.R 85.00R124.00	2450 x 1225 x 1.0R 460.00 2450 x 1225 x 2.0R 550.00 2450 x 1225 x 2.5R 699.00 2450 x 1225 x 3.0R 848.00	25x25x5R141.00 30x30x3R106.00 30x30x5R184.00 40x40x3R141.00	20x5R 59.00 25x3R 48.00 25x5R 73.00 30x3R 61.00
10246, Strubenvale, 1570 OPEN SATURDAY 07:00-12 NOON ¢jjsteel@cjjsteel.co.za •www.cjjsteelcc.co.z	R56.00 PER METRE	76x38R237.00R318.00 76x50R303.00R357.00 100x50R410.00	38x38R152.00R231.00 50x50R208.00R297.00 76x76R308.00.R418.00 100x100R530.00	32mm . R115.00R159.00 38mm . R134.00R185.00 50mm . R185.00R260.00 76mm . R276.00R373.00	2450 x 1225 x 4.0R1 210.00 2500 x 1225 x 4.0R1 210.00 2500 x 1200 x 5.0R1 490.00 2500 x 1200 x 6.0R1 700.00	40x40x5R220.00 25x25x2R 76.00 30x30x2R 89.00 40x40x2R106.00	30x5R 92.00 40x3R 82.00 40x5R124.00 50x5R152.00

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BRAKPAN HERALD NEWS | www.brakpanherald.co.za

Friday, February 21, 2014



Nog 'n titel vir talenvolle Evan

Evan Krause, van Dalpark, is steeds besig om die een titel na die ander in te ryg. Hy het die afgelope naweek, tydens 'n kompetisie wat in Pretoria gehou is, met die Junior King of the World 2014 titel weggestap. Hy is ook aangewys as die bes geklede deelnemer en die beste loopplank model. Daarbenewens het hy ook die fotogeniese afdeling ingepalm. Die Herald het al voorheen berig oor Evan en sy ewe talentvolle sussie, Natalie Krause, wat saam al honderde titels verower het.

Dial for help

Brakpan residents can contact police vehicles directly if in need of police assistance.

The policing area in Brakpan comprises five sectors. Each sector has two vehicles

patrolling 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These vehicles are equipped with cell-

phones and residents can contact them directly.

For any police related problems, call the numbers below:

Sector 1:

071 675 6954/55

Brakpan CBD, Brakpan West (dam), Anzac, Brakpan East (Power Street to Bedford Street, Voortrekker Road to Boundary Road) and Brakpan North.

Sector 2

071 675 6956/57

Brakpan Central, Dalview, Denneoord, Kenleaf, Larrendale, Dalpark and Dalpark Extension Five.

Sector 3

071 675 6958/59

Minnebron, Rand Collieries, Sunair Park, Sonneveld, Van Eck Park Two, Sallies Extension Three and Four and Withok One.

Sector 4

071 675 6960/61

Brenthurst, Vulcania, Maryvlei Industrial, Sallies Village, Nkhancwa Village, Sallies Hostel, Ergo Plant, Vulcania South and Western Platinum.

Sector 5

071 675 6962/63

Leachville Extensions One, Two and Three, Flamingo Ridge, Dalpark Extensions One, Six, Nine, 11 and 13, Withok Estates and the Carnival City area. Police can also be contacted at the station on 011 744 4940.



Die Brakpan-tak van die Vroue Landbou-Unie het verlede Dinsdagoggend sy maandvergadering gehou. Een van die lede, Sjaan Buchel (foto), se eggenoot, Elwin, het 'n skildery "The Duck Market" aan die tak geskenk. Dit sal nou uitgeloot word. Elwin, wat 'n mediese spesialis is, is ook 'n skrywer en kunstenaar van formaat.

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Susan Potgieter (agter) staan hier by Leatitia Marais, 'n gereelde beoordelaar vir die Vroue-Landbou Unie.

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Claire van Onselen: 071 551-7015 Alwyn Colyn: 072 722-8175 Email: pmitechnical@gmail.com

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Car guard dies

Barend Oosthuizen, the 69-year-old car guard who was shot by robbers last week, has died.

Barend and his daughter, Kathleen Oosthuizen (44), were shot and injured by two men, following a robbery outside a local bank on Monday morning.

Barend passed away at the Far East Rand Hospital on Wednesday night, last week.

He had been shot once in the stomach.

The shooting took place along Queen Avenue, at about 9am, after the men had robbed a petrol station employee in front of a Voortrekker Street bank.

The employee was about to enter the bank to make a cash deposit when he was confronted by two men, one of whom was armed with a gun.

"One man grabbed the black carry bag containing the cash and both fled the scene on foot, towards the parking area in Queen Avenue," said Capt Joep Joubert, spokesperson for the Brakpan Police Station commander.

"The two car guards on duty tried to stop the robbers, who fired shots at them."

Barend's funeral service will take place today (Friday), at GE Funeral Chapels, in Boundary Road, at 9am.

At the time of going to press, Kathleen, who was shot twice in the stomach, was recovering in the surgical ward at the OR Tambo Memorial Hospital, in Boksburg.

Residents took to the Herald's Facebook page to send their condolences to the Oosthuizen family:

■ Hazel Tracy Smith: My heart is so saddened to hear that such a sweet old man is gone. I got to know him from always park-

ing my car there.

For me he is a silent hero, someone you could really trust.

I pray that he finds the peace he has been looking for and now he is one of God's beautiful angels.

Rhona Schoeman: R.I.V. Oom Barnie.

Ek het darem die voorreg gehad om gisteraand sy hand te kon vashou en met hom te gesels. Ons het nog so lekker gesels en hy het kort-kort gelag.

Ek het hom gesê hoe mis ons hom en hoe groot het ons geskrik toe antwoord hy nog "onkruid vergaan nie" en glimlag so groot vir my.

Hy het gesê dat hy vandag huistoe gaan kom.

Dit was vir almal 'n groot skok om te hoor hy is gisteraand laat oorlede. Dis regtig sooo sooo sad.

Sterkte aan sy kinders en familie in hierdie moelike tyd.

Mona Muller: Ai, baie jammer. Hy was 'n besondere goeie mens, met 'n hart van goud wat met elke en ieder gesels het.

Oom sal en bly in my gedagtes. RIP en sterkte aan die dogter, mag

jy gou herstel.

Familie en vriende, ons gebede word oorgedra aan julle.

Lesley Mclean: This is just so very sad!

My deepest sympathy to his family and friends!

Margaret Henning Hale: My condolences to his family and friends.

Libuse Young: So sad, so uncalled for.



Die inwoners van die Frank Mynhardt Sorgsentrum het ook Vrydag Valentynsdag gevier. Die sanger Juan Diedrick het die inwoners met sang en 'n kompetisie in Noot vir Noot styl vermaak. Daar is ook bietjie gedans en 'n mnr en mev Valentyn is aangewys. Suzie le Roux (99), een van die inwoners, is hier saam met Juan nadat sy 'n prys gewen het.

Diefstal lei tot kragskade

Die Ekurhuleni Metro het op 'n navraag van die Herald gereageer, nadat daar voor verlede week groot skade by die Tweedy Park kompleks aangerig is.

Die Herald het verlede week berig oor die inwoners van die 50 huisies wat byna almal skade gelei het, toe 'n kragoplewering (power surge) plaasgevind het. (Kragfout lei tot groot skade).

Die meestal bejaarde inwoners se wasmasjiene, televisies, radio's, yskaste, mikrogolfoonde en rekenaars het in die slag gebly.

Baie van die inwoners is nie in 'n posisie om die items te vervang nie en meeste van hulle het ook nie assuransie nie. Dit het intussen aan die lig gekom dat die Frank Mynhardt Sorgsentrum, wat ook in die Tweedy Park kompleks geleë is, net so erg deurgeloop het. 'n Bestuurslid van die sentrum het gesê dat die skade op meer as R100 000 geraam kan word. "Ons inloop vrieskaste, kombuistoerusing, geslote kring televisiekameras en lugverkoeling is deur die kragoplewing onklaar gelaat."

"'n Baie groot probleem was die klokkiesisteem, wat ons inwoners gebruik om hulp te ontbied," het die bestuurslid gesê.

