



FOR THE CHILDREN: Only twenty percent of South Africa's Grade 3 learners can read at the required level – a staggering reality that cannot be ignored. These young people from Rotaract Club of Atlantis and 2TeachSA, believe that every child deserves a chance to read, learn, and grow. That's why they initiated the 'Read to Lead Literacy Project', a fun, hands-on initiative to help young learners build strong reading skills. According to the current president of the local Rotaract Club, Jonah Tromp (third from left), their organisation hopes to host these sessions on a continuous basis. Unfortunately, a lack of money has curbed their plans, and they now hope to secure some urgent funding to host similar sessions during July and August this year.

READ MORE ON PAGE **7**

Construction mess in Ext.12: Residents hopeful after site- inspection

ARTICLE ON PAGE **3**

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Residents asked *not* to tamper with manholes

● STAFF REPORTER

Before the start of the season, the City of Cape Town Water and Sanitation teams ramped up their efforts to proactively maintain and clear the sewer networks of blockages caused by foreign items, with a special focus on hotspot areas.

This winter mitigation and preparedness work includes replacing broken and missing manhole covers, clearing sand traps and wet-wells, and sewer jetting among other things, and is done to accommodate the increased water flow and help protect the city's critical water and sanitation infrastructure. "While the City has invested over R78 million into our winter preparation, we need residents also to play their part in preventing sewer blockages and overflows and to use the City's channels to report any issues they may observe," said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Sanitation, Councillor Zahid Badroodien.

During last winter's heavy rains, images circulated of manhole covers being removed to allow rainwater to enter the sewer system. This behaviour has severe consequences. Stormwater should flow into the stormwater network, not the sewer system. Overloading the sewer network can lead to significant overflows and environmental pollution. Residents are urged not to tamper with manhole covers under any circumstances.

Tips for residents to prevent sewer blockages include:

- Put a strainer in the sink to catch food or other waste before it goes down the drain and throw the solid waste in the bin.
- Wipe cooking fats, oil or grease off the pan. Don't pour it down the drain.
- Don't flush nappies and sanitary products. They absorb water and expand, which causes blockages.
- Check that rainwater gutters don't flow into the sewer, as it overloads the system.
- Visit the City's drop-off facilities to dispose of solid waste, recyclables, electronics, garage waste and builder's rubble.
- Do not remove manhole covers to drain rainwater into the sewer system.

Report vandalism damages, sewer blockages, missing drain covers, burst pipes, leaks and water wastage using one of the following channels (Please provide the street address, and get a reference number):

- Online www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests
- Email water@capetown.gov.za
- SMS 31373 (maximum 160 characters. Standard rates apply)
- Call 0860 103 089
- Visit City walk-in centre (see www.capetown.gov.za/facilities to find the one closest to you)
- WhatsApp is currently not available

Authorities warn against prank calls to emergency numbers



The Public Emergency Communication Centre (PECC) is the first line of defence in times of need, and fielded nearly 240 000 calls over the past three winters. As the winter chill sets in, the public is reminded of their responsibility when making an emergency call.

A spokesperson said while medical calls make up the bulk of incidents recorded, there are seasonal changes too – during winter, calls about weather-related impacts increase, e.g. structural flooding, flooding of roadways and other traffic impacts. The City's Safety and Security Directorate has a critical role in disaster response and mitigation and it starts with the call for help. Staff, who is on duty 24-hours a day, has a crucial job is to dispatch the right resource in times of trouble. They are trained to ask the right questions, but it's a two-way conversation. It is important that callers follow their lead and share as many pertinent details as possible. Simple things like an address or a landmark, and a patient's medical history is also very important.

The City also urged parents to have the conversation with their children about how to call for help, but also the important function of emergency communication services. Prank calls made up nearly five percent of all calls over the past two winters. "I can't understand how this remains a source of amusement for some, knowing full well that they could be

standing between the next caller in line and life-saving assistance," said Mayco member for Safety and Security, JP Smith. The PECC advised households to display the number prominently and to make sure everyone knows it, and has it saved on their cell phones.

Things to keep in mind when making an emergency call include:

- Once you have dialled the number and are through to the operator, give them your contact number first so they can call you back if you lose connection.
- Always give your full name.
- Describe your location as accurately as you can. Remember, the operator might not necessarily know your neighbourhood like you do.
- Give details of your emergency. Let the operator guide the conversation — they have been trained to ask the most pertinent questions.
- If it is a medical call, does the patient have existing conditions, i.e. high blood pressure, diabetes etc.
- For as long as you are able, stay on the line. When the call connects, operators will be able to identify helpful information from the call if you stay connected.