'Dit was 'n prioriteit en ons moes dit dringend vervang," het hy bygevoeg.

Die Herald het ook meer oproepe van inwoners van die Tweedy Park huise ontvang, wat hul misnoeë te kenne gegee het.

"Ek en my man is oud en ons enigste plesiertjie was om televisie te kyk en radio te luister," het 'n 72-jarige inwoner, wat versoek het om annoniem te bly, gesê. "Ons kan nie die goed vervang nie en nou sit ons maar net hier rond. Dit is regtig nie lekker nie. Ons het ook die stadsraad probeer kontak, maar ons kom nie reg nie," het die vrou gesê.

Dwaal koeël laat inwoners kop krap

'n Egpaar van Brenthurst het verlede Sondagoggend gewip soos hulle skrik, toe 'n koeël deur die dak van hul slaapkamer bars.

Dit was sowat 2m van die bed waarop Fritz en Estelle van Niekerk rustig gelê en slaap het. Die egpaar het ook nie dadelik besef dat dit 'n

koeël was nie, en het eers die volgende oggend die gaatjie in die plafon raakgesien. Daar bestaan byna geen twyfel dat die gaatjie deur 'n geweerskoot veroorsaak is nie.

"Dit is baie kommerwekkend. As daardie koeël een van ons getref het sou die saak dalk heeltemal anders gewees het," het Fritz aan die Herald gesê.

Hy vertel dat hy en Estelle Sondagoggend net na middernag wakker geskrik het, van 'n baie harde geluid.

"Ek het dadelik opgestaan en oral in die huis rondgekyk maar ek kon niks sien nie," het hy gesê.

Estelle het die volgende oggend stowwerigheid op die vloer, bokant die plek waar die koeël deurgebars het, opgemerk, maar ook nie veel ag daarop geslaan nie.

"Estelle het die gaatjie eers later raakgesien en vir my gevra of ek dalk 'n gat in die plafon geboor het," het Fritz vertel.

"Ons het toe twee en twee bymekaar gesit en besef dat die enigste verklaring is dat iemand deur ons huis se dak geskiet het.

'Ons kon egter tot dusver nie die doppie opspoor nie.

Ek het verneem dat daar het blykbaar vroeër die aand 'n helikopter in die omgewing gesirkel het, en 'n mens kan maar net wonder of 'n skoot uit die helikopter gevuur is en of iemand op die grond 'n skoot in die lug geskiet het."



Armed robbers strike again

Two robbers leisurely helped themselves to the belongings of a 66-year-old Dalpark Extension Six woman, on Friday, last week, after storming into her home and locking her in a bedroom.

The woman and a male friend were in the lounge of her Silverbush Crescent home, when the men, both of whom were wearing rubber gloves and brandishing firearms, walked into the house at about 3.30pm.

They pointed guns at the pair and forced them into a bedroom, where they were robbed of their jewellery and cellphones. The robbers then locked the door and made their way through the house, taking the time to search each room.

In addition to the cellphones and jewellery, the robbers made off with a television set, microwave oven and the woman's car. They loaded the stolen items into her grey Renault (model unknown) and fled the scene.

Cases of house robbery and theft of a motor vehicle have been opened at the Brakpan Police Station.

The Herald reported in last week's edition how a domestic worker and group of women were terrorised by armed thugs in two house robberies, on Friday, February 7 (Robbers target women).

Join police in march against abuse

Brakpan police have reminded residents to join them in a march against women and child abuse today (Friday).

The march will kick off at 11am, and will proceed from Wenden Avenue to the Brakpan Police Station, in Gardiner Avenue. The crime awareness initiative has been organised by the Brakpan SAPS's Women's Network and Men For Change.

Die Ekhurhuleni Metro het in 'n kort verklaring gesê dat daar by die substasie, wat die area van krag voorsien, ingebreek is.

Die neutrale kabels van twee transformators is gesteel en dit het die kragoplewing veroorsaak.

Fritz het die voorval onder die aandag van die Brakpan SAPD gebring.

Fritz van Niekerk wys na die gaatjie in die plafon van hulle slaapkamer. (Inlas): Die gaatjie in die plafon.

Contact Capt Joep Joubert on 011 744 4940 for more information (before 11am).



Competition winner

The winner of our Gift for your Valentine competition, which ran on our Facebook page on Thursday, last week, is Jessica van Aardt (middle). She won a R500 voucher from Hirsch's Meadowdale. Seen with her are Chrissie Nortman (assistant manager) and Wesley Morris (PRO) from Hirsch's Meadowdale.

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Weekend crime round-up

According to information received, the following crimes were reported to Brakpan police over the weekend:

■ Friday

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A would-be burglar was apprehended by a Brenthurst couple after trying to break into their Rook Street home.

The husband (49) heard a noise outside at about 11.40am and, upon investigation, saw a man banging against a bedroom window, attempting to break it.

Realising he had been discovered, the man fled immediately and jumped over a wall, into a neighbour's property.

The husband gave chase, catching up with him in Lester Road, while his wife followed in their car.

The couple eventually caught the man and contacted police.

A white Isuzu bakkie was stolen from Voortrekker Road.

A car parked at an address in Feiss Street, Brakpan North, was broken into and its radio was stolen. Burglars stole a computer from a home in Essex Drive, Dalview.

Saturday

A case of attempted murder was opened after a severely injured man was found along Langenhoven Road, in Dalpark.

A resident of the street had contacted sector police at about 3.30am, to report the man, who was crying outside her house.

Police officers arrived and found the bloodied man, who claimed he had been taken from his home in Actonville, Benoni, by four men and assaulted.

He alleged that the men had then dropped him off in Dalpark.

Paramedics were called and the man, who sustained injuries to his head, face and hands, was taken to the Far East Rand Hospital. Two burglaries were reported.

A home in Johan Street, Sunair Park, was robbed of a television set, music system, laptop, jewellery, cash and other household items, while a property in Prince George Avenue was burgled of three television sets. A red Ford Laser was stolen from Prince George Avenue.

. . . .

A supermarket in Maryvlei was robbed by a gang of men at about 8.30pm.

Three men entered the store, while four kept watch outside (two at the door and two at the street corner), and pointed guns at the staff members.

The men took cigarettes, cash and airtime, with a total value of R12 000, and a cellphone.

They fired two shots at the supermarket before fleeing on foot.

No injuries were reported.

Sunday

A female resident of Derby Street was awakened by a burglar in her home at 2.10am.

The man had crept into her bedroom, when she woke up and started screaming. The burglar fled with her laptop, iPad,

cellphone and wristwatch. A television set was stolen from a home

in Glamorgan Avenue, Dalpark.

Meet our ultimate local bachelor

Members of the public will meet our ultimate local bachelor in next week's newspaper.

After asking eligible single men of the East Rand and South to enter our local bachelor competition, we have selected the top five guys and introduced them to the public.

Last week our readers had the opportunity to vote for their favourite man, and the one with the most votes will become our ultimate local bachelor.

Next week he will be introduced to the women of Ekurhuleni who will then have the opportunity to enter themselves for a date with our hunk.

Details on how to enter will be made available in next week's publication.

For more information contact Marcelle Muller on 011 916 5322 or send an email to localbachelor@gmail.com Alternatively visit www.joburgeast. getitonline.co.za for the latest news on the local bachelor.



Have

vou

seen

this

man?



Die nuwe munisipale vullisblikke, wat tans deur die metro aan inwoners beskikbaar gestel word, lei tot groot ergernis.

Benewens die feit dat inwoners nie behoorlik ingelig is oor die proses nie, het 'n nuwe tendens nou kop uitgesteek.

Die vullisblikke word voor die voet gesteel.

Hetta Bruwer, wat op die hoek van Olga- en Lappingstraat, in Brenrhust, woon, is verlede Maandag haar vullisblik kwyt

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nadat 'n dief dit voor haar dogter, Maryke Harris, se oë gesteel het.

"Ek het vir Maryke gesê om nie die vullisblik op die sypaadjie te laat nie, totdat sy die vullisverwyderingsvoertuig hoor of sien aankom nie," het Hetta gesê.

"Die voertuig ry eers in Olgastraat op en kom dan in Lappingstraat af, waar ons hek is. "Toe Maryke dit hoor het sy

die vullisblik en 'n paar sakke buite op die sypaadjie geplaas. "Haar tweejarige kleintjie, Cheronique, was by haar en sy het weer in die erf beweeg en die hek met die afstandbeheer toegemaak."

Volgens Hetta het 'n man wat bottels en ander items bymekaar gemaak het nader beweeg en in die vullisblik begin grou.

"Die volgende oomblik het hy, ten aanskoue van Maryke, die blik gevat en laat spaander," het sy gesê.

"Maryke kon nie agter hom die son verdwyn het.

aanhardloop nie, aangesien sy die kleintjie by haar gehad het. "Hy is dus vort met ons vul-

lisblik en ons sal waarskynlik nou moet opdok vir 'n ander een.

"Die vraag is net: met hoeveel ander mense gebeur dit, en hoe gaan die probleem hok geslaan word?"

'n Inwoner van Hoogenhoutstraat het voor verlede Maandag ook 'n nuwe vullisblik uitgesit, wat binne minute soos mis voor die son verdwyn het.



Tsakane police have issued this identikit of a man wanted for rape. The suspect, who is between 20 and 25 years old, raped a young woman on the grounds of a school, in Brakpan, in November, last year. He was wearing a red T-shirt and black pants, and spoke Afrikaans. He was also armed with a knife. Members of the public with information contact Set Secole Anguage on 082 210 0808



info@miraclecomfrey.net www.miraclecomfrey.net

086 111 7771 or 0727 84 84 84

with information can contact Sgt Secelo Mpuqa on 082 319 9808 or 082 771 6322.

Cheap eyewear at community clinic

Your community Optometric Eye Care Clinic is now open Mondays and Thursdays in Brakpan at the Muriel Brandt School, as well as on Wednesdays & Fridays at Dersley Medical centre, cnr Albite St and Cloverfield Rd, Dersley, Springs.

The aim of the clinic is to determine the health status of the patients' eyes and then provide advice accordingly. Should the patients need spectacles, they would be able to make an informed decision regarding lenses and frames with the optometrist. Consultations include a complete optometric examination, Glaucoma Screening as well as blood sugar measurements, all for **ONLY R90**. Spectacles prices start at R270 for Single Visions, R660 for Bifocals and R950 for Multifocals. This price includes both the lenses and a guaranteed, new frame. There are more than 200 frames to choose from.

The clinic can accommodate any of the patients' upgrade requirements as well, such as photochromic lenses, thinning and

strengthening of lenses and coatings like hard coats and anti-glare coatings. The Eye Care Clinic can also provide you with various hard and soft **contact lenses**. We are able to claim from your medical aid should you wish (terms and conditions apply).

The Eye Clinic is open from 09:00 until 16:00 Call 012 817-2021 / 082 382-5215 during office hours for an appointment.

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Mnr SA titel in sy visier

Brakpan inwoner Gerhardus Grobbelaar (25) het sy oog op die titel van Mnr Suid-Afrika, wat later vanjaar aangewys word.

Die Herald het 'n paar vrae aan hom gestel. Waar het jy grootgeword?

Ek het in Bloemfontein grootgeword en het my skoolloopbaan aan Jim Fouche High voltooi. Wat het jou laat besluit om vir die Mr Suid-Afrika kompetisie in te skryf?

Die soeke na 'n geleentheid om te kan staan vir wie ek is. Ek wil doelwitte stel en dit bereik. Ek wil nie net die "model"-gedeelte daarvan geniet nie, ek wil baie beslis 'n goeie rolmodel vir ander wees.

Hoeveel deelnemers is daar en wanneer word die finaliste gekies?

Daar is 55 deelnemers. Die deelnemers gaan gedurende Mei aan 'n televisie realiteitsprogram deelneem. Die program sal later uitgesaai word en gedurende dié tydperk sal 12 finaliste gekies word.

Hoe werk die Mnr SA kompetisie; kan die publiek ook stem of berus die keuse by 'n paneel beoordelaars?

In die eerste fase van die kompetisie word daar van al die finaliste verwag om sekerke projekte aan te pak, wat deur 'n paneel beoordelaars in oënskou geneem sal word. Die publiek kan ook per SMS stem. Persone wat vir my wil stem (en ek sal dit baie hoog op prys stel) kan 'n SMS stuur na 47439. My unieke kode is MRSA 029. SMS'e beloop R3 per SMS.

Beskryf jouself in vyf woorde.

Liefdevol, ambisieus, opofferend, moedig en braaf.

Wat is jou stokperdjies en belangstellings?

Ek skryf graag, swem, werk aan voertuigenjins en herbou klassieke motors, binnenshuise versiering, die mode, fotografie, skilder, intellektuele rekenaar en -boek speletjies (soos Sudoku). Ek geniet ook die buitelewe.

Wat maak jou kwaad?

Onregverdigheid en blindelingse aksies teenoor individue.

Jy het 'n boek geskryf, vertel daarvan.

Die titel van die boek, wat aanlyn gepubliseer gaan word, heet "Just Something". Dit handel oor lewensondervindinge, riglyne en oor die lewe uit 'n universiële oogpunt.

Top five online stories

The following were the most read stories on the Herald's website (www.brakpanherald. co.za) last week:

- Dronk bure loop kaal, vloek en skel
- Car guard shooting: victim dies
- Robbers target women
- Chop shop' men try to bribe their way out of arrest

Man caught driving at double the speed limit Anne Hill 082 070-0342



Date: 29th January 2014 to 9th April 2014 Place: St Andrews Presbyterian Church Cnr. Bedford Street & Hastings Avenue, Brakpan.

Contact: Rev. Keith Maybery 082 705-3866 Bernard Spiers 082 446-8916



Gerhardus geniet dit om sy lyf model te hou.

St Andrews

Presbyterian

Church

Cnr Bedford St &

Hastings Ave, Brakpan

Here no one is a stranger

Sunday Worship 09:00

Sunday School 09:00

Evening Worship from

2nd February 18:00

Church Hall for Hire:

HET JY GEWEET?

Die Aarde, Son, Maan en Sterre is gemerk met God se Naam

Ons nooi almal uit om saam te kom luister na ń treffende, visuele lesing deur Argitek en Predikant Ds. Frans Joubert, baie bekende gasspreker op Radio Pretoria.

Waar: Babs Koen Saal, Muriel **Brandstraat 5, Brakpan** Datum: 22 Februarie 2014 **Tyd:** 14h00 **Aangebied deur:** Lewende Hoop Bedieninge Kontak: 083 453-5653



23 Februarie

'n "Bikers"-diens word by die NG Kerk, Brenthurst gehou. Ryers kan vanaf 5.15nm by die Wimpy, te Hendrik Potgietertraat, Dalview, bymekaarkom, van waaralmal saam na die kerk sal ry. Die diens sal om 6nm begin.

February 26

A Brakpan Women United in Prayer meeting will be held at the Assembly of God Fellowship, 114 Germains Street, at 2.30pm. For more information contact Lynne van Wyk (011 915 0026). March 1

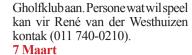
The Brakpan Baptist Church will host a business breakfast meeting at the church, 153 Hendrik Potgieter Road, at 7am. Contact Past Ian du Pisane for more information (011 915-3965).

3 Maart

Felicitas Skool se jaarlikse kermis word vanaf 9vm by die skool aangebied. Groot verskeidenheid eetgoed, boeke, wit olifant, naaldwerk, vermaak en speletjies. Die skool is in Muriel Brandstraat, Brenthurst, geleë.

6 Maart

Die Hoërskool Stoffberg bied 'n gholfdag by die State Mines



'n Kermis word by die NG Kerk, Brakpan-Noord-gemeente gehou, vanaf 6nm tot laat. Die kerk is te Gardinerlaan (reg oorkant die munisipitale swembad) geleë. Almal is welkom.