The operator will then direct your call, along with the information they collected, to the relevant police, fire or ambulance service.

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Extension 12 residents want solutions for many challenges

● MAXI VAN WILLINGH

The shortage of housing is a widespread concern, and while the need for new developments is clear, the current approach to the housing project in Extension 12 is facing harsh criticism. Over the past few months, residents have grown increasingly frustrated with construction in the area being extremely disruptive.

Residents are unhappy with ongoing construction right outside their homes and on the roads they use daily. This prompted the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Human Settlements, Councillor Carl Pophaim, to conduct a site visit on Monday, 9 June 2025. Councillor Alistair Lightburn, Subcouncil 1 chairperson, along with the National Coloured Congress PR Councillor Anastatia Davids, joined Pophaim in a meeting with Jozhua Pretorius, the contract manager from ASLA Construction, to discuss concerns pertaining to the project.

Residents pointed out the lack of safety signage, which they believe compromises their well-being. Additionally, frequent disruptions to water and sewer lines have led to allegedly contaminated drinking water and periods without access to water. Connectivity issues have arisen from damaged cables, causing Wi-Fi outages. To add insult to injury, the poor condition of the roads also resulted in vehicle damage, especially during rainy weather. A community group known as the Extension 12 Concerned Citizens of Atlantis has received a number of complaints from residents. This included having to pay their full internet bills despite experiencing long outages, and the inability to cover damages to their vehicles. Petrus Van Staden, the project's Community Liaison Officer (CLO), noted that the fibre cables may not have been installed correctly. He also expressed concern over the theft of road construction signage, which discourages further posting. He encouraged community members to approach him with questions rather than airing grievances on social media.

Johannes Siljeur, who lives in the area, told Impact News how frustrated he was when he left home in the morning to drop off schoolchildren, only to find that roadworks made it impossible for him to park in front of his house upon his return. Fortunately, the issue was resolved a few hours later. Siljeur said he is particularly worried about the expenses related to car damage. "Someone really needs to step up and take charge of these costs. We don't always have the money to cover repairs for our vehicles," he said. He also pointed out the lack of communication regarding the start dates for roadwork in specific areas.

In response, Van Staden explained that they typically send out letters to notify residents two weeks in advance of upcoming roadworks in the different blocks, informing them of any potential disruptions, such as water outages. An anonymous resident said officials actually did their part to inform the community. However, he is concerned about the lack of barricades around open holes, which pose a safety risk, particularly for children. He urges fellow residents to remain patient during this messy phase, reminding them that the ultimate goal is to build new homes in Extension 12.

The Kanonkop Housing Project is set to develop 1,792 sites and top structures, which includes both the construction of new bulk and internal civil engineering services and the rehabilitation of existing ones, according to Pophaim. "Beneficiaries from areas such as Atlantis, Dassenberg, Mamre, and Pella will be prioritized in line with the City of Cape Town's Housing Allocation Policy. If everything goes as planned, the new engineering services are expected to be completed by November 2025." He confirmed they are also looking into a complaint from a resident who was unable to leave their home for four days to prevent similar issues in the future.

Progress on site is on schedule, claimed Pophaim, but added ASLA has brought in an additional team to speed up the process. He claims his department has not received any notifications from the Water and Sanitation Depot regarding damage to water and sewer infrastructure due to construction activities. The contractor has already communicated potential water disruptions through the CLO and pamphlets. "To assist in our investigations, we request residents to provide reference numbers for any reported water disruptions and to report these issues directly to the City. The City Project Teams have also not received any correspondence from internet service providers that the construction activities have damaged internet infrastructure. Should there be proven damages, the contractor will repair where required," committed Pophaim.

Dust control is done daily as per the Environmental Management Plan. In addition, the contractor has a complaints register and is managing all complaints on an ongoing basis. The Project Team, together with the contractor, have a system in place to minimise and manage the risk and inconvenience of construction activities.



BIG MESS: Councillors and officials during a recent site visit, aiming to find solutions for the dismal state of construction work in Extension 12, Sherwood Park, Atlantis.