March 7

The Brakpan Women United in Prayer group will host a Women's World Day of Prayer meeting at the St John the Baptist Catholic Church, 74 Oueen Avenue, at 10am. Contact Luzonne Bekker for more information (082 890 3799). 8 Maart

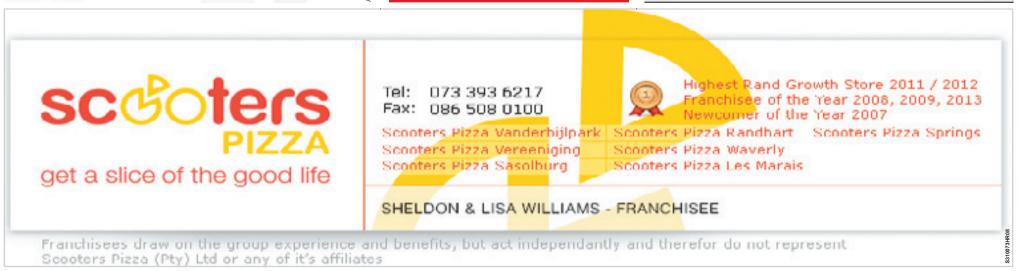
Die groep Back2Basics tree om 7nm in die kerksaal van die NG Kerk, Brakpan-Noord-gemeente op. Vir kaartjies en verdere inligting kan die kerkkantoor gekontak word (011 740-2241).

General

The Benoni Host Lions Club will hold a book sale at the Mall@Carnival (outside Woolworths), every second Wednesday of the month. A large variety of books will be on sale.

Die 1974-klas van die Hoër Tegniese Skool (Die Anker) beplan 'n reünie om die skool se 40ste bestaansjaarte vier. Belangstellendes kan vir Hennie van Asskakel (011836-0450 of per e-pos by reunion.hts.1974@ ehd.co.za).





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READERS VIEWS

We would like to hear your opinion:

Send your letters to: P.O. Box 1594, Brakpan, 1540 or Fax to 011 740-1829. Alternatively letters can be hand delivered to 25 Hendrik Potgieter Street, Dalview or e-mail to brakpanherald@caxton.co.za. Letters are subject to editing. A pseudonym may be used for publication but the writer's full name and address must be included.

Behaviour of road users is disgraceful

E L van den Berg writes by email: I refer to Sunday, February 9, when a horrific accident occurred on Springs Road at about 10am

This caused both sides of the road to be closed for several hours.

As the South African Police Services attempted to cordon off the area in order for the necessary authorities (paramedics, EMPD, tow trucks, fire brigade, etc.) to attend to the injured, clear the road and re-route traffic, the police members were bombarded with rude, unsympathetic road-users, obstructing traffic, shouting obsceneties, hand signals flying high into the but, when it is being enforced, you air as they sped off in anger because they were not allowed to enter the accident scene or given any information on the situation at hand.

Would you have liked it if someone gawked at your loved one lying injured or deceased? Taking photographs of the injured/dead and spreading them via social networks for all to see?

Shame on all of you! Furthermore, is this how you recognise the law in our country?

Everyone is always so quick to complain that the law is not enforced, greet it with absolute disregard and disrespect for those who are entitled and trained to do so.

I am disgraced by the behaviour of the road-users in our area.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the people involved in attempting to clear up the scene as quickly as possible.

It is good to know that there still are people who run to help you when you are in dire need of assistance in dangerous situations.

And to the family of the victim, we hold you in our thoughts.

Hulp word waardeer

"Bejaarde inwoner", Brakpan, skrvf:

. . . .

Ek het Sondagoggend (15 Februarie) geld by 'n OTM van 'n bank in Voorttrekkerweg gaan onttrek.

Daar was geen sekuriteitswag in sig nie en 'n verdagte persoon het my dadelik genader en my aandag totaal afgetrek van wat ek veronderstel was om te doen.

Die man het, sonder my medewete, daarin geslaag om my kaart in die hande te kry, asook my pinnommer.

Onnodig om te se was ek paniekerig en het ek nie geweet wat om te doen nie. 'n Baie behulpame vrou wat daar aangekom het, het my te hulp gesnel en dadelik vir my gesê wat om te doen.

Ek is ook na die polisiestasie om die voorval aan te meld.

Daar is ongelukkig geld uit my rekening onttrek, maar danksy die vrou se hulp kon ek die dief stuit om meer te trek.

Ek wil net baie dankie aan haar sê, en ek wil ander inwoners van die dorp maan om baie versigtig te wees wanneer hulle geld trek.

Dinge kan baie vinnig skeefloop.



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'n Groep van Hoërskool Die Anker se onderwysers het onlangs 'n funksie van die Gautengse Onderwys Departement bygewoon, waar erkenning gegee is aan uitsonderlike prestasies. Daar is, onder meer, toekennings gemaak aan die onderwysers wat met 'n 100 persent slaagsyfer vir die 2013 nasionale eksamen spog. Op die foto is, agter (van links): Nan van der Westhuizen (siviele tegnologie), Stephan Killian (ingenieursgrafika en ontwerp), Assie van Aswegen (ingenieursgrafika en ontwerp), George Nell (skoolhoof) en Gordon Pretorius (inligtingstegnologie). Voor: Mara van Schalkwyk (wiskunde geletterdheid) en Annelie Gloss (wiskunde geletterdheid).



Brenthurst Primary School recently held a fund-raising event in the form of a Red Day. Staff and parents donated baked goods that were sold on the day -- much to the delight of learners, who donned red clothes for the occassion and enjoyed numerous delicious treats.

Brenthurst Primary's Red Day



. . . .

Brenthurst Primary School staff member Natalie de Lange shares a moment with learner Tamela Taljaard, who came dressed as the Queen of Hearts (from a deck of playing cards) for the school's Red Day.



'n Baie suksesvolle loopbaan expo is onlangs by Hoërskool Die Anker aangebied. Altesaam 72 uitstallers, waaronder universiteite en privaat kolleges, wat op sekere vakgebiede konsertreer, het deel van die expo uitgemaak. Interessante praatjies, soos "Die wêreld van geld" en "Ek is onseker oor my loopbaankeuse" is deur kenners aangebied. Die expo is ook deur leerders van omliggende skole aangebied. Op die foto staan (van links): Hardus Joubert, Azalia van Schalkwyk, Chané Bray en Cheney Naudé, van Die Anker.



Foundation phase learners at Brenthurst Primary School formed a heart in celebration of the school's Red Day.

Nuwe

hou

Stoffies

konsert

Donneo Catanho is

een van die graad

agt leerders wat aan die groentjie konsert



Brenthurst Primary School teacher Marietjie Landsberg manned the candyfloss machine, during the school's Red Day. The spun sugar was an instant hit with learners.



Twee leerders van Hoërskool die Anker is onlangs vereer, tydens 'n funksie wat deur die Gautengse Onderwys Departement aangebied is. Peter Prince het vyf onderskydings behaal, waarvan een in elektriese tegnologie die beste in Oos-Gauteng is. Hy is tans besig met sy studies aan die UP, en sy pa, P Prince, het die toekenning namens hom ontvang.



Die groentjie konsert wat elke jaar by die Hoërskool Stoffberg plaasvind is 'n hoogtepunt op die skool se kalender. Vanjaar se konsert, waartydens die nuwelinge van die skool volwaardige Stoffies geword het, was geen uitsondering nie.



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> Scholarship Information Evening: Wednesday 12 March 2014



deelgeneem het. Links:Janco Hurter het die toekenning vir die beste siviele tegnologie leerder ontvang, en spog ook met twee ander onderskeidings.

Scholarship Exam: Saturday 15 March 2014

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 28 February 2014

Contact: Anna Botha - 011 479-3705 www.saheti.co.za

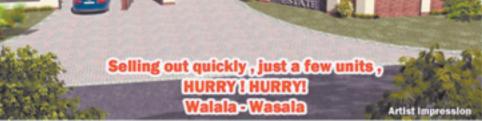
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Occupation.