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Werkloos: Praktiese stappe om te help terwyl jy na werk soek

Werkloosheid is 'n tasbare realiteit van die Suid Afrikaanse samelewing, met statistieke onder veral jeug wat elke maand die hoogtes in skiet.

Die gebrek aan sekuriteit om in jou basiese behoeftes — en moontlik dié van jou gesin — te voorsien, lei dikwels tot stres. Onsekerheid oor toekomstige indiensneming kan 'n bykomende laag van bekommernis en 'n aanhoudende gevoel van vrees en angs meebring. Werkverlies kan ook jou gevoel van identiteit en selfwaarde bevraagteken. Hier is 'n paar praktiese stappe om jou te help:

- Roetine:** Om 'n daaglikse roetine te handhaaf en 'n skedule te volg, bied struktuur en stabiliteit. Dit help om die gevoelens van chaos wat dikwels met werkloosheid gepaard gaan, teen te werk.
- Steun op verhoudings:** Sosiale ondersteuning is 'n kragtige hulpmiddel om stres, angs en depressie te hanteer. Bly in verbinding met vriende, familie en voormalige werk-kollegas en kommunikeer openlik met hulle oor jou situasie.
- Stel realistiese doelwitte:** Breek die werksoekproses op in hanteerbare stappe om dit minder oorweldigend te maak. Betrokkenheid by vrywilligerswerk of korttermynwerk kan vir jou 'n

gevoel van doelgerigtheid gee, help om vaardighede te behou, en jou professionele netwerk uitbrei.

- Breijouvaardighede en netwerke uit:** Gebruik die beskikbare tyd om nuwe vaardighede aan te leer. Dit verbeter nie net jou kanse op werk nie, maar kan ook jou selfbeeld verhoog. Moenie die waarde van kort kursusse of opleiding onderskat nie. Enige geleentheid om vaardighede te ontwikkel, stel jou ook bloot aan nuwe mense en omgewings wat tot toekomstige werk kan lei. Netwerkgeleenthede kan emosionele ondersteuning bied en deure oopmaak na nuwe poste en waardevolle advies van ervare mense.
- Finansiële beplanning:** Stel 'n realistiese begroting op. Om jou finansiële situasie te verstaan, help baie om angs te verlig, omdat jy weet wat nodig is om aan jou verpligtinge te voldoen.
- Bly aktief:** Gereelde oefening het 'n positiewe uitwerking en is 'n doeltreffende hulpmiddel om stres te bestuur.
- Wees proaktief oor stresbestuur:** As dit nog nie deel van jou daaglikse lewe is nie, is dit nou die ideale tyd om meer te leer oor stresverminderingstegnieke soos meditasie en diep asemhalingsoefeninge.

Reygersdal's got talent!



Reygersdal Primary School hosted its much-anticipated Talent Show on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at Protea Park Primary School Hall, showcasing the incredible skills and creativity of its learners.

The evening was nothing short of spectacular, thanks to the support of parents, the community, and dedicated educators who made it a resounding success. The event was judged by a panel of esteemed individuals, with the School Function Committee playing a crucial role. These included Rowan van Reenen, the show's coordinator

(left on picture), who also recently entered the 2025 Mr. South Africa competition. The audience was also treated to a performance by the local dance group, Urban Dance Crew, who added energy and enthusiasm to the event. Beyond the performances, heartfelt appreciation goes to the educators for their dedication, hard work, and passion. "Their commitment to nurturing the potential of every learner ensures that each child feels valued and empowered," said the school's management.

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WESTERN CAPE LIQUOR AUTHORITY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FORM 3A - NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUOR LICENCES IN TERMS OF SECTION 37(1) OF THE WESTERN CAPE LIQUOR ACT,2008 – [REG. 10(1)]

Notice is hereby given that the following applications for liquor licences have been lodged with the Western Cape Liquor Authority (the Authority) and with the designated liquor officers at the indicated South African Police Service offices. The applications concerned may, up to and including the 28th day from the date of publication of the application, upon request and free of charge, be inspected by any person, at the offices of the Authority or the designated liquor officer listed hereunder. Copies of an application can be obtained from the Authority after payment of the prescribed fee. Objections and representations must be lodged in writing with the Authority and the designated liquor officer in accordance with section 39 of the Act.