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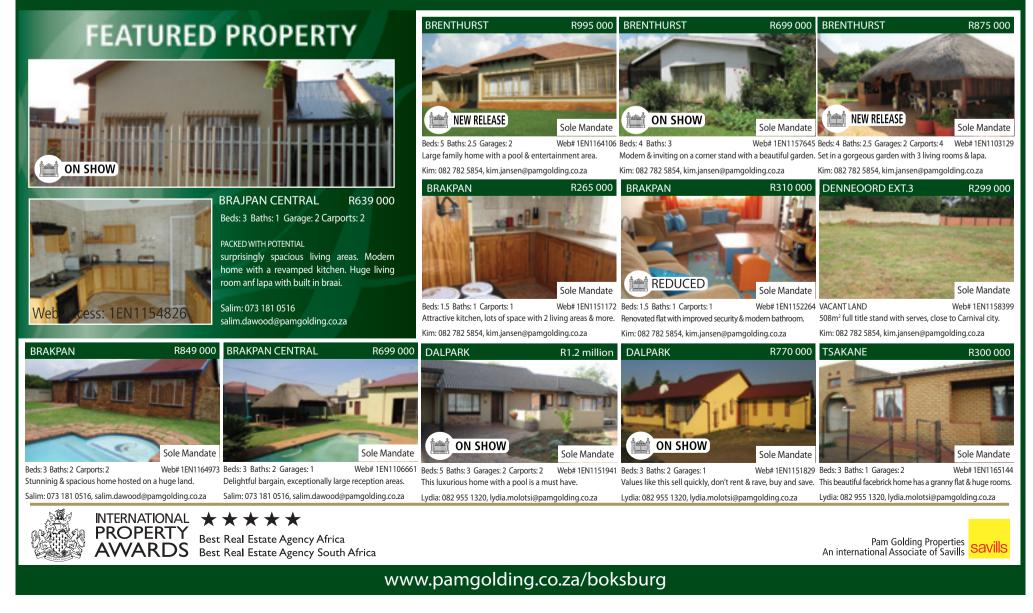
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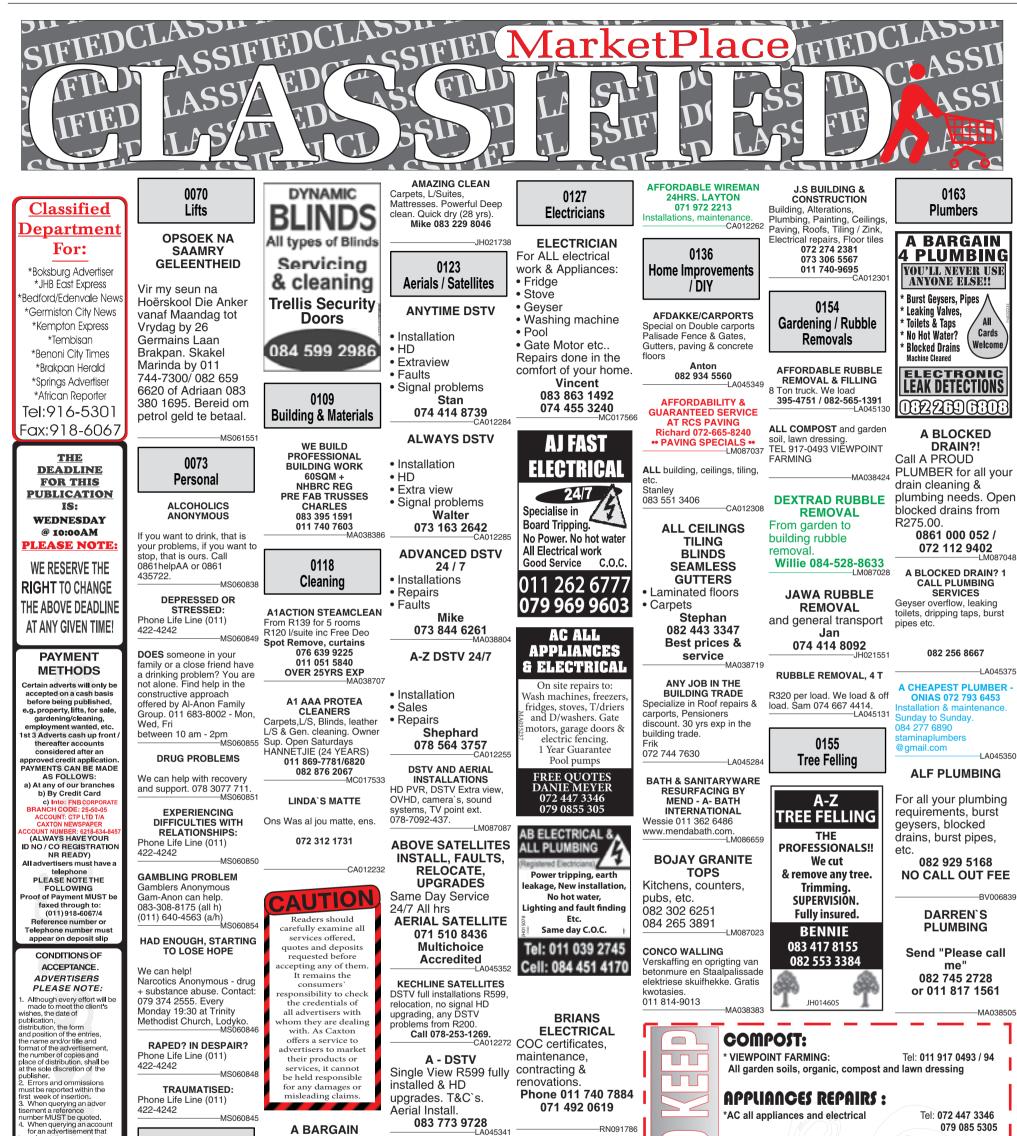
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Friday February 21, 2014



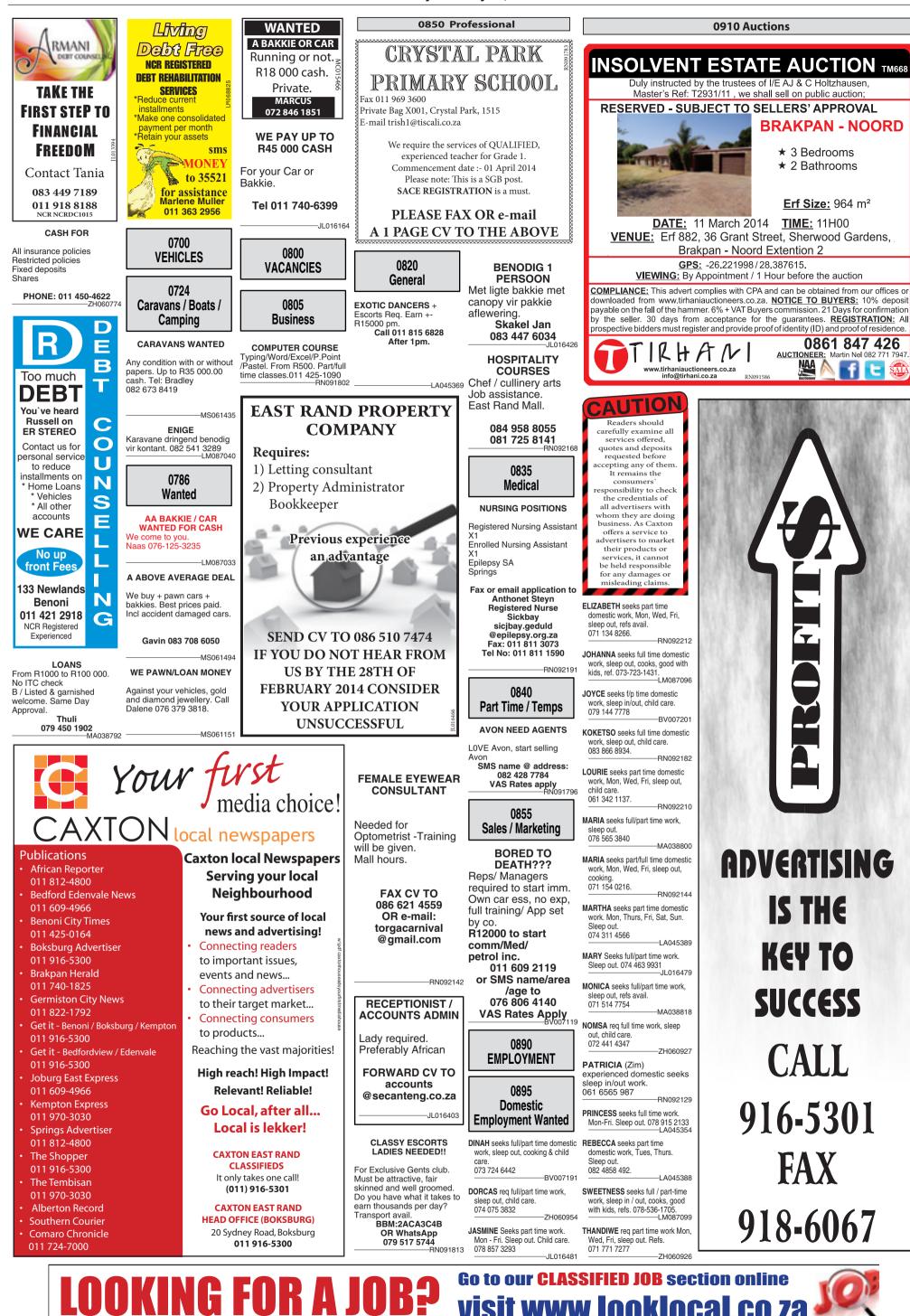




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Duduza dominates

United Cricket Club's Premier XI suffered a large defeat at the hands of Duduza, at Hosking Park, in Brakpan, on Sunday.