VORM 3A - KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEKE OM DRANKLISENSIES INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 37(1) VAN DIE WES-KAAPSE DRANKWET,2008 – [REG. 10(1)]

Hiermee word kennis gegee dat die volgende aansoeke om dranklisensies ingedien is by die Wes-Kaapse Drankowerheid (die Owerheid) en] by die aangewese drankbeampes by die aangeduide Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie dienskantore. Die betrokke aansoeke kan, tot en met die 28ste dag vanaf die datum van publikasie van die aansoek, op versoek en gratis deur enige persoon besigtig word by die kantore van die Owerheid of die aangewese drankbeampes hieronder gelys. Afskrifte van 'n aansoek kan by die Owerheid verkry word na betaling van die voorgeskrewe fooi. Besware en verhoë moet ooreenkomstig artikel 39 van die Wet skriftelik by die Owerheid en die aangewese drankbeampes ingedien word.

IFOMU 3A - ISAZISO SOKUFAKWA KWESICELO SEPHEPHA MVUME NGOKWECANDELO 37(1) LOMTHETHO WOTYWALA WENTSHONA KOLONI KA-2008 – [UMGAQO 10(1)]

Isaziso siyanikezelwa ukuba ezi zicelo zilandelayo zamaphepha mvume otywala zifakiwe kwabasemaGunyeni ezoTywala eNtshona Koloni (abasemaGunyeni) nakumagosa ajongene nemiba engotywala kwii-ofisi ezixeliweyo zeeNkonzo zamaPolisa aseMzantsi Afrika. Izicelo ekubhekiselelwa kuzo zingakwazi kwiintsuku ezingamashumi amabini anesibhozo (28) ukususela ngomhla wokupapashwa kwesi sicelo, xa eceliwe kwaye simahla, ziye kuhlolwa nguye nawuphi umntu okwi-Ofisi esemaGunyeni okanye yegosa elijongene nemiba engotywala elixelwe apha ngezantsi. Iikopi zesicelo zingafumaneka kwabasemaGunyeni emva kwentlawulo emiselweyo. Uchaso neengxelo ezixhasayo ezibhaliweyo zingafakwa kwabasemaGunyeni nakwigosa elijongene nemiba engotywala ngokwecandelo 39 loMthetho.

No.	Full name of applicant Volle naam van aansoeker Igama elipheleleyo lomfaki-sicelo	Name under which business will be conducted Naam waaronder besigheid bedryf sal word Igama ishishini eza kushishina phantsi kwalo	Address of the proposed premises Adres van die voorgename perseel Idilesi yesakhiwo	Kind of licence applied for Tipe lisensie waarom aansoek gedoen word Uhlobo lwephepha mvume olucelayo	South African Police Services designated liquor officer office where the application has been lodged Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie dienskantoor van die aangewese drankbeampes waar die aansoek ingedien is i-Ofisi yeGosa elijongene nemiba engotywala yeeNkonzo zamaPolisa eMzantsi Afrika apho isicelo sifakwe khona
1	Du Plessis Wines (Pty) Ltd	Du Plessis Wines	Farm No. 1536, Havana Hills Cellar, Van Schoorsdrift Road, Kalkfontein, Koeberg, Milnerton, 7441	Off – Consumption	Philadelphia

West Coast College Celebrates the Class of 2024 at Memorable Graduation Ceremonies

West Coast College proudly hosted its 2025 Graduation Ceremonies over four sessions on 4 and 5 June at the Malmesbury Town Hall. The occasion marked the formal celebration of students who completed qualifications in Early Childhood Development (Levels 4 and 5), Community Development, National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4, Apprenticeships and National Diplomas.

The ceremonies featured keynote addresses by Melissa Parker, Provincial Skills and Partnerships Director at the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT); David Joubert, Municipal Manager of the West Coast District Municipality; Bronwin Abrahams, Regional Manager of merSETA; and Dr Kennedy Dakile, entrepreneur and medical practitioner.

Top-performing students in the NC(V) programmes were recognised and each received prize money, generously sponsored by SAYDBUC Academic Attire. These students were recognised as the top achievers in their respective programmes. In the NC(V) Electrical Infrastructure & Construction Level 4 programme, the Top Student is Jaques Francois van Zyl from Citrusdal Campus.



In the NC(V) Level 4 Hospitality programme, the Top Student is Asipe Malo from Malmesbury Campus.



In the NC(V) Management Level 4 programme, the Top Student is Mache Millecent Hendricks from Atlantis Campus.



In the NC(V) Engineering & Related Design Level 4 programme, the Top Student is Klarissa Coetzee from Vredenburg Campus.



In the NC(V) Level 4 Education & Development programme, the Top Student is Victoria Beukes from Vredendal Campus.



In the NC(V) Level 4 Tourism programme, the Top Student is Zimvo Ngwenze from Vredenburg Campus.



Thembeke Mazikwana, Top Student in the NC(V) Primary Health Level 4 programme from Vredendal Campus.

Kaylin takes top accolades



In the NC(V) Level 4 Office Administration programme, the Top Student is Kaylin Philushca Drushell Willemse from Vredenburg Campus. The Principal's Award, for the top NC(V) student across all programmes, also went to her. She walked away with a laptop sponsored by Cape Book and College Supplies and a trophy. Here she is pictured with West Coast College Principal, Mr Lungisa Mbulawa (left), and Vredenburg Campus Manager, Mr Themba Ndaba (right).

Stephan wins top award



Stephan Jean Arendse, Top Student in the Diploma Public Management programme and recipient of the Chairperson's Award, from Vredenburg Campus, pictured with the West Coast College Council Chairperson, Ms Ilza Le Minnie.



Clockwise from left to right are Nolukhanyo Wani from Malmesbury Campus, Sharon Kies from Vredenburg Campus, Amber Jade Vanessa Cupido from Malmesbury Campus and Palesa Lebata, Top Student in the Diploma Studies Financial Management programme from Malmesbury Campus. They all received their accolades from Mr Lungisa Mbulawa, West Coast College Principal.

National Diploma students also shone on the day, with the following students receiving top honours in their respective fields:

- In the Diploma Studies Business Management programme, the Top Student is Shinaz Revell Geraldine Cloete from Vredenburg Campus.
- In the Diploma Studies Financial Management programme, the Top Student is Palesa Lebata from Malmesbury Campus.
- In the Diploma Studies Hospitality and Catering Services programme, the Top Student is Nolukhanyo Wani from Malmesbury Campus.
- In the Diploma Studies Human Resource Management programme, the Top Student is Amber Jade Vanessa Cupido from Malmesbury Campus.
- In the Diploma Studies Assistant Management programme, the Top Student is Sharon Kies from Vredenburg Campus.
- In the Diploma Studies Public Management programme, the Top Student is Stephan Jean Arendse from Vredenburg Campus.

Jean Arendse from Vredenburg Campus, who walked away with a laptop sponsored by Cape Book and College Supplies and a trophy.

"We would like to congratulate the class of 2024 for reaching this important milestone. Your dedication, perseverance and commitment have brought you this far, and we are immensely proud of what you have achieved. As you take the next steps into the world of work and further opportunities, we are confident that you will carry the values and excellence of West Coast College with you and make a meaningful impact wherever you go," says Lungisa Mbulawa, West Coast College Principal.

The graduation ceremonies not only honoured academic success but also highlighted the commitment of West Coast College and its partners to empowering young South Africans for a better future.

These top achievers received smartphones, courtesy of Cape Book and College Supplies. The prestigious Chairperson's Award, presented to the top-performing National Diploma student, went to Stephan



Ikamvayouth success speaks for itself

● PETER LATEGAN



Ikamvayouth Atlantis has been dedicated to transforming the lives of young people in the Atlantis community since 2016. Their after-school program is a pillar of support for local youth, offering consistent academic assistance, mentorship, and personal development.

“In 2025, we proudly enrolled 229 students across Grades 8 to 12, offering tutoring sessions six days a week, along with specialized holiday programs for Grade 11 and Matriculants. This success is due to our commitment to holistic development, which includes career guidance, life skills workshops, and psychosocial support in partnership with key organizations that align with our mission,” says Andrea Pieteresen, their Atlantis Branch Coordinator. She explains that organisation’s innovation lies in a unique, youth-driven, low-cost, and high-impact

programming that achieves results in contexts where such achievements are seldom attained. The core of its success is a pedagogical approach to learning, which ensures that their volunteers—many of whom were once learners themselves, transforming from beneficiaries into benefactors—can deliver an effective tutoring program.