Two consecutive wins, a loss to CBC Old Boys last weekend and this most recent defeat has illustrated the inconsistencies the club's elite team have experienced in their first season in the Eastern Premier League.

But, according to team manager Des Gamble, each game the team plays is a learning curve, even when the losses pile up.



Duduza were put in to bat first and, despite wickets falling within the first 20 overs, it was the visiting team's Lesiba Ngoebe who put United to the sword, as he top-scored with 53.

Dian Moore, who managed figures of 3/51 in 7.5 overs, and spinner Michael du Plessis, who achieved figures of 2/33, were the best bowlers for the Brakpan outfit.

Duduza went on to post a score of 224, before the last wicket fell in the 47th over.

When United stepped in to bat in the second innings there was little on offer, as wickets fell cheaply and regularly.

Skipper Justin Gamble's knock of 33 runs was the only bit of resistance as his team crumbled in 40 overs, ending on a nelson (111 all out).

Ngoebe continued where he left off with the bat, and his bowling figures of 3/15 in eight overs helped ensure his team's victory by 113 runs.

"Our players were like dead ducks in water, and Duduza capitalised on our poor display," said the team manager.

"Our bowlers could not find the right lines and Duduza's batsmen took advantage of that.

"It's back to practise, and we prepare to host Benoni Northerns this Sunday, hoping that their loss to CBC Old Boys at the weekend will put them on the back foot."

The team plays Northerns at Hosking Park on Sunday, February 23, with the first ball scheduled to be bowled at 9.30am.

Spinner Michael du Plessis achieved bowling figures of 2/33, in 10 overs, in United Cricket Club's defeat against Duduza, on Sunday.

Superb Supadrift Saturday at The Rock

The Rock Raceway hosted the first round of the 2014 Supadrift National Series, on Saturday, February 15 -- and what a spectacle it was.

Over 40 drifters gathered in Brakpan to take part in the national event.

Drivers spoke of the high-speed entry point and the intimidating switch close to the wall, which resulted in quite a number of crashes. Thirty-seven drifters managed to get through qualification and a subsequent Top 32 ladder was implemented.

After qualifying, the Top 32 tandem races began and the drifting on display was of an extremely high quality.

Wade van Zummeren absolutely cleaned up The Rock tarmac, and his drifting display alone was worth the entrance fee for the petrol heads in attendance.

The top three drivers on the day were Zummeren (first place), Mathys Naudé (second place) and Hannes Frans (third place).

The next round of the Supadrift National series will take place on Saturday, March 29, at Dezzi Raceway, in Port Shepstone.

Classic Cycle Race this Sunday

Former Brakpan resident and Para-athlete Heugene Murray is among four athletes who started their "Walking with Freedom" trip up to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, in

Tanzania, on Thursday, February 20. These people have all

overcome their own personal battles and struggles and are

aiming to raise funds for prosthetics for amputee children.

The 30th edition of the everpopular Carnival City Macsteel National Classic Cycle Race will be held this Sunday, February 23, just two weeks before the Argus.

The race is a seeding event for this year's Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge and gives competitors a chance to ride the 160km, 120km, 103km or 65km distances.With road safety in mind, rolling road closure will take place from 6am on the day of the event.On request from Cycling South Africa (CSA), and to start bringing the event in line with international distances, the Elite Men will ride 10km further, on a new, 160km route. The event is also CSA sanctioned.

This is a fun day out for the whole family, with 160km for the elites and a 65km route to get the legs kicking.Once again, ChampionChip will be used to provide accurate timing and results for this event.

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Successful Dusi for East Rand kayakers



Brian Bader was one of the East Rand Kayak Club's paddlers who completed the 2014 Dusi Canoe Marathon.

Brian Bader, a Brakpan-based businessman in real estate, originally from Australia, and a member of the East Rand Kayak Club, based at Homestead Dam, in Benoni, enjoyed a successful 2014 Dusi - the world's toughest canoe endurance race.

The marathon consists of 120km of gruelling cross-country and wild white water rapids, over the three days from Thursday, February 13 to Saturday, February 15, along the Msunduzi River, from Pietermaritzburg to the Blue Lagoon, on the beachfront, in Durban.

Bader finished in 439th position out of some 775 boats in a K2 year, where the majority of boats were doubles, in an overall time of 13 hours and five minutes, as the 21st single canoe, and as the eighth Sub Grand Master age category finisher (between 55 and 60 years old).

The club's top finisher was, as expected, Michael Stewart, who partnered with Cape-based paddler Brandon Collyer, previously from Germiston, to finish in a top 50 silver Dusi medal position, in 39th place, with an overall time of nine hours and 20 minutes.

Jade and Grant Morshead, a father and daughter team, also finished the race successfully, in 649th position, while Donna Tutton competed in the women's category with a KwaZulu-Natalbased female partner.

Numerous paddlers from the East Rand area successfully finished the race, although one pair, Bob Harvey and Tony Ferguson, were rescued by helicopter when they were stranded on a rock island, on an unpaddled stretch of the river for four hours, having lost their broken boat, which washed away in the strong current.

Valke wings

Brakpan Rugby Club's 2014 Cell C Comwarm-up match against the Valke's Vodain Kempton Park, on Saturday, February 22. The Valke beat fellow Community Cup side Boksburg Rugby Club 50-25 on Saturday, February 16, and a tighter match is expected when the Valke play against the third best community club team in the



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automotion of the second secon Your weekly motoring guide Week 08, 17 - 23 February, 2014 Johannesburg East Edition

Golf R causes a ruckus

STUART MOIR

n the stiffness of a damp afternoon in Port Elizabeth, we can hear the new Volkswagen Golf R doing some high-speed gallops down VW's test track. The wail cuts through the air with amazing clarity and each refined gear shift comes in quick succession thanks to the already well-known DSG gearbox.

We've been anticipating this car for quite some time and for the right reasons. You see, while the GTI is known as the sporty sibling in the Golf household, the Golf R is like a hyperactive child that just got its sugar high, laced with tartrazine. This is because it does everything the GTI does... only better.

The new Golf R is powered by the newly designed 2.0-litre turbocharged engine also found in the GTI, but this advanced four-cylinder powertrain has been tweaked and tuned by the men in white coats cooped up in a lab at VW in Germany.

The result is a totemic of performance for the brand as the engine produces 206kW of power (an 18kW increase over the outgoing model) and 380Nm of torque. This power is delivered to all four wheels via VW's DSG transmission, which also needs no introduction. Thankfully the injection of power and chaos is controlled by the latest version of the 4Motion system with a fifth-generation Haldex coupling.

It makes for an entertaining companion. The close-ratio transmission, demonic power delivery and stability at speed can leave your head spinning. The car seems cool, calm and collected in almost every situation. Flooring the gas pedal and banging on the paddle shifts allows the car to go from standstill to 100km/h in five seconds.

We were dizzied by the improvements and statistics. The manual gearbox (only available in the second half of 2014) reaches 100km/h after just 5.2 seconds, some 0.5 seconds quicker than the previous model while the top speed is electronically limited to 250km/h.

The scary thing is that you don't realise just how quickly the Golf R picks up speed and you can quickly be sauntering along at speeds of well over 160km/h without so much as a mumble from the car.

The ride delivery is impeccable and while the body height has been lowered by 20mm and rolling on 18-inch wheels, the ride quality only gets a little harsh over bumps.

Some of the other improvements made to the new model include the addition of the four-wheel EDS as transverse locks. This system works in conjunction with the Haldex coupling and EDS to make the electronic stability control system act as the transverse locks. The system briefly brakes a wheel that is slipping, enabling uninterrupted and stable transfer of drive power to the wheel on the opposite side. In the Golf R, the electronic differential locks are implemented at both axles in what is referred to as four-wheel EDS.

The EDS is a nifty piece of kit made better by XDS+, which brakes the wheels on the inside during fast driving through bends, optimising steering behaviour.

But this fast-sprinting German isn't just about the pace, because the engineers also tried to

incorporate a greener side to its persona. With 18% better efficiency over the sixth-generation Golf R, this model offers a combined fuel consumption figure of 6.9 litres/100km and 159g/km of CO, although you will be hard pressed to get figures anywhere near these.

So what sets the Golf R apart from its GTI sibling, particularly in the design department?

Well, the Golf R is equipped with an extensive package to highlight its customised and exclusive features. The specially designed bumpers, side sills and 19-inch Cadiz alloy wheels and the visually distinguishable standard bi-xenon headlights with newly designed LED daytime running lights (in dual-U design), dark red LED rear lights and two-

branch exhaust system with four chrome tailpipes all set it apart.

Inside, the Golf R underlines its position as the flagship with leather sport seats, leather-trimmed three-spoke sport steering wheel, ambience lighting and automatic climate control to name but a few.

The Golf R is like a wolf in sheep's clothing. It doesn't flaunt its aggression, but isn't shy to growl at a moment's notice. And since it's competing in a class with a lot of big dogs, this VW knows how to run at the front of the pack.

Admittedly, starting at R486 200, the pricing might be a bit hard to swallow for the 2.0 TSI 206kW DSG, but it still comes in cheaper than its rivals and let's face it, the Euro hasn't been kind.







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new models

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Battle of the baby premium sedans

SEAN NURSE

CAUSING quite the stir in the motoring world at the moment are two new sedans from Germany: the Mercedes-Benz CLA and Audi A3 Sedan.

We've been fortunate enough to test both vehicles back-to-back to pin the ribbon on our favourite.

In the blue corner is the Audi A3 Sedan TDI (110kW/340Nm 2.0-litre turbo-diesel) and in the white corner the Mercedes-Benz CLA200 with a 115kW/250Nm 1.6-litre turbo-petrol engine, both rather shockingly fitted with manual gearboxes.

Although not exactly comparable in terms of engine size, the pricing of these vehicles is more closely matched than if we had to compare the diesel CLA to the A3. Where the CLA200 is R4 329 more than the A3, the CLA220 CDI is a colossal R44 000 dearer, albeit it with a 7G-DCT automatic gearbox.

matched. Both sprint to 100km/h in 8.6 seconds. The A3's fuel consumption is just 5.0 litres/100km and the CLA's is 5.5 litres/100km.

Both gain a large amount of luggage space - the A3 Sedan is wider than the three-door variant and so boasts 425 litres of boot space, which is trumped by the CLA's impressive 470 litres though. The CLA's sloping roofline means that rear comfort and space has been compromised for taller folk while the A3 maintains good head and leg room in the rear.

In terms of styling, I don't think that anyone would argue that the CLA is the catwalk winner. Where the Audi is focused on looking like the automotive equivalent of a Hugo Boss suit, the Mercedes wants to be the extrovert, wearing a jewel-encrusted Stuart Hughes suit with a pair of All-Stars.

Both are supremely refined on the open road,

Claimed performance is also pretty evenly whispering away with very little wind or road noise. The CLA has ditched the A-Class' harsh ride and while it is still firm, it definitely is much improved. When it comes to handling, the Audi's famed MQB platform doesn't disappoint - even with a relatively heavy lump over the front axle, the A3 corners superbly, but I dare say the CLA feels even better, with a sharper turn-in response and a lively steering feel.

The CLA is let down slightly by its gearbox though. The automatic would suit the vehicle better as the manual doesn't feel dynamic enough with its slightly cumbersome throws. The Audi's gearbox is better - even borderline notchy - with a reassuring click when a gear is engaged.

The interior is where the A3 really claws back. Where Mercedes-Benz has festooned the centre console with buttons and a fixed infotainment screen, Audi has gone for a sophisticated, minimalist look - featuring a screen folding in and out of the dashboard - with very few buttons required thanks to the MMI system. Both infotainment systems are easy to use, but the Audi's pips the Merc's for ultimate usability.

I found myself questioning why anybody who has the perfect 2.3 children would need anything bigger than one of these two vehicles. For the family person who wants kerb-side appeal, the CLA provides it in spades whereas the more practical buyer would go for the A3.

These are two very different vehicles that will attract two very different buyers. The CLA has already got a strong following with a lengthy waiting list, but I declare the A3 the winner of the shootout by the slimmest of margins, sighting its lower price and more practical rear quarters as the main factors









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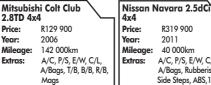
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news Nissan NV350 the carrier solution

NISSAN will re-enter the South African taxi market with the launch of the new NV350 Impendulo, which will go on sale next month.

The Impendulo is the successor to the Nissan E20 of the 1990s, which still has a strong heritage with local taxi operators. The Impendulo also aims to build and recapture the love and affection of both taxi owners and commuters. This is illustrated by the unique name, which the local taxi operators were involved in coming up with through a campaign called 'Name to Fame Game', giving it a strong local flavour.

The NV350 Impendulo features an assertive exterior design. The front end imparts a strong, bold and individualistic design with a rounded, characterful waistline forming at the base of the windscreen and progressing down the flanks. The rear features bold vertical tail lights which convey confidence and is available exclusively in white. It also features 15-inch steel wheels with wheel covers

The interior features 14 smartly designed seats in the back: six benches and two individual seats with a central passage allowing access to the rearmost three rows. Other standard features include easy-to-clean PVC flooring, adjustable power steering, multi-info trip computer, two cup holders, sliding rear windows and seat-back handles.

Safety features include driver and front passenger airbags, ABS, seatbelts for all 16 seats, a driver's seatbelt warning buzzer and an emergency exit escape hatch in the roof.

The Impendulo is powered by a 2.5-litre petrol engine that produces 108kW and 213Nm of torgue and is mated to a five-speed manual gearbox.

The Nissan NV350 Impendulo will retail for R306 900, with a standard 3-year/100 000km warranty as well as 3-year/unlimited anti-corrosion warranty included. Service intervals are 15 000km. - Motoring Staff