“We focus on small group work, where learners bring the academic challenges they are struggling with to each session. Volunteers facilitate peer-to-peer learning within the group, building students’ problem-solving skills and teaching them how to learn. This learner-centric model empowers students to take control of their learning while providing vital individual attention and fast feedback. It’s through this approach that students can fill gaps in their knowledge and strengthen their grasp on fundamental concepts,

ultimately boosting their academic performance and critical thinking skills.” Ikamvayouth Atlantis is dedicated to ensuring that students excel academically and develop life skills necessary for personal growth. In 2024, their Matric cohort achieved a 90% pass rate, with 86% qualifying for tertiary education. Furthermore, 85% of this cohort has already secured post-school opportunities, including tertiary education, short courses, or employment. “These results highlight the effectiveness of our approach and our dedication to nurturing the full potential of every student we serve,” says Pieteresen.

As they continue to expand their reach and increase our impact in the Atlantis community, they need support in three key areas. These include funding to support the professional development of our 20 dedicated volunteer tutors. This will ensure that tutors are equipped with

the latest skills and methodologies, enabling them to provide the best academic support to our students. The organisation also need donations of funds or in-kind contributions such as textbooks, stationery, and resources for technical subjects to support our students’ academic success.

Another imminent need is assistance in providing nutritious meals to learners during their winter school program. Healthy, energizing meals are vital to keeping students focused and engaged throughout these intensive academic sessions.

What gets us excited (and also concerned) about local youth

Impact News asked four people working with young people what gives them hope, but also what concerns them most about the youth of Atlantis and surrounds.



ANDREA PIETERSEN (IKAMVAYOUTH)
The resilience, creativity, and leadership potential of our youth give me hope. Many are rising above difficult circumstances, showing a strong desire to grow, give back, and build a better future. Their involvement in community projects, education, and peer support is promising. I’m most concerned about the impact of poverty, crime, and limited opportunities. Many young people lack access to quality education, mental health support, and safe spaces to flourish.

JONAH TROMP (ROTARACT CLUB)
What gives me hope is seeing how strong and capable our young people are. Even though life is tough, many young people in Atlantis are getting involved in community projects, helping others, and showing leadership. On the other hand, I’m

most concerned about how little access our youth have to things they need, like good education, transport, jobs, and mental health support. Many feel stuck because of where they live, and that can lead to giving up or making bad choices.

EMMA JO ARENDSE (CHRYSLIS ACADEMY)
I am inspired by the resilience and determination of our young people. Despite challenges, they show remarkable creativity, passion, and commitment to making a positive impact in their communities. Their energy and enthusiasm give me hope for a brighter future. I am concerned about the limited access to resources and opportunities that can hinder their potential. Issues like poverty, lack of mentorship, and limited job opportunities affect their well-being and future prospects.

MICHELLE FORTUIN (BASIC PACKAGE OF SUPPORT)
The large number of organisations and government institutions within our community that are joining forces fills me with hope. Young people are beginning to see and trust these lifelines, and some have gathered the courage to step out and reach for their dreams. Local youth are now becoming that support system for each other. What concerns me, though, is that too many of them still take a passive approach to life. It is as if they have given up on themselves and are not proactive in planning for their future.

Rotaract's support goes a long way to address basic literacy

● PETER LATEGAN

The project is a collaboration between the Rotaract Club of Atlantis and 2TeachSA. This initiative was designed to support literacy development among young learners in Atlantis, focusing on creating an engaging, hands-on experience to foster a love for reading and learning.

Tromp said their last event featured an exciting range of interactive literacy activities led by 2TeachSA. "We engaged a group of 30 Grade 1, 2, and 3 learners from Avondale Primary School. These multi-sensory activities were thoughtfully chosen to enhance foundational literacy skills in a fun, interactive manner. Learners engaged with each station enthusiastically, with



activities like Jolly Phonics and clay play fostering phonetic awareness, while finger painting and word-building promoted creativity and language skills," he explained. The project not only achieved its goals of promoting literacy, but also provided a safe and supportive environment where learners could explore literacy through hands-on, creative methods. The diverse activities kept learners engaged and excited, helping to build essential literacy skills in a fun, supportive setting. This event highlighted the importance of fostering early literacy in an interactive way to encourage long-term learning success.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Every child deserves a future free of substance abuse. Break the cycle.

The phase 57 report published by the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU), July - December 2024, indicated that in the Western Cape:

- The most used substances for individuals 18 years old and younger are cannabis and tobacco products
- There has been an increase in females 18 years and younger who are seeking treatment for substance abuse

On 26 June the United Nations commemorates International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in acknowledgement of the ongoing challenge of substance abuse.