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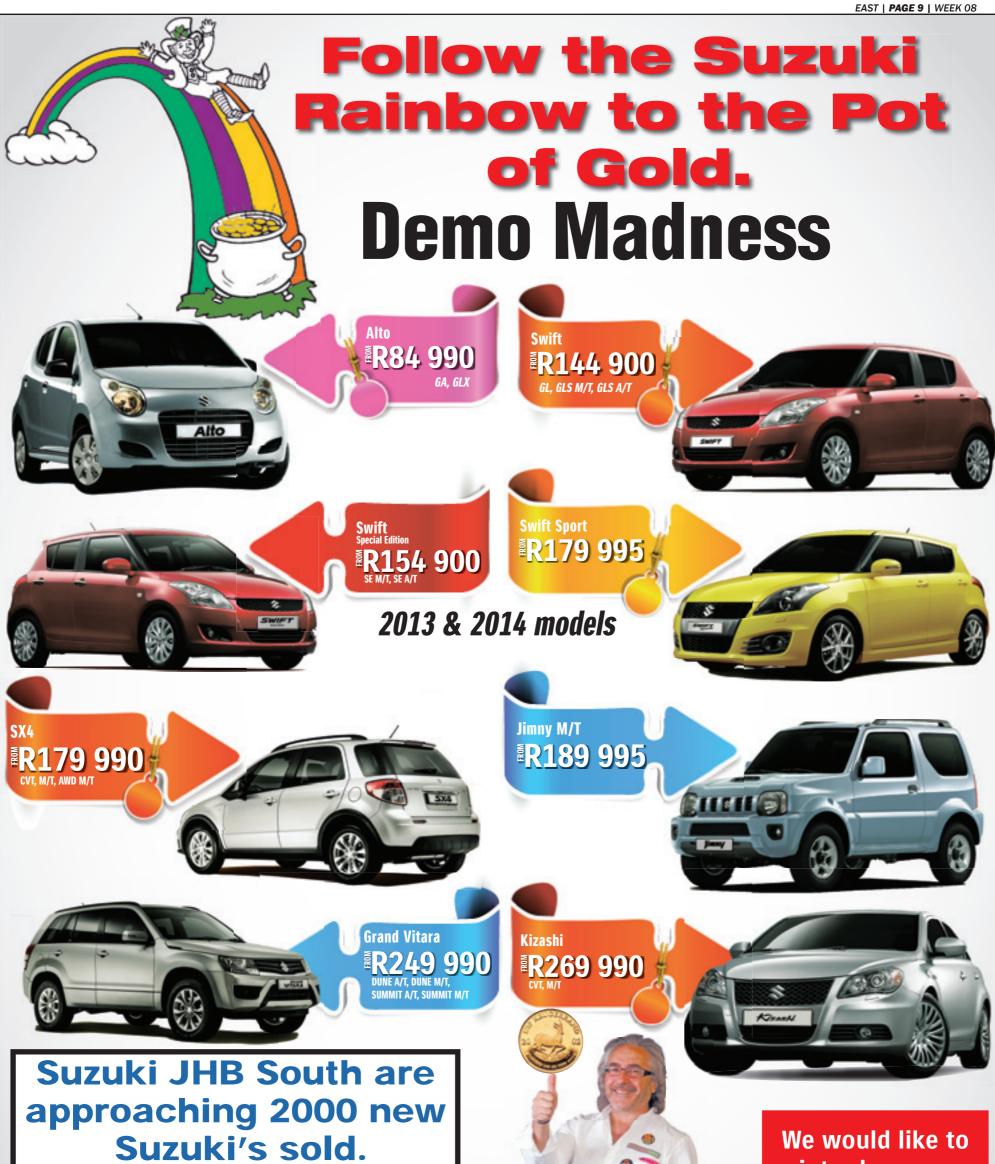
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CIRCUMSTANCES NOT AN EXCUSE

Dear Editor,

I read your backpage *The realities of everyday taxi life* in week 7's issue and while I don't agree with everything put forward by the writer, I do agree that commuting via a taxi can be quite taxing.

The early morning wake-up to get a lift to work is something that we who travel by car take for granted. But the rush and urgency taxi drivers experience to fetch more customers and increase their profits don't give them the right to drive like they own the road.

We also have places to be, but we have to sit in

JUST ADJUST THE ROBOTS

Dear Editor,

I believe that the writer of Roundabouts can turn

traffic and obey the rules of the road, no matter how late we are for an appointment. Why do taxi drivers think their time is more valuable than the other motorists?

Ido feel sorry for those unwilling commuters who are essentially forced to travel in unroadworthy taxis every day to get to work, because of the lack of reliable and public transport in this country.

Anonymous

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problems around in week 5's issue is not a qualified individual in the science of traffic engineering. I am further sure that the so-called 'studies' he quotes do not in any way relate to high-volume intersections. The facts are that when approaching traffic volumes become large, roundabouts are scrapped and replaced by traffic-signal-controlled methods simply because they can handle the large volumes which roundabouts cannot. Of course if you make the roundabout massive (say 500m in diameter) then you are talking a different situation. In urban conditions, there is no room for properly sized roundabouts (the debacle on Bryanston Drive at the Riverside intersection proves my point exactly, although the design was so bad it did contribute to the mess).

The big problem here in Johannesburg is that the timing of the signals is not being done scientifically - there are no individuals who appear to be qualified in this task. The head of the traffic section has made some questionable statements about creating synchronised routes which tend to indicate a serious lack of skills. The whole scale installation of flashing turn signals at insignificant intersections on main routes further bare out this total lack of understanding of fundamental traffic flow theorems. Of course it does help if some lazy person would actually do their job and fix the broken ones. I would wager a 25% improvement in traffic-flow volumes could be achieved by merely setting the right timing cycles on main routes. But then what do I know? I was merely a qualified traffic engineer.

Colin Louw

THANK YOU SANRAL

Dear Editor,

My dad, who is over 70 and has been carless for the last decade or so, just received a toll bill. His car was stolen from Johannesburg Hospital and he deregistered said vehicle immediately after reporting the theft.

Imagine his surprise when the same number plate appeared on a truck. Who is liable for these payments now addressed to my dad? Must he run around sorting out this mess with his meagre pension?

As sies as the tolls are, I guess we'd never have known about the duplicated number plate. So for that at least, thank you trolls!

K Moosa





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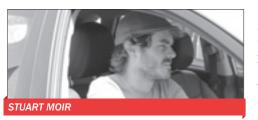
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opinion www.looklocalmotoring.co.za EAST PAGE 12 | WEEK 08 Not much ado about theft anymore



The problem is this: you think your car is securely locked because you remember pressing the lock button on your key fob. But the bandit hiding in range of your car has scrambled the signal.

Theft has become a part of our daily lives, much like our morning coffee or commute to work. We have just accepted it as the norm.

According to the official crime statistics for 2012/2013, vehicle hijackings increased by 5.4% nationally, taking the figure to 9 990 incidents. This means that just under 30 motor vehicles were hijacked every day during the studied period.

What's more alarming is that only 35% of the vehicles on South African roads are insured, meaning that should most people's pride and joy get stolen, they will be left without the means to replace it.

But it seems like insurance may not be enough and motorists need to stay vigilant as the trend of car jamming is becoming the choice tactic for vehicle robbers.

Car jamming is on the rise and while people have heard about it, many are unaware of how it happens and that your insurance will hold you accountable.

The jammer scam is an attack on keyless entry systems that new vehicles use. The criminals hold a small device that blocks or interferes with your key fob when you're trying to lock your car, thus disabling the alarm as you walk off to do you shopping, leaving your vehicle vulnerable to theft.

The problem is this: you think your car is securely locked because you remember pressing the lock

button on your key fob. But the bandit hiding in range of your car has scrambled the signal. The easiest way to avoid this type of thievery then? Check that your car is properly locked before walking away. Easier said than done, as it is no longer a habit and the one time you don't check, you may end up just another statistic. But what recourse do you have?

Well, apparently insurers aren't too keen to pay out monies to victims of jamming scams. Admittedly, crooks who use the remotes to interfere with the signal of your car's remote only steal items inside the vehicle without actually hijacking your car.

But herein lies the problem: most insurance companies have policies which state that theft-out-of-car claims will only be paid if there is suitable proof that forcible entry was made to the vehicle and there was no negligence from the motorist. Insurers see car-lock jamming as your fault.

It's perhaps a tad unfair, but many of these cases have been taken up with the ombudsman and ulti-

mately the decision comes down to the individual insurers. The problem, however, is that motorists are left to pay heavy excesses because there is no noticeable forced entry.

Vigilance is key to avoid lose-lose situations for those who could fall victim to car-key jamming.

The most common places for this type of theft are busy malls and parking lots where the thieves can hide in broad daylight.

Of course this isn't the only ammo for robbers, who seem like they will do anything to get what they want. Smash-and-grabs are also becoming a common sight on our roads, like the much-hated potholes.

A crook will run up to unsuspecting victims stuck in traffic and smash their windows with the back of a gun or spark plug to grab valuables before disappearing between other cars like a ghost.

Traumatised and robbed of your valuables, there are things you can do to protect yourself from falling

victim to such crimes.

Experts constantly punt advice like keeping your valuables out of sight while driving. If you have a bag, place it in the boot. And don't talk on your cell phone. It is not only illegal but it makes you an easy target.

Probably the most important is to be aware of your surroundings. Knowing what is going on around you is key, as well as leaving a safe stopping distance. Even in traffic, allow for a space to try and make a quick getaway should you need to.

Ultimately, despite all the tips and advice, should you be confronted by a gun-wheelding hooligan threatening to murder you for your vehicle, it's best you walk around unharmed to see another day by giving him what he wants. Don't see it as you losing, rather you choosing to survive.

We want to hear about your experiences with key jamming and hijacking by emailing your comments to editor@autodealer.co.za • ad



Crooks will go to extreme lengths to get what they want. Photo: Autodealer/Newspress





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