If you or a loved one struggles with addiction, contact the City of Cape Town's Matrix Clinics at matrix@capetown.gov.za or call the Alcohol and Drug Helpline at 0800 HELP 4 U (0800 435 748).

For more information on the City of Cape Town's substance abuse programmes, email CTADAC@capetown.gov.za.

LUNGELO MBANDAZAYO
CITY MANAGER



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Brandall: It's about purpose, progress, and paying it forward

● CAY-LENE COETZEE



There are many young people who are creating change where it matters most, right within their own communities. One such changemaker is Brandall Swartz, a second-year International Studies student at Stellenbosch University and founder of the UniDreams Foundation.

Originally from Atlantis, he leverages his own experience as a first-generation student to help others access higher education opportunities they might otherwise miss. Applying to university without support was one of Swartz's biggest challenges. "I had no one to guide me through it. It was overwhelming," he explains. But motivated by his parents and younger siblings, he persisted, determined to succeed so others in his community wouldn't have to struggle alone. In March this year, he founded the UniDreams Foundation, which has since helped approximately 34 students with university applications.

More than just paperwork, the foundation offers mentorship, guidance, and a message of hope, saying, "You belong in those spaces too." Swartz and his team now work to bridge the gap between students and the resources they need to succeed. "You don't need money to help, just time and heart," he says. His dream is to

make the organisation a trusted name in every Atlantis high school and to support learners from under-resourced communities nationwide.

In addition to leading his organisation, he is also active in other youth leadership roles. He credits much of his personal growth to his time with Interact Atlantis, which he joined during Grade 10. For him, youth involvement in volunteering and community work is one of the most effective ways to make a lasting difference. "Especially when planning events or projects, these are opportunities to discover your purpose." For Swartz, Youth Month is both a personal celebration and a time for reflection. "This is the month I celebrate myself and other young people. I also honour the youth who fought for our liberation during apartheid." His message to the youth is simple yet powerful: "Your age does not determine the impact you can have."

*** To connect or get involved with UniDreams, email unidreams.foundation@outlook.com or find them on Instagram @unidreams.foundation

Libraries offer 'Fine Free week' for youngsters

City of Cape Town public libraries will once again provide young patrons with the opportunity to return books without the penalty of a fine.

They will have a 'Fine free week' for patrons up to the age of 17 during the week of 30 June to 5 July 2025. Patrons may return the items to any library, regardless of where they were borrowed. Items that are covered includes all overdue children's and young adult books, comics, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs and CDs. It should be noted that replacement fees for lost or

damaged items will still apply, with only late-return fines that are waived. The objective of the week is to give young readers a clean borrowing slate for the new term. To make the week more interesting, library personnel will pair the amnesty with indoor holiday activities, such as anime drawing workshops, coding boot camps, chess tournaments and mobile science centre visits. The previous Fine Free week, which took place in March this year, saw 13 178 library items returned.



Avondale drummies honour founder at heart-warming reunion

● MONIQUE HANSEN

The Avondale Majorette Reunion team recently hosted a weekend filled with activities in honour of their coach, anchor, teacher, and legend, Hendrica Marthinus.

The ex-Avondale Majorettes have taken the initiative to reunite in the sport they love, honouring those who paved the way for many young girls today to be part of a sisterhood of talented and resilient women. The reunion took place during the weekend of 16 May, doubling up as a fundraising opportunity for the current team participating in the Federation of Dance Drill, Cheerleading, and Majorette Sports South Africa (FDDCMSA), helping to sustain the sport in Atlantis.

The weekend was filled with storytelling, reminiscing about the good old days, and even getting back into the drummie game, performing a display that showcased the skills they learned when they were seven and nine years old. The Gospel Explosion concert on the Sunday was the highlight of the weekend, featuring local artists like Lekker Crew, Marc Kali, and Talitha, bringing the community together to praise

and worship in gratitude for how far this sport has brought them. The message the reunion team wanted to give to their teacher and mentor was to express and acknowledge that everything she instilled in them when they were young girls is still there. They have taken all the love, skills, and values she taught them as young girls, carrying them forward into adulthood as strong, resilient women who stand for what they believe in. "The weekend was blessed because these ladies are an amazing group, and they did it all with love. This must not be the end—I want them to continue the friendships they have built through this sport and be an example for those who look up to them," she said.



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